

Mexican Cotton Growers Visit Cochise County



—Photo by Arizona Range News.

Pictured left to right: Back row—Angel Valdez, Raul Rodriguez Aguilera, Oscar Nuñez, Wenceslao D. Rodriguez, E. Gonzales Quevedo. Front Row—Sergio Ortega, Pedro West, Raimundo Aldaz and Carmy G. Page, Cochise County Agricultural Agent.

Learning of the success of Cochise County farmers in controlling cotton rust prompted the request of farmers from Delicias, Mexico, to visit Cochise County. The Arizona Cotton growers office was first contacted and they in turn referred the Mexican growers to the University of Arizona Agricultural Extension Service office in Willcox. Following a conference with Raul Rodriguez Aguilera, Carmy G. Page, County Agent, agreed to schedule a tour in June, providing an opportunity for the visiting farmers to get first hand information from Cochise County cotton growers.

Farmers visited were J. D. Stevenson and M. M. Giles, Pearce, and James Grizzle of Elfrida. Also, spraying equipment was inspected at the Gene Kennedy farm at Elfrida.

The visitors were especially interested in the equipment used for applying Zineb to control the rust. The difficulty in purchasing such machinery makes it necessary for growers to build their own equipment.

In addition to rust control, the Mexican visitors were interested in learning the fertilizer program on each farm, also insect control methods and

materials used in production of cotton and other crops.

Appreciation for the interest of the Cochise farmers in supplying the information their visitors requested was well expressed by Raul Rodriguez Aguilera as the tour ended at the Gene Kennedy farm when he commented, "This is much better than I expected. Do you have any more secrets for us?"

Losses from cotton rust have cut the cotton acreage in the Delicias farming area, 60 miles south of Chihuahua City, to less than one-third of the 150,000 acres planted to the crop in recent years. Intensity of the disease has been building up from year to year. Some farmers plowed up their crop in 1963 without harvesting any cotton, due to continued defoliation from rust.

Raimundo Aldaz said farmers in the state of Chihuahua were beginning to diversify now that their best crop, cotton, had been becoming poorer each year. Crops of wheat, peanuts, grain sorghums and alfalfa are being grown on acreage formerly in cotton. Cattle feeding is increasing, and more hogs and sheep are being raised in an attempt to replace the loss of income from cotton. There also is increased interest in dairying.

Ward Vogel, Paymaster Oil Co. manager, Willcox, assisted County Agent Page in conducting the tour.

\$175 Million From Beef

Gross cash value of beef cattle and calf sales in Arizona during the period December, 1962, through November, 1963, amounted to \$174.8 million compared to \$184.5 million for the same period a year earlier. The value of the cattle and calves shipped into the state from July 1, 1962, to June 30, 1963, is estimated to be \$82.5 million.

Diuron or Monuron? Each Has Its Place

Whether a cotton grower picks diuron or monuron to control weeds depends on the circumstances, says Dr. K. C. Hamilton, agronomist with The University of Arizona.

The right choice, he says, depends on these factors:

1. Weeds. Monuron has been more effective in controlling morning-glories and careless weed. Diuron has been more effective in controlling groundcherry and the annual grasses.

2. Soil type. On sandy soils, diuron is the safer herbicide. On clay soils, monuron is more effective.

3. Size of crop. In small cotton, diuron is the safer herbicide.

4. Rainfall. As rainfall decreases, monuron has been the more dependable herbicide.

Hamilton notes that in tests to date, combinations of monuron and diuron have not given better weed control than the same rate of either herbicide applied alone.

OUR MYSTERY PICTURE



Who is the little lad so proudly holding the halter rope of a Hereford calf? Turn to Page 15 for the answer.