

# AGRICULTURE



Soil scientist, Allen Hayes (right) discusses a soil type with seventh graders (left to right) Scott Winslow, Scottie

Mitchell, Lyle Brown and Keith Wilson of Perquimans Union's Environmental Field Day.

## Environmental Day

The second annual Environmental Field Day was held last Wednesday at Perquimans Union School. The Field Day is sponsored by the Albemarle Conservation District. Each of the five counties in the district puts on one field day, usually for seventh graders.

The purpose of the program is to give kids a better understanding of the conservation of our natural resources; woodland, cropland, clean water and wildlife were all discussed by the agencies present.



David Rowe (right), a wildlife biologist with the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission shows 7th graders at Union School banding techniques for Canadian geese.

There were four agencies involved: The Soil Conservation Service, the NC Extension Service, the NC Forest Service and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Agency personnel spoke to the kids about some of that particular agency's work.

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission had a live Canadian goose and discussed their banding program. They also showed how they trap game for banding with a cannon net. The Soil Conservation Service used a model conservation farm to illustrate good conservation techniques on the land. A soil scientist told the youngsters about soils and how they were formed. The Extension Service had a computer on display and they also showed some pigs. The NC Forest Service talked about how trees grow and how to determine their age.

We hope that through this program, they have learned a little bit more about the conservation of our natural resources."

## Effect of farm prices

**BY JOHN SLEDGE**  
N. C. Farm Bureau Federation  
Unfortunately, some urban consumers, separated from the farm by generations, have come to think of the supermarket as the origin of their food. At the same time, many lawmakers with little or no knowledge of agriculture have the responsibility of making decisions which directly affect the lives of farmers.

The independent, self-sufficient farmer, realizing the need for understanding and support of those not involved in his industry, has worked hard to build his public image and relate the "farm story" to consumers.

He has made great strides in building bridges of understanding between farm and city—in personal contacts at mall promotions, fairs and farm tours, through speakers' bureau appearances before urban groups and in the schools. He has taken the time to get acquainted with members of his local news media and convince them that what was happening on the farm was NEWS—not just to farmers, but to everyone.

But one area has the farmer stumped. When farm prices go up, there always seems to be an excuse for retail food prices to rise—and this makes the headlines. Yet when farm prices decline, nobody cares—or even knows—except the farmer.

Whether farm prices are rising or falling doesn't really have that much effect on retail prices because only 27 cents of the food dollar is put on at the farm level. The other 73 cents is added after the products leave the farm gate.

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## Natures creatures return in the spring

\*Shasta daisies require room, which means you should divide any clumps over three years old this season.



\*Dahlia clumps should be divided into a single tuber before planting. Plant six inches deep, accompanied by a stout five to six foot pole for later support. Incorporate rotted manure in the planting hole, which should be in full sun, and mulch to conserve moisture.

\*Following strawberry harvesting, go over your patch with a lawnmower, feed with 20-20-20 fertilizer and mulch with sawdust and leaves.

### Bonzai!

Jodie got to the place she didn't like to be in her bedroom at all. The noise was driving her crazy, and when she started seeing specks of blood on the window pane she knew she had to do something quickly.

The robin unknowingly was committing suicide, a victim of its own natural springtime aggressiveness and territorial imperative. Day after day it attacked its own image reflected in the glass, starting at dawn and dive-bombing for hours...

O. K., so maybe I hyped the whole thing up a little, but have you ever had an experience like this? Unnerving, isn't it?

Try the solution Jodie got from Jeff at the Extension Office. She tied piepans on strings and hung one from each window. She laid rubber snakes on the windowsill. Sure enough, the robin disappeared for a while.

Now Jodie says he's come back—after all, it is his territory. But he stays near a tree in the yard and has

not attacked the window since. So it's working.

I went by there the other day and the pans were swinging in the breeze, the snakes casually draped over each sill. I'm glad her problem is solved, but between you and me, her house looks so, well, tacky, know what I mean?

### Always Room for Two More

We have two new kids on the block. I asked the Bird Lady next door if that lone remaining Canadian goose had missed his flight. She says he plain likes it here. He comes up for corn when he sees her, takes leisurely swims in the river, and has become great buddies with a lone Penguin duck who wanders around in formal-feathered attire, looking for all the world like someone all dressed up with no place to go. Well, anyway, he decided not to go north either. So these two have settled in with some of our oldtimers, ducks, hummingbirds, martins, seagulls, a couple of others and the like.

And that's the part that constantly amazes me, though I don't know why it should. I am constantly amazed at the consistency of nature, particularly when old friends return in the spring. Jodie's robin, for instance—he knew where he belonged and fought to retain his old haunts.

Edna's wren, for instance. He has returned for the third straight year to her screen porch. But it was a cool spring, and Edna hadn't put his favorite hanging fern out in his favorite corner. That surely put the wren out. Did he get discouraged? Of course not. It's nesting time and that's the way things have to be. He started stalking the porch, perching on the picnic table, squatting on the

window sill, gazing steadily at Edna through the kitchen window as she prepared each meal. She finally gave in, and put the fern out, cold weather or not.

Well, the family is back, Mama, Papa, and the eggs. Nobody froze, and Papa wren is chirping under his breath, "I told you so."

Our mother duck Miranda, for instance. Last year she moved into the apartment directly underneath

the indoor-outdoor motor on our boat. Easter Sunday, Julian for some reason, decided to check around, just in case history was going to repeat itself. Of course it did. She's back, same spot, same insulation, new eggs. Julian is fuming, muttering under his breath, "never again."

Miranda sits preening her feathers, knowing she got her way, quietly honking under her breath, "I told you so."

**Thank You Voters Of Perquimans County**  
Your confidence, your vote and support in the May 8th Democratic Primary is sincerely appreciated.  
**Lester H. Simpson**

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**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**  
Pursuant to Section 160A-505 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Town Council of the Town of Winfall will consider a resolution to designate the Town Council to undertake the powers, duties and responsibilities of a redevelopment commission. This designation will be made pursuant to the following fundings:

1. Blighted areas as defined in G.S. 160A-503 (2) exist within the corporate limits of the Town of Winfall, and
2. The redevelopment of such areas is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety, morals or welfare of the residents of the Town of Winfall.

The Town Council will consider the resolution of designation of a special meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., May 28, 1984, at the Town offices.

**Lloyd R. Morgan**  
Mayor

**FINANCIAL PLANNING WATCH YOUR TAX PLANNING**

In a recent ruling the Internal Revenue Service has agreed to allow an overpayment on your 1983 tax return to apply toward your April 15th, 1984, estimated tax payment, even though you file the tax return at some later date on extension. This is a new ruling and reverses the IRS's prior position.

On a different note, the new tax bill before Congress proposes several significant tax laws changes.

Interest free loans among family members and between shareholders and corporations have been a much disputed area between taxpayers and the Internal Revenue Service. Under the bill, interest free loans from corporations to shareholders and employees and loans between family members will all be treated more favorably for the government.

The bill proposes that there be no deduction for the use of business cars, planes, or yachts, unless the taxpayer can show that the vehicle is used 90% or more for business.

The \$100,000 estate tax exclusion on pension plan and IRA benefits would be eliminated.

Mutual fund capital gains may be taxed less favorably as ordinary income.

The present 15 year life for cost recovery on most real estate would be lengthened to either 18 or 20 years.

The taxpayer benefits in the proposed legislation are rather minor. The capital gain holding period would be reduced from one year to six months and those taxpayers using spousal IRA accounts would have a higher contribution level.

WE encourage you to contact us in reference to the resulting legislation and any effect it may have on your tax planning.

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