

Growth Regulators May Be Labor Saver In Tobacco Crop

Tobacco growers may have a new labor-saving device in growth-regulating chemicals if field tests now being conducted by scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture bear out results of greenhouse experiments.

To get a good leaf yield, the tobacco farmer tops the plant at the flowering stage. Then he must go over the crop 3 or 4 times during the growing season and pinch off suckers that topping causes to grow at the base of the leaves.

Dr. Robert A. Steinberg, plant pathologist in the Division of Tobacco, Medicinal, and Special Crops, has recently completed a series of tests in which he used synthetic growth-regulating chemicals as a substitute for hand suckering. In his experiments, Dr. Steinberg applied the chemical—either in liquid or powder form—to the cut surface where the top was removed.

Results indicate that under greenhouse conditions one application to the cut surface at the time the plant is topped will retard the growth of the suckers. Studies have not yet been completed to determine the effect of the quality of the tobacco

which is an all important consideration under present market conditions. The compounds must be tried out under field conditions and practical field methods for application worked out before their use can be recommended to the farmer. United States Department of Agriculture scientists now have field trials in progress with Maryland tobacco varieties and with Mustang, a type grown from nicotine.

Pitt County Has 188 Veterans Enrolled In G. I. Farm Training

The 188 veterans in Pitt county who are participating in the Veterans Farmer Training program conducted by the department of Vocational Agriculture in this state's rural high schools may attend Farm Home Week, Aug. 25-29, on the State College campus, and receive credit on instruction. It has been announced by A. L. Teachey, State Supervisor of the program for the State Department of Education.

Veteran trainees who wish to attend the classes and field trips planned by Farm and Home Week personnel for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday—Aug. 26-27-28—are eligible to receive a maximum credit of

five hours a day. Mr. Teachey pointed out. He added that teachers of agriculture or assistant teachers will be required to attend with trainees and certify their attendance.

"I feel this is a good opportunity for these veterans to enlarge the scope of their regular training," Mr. Teachey said, "and also to get new ideas about farming that they probably would not get otherwise—particularly in the farm machinery phase of the week."

Since the week will become a part of the farmer trainee's regular course of instruction, there will be no change whatsoever in his allowances under the "GI Bill of Rights." The program for the three days for which credit will be given includes sections on field crops, livestock, forestry, poultry, agricultural economics, horticulture, agricultural engineering, and soil conservation. Tours to the various test farms in the vicinity of Raleigh will also be held, and eight demonstrations a day are scheduled in all phases of farming.

More than 12,000 veterans are enrolled in this one-year training program in North Carolina, according to Mr. Teachey, who expects a fair representation of them on the campus at this year's event. Wives of trainees are invited to attend and may register in advance.

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Junior Dairy Shows Begin In September

The largest development in North Carolina for the advancement of young people in the dairy industry will begin September 3, when the first Fall District Junior Dairy Cattle Show for 1947 will be held. A. C. Kimrey, Extension Dairy specialist at State College, announced this week.

These shows, which have aroused the interest of many North Carolina 4-H Club and F. F. A. members, have greatly contributed to the progress made in the state's dairy industry in recent years, Mr. Kimrey said. Young people who take part in these shows not only contribute to the present short food supply by producing these animals, but they also learn better practices in the breeding, feeding and management of dairy cattle.

Recognizing the value of such an educational program in future years, several business concerns and civic organizations throughout the state have contributed \$10,000 to be used in conducting these shows, Mr. Kimrey said, and without this generous support and cooperation it would not be possible for them to be conducted.

Following the Asheville show, the next one will be held in Greensboro, Sept. 9. Other shows are: Statesville, September 11; Lexington, September 13, and Durham, Sept. 17.

The places where shows will be held for Negroes and the dates they will be held are: Rocky Mount, Sept. 5; Fayetteville, Sept. 18, and Greensboro, Sept. 19.

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