3-2-1966

UA3/3/1 Comments on Activities at the Western Kentucky State College Farm

Billy Adams

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records

 appréci Part of the Agricultural Education Commons, Agricultural Science Commons, Curriculum and Instruction Commons, and the Dairy Science Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/3228
The reasons for owning and operating a farm would be to supplement our teaching and research programs. I would hope in the future that we could do more research or demonstration type projects. The various operations on the farm should be the best possible. Our herd and crop averages should be in the best in the state. If we do not do this we hurt our image as leaders in agriculture. Our herds should be good enough to exhibit at district and state shows if we so desire.

The crops and livestock raised on the farm should be compatible with what is taught in the department and should support themselves financially as far as possible. It should be realized, however, some teaching projects and some research projects may not be financially successful.

The appearance of the farm should be given first consideration. Use of the Charles L. Taylor Agriculture Center by agriculture groups should be encouraged.

The following is a list of recommendations and comments concerning the present situations and suggestions for improvement.

1. Relocation of the Kentucky Highway Department asphalt mixing operations, even if it means giving them a larger area on the back of the farm.

2. Keep a competent Farm Director and make him fully in charge, with authority to make all decisions. Unless the Head of the Department understands what is involved on a farm of this nature, the Director should answer only to the Dean of the Ogden College of Science and Technology. We have an outstanding director in Mr. Larry Mutter. I wish we had made this move much earlier.

3. Reduce the dairy and beef numbers by selling inferior animals.

4. Raise herd replacements as far as possible, supplemented by buying a few outstanding females from time to time.

5. Consider a small swine operation, possibly in conjunction with a swine testing station for this area.
6. Present leasing of equipment seems too expensive -- I would consider purchasing some equipment each year.

7. Barns should be remodeled to fit present-day needs, such as free stalls, etc.

8. Since the farm is drought prone, I would work toward stored feeding as soon as possible.

9. Housing for personnel is sufficient. Aluminum siding should be installed on the houses.

10. More small lots are needed for livestock.

11. A new pick-up truck should be assigned to the Director.

12. A small horticulture area for teaching and research purposes should be established as soon as possible.

13. Control test plots for corn population studies, fertility level studies, etc. should be started in 1966. These are being planned by faculty and students.

14. Student help should be used in farming operations as it gives them valuable experience. This has been started in the milking operation and is working satisfactorily.

15. A mastitis control study is getting underway by the Agriculture Dept. and the Biology Dept. An outline of this project is included in this report. Other research projects will be outlined by Mr. Amos and Mr. Mutter.

16. We should expand our 2-year program to include more of the farm experiences for these students.

I believe, by the end of this year, the level of production will be back to where it was in 1962. In a few years we will have a herd average of 15,000 lbs. of milk and 550 lbs. of butterfat. For the first time in my fourteen years of teaching at Western I believe we are going in the right direction as far as the College Farm is concerned.
SPECIAL PROBLEM 350

The purpose of this special problem is to set up a mastitis detection and control program that will (1) give results as to the causative organism of mastitis for each herd, (2) suggest treatment for the specific type of mastitis found, and (3) give results quickly and economically enough to warrant the enrollment of farmers in such a program on a full time basis.

The method will be as follows:

I. Take a composite sample from each cow in the herd once a month.
   A. Run confirmatory test on the sample that day
      1. California Mastitis Test
      2. Catalase Test
   B. Keep a 5 X 7 index card for each cow showing the date tested and the results of each test.

II. Take individual samples from each quarter of the infected cow on the following day as a result of the previous day's testing
   A. Plate out the organisms
   B. Record the type of organisms found on the cow's card
   C. Test the organisms with antibiotic disc to suggest specific treatment
   D. Suggest type of treatment and keep accurate records of each treatment

III. Retest the infected cows weekly by the method used in II, noting the response, if any, to treatment.

IV. Repeat the entire procedure monthly, keeping accurate records and charting the monthly progress which is to be made available to the farmer.
It will be necessary for the tester to be present at the morning milking at least five times a month to insure the purity of the samples taken. For this problem the dairy herd at the Western Kentucky State College Farm will be used as a test group. All previous cases of mastitis will be noted along with their treatment and the response to treatment. This problem has the full cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and the Farm Manager.

Elsie L. Cooper

Roger Bennett