Gain-Test Bulls Go At Excellent Prices

At termination of the UA annual beef bull gain-test trials, sponsored annually by the UA Animal Science Department, 49 young animals were sold at auction March 2, bringing a total of $25,285. Purchasers were from five states.

Top sales price was $2,475 for Amigos Dom Gold 3, a Hereford consigned by Jack Oleson of Avon, Colo., and purchased by Jim McDowell of Fairplay, Colo. The animal weighed 1,370 pounds at sale time, had a yearling weight of 993, and had averaged a daily gain of 3.55 pounds during the tests.

Second high price was $2,050 for Arizona Onward II, a Hereford consigned by The University of Arizona and purchased by American Breeders Service, Chicago.

Included in the auction were 37 Herefords averaging $537, 5 Brangus bringing an average of $494 and 7 Angus averaging $422.

This was the sixth year of UA gain-test trials and Dr. Bruce Taylor, directing the project, feels that "Considering the long drought over Southwestern rangelands, and in comparison with other sales, prices received at this Tucson sale were very good."

Top Bull in Gain-Test Sale

Amigos Dom Gold 3 brought top money when 49 young bulls which completed the UA gain-test trials were sold at public auction.

Consigned by Jack Oleson of Avon, Colo. (shown in the background, above), the bull was purchased by Jim McDowell of Fairplay, Colo. The Hereford bull weighed 1,370 pounds at time of sale, had a yearling weight of 993, and brought a price of $2,475.

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Thus the tank also serves as part of the catchment. The completed tank was constructed within a period of three working days. A cost analysis of the tank installation is given in the table on Page 7.

Total cost of the system, excluding the cost of fencing, would be approximately $2,300. This cost estimate should be appropriate for use in estimating costs of this system anywhere in Arizona, if sufficient allowance is made for transportation costs to remote areas. Costs can be reduced by using a dozer for excavation, particularly if a spill area is available close to the tank site.

Has 15-Year Life

It is expected that this system will last at least 15 years before the butyl rubber and plastic would need to be replaced. Since the gravel-covered catchment provides sediment-free water, cleaning of the tank should not be necessary. Thus the replacement costs would be approximately one-half of the original cost.

This system should provide a firm supply of 100,000 gallons of high quality water per year in an 11-inch rainfall zone. If a relatively constant demand were made on the system, the 100,000-gallon tank would be large enough to store water produced from a larger catchment. It is believed that for most areas a smaller tank could be used with a half-acre catchment and still furnish an adequate supply for proper range utilization. Since the cost of the tank is approximately 80 percent of the cost of the system, any reduction in tank size would significantly reduce the cost of the total system.

Relatively Pure Water

The water supplied by this system should be suitable for domestic use with very little treatment. For instance, the 65,000 gallons of water stored since the construction of the system at the WRRC Field Laboratory in the spring of 1966, is presently being used directly without treatment in a rainfall simulator.

A recent survey in cooperation with county agricultural agents indicated that more than 1,000 Arizona families, not including those on Indian Reservations, now haul their entire domestic water supply. It is hoped that the system developed at The University of Arizona will provide a more convenient and economical water supply for these families.