

ANTELOPE VALLEY OPENS DEMONSTRATION FARM

LANCASTER, April 1 — The Antelope Valley crop demonstration station of the University of California at Davis became a reality in the Antelope Valley today.

Dedication and flag-raising ceremonies at the new station were attended by more than 100 representatives of agricultural organizations of the Antelope Valley.

Prof. Ben Madsen, under whose jurisdiction are the field stations, represented the University of California in the ceremonies at the site of the farm on Ave. M, midway between 30th and 40th Sts.

New Crops Seen

"There are many row crops that, perhaps, could be adapted to the climatic conditions of the Antelope Valley that would prove to be profitable, both from the standpoint of profit to the farmer and also from the standpoint of conservation of water," Prof. Madsen said. "Sweet corn could be such a crop, to name one."

He suggested that an advisory committee to the field station

should be established in the valley to help draw a unified program of experimental work.

The field station is the culmination of 15 years' activity started originally by the Lancaster Junior Chamber of Commerce and pushed later by Bill Moore, east-side rancher; the late Jess Romine, west-side rancher, and Roy Barth, west-side rancher. The Chamber of Commerce played a part during the years 1946 to 1949 and rural organizations as well as the soil conservation district united in the campaign.

Equipment Provided

The local field station manager will be Si Forsythe and the university, through Madsen, already has equipped the ranch with mechanized machinery for immediate operations.

Antelope Valley agricultural production is said to be restricted by only the limited water supply. More efficient use, rotation of crops and substitution of other crops for the predominating income crop, alfalfa (more than 40,000 acres in 1948), are expected to mean a greater agricultural income for this area.