



**BRANDING SCENE** at the O U Ranch, Yava, owned by Mrs. Orville Hazlewood and son, Earl. This scene is typical of cattle country of Yavapai County. (Photo by Carter Camera Center, Prescott)

# Yavapai County, Mister, Is Great Cattle Country!

**Alvin Allen**

We have no blanket recommendations for all of Yavapai County's farmers and ranchers. This is understandable when one considers that Yavapai County's terrain varies from

County Agent Alvin Allen and Yavapai County have been working together in harmony for quite a few years. It was May 1, 1951 that Alvin Allen first stepped into his office at Prescott, making it 13 years next spring. Before that he was assistant county agent in Pima County, going into county agent work in 1948, right after graduation in agricultural education at the University of Arizona. Allen took advanced work in 1960-61, getting his master's degree from the UA in 1961.

an elevation of 1900 feet to just under 8,000 feet on its mountain peaks.

Castle Hot Springs, for example, can boast of growing the only citrus crops in Yavapai County! Camp Verde has the only planting of cotton in the county. This contrasts with the apple orchards that still produce on some of the old mountain homesteads high up in the Bradshaws.

### Start of Irrigation

The discovery of artesian water in Little Chino Valley in 1930, by John A. Hatch, led to the development of Little Chino Valley as an important section of the farm economy of Yavapai County. The acreage of irrigated land in that area is now on the de-

cline, due to inroads of subdivisions. Similar development is rapidly reducing the acreage of farm lands in the Verde Valley.

The 453 "farms" (U. S. Census Bureau definition) in Yavapai County include both farms and ranches. Land ownership in Yavapai County is typical of Arizona:

Type	Acres	Percent
Private	1,215,465	23.54
State	1,271,602	24.62
Federal	2,672,480	51.76
Indian	3,578	.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,163,125</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Yavapai County's principal source of agricultural income is from its approximately 5,000,000 acres of cattle rangeland. Some 200 commercial cattle ranches produce annually over \$6¼ million worth of beef cattle. This is 86 percent of the agricultural income of the county. There are 82,000 head of range cattle in the county. Yavapai County cattlemen produce about 32,000 head of good to fancy feeder calves for sale annually. (Continued on next page)



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In addition, some 7,000 head of feeder yearlings are offered for sale each year.

### Dairy and Poultry, Too

Dairy and poultry enterprises are well suited to the climate of Yavapai County. Marketing and feed expenses place the dairy business at a disadvantage, however. There are about 1,200 head of dairy cattle in nine commercial herds in the county. The largest dairy herd has about 350 cows and the smallest has about 60.

There is only one commercial broiler producer in the county. This plant, located in Cornville, produces, processes and markets about 60,000 broilers annually. There are six commercial egg producers in the county. The average size of flock is 3,000 birds.

### Horses, Horses, Horses!

Yavapai County is known as the Horse Capital of Arizona. It has some 3,300 head of horses and mules. There are 15 breeders of registered Quarter Horses, 5 of Thoroughbreds, 5 of Appaloosas, 5 of Arabians, 4 of Shetland, 2 of Pintos.

There are 23,500 acres of irrigated farmland in Yavapai County, 8,500 acres in Verde Valley, 6,000 in Little Chino Valley, 5,000 in Big Chino Valley, and 4,000 acres scattered in smaller valleys of the county. Irrigation wells are the principal source of water in Big and Little Chino Valleys, the Skull Valley and other small irrigated areas. The Verde River and Oak Creek are the major sources of gravity water for irrigating in that area. Beaver and Clear Creeks also contribute to this water source. Water quality is excellent in most of the

**ALFALFA BEING HARVESTED** in Yavapai County. Although it is known as a county with vast rangelands, Yavapai has some excellent — and well managed — irrigated valley farms.

*This is third in a series of county stories which will continue to tell, issue by issue and county by county, the agricultural story of all Arizona counties. Preceding issues told about Graham and Greenlee counties. Next issue will discuss Santa Cruz County. Each article is written by the county's County Agricultural Agent.*

county. Artesian wells are located in the north end of Little Chino Valley, Lower Oak Creek and Wet Beaver Creek.

### Mostly Feed Crops

The principal field crops, in decreasing order of importance, are alfalfa, corn, irrigated pasture, small grains and vegetables and fruits. The market for alfalfa and corn (ensilage, principally) is good. Feeding of beef cattle is on the increase in Chino Valley.

The Yavapai Cattle Growers and the Yavapai County Farm Bureau (with three locals) are the two largest farm or ranch organizations in the county.

## 2 UA Agriculturists Named Fellows of AAAS

Two members of the faculty of the College of Agriculture at the University of Arizona have been elected Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

They are Dr. George A. Gries, head of the department of plant pathology and acting head of the department of botany, and Dr. S. M. Alcorn, associate professor of plant pathology.

Dr. Gries joined The University of Arizona faculty in 1960, after teaching 15 years at Purdue University. While at Purdue, he did research in the physiology of parasitic fungi and the photoperiodic responses of crop plants.

Dr. Alcorn worked cooperatively with the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Arizona from 1955 until July, 1963 as a Plant Pathologist. In July, 1963, he joined the university faculty full-time as an associate professor. He is doing research on diseases of the Saguaro cactus.

## With New Appliances, Watch Overloading

Beware of overloading that home electrical circuit with appliances, warns Miss Corinne Stinson, extension home management specialist with The University of Arizona.

"Automatic utensils and portable ovens are very useful, but the use of these appliances would be satisfactory and safe only if wiring is adequate and convenient," she says.

Miss Stinson suggests a simple formula which can avoid the overloading of circuits. Multiply the number of volts times the number of amperes in a given circuit and you have the total wattage it can take. For example, a 120-volt, 15-amp circuit will serve appliances requiring 1,800 watts. You get this figure by multiplying 120 time 15.

Simply add up the watts required by the utensils and appliances and compare the total to the total watts of the circuit. If the devices require more watts than the circuit is providing, trouble lies ahead. A fuse may be blown. Or you may cause a fire.

A homemaker can check the nameplate on the appliances to find out how many watts are needed. Usually two of the larger "heating" appliances are all that can be used on a circuit at one time.