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# Farm Review and Forecast

## Contour Strip Cropping Will Hold Soil On Hills

By ROY R. BECK  
Soil Conservation Service  
Robert Messer of Panther Creek Community believes in holding soil on a hill by contour strip cropping. Mr. Messer says: "If a farmer plows a whole hillside at one time it will wash away in a big rain. I'm using strip crop to hold my land when I farm it in corn, before reseeded."

Teague Williams of White Oak community plans to begin farming his tobacco in strips between alfalfa. Mr. Williams has an erosion so great he is going to use a system of diversions between each strip to help hold the land.

Mark Howell, conservation farmer on Jonathan Creek, used a contour strip cropping system to clean up an old hill field and get it back into production. Mr. Howell seeded strips to small grain and clover grass hay, while other strips were planted in corn. Mr. Howell also has installed field drain tile to improve his bottom land and permit

## Good Care Is Important For Sewing Tools

By RUTH CURRENT  
State Home Demonstration Agent

YOUR SEWING TOOLS — The sewing machine is the most important tool. "The use and care you give your machine," says Mary Em Lee, extension specialist in clothing at N. C. State College, "will greatly determine the job it will do for you. Keep it well oiled, and only an experienced person should regulate the tension."

Everyone who sews needs a good sturdy sewing box or basket to hold necessary tools and materials. For neatness and convenience, keep smaller tools such as pins, needles, thimbles, etc. in a smaller box inside your larger sewing box or bas-

## State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: Why do marketing specialists say that the egg outlook is "bright" for this year?  
ANSWER: Lower feed cost compared to past years and a laying flock about equal to 1955 indicate that prices of feed and eggs should remain favorable for six or seven months at least, according to the experts.

QUESTION: How much and how often should I give salt to my fat cattle?  
ANSWER: Fattening cattle should consume from one-half to one and one-half ounces of salt per head daily, depending on the kinds of feed used in the ration and the age of the cattle. It's a mistake to withhold salt from cattle toward the close of the feeding period and salt heavily just before shipping, USDA says.

QUESTION: Is it safe to graze sudan grass at any time?  
ANSWER: No. Prussic acid poisoning of livestock may result if sudan grass is grazed after a frost, specialists warn. Sudan and sorghums have prussic acid at certain stages of growth, in the early stages and in new growth after frost. Better ask your county agent for details on this.

QUESTION: Why do pine mice seem to prefer a field where soybeans are plowed down?  
ANSWER: L. C. Whitehead, Fish and Wildlife Service, says that the type of soil in which soybeans would be grown generally suit the pine mice's fancy. They are quite fond of beans and other types of legumes.

## Snooty Hens Need More Space, Poultryman Learns



ORNERY — Ernest York checks on one of his hens.

FALMOUTH, Maine (AP)—Hens are snootier and more ornery than people, says Ernest E. York. That's why he's adding 60 feet to his chicken house.

York isn't doing it just to please the chickens. It will mean more eggs for him to sell. Experiment has shown, Ernie explains, that his hens will lay 10 per cent more eggs if he can rear them in the same pen from the time they are a day old until he sends them to market as prospective dinner.

Chickens, says York, have a social system all their own, and it's pretty rigid.

Chickens usually are brooded about eight weeks. Then they are ranged or kept separately from older hens until they're ready to start laying. That's because poultrymen like to get maximum use from their laying houses for egg production.

At the age of four weeks, York says, chickens begin establishing their "peck" or social system. Turning them into new surroundings after that age upsets the social order. This is even more pronounced when young birds just coming into laying are put into pens with veterans to replace culs.

The chicks become confused by new faces and surroundings. The "hierarchy" is disturbed.

Pens of birds set up early a social system in which there is always a No. 1 bird, a No. 2 bird, No. 3, etc.

"There is always a top bird," the poultryman said.

Those high up in the caste scale peck at those below in passing or being passed. No. 1 will peck at all those below if she chooses. No. 5 can't peck Nos. 1-4—only those below.

The social system can cause trouble when a poultryman hasn't enough waterers or feed hoppers in a pen. Correction has boosted production by as much as 20 percent, Ernie says.

"Researchers have determined that hens tend to remain in their own little social groups, seldom traveling more than 25 feet."

"Suppose there aren't enough feeders. A hen is hungry. She starts out to get some grain. On the way she has to brave the pecks of other hens higher on the social scale. She gets discouraged, frightened. She returns to her own group without eating. Poor egg production results."

"Nests must be accessible as well as food and water. Otherwise a hen may drop her egg on the floor rather than undergo a series of pecks in trying to find a nest. That means dirty or cracked eggs."

By adding the 60 x 40 foot extension, York will have a 120-foot house with adequate space for 2,400 mature birds with a caste system and few occasions to run a gauntlet of peckers.

## Bookmobile Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 31  
DUTCH COVE - MORNING STAR  
Quay Smathers ..... 9:30-9:45  
Jack Chambers ..... 9:50-10:00  
Wilson's Store ..... 10:15-10:30  
Finley Cook ..... 10:35-10:45  
Morning Star School ..... 11:00-12:30  
B. M. Stamey ..... 12:45-1:00  
Smathers' Dairy ..... 1:15-1:30

Thursday, Feb. 2  
BETHEL  
Bethel School ..... 9:15

Friday, Feb. 3  
FINES CREEK  
Trantham's Store ..... 9:30-9:45  
Francis Rogers ..... 10:00-10:15  
Fines Creek School ..... 10:30-12:00  
J. L. Rathbone ..... 12:15-12:30  
R. G. Rathbone ..... 12:35-12:45  
C. R. McElreath ..... 1:00-1:15  
Paul Ferguson ..... 1:30-1:45

## Forestry Specialist Cites Planting Failure Causes

In January the pine planting season is in full swing. And if you're a pine planter, chances are you'll be interested in the three major causes of "planting failure," described by Jim Andersen, State College extension forestry specialist.

Andersen says the three factors which contribute most to poor survival after planting are:

- (1) Improper depth of planting. Pine seedlings should be set in the ground at the same depth they were in the nursery. It's better to plant them a little too deep than not deep enough, however.
- (2) Bending of roots. The easiest way to overcome root bending is to force the seedling into the hole further than necessary and then withdraw it to the proper planting level before closing the hole.
- (3) Drying of roots. This can happen at two different phases of the planting operation. First, they may dry out before the seedlings are planted. This can be prevented

by carrying the seedlings to the planting site in a bucket of water or mud. Then they may dry after planting if the hole is not closed properly. This fault is common when using a planting iron or dribble in setting out trees. After the seedling has been placed in the hole, the planter should take special care to close the bottom part of the hole as well as the top.

Despite expected lower hog prices in 1956, many North Carolina producers may still find hog production one of the best ways to market feed grains, according to a State College extension marketing specialist.

Want ads bring quick results

**TV**  
By Floyd Nelson

When you see food commercials on television from now on, think about the eighty pork chops they wasted to get on film just right that shot of the six that you actually see. Or, the dozens of eggs and many pounds of bacon for that delicious frying pan scene of bacon and eggs.

A company "Video Vittles, Inc." specializes in producing food commercials. It's not an easy job and it's very expensive. For the average four minute commercial there are six hours of filming and hundreds of feet of film.

Little tricks like making rice blue to show up on the TV screen are necessary for good food viewing. And in television commercials this is important.

Just like in television servicing, you must know and understand the electronic equipment to make fast and efficient repairs. We at NELSON'S TELEVISION SERVICE are authorized electronic technicians and will stand behind our services. Phone GL 6-5581 and let us prove ourselves with our services.

**Before your battery dies from COLD**

**START SURE!**

with a new **DRY-PROOF DOUBLE EAGLE BATTERY** by **GOODYEAR**

- Requires water only three times a year under normal driving conditions.
- Extra plates—outlasts ordinary batteries up to 100%.
- Shock-absorbing, felted Fibreglas insulation.

Use Our Easy Pay Plan

**GOODYEAR TIRE**  
Allison & Duncan Tire Co.  
Georgia Ave., Hazelwood

more efficient tractor farming.

R. H. Boone of Francis Cove community started a definite three-year contour-strip rotation on his crop land last year. Mr. Boone is using a corn-small-grain-clover grass rotation.

Hugh Ferguson, conservation farmer on Fines Creek, started with the same contour strip rotation. Mr. Ferguson plans to use this system of cropping on all his sloping land.

The Haywood County Soil Supervisors furnished technical help to all these farmers in planning for conservation farming and in laying of the contour strips.

Farmers who do not own bottom-land have found that contour strip cropping is the best means of controlling erosion where they must grow corn and other cultivated crops on hill land. Invariably these yields are increased by this method of farming.

Joe Davis, newly elected Soil Supervisor, from White Oak community has started a contour strip-cropping system on his farm. Mr. Davis suggests that all farmers give this method a trial on their hillside field. In his words: "you just take a look at most any hill in Haywood County to see what corn from bottom to top has done. Usually there are gullies. The soil is thin. And it has taken a lot of work, lime and fertilizers to get these washed fields tied down to grass. So, if you have to grow corn on land, why not do it in strips? It helps your land; it takes more corn per acre and it earns ACP cost-sharing when laid off by Soil Conservation Service people."

## Tax Forms For Farmers Explained

(EDITOR'S NOTE — This article, the second in a series describing the provisions of the Federal Income and Social Security tax laws as they affect farm people, was prepared by Charles R. Pugh, W. L. Turner, and C. W. Williams, extension farm management specialists, N. C. State College.)

If you filed a Federal income tax return last year, the necessary forms for reporting Federal income tax will be mailed to you.

Otherwise, forms, including any extra forms required, may be secured from your local post office or bank or the nearest Internal Revenue Service office. By completing two copies of each form, the taxpayer can retain a copy for himself.

The forms most commonly required by farmers and their use are as follows:

"Form 1040": The amount of income tax is computed on this form from the listing of taxable income from all sources, including the profit (or loss) from farming operations, nonbusiness deductions (or the standard deduction) and exemptions.

"Schedule F": Used to determine farm profit or loss from the itemized sources of farm income and farm deductions. It is designed for use by farmers filing on either the cash or the accrual basis. Types of farm income reported on Schedule F include: livestock raised or purchased, produce raised or purchased, agricultural program payments, and patronage dividends.

Farm business deductions or expenses include labor hired for farming operations, fertilizer, seed, repairs and maintenance, taxes, insurance, interest and rent on farm property, and depreciation of assets used in farming. Personal expenses should not be included on Schedule F but on Form 1040 if they are allowable deductions.

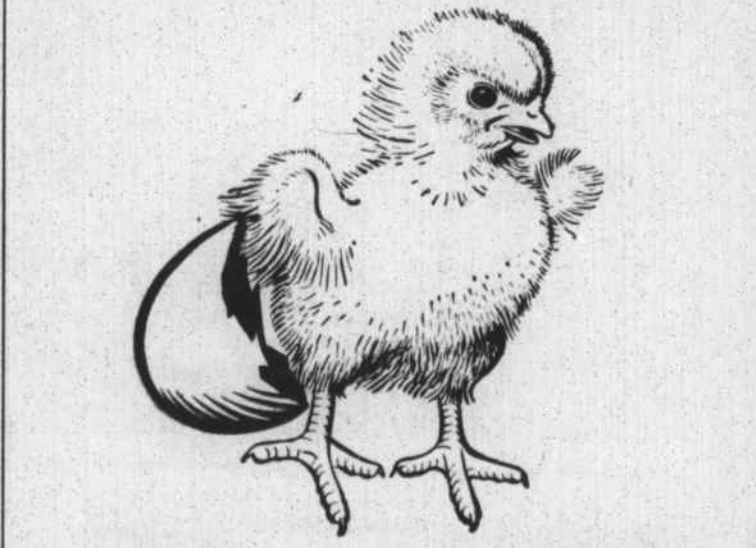
Page 4 of Schedule F is used for computing net earnings from self-employment from farming. If there are no sources of self-employment for the taxpayer except farming, the self-employment tax is computed on page 4. These taxes may result in social security benefits for you or your dependents in event of your death or retirement.

"Schedule D": used to show your gains and losses from sales of capital assets such as farm land and certain property used in the farming business, such as farm equipment and dairy, breeding, and draft animals held for 12 months or more.

"Schedule C": used to compute the profit (or loss) from a nonfarm business or profession. Therefore it will be used by farm people having a business in addition to farming. In fact this form may be used for reporting profit (or loss) from farming if the farmer files his return on the accrual basis. Farm people having both a farm and non-farm business or profession use page 3, Schedule C, to compute their self-employment tax. The net earning from self-employment from farming as computed on Schedule F are transferred to Schedule C and the 3 per cent self-employment tax is figured from the combined amounts of self-employment income.

"Form 1040 ES": used to declare an estimate of tax. Farmers file estimate by January 15 unless they file their final return and pay the tax on or before February 15.

Despite popular belief, a stricken snake does not wait until sundown to die.



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**Misses Nobility**  
GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — Axel Leary is a name as Irish as they come — or so thought a Dublin, Ireland genealogy firm.

The firm offered to supply information on Leary's "noble Irish background" and a copy of the family coat of arms for a nominal sum.

Same searching would have been in order, Leary says his parents are natives of Finland. The family name was changed from Learies.

Industry accounts for 30 per cent of Algeria's annual income.

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Allison & Duncan Tire Co.  
Georgia Ave., Hazelwood

Times aren't what they used to be, but... **A MAN CAN MAKE MONEY IN MILK**

No dairyman likes the milk price this year—but that's no reason to give up. Good dairymen are still making a good living. They do it by getting **GOOD PRODUCTION PER COW**. In order to bring up the herd average, they have cut out the tail end cows—ones that can't make a profit at today's milk price.

Then they manage and feed the rest for good cow condition and peak production. They may not ship quite as much milk (which cuts surplus). And every can makes more profit because there are fewer cows to feed—less work to do.

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Joe Cline — Dick Bradley  
5 Points Hazelwood

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