

## President of Bennett College Since 1926

David D. Jones, A. B., M. A., LL.D., and member of Phi Beta Kappa, President since 1926 of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro. Under his dynamic leadership and with the sponsorship of the General Education Board and the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, Bennett has developed into a distinctive and flourishing college. The newest addition to its campus buildings, the Anne Merner Pfeiffer Chapel and Little Theater, will be dedicated November 2.

# Harvesting, Curing And Storing Sweet Potatoes

At this season of the year farmers are preparing to harvest their potatoes. If not, it should be the concerned duty of all Vocational Teachers to advise them on the best suggested the. All farmers like to get the best possible yield and by doing so they do not start digging potatoes until the first killing frost, as a result the potatoes fall to keep.

The price of potatoes as a rule is much higher in August, September and early October than during late October and November. With that in mind the farmer may be advised to sacrifice part of his yield and maturity to get a better price.

### When To Dig.

It has been concluded by experiment station that potatoes dug before the frost kills the vines keep much better than those dug after the vines are killed. With that in mind all farmers should be advised to dig their potatoes before the first killing frost, if the frost should kill the vines they should be cut and the potatoes should be dug immediately, because decay sets in on the dead vine and may pass down to the roots.

### How To Harvest.

Storing should be thought of and plans made before the individual starts harvesting the crop. The best procedure should be used to avoid cutting and bruising the potatoes. The following procedure may be used:

1. Cut the vines with a hoe.
2. Bar of the line of potatoes with a turnplow. (Best result is obtained if a rolling coupler is attached to the beam, procedure No. 1 may be omitted if the vines are not too thick)
3. The potatoes are upturned by the use of a large turnplow.
4. They are scratched out by hand and left on the surface long enough to dry.
5. They should be graded as they are gathered so as to eliminate extra handling.

- a. Put the market potatoes in one basket.
- b. Put the seed potatoes in another basket.
- c. Put the cut and bruised potatoes in another basket.

Note: The potatoes should never be dumped in a wagon bed.

### How To Storage.

Since quite a bit of experimental work has been done on curing and storing sweet potatoes, it is not necessary to rush them on the market in the fall when the supply is greater than the demand. On the other hand the farmer should be able to have a larger per cent. of his crop, if he uses care in handling and by using the proper type of storage.

In order to keep potatoes in the best condition they must be:

1. Well matured.
2. Handled with care.
3. Well cured after they are put in the storage.
4. Keep uniform temperature and low humidity after potatoes are cured. (From 50 to 55 degrees.)

### Different Methods of Storage.

I. The Pit or Banking method: These methods may be used on farms where there is not a storage house and the production is small.

#### I. BANKING:

- a. Select a well-drained spot and cut a circular trench, slightly built up the ground on which the potatoes are placed.
- b. Place dry pine straw on the built up ground, place Vent in the bottom as shown in Fig. II in the drawing, and heap the potatoes in a cone shape.
- c. Cover the potatoes over with dry straw. Over the straw place corn stalks or boards to support the soil which is to be put on before cold weather sets in.
- d. Allow potato bank to stand for a few weeks (as long as the weather is warm) to dry out.

- e. A Frame about 12x12 spiked together using 1 foot by 8 foot boards should be placed in the side of the bank to permit the individual to get potatoes without upsetting the bank.
- f. A thin layer of soil should be added at first, with a ventilator left at the top and when the weather turns off cold another layer should be added.

Note: Make several banks, never put over 25 bushels in one bank. The ventilator should be covered to keep water out and a small ditch or drain left around the bank.

#### II. PITTING:

The pit method is somewhat like the banking method, only it is larger and the soil is excavated from practically nothing, to two feet, depending on the drainage site. The size of the pit is governed by the quantity of potatoes to be stored and severity of the weather. Where the weather is likely to be very cold, the pit may be two-thirds to one-quarter as broad as long; on the other hand, if the weather is the opposite the pit should not be half as broad as long.

The soil and straw should be placed on the pit method just as pointed out in the Banking method, always put the soil on before the ground freezes. This applies to Banking and Pitting.

The Ventilator should be constructed so it can be covered to shed off snow and rain. If the pit is over 10 feet long, another Ventilator should be added.

#### TOBACCO BARN:

In the tobacco section the barn may be converted into a curing and storing house for potatoes, by rearranging the tarpoles and putting in a floor that can be moved easily. Cure with a temperature of 80 to 85 degrees with plenty of ventilation for about two weeks. In this case the potatoes should be stored in bushel crates or baskets so they may be easy to handle. Two or more farmers can co-operate in arranging a tobacco barn and divide the cost of changing and operation.

Note: If you are interested in this type of storage write the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

Raleigh, N. C. for a description, converted Tobacco Barn Sweet Potatoes, Curing and Storage, No. 56.

#### STORAGE HOUSE:

The storage house is the most desirable place to store sweet potatoes. However the cost to construct a house on the average farm is too great. Unless the farmer is producing potatoes on a commercial basis.

A co-operative storage house is suggested for communities where potatoes are produced on a small scale. With the idea of adding more houses as the need arises. This house could be constructed so each farmer or member would have a section and the cost of construction and operation could be divided among the members.

The co-operative idea is favored, but where co-operative organization cannot be set up, small unit houses may be constructed out of rough lumber or logs and can be made airtight and properly ventilated. Farmers Bulletin 970 U. S. Office of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. has some good suggestions on storage houses.

If the storage house is used much care should be taken in Heating and Ventilation. The common stove may be used, but the house should be tight so the temperature can be the same all over the house. The stove may be placed in the center of a small house; sometime it might be advisable to place the stove at the north end of the house if the temperature is hard to regulate. If a larger house is used a stove should be placed at each end.

Note: Two stoves should take care of 1,200 square feet.

The heat should be started in the house when the first potatoes are put in and kept 80 to 85 degrees for a period of 10 days or two weeks. When the buds begin to show the potatoes are cured. The temperature should be reduced slowly until it reaches 50 degrees and remain about that as long as the potatoes stay in the house. In using the co-operative method all farmers should put their potatoes in the barn at the same time.

#### References.

- Sweet Potato Storage—U. S. Farmers Bulletin 970, Washington, D. C.
- Potato Storage and Storage Houses—U. S. Farmers Bulletin 247, Washington, D. C.
- Extension Circular No. 250, N. C. State Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C.
- Revised Bulletin No. 243—N. C. Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C.
- Circular 57, December 1924, Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, A. and M. College, Miss., J. R. Ricks, Director.
- Harvesting, Grading, Storing and Marketing Sweet Potatoes—Ext. Circular No. 32 Revised March 1924, Mississippi A. and M. College, Mississippi.
- Home Storage of Vegetables—U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Bulletin No. 879.
- Sweet Potatoes for Home Use—Circular 175, Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson, S. C.

#### BOOKS

- Productive Farm Crops, by E. G. Montgomery, J. B. Lipplcott Co., New York, PP. 288-300.
- Southern Horticulture Enterprises, by K. C. Davis, J. B. Lipplcott Co., N. Y. PP. 235-239.
- Vegetable Crops, by H. C. Thompson, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., N. Y., PP. 372-402.
- Southern Field Crops, by J. F. Duggar, The McMillan Co., N. Y., PP. 365-388.

#### BLUE PRINTS.

1. Apple and Potato storage, No. 123.
2. Sweet Potato House, Ext. 5020. Sheet of 1.
3. Sweet Potato House, Ext. 5179. Sheet of 1.
4. Sweet Potato House Ext., 5061. Sheet of 1.

Note: All from North Carolina Extension Service, State College Station, Division of Farm Engineering, Raleigh, N. C.

## A. AND T. GROUP HEARS CITY JUDGE

In recognition of Navy day and national defense, Judge E. Earle Rives of Greensboro municipal-county court spoke at the regular A. and T. chapel hour yesterday morning. He was commissioned by Governor J. M. Broughton to deliver the message.

Judge Rives said that due to the partial failure of the Washington naval conference of 1922, America is arming again. "I thank God there are men who would go to war to defend freedom and justice," he said.

President F. D. Bluford presided.

## DUDLEY TO PLAY SALISBURY TEAM

Dudley high school's Panthers play their third home game of the season here Thursday afternoon when they play Salisbury at Memorial stadium. The Salisbury eleven has a good record while Dudley has appeared strong in its games this season. The kick-off is at 3 o'clock.

#### THAT'S ONE WAY

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO—Pheasant hunting for the first time, Walter Wittwer used two boxes of shells but failed to connect in 50 attempts. . . Then a pheasant popped out at his feet and he scooped it up in his hands.

## NEGRO POSTS \$1,000 BOND FOR ALLEGED ASSAULT

Jack Wilkerson, 21-year-old Negro of near Gibsonville, posted \$1,000 bond yesterday for his appearance in Guilford Superior court November 10 to face charges of assault with intent to commit rape upon Mary Lou Sutton, nine-year-old white child who lives with her aunt and grandmother, Miss Daille Andrews and Mrs. J. T. Andrews, near Gibsonville.

The Negro was bound over to Superior court yesterday by Magistrate J. E. Paschal.

The offense allegedly occurred Thursday afternoon near the Negro's home, which the child passed on her way home from school. Wilkerson allegedly went through a wooded area to meet the child to commit the offense after she had passed his home.

The Negro was arrested Saturday by county officers, following the alleged crime two days earlier.

## NOTED FLIER WILL TALK AT A. AND T.

Col. Hubert Julian, Negro flying ace and internationally known as the Black Eagle, will speak at A. and T. College tomorrow at 10 a. m.

Colonel Julian is the only member of his race to obtain a flying license by virtue of world war services. He was the sole member of the Ethiopian war. In 1924, he made the first attempt to cross the Atlantic but was forced down two and a half hours from his starting point.

On September 16, 1940, he challenged Marshal Hermann Wilhelm Goering, chief of the Nazi air force to fight an aerial duel at 10,000 feet above the English channel.

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