

Hardage Reviews Progress In Tobacco

By L. B. HARDAGE
Extension Chairman

The most recent revisions of flue-cured grade standards, published in the April 25, 1977 Federal Register, were adopted to encourage farmers to do a better job of preparing tobacco for market and help return American tobacco to its former high position in world market demand.

In the flue-cured area, manual labor is giving way to modern harvesting and curing methods. With the current trend toward mechanization, the quantity of sand and other foreign matter in tobacco on the warehouse floor is rapidly increasing. Until further improvements are made in current cultural and marketing practices to eliminate these problems, steps must be taken to maintain the overall quality of flue-cured tobacco dictated by buyer preference.

Although the United States leads the world in producing and exporting flue-cured tobacco, exporters have become greatly concerned about the condition of flue-cured crops offered for sale. When tobacco contains large amounts of sand and foreign matter, the yield of usable tobacco in the exporter's purchase is reduced. As a result, the demand for low stalk tobacco is steadily decreasing and more of it is going into Government loan stocks.

Over the past two years, this rapid buildup in loan stocks and the related problems of sand and foreign matter have become the biggest threats to the future of the tobacco program. Through revisions in the grade standards, USDA hopes to attack the problems in two ways.

First, more stringent uniformity requirements and waste tolerances have been implemented in the nondescript grades. This action should prove highly beneficial to the program and particularly to growers who market clean tobacco. With this change, the amount of tobacco going under loan will decrease and, most importantly, will be a more salable product. The amount of tobacco

under loan is one factor which is considered when determinations regarding decreases or increases in total quota are made.

Second, "sand" and "dirt" have been designated as new special factors to give a precise definition of this foreign matter. Tobacco to which a special factor is applied meets general specifications of a grade but has a peculiar characteristic, such as dirt or wetness, which modifies the grade.

Under the revised standards, these new special factors will be applied to all grades of the priming group and the nondescript grades NIL, NIGL, and NIPO when the tobacco contains more than normal but not an excessive amount of dirt or sand. When this special factor is applied, the tobacco will receive a reduced support price.

Tobacco not covered by any standard grade because it contains foreign matter is designated as "No-G-F." Where excessive amounts of dirt or sand are involved, this grader will mark that specific special factor on the lot ticket after the No-G-F. For instance, "No-G-F-sand" would indicate that the lot did not receive a grade because of an excessive amount of sand.

Benefits Of Clean Tobacco

Preparing clean tobacco for market will not only help protect the tobacco program but will bring economic benefits to the grower as well. Last season, for instance, a farmer in eastern North Carolina offered 11 sheets of tobacco for sale, nine of which received no grade because of sand. Under the inspection service, a producer can clean up the lot and receive a grade with price support.

The North Carolina farmer cleaned 234 pounds of sand from his tobacco, offered it for sale carrying a P3L grade, and realized a profit of \$468.53.

Only Three

Only three species of the manatee, better known as the "sea cow" have been discovered. One is found off the west coast of Africa, another off the eastern coast of South America and the other near Florida's shores.



A PLACE FOR FISH TO RETIRE?

It might not look like it, but these tires are soon going to be a condominium for fish. This small reef or "fish hide" is made of discarded tires. It will be placed in Lake Rim near Fayetteville. Though much smaller, it is similar to the reef recently placed in Lake Gaston.

Artificial Reef Installed For Gaston Lake Fish

A new artificial fishing reef has been installed in Lake Gaston by Wildlife Resources Commission fisheries biologists with assistance from the Rocky Mount Power Squadron and other fishermen from the Rocky Mount area.

It has been known for many years that lake fishing can be improved by installing artificial reefs in areas which have no natural cover, such as fallen trees or rocks. Although a wide variety of materials have been used to construct such reefs, discarded tires have been found to be among the best materials when installed properly.

"Tires are a perfect material for constructing reefs," said fisheries Biologist Larry Birchfield of Nashville. "They don't deteriorate or pollute and they're readily available — over 20 million are discarded in the United States each year."

Over 350 scrap truck tires were used to construct the Lake Gaston reef. They were donated and transported to the shore of Lake Gaston by North State Motor Lines of Rocky

Mount. Members of the Rocky Mount Power Squadron and others helped cut holes in them so they would sink, tied them together and loaded them on a barge for transfer to a site a half-mile below the Eaton's Ferry Bridge where they were sunk in 25 feet of water.

According to Birchfield, fishes such as largemouth bass, striped bass, catfish, sunfish and especially crappie should begin utilizing the reef immediately. The reef's location is marked with a "fishing reef" buoy.

Demonstrations On Water Safety Planned

By G. W. KOONCE
Extension Agent

Two water and boating safety demonstrations are planned for Warren County citizens next Tuesday, June 14. The first demonstration will be held at the swimming pool in Soul City Recreation Park from 5:15 to 6 p. m. The second demonstration will be held at the George Hunter farm pond on County Road 1636 between Arcola and Bethlehem from 6:30 p. m. to 7:15 p. m.

The water safety demonstrations are being conducted by the Wildlife Resources Commission and are held for the purpose of educating the general public on employing safety precautions and techniques while swimming, boating, or when at or near a body of water.

Citizens are urged to announce the demonstrations in church, clubs, or other groups so that a wide range of participation will ensue to the benefit of saving lives particularly during the outdoor season.

A pound of most greens will cook down to about four servings.

A shocking lesson in home economics.

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Demonstration To Be Held

By EMILY BALLINGER
Extension Agent

Are you interested in learning the correct methods for canning or freezing fruits and vegetables? Or are you interested in updating your information about these two methods of food preservation? If so, you will be interested in attending one or both of the special interest demonstrations on food preservation to be given by Miss Emily Ballinger, Home Economics Extension Agent.

A demonstration on Canning Fruits and Vegetables will be given at 2:30 p. m. on Tuesday, June 14, and a demonstration on Freezing Fruits and Vegetables will be given at 2:30 p. m. on Wednesday, June 15. Both demonstrations will be given in the Home Economics Extension Agent's Office in the Warren County Agriculture Building.

Anyone interested in learning more about the latest recommendations for canning and freezing foods is invited to attend the meeting.

Local Farmers To Tour Vance County

By L. B. HARDAGE
Extension Chairman

The Warren County Extension Service in cooperation with the Vance County Extension Service, and Granville County Extension Service as well as the Livestock Associations from each county is sponsoring a tour on June 21 to be held in Vance County.

Visits will be as follows: Fred Newton's farm located in the Carey's Chapel Community; Ronald Smith's farm located in the Bobbitt's Community and B. Mac Crews' farm in the Dabney Community.

If you are interested in this tour please contact the Extension Office in Warrenton, (257-3640) before June 15 to secure ticket for dinner.

The Chinese used a printing technique some 700 years before the Gutenberg Bible was published in Europe.

Extension Agent Gives Growing Tips

By L. C. COOPER
Extension Agent

MULCHES—A summer mulch of such as pine bark, pine straw, grass clippings and leaves can be very beneficial to plant growth. A mulch helps to retain moisture, protects the root system, and aids in weed control. A mulch makes plant beds more attractive. Also, mulches serve as a protection to plants by keeping the lawn mower from coming in contact with lower limbs and bark.

STORING BULBS—Most flowering bulbs need to be taken up and replanted every two or three years. Now is a good time to dig most of them. Be certain to wait until the top dies down before digging, but don't delay the job until foliage separates from the bulb. After foliage turns yellow, dig bulbs and keep varieties separated.

Allow bulbs to dry in a cool, dry shaded place. Then remove tops, old scales and any excess soil. Store bulbs in a cool dry place away from heat or hot-water heaters or furnaces. A good place to store bulbs is in an old nylon stocking, or mesh orange bags.

FERTILIZE AZALEAS—Azalea roots do not go deep. Use an old kitchen fork to scratch in fertilizer at the branch tips.

WINTER-KILLED SHRUBS—Some are surprised that certain shrubs severely damaged by last winter's freezes now are beginning to show new growth. If you've not already done so, it is wise to cut away all dead wood from shrubs. If no new growth buds have appeared, it's a good bet that the plant was killed completely by low temperatures.

PRUNING "NEW" EVERGREENS—Young evergreens must be pruned or sheared every year if they are to retain their shape, and develop into desirable plants. During June, and until about mid-July, is probably the best time to prune. If not pruned for two or three years, evergreens will develop a lop-sided appearance, with open spaces and sometimes two or more central stems.

If pruned now, evergreens will set buds around the cuts, and develop new stems from these buds. Such growth is what makes the plant dense and good looking. Tops should not be cut back until the tree has reached the desired height. Do not remove lower branches. The most handsome evergreens have branches from the ground, so dense that the main stems cannot be seen. And, they have well-formed tops.

Gauges May Be Tested

By EMILY BALLINGER
Extension Agent

Pressure canner gauges may be tested for accuracy in the Home Economics Extension Agent's Office in the Warren County Agriculture Building on Monday, June 13 from 2 p. m. until 4:30 p. m. or on Friday, June 17, from 8:30 a. m. until 12 noon.

Using correct temperatures for processing foods is very important in food safety. Canner gauges should be tested each year so if you have not had yours tested this year, now is the time to do so. There is no

charge for testing. The canner lid is all you need to bring for testing.

Graham flour is another name for whole wheat flour.

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OITA CHESTON

4-H Member Hired Junior Counselor

By G. W. KOONCE
Extension Agent, 4-H

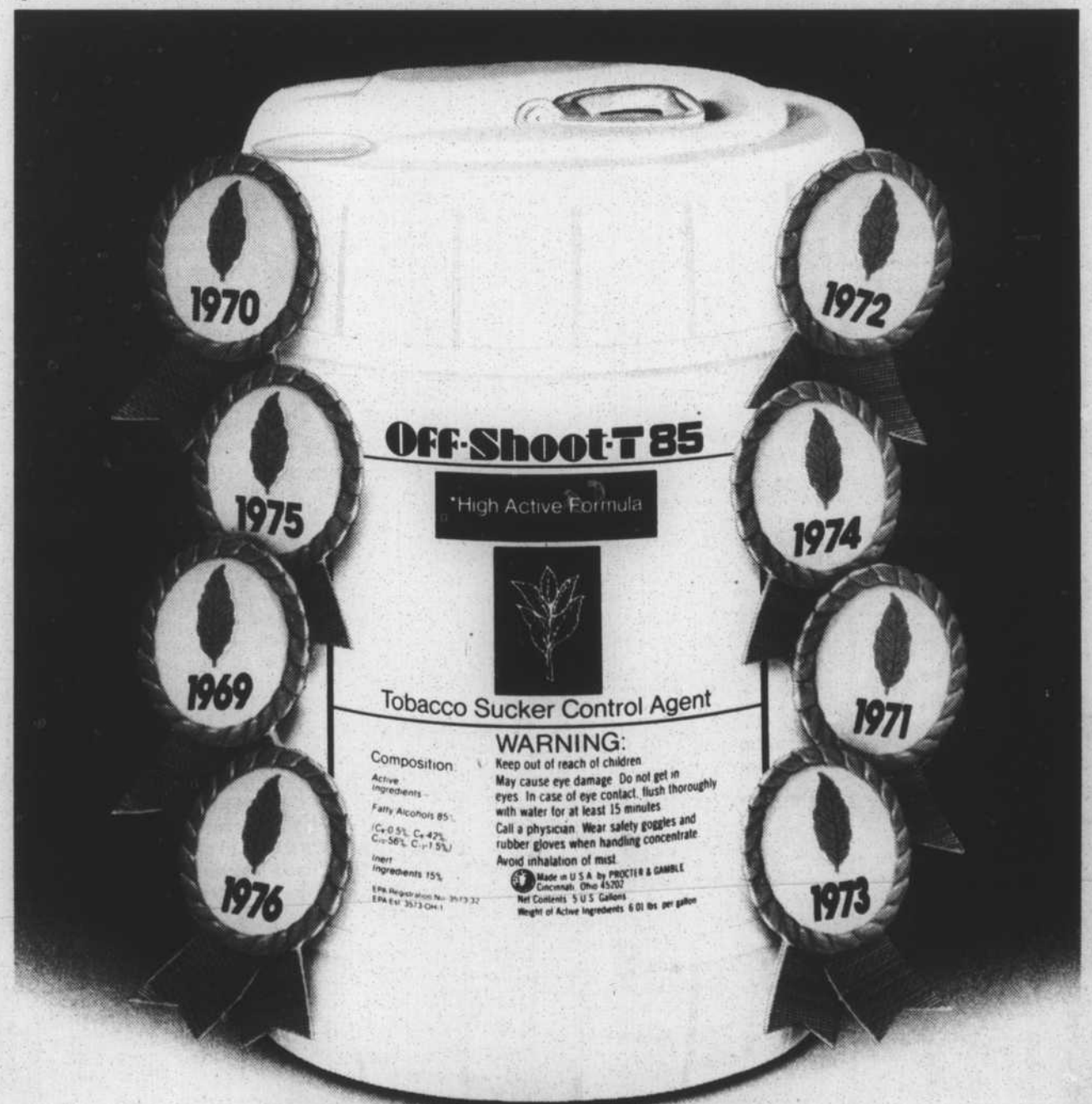
Oita Cheston, a member of the Norlina Youth Improvement 4-H Club for eight years has been employed as a 4-H Junior Counselor at Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Camp near Reidsville this summer.

Announcement of Oita's employment at North Carolina's most modern 4-H camp facility was made recently by Fred H. Wagoner, Director of N. C. 4-H Camps. Her qualifications for employment was very satisfactory to the director and is a tribute to her 4-H participation and accomplishments over the years.

Oita is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Cheston of Norlina. She is now serving as president of her local 4-H Club and is a junior at Norlina High.

Having already visited the camp and received training, she will report for work on June 13. Her employment for the summer is expected to last about 10 weeks.

Since some of her duties will be connected with breakfast, lunch and dinner served at the camp, Warren County 4-H'ers can expect to eat plenty and get the best of everything during county encampment week of July 11 through the 16.



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