

# AGRICULTURAL NEWS



## Master Farmer in Each County To Be Rewarded By State

### LARGE BEEF CATTLE NO LONGER WANTED

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 23.—No matter how well finished the large beef animals are, they will not sell at good prices on the market at present. The best selling animals range from 800 to 1050 pounds in weight.

"The International Livestock Show recently held in Chicago has been responsible more than any other one thing for bringing this situation to a head and impressing farmers with the fact that no longer are large, coarse, unfinished cattle needed or wanted on the market," says Prof. R. S. Curtis, of the animal husbandry department at State College. "In fact, large cattle, no matter how well finished, will not sell at fair prices."

Prof. Curtis states that the handy weight beef animal ranging from 800 to 1050 pounds and well finished is the new standard insofar as beef animals are concerned. This means,

he states, that under North Carolina conditions, more attention must be paid to quality, food feeding and early maturity. Regardless of the fact that a poor quality of beef animals may be produced and sold at the less discriminating markets, the fact remains that the price paid for beef cattle is set by the large central markets and these markets determine the kind of animals which sell best. This condition has now reached its crest and a new era has come so far as beef production is concerned.

Prof. Curtis states that the large export steers of Virginia, many of which were produced in western North Carolina, are a thing of the past. This condition must be reckoned with in any plans being made for building a beef cattle industry in the State.

### Cut Growing Costs As Well As Acreage

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 23.—When the price of cotton is below the cost of producing it, either the cost of production must be lowered or farmers should stop growing the crop.

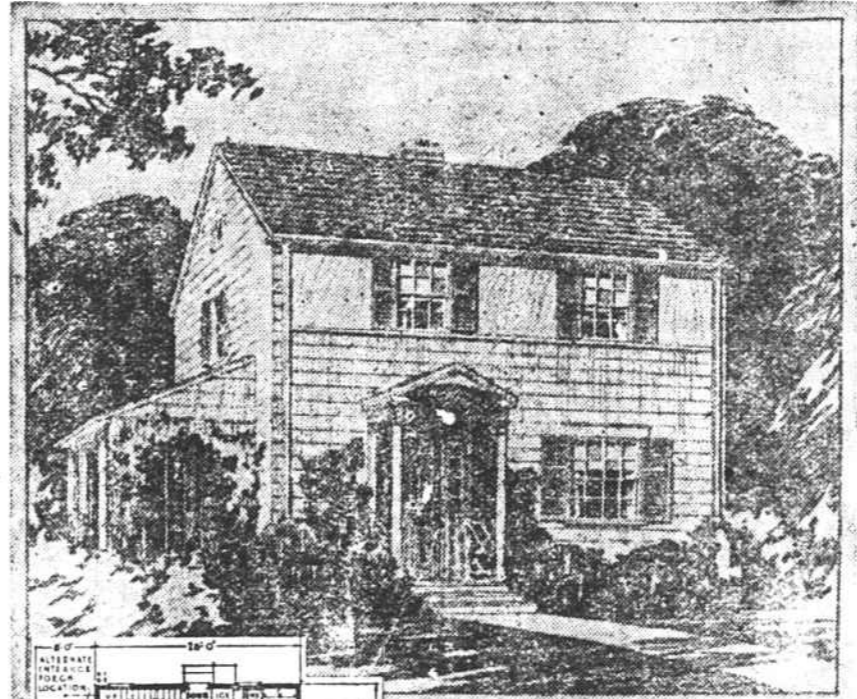
"We are apt to pay little attention to the cost of production, when cotton is bringing a good price," says P. H. Kime, plant breeder at State College. "So long as we are making a fair profit, we do not seem to care about these costs. Now that cotton is actually bringing less than it cost us to grow it, however, the cost of production must be lowered or we should stop growing the crop. We can reduce the cost per pound by growing more pounds per acre. A good plan to follow will be to reduce the acreage and make more cotton on the land which we devote to its cultivation."

One good way to produce more cotton per acre is to use good seed of standard varieties, states Mr. Kime. In tests made with twelve different varieties of cotton during the past season, the yields ran all the way from 412 pounds of lint per acre to 535 pounds of lint per acre. The length of staple varied with the variety.

It cost as much to produce 465 pounds of lint from the King variety which has a staple of seven-eighths of an inch as it did to produce 535 pounds from the Cleveland variety which has a staple of one and five-sixteenths inches. The only difference was in the cost of picking. Suppose, states Mr. Kime, that it cost 12 cents per pound to produce 535 pounds of lint per acre from the Cleveland variety. This is a cost of \$64.20 per acre. Dividing this by 465 pounds, we get 13.8 cents which is the cost of producing a pound of lint from King cotton.

Good seed, states Mr. Kime, can be secured at a cost of about \$1.50 per acre above the cost of ordinary seed. Fourteen pounds of lint cotton at 12 cents is \$7.50 or a 400 per cent return on the investment.

### New England Atmosphere With 1926 Improvements

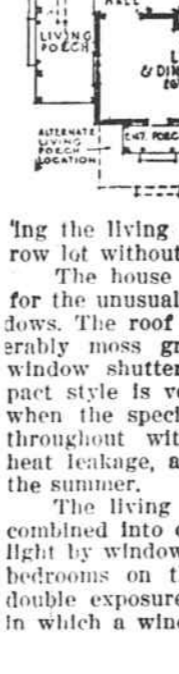


ANY one who has ever motored through the quaint sleepy towns of New England has fallen in love with the small houses that abound in that section of the country—neat, white, unpretentious and with a touch of reserve about them. Just such a house is the one pictured here. It is equally adaptable for town or country, and by merely shifting the living and entrance porches around can be built on a wide or narrow lot without spoiling its architectural character.

The house is sturdily built and has an exterior of wood siding except for the unusual stucco panels that start at the level of the second floor windows. The roof is of stained shingles, preferably moss green, in keeping with the window shutters. A house of this compact style is very easy to heat, especially when the specifications call for insulation throughout with celotex, which prevents heat leakage, and keeps the house cool in the summer.

The living and dining rooms are here combined into one large room flooded with light by windows on three sides. The two bedrooms on the second floor each have double exposure and an extra large closet, in which a window may be placed.

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### Progressive Farmer Proposes Plan to Honor Farmer of Most Service

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 23.—The master farmers, those who have made contributions to the agriculture and community life of their home sections will be sought out by the country men and women agents of the agricultural extension service at State College and will be rewarded by public recognition and a gold medal under a plan proposed by Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer.

Briefly, Dr. Poe's plan calls for the county home and farm agents to work with a local committee in searching out and deciding on the best farmer in the county. This man or woman shall not necessarily be the one who has made the most money but rather the one who has done most for his community, by example of good farming or by contributions to the community life. Those who are selected will then come on up through the five different districts and finally from those deemed worthy of the honor, about 10 or 15 will be selected for the gold medal.

The expenses of the plan will be borne by the Progressive Farmer and the medals will be awarded by this magazine. Dr. Poe plans to award at a large public gathering held at the time of the county agent conference next winter. Some of the influential public leaders of the State and Nation will be invited to the event. There will be a banquet and the entire proceedings will be broadcasted over the country by radio.

The agents have worked out a score card in cooperation with the Progressive Farmer editors and this card will be used as a basis for selecting the farmers to be rewarded.

By this means, it is hoped to give to deserving men and women some public recognition of their efforts in making rural North Carolina more attractive and a better place in which to live.

### Ashe County Grows Fine Quality Sheep

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 23.—Ashe County is one of the best naturally adapted livestock sections in North Carolina according to Prof. R. S. Curtis of the animal husbandry department at State College, who recently spent a week in this county with the farm agent, E. C. Turner, Jr., holding a series of meetings in the interest of beef cattle production.

Mr. Curtis has been studying livestock conditions over North Carolina for about fifteen years and during that time, he has traveled over all parts of North Carolina. His work has carried him to Ashe County many times, and he states that the county has always had fine beef cattle and excellent sheep. There are now some 18,000 head of sheep listed on tax books of the county. Nearly all of these animals are highly bred because the growers have used pure bred rams for many years.

"In my opinion, the sheep of Ashe County will compare favorably with the sheep of Ohio," says Prof. Curtis. "Ohio has long been rated as one of the best sheep producing states on the Continent considering the matter from the farm standpoint. I have found the sheep in Ashe County to be of just as good quality and to produce just as good wool as those from the Buckeye State."

Prof. Curtis states that there has been a slackening of interest in beef because of the low prices for beef during the past few years. A number of old beef cattle growers have gone into the dairy business but there now appears to be an awakening of interest in this work also and some of the more favorably located landowners will begin to give more attention to beef cattle. However that may be, he states, it is generally accepted that the sheep industry is on a firm footing and will expand greatly.

### Reclaims Wet Land By Using Explosive

GRAHAM, N. C., Dec. 23.—Wet, seepy, unproductive land on the dairy farm of V. T. Wood of Graham, route one, has been reclaimed by the use of pyrotol and now three years after the soil was blasted, excellent crops can be produced by the owner.

The reclaimed spot never produced a crop until the last three years, states Mr. Wood, but this year an average of two tons of hespedeza hay per acre was made. On November 1, when this farm was visited by A. T. Holman, agricultural engineer at State College, and W. Keer Scott, county agent of Alamance County, the area drained with pyrotol was in excellent shape while neighboring fields of the same breed soil type were too wet to plow because of one and one-half inches of rain falling on the previous day.

"This soil did not respond to surface or open-ditch drainage so in 1923, I decided to subsoil it with explosive which I had purchased for blowing stumps," says Mr. Wood. "With a large augur, I drilled holes through the soil and hard pan to rock about eight feet below the surface. These holes were placed eight feet apart each way. From the edge of this area to the branch, I had an open ditch so I placed a line of holes in the center of the ditch at the same depth as the others. One stick of pyrotol primed with cap and sufficient safety fuse to reach the top of the ground was placed in each hole and fired. The explosion broke up the hard pan and heavy subsoil but left the surface undisturbed."

As a result of this work, Mr. Wood refilled his open ditch and has never had any trouble with the area since. He has also used the explosive to drain a depression in another field.

"I find that dairying and diversified farming are proving successful for me but I am working to get each acre on the farm to produce economically. I do this by removing stumps, draining my land and maintaining the supply of humus in the soil," says Mr. Wood.

### Bigger Tobacco Profits From Good Plant Beds

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 23.—Good quality tobacco will bring a premium nearly every year, while poor quality tobacco will hardly pay the cost of production in most years.

"One of the most important factors in starting right with a tobacco crop is to have a good plant bed," says E. Y. Floyd, tobacco extension specialist at State College. "It is especially important to have a good tobacco plant bed this year since the prospect is for a large increase in acreage. The man who produces quality weed will be the man to make a large increase in acreage. The man who produces quality weed will be the man to make a profit, while the man who produces a poor grade will be in the same condition as the cotton farmers are now."

Therefore, suggests Mr. Floyd, the grower should use every precaution to secure suitable soil. The seed bed should be thoroughly prepared and it should be located in a warm place that early plants may be secured.

Leaf spot diseases of the crop may be prevented by treating the seed before planting with the formaldehyde solution. The solution is prepared by mixing one tablespoonful of formaldehyde with one pint of water. This solution is placed in a fruit jar and the seed dipped into the solution for ten minutes using a small cloth sack. On removal, the seed should be washed and spread out to dry. According to Mr. Floyd, this method, advocated by plant disease workers at State College, has proven very effective in controlling leaf spot diseases of tobacco. If no control is practiced, the diseases will do much damage.

"Take good care to produce strong, viable plants, free of disease, and the problem of producing quality tobacco is about half solved," says Mr. Floyd.

### Staircase Can Be Made Beautiful, Expert Says

Stairs are useful, they may also be beautiful, but surely they must always be safe. The combination can be obtained, and if a slightly higher cost is made necessary, it is worth while from the security, utility and beauty that this piece of furniture offers in the home.

Proportion of the stair is essential. Architects have found a simple rule that applies very well to stairs in homes. It goes like this:

"Take twice the height of the riser plus the width of the tread, from nosing to nosing, and the result must lie between 24 and 25."

Thus, for a seven-inch riser, we get 14 as the first result and this deducted from 25 leaves 11 as the preferred width of tread. If a ten-inch tread is wanted, then 25 minus 10 equals 15, and 15 divided by two equals seven and a half; a ten-inch tread and a seven and a half inch riser is a good combination.

Where there is need for mounting quickly, as perhaps in the attic stairs, an eight or nine inch riser is desirable. Then the tread should be nine-inch or seven-inch, respectively. Have the tread and the risers all of the same width and height throughout the flight, as there is chance of accident.

Winding stairs are another source of missteps and accidents. Another point to consider in building the stairs—which incidentally should be built completely like a piece of furniture and then put in place—is the head room. Not every one has a high hat, but on the head of a six-foot man it makes a fine test of the clear space above him as he goes up or down the stairs. Even if he can get by bare-headed without striking his head on the stair wall, that restricted place ought not to give him the sense of a low bridge. It is better to have a few feet less clear space or hallway in the second story than the feeling every time you come down the stairs that you must duck your head.

### Club Work Adds New Wealth To Our Farms

HENDERSONVILLE, N. C., Dec. 23.—The 184 junior club members of the Henderson County who carried their projects through successful completion this year have added \$4,600 in new farm wealth to the State.

This fact was demonstrated recently when 300 of the club members, boys and girls, gathered at the Hendersonville High School for their annual rally and to make reports of the results of their labors for the past season. The meeting was an important one and the club members took deep interest in all the proceedings. After the meeting had been opened with prayer by a local minister, Prof. Honeycutt of the Hendersonville High School made a talk in which he stressed the importance of club work. He was followed by Assistant County Agent E. D. Cody who reported on the activities of the year. He stated that the 184 members who had completed their work made an average profit of \$25 per member which was a total of \$4,600 for the county.

L. R. Harrill, club leader for State College also attended this meeting and gave a brief talk on the possibilities of club work and its meaning to Henderson County. A silver loving cup donated by S. S. Child was presented to the Ebenezer Club for having made the best record during the year. Because of the close con-

A good job for this winter will be to thin out the dead and weed trees in the farm woodlot. The straight rapid growing trees will then make better growth next year.

Marathon in 490 B. C. can't compare with North Carolina farm women who travel from 50 to 125 miles per year in bringing water to the home place in which to live.



## Ask a SOUTHERN RAILWAY man

THE 60,000 men and women workers on the Southern Railway System know that their welfare is bound up with that of the Southern—and that whatever benefits the Southern and the South benefits them.

Southern Railway men and women are business getters for the Southern. Talk to a Southern Railway man about your transportation requirements. He has behind him the support of his fellow-employees and of the management. If he does not have the information you desire, he will get it for you.

Southern Railway employees are bred and trained in the traditions of the South and of the Southern. They have the desire and ability to maintain those traditions.

# SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

The Southern serves the South