

325 Make Cattle Tour; King Ranch

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trailers, pulled by Jeep, dump the pellets on grass in a different location each day so there are no bare spots. Although a bit wild by nature, the Santa Gertrudis welcome the Jeeps and their tiny feed wagons, following closely when its feeding time.

"Bred to live on grass," Mr. Wilson told the assembled group of the Santa Gertrudis, three-eighths Brahma, five-eighths Shorthorn. "We carry our cattle only to grades to choice, no prime. The bulk of our marketing falls in good to commercial."

Three-year-old steers, weighing 1400 to 1500 lbs, here are a carryover from another recent Texas drouth. When feed supplies grew shorter in the Southwest, many head were shipped northeast by King Ranch. These, with two-year-olds, yearlings and cows with calves range the pastures, a little aloof at such a



Pelleted feed is heading for pasture from the mill on King Ranch's Buck and Doe Run Valley Farms near Coatesville. Here Lancaster County feeders look over the pellets of molasses, corn and barley. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

Cattle Outlook



THOMAS W. KING, live-stock extension specialist from the Pennsylvania State University, takes the microphone for a report on the cattle situation during the Lancaster County Cattle Feeders Tour. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

crowd of visitors as the Lancaster County agriculturalists, but willing to come close with the feed wagon in the lead

Five pounds of pellets — eight parts of corn and barley, one part protein, fixed with molasses and extruded in pellets an inch thick and two or three inches in length — and five pounds of grain have been fed the cattle daily since July 15, and today the top 30 per cent is in butcher shape.

"Quite often our cattle will dress 60 per cent off grass," Mr. Wilson told the group in one of several stops.

Truly grass cattle, the Santa Gertrudis does not suffer from

bloat as extensively as other breeds, Mr. Wilson added. Improved pastures — bluegrass, white clover, Kentucky 31 fescue, bromo, orchardgrass, ryegrass and ladino clovers — are weed

free, and they make beef. "On good pastures, with no grain, our cattle have dressed out 50.7 per cent," he continued, "and on fertilized pasture with pellets dressing percentage went up to

60.3 per cent"

Another experiment, which has proved its worth in Texas, is underway at King Ranch. A trench silo filled in 1955 is being held to test the keeping quality.

In Texas, silage stored three years has been used with success, although shrinkage is heavy. The huge trench silo filled last year has settled to ground level, where it was filled six feet above ground.

Chester County cushioned the Texas drouth. Cattle by the hundreds were shipped north, arriving too thin for market. Today the three-year-olds are filled out, their coats are glossy.

Utility buildings on King Ranch's Buck and Doe Run Valley Farms are not pretentious. Sheds are painted dull red, like the steel grain bins that store the thousands and thousands of bushels of grain that must be purchased each year for the grass farm. Not in use now is a concrete feed lot almost a block long, with bunks on each side, space between more than adequate to handle even a large bus.

Roughage and grass, economical feed, are producing cattle that go only into slaughter. Mr. Wilson explained none are sold to other breeders from Buck and Doe Run; it's a closed breed developed 30 years ago by King Ranch.

In one sense, this was an industrial tour, the manufacture of meat, the manufacture of processed meats, and the manufacture of Fords. At the Ford Motor Co. plant in Chester, the group saw 1957 models being as-

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BURME... N. buyer for Medford Packing Co. explains operations of Medford Farms at West Grove, a luncheon stop in the Lancaster County Cattle Feeders Tour. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).