

News of Interest to Farmers of Johnston and Adjoining Counties

State Needs More Sheep And More Beef Cattle

For the mountain section of North Carolina the production of feeder cattle should be continued in spite of present low prices for beef and in the piedmont and coastal counties, the plan of fattening such feeder cattle for market might be a profitable method of using the surplus feedstuffs.

Where sufficient pasture can be grown economically, the keeping of a cow herd and the fattening and marketing of the calves at from 8 to 12 months of age will offer a dependable source of income. If it is impractical to keep a breeding herd, it is probably best to buy the feeder cattle from the mountain breeding grounds and fatten them for market, especially where the buyer has sufficient feed on hand.

The mountain area as well as the foothills and piedmont section is also ideally suited to the production of sheep. Every piedmont farm should have a farm flock of sheep and in the higher altitudes the production of market lambs might continue to be a good farm program.

These give in a brief way some of the recommendations made by farmers attending the regional agricultural conference held in the western part of the State this winter. These western farmers say there are good permanent pastures in the mountain and foothill counties. The climate is favorable; the drainage is adequate and there is an abundance of land too steep and rough for the profitable production of other crops. Especially in these areas should the growth of sheep and beef cattle be promoted.

Down in the lowlands, the growers should buy the feeder cattle for fattening and keep only small flocks of sheep.

These suggestions will be included in the livestock program of State College during the coming few years, says L. I. Case, animal husbandman.

RED LEAF COTTON IN DANGER SIGNAL

The cotton growers who want to learn how easily different cotton varieties mix with each other might study the effect of red leaf in a community. Seldom are any fields of red leaf cotton found in North Carolina, only one or two in any community, but the effect of these few fields is seen for miles round about.

"When we find a field of the red leaf cotton in a community, there is a large percentage of the fields of other varieties showing a mixture of red plants," says P. H. Kime, plant breeder at State College. "The amount of the mixtures may vary from an occasional plant up to 20 percent or more. Planting seed saved from a bale of cotton following a bale of the red leaf will contain from 18 to 20 percent of mixture and some mixture will be found in the second, third, fourth and on up probably to the tenth bale unless the seed roll is dumped and the gin cleaned after handling the red leaf variety."

Plant breeder Kime has also found some mixture in the field due to pollen mixing by bees and insects. In one community where all the growers have united to grow an improved variety producing a good medium staple of one inch to one and one-sixteenth inch, a grower continues to plant the red leaf cotton. The other growers find it impossible to keep their improved seed pure even though they take every precaution at the gin. This red leaf cotton is inferior and is not proof against the boll weevil as some uninformed growers seem to think.

Requests For Course In Child Training

Requests have come to the Home Demonstration office for a course in child training or parental education. The home agents believe that this is one of the biggest phases of home demonstration work because the scientists tell us that a child's idea of right and wrong is largely settled before the child is old enough to go to school, in fact, the first three years of a child's life are now considered the most important in child training. That makes it impossible for the parents to lay the blame on the schools or the church for failure in child development. We hope that there are a great many who will be interested in a class which is being started through the Home Demon-

FERTILIZER ESSENTIAL IN GROWTH OF TOBACCO

(JOHN R. MORRIS)

E. Y. Floyd, state extension tobacco specialist, has just completed a recent speaking tour of several of the important tobacco producing counties in this state. At every gathering, he urged the farmers who were able to buy fertilizer sufficient only for four acres of tobacco to properly fertilize four acres instead of stretching the fertilizer over eight acres.

Even with reduced acreage this year the outlook for tobacco is not bright, said Mr. Floyd. He said the carryover and the drop in consumption will make for as much tobacco next fall as was on hand the past fall.

"Make good quality tobacco," advised the specialist. "Farmers may do this," he added, "using seed which will produce cigarette tobacco, using best mixtures of fertilizer, and by proper cultivation."

To those farmers who have not planted their plant-bed or who last week plowed up the seed plot for fear that the seed would come up too rapidly before transplanting time, a suggestion is made that they secure high grade seed such as White Stem Orinoco, Cash, Bananza, or Jamaica seed. Early preparations should be made so that plenty of large plants will be available at transplanting time. A late tobacco crop is always one of poor quality.

"Our demonstrations and experiments in this state have shown that on sandy loam soils, best results are secured by using 1,000 to 1,200 pounds per acre of a fertilizer mixture analyzing 8 per cent phosphoric acid, 4 per cent ammonia and 6 per cent potash. The ammonia should be derived as follows: 50 per cent from inorganic materials, such as nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia; and 50 per cent from organic materials, such as cottonseed meal, dried blood, fish meal, high grade tankage and Peruvian guano. Two per cent of the potash should be derived from high grade muriate of potash and four per cent from high grade sulphate of potash, or preferably sulphate of potash-magnesia," Mr. Floyd said.

"For the heavier soils of the Piedmont region, the same ingredients may be used as above, increasing the phosphoric acid content in the mixture up to 10 per cent."

Turning to cultivation, Mr. Floyd continued: "The proper cultivation of tobacco is very important. By the ridge method of cultivation you develop a splendid feeding-root system that will grow and mature the tobacco under average conditions. This method of cultivation over an average of four years' demonstrations has given us an increase in yield in value to about \$60.00 per acre over the common practice, known as the flat method of cultivation. The ridge method of cultivation is explained and illustrated in Extension Folder No. 27 which may be secured by writing to the Division of Publications, N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C."

stration department, in cooperation with the Woman's clubs, in a child training course led by Mr. Herbert Massey, pastor of the Baptist church of Smithfield. Mr. Massey was head of the department of Sociology of Limestone college before coming to Smithfield. The course will be planned from the standpoint of what science has to tell the homemaker in her many problems of child rearing. The first two lessons will be taken up with the general discussion of the field of child psychology. Then the class will vote on various topics to be discussed. The course will be planned with a lecture followed by an open forum and general discussion of particular problems. The first class will be held in the Smithfield Woman's club rooms on Friday afternoon, February 12, at 2:30 o'clock. Each woman's club in the county is asked to send one or two representatives as a member of this class who will report to their own clubs something of what is being done. In the spring we hope to have a county wide meeting in which everybody, men and women both, are invited with a speaker from Raleigh. This is a new phase of Extension work and anyone interested, please come and enroll at the first meeting, if possible.

Rachel Everett,
Home Dem. Agt.

Lime In Fertilizers Is New Farm Idea

The use of ground limestone as a part of the fertilizer is a new farm practice winning many followers in North Carolina at the present time.

Writing recently in the Monroe Journal, Zeb Green, a careful observer and writer about agricultural matters, reports on the use of ground limestone as a filler and gives instances where good farmers in his county are asking the fertilizer companies to use limestone as filler material rather than sand or some other inert ingredient.

"If limestone had been used as a filler in fertilizers for the past five years in Union County, sufficient limestone would have been deposited in our soils to double the yields of lespedeza and soybeans and to greatly increase the yields of grains and other crops without additional cost to farmers," declared Mr. Green.

These observations now get support from scientific sources as a paper presented before the American Society of Agronomy on November 30 at Chicago, seems to indicate. The facts brought out in this paper show that while the limestone required for good fertilizer practice can be applied as a broadcast application once every four or five years and the method has been used in experimental work and by good farmers, the plan is open to objection in that many farmers will neglect to lime their land in this way until crops have been injured by excessive acidity. Some do not use good judgment in applying the lime and many will not lime under any conditions.

It apparently is the opinion of many agronomists that Southern farmers will not buy much limestone unless it can be produced as a constituent of their fertilizers. The amount of limestone secured this way each year will not be large, yet will be sufficient to overcome any acidity in the fertilizer itself and will soon put the soil in excellent condition for best crop yields.

Will Always Grow Cotton and Tobacco

North Carolina farmers will always grow cotton and tobacco. They know how to grow the two crops; they are trained and equipped to grow them; and they know that during any given series of years, these two crops have returned the highest acre income.

In this manner, C. B. Williams, head of the department of agronomy at State College, sums up the question of whether Tarheel farmers should plant cotton and tobacco this year. Mr. Williams contends that prices below the cost of production are no new thing. This has been true since 1630 when the early colonists of Virginia said that only the best quality of tobacco paid the cost of production. In 1894, cotton brought only 4.6 cents a pound on December first. At times since then the price of both crops has been below the cost of production.

"But," says Mr. Williams, "despite these low prices, farmers have reduced their acreages, have made good yields on what acres they have planted, and, when increased consumption came about, the ruinous prices did not usually remain for any great length of time."

Mr. Williams suggests seven points for consideration by the cotton and tobacco farmer this year. These are: grow the two crops on land best suited which in itself will cause a heavy reduction; prepare this selected land better than it has ever been prepared before; plant at the right time and in the best manner of varieties adapted to the section; use the kind and amount of fertilizer suited to the crop and the soil; space the rows and the plants on the row to the fertility of the land or the fertilizer used; cultivate thoroughly; and use the best methods of harvesting and preparing for the market.

Poor Profit Prospects For Peanut Growers

Though many peanut growers of North Carolina used little cash outlay in producing the crop of 1931, a bumper crop was produced because of the favorable season. It was stated in the crop outlook report last year that the prospect for prices was poor and such was the case. The outlook for profit this year is even worse than it was last year.

Winner In Meat Story Contest Is Announced

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Announcement of the ninth annual National Meat Story contest for high-school girls, offering university scholarships as major awards, has just been made to teachers of home economics in high schools of North Carolina and throughout the country. This event is sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board with the cooperation of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and a number of agricultural colleges. It will close on March 15.

Teachers in 694 schools entered their classes in the contest last year, an increase of more than 200 schools over the previous year, it is said. In North Carolina there were entries from Selma, Bessemer City, Clayton, Goldsboro, Wendell, Asheville, and Brevard. Elizabeth Maxwell of Asheville was the North Carolina winner.

Teachers look upon the contest as a material aid to them in teaching their meat courses, according to its sponsors. Students are required to write essays on some phase of the subject of meat and the research required in order to write these essays tends to broaden their knowledge of the subject.

The essays may be on any subject from live-stock production to the cooking and serving of meat.

The committee which will judge the stories will be announced at a later date, it is said. As in the past it is the plan to include on this committee leaders in the field of home economics. Dr. Louise Stanley, chief of the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, served as chairman of the committee last year and for several previous contests.

As A Newspaper Man Sees It

(Jim Vance, in Fellowship Forum)

We have Congress with us again. Its Seventy-second session convened on December 7th, and, after much ado about changing officers and employees, it has settled down to a sort of "cat and mouse" program which may or may not be helpful to the country. I say "cat and mouse" program advisedly, for each political organization is determined to gather up as much benefit for its next year Presidential campaign as possible and prevent the other party from doing anything which will prove helpful to its candidate for Chief Executive of the nation. I don't know why but somehow or other I lean strongly toward wanting Congress to do very little this year other than provide for the vast unemployment and for the solution of the great business depression problem. If Congress will only do that and adjourn and go home, I feel the country will be better off. This is no time for wrangling and disturbing those efforts being made to bring America back into normalcy once more.

It would be idle for us to say that the depression is not still with us. That would be untrue. But I believe I can honestly say to you that times are going to get better pretty soon now. All signals point in that direction. However, we mustn't get the idea that prosperity is going to come back overnight. Our best business minds here at the Capital tell us that business restoration is sure, but its coming will be gradual and more stable than formerly. I think that is correct, because I am seeing evidences of such a return among our business friends both here and in other sections of the country. My mail is a wonderful barometer of how things are going throughout America, and that reveals a much brighter hope for business and return of employment than it has shown for months past. Say what you please about business conditions in this country, one fact certainly stands out—America is fundamentally sound—she is far from broke—and whenever our people stop doubting each other and begin to have confidence enough to trust those with whom we deal, I believe we'll see things grow brighter and better.

Right here, without in any way giving thought to politics, I want to say that President Hoover has been and is doing his utmost to restore business levels. Whether we

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Club members of McDowell county will plant 2,500 black walnut trees this winter.

If You Want

to get rid of that piece of Furniture....

to dispose of that Rug or worn Carpeting....

to sell your Second-Hand Clothing that is still good....

somebody to do a job of Papering or Repairing....

or somebody to help with the House Cleaning....

Take This Tip

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And Your Worries End

like him or not, common honesty compels us to say that no President in this generation has had more to contend with and made more sincere efforts to solve knotty problems than Herbert Hoover. If he has in our judgment made mistakes, let us remember that he is human. Perfection is a Divine asset. All this loose talk about his being responsible for every untoward happening in this country during the last two years is sickening. If we want to help bring about better days in America, we must get back of the President, regardless of political opinions, and try to help him solve the grave problems before us. Let's try to forget politics for a few weeks and give patriotism a chance to function as it did in days of long ago.

EXTENSION WORK NOTES.

Miss Rachel Everett, Home Demonstration Agent, is in receipt of a letter from Miss Helen Estebrook, who is the home management specialist, from State College, at Raleigh. She has accepted the date of February 5th at two o'clock as the time for the home management class to be started in Smithfield. We should like to have the names registered of the women interested in joining this class. Call Miss Virginia Clifton at County Agent's office. We are also asking assistance in working out the budget, to have the women bring in as complete an account as they can of their expenditures and receipts for the month of January so that we can make it a year-round budget. If you have not kept track of this, estimate it the best you can. We are having some account forms mimeographed and trust they will be ready by that time. However, if you have your own account book which you wish to use, bring it along to the meeting. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Room at the Court House on Friday, February 5th. Please be prompt. A general invitation is given to all the rural clubs in the county and to the federated clubs in towns.