

Remodeling Begins As Bad Winter Ends

With some evidence that this hard winter may be on the verge of breaking up, thoughts of home-owners and store-owners are turning to plans for spring spruce-ups. Many store-owners now, though, are getting away from need for such seasonal refurbishing by using new building materials of a permanently decorative value in remodeling. A thousand grocers meeting in Chicago last week heard how storefront modernization pays dividends in new business. Results of a survey of 25 grocery stores modernized with colorful structural glass showed average gains of 300 per cent in profits—the first year after remodeling, or from \$547 to \$2,032. Average annual sales increased from \$21,050 to \$28,628. The way the grocers at the Chicago convention reacted to this blueprint for attracting customers indicated likelihood of another wave in the growing nationwide trend to "dress up" main streets with modern fronts a trend consistently marked by the use of new lightweight metals and colorful flat glass.

Interesting Bits of Agricultural News

Vitamin A
The average minimum requirement of Vitamin A for adults has been found to be from 3,500 to 4,000 international units daily, but more is recommended.

Increase
Receipts from the sale of principal farm products in November, 1939, were larger than the same month in 1938 in four of the six major geographical divisions of the United States.

Wages
Wage rates paid to hired farm workers dropped sharply during the last quarter of 1939, and on January 1 average only 119 per cent of their 1910-1914 level.

Farmers Rush Work On Their Tobacco Plant Beds
Delayed by snow and cold weather, farmers have rushed work on their tobacco plant beds with the coming of recent favorable weather, report farm agents of the State College Extension Service.

Council Throwing Full Support To Hull Agreements

Memphis, Tenn.—More than 5,000 committeemen of the National Cotton Council in the 19 cotton producing states, under the leadership of Oscar Johnston, president of the organization, are joining in the fight for Secretary of State Cordell Hull's reciprocal trade agreements program.

In a statement launching activity in behalf of the trade agreements program by local committees in 752 counties, Mr. Johnston declared that "continuance of the reciprocal trade agreements program is our greatest immediate hope for solving cotton's all-important foreign trade problem."

The cotton belt, more than any section of the United States, must have foreign trade, Mr. Johnston pointed out. "The economic life," he said, "of one-third of the farm population of the United States, embracing more than one-third of the total area of the nation, depends upon the development and maintenance of export markets for cotton and cottonseed products."

"If foreign markets are to be denied our cotton industry, it necessarily follows that production must be placed on a purely domestic basis. This would mean a further curtailment of cotton acreage, a disastrous displacement of labor and a serious disturbance of our national agricultural economy."

"Our normal planting of 40 million acres already has been curtailed to 24 million. The curtailment already has adversely affected the economy of the cotton belt and could not have been achieved without the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars from the treasury of the United States as soil conservation payments, cotton adjustment payments, and cotton loans."

"Notwithstanding these drastic measures, the carryover in America amounted to 13,032,513 bales on last August 1. We believe that through the reciprocal trade agreements program it is possible to develop and maintain export markets for our surplus cotton and cottonseed products."

"The abandonment of the reciprocal trade agreements program would in our judgment, be the equivalent of saying to the nations of the world that the United States is unwilling to negotiate with them further for the restoration of normal international trade. Such an act on our part will—justifiably, we think—be construed by the other nations as a declaration of purpose by the United States to develop nationalism to the highest degree possible, and to withdraw behind our excessively high tariff wall from the commerce of the world. Such action on our part would, in our judgment, constitute an open invitation to all the other nations of the world to do likewise. The effect would be a further disastrous decrease and paralysis of all trade."

At Home On The Range



This pose may be slightly unconventional, but the Frigidaire electric range also is somewhat unconventional because its makers report it is not just another "standard" range. This model has two complete ovens, operates with time control switches, cooks meals while the homemaker goes to the movies, can't overheat, won't overcook, and is as easy to operate as a home radio. Being entirely electric, it is clean and fast; and this new model is surprisingly economical with current. It was developed by the makers of the Frigidaire electric refrigerator.

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Pure-Bred Hogs Will Be On Sale Feb. 17th

An excellent opportunity will be offered farmers and 4-H club members to obtain pure-bred breeding swine when the first consignment sale of the N. C. Swine Breeders Association is held in Mangum's warehouse at Rocky Mount on Saturday, February 17, says H. W. Taylor, extension swine specialist of State College. The hogs will be on exhibit Friday, February 16.

The specialist announced that bred gilts and sows, and service boars of the following breeds will be auctioned: Poland China, Duroc, Hampshire, Berkshire and Spotted Poland China.

Hogs have been consigned by the following breeders: A. E. Smith, Robersonville; C. S. Bunn, Spring Hope; Braxton C. Bunn, Spring Hope; Weil's Stock Farm, Goldsboro; W. W. Bullock, Rocky Mount; Lambeth Brothers, Lumberton; Whitaker Brothers, Kinston; Joe Sanderson, Goldsboro; and C. L. Ballance, St. Pauls.

The Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce is cooperating in sponsoring the sale, and the field man for the sale is J. S. Sugg, railroad livestock development agent of Rocky Mount. He will take buying orders from farmers unable to attend the sale.

Taylor, who selected the animals for the sale with the help of E. V. Vestal, assistant extension specialist, and Prof. E. H. Hostetler of the State College Animal Husbandry Department, said: "We have selected from the best of our breeds young sows of good type and have bred them to what we believe are the best boars in the State, to farrow at the best time in the year. We have selected a few young boars of good type that are ready for light service. Twenty per cent of the purchase price will be refunded if any sow is not in pig as stated in the catalog or announced at the sale."

Former Farm Agent Practices Teachings

R. F. Shearin was assistant farm agent in Nash County for four years. He is now completing work for his master's degree at N. C. State College. Recently he bought a badly run-down farm in Halifax County, in the Fishing Creek Soil Conservation District.

Shearin preached pasture improvement, cover crops, good rotations, and other conservation farming practices during his service as a farm agent. So the first thing he did after buying the Halifax County farm was to make application to the soil conservation district supervisors for a farm plan. Shearin will operate the farm in conjunction with a beef cattle farm owned by his father. But he wants to make hay and pasture available in advance of bringing in too many cattle—another idea he has been teaching.

He found from the farm plan survey that 20 acres of the land formerly cultivated was too steep or severely eroded for row crops. So he reduced the cultivated land from 85 to 55 acres and planted the steep and eroded 30 acres to kudzu, lespedeza sericea, trees, and permanent pastures.

Shearin will use a four-year rotation on the cultivated acreage, and will plant most of the 55 acres to annual lespedeza this spring, using only a small acreage for row crops until 1942. Bottomland will be cleared and treated over a period of years for pasture.

The kudzu, lespedeza and other hay crops will serve the dual purpose of protecting badly eroded areas and providing additional feed for beef cattle. The old pastures will be improved, and new grazing land developed.

Fresh Eggs Demand Higher Market Price

Don't offer a customer a "pig in a poke," says T. T. Brown, extension poultryman of State College, in urging farmers to sell only fresh eggs which command a higher market price and keep consumers satisfied. He advises that all eggs be candled before being marketed.

In candling eggs, take out those which show a large air cell, a rounded and dimly visible yolk and a thick white.

The poultry specialist made eight suggestions for the production of quality eggs: (1) Keep only pure-bred poultry; (2) provide floored house with clean litter; (3) enclose dropping boards or roosting racks with wire netting; (4) use high quality feed; (5) keep nests filled with clean nesting material; (6) gather eggs at least twice daily in wire baskets so as to allow them to cool quickly; and leave in wire baskets overnight or spread on trays to cool; (7) store eggs in a cool, fairly moist place until marketed; and (8) sell or pen males at the end of the breeding season and sell infertile eggs.

A six-point program for the sale of quality eggs is offered by the extension man as follows: (1) Grade for size and interior quality; (2) candle to remove stale eggs and ones with blood spots, and to separate according to interior quality; (3) weigh eggs of doubtful size and make at least two size grades; (4) clean dirty eggs; (5) use good cases with clean filters and flats, or pack eggs in attractive labeled cartons; and (6) market twice weekly.

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