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Research Briefs

Wheat Yields Up Sharply

Average wheat yields per acre in California have doubled in
recent years, reports U.C. Davis agronomist, J. D. Prato.
Wheat acreage has doubled; barley acreage has dropped some-
what. The main reason for this "green revolution," says the
specialist, is the introduction of Mexican wheats to California
through cooperative research involving extension workers,
plant breeders, and foundation seed specialists in that
country and here.

Topdressing Range Soils

Most California range soils must be topdressed periodically
with superphosphate to maintain a proper balance among
grasses, legumes, and filaree, says U.C. Davis agronomist,
W. A. Williams. Otherwise, subclover soon becomes sub-
ordinate or disappears.

By-products Produce Top Gains

By-products in feedlot rations can produce gains as good as
or better than grain alone, research by U.C. animal nutri-
tionist Glen P. Lofgreen shows. Steers fed a mixture of
70 percent hominy, 22 percent beet pulp and 8 percent
almond hulls averaged daily gains of 2.09 pounds, compared
with 2.08 pounds for those fed a barley by-product mixture,
and 1.93 pounds for animals fed barley only.

Nitrogen Moves Slowly

Soil scientists at U.C. Riverside have found that it takes
about ten years for nitrate in sandy soils to move from the
root zone of plants to a water table 120 feet down, and
about 50 years for nitrates to be leached to the same depth
through fine clay, silt, or silty clay.

On The Cover

Aided by University research and new production techniques
such as aerial seeding, California has become the nation's
leading rice producer. Photo by Jack Kelley Clark and
William E. Wildman.