

N.C. Dept. Of Agriculture Survey

A total of 9911 feeder pigs were sold on 13 of the state graded sales during week of November 27, according to the Market News Service of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Prices were weak to \$3.50 lower per hundred weight. US 1-2 pigs weighing 40-50 pounds averaged \$112.89 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$92.35; 50-60 pounds 1-2 averaged \$103.89, No. 3s \$86.49; 60-70 pound 1-2s \$87.40, No. 3s \$82.08; 70-80 1-2s \$78.37 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$70.29.

At 10 weekly livestock auctions held within the state the week of November 27, 6423 cattle and 2185 hogs were sold. Utility and Commercial slaughter cows brought \$34 to \$42 with Canner and Culler at \$28.50 to \$39. Choice slaughter calves 350-550 pounds sold from \$44 to \$54.50 with good grade at \$40 to \$47. Choice slaughter steers above 800 pounds brought \$52 to \$57 with Good at \$50.50 to \$55.75. Few Good slaughter helpers above 700 pounds brought \$46 to \$51.25. Slaughter Bulls yield grade 1&2 above 1000 pounds sold from \$42 to \$49.25 per cwt. Medium Frame No. 1 thickness 400-500 pound feeder steers brought \$54 to \$63 with Small Frame No. 1s at \$49.75 to \$9, same weight Medium Frame No. 1 helpers brought \$44 to \$52.50 with Small Frame No. 1s at \$38 to \$46.50. Beef type Feeder Cows carrying average flesh brought \$36.50 to \$41 with thin flesh at \$30 to \$36.50 per hundred pounds. Baby calves under three weeks of age brought \$20 to \$62 per head. Market hogs 200-240 pounds sold from \$53 to \$54 with sows 450 pounds up at \$47.25 to \$52.30.

Market hogs at daily cash buying stations about the state during the week of November 29 ranged mostly \$54.00 to \$55.25 per hundred pounds. Sows 500 pounds up ranged \$47 to \$50 per hundred. The North Carolina FOB dock quoted price on broilers for the week December 1-December 7 is 39.25 cents, with a preliminary weighted average on December 3 of 38.35 cents. The market is steady, and the live supply is moderate for a moderate demand.

Heavy type hens were higher this past week. Supplies were light and demand moderate. Heavy type hen prices 25 cents per pound at the farm with buyers loading.

Egg prices were lower compared to those of the previous week. Supplies were moderate. Demand was moderate. The North Carolina weighted average price quoted on December 2 for small lot sales of cartoned grade A eggs delivered to stores was 70.22 cents per dozen for Large, Medium 59.61 and Small 48.30.

No comparison on corn and soybean prices due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. For the period November 29 through December 3, No. 2 yellow shelled corn ranged mostly \$2.41 to \$2.56 in the Eastern part of the state and \$2.37 to \$2.60 in the Piedmont. No. 1 yellow soybeans ranged mostly \$5.48 to \$5.69 in the East and \$5.25 to 5.48 in the Piedmont; No. 2 red winter wheat \$3.03 to \$3.15; No. 2 red oats \$1.20 to \$1.45. Soybean meal for the processing plant ranged \$188.20 to \$196.50 per ton for 44 per cent. New crop prices quoted for harvest delivery wheat \$3.05 to \$3.23.

Sweet potato prices were steady this week. Demand was light. Fifty pound cartons of cured uncured US No. 1s on December 2 were quoted at \$5.00 some lower, few \$5.50. Jumbo \$2.00 to \$3.00. Prices paid to growers for No. 1s packed out at the end of belt were \$2.50 to \$2.75 per bushel.

Squirrels Can Cause Damage

ATLANTA GA.—Squirrels, those reportedly dependable predictors of an approaching freeze, are storing their winter supply of nuts higher in trees than in previous years.

If the squirrels and other, more scientific forecasters are correct, this winter could be one of the coldest of this century - 10 degrees below normal in some sections of the country.

The Insurance Information Institute says it's more important than ever before that people using wood burning stoves as a primary or secondary source of home heating exercise all the proper precautions to make sure that their lives and property will remain safe.

Since 1976-77, when the use of wood burning stoves started to soar as home owners sought an alternative to rising heating oil prices, there has been a steady rise in the number of residential fires caused by wood stoves as well as an increase in people killed and injured.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 112,000 fires in 1980 were caused by solid fuel burning heating equipment, resulting in the death of 350 persons. Both figures represent an increase of approximately 60 per cent over the prior year. And, while figures for 1981 are not yet available, CPSC estimates that they will show another increase in the number of fires and deaths.

Burn injuries have also risen dramatically. In 1980, approximately 9,800, an increase of more than 80 per cent over the 1979 total.

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Aquaculture

by Johnny Foster
UNC Sea Grant

Clam hatcheries are nothing new to Carteret County, where clam aquaculture has existed for over ten years. Now, as the value of high quality clams increases, more people are realizing North Carolina's potential for the development of commercial clam aquaculture.

Clams require salt water between 18 C (65 F) and 30 C (85 F). With North Carolina's long growing season, clams grow to commercial size in two to three years. While most of northeastern North Carolina is unsuitable for clam farming except along the Outer Banks, sites stretching from Cedar Island in Carteret County to Brunswick County are quite suitable.

Among the Carteret County aquaculturists are Monroe Willis and Earl Huskey. They moved about eight million seed clams from nursery raceways onto a leased bed. The raceways allowed the baby clams to grow large enough to deter attacks from predators.

Recently profiled in Coastwatch, Sea Grant's monthly newsletter, Willis said, "We figure the larger they are when we put 'em on the lease, the less likely they'll be eaten by crabs. Crabs don't bother 'em much once the clams get some size on 'em. We've had a few crabs get through our water filtering system and before you know it, they'll have a big pile of empty shells over in one of the raceways."

Now, Pete Peterson and his students at the UNC Marine Science Laboratory in Morehead City have identified another clam seed predator. Snapping shrimp, only 1 1/2 inches long, can crush year-old clams which are 3 centimeters wide. The culprits are common in Back, Bogue and Core Sounds.

Even though the clam seeds are often protected with coverings of crushed shell, gravel or plastic mesh, the very small seeds suffer extreme mortality rates from predators. Since large clam seeds are relatively expensive when purchased from a hatchery, most growers now either hatch their own seeds or buy very small seeds and grow them in tanks or raceways before planting them in the leased bed.

Because the state is revising the lease regulations, a lease-letting moratorium is in effect. In the future, leases will probably be more expensive and require more intensive management.

Marketing clams is simple. Just wait until the price is high. Then harvest and sell.

And, there's never a problem with packaging since the clam shell is its own effective package. Just keep the clams in a plastic bag and keep them cool.

For more information: - Clam Gardening by John E. Foster. UNC Sea Grant, 105 1911 Building, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27650; Intensive Hard Clam Mariculture: A Primer for South Carolina Watermen by John J. Manzi and Jack M. Whetstone, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, 22 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412; - Manual For Growing the Hard Clam Mercenaria by Michael Castagna and John N. Krauter. Sea Grant Program, VIMS, Gloucester Point, Va. 23062.

— IRS —

GREENSBORO—The annual interest rate charged by the Internal Revenue Service on tax underpayments and overpayments will decrease from 20 to 16 per cent on January 1, 1983.

The rate on the underpayment of individual and corporate estimated taxes will also slide into 16 per cent, the IRS said.

The interest rate is changed semi-annually by October 15 and April 15, and based on the average prime interest rate for the 6-month period ending September 30 and March 31, respectively. The next change in the interest rate, if any, will be made next April.

The IRS cautions that taxpayers who are now delinquent in their taxes will be charged the 20 per cent rate.

Program To Protect Tobacco Future

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—Tobacco farmers must arm themselves through education, new production techniques and a strong commitment to protect the future of America's \$60 billion tobacco industry, Edward A. Horrigan Jr., chairman of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company said Monday.

"The message is very clear. Those of us who depend on tobacco for our livelihoods had better be prepared — well prepared — to fight for its future, or there will be no future," Horrigan told 66 North Carolina tobacco farmers and farm women.

"You are showing your commitment by your participation in this program," Horrigan said. "And, I assure you, Reynolds Tobacco would not be building plants at a cost of nearly \$1 billion if we did not have faith in tobacco's future."

Horrigan's remarks came during the last in a series of executive development seminars for key North Carolina tobacco growers and tobacco farm women. The seminars were funded under a four-year, \$1 million Reynolds Tobacco grant to North Carolina State University for agriculture research and extension programs.

"During this program, you have been exposed to the latest thinking and information about techniques and developments in farm management and tobacco production research," Horrigan said. "And, you have had the added benefit of getting it from the best-qualified people in the world in this field — the faculty of North

Carolina State. "Now it is up to you to use their knowledge to its best advantage, for yourselves and your tobacco-growing neighbors."

The development program was designed to provide advanced training in all phases of tobacco production and farm management. Two-day sessions were held separately for the men and women on


the N. C. State University campus in Raleigh during October and November. The final session, combining both groups, was held at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem.

Participants in the program were selected for their leadership and innovative tobacco production practices. Last year, 64 tobacco farmers and farm women were recognized

by Reynolds Tobacco and N.C. State for their role in strengthening the tobacco industry.

Reynolds Tobacco, working closely with N.C. State, developed the program to: * Reduce the time between development of new tobacco production technology and its implementation by the tobacco grower.

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