

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Bruce Kell

They tell a little story:

In Europe, all Americans are Yankees. In the United States, southerners classify all northerners as Yankees. In the north, we recognize that only New Englanders are Yankees. In New England, a Vermonter is a Yankee. And in Vermont a true Yankee is an old timer who eats apple pie and cheese for breakfast.

So it goes — countries, states and counties. The closer you get to a place the more you realize how different it is from other places.

Take Santa Cruz County, for example. It is just like Pima County on the north and west, and like Cochise on the east — until you take a close look.

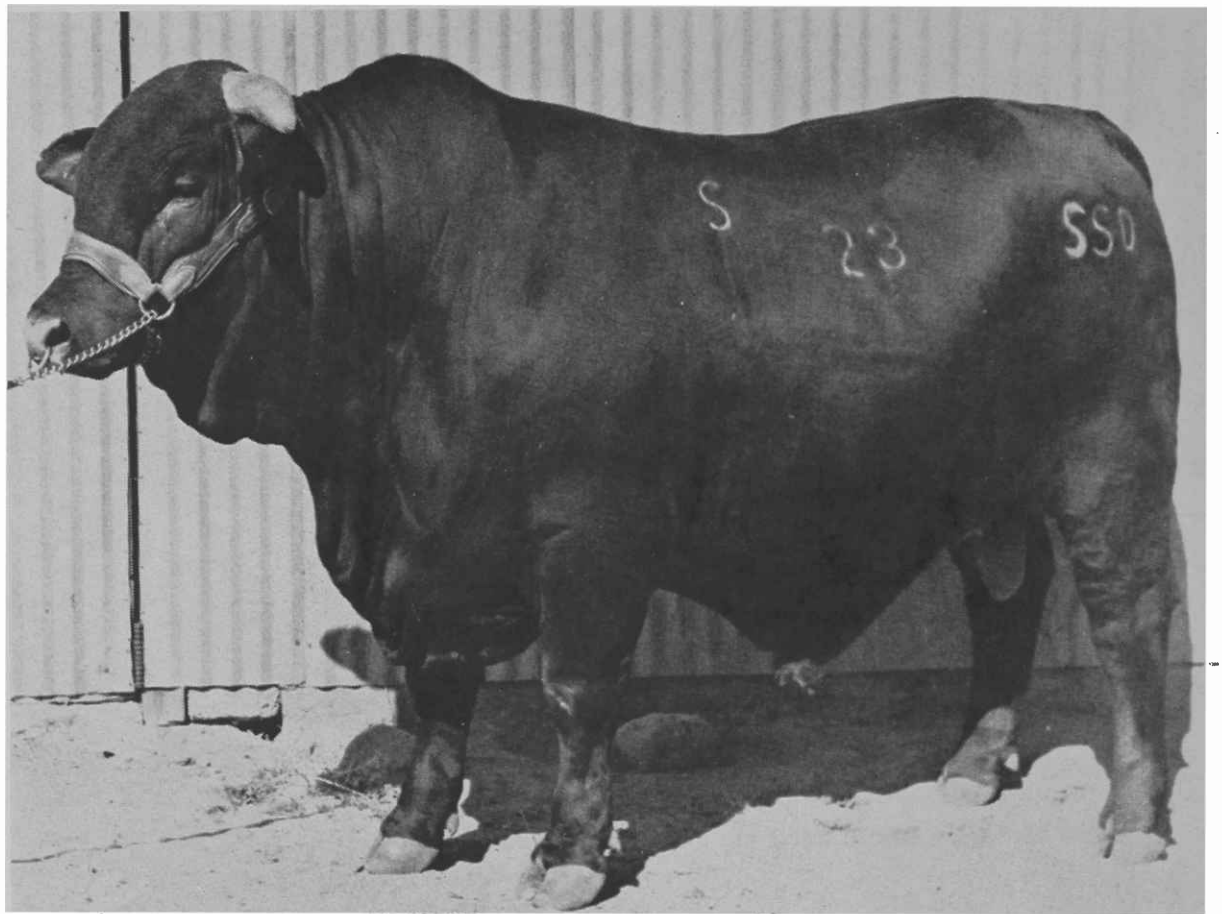
Same — But Different

Then you realize that Santa Cruz, smallest county (1246 square miles) in Arizona, has many individual characteristics.

It is farthest south in the state, yet has an exhilarating climate, with cool mountain valleys and the clearest air in the world.

It is range country, pretty much,

Bruce Kell is as well trained for the particular county he serves as one can be. The chief items of Extension interest in Santa Cruz County are livestock and 4-H. Bruce had two years in Michigan as a county 4-H club agent, and his major, when he was in college, was in Animal Husbandry. Born in Indiana, Mr. Kell attended Michigan State University, graduating with his B.S. degree in 1949. He spent eight years in extension work in Michigan, then came to Arizona to improve the health of a child. He was appointed to the U of A Extension staff July 1, 1957, as a county agent in Pinal County. He then went, after a year and a half in Pinal, to Nogales as county-agent-in-charge of the newly opened Santa Cruz Extension office.



WINNING BULL at the Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix was this big Santa Gertrudis from San Cayetano Ranch. Brand numbers indicate certification by the breed association, which does not certify animals until after they are grown.

One of a Series

This is fourth in a series of articles describing Arizona counties and their agriculture. Featured in our next issue will be Gila County.

but some of its best cattle are raised on irrigated pasture without a mesquite or creosote bush to rub against.

It grows no commercial fruits and vegetables — yet more of these pour through Santa Cruz County than almost anywhere else.

While the smallest county, it still has some of the best beef herds in the country, and a greater number of beef breeds.

It is "old" country, in the sense that it was settled before the rest of Arizona (the first newspaper in the state was at Tubac), yet the county seat, Nogales, is an ethnic mixture, and is known nationally as the happiest integrated of any bi-ethnic community in America.

A Friendly Battleground

Santa Cruz County has been scarred by the arrows and bullets of half a dozen different cultures — and today is the friendliest place on earth.

It still has a few oldtime prospectors, setting out into the mountains with picks and pack burros — and it has communities recently refurbished by some of the stellar names in Hollywood, and clustered with them are artist colonies, with excellent artists gathered from a wide area into this friendly land.

Santa Cruz County has, roughly, 795,000 acres of semi-desert rangeland. The "roughly" in the above sentence is applicable, too, for these cattle feed up and down the sides of half a dozen mountain ranges.

The county has 7,000 acres of irrigated farmland, chiefly in the Santa Cruz river valley. This river offers lush bottomland soil and plentiful irrigation water. Surprisingly, 1,200 acres of this irrigated land is not in food crops but in permanent pasture

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and — again surprisingly — most of that pasture is not alfalfa.

Fat Red Cattle

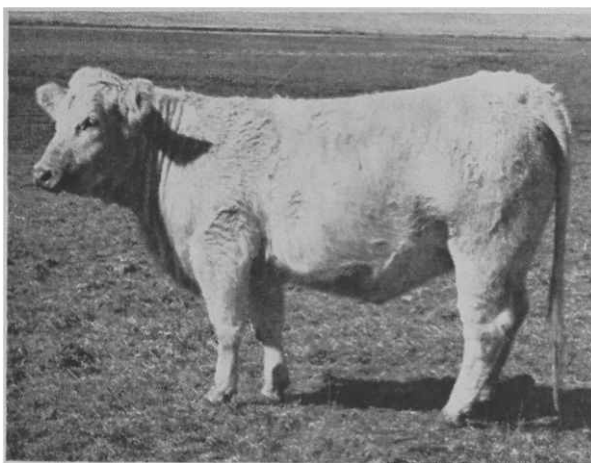
Santa Cruz County has, on such permanent pasture and elsewhere, some of the best Santa Gertrudis cattle in the country. These rugged big cherry-red cattle, genetically three-eighths Brahman and five-eighths Shorthorn, were started as a distinct breed 40 years ago on the famed King Ranch in Texas. Much refined, more closely typed but still constantly improving, these cattle have found a home — and buyers a Mecca — on these Santa Cruz pastures.

The county also has one of the best Charolais herds in the nation, owned by famed movie star Stewart Granger. It has one of the country's very good Brangus herds, as well as the predominating Herefords and the black Angus, the traditional British breeds.

Because the permanent pasture type of beef cattle husbandry is unusual in Arizona, a description of one such setup is warranted. Take, for example, the San Cayetano Ranch at Tumacacori. This is a 500-acre farm with 180 acres in permanent irrigated pasture. The pasture mixture, commercially made up, includes alta (or meadow) fescue, orchardgrass, birds-foot trefoil and burnett.

This was selected for several reasons. The grasses, unlike alfalfa or

STEWART GRANGER, below, with a 2½ year old Charolais bull on his Yerba Buena Ranch. Note depth of loin, indicating meatiness.



YEARLING CHAROLAIS heifer on Yerba Buena Ranch. This is typical of growth of this breed on irrigated grass pasture.

other legumes, carry no bloat hazard. The combination of grasses gives wide variety, with one variety or another affording vigorous growth — and feed — at almost all seasons of the year. Thus one warm-season grass may have heavy growth at one season, replaced in cold weather by a cool season variety.

Efficient Water System

Water is close to the surface in the lush Santa Cruz Valley. San Cayetano has three wells which can produce a total of 5,000 gallons per minute. Depth of wells is 30 feet. An intricate system of concrete-lined ditches, pipelines and gates makes it possible for one man to handle all the irrigation. The pastures are flood-irrigated.

Pastures are small, five or six acres, and are heavily grazed for a week.

Then the cattle are taken to another pasture in the rotation series, while the used pasture is irrigated and fertilized and given three weeks to regain its growth before the next week of use.

Walter Hanson, manager of San Cayetano, and owner Charles C. Day, agree that this pasture-rotation system is best for their use. The ultimate in feed growth is reached and used, the animals can "fill up" quickly and without too much travel, and the animals are concentrated near headquarters — handy for a ranch which specializes in the sale of breeding stock.

An interesting sideline is a cutting of around two tons of excess grass per acre each spring. This grass hay is eagerly sought by horsemen who willingly pay a premium price for it.

A phenomenon of Santa Cruz County is an Englishman who esteems non-English cattle. The Hereford, Angus, Santa Gertrudis, Brangus, Bradford are beef cattle with ancestry going back to the British Isles.

Chaucer to Charolais

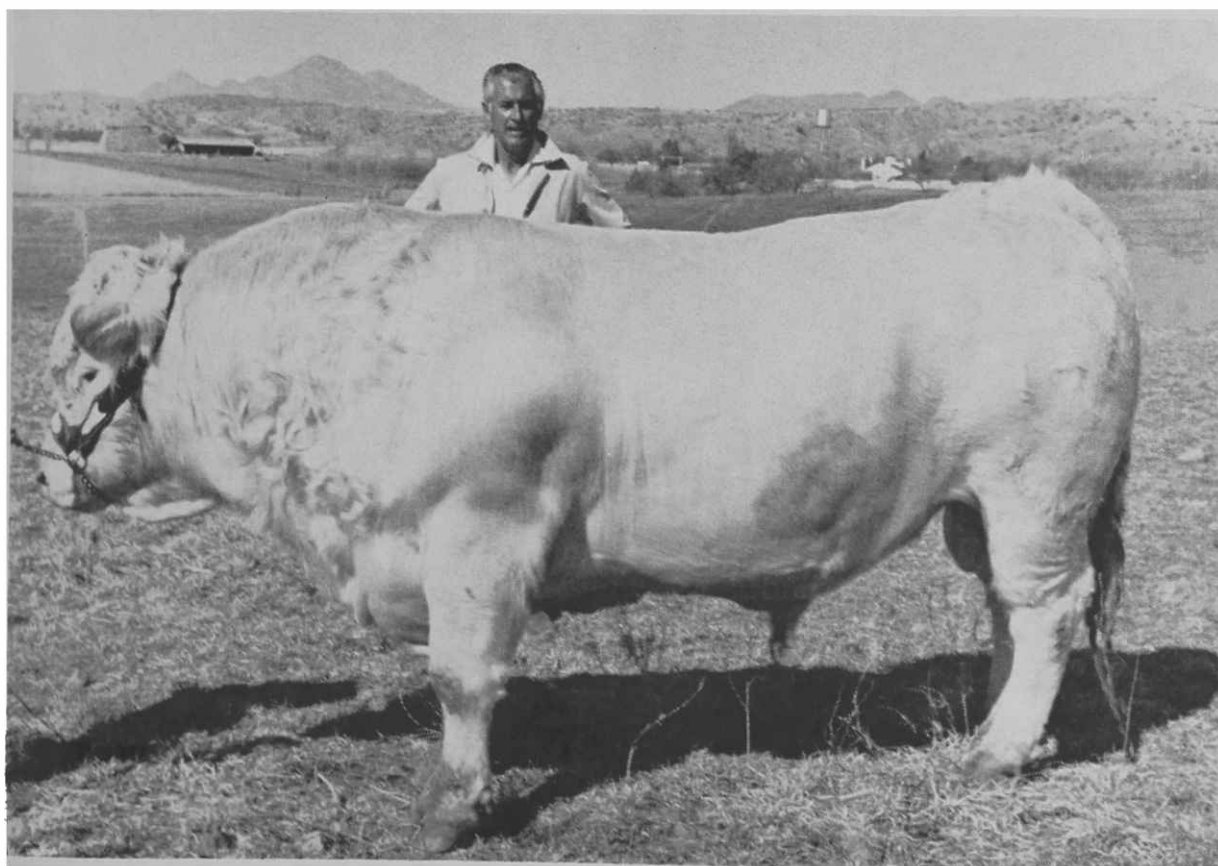
Stewart Granger, born in London half a century ago, star of the legitimate theater in England before going to Hollywood in 1948, is one of the leading U. S. breeders of those big, rangy, creamy-white French cattle, the Charolais.

On his Yerba Buena (good grass) ranch east of Nogales, this famed actor ("King Solomon's Mine," "A Prisoner of Zenda," "Scaramouche," etc.) is increasing his Charolais herd from less than 200 head to over 400 head, making him the largest breeder of the big French cattle in America.

The Charolais have been barred from this country — the reasons are obscure — but a few years ago a Texas breeder imported a few via Mexico. A few other importations came along, and now there are several herds in this country. However, the demand for this "bootleg brand" of cattle far exceeds the supply, making the man with breeding stock available a much sought-after person.

Stewart Granger talks easily of \$50,000 bulls, and about a group of heifers which he sold for \$2,500 a head. Right now he is breeding up the animals he has, selecting his sires with intense discrimination in order to get the type of animals he wants —

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long-bodied with full loins, deeply muscled, large frames for utilizing a big volume of feed. Granger's bulls can top a ton at two years of age, although the late-maturing Charolais keep on growing until five-year-old maturity. At that age a 3,000 pound animal is not a great rarity.

Six Pounds Per Day!

Granger, a man who found his Mecca not in Hollywood but in Santa Cruz County, has a tremendous pride in his herd. He extolls the complete absence of pinkeye, the long full loins where the meat is, the phenomenal gaining ability.

One young bull now in his corrals was making a gain of six pounds per day over a period of weeks, a gain so startling that the scales were checked, and feed company officials clustered around to wonder just what was that stuff they were selling.

Granger's Yerba Buena lies on both sides of the Santa Cruz River, and like the Santa Gertrudis breeders he takes full advantage of river bottom wells for irrigating permanent pastures. However, because of the slope of these fields, he uses a sprinkler irrigation system. Granger, too, esteems grass mixtures for permanent pastures. In his language, "alfalfa"



GROUP OF SANTA Gertrudis cows on irrigated grass pasture at San Cayetano.

is part of a hyphenated word which includes the syllable "bloat."

Plant Pest Control

Turistas returning from Mexico through the Nogales customs gates may be quite disturbed, as officers take that last avocado, those three oranges or a stalk of sugar cane from them. After all, right alongside the road are lines of freight cars taking Mexican produce to the U. S. and Canada, so what harm is an avocado or two?

The answer, of course, is the plant pest control program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine Division. And the turista should know that those railroad cars and huge trucks of tomatoes, peas, beans, peppers, eggfruit and other vegetables are all inspected, too.

In 1963 more than 8,000 truckloads and 7,000 railroad cars of Mexican fruit and vegetables came through Nogales, going north through Santa

Cruz County to markets throughout the U. S. and Canada. But every carload, every truckload, first was inspected for plant parasites, plant diseases, or soil which might carry one or both.

The inspection has a good purpose—keeping out of the U. S. those parasites and diseases of which we are free, and also barring those plant pests which we do have but which we are trying to isolate and eliminate.

Even Soil is Searched

Soil is a natural carrier of plant pests, so even "empty" railroad cars and trucks which have some soil in them must be cleaned up, in some cases fumigated, before they enter the United States. Most of the commercial growers and packers in Sonora, Sinaloa and further south, in Mexico's irrigated valleys, recognize the need for top quality and cleanliness, so very little of the commercially shipped material is rejected.

The turistas, with "a pretty bush we wanted to plant in our patio," or an unusual cactus carefully balled in the (disease-infected?) soil it grew in, are relieved of their spoils at the border, graciously and courteously—but firmly. America's own growing plants are too precious to risk infection from a chance importation.

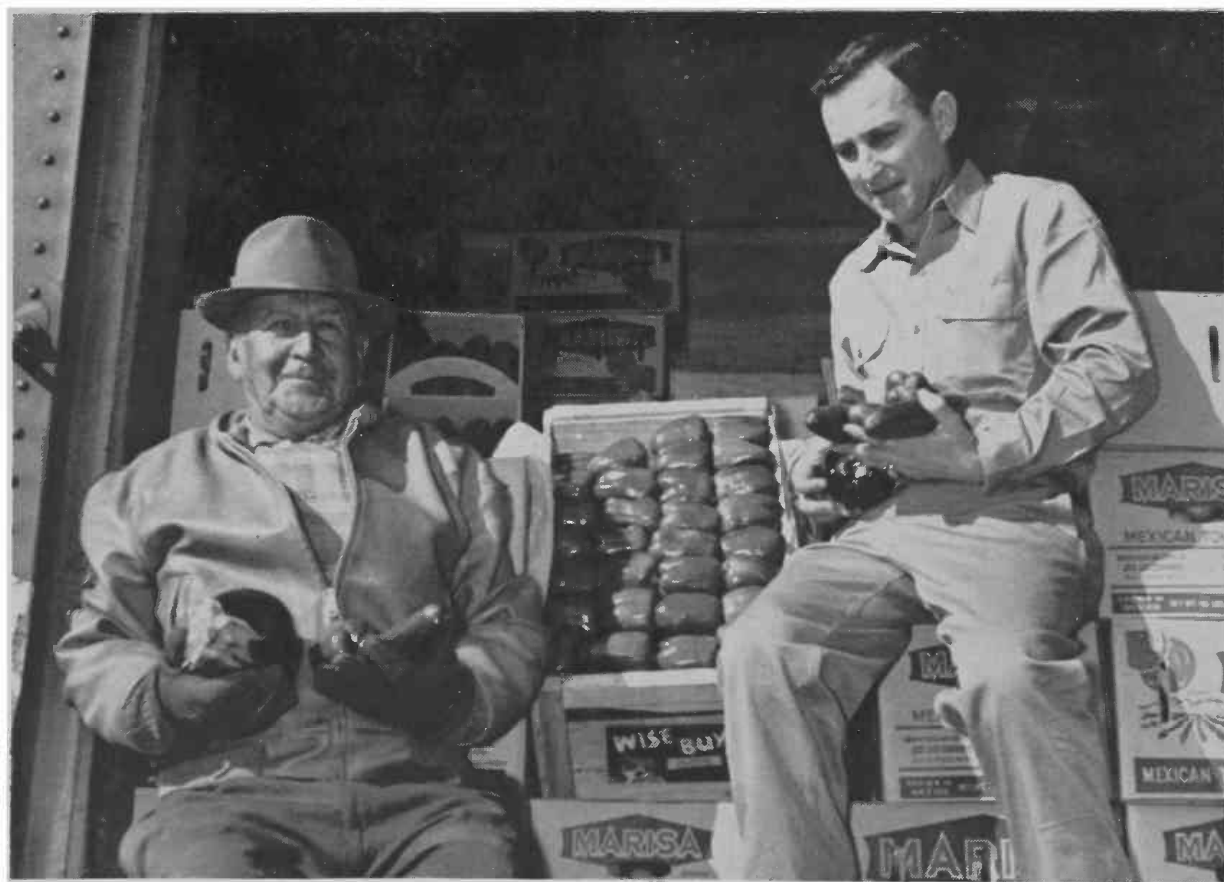
According to the U. S. Department of Commerce, importation of food products from Mexico into Arizona totaled \$71,142,956 in 1962, up from \$55,090,351 the previous year. The 1962 total includes in round numbers \$11½ million in live cattle, half a million in dressed beef, \$34½ million in seafoods, \$19½ million in vegetables and \$3 million in fruits.

A large cattle holding yard at Nogales, Sonora, affords dipping vats where the animals are dipped to avoid their carrying parasites into this country. Veterinarians also reject any animals not in sound health.

Mexican Cattle Imports

Chiefly these cattle are thin feeders which enter the southwestern U. S.

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INSPECTING CARLOAD of Mexican vegetables. Car is mixed lot, including eggplant, bell peppers, slicing cucumbers and tomatoes. At left, Eduardo Marquez, representative of railroad and of U. S. and Mexican brokers, and the man who is empowered to break car seals for inspection. At right, Luciano Garcia, inspector for USDA Plant Quarantine Division.

Prices Received by Arizona Growers For Major Agricultural Products

Commodity	Unit	1963	1962	1953-1962
		Price	Price	Average Price
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Upland cotton	pound	.323 ^a	.3133 ^b	.3224
Alfalfa hay ^b	ton	30.70	26.20	25.90
Barley ^b	cwt.	2.60	2.54	2.33
Grain sorghum ^b	cwt.	2.21	2.07	2.21
Choice slaughter steers ^c	cwt.	23.80	26.35	24.19
Choice yearling feeder steers ^c	cwt.	23.64	24.53	21.99
Choice feeder steer calves ^c	cwt.	26.02	26.95	23.23
Milk ^d	cwt.	5.05	5.11	5.31
Eggs ^c	dozen	.368	.384	.485
Wool ^d	pound	.420	.390	.397
Lettuce ^b				
Winter	carton	1.97	2.10	1.77
Early spring	carton	2.00	2.44	1.86
Fall	carton	2.44	1.97	2.03

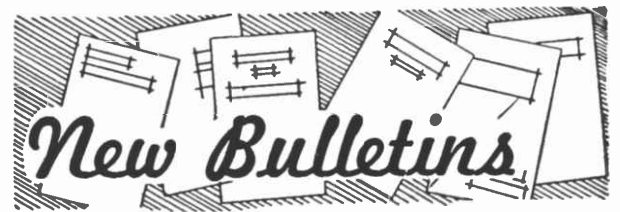
^a Average price to December 1.

^b Crop year average price.

^c Twelve-month average price.

^d Twelve-month weighted average price.

Source: Arizona Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Statistical Reporting Service, USDA, Phoenix, and Livestock Detailed Quotations, Agricultural Marketing Service, Livestock Division, USDA, Phoenix.



These U of A publications are available at your local County Extension Agent's Office.

Bulletins

A-33 Growing Grapes in Arizona (Revision of former Circular 251).

A-26 Protect the Cotton Plant from Insect Injury (1964 Revision)

Folders

105 Sonora Alfalfa for Arizona

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for more pasture fill and then feed-yard finishing. This importation varies widely according to several factors — a drought in Sonora or rains in Texas, war or peace with consequent vacil-



CARL SPITZER, Plant Quarantine inspector, opens cartons of tomatoes from Sinaloa and closely inspects individual tomatoes for anything which might indicate disease or parasites.

lation in demand, price factors which may favor or shun imported animals, disease (such as hoof and mouth a decade ago) which places a complete embargo on imports.

All of these cattle do not come in through Nogales. The Agua Prieta-Douglas gate accounts for some. But Nogales gets the most, as well as all of the fruit and vegetable shipments entering the U. S. through Arizona, affording considerable agriculture-related employment in Santa Cruz County.

The County Extension Office in Santa Cruz County was established in 1959, although previously it had been served by Pima County Extension personnel. It is a county where 4-H work is actively and enthusiastically pursued, with 4-H exhibits at the county fair in Sonoita being excellent in both quality and quantity.

4-H is Important

There are 250 4-H club members in the county, there's a very active 4-H council, and the program is encouraged by some 50 local 4-H leaders.

Mrs. William J. Hagler is the County Home Agent, handling the distaff side of the Extension program, while Bruce Kell is county-agent-in-charge, the job he took when the office was opened early in 1959.

The county agent, seeking that higher degree which county agents want and are encouraged to get, will return soon to Nogales after a semester's sabbatical leave on the campus of The University of Arizona.

8 Countries, 24 States Represented Here At U A Extension School

The third Western Regional Extension Winter School was last Feb. 3 to 21 on this campus. Enrollment was 98, with participants from 24 states and eight foreign countries.

Enrollment of 11 from Arizona included eight county agents and home agents, two graduate students at the U of A, and one social worker.

From states outside Arizona, Minnesota led with 10 enrollees, West Virginia, Oregon and Indiana registered four each, there were three each from New York, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Utah and Idaho, two each from Texas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Ohio, and New Mexico, and one each from Maine, Maryland, Virginia, Nevada, Colorado, California and Montana.

Foreign participants were Canada, 2; Argentina, 1; West Indies, 3; Chile, 1; India, 14; Zanzibar, 1; Indonesia, 3, and Uganda, 2.

Courses taught included Agricultural Policy, 4-H Leadership, Extension Teaching, County Extension Administration, Techniques for Working with Groups, and Agricultural Communications.

The winter school is held annually. Various scholarships are available, as one can learn through the College of Agriculture in his own state.