

Early Pima Agent Aided Start Of Tucson Mt. Park

EDITOR'S NOTE: An early generation of County Agricultural (Extension) Agents deserve much praise for development of agriculture in Arizona and other states. Now those veterans are leaving their desks and pickups, turning them over to a younger generation. Our last issue told of retirement of one of the best — G. E. Blackledge.

Now we tell about another, C. B. Brown, an early day county agent in Pima County, who (now aged 77) tells of his part in establishing Tucson Mountain Park. Here it is, in Mr. Brown's own words:

"I served as County Agricultural Agent, University of Arizona from 1919 to July 1, 1944, when I resigned principally on account of ill health, and retired to a small ranch in southern Pima County near Greaterville. Director C. U. Pickrell asked me to stay on, but on account of the affliction which I incurred in the early 1940's that made it difficult for me to carry on my work, I thought it best to retire.

"In August of 1948 we sold our small ranch and for nine months I was superintendent of Tucson Mountain Park, comprising 30,000 acres of desert mountains and mesas a short distance west of Tucson. I originated the idea of establishing this park; and while I was president of the Tucson Game Protection Association in the late 1920's this idea took form.

"With the help of public-spirited members of the association, also my good friend Jack Kinney, chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, and Senator Carl Hayden in Washington, we were successful in getting 60,000 acres of federal land temporarily withdrawn from homestead entry, which was quite active at that time.

"We selected out approximately 30,000 acres that would be suitable for park purposes and a permanent home for desert wild life. In April of 1929 the first lease by the county was secured on some 16,000 acres at 1½¢ per acre. There were many mining claims on the area, and the status of the remaining acreage and classification had to be determined by the Department of the Interior. Several years ago the north half of Tucson Moun-

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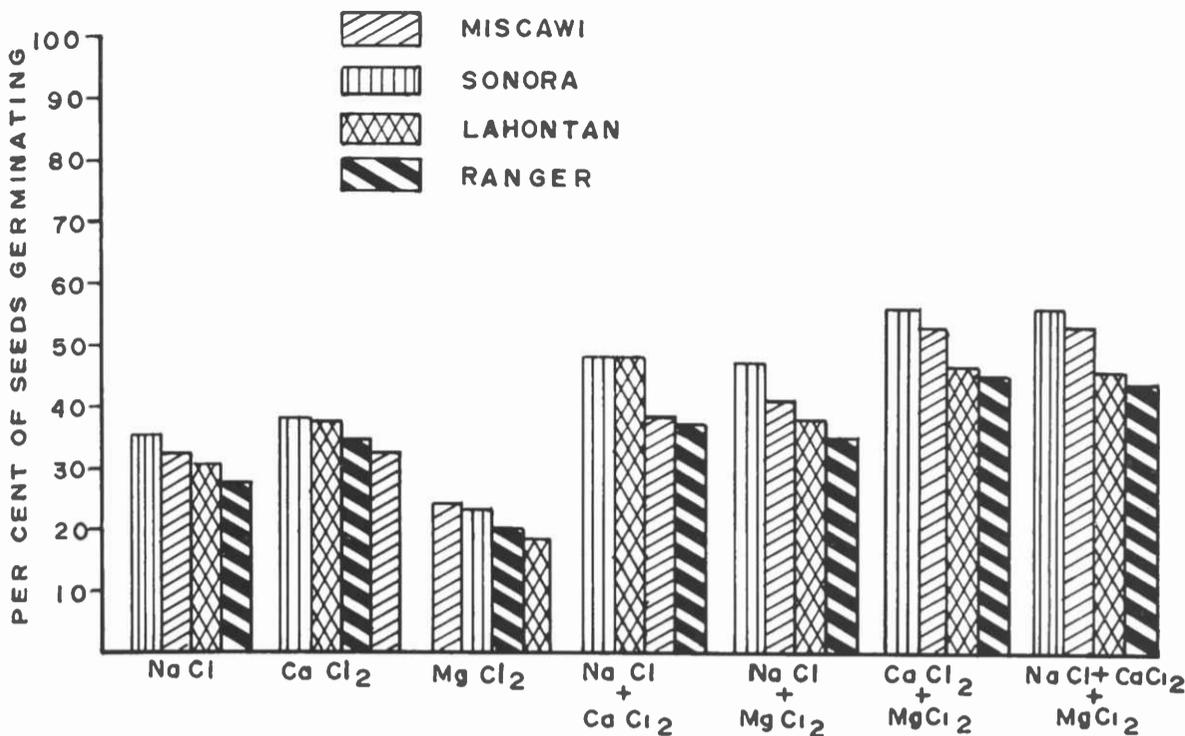


FIGURE 3. GERMINATION PERCENTAGE OF SEEDS OF SONORA, LAHONTAN AND RANGER ALFALFAS AND MISCAWI BERSEEM CLOVER UNDER SEVEN DIFFERENT TYPES OF SALT AND SALT COMBINATION.

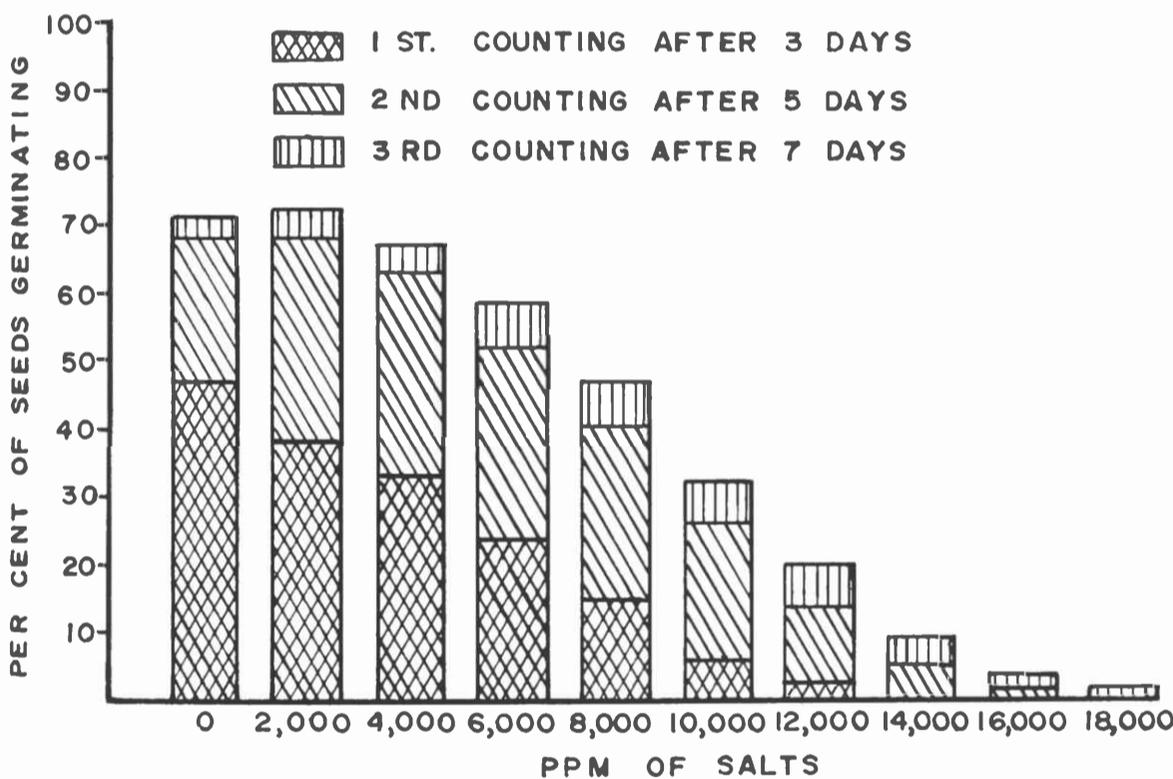


FIGURE 4. EFFECT OF SALT CONCENTRATION ON THE RATE OF SEED GERMINATION OF SONORA, LAHONTAN AND RANGER ALFALFAS AND MISCAWI BERSEEM CLOVER.

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the third and fifth day, while a few additional seeds germinated after the fifth day. However, at high salt concentrations those seeds that germinated usually did so between the fifth and seventh day.

Sonora Most Tolerant

From this study one could conclude that: (1) there were differences among the varieties and species tested

in their tolerance to salinity during germination. The entries can be arranged in the following decreasing order of tolerance: Sonora and Lahontan alfalfas, Miscawi berseem clover and Ranger alfalfa; (2) magnesium chloride reduced germination percentage more than sodium chloride and calcium chloride, and the combined salts were less toxic to germinating seeds than single salts, (3) the rate of germination and total percentage of germinating seeds both decreased with increasing salt concentration.

Prior to World War II, a major portion of the cattle marketed for beef in the United States was slaughtered off native grass or pasture without being fed for any length of time. This changed rapidly after 1945, and by 1963 approximately 57 percent of the cattle slaughtered were marketed out of feedlots.

STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE PRICES

By

Thomas M. Stubblefield

Development of the large single enterprise commercial feedlots in Arizona, California, Colorado and Texas accompanied the increase in the slaughter of fed cattle. Feeders in these states found it profitable to feed the crossbreed type cattle called "Okies" which are produced in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

This brought about a pattern of stocker-feeder¹ movements that ap-

The author is an Agricultural Economist, Department of Agricultural Economics. A more complete treatment of this subject, by Dr. Stubblefield, is contained in Technical Bulletin 172, now in press. Interested readers will be able to obtain this bulletin from their local county agent's office.

¹The term "stocker-feeder cattle" is used in this article to refer to cattle and calves which may be used for breeding, further growth, or feeding.

peared illogical. Stocker-feeder cattle moved from the southern states to the feedlots in the western states, while stocker-feeder cattle produced in the western states moved to the Corn Belt for feeding.

Analysis of Markets

The Department of Agricultural Economics at The University of Arizona analyzed the prices received at Los Angeles and Stockton, Calif.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Billings, Mont.; Ogden, Utah; Denver, Col.; Omaha, Nebr.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Amarillo, Ft. Worth, and San Antonio, Texas, for

²The nine categories of stocker-feeder cattle prices analyzed were Choice 500-800 pound stocker-feeder steers, Good 500-800 pound stocker-feeder steers, Medium 500-1,000 pound stocker-feeder steers, Choice 500-750 pound stocker-feeder heifers, Good 500-750 pound stocker-feeder heifers, Good and Choice 250-500 pound stocker-feeder steer calves, Medium 250-500 pound stocker-feeder steer calves, Good and Choice 250-500 pound stocker-feeder heifer calves, and Medium 250-500 pound stocker-feeder heifer calves.

eight categories of stocker-feeder cattle to determine if the pricing pattern explained the movement of stocker-feeder cattle.²

The method of analysis used indicated which of the average prices received at the respective markets was significantly different (statistically). Some of the average prices were not significantly different, and in such cases they are considered equal.

The study covered the period 1957 to 1961. Results of this analysis show that those markets nearest to the Corn Belt paid the highest prices, on the average, for Choice and Good grade feeder steers and steer calves. The supply of these grades and weights of stocker-feeder cattle in the 11 western states was greater than needed to meet demands of the feeders in these states.

Prefer Small Carcass

Choice 500-700 pound stocker-feeder heifers sold for the highest average price at Omaha. The second highest

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tain Park was made a part of the Sahuaro National Monument. The south half has been retained by Pima County, and is the home of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Old Tucson.

"Much of the county's part has been purchased from the U. S. Department of the Interior, one section each year. In 1929 there was little wild life present, but with the establishment of the area as a state game refuge, and 10 years of protection, mule deer and javelina became plentiful, and a small band of mountain sheep inhabited some of the higher peaks.

"One day while the county park committee was holding a meeting on the north end of the long low mountain near the present site of the Desert Museum, Dr. E. P. Mathewson took the chair and made a motion that this mountain be called Brown Mountain. I said you had better wait until I am gone; however, there was a second by Al Condron, secretary of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce, carried and recorded by the secretary, Dr. T. D. Mallery.

"At the time of establishment of Tucson Mountain Park, the human population of the area did not exceed 30,000, but at the present the metro-

politan area has close to 350,000. It therefore occupies a very important place in the chain of recreational areas serving this center of population. The land at present prices would be worth many millions of dollars.

"Thanks is due The University of Arizona for my having the opportunity to serve Pima County for many years in the establishment and supervision of Tucson Mountain Park during the earlier years of its existence. I am still a member of the county advisory park committee."