

Stop Those Wet Spots In Your Fields



STANDING WATER in this field costs a farmer many headaches, trying to plow around the spot or wait until it dries out to plow.

A number of Cherokee County farmers took advantage of the ASC program which offers assistance with the installation of drain tile in wet areas. All of the farmers who have received financial assistance in purchasing the needed tile from the ASC have also received technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service in locating the ditches and in establishing the proper grade on the ditch bottom.

After a farmer requests assistance from the ASC, his request is forwarded by ASC to the Soil Conservation Service. ASC technicians first determine whether or not the ditching is needed and practical. If it is feasible, then the ASC technicians survey the ditches and set guide stakes which show the farmer where the bottom of the ditch should be. The farmer then digs the ditch, and lays the tile. When the job is completed, the ASC technicians certify to the ASC office that it has been completed in accordance with the government specifications. When this has been done, the office manager of the ASC is authorized to pay for the tile. Sometimes the farmer chooses to purchase the tile for cash, and to be reimbursed for the guaranteed portion of that outlay.

Many farmers do not feel that they are financially able to pay cash for the tile, and in this case, the ASC is authorized to issue a purchase order to the farmer for the tile. This purchase order can be turned over to any one of several officially recognized vendors in the county and the vendor sells the tile to the farmer. When the ditching job is completed, the ASC makes payment to the vendor for the amount guaranteed to the farmer.

The two pictures above show a tile ditch just being started on the Noah Hembree farm at Peachtree. The left picture shows the large amount of water standing on top of the ground. This wet area had caused Noah to lose a large amount of corn each year, first because the corn did not grow well in the wet land, and second because it could not be harvested at the right time. The right picture shows the ditch nearly completed but without any tile. The standing water is gone even though the tile has not been installed. This job was completed just before corn-planting time this past spring. When the tile was installed, the ditch was covered up and no evidence is visible now that any ditch exists except at the outlet where the headwall and the end of the tile is visible.

Approximately twenty farmers have dug ditches and installed tile during the spring and summer.

All are highly pleased with the results.

Fertilize Now For Strawberries

Hungry for fresh strawberries again? Fresh strawberries on the table are a long way off, but the beginning of the new crop will soon start.

It may be hard to believe, but in the heart of the crown of the well rooted strawberry plant fruit bud formation will soon take place. Fruit bud initiation usually takes place in mid-September in the mountains of North Carolina.

Nitrogen is the important fertilizer element for fruit bud formation, says John Nielson, horticulture specialist at State College. A plentiful supply of nitrogen should be available to the plant during bud formation.

Phosphate and potash are also essential for proper growth. They are not needed in as large amounts as is nitrogen, however. There should be enough phosphate and potash remaining in the soil from last spring fertilization to supply the plants needs, Nielson says.

So for the most bountiful harvest of luscious berries next spring, Nielson urges the application of nitrogen now. For each 100 foot of row, three pounds of a 16 per cent material or 2 1/2 pounds of a 20 per cent material, or 7 1/2 pounds of a 33 per cent nitrogen should be applied.

For the larger planting, 300 pounds of nitrate of soda or 150 pounds ammonium nitrate per acre should be used. Broadcast directly over the plants. Apply only when leaves are dry. Brush excess fertilizer from the leaves immediately. An old broom or a weighted burlap suspended under the tractor will be satisfactory.

should be a fool proof guide to the need and proper location of a water way. The course of the water through the field will mark the location and the amount of erosion will emphasize the need. The fall seeding season is usually the best time to establish a meadow.

County agricultural agents and soil conservationists will give advice on the grass and legume mixture adapted to the soil and stake the meadow boundary.

Vote in the September 30 Nickels for Know-How Referendum.



THIS SAME FIELD after the installation of tile has been initiated, shows an open ditch to be covered after tile drainage pipe has been laid, results in a field which is 100% tending, with no allowances for more time to drain, soak in, nor does the farmer have to dodge this spot when he plows over his field. The cost of this operation is such that at this time it is practical, and not prohibitive to any farmer in Cherokee County. If this particular problem arises, or has plagued you, consult your Conservation Agent.

Keep Them On The Farm

HAYESVILLE—One of the wrenching disappointments in a farmer's life is to see his sons quit the farm for the city. For two decades he's been rearing them, dreaming of the day when they'll run the farm under his wise eyes.

All of a sudden they're gone. They've headed for the factory, with no trade skill to back them up; for the city and half an acre of living space; for a world within walls.

Behind them they leave a wealth of skill at farming, something they've built up since their hands were strong enough to milk ol' Bossy. Two decades of intensive training will lie fallow within them, perhaps forever.

"What can I do?" wonders the farmer gloomily. "There's just not enough opportunity for them on my farm."

Cline E. McClure, whose farm is just outside of Hayesville on the Georgia highway, is one farmer whose sons are staying with him. In fact, they are doing everything they can to help form a partnership with their dad.

The McClures started their Grade A dairy business in February of 1944. They had eight cows on a hundred acres. There was only 34 acres of open land.

In 1952, they began a poultry enterprise, with 300 layers. Somewhere along the way, McClure found that his sons wanted to stay on the farm. He decided to enlarge the farm and its enterprises.

In 1954, the McClure farm was picked as a Unit Test Demonstration farm. More emphasis was put on farm planning and boosting farm income.

Early in 1956, they took part of their dairy income and built their first large poultry house, replacing a small one. They put in 2,000 layers. The house was equipped with automatic waterers, automatic feeders and bulk feed bins. Labor was cut and efficiency went up.

Today the McClures have six large poultry houses with capacity of 12,000 layers and a 38-cow dairy herd. The farm now has 250 acres, a hundred in open land, and the inventory of machinery and equipment has increased several thousand dollars.

"The poultry houses have paid for themselves," says O. G. Garland, As a TVA assistant agent for Clay and several other western counties, he has watched the McClure farm grow for several years.

"The McClures put their profits from dairy and poultry back into the farm. They kept enlarging the farm each year, and their gross sales went up, too," says Garland.

The McClures have been using recommended fertilization and modern farming methods. They have steadily built up their soil and boosted their pasture and forage crop yields.

Tips Given On Cleaning Eggs

Have you ever considered how much it costs the American people just to keep things clean?

"We clean everything from eggs to airplanes, and I am sure the American cleaning bill must be millions of dollars per year," says Bill Jasper, poultry and egg marketing specialist at State College.

A recent study at N. C. State College compared the cost of cleaning eggs by two methods: Hand cleaning and cleaning with an air agitated mechanical washer.

The results indicate that it cost less to wash eggs mechanically if you have more than 100 hens.

"With a labor charge of 75 cents per hour, the cost of cleaning eggs from a 2,000 bird flock in 60 per cent production with an egg washer would be 13 cents per case," Jasper said. "The average hand cleaning cost per case for all flock sizes would be 47 cents per case. Of course, most of the cost of hand cleaning is labor cost. Hand cleaning costs do not vary with flock size."

Another question that you should consider is whether or not to wash all your eggs or just the "dirties." If the per cent of "dirties" is low, Jasper suggests, you should consider keeping the dirties separate instead of washing all the eggs.

Their gross farm income is more than triple what it was when they began as a test demonstration farm in 1954," says Garland.

For the future, the McClures plan to level off in poultry where they are now. But they want to expand their dairy operation to justify a more modern and efficient milking and feeding system.

During the Fifties, some 209,000 young people left Tar Heel farms. It was the best course of action for most of them, since the land couldn't support near that many. But their parents had spend several thousand dollars to bring them up.

That's an investment Cline McClure and his wife won't lose. What's more, it will pay off handsomely for them in the future, as their sons put their training to work on the home place.

Broiler Report

September 7, 1960
There were 2,838,000 broiler chicks placed with North Carolina growers during the week ended September 3.

This is less than 1 percent below placements of 2,850,000 chicks during the previous week but 16.9 percent above placements of 2,428,000 chicks during the comparable week last year.

Hatchings of 2,733,000 broiler chicks were less than 1 percent below the previous week but 18.4 percent above the same last year.

Eggs set during the week at 3,441,000 was 3.7 percent below the previous week, but 16.4 percent above the comparable week last year.

H. E. Bishop To Serve On Angus Assoc. Board

Mr. H. E. Bishop of Murphy was elected as one of the new directors of the North Carolina Angus Association at a recent meeting at Bell's Island Farms near Currituck, North Carolina.

Others elected for the three year term were Henry Blair, Pittsboro; Clay Ferebee, Camden; Lewis S. Graham, Winston-Salem; and A. D. Slater of Spartanburg, S. C.

Dr. C. S. Drummond of Winston-Salem was elected president of the Association; Norman Dickerson, Kinston, first vice-president; and Mr. Bishop, second vice-president. Re-elected as executive secretary and fieldman for the Association was Hans C. Rohdenburg, of Greensboro, and Mrs. Margaret P. Check of Greensboro was re-elected treasurer.

Rains Show Need For Meadow Water Ways

Heavy and frequent rains this summer have pointed to an important need on many Tar Heel farms--the need for meadow water ways.

Observations show that much erosion has occurred in field valleys as a result of water accumulating in these low places, says Frank Doggett, soil conservation specialist at State College. Field valleys are natural drainage ways, Doggett explained. Water gravitates to them. They feed surface water to permanent streams and are just as much a part of the surface water drainage system of a watershed as the streams.

"Erosion problems can usually be expected if these natural drains are not recognized and prepared for use as water ways," Doggett emphasized. "Seeded to a grass legume mixture they provide a safe route for runoff water and may be used for hay or grazing. A gully is the result when a sod cover is not provided."

Efforts to divert water from these natural drainage ways with terraces or diversion ditches usually result in failure he continued. Meadow water ways located in natural drainage valleys are the best outlets for terraces. They are essential for strip cropping and should be used on fields not terraced or strip cropped where ever natural drainage ways occur.

A field inspection at this time, after so many rains,

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