



A good day for posing
It was a big day for picture taking at the old Antioch School in 1932. Every class had a chance to pose for the photographer. Here members of the second and third grade class stand patiently. The class members are: Miss Archie McPhaul, Mr. R.A. Smook, Ruby Lee Saunders, Margaret Hodgkin McNeill, Sara Currie, Mary Roach, Sara Margaret Parham, Hilda Barnes, Marie Maxwell, Sara Davis Fields, Nellie Rnuyer, Myrtle Ruth Jordan, Elizabeth Hodgkin, Little Cathern

McNeill, Rebecca Cash, Grace Herring, James Prevatt, Vernon McRacken, John Henry McNeill, John Henry Thomas, Jack McPhaul, Jack Rushin, Samuel Jack Autry, Cecil Alpinson, William McNeil, Henry McBryde, Raymond Clark, John Brigman and Edwin Conoly. Not in picture: Annie Laurin Barnes, Lois Luck, Jack Luck, Helen Parks and Allen Millan.

Gardening chores heavy in September

By Willie Featherstone, Jr.
County Extension Chairman

September is the time to take a break from all of those gardening chores—right? WRONG! Some of the jobs that should be performed now are as follows:

- Finish planting fall garden** - Gardeners in the eastern section of the state still have time to plant short season cool weather crops like leafy greens and turnips.
- Cleanup garden** - As soon as vegetables have been harvested or killed by frost, any remaining plant residue should either be removed from the garden or tilled into the soil. This management practice not only reduces insect and disease problems that may build in the residue, but improves the appearance of the garden as well.
- Take soil and nematode samples** - Gardeners have ample time now to add lime and till it into the soil after crops are harvested. Also, soil temperatures are in the ideal range for applying fumigants to control nematodes.
- Plant fall cover crops** - One of the best ways to replenish organic matter is by seeding a fall cover crop of annual rye, ryegrass, or wheat. Seeding rates are as follows per 1000 square feet: annual rye 1 to 2 pounds; rye and wheat 3 to 4 pounds. For best results these crops should be seeded between

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- September 15 and October 20. Most cover crops should be allowed to grow about kneehigh before being plowed under next spring.
- Irrigate garden** - Apply one inch or more of water per week as the weather dictates.
- Control insects and diseases** - Continue to observe vegetable plants every one to two days and use control measures when necessary. Pesticide sprays will give better control than dusts.
- Store leftover seeds** - Place seeds in sealed containers (coffee cans or jars) and store in refrigerator or freezer.
- Review and take notes of this year's garden** - This information will prove valuable in developing a rotation plan for next year's garden. Notations should be made about weather conditions, harvest dates as well as successes and failures. Be sure to make a note of any new cultural practice that should be tried in 1985.
- Enlarge garden site or start new one** - Preparation of the site should begin as soon as possible. Soils infested with wiregrass should be sprayed with Roundup herbicide 10-14 days prior to tilling.

Tobacco crop hard on Hoke County fields

By Donnie Harris
District Conservationist

Most of Hoke County's tobacco growers have completed harvesting their flue cured tobacco and have nearly completed selling their crop at the markets. The prices paid may not be as good as you were hoping for but compared to last year's prices you feel a little better about the 1984 crop season.

Hoke County produced over 1,200 acres of flue cured tobacco in 1984. The average production was 1,800 - 2,600 lbs. per acre. Most of the acreage is produced by a few farmers with an average of 15 acres per farm.

Tobacco is one of the least

acreage crops produced in Hoke County, but provides more income per acre than any other crop grown. It is one of the best producing crops, with good management, but it is also one of the worse crops from the stand point of soil erosion.

The erosion process occurs because:

- The need to cultivate the growing crop at an early stage of growth leaves the soil in a powder state which is easily washed off the fields from heavy rains that may occur. Not just the soil is being lost, but also fertilizer and herbicides applied for crop use are lost. This means a loss of valuable

nutrients for the plants use and a possible reduction in potential crop yield.

- Soil type is a key factor in determining the plant's ability to grow. Tobacco, like any other crop, is not suited for just any type of soil.

Some plants need a soil with a high moisture content while others prefer a medium to well drained soil.

Tobacco is one of those crops that prefer a medium to well drained soil. For Hoke County, this is a sandy type of soil which can be easily washed or blown off the fields during the winter and summer months.

mer months.

- Steep row grades for removing surface water increases erosion problems on many tobacco fields. Most of the steep row grades will be found in the northwest part of the county.

These fields are smaller and have steep slopes compared to the southern part of the county.

Little water may absorb into the soil after heavy rains causing a decrease in available water for plants use during the dry months. Row direction plays an important

role in reducing soil loss and increasing soil moisture content.

- No cover on the fields during the winter months increase soil loss from wind and water. Most tobacco fields suffer wind and water erosion year 'round. Harvesting of tobacco leaves and drying of tobacco stalks provide little or no protection from erosion.

Though the summer months are nearly over, there are still intense showers and thunderstorms to come. Tobacco fields unprotected from wind and water losses valuable topsoil, fertilizer and

organic matter year 'round. With this loss is also the loss of potential farm profit. With the high cost of producing a crop, today's farmers need to cut waste throughout their operation and be better managers and keepers of their natural resources.

Protect your tobacco fields from soil erosion by planting a small grain cover, improving row directions and using crop rotation in your operation. For more information on soil erosion, contact your Hoke County Soil and Water Conservation District office.

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