

KILLING RATS PAYS HIGHEST RETURNS

(O. B. Jones
Henderson County Agent)
Most of us do not take time to evaluate the cost to ourselves of rats and mice which infest all farms to a greater or lesser degree. If we are told that the average cost to the farmers of this country of the depreciations of rats is about \$4.00 per rat, we may marvel at such figures for the moment, or we may reason that the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Insurance Companies, and others who have studied this problem have over-estimated the damage.

The damage that rats and mice do is done slowly and in comparatively small amounts at the time, but if we could see piled up during the period of 365 days the total destruction of the rats that infest just one average farm, we would surely be convinced.

Cats help in ridding the premises of many mice, but they can only get those that come to the outside and into open rooms. Most cats do not care for rat meat if they are well fed; and so the cat, no matter how industrious, cannot help so very much.

Traps can be relied on to do away with many mice if the baiting and setting of the traps is carefully followed up. The usual practice, however, is to set the traps once or twice and then to forget about them.

The United States Department of Agriculture has devoted a great deal of time to rodent control through its specialists. Many campaigns throughout the states have been conducted with a great deal of success. This has usually been done under the supervision of the specialists who have appointed certain definite periods for making war on rats and other rodents. In most cases the bait was made up in the community at the time of the campaign. Red squill was most often used as it is poisonous only to rodents. In case of field mice, ground hogs, etc. other poisons were used.

Several months ago the Department of Agriculture worked out a somewhat different method of attack. They arranged with a commercial concern to can for them the bait, using red squill, in three separate materials. These are meat, a vegetable, and a cereal. The three kinds of bait are used in order to appeal to the appetites of all rats, since some of them will not eat all kinds of foods when put out in this fashion. This fact is well known by everyone who has tried to poison rats. It has been found however that most of the rats will eat at least one kind of food put before them.

The canned bait has been put up at cost, and will be furnished only through the Department of Agriculture.

We are trying to undertake a rat killing campaign during the fall or early winter here, and in order to

make the effort successful, it is necessary to get as many people to join the campaign as possible. Rats and mice travel from place to place, and where a family fails to poison their rats, they become a source of infestation to their neighbors.

We should like to place with the Department of Agriculture orders for canned bait early in September, and in order to make the campaign as successful as possible we hope that everyone who is interested in this subject will get in touch with this office as early as possible.

COURT CONVENES MONDAY MORNING

Transylvania county civil term of Superior court will convene here Monday morning August 1, from a two weeks session with Judge E. Moore of Sylva, presiding.

About fifty outstanding cases have been docketed to appear before the court.

MARINE HAS STRONG PULL FOR REAL MAN

James Albert Tweed of 639 Southern Street, Spartanburg, S. C., who was discharged from the marine corps with an excellent record after serving four years with the Marine corps aviation, re-enlisted Thursday morning through the local Marine recruiting station, 302 New Post Office Building, Spartanburg, S. C., for four more years. Tweed will be transferred to Hampton Roads, Va., by rail, then by transport through the Panama Canal, up the west coast and report for duty with the Marine aviation squadron at San Diego, California. Tweed was discharged from the Marines the 30th of April, 1932. He will be accompanied upon his journey by Raymond Gheen of Cramerton, N. C., who also served four years in the Marine aviation with an excellent record and was discharged at Quantico, Va., the 23rd of April, 1932. Gheen also requested aviation duty upon the west coast.

Gyascutus—I thought you said that Jerry was keeping company with the big guns?

Gymkhana—So he is—he's guard at the naval gun factory.

Community Newcomer—I suppose you know that I am a candidate for Congress.

Seasoned Farmer—I sure do—I have heard the boys laughing about it.

W. K. Moore of Hurdle Mills, Person County, cleared a pasture area with 15 goats and says there is not a bush or weed in the whole acreage now.

CAMPS EXPECTING INCREASED NUMBER

Transylvania county's organized summer camps are closing their July sessions this week and, according to reports from the various directors, the prospects are good for an increased enrollment during the August period.

A large number of the camps are realizing average seasons, several unusually good seasons and only a few have fallen below par in number of campers this year as compared with other seasons.

It has also been noticed that a large number of parents of the campers are located in boarding houses, hotels and private homes, or have leased houses for the season.

Brevard has realized this year as never before the tremendous benefit the camps are to this section.

CABBAGE AND BEAN PRICES ADVANCED

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Henderson County Agent)

Good beans are worth 90 cents per hamper of 30 lbs. while the market on cabbage is around \$1.50 per hundred. Potatoes are quoted at 75 cents in Asheville.

This is the first time in several weeks when these commodities have taken sharp upward turns, and if the trend holds steady it will again establish something of an index to seasonal trends which has been absent for many months. Growers and dealers alike for signs of steadiness.

Wheat has made further slight advances during the week, and other farm commodities are holding their own fairly well.

Farmers and others are interested in the fact that the prices of steel are at last showing a tendency upward. This fact seems to be significant to those who have been watching the economic situation.

Word comes from South Carolina that many mills are opening again, and that the merchants and businessmen are confident that a change for the better is setting in again.

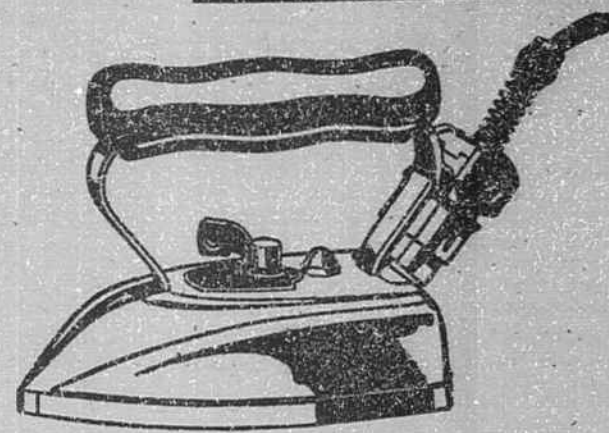
Another press report is responsible for the statement that shortly the road and highway construction work will put to work a quarter of a million men, and that they will be assured of employment for almost a year.

The late crop of lambs in Allegheny County were sold by the local association at an average price of \$5.30 a hundred pounds.

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