Extension News

Get Rid of Croosote

Woodburning stoves are becoming more prevalent. And, unfortunately, so are home fires that can result from improper care of that

Here are some suggestions on how to prevent such fires. A common cause is creosote

Four County Youth

Tour Plans

Four high school juniors will be selected for an all-expense-paid tour of Wash-ington, D.C. by Four county Electric Membership Corporation (EMC).

The trip, scheduled for June 9-15, is part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour which is held annually. One high school junior from each Bladen, Duplin, Pender and Sampson counties will be selected for the week-long

All high school juniors in the four-county area are eligible to apply. Each applicant is asked to write a short essay of 300 words or less on the topic "What Form of Engergy WoudlYou Promote for Research and Development if You Were a Government Policymaker, and Why?" The essay should be accompanied for a formal

application. Area high school guidance counselors have copies of the application forms as do all Four County EMC offices. Mailing deadline for entries is Feb. 28. Applications should be mailed to "Youth Tour," Four County EMC, P.O. Box 667, Burgaw, NC 28425.

Semi-finalists will be notified by March 15 to come to a central location for personal interviews by an independent judging panel. Finalists will be selected by April 15.

Four winners and four alternates will be chosen with the alternates being afforded the opportunity for an all-expense-paid week at the N.C. Cooperative Coun-

cil's Co-op Camp. Youth Tour winners will travel by chartered bus with other FMC-sponsored young people Washington, D.C. There they will join approxi-mately 1,000 other Youth Tourists from across the U.S.

Among the sites the group will visit are the White House, Smithsonian Institute, Library of Congress, U.S. Capitol Building, Lincoln Memorial, F.B.I. Building. National Zoo and Mount Vernon. The Youth Tourists will also meet individually with their congressional representatives, take a boatride on the Potomac River, and have dinner and see a play at the Kennedy Center for the Performing

Last year's area winners were Suzette Edge of Bladen County; Nanda English, Duplin County; Lisa Skinner, Pender County; and Kathy Newkirk. Sampson County.



Pick a sweet orange by examining the navel. Choose the

build-up inside the chimney. Creosote is a shiny, black substance that is a byproduct of wood combustion.
It is highly flammable, and if
it gets thicker than half an
inch, it is likely to ignite and
cause a chimney fire.

To prevent creosote buildup, burn dry wood only. Also, about once every week or ten days burn a load of wood in the stove with the drafts open. This will help burn away any creosote.

About twice during the heating season, go up on the roof to check out the chimney. Using a flashlight, peer down into the chimney to see if there's a creosote build-up.

If you suspect there is, clean the inside of the chimney. Use a short piece of chain to break the stuff off or tie a rope to a steel brush with a weight on it and slide that up and down the chim-

If there is more build-up than you know how to get rid of, call in a heating expert. Creosote build-up can also be a hazard with woodburning furnaces. But, it doesn't usually present much of a problem with fireplaces. Fireplace fires are usually so hot that there is not much chance for creosote to accumulate in a fireplace chim-

Layered Look for Comfort One of the tricks to staying warm in cold weather is staying dry. That means dressing to keep warm and not over-dressing so that you perspire. Then you feel clammy and cold rather than

toasty warm. The secret is to wear lightweight layers of clothes you can adjust or take off when you get too warm. Select those layered-look clothes with an eye out for built-in ventilation features.

For instance, winter jackets with zippers that open either direction are good choices. The two-way zippers allow you to keep comfortable and dry without taking off the entire gar-

For indoor clothes, look for tops that can be opened at the neckline rather than turtle or crew necks.

And there is a bonus. You won't have to sacrifice fashion for comfort. Cardi-gan sweaters, vests and jackets worn over other clothes offer a great winter look. If you get too warm, one or two layers can easily be taken off.

So, keep warm and dry this winter by adjusting your clothes rather than by burning up the thermostat. You will look fashionable and feel cozy. And you will save money on utility bills.

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WHEN THE

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