

Top Quality Leaf Brings Top Price, Deep Run Farmer Says

By ROGER KEARNEY

Warren L. Harper, prominent Deep Run farmer and civic leader, believes farming will become much more automated in the next five years, and he is prepared for the change. Harper, who is known as "Buddy" to his friends, does almost all of his own work on his equipment. He also designs gas rigs and equipment of that nature to improve working conditions on his farm. Harper commented that he has worked on equipment belonging to other farmers in the area, but he doesn't have time now. Harper does do some work on his

brother's equipment, but his farm keeps him busy most of the time.

Harper is also very optimistic about this year's tobacco crop. He commented that he "looks forward to good prices" on the tobacco market this year. He added that as long as the farmers produce high quality tobacco, they will get good prices.

One phase of farming that does bother Harper is the labor problem. This labor problem will result in "fewer laborers and more equipment" in his opinion. The prominent farmer also sees bulk curing in this area in future years. He added that he believes farms will tend to be larger in the future. Harper, a native and life-long resident of the Deep Run area, stated that the poundage control system "is one of the best moves in favor of automation." He also commented that he believes the system will be accepted by the majority of the farmers.

Harper owns over six acres of tobacco and rents six more acres. He expects his crop to be "earlier than usual" this year. He hopes to begin transplanting by the middle of April.

He chose a good wind-protected field to plant his tobacco in this year. He commented that it had probably been 20 years since tobacco has been planted in this field. He expects to plant his plants about 22 inches apart and have his rows about 42 inches wide. Harper explained that he has enough land and hopes to be able to set up a three-year rotation system for his tobacco.

He also commented that he is running his rows in an east-west direction, because he has

found that the sunlight reaches his plants better when the rows run in this direction.

In addition to his tobacco, Harper also grows corn, hay, and soybeans. He also owns a few cows.

Harper was born in the house in which he presently resides about four miles from Deep Run and two miles from Woodington. His father, the late Blakledge Harper, built the house in 1898.

Harper was the State Winner as a 4-H Club leader in 1963 and won a trip to Chicago. He is still active in 4-H work. He is also president of the South-west P. T. A. Fishing is his main hobby, but he finds little time from his farming and civic activity to indulge in hobbies.

The 45-year-old Harper is married to the former Frances Rouse, from LaGrange. The Harpers have four children, Mrs. Roscoe Whitfield, who was married on March 12, Barbara, Susan, and Frances. He has also served in the Marines, spending much of his service time in the Pacific.

Cubs See Skits At Pack Meeting

Den Mothers Mrs. W. E. Brewer and Mrs. Haywood Stroud presided over Pink Hill Cub Pack 244's meeting held recently in the Pink Hill Methodist Church. The Den Mothers presided in the absence of Cub Master Haywood Stroud.

Den 3 was in charge of flag ceremonies for the meeting. Den 1 presented a skit "Brave Knights to the Rescue." Participating in the skit were John Brewer, Cliff Tyndall, Jerry Tyndall, Garry Murphy, Ricky Thigpen, and Macon Turner, and Kelvin Tyndall.

Den 2 presented a skit on "March Wind." Participating in this skit were Jerry Taylor, who portrayed March Lion; Freddie Howard, March Lamb; Frankie Howard, March Wind, and Rodney Smith, Mr. Sun. Awards were presented to the following:

Rodney Dean Smith, Wolf Badge; Freddie Howard, Bear Badge; Keith Stroud, Russell Simpson, Jeff Hill, Bruce Hill, Donald Taylor, and Frankie Howard, Lion Badges; Russell Simpson, Gold Arrow under his Wolf Badge, Scouter Billy Blizzard of Den 2, Den Chief Cord.

Jaycee Lynn Turner visited the meeting and asked the Scouts to assist the Jaycees in selling tickets for a pony to be given away on May 7. He told the Pack that they would receive a percentage of the sales. The Jaycee proceeds will go toward construction of a community building for Pink Hill.

There is no quick, easy way to reduce, according to the North Carolina Heart Association. It is best to avoid extreme reducing diets.



INDUSTRIOUS FARMER -- Warren L. Harper, prominent Deep Run farmer and civic leader, is shown here with his son-in-law, Roscoe Whitfield, as they work on a tractor in Harper's garage. Harper commented that he believes automation will become more a part of the farmers' lives

in the next five years. An expert mechanic, Harper also just recently finished a welding course at South Lenoir High School and is now taking an advanced course in electric welding at the school. (Photo by Roger Kearney.)

Tobacco Root-Knot Increases Chances Of Other Diseases

Nematodes, tiny eel-shaped worms which multiply even faster than flies, cause diseases costing five-cured tobacco farmers in North Carolina more than five million dollars annually.

The root-knot nematode is the most serious of several kinds found throughout North Carolina, according to Dr. N. T. Powell, associate professor of plant pathology at North Caro-

lina State University. This nematode causes the formation of galls or swellings on roots of plants.

The microscopic root-knot nematodes can cause double trouble for the tobacco farmers. Powell points out that, where root-knot nematodes are found other diseases are more damaging in their effects on tobacco. For example, black shank is much more severe if it occurs

in combination with root-knot. This appears true, Powell says, even though the variety involved may be black shank resistant. Studies in the Department of Plant Pathology at NC State University have shown that losses from black shank may reach as high as 75 percent in resistant varieties if root-knot nematodes and black shank fungus are present together. The loss may be 100 percent if susceptible varieties are planted where a combination of the diseases are present.

Similar situations exist with Fusarium wilt in tobacco, Powell adds. Root-knot nematodes may do even more to increase Fusarium wilt than black shank. A total tobacco crop loss might result if high nematode populations are present in the soil along with Fusarium wilt fungus, even though the variety is resistant to Fusarium wilt.

Granville wilt, a bacterial disease, is affected in much the same way by root-knot nematodes. Powell says that research indicates that something in the root-knot galls greatly promotes development of fungi and bacteria. This attraction greatly increases the danger of diseases caused by fungus and bacteria.

Since nematodes increase damage from other diseases, control in tobacco culture is very important, Powell adds. "In addition to the damage they can do alone, their effect on the expression of other diseases make their control mandatory."

NC State plant pathologists recommend the following methods to aid in controlling root-knot nematodes in tobacco: (1) choosing root-knot resistant varieties, (2) rotating tobacco with nematode resistant crops, such as corn, fescue, and small grain, (3) fumigation of soil where the nematode population appears high or nematode damage was present in previous years, and (4) plowing out tobacco roots after harvesting and exposing roots to the drying action of the sun and wind. A combination of these practices is necessary for long-range effective control, Powell adds.



DEBEAKING -- Is one of the first steps taken to assure the consumer of a top quality broiler for the dinner table. The small chicks are debeaked to prevent cannibalism.

State Farmers Market Facing Future With Brightest Look

Ten years of full operation finds the State Farmers Market facing the future with the greatest outlook for service to farmers and consumers of North Carolina it has experienced, market officials say.

"In the past ten years," market management says, "our facilities have served the farmers and consumers well."

Charles Murray, in charge of the operation, points out that the market is public owned and is operated by the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

"This makes it unique in North Carolina," he says. "Not costing the taxpayer one cent, the market accomplishes this feat by renting space for 36 wholesale units to private dealers who handle commodities from both Tar Heel farms and others in season."

"We also make a 'gate charge' for everyone who sells on the market," Murray says.

An indication of the service to the food commodities industry in North Carolina is found in the "volume" figures in foods flowing through the market.

"Sold wholesale and through the modern farmer's shed space in 1965 were: 398,000 fifty pound bags of Irish potatoes; over 356,000 fifty pound bags of cabbage; 150,000 bushels of apples; 230,000 cantaloupes; 385,000 watermelons; 66,000 bushels of peaches; over 200,000 bushels of tomatoes and over 101,000 hampers of string beans," Murray said. "As a partial list of the volume of produce moving through the market, those items form the bulk. But trucks brought in a wide range of fruits and vegetables needed to feed this east coast area. Some 91 commodities are sold on the market. Loads of produce coming onto the market included apple cider and fishing poles."

Last year 6,382 loads of produce were unloaded to the wholesalers on the market.

Local produce flowing through the market facilities reaches a peak between June and October, but an ample supply of produce is available at all times.

Included among the 91 commodities handled by the market are such foreign items as tasty Spanish melons from Spain, grapes from South Africa, coconuts from South America, tomatoes from Mexico and pineapples from Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

Recent snowfall, measuring up to eight inches, found the market operating with shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables going to local and area stores.

Murray said: "Last year, 8,500 farmers and truckers paid gate fees to come and sell on the market. Of course, many of these were here every day for a period of about four months."

Market commodities include not only fruits and vegetables but Christmas trees in season - and nursery stock the year-round. The market is known as the Christmas tree capital of the state, for last year's figures show that more than 25,000 trees were moved through the facilities there.

"Christmas may be a long way off for some people, but we're preparing for tree stocks now. Fruits and vegetables from Tar Heel farms are getting lined up for sales here too. We think we have a pretty efficient operation in the State Farmers Market," Murray said.

Every 24 hours, an estimated 60 persons in North Carolina succumb to heart diseases, according to the North Carolina Heart Association. In a year, the total reaches more than 22,000 persons of all ages.

Bank Of Mount Olive Opens In Deep Run

The Deep Run Branch of the Bank of Mount Olive opened its doors for business recently. Deep Run's first banking facility is housed in a remodeled building next to Davenport's Supermarket and a 10-foot addition.

The bank is located on property owned by Liston Davenport, of Deep Run, and was erected by N. A. Sloan Contractors, of Calypso. Construction on the building began approximately three weeks ago.

The facility operates with two employees, Mrs. Earl Harper, from Deep Run, and a representative from the Seven Springs

branch. The interior includes a small lobby, a business counter with two teller cages and a private office in the rear. The bank is air-conditioned and contains approximately 440 square feet of space.

The Deep Run Ruritan Club headed the various community organizations who were responsible for bringing the facility to Deep Run.

Announce Engagement

The engagement of Elizabeth Roelle Walker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Walker of Albertson Route 1, to Airman Third Class Billy Wayne Tyndal of the U. S. Air Force, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Tyndal of Deep Run Route 2, is announced by her parents.

A spring wedding is planned.

Announce Birth

Mr. and Mrs. Raeford Taylor of Snow Hill Route 3 announce the birth of a son at Lenoir Memorial Hospital Tuesday, March 22.

Mrs. Taylor is the former Hazel Lee of Pink Hill.

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