



ABOUT 200 CHILDREN IN THE RECREATION ROOM, TRYING TO MAKE THEIR SELECTIONS FROM A table loaded with toys, are these youngsters, assisted by Mrs. C. F. Kirkpatrick at right.

ASC Offering Assistance On Planning Farm Roads

By ROY R. BECK
Soil Conservation Service
At this Christmas season, Soil Supervisors D. J. Boyd, Joe S. Davis and Van C. Wells extend greetings and their thanks to landowners, business men and agricultural workers for the wonderful cooperation they have received in the district's conservation program.

A new farm road designed and built as a permanent improvement is an important part of W. E. Lipham's conservation farm plan. Mr. Lipham asked his Soil Conservation District for help in laying out additional field roads on his Hominy Community farm. These roads will have grades from seven to nine per cent. Lipham plans to fertilize and seed rye grass-fescue mixture as soon as construction is completed.

Other conservation work planned by Lipham is conservation crop rotations on bottom land and planting 2,000 white pine on extremely steep bluffs. A four-acre field of alfalfa he seeded this fall shows a good stand and excellent growth. Mr. Lipham is a TVA unit test demonstration farmer. His angus cattle are as fat as butter balls. Lipham credits fertilized and managed grazing for this. He says fertilizing extends his grazing season about two months.

The conservation farm plan Billy Carver developed for his Beaverdam farm will take four to five years of work. When it is completed, Mr. Carver will have three acres of row crops growing on the drained land behind his house. The creek bottom field on the upper place will be in clover-fescue grass sod. Two and one-half acres of alfalfa are planned for the slope and the rest of the hill will be in permanent pasture.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: Can hardy bulbs be used as house plants and then planted outdoors?

ANSWER: Yes. Keep the bulbs growing and get them outside just as soon as the flowers fade. Remove ball of soil from pot (turn upside down and tap on bottom) and plant.

QUESTION: Why must lime be added to many soils?

ANSWER: Lime neutralizes acidity and supplies calcium and magnesium. These factors are important for efficient use of fertilizers. The rate of application should be determined by a soil test, and the lime should be mixed thoroughly with the soil before seeding.

alternative operations. Say he purchased seedlings at \$35 per thousand and planted them 4' x 4'. This, plus the cost of half the labor required, fertilizer, twine, harvesting, and marketing costs would run total costs per acre to close to \$310. Most of the 2,700 trees should be ready for sale after 10 years growth, adds Whitfield.

If they were delivered to a wholesaler at 10 cents a running foot for three foot sizes and 30 cents a foot for larger sizes, a grower could expect an income of \$1,800 per acre for his crop. Keep in mind, says Whitfield, that this is the value after 10 years. But, he points out, this is far greater than other forest type crops and compares favorably on a per acre per year basis with corn, small grain, beef, hay and other alternative enterprises, assuming you discount revenues from Christmas trees at rates between three per cent and five per cent per year.

It should be pointed out, says Whitfield, that peak labor requirements for Christmas trees do not conflict with some other farm crops. If you want to go in the business, he warns, take all these facts into consideration.

Breeding Beef To Achieve Tender Meat Is Foreseen

Meat tenderness is inherited in animals and can be passed to succeeding generations through selective breeding, report researchers with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Scientists of the Department's Agricultural Research Service are studying the heritability of tenderness as one approach to the production of animals that will consistently produce tender meat.

Although no extensive advances have yet been made in the development of more tender beef animals by selection and breeding, the Department researchers are optimistic about the possibility of improving meat tenderness quality of larger animals through breeding programs.

They are also trying to develop a quick, reliable test for tenderness that can be used on live animals. One method now being ex-

plored involves biopsy samples—taking samples of live muscle tissue for laboratory analysis. Such a test would make slaughter unnecessary, and animals showing desirable tenderness characteristics could be used as breeding stock.

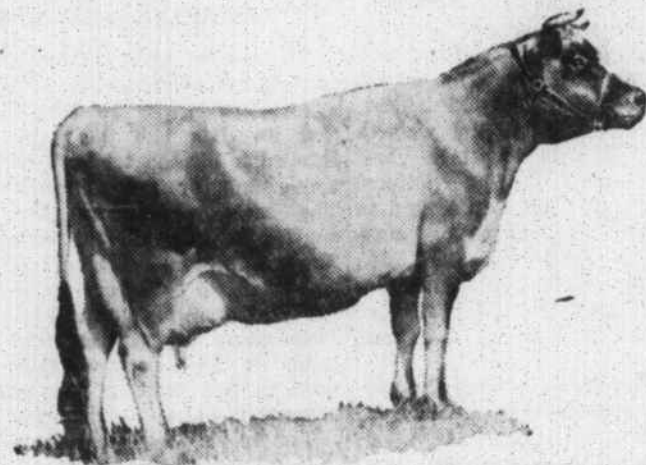
Tenderness experiments at the Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland, have been made so far chiefly with rabbits, and to a lesser extent with beef cattle. Tenderness in rabbits was found to have a "heritability factor" of about 53 per cent, and in beef cattle about 41 per cent. These percentages represent the degree to which tenderness is determined by genetic differences. Other factors, which also influence meat tenderness in individual animals, include age, sex, management practices, and fatness.

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Selling Of Grade Cows Advised For Dairy Herd

Alfred Jefferson, Jr. of Manson, Route 1, has decided to rid his farm of the seven grade, scrub milk cows.

Warren County Agent W. A. Godley says Jefferson reached this decision after considering the feeding and housing expenses. The returns coming in did not measure up to the costs of keeping these low producers on the farm through another winter.

Godley reports that Jefferson has decided to sell all but one of his graded animals. He is saving the best milk cow. He plans to use artificial breeding to improve his future milk cows. Jefferson is also planning to buy a purebred Guernsey, so that he and his family may have milk all year round.

Growing Christmas Trees Can Be Profitable Business

"So you want to go into the Christmas tree business," asks Extension Forestry Specialist Fred Whitfield. And it might not be a bad idea, considering the prices received from eager buyers during the holiday season.

During the Christmas season, says Whitfield, many Americans are brought into close contact with the freshness and fragrance of the forest as at no other time. And Christmas trees and greens have become an established custom for decorative purposes, both indoors and out.

Whitfield points out that almost all species of evergreens can be used for Christmas trees, but he warns that some command a better market price than others because of desirable characteristics. The needed characteristics for

trees used indoors are that the tree should hold its needles, it should have non-prickly foliage with a healthy green color, it must have a fragrant odor, and it should have branches that will regain their shape after being packed for shipment.

At the present rate of use, some people have asked if the trees will not soon be gone. As the type of tree used for Christmas becomes exhausted in the "wild" areas, they are being replaced with trees grown for that purpose in planted areas. This seems to be a profitable business for those who grow Christmas trees as a farm enterprise.

But before jumping into the business, warns Whitfield, there are several things a landowner may want to know. What kind of trees should be planted? Where can one get seedlings? On what kind of soil should they be planted? And most important, where can they be marketed, and what kind of profit can be expected?

Before planting any kind of trees, says Whitfield, a grower should check with his county farm agent. Whitfield says the agent can tell you the kind of plant, and he has a list of nurseries that may have the seedlings that you may need. In North Carolina Red cedar, Southern Balsam fir, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, and perhaps others may be planted as Christmas trees in different localities.

The soil in which such seedlings are planted should be chosen carefully, warns Whitfield. First of all, a soil test should be taken to determine the level of acidity and the level of phosphate. Spruces and Balsams will not do well on a non-acid soil. If the field has been limed within the last five years, it's not likely to be suited for Christmas trees, even though there are exceptions.

As far as marketing is concerned, there are a few wholesalers in larger cities who may take trees off your hands if you had large enough quantities to supply their demand. Small quantities could be sold locally, but this market is extremely limited, Whitfield points out. Before planting any trees, it may be wise to check with buyers to determine marketing possibilities, he adds.

If one is interested in Christmas trees as a farm enterprise, he will want to look at the costs and returns so he may compare it with

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