

John gets his tomatoes picked ...

by Howard Chapman



Spring Calves Make Better Beef Cattle

Careless breeding methods are costing North Carolina beef cattle growers large sums of money.

One of the most serious faults is that of allowing the bull to run with the herd throughout the year.

L. I. Case, animal husbandman at State College, says that the best results are obtained when the bull is dropped at all seasons. Late summer and fall calving is bad for both the cows and their offspring, Case pointed out.

Usually cows which have to nurse calves during the winter are kept in a poor condition, and the calves fail to make a good growth. Death losses of cows and calves are increased.

Case further stated that calves which do not get a good growth early in life seldom develop into high grade animals. Spring calving seems to be the most favorable calving season for beef cattle.

Records have shown that spring calves gained an average of 271.5 pounds from May 1 to November 1, while fall calves gained only

199.5 pounds in the same length of time.

At the Blackland Experiment Station, Weldon, N. C., the bull is allowed to run with the herd only in May, June and July. The calves are dropped the following February, March and April. They are weaned in November and wintered separately from the rest of the herd.

This practice appears to give the best results, Case pointed out, and it may be followed on practically all North Carolina farms.

Lice And Mites Bob Tar Heel Poultrymen

Two noted thieves are robbing the North Carolina farmer of his opportunity for poultry profits. One of these thieves is a Louse and the other is a Mite. They are causing a decline in egg production and lowering the vigor and vitality of pullets.

Body lice and tropical mites remain on the bird's body while the red mites stay in the poultry house and are usually on or around the perch poles. Therefore,

separate treatments are needed to eradicate these noted thieves.

Poultry specialists at State College recommend that birds be dusted with sodium fluoride to eradicate body lice or that birds be dipped in slightly warm water to which has been added one ounce of sodium fluoride to each gallon of water used. Perch poles should be treated with nicotine sulphate and the treatment repeated in 7 to 10 days.

Since red mites suck blood from the birds, it is necessary to use a material that will kill by contact. The recommended practice is to treat perch poles and supports with used motor oil to which has been added one third or more kerosene. The house should be thoroughly cleaned and all litter and nesting material should be burned prior to the treatment.

The tropical mites remain on the birds at all times. The specialists recommended for their control that the roost poles be treated with nicotine sulphate in the same manner as suggested for body lice, except that second and third applications are suggested with an interval of about 3 days elapsing between applications.

Winter Legumes To Be Planted Early

The farmer, who starts getting ready for a crop a month or two before time to plant it, is usually the one who makes the best crops.

Early planting is important for all crops but it is almost imperative for Austrian winter peas, vetch and crimson clover, says Enos Blair, Extension agronomist at State College. When these crops are planted on time, they do their growing during the part of the year when the land is not needed for anything else. But when planted too late, these winter legumes have to use too much of the warm spring weather when the grower cannot afford to have them taking up the room. Therefore, he has to plow them up before they have time to do the soil any good. The result is that much seed and work have been thrown away.

"It takes a thick cover of winter legume vegetation about a foot deep to really do the soil any good," Blair says. "The benefit from the nitrogen and organic matter is in direct proportion to the amount of material turned under. To be practical, winter le-

gumes have to make this growth two weeks before time to plant April 1st. The same is true of vetch and crimson clover.

As to planting before September 1, this can be done in the mountains, but hot, dry weather will generally kill the plants as soon as they come up in other parts of the state.

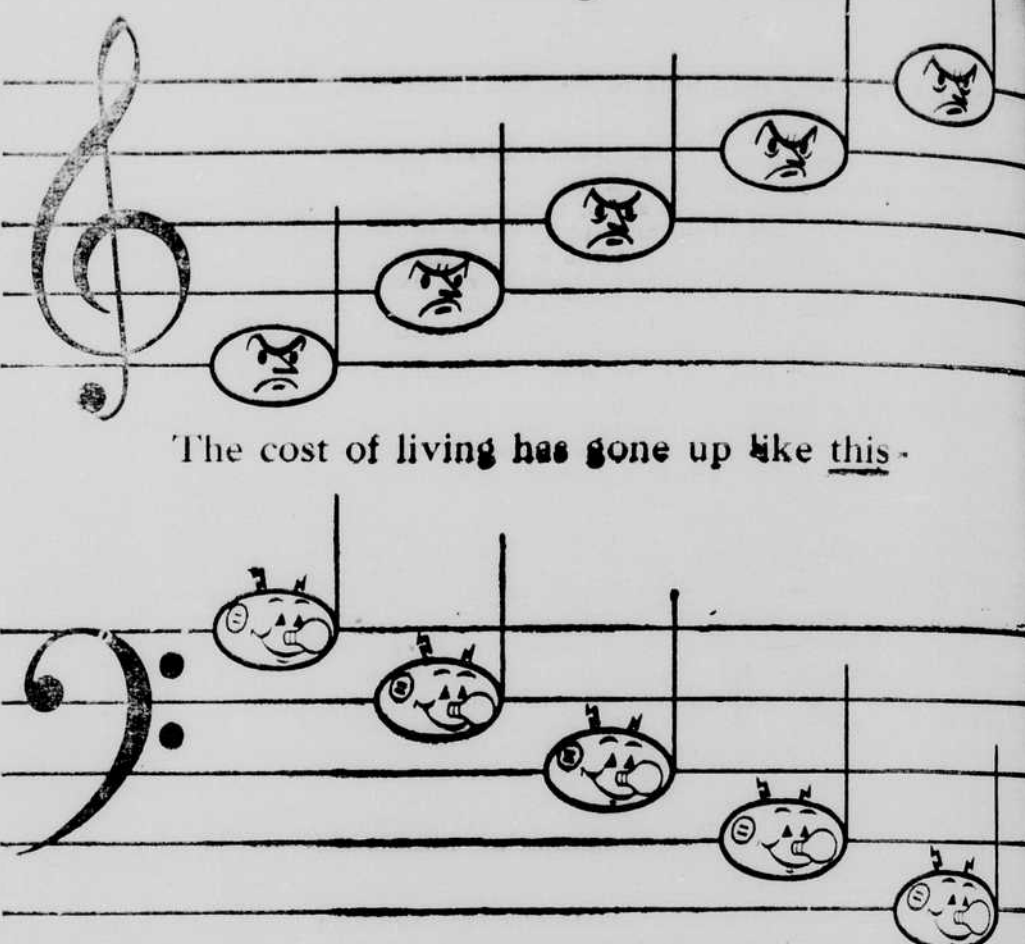
"If you want a good winter legume crop it is time now to begin looking for your seed," says Blair. "It will take 35 pounds per acre for Austrian winter peas, 25 pounds of vetch and 25 pounds for crimson clover."

About 700,000 full time workers must be recruited for the growing of millions of tons of and vegetables this season.

Because of a nation-wide improvement in egg prices, the Food Administration has continued buying current shell eggs.

Be sure there is a firm rail on at least one side of the stairway in your home. Extension specialists at State College. The stairway is a place for falls.

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