



James E. Schutte, agricultural manager of Otay Ranch, examines safflower plants on test plot.

NEW COUNTY CROP

Safflower Tested On Otay Ranch

By LARRY FREEMAN

CHULA VISTA—It's only a third of an acre test plot on a 35,000-acre ranch but its results may presage a new crop for the ranch and in other parts of the county. James E. Schutte, agricultural manager for the vast Otay Ranch, east of here, first tried safflower last year. The seed yield was not promising.

This year he fertilized and watered it a little. The University of California at Davis still is analyzing the results of the mid-September harvest of three varieties.

But Schutte was satisfied enough to plan planting of 100 acres of safflower next March.

GROWN FOR SEED

Safflower, a member of the thistle family, is grown for its seed, which somewhat resembles sunflower seed. From the seed an oil is pressed. Schutte says it is used as a replacement for animal fats, as corn oil is sometimes used, or instead of linseed oil in paints.

He says age does not affect it as much as some oils and that it is recommended for those afflicted with a tendency to high cholesterol or a heart condition. He has been told that one ice cream manufacturer employs it in making a product without animal fat.

Schutte says there were 200,000 acres in the state last year and that apparently there is a brisk demand. His acreage will be the only safflower in the county, he believes.

Several years ago a group of growers experimented with the crop but drought and a freeze stopped them. Most of the present acreage is in the Central Valley and Imperial County.

Its flower-like tops, dry, are harvested with a combine, as with grain. A yield of one ton of seed an acre is a good average Schutte says. Yields of 3,000 pounds an acre are obtained in some cases. An exceptional field will reach 4,000.

DROUGHT HANDICAP

It is bought on a contract basis, presently at \$85 a ton, with a bonus for certain quantities of \$4 to \$7 a ton.

That figure would net more than barley, which the Otay Ranch has raised for many years on dry land. Drought, however, cut production to nothing this year.

At one time, the ranch grew dry lima beans but morning glory took over the fields.

The ranch is owned by United Enterprises, which put it together about 1930. The corporation's principals are Mrs. Mary Birch Patrick and her brother, Stephen Birch, of New York.

The ranch is in the new Otay Water district and Schutte says water will be available by February, thus enabling him to plant the safflower.

Plans are in the making, also, to lease about 1,000 acres of the ranch to vegetable growers next year. Irrigation will enable them to grow tomatoes and other crops.

Consumer Aide Planned For Food Problems

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (UPI) — The administration plans to move this year to give consumers a full-time voice on the top-level staff of the Agriculture Department, informed sources indicate.

The plan calls for appointment of a new aide to Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman. The official, who may be given the title of consumer counsel, will serve as an adviser to Freeman on the wide range of Agriculture Department programs which directly affect consumers.

Department sources say the new official also would be expected to give administration farm planners the consumer viewpoint when they draft and consider programs involving the production and price of food and fiber products.

But there may be more emphasis, the sources indicate, on watching over the operations of such programs as federal meat and poultry inspection, food grading and labeling, and research on consumer problems.

The proposal to create a job giving consumers their own spokesman in the Agriculture Department's top echelon was one of Freeman's early plans.

VENTURE SUCCESSFUL

Unique Adobe Plant Forms Bricks For 1,150 Houses

ESCONDIDO — Mine or farm, the 100-acre plot half way between Escondido and Lake Hodges on the east side of U.S. 395 has proved "good earth" for L. R. Green.

Green, a rancher and developer who lives in San Diego, established the Adobe Block Co., which has made an estimated 3½ to 4 million bricks of soil from that field since the operation started in 1949.

That's enough bricks for 1,150 houses made entirely of adobe. The plant has shipped them to Riverside, Orange and Imperial counties, as well as all over San Diego County.

It's the only such plant south of Fresno, according to R. Y. Hollingsworth, secretary of the company, which has offices at 311 Gamble Way, not far from the plant.

TWO FEET EXCAVATED

J. B. Wood, office manager, calculates the bulldozer which digs out the soil has excavated two feet on half the 100 acres in 12 years.

The soil is a stabilized clay, that is about 40 per

cent fine clay, the balance top soil and sand.

"Real" adobe, a sort of gumbo, is never used. It contracts and cracks. Unlike the earlier bricks, modern ones are "stuck" together with an asphalt emulsion, not straw, making them resistant to erosion which afflicts many of historic adobe structures.

THERMOMETER TEST SLATED

The U.S. Weather Bureau Fruit-Frost Service will test fruit growers' thermometers again this fall in preparation for the winter season. Wayne Harman, meteorologist, announced yesterday.

He said thermometers will be tested Thursday at the Escondido Orange Association and Friday at the Fallbrook Citrus Association.

Growers should tag their thermometers securely with their name and the name of their association, Harman said.

After bulldozing out the material, the dirt, asphalt and water are dumped into a mixer. A mud buggy takes the material to a block machine, which makes and lays the bricks flat on the ground. Manufacture is a summer process. The soil is difficult to work with in wet, cold weather.

After a few days the bricks are turned on edge, on paper to keep them from sticking, and left to dry evenly for a month before being tested for building code requirements.

PRESSURE STIPULATED

Hollingsworth says the code calls for pressure of 250 pounds a square inch, and the adobe bricks will show a tolerance of 500 pounds a square inch.

Other than the turning on edge and loading, the entire process is automated. In earlier days six men turned out 600 bricks a day. Today's machines produce 5,000 to 6,000 with five men working.

The company is now owned by Mrs. Hildreth von Klein Schmid and Mrs. Helen G. Banister, daughters of Green.

Firmer Curbs Favored For Dairy Imports

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (UPI) — Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., next year may propose putting stronger teeth into controls over dairy product imports.

A spokesman for Proxmire says the senator is considering introduction of a bill giving the Agriculture Secretary complete authority over dairy import regulations.

Proxmire's interest reflects the dim view many American dairy leaders take of the present import control system. The government's General Accounting Office reported recently that importers have been able to evade present quotas in a number of cases.

This disturbs many American dairy producers because domestic surpluses of butter, cheese and other dairy items are rising. Groups such as the National Milk Producers Federation complain that imports in these times drive larger quantities of American products into the federal price-support program.

Dairy import controls currently operate through a quota program on individual products. The job of imposing and operating these quotas is shared by the Agriculture Department, the Tariff Commission and the Customs Bureau.

Light Navel Orange Crop Forecast

SACRAMENTO, Oct. 28 (UPI) — The first forecast for California's navel orange crop indicates a light production of only eight million boxes in the 1961-62 season, the California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service said today.

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'Beat Americans,' Soviet Farm Goal

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (UPI) — A U.S. study group which made a 10,000-mile tour of Russian farms reports that the Soviet government is using the slogan, "Beat America in Milk and Meat Production" to spur Russian livestock farming.

Despite this, the report said, Russian production of these products still lags well behind U.S. output.

According to Russian statistics, the per capita production in 1957 was 590 pounds of milk and 79 pounds of meat and lard, the report said. This compares with U.S. per capita production for the same year of 736 pounds of milk and 159.1 pounds of red meat.

DOUBT SUGGESTED

The seven-man study group also said the Russian report of its milk production in 1957 "suggests serious doubt" concerning the validity of the official milk production figures. They added that a more realistic figure for 1957 Russian production would be about 100 billion pounds, rather than the 117.5 billion reported.

The group, part of an exchange program, included: Ralph E. Hodgson, Wesley Keller and Clair E. Terrill of the Agriculture Department's research service; Lester E. Hanson of the University of Minnesota; Edwin E. Heizer of the University of Wisconsin; Andrew V. Nalbandov of the University of Illinois; and

A. D. Tillman of Oklahoma State University.

The 84-page report said the U.S.S.R. is expending great efforts to increase livestock farming and the production of animal foods.

"There is a passionate desire to surpass the United States in total and per capita production of these products," the report said.

SUMMARY GIVEN

A board summary of the report includes these general conclusions:

Milk, egg, meat and wool production have significantly increased since the end of World War II and the immediate past has been one of re-population.

Under these conditions, selection for superior merit in performance has played a secondary role but is increasing in importance as time passes.

Cattle are almost exclusively the dual-purpose type in that they are bred and selected mainly for milk but the same breeds provide the meat supply as well.

INCREASE STEADY

Available statistics suggest that milk yield per cow has increased rather steadily since 1940 but the rate of increase has been only two-thirds that of the United States in the 1940-58 period.

Russian agriculture is organized into 6,000 state and 60,000 collective farms.

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