

FARM QUESTION BOX

by
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Q. Is red wheat as good for laying hens as white wheat?

A. Pounded for pound, red wheat is as good as white wheat for poultry feed. The red wheat is harder, but hens can grind and digest it all right.

Q. How are Blue Spruce trees grown?

A. The Blue Spruce is a bud variation of the Norway Spruce, and most of the trees are produced by taking buds from a Blue Spruce and setting them in a Norway seedling. Unless you are experienced in this business, buy one-year-old grafts from a wholesale nursery.

Q. What is the average depth that angle worms penetrate the earth's surface?

ANSWER: About two feet. The depth varies with the type of soil, moisture and temperature. There are 900 different species of earthworms and no end to the variations in soil. But for general purposes if you do not find them in the top foot or two of soil, dig somewhere else for bait.

Q. Is there a choice in the breed of milk goats?

A. Toggenberg, saanen, and Nubian are the more popular breeds. Most goat dairies use a purebred buck on grade does.

Q. Is horse-radish propagated by seed or roots?

A. Horse-radish may be reproduced from seed, but the common and more practical method is to buy root cuttings and set these out in the spring. Choose a deep, moist, rich, well-drained loam; reinforce with manure and fertilizer and keep free from weeds. Make holes with a stick 18 inches apart in three-foot rows, and set the cuttings right end up and cover one inch deep. When roots are dug and trimmed in autumn, the trimmings are kept in moist sawdust in a cool cellar for spring planting.

Q. Will silage keep over from one year to the next and still be fit to feed?

A. Yes, if it was properly stored in a good, tight silo. In some instances, silage has been held over for several years and been perfectly good.

Q. How good are dry mill shavings for insulation?

A. Pretty good; not so good as cork, rock wool, etc., but better than sawdust.

Soda Arrives

Arrival of Chilean nitrate of soda in American ports is a matter of keen interest to farmers today. Because of the importance of soda in food production, and because of the magnitude of the food production requirements this year, many inquiries are being made as to how much natural soda will be available.

J. A. Woods, president of Chilean Nitrate Sales Corporation in a recent report, explained that, for the current year ending June 30, negotiations have been concluded for the purchase of 700,000 tons of Chilean Nitrate, with an option for the purchase of additional 300,000 tons. Ships to bring the nitrate from Chile are the big problem. Cargoes are arriving, however, and it is believed that enough natural soda will be available to farmers to meet essential needs.

In the war years of 1941-42 and 1942-43 about 1,600,000 tons of natural Nitrate came in and about 1,000,000 tons went to American farms in 1942-43. While in the first world war Chilean Nitrate was used largely in the manufacture of munitions, in this war the great bulk of nitrate received has been put to its most natural and valuable use, the production of food and feed.

Mr. Woods points out in the report that the nitrate industry in Chile is a large buyer of U. S. products, an average of more than \$350,000 per month was expended during the first two war years for essential supplies such as machinery, parts, and other materials.

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SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS

By W. O. Lambeth

The meadow strips on the B. H. Perry farm, four miles south of Louisburg, have probably been kept in the best condition of any in the county. The meadows were seeded to a grass mixture in 1939 and have been maintained ever since. Zollie Joyner, farm operator, has applied lime and super-phosphate at regular intervals and cut a hay crop every year. Lime and super-phosphate can be applied to meadow strips any time between now and the start of the growing season, and the increased hay yield will more than pay for the cost of the materials and the labor to apply them.

Luther Bolden, Spring Hope, Route 1, is planting 400 Long Leaf pine seedlings on his farm this winter.

Many farmers in the county are planning to seed Kobe or Korean Lespedeza on their small grain in the next two or three weeks. Late February or early March is probably the best date for seeding lespedeza in this section. Lespedeza reduces erosion, provides hay or home grown seed, and results in an increased yield of the crops that follow it.

One of the best pine plantings in Franklin County is located on the P. F. Parnell farm near Franklinton. Four acres of Long Leaf pine and fourteen acres of Loblolly pine seedlings were planted in 1938. The Long Leaf pines are now four to five inches in diameter and will average twenty to twenty-five in height; while the Loblolly is five to six inches in diameter and will average twenty-five feet in height.

Robert Brooks, colored farmer of Franklinton, Route 2, is terracing thirty acres of land this winter, establishing two meadow strips, planting 1700 Loblolly pine seedlings, and retiring three acres of badly eroded land to kudzu. Robert has recently purchased a new six foot combine and is planting more small grain and lespedeza in the place of row crops.

The United States needs, annually 13,000,000 cords of pulpwood, but at the present there is the threat of a 2,000,000 cord shortage. Team up with your neighbors and cut a car of pulpwood before planting time.

UNCONTROLLED FIRES

Uncontrolled forest and woods fires are working for the Axis enemy. When woods fires burn the South's forests they damage trees valuable for production of forest products badly needed on the fighting fronts of the war. Everyone should be extra careful with fire in the woods during wartime. You owe it to the men fighting for you. Don't let your carelessness with fire in the woods aid the Axis.

Of the first ten lumber producing states, fourth through tenth are in the South. They are Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana.

More fertilizer can be used on forage crops and pastures this year since the War Food Administration has designated them as "production increment crops."

FARM NEWS

from FOOD FOR FREEDOM

THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

EARLY PLANTING SAVES ON LABOR

"Time" is one of the most important elements in the farm production schedule and it doesn't cost anything.

Extension farm management specialists at State College suggest that with corn, for example, the early breaking of the land, the application of 300 pounds of fertilizer per acre ahead of planting, and the preparation of a good seed bed, so as to get the crop in the ground at the "right time" in early spring, will not only result in larger yields but will also help to save on labor.

Corn planted in a good, well prepared seed bed has less chance of getting "In The Grass." Three hundred pounds of a high analysis fertilizer per acre at planting quickly "kicks the crop to knee high" so that it can be worked out without interfering with the cash crops, when they must be given first consideration. Under average conditions, early planted corn has a better opportunity of making a good crop than that planted later.

The farm management specialists also suggest slight shifts in crop acreages, which will add to the labor requirements in the off months and lessen the needed labor at peak periods. Sowing lespedeza in small grains now rather than a crop of cowpeas or soybeans this summer, may be a step in the right direction for some growers.

Another grower may decide to put in a few acres of sweet potatoes for the next market and for hog feed.

"There are many opportunities for increasing production through doing more farm jobs 'On Time' and changes can be made that will result in the saving of considerable labor," the Extension specialists point out.

GOOD QUALITY MILK FROM FAMILY COWS

Milk and butter of good flavor and quality from the family cow may be produced in the home, if it is properly handled, says A. C. Kimrey, Extension dairyman at State College.

He gives a list of practical suggestions for home milk handlers to follow in taking care of their milk. First, he suggests that the milk be kept in standard glass milk bottles in the refrigerator or in a bucket or tub of cool water, where refrigeration is not available.

Just after milking, Kimrey suggests that the producer pour the milk through three or four folds of a good grade of cheese cloth. A small tin funnel can then be used for getting the milk into the bottles. It should then be capped with standard bottle caps.

For cooling the milk, the bottles can now be placed in a tub of cold water, for it cools more rapidly in this way than if put directly into the refrigerator. Where no refrigeration is available, Kimrey advises changing the water in the tub several times daily until the milk is used.

After the milk has stood for about 12 hours, the cream can be removed from the bottles by using a glass siphon tube. This

cream may be saved for table use or allowed to sour for butter making. Two quarts of such cream will make about one pound of butter.

"There is a great deal of difference in the flavor of milk and butter produced in the farm home but this is due not so much to the diets and characteristics of the cows producing the milk as to the way in which the milk is handled," Kimrey says.

LOUISBURG COLLEGE NEWS

Miss Josephine Hight, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hight, of Route 2, Louisburg, has recently been appointed to serve on the Program Committee for the 1944 May Day Festival at Louisburg College.

Frances Spivey, daughter of Mrs. F. N. Spivey has been elected to membership in the Louisburg College chapter of Alpha Pi Epsilon, national honorary secretarial fraternity open to students in the Commercial Science department who stand high in scholarship and in personality and character. Miss Spivey won eighth honors on the Honor Roll for the first semester. She has been elected vice-president of Alpha Pi Epsilon, and a member of the May Court. She is also feature editor of the Oak, college annual.

Miss Dorothy Kennedy has been elected to membership in the Louisburg College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, a national character-scholarship fraternity open to students in the Liberal Arts Department who stand in the upper ten per cent of their class and who average a grade of "B" or above.

Miss Kennedy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Kennedy, of Route 2.

Elizabeth Harris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Harris, of Bunn, has been elected to membership in two honorary fraternities at Louisburg College—Phi Theta Kappa and Beta Phi Gamma.

Phi Theta Kappa is a national character-scholarship fraternity open to students in the Liberal Arts Department who stand in the upper ten per cent of their class and who average a "B" or above.

Beta Phi Gamma is a national journalistic fraternity open to students who do outstanding work in journalism.

Miss Harris has also been elected as a member of the May Court and a member of the script committee for May Day.

The question in the physiology examination read: "How may one obtain a good posture?"

The country boy wrote: "Keep the cows off it and let grow up awhile."

A lot of folks fail to "show up" when it comes to the "show down."

VICTORY ON THE FARM FRONT

NEWS from the Agricultural Extension Service

STATE COLLEGE ANSWERS TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS

QUESTION: What kind of a grazing crop should I sow for spring pigs?

ANSWER: Plant sufficient acreage to a mixture of oats, rape and lespedeza as early in February as possible. "An acre seeded to 3 pounds of rape, 3 bushels of Fulgrain or Fulghum oats, and 25 pounds of lespedeza should furnish grazing for two or three litters of pigs from the middle of April until frost." The crop should be well fertilized.

QUESTION: How deep should I apply my lime to the soil?

ANSWER: When lime is added to the surface few inches of the soil a long time is needed for the neutralizing effect to penetrate through the entire plowed

layer, report research men of the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station at State College. Field experiments have shown that when part of the lime is put deeper in the soil, better crop growth and root distribution are obtained than if all the lime is added to the surface 4 inches of the soil.

QUESTION: Do crossbred broilers outweigh purebreds?

ANSWER: Yes, say research men of the Agricultural Experiment Station at State College. In seventeen groups of crossbred and purebred broilers, including purebred Rhode Island Reds, Barred Plymouth Rocks, and White Leghorns, and six crosses of these breeds, only one group of purebreds was as heavy as the related crossbreds. All crossbreds were fully feathered at ten weeks. Differences in mortality were not great, but the percentage was lower in all groups of crossbreds than among the purebreds.

Young trees, like young boys and girls, need plenty of food and water for proper growth. Burned-over woods are dry and sterile.



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