

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS,
COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE COOPERATING.

ARKANSAS VALLEY AGRICULTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Assembled by

Thos. H. Summers

Farm Management Specialist

LIBRARY
COLORADO A. & M. COLLEGE
FORT COLLINS COLORADO

A report of the agricultural recommendations for the Arkansas Valley, made and adopted by the commodity committees at the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Conference at Rocky Ford, Colorado, October 24, 1925.

5491
P. 24
1925
19

FOREWORD.

These recommendations were worked out by commodity committees at an agricultural conference at Rocky Ford, Colorado, October 24, 1925. The committees were composed of leading farmers and others selected to represent the five counties included in the Arkansas Valley region of Colorado. (Pueblo, Otero, Bent, Crowley and Prowers).

These committees were assisted by economic data in charts, graphs and tables furnished by the Agricultural College, railroads, packing plants and other agricultural processing plants, in addition to information provided by the farmers of the Arkansas Valley.

All those who were invited to take part could not attend. The names of farmers and others in this list are given on the last page of this report.

Last year "Colorado's Agriculture" was published. This report gives a general picture of the Agricultural conditions in the State and attempts to set forth certain recommendations. The Arkansas Valley comprises one of the agricultural regions referred to in this discussion.

The recommendations in this report apply to this region and are embodied in the plan which will be developed in working out agricultural recommendations for every region in the State. A bulletin similar to "Colorado's Agriculture" is being prepared for the agriculture of the Arkansas Valley.

Acknowledgement is here given to all persons and agencies who contributed towards the success of this conference. The conference was held under the direction of Mr. Eugene Merritt of the United States Department of Agriculture, who contributed his time and experience in addition to a fund of information dealing with the economic situation outside of this State.

Mr. Horace Dye of Manzanola was chairman of the conference.

BEEF CATTLE COMMITTEE

Whereas the range in this region is depleted and the grasses should therefore be permitted to recuperate; and since cattle are not finished on the range; and since cattle feeding tends to increase soil fertility as well as provides winter employment, we recommend:

1. That the range cattle industry be not expanded;
2. That more cattle be fed on the irrigated farms of the region.

J. G. Washburn, Chairman	La Junta
G. W. Williams	" "
B. F. Stauffer	Rocky Ford
W. S. Mariott	Pueblo
W. D. Mariott	Omaha, Neb.
L. A. Moorhouse, Secretary	Fort Collins

DAIRYING COMMITTEE

In as much as the local conditions are especially favorable as to climate, high yields of corn and alfalfa and market outlets for dairy products; and since dairying does not lend itself to make-shift farming; and since under present conditions the dairyman cannot utilize the wet beet pulp to advantage, we recommend:

1. That a gradual increase be made in the dairy industry;
2. That dairying be made a permanent enterprise on the farm;
3. That the advantage of dried beet pulp to the farmers who are beet growers be made evident to the sugar companies, so that enough dried pulp be supplied to supplement dairy feeds on these farms.

J. H. Leonard, Chairman	Holly
J. H. Holm	Rocky Ford
E. F. Himes	Pueblo
K. J. Sinding	Rocky Ford
R. M. Reed	Lamar
Geo. E. Morton, Secretary	Fort Collins

SHEEP COMMITTEE.

On account of range pasture limitations and the close proximity of the range country; and since there is a small acreage of irrigated pasture together with inadequate facilities for handling farm flocks; and since livestock feeding is a means of increasing soil fertility, we recommend:

1. That range sheep production be not increased in the Arkansas Valley;
2. That the farm flock business continue largely on the basis of old ewes;
3. That any increase in farm flocks be started in a small way accompanied by adequate pastures or aftermath, suitable fencing and equipment for lambing;
4. That increase in farm flocks be stimulated and their value be demonstrated by the establishment of Boys' and Girls' Sheep Clubs;
5. That the number of small sheep feeders be increased without increasing the total number of sheep fed.

J. L. Anderson, Chairman	Las Animas
W. S. Davis	Pueblo
J. W. Kyffin	"
O. L. Robinson	Las Animas
C. A. Pedersen	Lamar
W. H. Olin	Denver
B. W. Fairbanks, Secretary	Fort Collins

HOGS COMMITTEE

In as much as there is a deficiency in pork production in the Arkansas Valley, Colorado, and the eleven western states; and since corn and alfalfa can be produced as cheaply in this region as in any other part of the United States; and since the market demands a hog weighing 180 to 225 pounds, we recommend:

1. That hog production be increased in the Valley;
2. That enough hogs be kept on every farm to consume available by-products or roughage from the farm dairy, feedlot and farm crops;
3. That hogs be marketed at 180 to 225 pounds in weight.

R. C. Kibbey, Chairman	Swink
G. L. Penley	Lamar
Fred Davidson	Las Animas
Dixon Birkett	Pueblo
Raymond H. Cook	Olney Springs
A. O. White	Pueblo
T. F. Simpson	Manzanola
P. L. Smithers, Secretary	Canon City

POULTRY COMMITTEE

Whereas there is a seasonal shortage of eggs in the valley and a deficiency of poultry products in Colorado and the eleven western states, we recommend:

1. An increase in the production of baby chicks to supply the state demand now being met by other states;
2. An increase in winter egg production;
3. That not less than 100 laying hens be kept in the farm flock and 1500 laying hens in the commercial flock;
4. A production of not less than 8 dozen eggs per hen in the farm flock and not less than 12 to 14 dozen eggs per hen in the commercial flock;
5. A gradual increase in poultry production to meet the increasing demand in Colorado and outside markets;
6. An increase in the production of turkeys, where abundant range is available, to meet the increasing demand from outside markets.

Geo. W. Bishop, Chairman	Pueblo, Route 1
J. E. Rose	Lamar
Oscar Huston	La Junta
H. A. Knapp	Rocky Ford
P. C. Jamieson, Secretary	Littleton

GRAIN CROPS COMMITTEE

Whereas an average of 1000 cars of corn are shipped into the valley annually; and since barley provides a desirable feed during the months preceding the maturity of the new corn crop and is a desirable nurse crop to plant with the new alfalfa seeding; and since oats are desirable as feed for growing livestock and work stock; and since wheat is frequently grown at a loss, we recommend:

1. A slight increase in the production of corn to more nearly meet consumptive demands, especially where the alfalfa acreage exceeds 35 per cent of the irrigated area;
2. An increase in the acreage of barley to supplement corn and provide a nurse crop for new alfalfa seeding;
3. A production of oats sufficient to meet the needs of growing livestock and work stock;
4. A decrease in the acreage of wheat, unless 35 bushels or more per acre can be secured.

J. G. Erion, Chairman	Pueblo
Frank H. Royal	Manranola
B. A. Shelton	La Junta
A. Cleave	Rocky Ford
H. C. Sherman	" "
C. J. Cover	" "
E. F. Sult	" "
Waldo Kidder, Secretary	Fort Collins

SUGAR BEET COMMITTEE

In as much as the United States produces only 23 per cent of the sugar consumed; and since 20 per cent of the total irrigated area of the valley is profitable beet-producing land; and since one ton of beet tops in the field is equal to 100 pounds of alfalfa in feed value; and since accurate records show that beet yields are two and one-half tons per acre greater on farms where live stock feeding is done over yields on farms following crop enterprises exclusively; and since crop rotations serve to control disease and contribute to increased yields, we recommend:

1. That 20 per cent of the acreage known to be good beet land be planted annually to sugar beets;
2. That crop rotations be established on every farm.

A.W. Skuderna, Chairman	Rocky Ford
E.H. Gerecke	Lamar
J.N. Bundick	Rocky Ford
Roy Hartman	Pueblo, R 1, Box 196
W.F. Droge, Secretary	Rocky Ford

FORAGE CROPS COMMITTEE

Alfalfa

Since the alfalfa acreage in the valley is out of balance in comparison with other crops; and since the yield of alfalfa is not as high as it should be, we recommend:

1. That 35 per cent of the irrigated acreage be maintained in alfalfa;
2. That land be not used for alfalfa production unless it produces three tons or better per acre;
3. That more of the alfalfa produced be fed upon the valley farms.

Pastures (Irrigated)

Since there is a scarcity of irrigated pasture and considerable waste land on many farms, we recommend:

1. That wherever possible waste land be put into pasture;
2. That one acre of irrigated pasture be maintained for every three animal units on the farm.

Pastures (Dryland)

Since there is a scarcity of pasture on dryland farms, we recommend:

1. That emphasis be given to pastures in the dryland farming areas of the valley.

Fred Haver, Chairman
J. H. Mayhew
James Purvis
W. L. Sickenberger
E. D. Smith, Secretary

Boone
La Junta
Las Animas
Manzanola
Fort Collins

VINE CROPS COMMITTEE

Cantaloupes (seed)

In as much as the acreage of commercial cantaloupes in the western states and United States is gradually expanding; and since 95 per cent of the seed used is produced in the valley, we recommend:

1. A gradual increase in cantaloupe seed acreage, only when demand justifies, to keep pace with the expansion of the commercial acreage elsewhere;
2. That the production of high quality seed be given more attention.

Cantaloupes (commercial)

Whereas the expansion of commercial cantaloupe production in other districts competes on the markets with Colorado shipments, we recommend:

1. A reduction of the commercial cantaloupe acreage in the valley;
2. An improvement in the quality.

Cucumbers (seed)

In as much as the demand for cucumber seed is increasing; and since 90 per cent of the production of the United States is in the Arkansas Valley; and since quality has maintained the market for cucumber seed, we recommend:

1. That the acreage of cucumber seed be gradually expanded to keep pace with the increase in the acreage of pickles;
2. That more attention be given to quality production.

VINE CROPS COMMITTEE (Continued)

Cucumbers (pickles)

Whereas the outlook for the pickle industry is promising and the labor problem is a governing factor, we recommend:

1. That an increase be made in the pickle acreage;
2. That the expansion be not made at the sacrifice of handling the crop properly.

Will Morrison, Chairman	Rocky Ford
J. B. Moyer	Wiley
W. D. Neale	Rocky Ford
J. H. Wasson	" "
Wm. Rickman	" "
W. I. Sanford	Pueblo, Route 1
R. H. James	Rocky Ford
Wm. McKee	Penrose
N. E. Sanborn, Secretary	Denver

TRUCK CROPS COMMITTEE.

Celery

On account of the high quality of Pascal celery in the valley, the market outlook and the high fertility requirement, we recommend:

1. An increase in the acreage of celery;
2. That the increase in acreage be confined to winter varieties;
3. That the increase be made only on suitable soil with abundant water supply and where animal manures are available;
4. The standardization of the celery package and a uniform shipping label.

Cauliflower

In as much as the demand for fresh cauliflower is increasing and the production for canning is in competition with Holland growers; and since the crop demands peculiar climatic and soil conditions, we recommend:

1. An increase in the acreage of market cauliflower;
2. That the increase in acreage be confined to the upper part of the Arkansas Valley;
3. That an increase in the acreage of cauliflower for canning be made as the competition from Holland can be met;
4. That a high standard of quality be maintained in the commercial pack.

TRUCKS CROP COMMITTEE (Continued)

Other truck crops

For the proper control of truck crop diseases and the maintenance of adequate fertility thru crop rotation; and to meet a gradual expansion of the demand for canning crops in the valley, we recommend:

1. That the truck crop acreage be expanded to meet local demands;
2. That individual truck farms be increased in size to allow a better cropping system.

R. W. Hepler, Chairman	Manzanola
C. H. Barnhart	Pueblo
Kasper Monahan	"
Tony DeCarlos	"
R. L. Ellis	"
Glenn F. Wallace	St. Louis, Mo.
Noice D. Briston	Rocky Ford
E. P. Sandsten	Fort Collins
W. H. Sawhill, Secretary	Pueblo

IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

Whereas from two to three feet of water is required to produce the crops in the valley; and since there is sufficient under flow to provide water for supplementary pumping systems; and since the duty of water can be increased by the introduction of row crops in the farming system; and since there is a demand for more irrigation water, we recommend:

1. Some row crops on every farm;
2. That pumping plants be used only where low cost of operation and high price crops obtain;
3. That wherever possible increased storage capacity be provided.

P.K. Blinn, Chairman	Rocky Ford
Roy E. Miller	" "
S.W. Cressy	" "
Chas. E. White	Penrose
Justus C. Ward Secretary	Rocky Ford

A list of the men who were invited but could not attend the conference.

<u>Name of Committee</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Address</u>
Irrigation	C. W. Beach R. L. Parshall Ben F. Powell E. B. House J. B. Mayhew	Pueblo Fort Collins, C.A.C. Las Animas Fort Collins, C.A.C. Lamar
Dairying	Earl Darrow H. B. McClusky Henry Wehing French Fitzsimmons	Pueblo Ice Cream Co. Pueblo La Junta Rocky Ford Las Animas
Beef Cattle	Louis Hunter Jack Ware John C. Davidson E. J. Wagner Donald McMillan J. B. Bauman Tom Malone Claude Marshall J. B. Pitman A. R. Nowels Henry Ascherman	Rye Boone Las Animas Lamar Lamar " Boone La Junta Las Animas Lamar Rocky Ford
Sheep	Irwin Haines Carl Bauer Arthur Tolton T. H. Heath J. G. Scott Bart Ingrum Ray McGrath	Rocky Ford Fowler Las Animas Lamar Las Animas Manzanola Lamar
Hog	Otis Crow H. B. Ratzlaff H. F. Decker Harvey Nuckols	Rocky Ford Las Animas Bristol Pueblo
Poultry	Wesley Sollee J. E. Clevenger H. C. Abbott G. H. Center	Pueblo Rocky Ford Las Animas Lamar

<u>Name of Committee</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Address</u>
Grain	A. Blotz Frank Crow F. C. Fasnacht Neil McGrath Alvin Kezer	Rocky Ford Las Animas Wiley Lamar Fort Collins, C.A.C.
Vine Crops	J. B. Ryan Henry Leasure John Cowdon	Rocky Ford Lamar Olney Springs
Forage Crops	W. S. Partridge Harry Nevius Roy Cooper	Holly Lamar "
Sugar Beets	John L. Melton J. H. Larrick Fred Abel Frank Caspar Jas. Close	Las Animas Lamar Ordway Swink Ordway
Truck Crops	R. R. Williams	Pueblo

Those not assigned to any particular committee:

D. W. Thomas, Chamber of Commerce, Denver
W. W. Putnam, Crop Estimates, "
P. A. Gray, Chamber of Commerce, Pueblo
H. E. French, Forest Service "
F. D. Gahagan, Santa Fe R.R. "
W. F. Ryus " " " Trinidad
Chas. W. Lane, Asst. Editor, The Earth, Topeka, Kans.
L. E. Ford, Burlington R. R., Denver

LIBRARY
COLORADO A. & M. COLLEGE
FORT COLLINS COLORADO