

# County Buys Registered Jack As Step In Livestock Program

Will Be Available For Farmers Desiring To Raise Their Own Mules

The purchase by the County of a registered Spanish jack for breeding purposes, as another step in the constant development of the county's livestock program, was announced yesterday by County Manager D. W. Newsom.

For some time local farmers, who have been benefitted by the possession by the County of several registered thoroughbred bulls for breeding purposes, have been asking that a jack be bought for the breeding of good mules, Newsom said. Not only have they had to take their mares inconvenient distances to be bred, but the cost could not always be met by some farmers.

Durham County farmers will be charged only a nominal sum, about half the usual cost, for the breeding services of the jack, Newsom said. The presence of this first class registered animal will improve the the type of work animal throughout the County, and also will be used to raise the standard of work stock at the County Home.

The jack is three years old, weighs about 1,000 pounds, and is well built, the county manager said. It cost the County \$500.

The County, which is emphasizing a program of livestock improvements, already have two thoroughbred registered Guernsey bulls, a thoroughbred registered Black Angus bull, and a thoroughbred registered Hereford bull.

All that is lacking for a well-rounded program is a registered stud horse, and it is hoped that one can be obtained next year, Newsom declared.

The program was initiated about three years ago, when the County began weeding out mixed breeds to

obtain a uniform stock of Guernsey milkers, and after steadily bringing up thoroughbred stock to replace the mixed, the County soon will have a full heard of purebred Guernseys for milking needs.

The same process is being followed with the Black Angus and Hereford (white face) cattle for beef. The County also is experimenting to determine which of these two is better for beef.

The County has about 80 head of cattle in all, of which 25 or 30 are Guernseys and the rest beef cattle.

Farmers have been very active in obtaining the services of the County bulls for breeding needs, and Newsom said County authorities are optimistic that the dual purpose of their purchase is being achieved; that is, encouraging local farmers to raise more and better livestock, and to develop a high class stock at the County Home.

The workstock owned by the County for use on its farms also is being improved. Last year two mares were bought and this year two fine young mules, making a total of eight mules and two mares at the County Home. Next year it is planned to trade in the two oldest mules for another pair of young ones.

The hogs at the County Home, too, are being brought up to thoroughbred status, a good part of them now being throughbred registered Berkshires. Newsom said he was hopeful this year of reaching a goal aimed at for a long time, the raising of 30,000 pounds of meat, a full year's supply for the County Home, as a result of improvement in the hog heard. The yield has been ranging from 22,000 to 26,000 pounds.

Even the chickens are receiving similar attention, and fine flock of Plymouth Rocks and White Leghorns are being developed at the County Home.