

# FARM GRIT

GRIT GRINDS  
EDITED BY THE COUNTY AGENT

Let us grow clover and grass on the hill;  
While intensely the levels and flats we till;  
The cows and hens will settle our daily bill;  
While the beeves, sheep and tobacco the coffers fill.  
And, when orchard, garden and sty the larder fill,  
Then, with a smile, will Mary greet her Bill.

## MARKETING THE TOBACCO

The tobacco markets have been running full blast. In most instances they have been overloaded, making it difficult to handle the crop. Farmers should be more steady in marketing their crop, their money crop, and not try to sell it all at once. A dump of any crop on that market and cause more or less of a drop in the price. We have heard of instances of Madison farmers taking their crop to market after being told by their neighbors that they could not get the tobacco on the floor. Seems to us that this is, at least, bad judgment. The thing to do is to watch the markets closely and endeavor to sell when market conditions are most favorable. This is difficult to do, we know, but the endeavor is worth while. And then the condition of the tobacco when marketed should be considered. Some of those that endeavored to get on to an already overcrowded floor had their tobacco soaked by rain. Tobacco that is too wet either from

rain or simply because in high a case is not desired by the buyer and should not be offered for sale. There has been tobacco on the floors that was in such high case that one could almost wring the water from it. The farmer should look to it that his tobacco is in such a condition mechanically, that it will bring the price that its inherent quality deserves. The amount of moisture it contains, the manner in which it has been classed and handed, the condition of the pile on the floor, all have their influence on the buyer. Let's make this influence tend in the right direction. Reports from all markets, Greenville, Asheville, Johnson City, Morristown, and from Lexington, Ky., all state that the weed is averaging around 20 cents. This is good. Let's put the remainder of the crop on the market in a condition to get this amount or more. **NEXT YEAR! WHAT?**—'Twill soon be 1931. 'Twill soon be time to plan next year's work. The question

should be in every farmer's mind now as to his next year's work; he should not wait to plan his crops until crop time. The time to answer the question is now. The first thing to do in answering this question is to determine just how many crops and just what crops are necessary to make a living for the family. The first thing every farmer needs to do is to make a living for his family. After this living is provided it is time to consider a money crop. There is not much fault to find with the farmers of Madison County in this particular. Most of our folks are good at providing the family needs. Everywhere over the county we are shown canned goods, fruits and vegetables put up by the housewives for use during the winter. Everywhere we find supplies of potatoes, Irish and sweet, of cabbage, of turnips, of apples, stored away for use. This year the county has had, the season considered, a good corn crop and meal can be had; the wheat crop, small in the number of bushels, was of good quality; bread is provided. There is usually a cow to provide the family with milk and butter and a hog, one or more, for the meat supply. No family will starve, or even suffer, with a supply as mentioned above. In some instances there may have been need of a greater variety. This

variety can be had with a little forethought. In this mountain country every family could live like a king and this with scarcely need of going off the farm. A little sugar, some coffee, perhaps one or two other things—we can't think of them now—are all that the store needs to provide for the farmer of Madison County who thinks, who plans, and puts his plans into effect. For the money crops we are not confined to one or two things. Of course the cash field crop under the farming system in the county is burley tobacco. In addition to this some farmers grow some sort of a truck crop. Some farmers gain considerable from apples, the sheep, and the dairy cow. Which of these a farmer grows depends on his location and his desires. And a flock of hens will help to keep the family expenses paid. We will touch upon these more next week. **USE THE COUNTY AGENT**—Last year the county agent had over 1300 office calls, an average of over 10 for each day in the office. He made nearly 700 farm calls, over 4 farm calls for each day in the field. Over 750 letters were written in connection with his work. These are some of the things that he did that can be put into figures. The county agent is avail-

able to every farmer in Madison County. It is impossible for him to visit every farmer that may want him to do so unless that farmer lets him know. There are over 3300 farmers in the county. Much of the value of the extension work will reach the farmer indirectly, thru a neighbor, or thru coming in touch with the thoughts of trained agricultural men as their ideas are advanced by the county agent thru the articles in the local papers. If it were possible for the farmers to call on the county agent more often in his office he could reach more individuals. There has been a steady increase in the number of office calls every year since coming to the county, comparing each year with the preceding year. We hope and ask that the farmers will remember that the county agent is in his office every Monday and Saturday.

These are the days that most farmers come to town. Also he will usually be found there between 8 and 9 in the other mornings. Come in and see him, talk with him, perhaps you can gain some help; it will not hurt to try. Employer—"Jones, call up my dentist and see if he can make an appointment with me. And, Jones!" Clerk—"Yes, sir." Employer—"Don't urge him."—Exchange.



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# Christmas

# O. C. RECTOR

## HARDWARE & FURNITURE

MARSHALL, N. C.

# Greetings