

Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Hogs and Poultry Raised Profitably Here

ONE of Pima county's greatest industries, that of cattle raising, is, to the casual observer and appraiser of our resources, the least visible.

The cattle industry in that respect partakes of the character of the kine, while it is less observed and observable than other more centralized industries it is in reality one of the largest industries of Pima county.

The more formidable aspect of the industry, is that represented by ciphers on the tax rolls and in the records of exports kept by the cattle inspectors and it is from these that one gets a true impression of the extent of the industry in this county. One of the first questions asked by the visitor, after casual appraisal of our visible resources, is, "What is the backbone industry of your section?" The answer is to be found in these records.

Millions in Cattle.

The average number of steers shipped from the county for several years past has been approximately 15,000 but if other classes are included the total is swelled considerably. According to the records kept by cattle inspectors 50,000 head of cattle were shipped from Pima county ranges in the year 1914 and 64,693 in 1915. The price received for cattle shipped during 1914 and 1915 may be conservatively put at \$35 per head, placing the value of 1914 shipments at over a million and a half dollars and 1915 shipments at \$2,264,255.00.

These cattle are drawn from 106,410 acres of grazing lands, which, with improvements on them, are valued at \$1,019,783. While it is difficult to estimate the number of cattle which stock the ranches in the county, because the cattlemen themselves do not know the actual number of cattle they possess, a conservative estimate is that there are one hundred and fifty thousand feeding on Pima county ranges, valued at least at four million dollars.

The cattle industry in Pima county is not a one-man industry. Conditions are almost ideal for the small cattle rancher and there are men in Pima county today whose wealth is indicated by six figures who started out with but a few cows. It is the nearest way

to wealth, provided that the owner knows the lore of the cow country. Some young men, starting out in life, invest their savings in real estate. The writer knows of young men in Tucson who invest their savings in cows—buying them singly as their savings permit.

Industry is Secure.

More attention has been devoted to the meat supply by scientists in recent years than any other economic subject. It deals with human sustenance and attention has been directed to in a forcible manner by the steady, even rapid, absorption of the open range by agriculture. A meat famine has been pictured as the economic terror of the age, more horrible than a world frozen for lack of fuel. The development of dry-farming in the semi-arid sections of the United States has given, the scientists' prophesy a touch of reality, even in the heart of the cattle country, but there are natural conditions which guarantee, so far as human foresight can comprehend, the perpetuity of the cattle industry in Pima county.

Except in parts of the county, now largely tilled by irrigation or by dry-farming made possible by the comparative nearness to the surface of water the large areas of land which sustain thousands of head of cattle will probably never be suited to farming because of the expense of reaching water. Because of the low cost of production and the ever-increasing price of beef, water sufficient for the herds may be profitably drilled for. Thus the bar to farming is, it might be said, the guarantee of the perpetuity of the cattle industry in Pima county. However, the guarantee does not apply to other parts of the semi-arid southwest and should the dry farming threat to the industry become acutely real Pima county will become more than ever the nursery of the cattle industry of the southwest and the west.

Reverting to the encroachment of dry farming on the open ranges of adjoining counties, there is in it promise in the fact that the feed supply around us is increasing with the encroachment of dry-farming, so that the two industries tend to balance. While Pima coun-

ty, because of the conditions mentioned, must remain the natural breeding ground, the possibility of increasing our supply of alfalfa and grain-fed cattle is opened up by the development of the agricultural possibilities of the irrigated valleys and areas where, because of the availability of underground water, feed is cheaply grown.

Cattlemen's Problems.

But favored as the industry is in Pima county, it has its problems and leading cattlemen thus early, before these problems become pressing, have organized a Pima County Cattle Growers Association in order that they may meet them as a community. Advanced methods of marketing, management, conservation and breeding are taking the place of pioneer-day prodigality. Efficiency is attacking the last stronghold of waste and the rancher is now the astute business man. In this work the agricultural extension service of the University of Arizona is ably cooperating and directing.

Sheep and Goat Raising.

Although the range country in Pima county has until recent years been devoted almost wholly to cattle raising, successful experiments have proven that sheep and goats can be raised profitably in many sections.

Probably the finest section of the range suitable for sheep raising is found in the northeastern part of Pima county. Thousands of sheep are raised yearly in this vicinity and the industry is reported to be profitable to the owners of the animals. According to J. S. Bayless, one of the most successful sheep raisers of this section, the sheep can be taken care of each year for the price that is obtained for the wool, the annual increase in the flocks representing a clear profit to the owner.

Goat raising, too, has been found profitable in many sections of Pima county, the animals thriving in the mountain ranges, with practically no care at all. Of the various strains tried here, the Swiss Toggenburgh milch goat and the African Angora breeds have been most successfully raised. On the ranch of A. J. Davidson, a few miles from Tucson, many of the milch goats are being raised, living almost entirely upon the food obtained in the low mountains which surround the city, and recently the owner of the animals has been successful, it is claimed, in raising calves on goat's milk.

The Angora strain, too, can be raised in the mountains and foothills with little expense or trouble. The wool of these animals is more valuable than that of the sheep, and a neat profit can be made annually from each animal.

Although the wool of the Angora is commonly supposed to be the only salable portion of the animal, it is said by those familiar with the industry that more than 400,000 goats are sold annually to the packing houses of the country, finding their way to the eastern consumer, no doubt, under the guise of milk-fed spring lamb. According to goat raisers, it is impossible to tell the difference in taste between the flesh of a young kid and that of a lamb, the former being as toothsome, and if anything more nourishing than the latter.

While the goat raising industry is still in its infancy in this section, it is estimated that many thousands of the animals are being raised, and it is safe to assume that southern Arizona will soon be known as widely as New Mexico for goat raising, since this section, with its milder climate, furnishes superior all year round range facilities.

Hogs.

The demand for pork is greater than the possible local supply. Carloads of hogs and dressed pork are shipped in from California and other points. Brood sows will farrow any month, and five litters in two years are common, very few pigs being lost.

Thirteen to fifteen full-grown hogs can be pastured on an acre of alfalfa. By actual demonstration in Government experiments, one ton of alfalfa produced 776 pounds of pork. On our farms where we can grow eight to ten tons of alfalfa to the acre, the profits from the combination of hogs and alfalfa are almost unbelievable. You can finish hogs on corn, kaffir-corn, maize, Spanish peanuts, sweet potatoes or sugar beets, enormous yields of which are raised on these lands. Thus pork can be produced for not to exceed 2½ cents per pound, and our selling price always being higher than the Chicago market, you will readily see that our farmers can easily net about 6 cents per pound on hogs.

Owing to the dry climate, pure water and continuous green pasture, this country is wonderfully immune from hog diseases, and hog cholera is absolutely unknown in this valley.

There is such a demand for dairy products in this valley that undoubtedly the majority of the farmers locating here will keep some dairy cows, and the hog business, in connection with the dairy, can be made exceedingly profitable by utilizing the skimmed milk, buttermilk, etc.

Dairying.

The Tucson Farms Co., is operating the largest dairy in this section, having built up a large herd of Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey cows, and also have thoroughbred bulls of the same breeds. The retail price of milk in Tucson is 40 cents per gallon, wholesale price to restaurants and hotels is 25 cents to 30 cents per gallon; butter averages 40 cents per pound; cream \$2 per gallon.

The unequalled combination of high prices, mild climate, pure water in abundance, green pastures of well-balanced forage crops of luxuriant growth during the whole year, makes dairying on our farms net more real profit than in any other section of the country. They are proving this daily by the results of their own dairy herd of three hundred cows. One acre of alfalfa will pasture two cows, this together with the elimination of expense of buying dry feed, or extensive buildings for protection from weather, reduced the cost of dairy products to the minimum. Tucson is now annually shipping in thousands of dollars worth of dairy products, paying transportation charges from California, Kansas, and other distant points. Over \$100,000 worth of butter was shipped into Tucson during 1915. This money will be distributed among our dairymen just as soon as they are prepared to assist in supplying the demand. Ten cows giving four gallons of milk daily, means an annual income of at least \$2,000.

Poultry Raising.

Call this a poultry article if you will, but let us look at a few facts regarding the industry, and see if there is not more in it than merely "chickens."

The poultryman, whether as a breeder of fancy stock, or to supply the commercial demand for fresh eggs and dressed meat holds a place in the development of the country as a producer of real wealth, and promotes the welfare of the nation. And for the man with limited capital, who is willing to start small and grow large in the business, there is no line of industry today fraught with greater possibilities than poultry raising.

Every section of the country has its peculiar adaptation for certain products—a nature endowment if you please—and long before the Pale Face ever came to this desert country, the native tribe of Indians—the Papagoes—not only found plenty of animal meat in the mountains and canyons, but quails, doves and wild chickens were found in abundance on the broad mesa, and with their primitive fields of beans, for the name "Papago" means "bean people" or "bean eaters," they began early to add chicken raising to their crude endeavors at ranching, and so naturally was the raising of them adapted to our ideal year-round climate, that it became one of the never failing means of sustenance for their families, and today in the most primitive Indian villages far back into the interior and away from the influence of the "pale face", you will always find a bunch of chickens.

Poultrying Pays Here.

Laying aside ideas of boasting, taking away all "pipe-dreaming," let us get down to bed rock and fairly face the paramount question of the whole industry "Does poultrying pay?" That it does pay, and pay handsomely if rightly conducted, one has only to visit the "Oswahl Ranch" of Mr. M. J. Gotthelf, just north of town. Starting a few years ago with a mere handful of chickens, originally with the idea of supplying his own table with eggs and fresh meat, the fact forced itself upon him that there was an opportunity, and by grasping that opportunity, his well appointed and prosperous ranch, with its hundreds and even thousands of chickens, tells its own story of success today. And, that it is not just one breed of poultry that pays, one has only to visit the successful ranches. For instance, Mr. Gotthelf's favorite breed is Barred Rocks, and his birds have taken prizes at both our local and the state shows. Another successful poultryman, and one who has taken a number of ribbons and silver trophies for fancy birds, is Mr. H. D. Ruby, breeder of White Leghorns. But space forbids a detailed description of the ranches of successful poultry breeders, for there are quite a number worthy of special mention—Captain Bates' ranch, north of town, Baker's ranch to the northeast, Waverly Farms on the east, and the Hoffman ranch to the south.

Having seen that ranching on a large scale will pay, if managed in a business

like way, let us look at a "city lot" ranch. Tucson has quite a number of city lot ranchers, and we could fill a page describing the ranches and ranchers, but take for instance the Worsfold bunch of chickens. Mr. Worsfold is an engineer on the S. P. and a couple or three years ago, after having built a lovely home out on East 7th street, Mrs. Worsfold decided to try poultrying as a side line to help pay for their new home. As nothing goes half way done at the Worsfold home, "city lot ranching" was made a business with her, and almost from the start Mrs. Worsfold has shown nearly as much clear profit at the end of the month from her chickens as Mr. Worsfold did from his work.

After all, success comes in poultrying exactly the same as in any other line of industry. No person need expect that a flock of chickens will make a living for himself and family unless they are looked after and cared for, any more than a mercantile business will prosper without care and attention.

Prices Assure Success.

Every grower of any kind of ranch products is naturally interested in the price it will bring on the home market, and for the benefit of those interested in the poultry industry the following prices will be found not only interesting, but reliable, as they were furnished us by Mr. F. S. Smith, of Waverly Farms, and the prices quoted are those received by him for his eggs, and after a careful comparison for the past five years, he gives the following as the average price received, showing the highest prices prevailing from October to January and the lowest during April.

Beginning January 1st the price is \$.55, falling to \$.50 the 14th and to \$.45 the 25th, \$.40 February 8th, \$.35 February 22nd, and reaching the lowest mark on March 5th, when the price received for eggs was \$.30. Running at \$.30 the raise in price did not come until April 27, increasing \$.05 per dozen on June 12th, August 15th, September 10th and September 21st, until the highest price for the year was reached on October 12th, when the price was \$.60 per dozen, and it remained at that price until after the Christmas holidays.

Pigeons, Ducks and Turkeys.

It has only been within the last couple of years that the breeding of pigeons, ducks and turkeys has been attempted on any larger scale than for home use, but, having found a demand

here for them, several ranches have added them, the one most worthy of note perhaps being Rancho Aldono, at Fairland Acres, and that the trio can be successfully bred on one ranch, can be fully proven by a visit to this delightful oasis at the southwest gates of the city.

That the poultry industry of Tucson and vicinity is being rapidly developed is evidenced by the work of the Tucson Poultry Association, an organization of both fanciers and producers. Two very successful shows have been held, and though much of the work has been little more than pioneering, some very high-grade birds have been shown, which proves that the aim is for a better class of poultry, as well as for more of it.

Demand Beyond Supply.

At present there is only a small percent of the eggs and poultry that is consumed here, produced by Tucson ranchers. Active co-operation of the association and the retail merchants has done much toward developing the local poultry industry, but still the records of express shipments of eggs into Tucson tell their own mute story of the opportunity that is awaiting the prospective rancher, and the consumers of Kansas-killed birds await with eagerness the day when home ranchers will supply all home merchants with fresh home-grown poultry.

Owing to our balmy climate every month in the year, the prospective poultryman needs fewer poultry houses perhaps than in any section of country known today. Even our most successful and prosperous poultry raisers have found that the most nearly ideal house for their main flock is the colony house made of light weight framework and canvas roof.

Of course the incubator rooms and brooder houses for the baby chicks have to be built more substantially, but even then, with the abundance of adobe material everywhere that await only the mixing of water and straw, they can be built not only more comfortable at one-third of the cost of an equally substantial and comfortable building put up by the poultryman of the north and east.

Then, to put the facts plainly, Tucson needs the man with energy and determination, who will care for details, and is willing to start small and grow large in a line of respectable and profitable ranching in which a large capital is absolutely unnecessary.