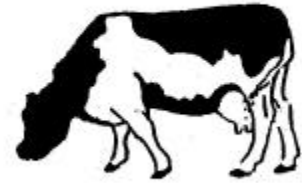


# DAIRY NOTES

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

KINGS COUNTY



**November  
2000**

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## Results of local winter forage trials

The following pages summarize results of last season's winter forage trials. There were two trials in which we evaluated seven varieties of wheat and two triticale varieties. In the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. trial we looked at Express, Yecora Rojo, Bonus, Brooks, Zancor and RSI-5 wheat and Trical 105 triticale. The trial on 1<sup>1/2</sup> Ave. had the same entries plus Cortez durum wheat and Trical 111 triticale. In both trials, all plots were 26' wide (2 planter widths) and ran the entire length of the field. Each entry was replicated twice in a field. At harvest, a 15' swath was cut from the center of each plot, and then chopped and blown into an empty silage truck for weighing and sampling.

Winter rains came very late last year, which presented a challenge in fields that were not pre-irrigated. The trial at the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. site was planted on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> in a field that was not pre-irrigated. We choose this site knowing that it would be getting plenty of dairy manure lagoon water. We ended up with a very spotty, uneven stand in this field for several reasons. Lagoon water was applied to one of the checks in mid-December and to another check in mid-January when it became clear that rain was not imminent. (Since our plots crossed checks all varieties got treated the same). The seed in these checks did germinate, but not uniformly. After the rain finally came in late January, we had some areas that were just coming up and others

where plants were already 6 or 8" tall. Low yields for the varieties in this field reflect the tough conditions that were provided.

The 1<sup>1/2</sup> Ave. site was planted Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> to a field that was also not pre-irrigated, but here we waited for rain and let nature take its course. Even though the crop got a late start we ended up with a beautiful uniform stand and respectable yields. This field did not receive any dairy manure lagoon water, but dairy manure solids were applied before planting and the field had annual applications of manure solids for many years. Rain late in the season brought on ideal conditions for rust, a leaf fungal disease. Yecora Rojo was severely affected by rust and RSI-5 suffered moderately as well. Winds accompanying the rain caused considerable lodging in the Zancor variety.

For more information on winter forages and to see results of other local, regional or statewide grain trials there are websites that you can visit. Local forage trials are posted on my website, <http://kings.ca.us/kingsce> and from there you can link to the UC Davis Small Grains website if you want more information on varieties that don't appear in my tests. The grain trials provide information on grain yield, disease and lodging ratings and other characteristics that can help give you a sense of how the varieties compare to one another. Forage yield is not listed, but can be estimated from grain yield and plant height.

**Demonstration of Thermal Imaging  
Camera at Valadao Dairy –  
Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM**

On Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> members of Kings County Fire Station 8 (Guernsey) will demonstrate a special camera that uses new technology which enables it to pick up hot spots in a hay stack. The thermal imaging camera will be presented followed by a question and answer session on how this technology can decrease the loss of property damage and potentially save lives in the agricultural community.

Dairy producers and other interested allied industry people are invited to attend this event which starts at 3 PM and will last until about 4:30 PM. Valadao dairy is located at 17293 9 1/2 Ave. in Hanford. The demonstration will be held on the south side of the dairy at the hay barn. If you need additional directions call Dave Valadao at 584-7180. For more information on the thermal imaging camera you can contact Donald or Deborah Thomas at 584-7866.

**New Publication From UC:  
Overseeding and Companion  
Cropping for Alfalfa**

A new publication is available from the University of California's Division of Ag and Natural Resources on the topic of overseeding alfalfa. Alfalfa is considered the "queen of forages" because it is high yielding, high in forage quality, a persistent perennial, and resistant to many pests and diseases. Because of these qualities, alfalfa is not a crop that is typically thought to benefit from overseeding or companion cropping. However, overseeding can enhance your yield and the quality of your stand, and companion cropping may hold significant pest-management advantages. To find out when and why you may want to overseed or companion crop to reap these benefits, check out this informative booklet. You can purchase it at your local UC Cooperative Extension office or you can order it directly from the ANR Communications Services website at

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>. The booklet, entitled "Overseeding and Companion Cropping for Alfalfa" publication # 21594 costs just \$10.00 and is filled with many color photographs that help illustrate the subject. While you are browsing the website, you may want to check out some of the other publications. The ANR Catalog is your source for agricultural information on the Internet from the University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. From ants to zucchini, almonds to zinfandel – they've got answers! Don't forget, the gift-giving season is coming soon and you may find just what you need for that hard to buy farmer on your list in the ANR Catalogue!

**2000 National Alfalfa Symposium  
Dec. 10-12 Las Vegas Hilton, Nevada**

This year the California Alfalfa Symposium which is usually held in December each year, will be held in conjunction with the National Symposium in Las Vegas. The conference provides a great opportunity to hear alfalfa experts not only from California, but also from neighboring western states. Topics include industry trends, water issues, pest management, soils and irrigation, marketing, forage quality, and biotechnology. There is also a great field tour scheduled on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> before the conference begins. Further information about the program including speakers can be accessed from the internet at <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu>. Registration forms are available at local UC Cooperative Extension offices. Forms can also be obtained from Nicki Picanco at UC Davis by calling (530) 752-0700 or emailing her at [ndpicanco@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ndpicanco@ucdavis.edu). Registration costs are \$48 for the tour and \$120 for the conference if paid by Nov. 17 (\$160 after that). This fee covers admission, proceedings, lunches and refreshments. For lodging information contact the Las Vegas Hilton at 1-800-732-7117.

## Dairy Wage Survey

A frequent request from dairy producers is for wage survey data, but until recently there were few sources of information. Last summer, Gregory Billikopf, a farm advisor with UC Cooperative Extension specializing in personnel management, conducted an informal dairy wage survey. Dairies from throughout the country were invited to participate and the survey form was accessed via the internet. Billikopf recently released a summary of the survey, which also can be viewed from the internet at <http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/ucce50/aglabor/7research/7res02.htm>. To pique your interest, I have included selected parts of the summary that you might find most interesting.

Seventy-six dairies, mostly from Midwestern and Western states participated. Dairy farmers had the option to provide details on more than one employee, so there were actually 115 surveys completed. Questions were answered in terms of what was happening in April 2000. The average number of employees was 8 per dairy, with 4.5 milkers per dairy. In the sample of dairies surveyed, 39% of the employees were foreign born with over half of them employed in the Western states. The average herd size was 928 cows. Most dairies were milking 2x (61%) or 3x (36%) per day. The most typical milking parlor design of the respondents was the pit parlor (75%), in contrast to the flat barn (17%) or stall barn (8%). The average milking time was 6.1 hours per milking (range from 2 to 10 hours). It typically took 2.1 individuals per shift (range of 1 to 6 persons) to milk. The average number of milking stalls per dairy was 74 (range of 4 to 95 stalls).

Dairy employers were asked about benefits provided to their employees. Here is a list of their responses beginning with the most frequent: Paid vacation time (74%), with an average of 9 (2-21) days per year; health insurance (52%); milk or meat (42%); housing or housing allowance (27%); paid sick leave (21%); holidays (20%), with an average of 4.5 (2-6) days per year; retirement or 401(k) type program (19%); allowed employee owned animals in herd (14%); dental care (10%); and vision (3%). Other benefits listed included overtime pay for holidays in lieu of time off, electricity and utilities, life insurance, time off for personal reasons, free loans, and shared uniform expenses.

The following table taken from the text of the survey shows hourly pay for four job categories.

	Milker/Pusher	Herdsman	Cow Feeder	All Around
Ave. pay per hour	\$9.26	\$10.36	\$9.20	\$9.77
Min pay per hour	\$6.00	\$5.36	\$5.75	\$6.48
Max. pay per hour	\$13.12	\$13.34	\$12.50	\$12.73

It is hoped that this survey will be the beginning of more comprehensive future efforts to collect dairy wage data. There are many more tables and other interesting information in the full text. If you would like a copy of the entire summary, and can't get it from the internet, give me a call and I would be happy to send you a copy. I also anticipate that some of the dairy magazines that you receive may feature the survey results in an upcoming issue.

**2000 Kings County UCCE Winter Forage Trial**  
**1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Ave. Site – Delta View**

Cooperator: Don Giacomazzi

Harvested by: Danell Bros.

Planted: December 7, 1999 @ 125 lbs/acre

Harvested: May 17, 2000

Fertilization: 30 units N/acre water run in each of two irrigations. Also, field has received annual applications of dairy manure solids for many years.

<b>cultivar</b>	<b>cereal type</b>	<b>tons/acre as harvested</b>	<b>% DM at harvest</b>	<b>tons/acre at 30% DM</b>	<b>plant ht. (in)</b>	<b>% CP</b>	<b>% ADF</b>	<b>% NDF</b>	<b>% lodging</b>
Express	Wheat	19.58	36.30	23.7	41.2	9.3	30.10	44.70	0
Trical 105	Triticale	22.88	30.45	23.2	47.0	10.1	31.25	46.30	5
Brooks	Wheat	18.02	38.05	22.7	35.9	10.2	29.35	42.70	10
Trical 111	Triticale	22.03	30.80	22.6	46.5	9.8	32.75	48.30	0
Zancor	Wheat	17.75	37.70	22.3	41.5	9.3	33.30	47.65	60
Bonus	Wheat	16.65	39.80	22.0	32.9	9.6	29.45	44.25	0
RSI-5	Wheat	19.65	33.05	21.7	41.9	9.1	33.00	47.60	0
Yecora Rojo	Wheat	15.98	39.65	21.1	32.8	10.1	29.30	41.85	0
Cortez	Duram Wheat	16.40	37.00	20.3	37.7	9.4	28.85	42.10	0
<b>Average</b>		<b>18.77</b>	<b>35.87</b>	<b>22.18</b>	<b>39.68</b>	<b>9.63</b>	<b>30.82</b>	<b>45.05</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>CV %</b>		<b>3.84</b>	<b>4.62</b>	<b>6.01</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>4.53</b>	<b>3.93</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>LSD(.05)</b>		<b>1.661</b>	<b>3.817</b>	<b>3.072</b>	<b>2.004</b>	<b>1.007</b>	<b>2.789</b>	<b>2.857</b>	<b>---</b>

Means are averages of two replications.

CP=Crude protein – ADF=Acid Detergent Fiber – NDF=Neutral Detergent Fiber

**2000 Kings County UCCE Winter Forage Trial  
6th Ave. Site - Don Giacomazzi Dairy**

Cooperator: Don Giacomazzi

Harvester: Danell Bros.

Planted: December 3, 1999 @ 115 lbs/acre

Harvested: May 12, 2000

<b>cultivar</b>	<b>cereal type</b>	<b>tons/acre as harvested</b>	<b>% DM at harvest</b>	<b>tons/acre at 30% DM</b>	<b>plant ht. (in)</b>	<b>% CP</b>	<b>% ADF</b>	<b>% NDF</b>
Brooks	Wheat	9.6	49.7	15.8	31.5	12.2	27.1	43.9
Zancor	Wheat	10.3	46.2	15.8	36.1	11.8	28.3	46.3
Trical 105	Triticale	11.9	39.0	15.4	42.3	11.8	28.6	45.0
Yecora Rojo	Wheat	8.5	48.8	13.9	26.7	12.8	26.5	42.1
Bonus	Wheat	8.3	48.9	13.5	26.9	12.5	26.6	42.8
RSI-5	Wheat	10.0	40.1	13.3	35.5	11.5	29.7	45.3
Express	Wheat	6.6	44.2	9.8	33.3	13.3	30.0	45.3
<b>Average</b>		<b>9.3</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>12.25</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>44.4</b>
<b>CV %</b>		<b>8.95</b>	<b>4.68</b>	<b>10.26</b>	<b>3.62</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>2.86</b>
<b>LSD(.05)</b>		<b>2.038</b>	<b>5.178</b>	<b>3.493</b>	<b>2.939</b>	<b>0.523</b>	<b>2.817</b>	<b>3.105</b>

Means are averages of two replications.

CP=Crude protein – ADF=Acid Detergent Fiber – NDF=Neutral

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