

Farm News

EXTENSION WORK
County Agent

Points Out Ways For Reducing Farm Risks

Diversification of crops and livestock production are forms of insurance that help take the risk out of farming, said Prof. Earl H. Hostetler, of State College.

Diversification of crops, he pointed out, means there will be less risk of losing heavily on one crop as a result of bad weather or low prices.

Crop rotations make it possible for the farmer to conserve and build up his soil so as to insure the future fertility of his land.

Livestock production provides an extra market for grain and other feed crops, encourages diversification by creating a need for home-grown feed, and supplies manure that will add fertility to the soil.

Feeding stock a balanced ration is a form of insurance against the risks of stock raising, Professor Hostetler continued. A good silo is another help.

In this State, the feeder who supplements his home-grown grains and roughages, as well as pastures, with cottonseed meal and hulls will make his other feed go farther, have better balanced rations, and produce higher quality animals.

Prof. Hostetler stressed the importance of a good silo, particularly the trench silo which is gaining popularity in North Carolina.

Silage is the cheapest source of nutrients, next to pasture, and it supplies stock and cattle with a succulent feed during the winter

months when feed is scarce or not to be had at all, he said.

October 31 Is Last Day to Comply '37 Soil Program

Don't forget that October 31 is the last date on which soil-building payments can be earned under the 1937 agricultural conservation program, warns E. Y. Floyd, of State College.

Farmers who have not yet earned the full amount of their soil-building allowance still have time to earn payments by seeding winter cover crops, turning down legumes, and carrying out other practices prescribed by the program.

In checking growers' compliance, Floyd said, it has been found that a number of farmers have not yet met all requirements for growing soil-conserving crops to qualify for diversion payments.

Winter cover crops such as crimson clover, Austrian winter peas, and vetch may be sown in October to earn soil-building payments and to help qualify a grower for his diversion payment, Floyd added.

Payments offered under the program for soil-building practices will largely off-set the cost of doing these things to improve and conserve the soil, he continued.

County farm agents have notified growers of the acreage of conservation crops they still need to qualify for diversion payments and of the amount of soil-building practices needed to earn the full

amount of their soil-building allowance.

Seeding crimson clover, Austrian winter peas, and vetch in October will count in the soil-conserving acreage for 1937 and also as a soil-building practice for which payment will be made at the rate of \$1.50 an acre.

Soybeans, velvet beans, or cowpeas turned under in October as green manure will earn the grower \$2 an acre as a soil-building practice.

Planting forest trees on cropland will earn \$4.50 an acre, and on other land \$5 an acre. Improving stands of timber by thinning according to methods recommended by the extension service, \$3.50 per acre.

Ground limestone or superphosphate may be applied to non-crop pasture land or in connection with the seeding of crimson clover, vetch, and Austrian winter peas.

Soil Conservation Strip Crop Upkeep

Guy A. Cardwell
Agricultural & Industrial Agent
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co.

Maintenance of strip cropping consists in maintaining a thick growth of crops in the protective strips and in keeping the strip in the proper position on the field.

What has been said regarding crop rotation maintenance will apply in large measure to strip crop maintenance. Weak places in the strip, that is, places where the vegetative cover does not furnish sufficient protection against erosion, should be reinforced with additional seed and fertilizer. Well rotted stable manure will always be found to be more effective for this purpose than commercial fertilizer. Where a small gully is beginning to form across the strip, it will be necessary to plow in topsoil and also to fertilize and to reseed. A little straw or other litter placed in the bottom of the gully before plowing is very effective. Where the gully has been plowed to assume larger proportions it may be advisable, in addition to the above treatment, to pave the area lightly with small brush anchored firmly to the ground.

When crops are rotated in strips the badly washed places or deep draws should remain in the close-growing crop, even when that strip is in row crop.

Prompt action in repairing a damaged section of a strip is especially important if strip cropping is to be effective in controlling erosion over a period of years.

Strips of permanent hay should be kept free of weeds by thorough preparation of the seed bed, by the use of only high quality seed in amounts sufficient to establish a thick growth the first year, and by judicious clipping. The hay should be cut at the proper time and high enough from the ground to avoid retarding the next growth. When it becomes necessary to plow up a permanent strip, such as alfalfa, and use for cultivated crops for one or more years, yepeseda or clover should be grown in the area between these strips during this period.

The contour lines laid out for strip cropping where there are no terraces should be maintained by plowing a back furrow at each plowing to make a slight ridge. The strips should remain in the same position relative to this ridge that is, astride the ridge.

It must be remembered that a soil conservation program is largely one of wise land usage. Each acre of land on the farm should be put to that use for which it is by nature best adapted. If it becomes apparent, therefore, that conditions, such as soil type or slope of the land, are such that strip cropping will not control erosion effectively even when persistent effort is being made to maintain the strips, the field should be retired from cultivation altogether and planted to trees or seeded solid to some soil building crop such as lespedeza or to some good hay or pasture mixture as the needs of the farm may warrant.

Rockingham County is boasting of an exceptionally good lespedeza crop this season, with practically all farms saving a nice crop of hay.

A check-up on the 4-H Clubs of Lenoir County shows that there has been a sizeable increase in the number of boys and girls in all clubs.

TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED BY STATE COLLEGE

QUEST: What should be done for colds in laying pullets?

ANS: Colds at this season of the year are usually caused by overcrowding, parasitic infestation, unbalanced diet, poor ventilation, or a drafty laying house. The first thing to do is to find the cause and correct it. The house should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and the birds given Epsom salts at the rate of one-half pound to three gallons of water. All of the most advanced cases should be destroyed as these seldom recover enough to make profitable birds. A good germicide should be kept in the drinking water at all times.

QUEST: How long should the heat be continued on the potato curing house?

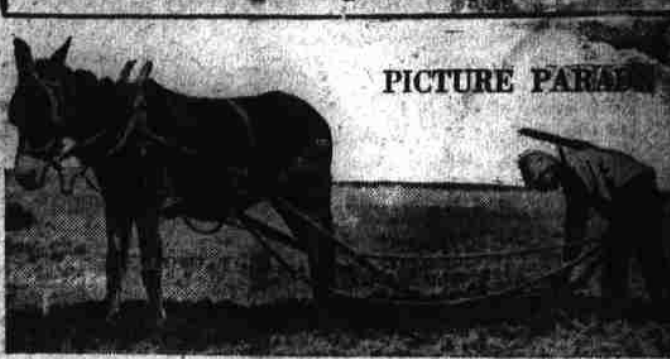
ANSWER: The house should be heated at all times during the curing and storage period, but the temperature should be lowered to 50 degrees after the curing is completed which usually requires

about two weeks. The curing temperature should be from 80 to 85 degrees F. and when the sprouts begin to appear the potatoes are cured. During the storage period the temperature should never go above 50 as high temperatures during the storage period causes excessive shrinkage.

QUESTION: How far apart should I place apple and peach trees in planting a home orchard?

ANSWER: The apple trees should be set at least 35 feet apart and the peach tree 25 feet between trees. In setting the trees be sure that the hole is wide enough to receive the roots without bending them from their natural position. The trees should be planted from one to two inches deeper than they stood in the nursery row, with the top soil placed around the roots and packed firmly. A good mulch of leaves, straw, lawn clippings or cottonseed hulls will conserve moisture and aid in maintaining vigorous growth.

Jews Are Fighting for a Homeland



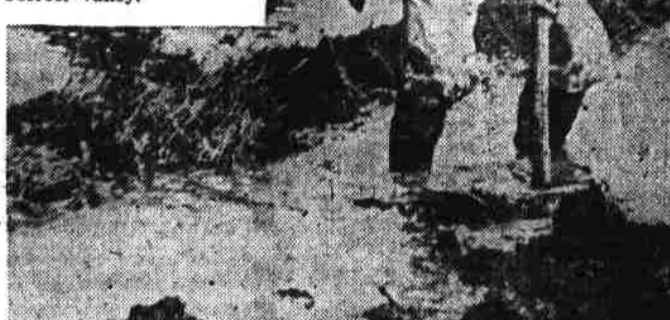
Ready at any moment to defend the strip which he is trying to convert to fertility is the Jewish settler of the Jezreel valley.

FIVE or six million Jews, uprooted by dictatorships and tossed about by economic storms, may have to depend upon the development of the Holy Land, under British mandate, as a solution to their difficulties. But they face the hostility of the Arabs living there, whose economic and religious interests conflict with theirs.

In North Palestine the Jews fence themselves in armed settlements as a protection against marauding Arab bands, while they try to work the poor land. With Britain anxious to get rid of her mandate, and with enemies in nearly every corner of the world, these "people without a country" are in a sorry plight.

The life is not an easy one, by any means. Back-breaking labor is not made any more bearable by constant threat of pillage and death.

Picture here is life in a fenced-in settlement in the Jezreel valley.



Settlers must carry rifles while working the swamp-infested plain.



Men and women take turns in guard duty behind the barbed-wire fence which protects the settlers from the raiding Arabs. A woman sentry is pictured here. Note her studious appearance, determined look and mannish military dress.

The Arabs Are Coming!

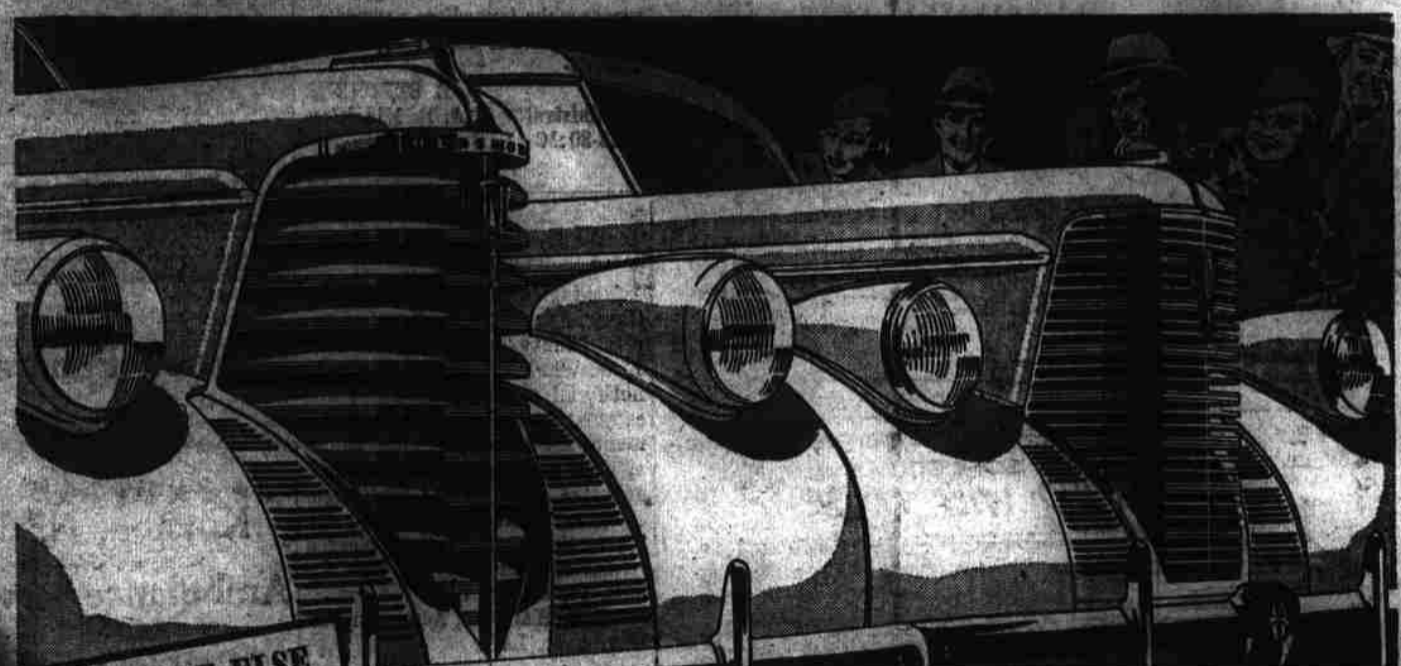


The dreaded Mohammedan raiders have been sighted by a neighborly settler, who immediately set up a signal. From her position in a high tower, this lookout follows them with powerful glasses.



The searchlight in this tower is the settlers' only means of communication.

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