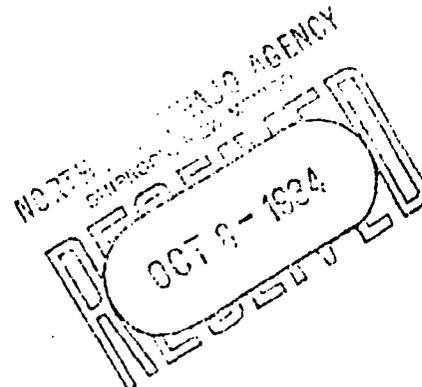


606 Federal Building,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.  
October 6, 1934.



Memorandum to:

Navajo Superintendents

Subject:

Sheep and Goat Purchases

From all reports, a large number of sheep and goats are being purchased and a very good beginning has been made. I am very much pleased with the results to date and the spirit shown. However, the purchasing of large numbers brings up certain complicating problems. One of the problems is that of disposition. We are apt to find ourselves with a larger number of stock ready for shipment than the packing plants can accommodate. I do not think we should slow up our purchasing program if the Indians are anxious and willing to sell but nevertheless we must bear in mind that the stock gathered will have to be taken care of and fed until we can ship the same. It does not seem fair to hold a large number of stock on ranges that are ordinarily used by certain groups of Indians as winter ranges and I therefore suggest that great care be exercised not to eat out winter ranges that are necessary to keep the stock alive which belong to certain individuals or communities. I have been informed by Mr. Parker, who has discussed various phases of this work with Mr. Harvey and State Officials at Phoenix, that we are permitted to kill for immediate consumption all the stock necessary. I have also been informed that we can kill stock for the purpose of jerking the meat to be used for future consumption. Of course, it is to be remembered that our primary purpose is to reduce the number of stock on the ranges as speedily and as much as possible in order to bring about better range conditions in the future. This fact should always be kept in your minds and be the controlling factor of your actions. However, where it is necessary to hold the herds until we can ship the same, due to the fact that the packing plants are choked with stock, we are threatening the winter grass supply of the herds in certain communities. In such cases, it, no doubt, will be advisable for us to kill on the range and have the Indians jerk the meat. This process will eliminate the

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Memorandum to

Navajo Superintendents

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destruction of the necessary winter ranges and will also provide the Indians with some of the much needed meat supply for the winter.

I wish to stress the importance of properly accounting for all hides taken in, in lieu of the live sheep and goats. We must account for every head purchased and it is suggested that no hides or pelts be accepted unless the stockman or Government official in charge of the purchases in the district has seen the pelt on the animal and upon receipt of the same has taken care of the pelt in such a manner that it is impossible for some other Indian to again sell the pelt to the Government. The details of these plans I will leave up to the various jurisdictions to work out but we must develop a plan whereby it is impossible for Indians to sell the pelt more than once. It is the present plan to hold all pelts until after the program is completed and after that time further plans for the disposition of these pelts will be made.

It is also necessary that weekly reports be submitted to this office, 606 Federal Building, Albuquerque, showing the number of sheep and goats purchased during the week. This information should be wired in Friday evening so that my report to the Indian Office can be sent out on Saturday of each week.

Very respectfully,

*W. H. Zeh*  
Wm. H. Zeh,  
Acting Administrator.

c.c.

F. M. Parker  
Hugh Harvey  
Frank Lenzler  
Indian Office

WHZ:dms

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