

Winter Beet Keeps Farmer On Payroll

Winter is slowdown time on most crops farms, and this often means income slows down, too. But the money needn't stop completely.

There are cold season projects, such as wintering beef calves, that can keep the crops farmer on the payroll.

North Carolina State University extension specialists cite the calf enterprise as one of the most widely adapted winter projects available. Contrary to the popular opinion that bigness is

necessary in the cattle business, small farms can participate in the wintering program.

A typical wintering program involves buying beef calves in September or October, keeping them about 200 days and selling them as stockers in April.

Calves are usually fed silage, and some grain and protein supplement. Many crops farmers stretch their feed supplies by letting the cattle glean harvested fields in late fall and early winter.

The NCSU specialists point out that there is a ready market for stockers in the spring. Many Tar Heel stockers are shipped to other states to be finished. Others go to local feeders who finish the animals to slaughter weight by feeding limited grain while the cattle are

still on pasture. Demand for stockers to go on grass each spring is expected to continue strong.

Wintering calves has several advantages for some North Carolina farmers. It can make profitable use of winter labor, for one thing. It can utilize existing feed, such as field gleanings, that would otherwise be wasted. And the initial investment for facilities for wintering calves is low compared to other livestock operations.

The aim of a sound wintering program is to put one to one and a quarter pounds of weight per day on the calves. Care has to be taken in selecting calves with growth potential and extra precautions have to be taken in deciding how much to pay for the animals. A bad buy can ruin chances for making a profit.

The number of calves purchased should be based on the supply of feed available. One factor that makes the stocker program easy to plan from year to year is that the feed is produced before the calves are bought.

Year in and year out over a long period of wintering calves, a farmer who buys wisely and manages his animals well can expect a net return of about \$20 per stocker sold. He should be set up to take less than that in some years. In others, the net may be larger.

It's not a "get rich" kind of wintertime farming but it can keep many farmers on the payroll between crop seasons.

County extension agents can provide farmers with detailed information on wintering calves.



COMPLETES TRAINING—Michael B. Black, son of Mrs. Virginia Black of Rt. 1, Grover, N. C., has returned to The Citadel, Charleston, S. C., after completing his four-week Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps field training encampment at Eglin AFB, Fla. During the encampment, cadets become familiar with life and activities on Air Force bases and have the opportunity to examine career fields in which they might wish to serve as officers. Other highlights include survival training, aircraft and aircrew indoctrination, small arms training and visits to other Air Force bases. Cadet Black, a member of the class of '73, is studying for his B.S. degree in business administration.

Juniors Launch Magazine Sale

Annual sale of magazines and family books by the high school junior class is now underway. The drive begins today and will be conducted through October 11th.

Juniors will use proceeds from the sale to defray expenses of the annual junior-senior prom.

President of the junior class is Donald Ledford, vice-presidents are Myron George and Mike Toms, Laura Plonk is secretary and Keith Parker is treasurer.

Chairmen and co-chairmen of the project in the various homes are: Pam Arrowood and Mike Bennett, Mr. Bates; Irelou Easley and David Collins, Mrs. Goforth; Jan Fryer and Debbie George, Mr. Hambricht; Lynn Blanton and Arlene Boyd, Mr. Froneberger; Thomas Hinton and Beverly Hughes, Mrs. Hoyle; Jimmy Jolly and Jody Lublaneski, Mrs. Lackey; Queenie Mackey

and Theresa McDowell, Mrs. Moss; Dennis Trout and Diane Swafford, Mr. Silver; Avis Owens and Connie Pearson, Mrs. Raymer; Roxanne Rhea and Deana Saunders, Mrs. Reid; and Nancy Wiesener and Charles Welch, Mrs. Vance.

Members of a Skit committee to arrange a skit during the promotion are Queenie Mackey, Pam Arrowood, Lynn Blanton, Irelou Easley, Bobby Ware, Thomas Hinton, Susan Bumgardner, Donald Ledford, Myron George, Keith Parker, Freida Sexton and Mike Toms. Frankie Stokes is chairman of the contact committee and members of the poster committee are Lou Bryant, Thomas Hinton, Irelou Easley, Pam Arrowood, Sharon Plonk and Laura Plonk.

Pick Clean, Campaign Slogan

"Pick it clean," could be the campaign slogan for North Carolina cotton growers this season. There is every incentive for farmers to harvest and sell every pound possible.

Last year, an estimated 25,000 bales were left in fields. Much of it was lost as a result of improper harvesting procedures, according to Glenn Toomey, extension cotton specialist at North Carolina State University.

"We simply can't afford another loss like that in 1971," Toomey said. "There is too much at stake to waste so much of our total production."

The marketing outlook is the brightest in years. There is a nationwide campaign going on within the industry to get farmers to produce a big crop and to harvest as much of it as possible.

Supplies of high quality cotton are down. This year's production is being counted on to help protect cotton's position in the fiber market.

Toomey explained that about 16 per cent of the 1971 production in North Carolina was left in the field. "We can't expect to reduce this loss to zero," he pointed out, "but we would like to see it reduced by about 10 per cent. We should be able to harvest 94 per cent of the crop."

This can be done, the specialist believes, if farmers and machine harvester operators will pay more attention to proper picker adjustment and operation.

A cotton production guide containing harvesting tips is available at county extension offices. Equipment owner manuals are another source of helpful information.

NCSU extension specialists,

McNeil Charged After Accident

An 18-year-old Bessemer City man, Dennis McNeil, was charged with driving while intoxicated Friday night after his 1970 Chevrolet struck a utility pole near Kings Mountain high school.

The accident occurred at 10:15 p.m. Officer Tommy King reported that McNeil's car went out of control after crossing a creek near Bennett Brick and Tile. The car turned around and slid 89 feet before striking the pole.

King estimated damages at \$1,500 to McNeil's car and \$35 to the utility pole.

Two passengers in the car, 16-year-old Olanda Alexander and 20-year-old Matthew Smith, both of Bessemer City, were injured and taken to Kings Mountain hospital.

Both McNeil and Alexander were members of the Bessemer City high school basketball team last year.

Four other accidents were reported last week, but none resulted in serious injuries.

At 7:50 a.m., Thursday, officer L. D. Beattie was called to a wreck at the intersection of West King and Watterson streets.

Beattie's report stated that a 1968 Ford, operated by William Kenneth Smith of 611 Meadowbrook Road, Kings Mountain, pulled into the path of a 1969

in cooperation with county agents and local equipment dealers, are conducting picker clinics throughout the state to assist farmers and custom operators.

"We hope that all of the effort being put into improving our harvesting efficiency will result in a much smaller loss than the 25,000 bales we lost last year."

international truck driven by Raymond Harold Calder of Salisbury.

Smith told officer Beattie that he had the green light and Calder said he was pushing the light. No charges were made. Damage to Smith's car was estimated at \$1,200 and damage to the truck was listed at \$25.

Officer Beattie investigated another accident at 7:55 a.m. Friday on North Watterson Street, 75 feet north of its intersection with West Ridge.

A six-year-old Kings Mountain boy, Calvin Eugene Goode of 413 Ellis Street, was struck by a '65 Chevrolet driven by Reva Griggs Boggs of Shelby as he walked along the sidewalk with several other children.

Beattie's report stated that young Goode ran into the front fender of the car as it passed him.

No charges were filed.

A minor mishap on Catherine Street Sunday at 3:50 p.m. resulted in \$60 damage to a 1971 Mercury driven by Phillip Edward Bradford Jr., of 212 Catherine Street.

Bradford and Steve Thomas Moore, 25, driving a 1971 Ford, both backing from the drive of the Catherine Street home when the mishap occurred.

No charges were made by investigating officer M. M. Hunter. Police were called to the scene of two accidents Monday afternoon.

At 1:10 p.m., Mrs. Evelyn Weaver Wilson of 809 Monroe Avenue hit a 1969 Ford owned by the U. S. Government as she attempted to pull her 1971 Ford into a parking space on Piedmont Avenue.

Damages were listed as \$500 to Mrs. Wilson's car and \$100 to the parked car.

No charges were filed by investigating officer Tommy King.

A sign at Oates Stull Service on East King was damaged \$1,100 at 1:30 p.m. Monday when a tractor-trailer truck driven by Harley Q. Brown of Dover, Delaware hit it while attempting to turn from King Street onto Cleveland Avenue.

Brown told investigating officer Bob Hayes that he was watching another car and failed to see the sign.

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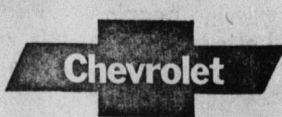
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