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Very Unusual Weather

Washington, June 10—To the Western stockmen the present spring has been one of the most trying in many years. This is especially true of the Rocky Mountain region where the season has been unseasonably late with severe snow storms long after the ordinary period. On many of the lambing grounds there the snow was so deep that it was impossible to reach them, and, in consequence, the lambing operations were transferred to other locations where the surroundings were not altogether satisfactory.

The extremely cold, windy weather has also kept the green grass from starting as early as usual, in consequence of which, the ranges have been fully a month late. When the usual time arrived for turning the stock onto the open ranges from the feed lot there was very little grass available, and as the stockmen had used up all their supply of hay, the stock, especially the cattle, suffered somewhat for want of feed.

In New Mexico the sheepmen made a strong plea to the Forest Service to allow them to take some of their herds into the Pecos National Forest which has been closed against sheep grazing for several years. The closing of this Forest to sheep was owing to the watershed interests involved, together with the question of protecting the young growth of timber which is coming forward on that Forest. However, the condition was so serious that after carefully weighing the question, the Forester suspended for a time the prohibition against sheep and 25,000 sheep will be allowed to enter that Forest to graze until such time as the conditions on the outside ranges become normal, which is hoped will be as soon as the summer rains set in early in July.

The stockmen using the public ranges adjoining several other National Forests in New Mexico have made urgent requests to the Forester to be allowed to take their herds into those Forests for feed. As those Forests are already stocked to their full capacity, the requests could not be granted lest those already using them would be injured and their supply of feed cut short.

In several Forests in Wyoming and Colorado the fees for lambing privileges on National Forests will be refunded to the sheepmen because of their inability to use the lambing grounds. In addition to this the season will be extended

a month later in several instances so as to make up, as far as possible, for the enforced reduction in the early spring period.

On all the Forests where the winter and spring losses have reduced the stockmen's herds below the number for which they have been granted a permit, and they do not desire to purchase other stock to make up their number, they will be allowed to amend their application for the exact number which they will graze without prejudicing their applications in the future.

It will, therefore, be readily seen that the regulations of the Forest Service for handling grazing matters are sufficiently flexible to take care of emergencies and meet all unusual conditions which may occur from time to time. Further than this, the manner in which the officers of the Forest Service have taken hold of this matter proves that they are always alive to the interest of the stockmen and more than willing to do all in their power to protect them from losses.

A pleasing illustration of the care the stockmen take of their animals was noticed in a recent trip of Forest officers over some of the ranges in Colorado and Wyoming. The sheep had been sheared at the usual time, but, as the season was very backward and the animals in rather poor condition, to meet unusual storms many of the sheepmen had provided small canvass blankets or covers for the sheep in such a way as to protect their backs and sides which, in a measure, took the place of the wool which had been taken from them. Thus they were better able to withstand a severe storm and the use of such blankets has been the means of saving many thousands of dollars to the sheep owners.

Notice to Contractors.

Bids will be received at the office of the County Clerk of Cass County, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, up to noon of Saturday, June 12, 1909, for one Fifty (50) foot reinforced concrete arch, located about four (4) miles west of Mynard Cass County, Nebraska, and one Fifty (50) foot reinforced concrete arch located one-half (1/2) mile east of Elmwood, Cass county, Nebraska.

Specifications may be seen at the County Clerk's office. Bidders may also bid on their own plans and specifications.

Bids required on each job separate and each bid must be accompanied by a certified check in the sum of \$500 made payable to the County Clerk.

Bids will be opened June 15, 1909.
W. E. ROSENCRANS,
County Clerk.

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D. P. JACKSON