

—Bob Pauline Photo

Ysidro Mountains and Mexican wasteland e wild horses once roamed form backdrop as John Wolfe, cowpoke turned sheepherder, folds in flock on Otay Mesa frontier where dogs run wild.

) DOGS PROBLEM, TOO

ack Of Barley Stubble urbs Mesa Sheep-Raising

ly NEIL BALL

' MESA — Basque-flocks that recently ed limitless fields of stubble here each r now are shipped) a head from El to the Sacramento r summer feeding. here are sheep the ound on Otay Mesa. Frontier where wild ave replaced wild

shepherd's name is Wolfe, 51, lifelong resident, horse r and cowpoke. He few ewes with lambs d around with and a flock of 100 iempre Viva Road e border with

s the loneliest salt-id ryegrass pasture county when dusk lights blinked on iana Airport and ez Dam. It was the pasture when Navy planes from Brown egan to circle over

S USEFUL

e planes keep the way," said Wolfe, oved to the Walter ranch after dogs d his flock on the llett ranch near San

dogs came from n Ysidro dump," said. "Coyotes re-exactly 24 hours for d kill and I can em easily but dogs any time I'm set-camp here for three

said many stock-are sleek domestic id he charged that ne in Castle Park" ought in an Aus-dingo and is breed-with domestic dogs ake a real sheep

hundred sheep will e," said Wolfe. "I d for a woodstove a kerosene lamp, gest expense is the truck to haul wa-gallon a day a sheep feeding. If I can ne good Rambouillet at the right price, irn a profit by build-o 400 sheep."

said he does not even miles through gates with seven nd seven keys" as end, Johnny (Phil) , claims, but goes daily five miles three locked gates. ps dogs at his fork-ach to "keep the ls from eating my

said, "I've seen ears but never eight s" and it has "been l this summer" to in next winter. The r has nearly put an mesa dry farming ey. Dallett only got heis an acre, com-with 50 Henry Piper th irrigation, Wolfe This is why the huge of sheep go else-now; no barley stub-graze in summer, said.

'ERIODS

e turns his sheep out ze from daylight to ., and 4 p.m. until with a bell on each heep to warn of dan-

on Advised

ger. The bells come from Spain and Switzerland, he said. He said Basque bells have too soft a tone for alarms.

Wolfe has had the same Mexican shearers for 20 years and they charge 75 cents a head now. Sheep average 10 to 11 pounds of wool at only 35 cents a pound, he said. Spring lambs he buys for $15 sell for 15 cents a pound to "turn into $1 lamb chops."

The rate for sheep sheared in Mexico is 20 cents a head and the wool price is 42 cents a pound there, he said.

THE SAN DIEGO UNION

AGRICULTURE

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 3, 1961 — a31

Image Of Farmer Undergoes Change

By LARRY FREEMAN

The image of a farmer carried around in the minds of those who have always lived on the asphalt acreage of the city may vary from individual to individual.

But if there are those who, for lack of contact with the dwindling number of growers, conceive of him as an unsophisticated, uninformed rhinwhiskered fellow, they can erase the picture.

The ancient man of the soil who was the victim of fast-talking goldbrickers, offering books and lightning rods, is obviously long gone.

DIFFICULT CHOICE

Today's farmer? It would be difficult to pick him out of a crowd of smoothies in the city's slickest grills. He's apt to be there himself, reviewing his stock holdings with his broker.

Once he could be told by his sunburned face but this is now a status badge of city dwellers.

Whether he's a volume producer of things to eat or a moderate-sized one, he's up on what's going on in the world. He's probably never seen a pair of galluses, not to mention snapping them. He can come as close to discussing existentialism as most of his city cousins.

Indeed, he's apt to know more about Laos than his city counterpart. Whether from the nature of his work, better organization, or extensive use of automation, he has more time to read, listen and meditate.

STATISTICS LACKING

No statistics are at hand but the chances are hypertension is not a common farm malady. It may be some day, however. He's being asked to serve on an increasing number of committees and boards, often belongs to a service club, and his wife frequently is managing the church bazaar or supervising her community's branch of the concert association.

His coffee tables are cluttered with the same books and magazines as those in the city.

He's so much like his metropolitan friends that those of us who have occasion to telephone him are careful not to call too early. We might get him out of bed.

Lack Of Water Blamed For Avocado Loss

A natural thinning process and inadequate irrigation during hot spells has been blamed for the avocado fruit drop observed by county growers during the last month.

Don Gustafson, University of California farm adviser, said it is impossible for the avocado tree to carry extra heavy crops to full maturity and the tree must reduce the number of fruit during the growing season.

THINNING PROCESS

He said this natural thinning process takes place in the blossom stage, the early fruit-setting period, and throughout the season until harvest time.

Gustafson said hot weather as experienced between July and October causes trees to use and lose great quantities of water. Inadequate water will weaken fruit, causing it to develop improperly and resulting in fruit drop, he said.

CRITICAL PERIOD

The next three months, he said, will be a critical period for the Fuerte trees and the crop they are carrying. He said frequent irrigations, every 7 to 10 days, with a deep leaching irrigation every 4 to 6 weeks, should provide sufficient moisture during the warm period ahead.

Water should penetrate into the soil at least 18 to 24 inches during the regular application and the leaching irrigation should wet to the depth of the soil, he said.

He recommended wetting of ground area for mature trees four to five feet beyond the drip line.

Better Quality Sought In Farm Exports

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (AP) — Foreign market studies show that the United States must improve the quality of some of its important food crops if new customers are to be gained and old ones held abroad.

A recent evaluation of the way American foods are being received in West Germany — as a typical dollar market sought by all agricultural exporting countries — raised warning signals about quality.

Citing wheat as an example, the report said dissatisfaction with the U. S. product on the part of the German trade has limited effectiveness of efforts of the Agriculture Department's Foreign Agricultural Service and cooperating grain trade groups to develop expanded markets.

Other reports in recent years have told of lack of attention paid to quality by exporters of some other U. S.

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