

# Carolina Farm Comment

By F. H. JETER

Chalk up this added advantage for hybrid corn in North Carolina. Demonstrations in all parts of the state have proven that adapted strains of this new corn will make higher yields per acre as compared with the older native or named varieties. Demonstrations also have proven that its heavy supply of small fibrous feed roots will allow it to stand up under dry weather conditions much better than will the older varieties.

Now, here comes a third advantage. When the tropical storm swept over eastern North Carolina three weeks ago, I think it was, farmers all along the coast were apprehensive about their corn crops. They recalled what had happened to the corn when the high winds of previous storms had passed over their fields. The corn was blown flat and even though every effort was made to save the best ears, much of the grain rotted on the ground. It became necessary to turn hogs and other livestock into the fields to glean whatever could be saved.

But this new hybrid, or "high bred" corn, as some folks call it, stood up well under the pounding of the stormy winds and, as Farm Agent H. H. Harris reports from coastal Tyrrell County, "The new varieties of hybrid corn stood up under the recent storm better than the local varieties. The stalks on several of the hybrid strains are much larger than those of our native varieties."

Lewis Anderson of Perquimans county observed that the tropical storm which swept over his county that Monday night did little damage except to corn and he says, "The native varieties were blown almost level with the ground but the hybrids stood up much better, indicating greater storm resistance. Several farmers also report that their hybrids had withstood the drought prior to the storm much better than the local varieties."

From nearby Chowan county, Charley Overman also reported that the storm brought an abundance of rain for the entire county. Some fields of tobacco on the lowlands were drowned. Much of the corn was blown over and is just now beginning to straighten up again. And he observed, "the hybrid corn withstood the wind much better than the local varieties on practically all farms. Our farmers appear to be much pleased with this feature of their hybrid corn."

Dr. E. R. Collins, agronomy specialist, and his associates in this corn demonstration work, have placed just about 572 field demonstrations throughout North Carolina this year. Some of the demonstrations are being carefully tended and some are not; but, on the whole, the agronomists believe that from the plots now growing they will get a good picture of what has been done in breeding better corn for the state and that the new methods of fertilizing which they are advocating will get a real test. Some farmers are enthusiastic about the present outlook for their demonstration fields and believe they are learning how to help increase North Carolina's average yield from 22 bushels an acre to 50 bushels an acre in the next 10 years.

E. J. Morgan, Sampson farm agent, tells about Norwood McCullen of the Taylors Bridge section who is conducting one of the corn demonstrations. He has followed closely the recommendations as given him and his neighbors say that Mr. McCullen has one of the prettiest fields of corn that they have ever seen in that neighborhood. The corn is being grown on land that is not considered very productive. Jimmie Johnson of the Franklin 4-H Club in Sampson county also is following the new plan of growing corn and has a beautiful acre for his project.

Sam Mitchner, assistant agent in Forsyth County, says there are

approximately 500 acres of hybrid corn in the Winston-Salem section and from all the reports coming to him and from his own personal observations, the adapted hybrids are giving pleasing results.

One thing, certainly, that these new methods of corn growing are teaching is the value of ample fertilizers under corn and the value of nitrogen about the corn.

William Wheelock of Franklin makes the observation that fertilizer is cheaper than labor as he grows his corn under the new plan in these days of acute labor shortages on the farm. Walter Fuller, farm agent, says that fertilizer certainly is being given the opportunity to prove its value in the county corn growing contest this year. N. H. Griffin of Centerville has a four-acre field of beautiful corn for which he began to prepare in the fall of 1944. At that time, he made a liberal application of barnyard manure to the four-acre field. Next he added 400 pounds per acre, each, of basic slag and 18 per cent superphosphate; then he seeded crimson clover which made an excellent growth. He turned under the clover early this spring and when he planted his corn, he used 400 pounds per acre of a 4-10-6 fertilizer mixture in the drill. During subsequent cultivations, he has added 200 pounds per acre of a 10-0-10 mixture and 400 pounds per acre of a nitrogen dress-er.

Right now that corn is going after the county championship and the farmer who beats Mr. Griffin will certainly know that he has been in a contest.

But Fuller says that all corn demonstrations in Franklin are looking good. Prospects for a high acre yield are indicated by the present growth and condition of the crop and the farmers should profit from these lessons that they may produce all the grain they shall need for their livestock in future years. As one farmer wrote me the other day, "We cannot allow these corn demonstrations to fail. We must begin to produce all of our own feed if we are to stay in the livestock business."

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## Bahamians Helping Crop Work In Pitt County

GREENVILLE, July 15.—Ninety-one Bahamians have been brought into Pitt County this year to relieve the serious labor shortage, it was announced by County Agent F. F. Hendrix of the State College Extension Service. The labor problem in Pitt is more acute than in prior years, and "some communities are almost in panic trying to secure enough labor to house their tobacco crop", Hendrix said.

## Orange County Triples Egg, Poultry Production

HILLSBORO, July 15.—The sale of poultry and eggs in the past 15 years has increased approximately three times, and the value of poultry products sold in Orange County is six times that of cotton, it was announced yesterday by County Agent Don Matheson of the State College Extension Service. The Federal Census for 1930 indicates that Orange farmers sold \$121,947,000 worth of poultry, and the preliminary 1945 Federal Census figures show that \$336,000,000 of chickens will be sold.

## LEOPOLD NOT RETURNING

LONDON, July 15.—(AP)—The Brussels radio today quoted Belgian Premier Achille Van Acker as announcing King Leopold had decided not to return to Belgium but was not abdicating at present. Van Acker indicated both Royal decisions were subject to change, and said the cabinet would meet tomorrow to discuss the political crisis.

## Marries Publisher



STAGE AND SCREEN actress Luise Rainer and Robert Knittel, a publisher, are shown following their marriage at the Church of Ascension in New York City. It was the second marriage for Luise and the first for Knittel. She divorced Clifford Odets in 1940. (International)

## Wool Grading Demonstration



Leland I. Case second from left, animal husbandry specialist of the State College Extension Service, is shown here as he instructed a group of county agents in wool grading at a wool pool in Williamston. Case has been aiding North Carolina farmers to increase their wool production and to secure higher prices for their products through scientific grading.

## Every Farm Should Have Well-Stocked Work Shop

A workshop is a necessity on every farm. No farmer can run his farm without the help of at least a few tools and even those few need a little space where they may be kept and used.

In short, says G. W. Giles, associate in Agricultural Engineering with the Experiment Station at State College, there are eight good reasons why a shop is needed on every farm.

First, he says, nothing is very permanent on the farm. The cattle may break through the fence causing damage which calls for a repair job. The gate will sag and an additional brace may be needed. The scissors, plow shares and cultivator shovels will need sharpening from time to time. The back door steps will rot out and need to be rebuilt. Water faucets will need new washers, and sooner or later, a hole will appear in the milk can.

These are just a few of the hundreds of jobs that require daily attention on a farm. Therefore it is good management to spend money for a shop to protect your investment in buildings and equipment.

In the second place, there are only a few country blacksmith shops. If shop work is carried to town it must be done by skilled labor. Expert mechanics are expensive, and, therefore, the simple construction and repair jobs, if they are done at all, must be done by the farmer.

Third, farm labor is scarce. Much time can be saved and travel expense done away with by doing the simple shop job at home.

The fourth main reason is the increase in mechanization. Efficient mechanization of Southern farming is rapidly taking place and the job of keeping the equipment in order will largely be done by the farmer and his family. Equipment can be kept operating efficiently by simple repairs and adjustments.

For example, if the cutting mechanism on a mower is kept sharp and properly adjusted, less power and time will be required for a job of mowing. Fewer stops will need to be made to clear a clogged cutter bar or to mend a knife broken because it was too full. All that is needed to adjust and sharpen the mower are a few hand tools and a grinder.

In the fifth place, plans are available for farm devices and repair work. A farmer needs only a few simple tools in a shop to put these fine plans and instructions to use. Many labor saving devices that cannot be bought can be built in the farm shop.

Furthermore, a farm workshop saves waste time. Most of the shop work may be done during bad weather when other farm work cannot be done. This of course means that a suitable space must be set aside for the shop.

Seventh on the list, Giles says, is that a workshop actually increases farm income. Simple shop jobs are easily done by outside help. A shop will pay for itself in a short time and after that will yield a profit.

And finally, the shop has a social and educational value. Training in the use and care of tools will be of great help to the farm boy. A boy who is building something of interest is the happiest in the world and has not thought of mischief.

The desire for this training is already present, as most boys like to tinker, create and build. Therefore, the farmer should not pass up the opportunity for this ideal and inexpensive self-education.

Workshop Requirements To fulfill its usefulness and render the greatest possible service, certain requirements are necessary for a shop on the average-size farm, Giles says.

Such things as these, he lists: A definite space should be set aside for the shop. This might be a separate building or a part of another building. Also, a central location for convenience in getting tools and returning them to their proper place.

A plan for the arrangement of the complete shop is needed. Although you may have only a saw and hammer, the ideal shop should be planned. Buy new tools and equipment when they are available and can be afforded. It is particularly wise to buy a few good

tools rather than a large quantity of cheap ones. Adequate space to house the average size machine for doing a repair job is important. This space may be used for sheltering an implement which is easy to move out when the space is needed for work. And in this connection, be sure to provide a wide door to permit machinery to pass through.

And other important points to light and ventilation; heat during cold weather; adequate working space around each major piece of equipment such as benches, grinder, drill, forge and anvil, and a place for every tool, no matter how small. Lack of this feature will cause inefficiency and destroy the main purpose of the shop.

For a suggested list of shop tools and equipment, write to the Department of Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, North Carolina, Giles says.

## Keep Homes Cool During Summer; Expert Tells How

By ELIZABETH WILLIAMS N. C. State College

It will take something more than an accident to make your home cool during the summer months. The heat of July, August, and September is a reality!

In winter the homemaker strives to make her home cozy and cheerful and uses rich coloring to give an atmosphere of warmth. But in warm weather this makes the home cozy and cheerful and uses rich coloring to give an atmosphere of warmth. But in warm weather this makes the home seem heavy and stuffy—as if the air cannot even circulate. Every homemaker would like her home not only to be attractive in appearance in summer but also cool and refreshing in atmosphere. She likes her home to appear spacious and inviting.

**Winter Into Summer** A refreshing summertime setting is easy to achieve. Fortunately, the change from winter into summer comfort can be had with little expense of money, time, and effort. In return, these changes are certain to pay off in pleasure and "lift" for the family and friends who will find hom the nicest place to be during the hot summer days and evenings.

The entire house will be begging for a summertime atmosphere but "I cannot do this all at once", you protest. All right, Mrs. Homemaker do one room at a time. Would you like to begin with the living room? Or there is another way—work with one item at a time throughout the house. Would you like to begin with the rugs?

**Remove Woolen Rugs** One of the first things to do to make your house cool for summer is to take up woolen rugs. How cool and refreshing the large area of bare floor seems!

A few small scatter rugs, such as hooked or braided rugs, carefully placed, add interest, color, and pattern to the plain floor. Scatter rugs should be anchored and never placed at the head or foot of stairs in order to prevent accidents.

**Rearrange Furniture** In winter the furnishings are generally arranged around the fireplace. Even in steam heated homes where the fireplace is mainly ornamental, the fireplace often is the center of interest. A sofa near the fireplace now in July looks rather awkward.

Move the large pieces of furniture first. The largest wall space in the room is a probable location for the sofa—perhaps there may be a pleasant view through an open window or door. The chairs, tables, and other pieces of furniture will then spread out easily into wide groupings. As you plan various groups of furniture in a room keep in mind the importance of convenience, easy conversation, and clear passage ways for entering and leaving the room. Avoid a crowded effect.

This new arrangement will make the room seem more open and spacious.

## SLIP COVERS—COOL AND COMFORTABLE

Slip covers are a joy all the year around but never are they more popular than throughout the summer months. Slip covers are the perfect answer to the problems of hot rough, scratchy fabrics found on many pieces of overstuffed furniture.

For long use and best service be sure that the material which the slip cover is made of is washable, preshrunk, color fast, close-smooth finish, and a hard weave. Although satisfactory slip cover materials are at a premium, the problem of material should not be difficult for farm families who are fortunate enough to have several phosphates bags which have been emptied, washed, and the colored letters removed. These bags make very serviceable slip covers which can be used all the year around but are particularly attractive in summer.

## Store Draperies

When glass curtains and draperies have been on the job for three-fourths of the year they, too, are entitled to a summer vacation. The summer months with their strong sunlight bearing in through open windows is a hard season on curtains and draperies. Blowing against screens, dust and rain cause them to wear out rapidly.

When draperies and glass curtains are taken down, a light summer set may be substituted. Or an old set may be used. Minor repairs will not show when these old curtains are pushed back to let in as much air as possible. A third possibility, some families prefer to leave windows curtainless.

## Remove The Clutter

Put away numerous little objects for which there is no definite need. Pack away most of your accessories in labeled boxes and leave them not only for the summer but for the duration. Many a room has a cluttered, cramped atmosphere because of too many small objects. There is no need to try to use everything you possess at the same time. They make dusting an endless task. Take a basket with you when you start to collect unnecessary objects. The mantel piece is a good place to start. Two or three objects are all that you will need on the mantel. See how quickly your basket fills!

## Ivy Instead of Flowers

Cut flowers are beautiful in the home but they require daily care. A large bowl of ivy or some other evergreen adds a perky touch to a room. It will last a long time

and the water needs changing only once a week. It will seem "cool as a cucumber" and is entitled to be included in your list of labor savers.

**Use Cool Colors** Color is undoubtedly one of the expressive elements in decorating. It has a tremendous influence on one's moods and reactions.

Warm colors are yellow, red, orange, and combinations of these colors. They have a stimulating and exciting influence and may be used appropriately in large, dark rooms, especially in the winter.

Cool colors are those in which blue and green predominate. Cool colors are soothing and restful and may be used appropriately in rooms with a southern exposure. The clever homemaker will commandeer cool colors for use in her home during the summer months.

## Keep Heat Out

An excellent way to keep cool is to prevent heat from entering the house. Insulation is the best barrier to both summer heat and winter cold. If your house is insulated, and it should be, prevent additional heat from entering the house by keeping the doors and shades drawn during the hot part of the day. It is easier to keep heat out than to fight it after such an unwelcome guest is within your house.

## Horn Worms Damaging Leaf Crop In Edgecombe

TARBORO, July 15.—A heavy infestation of horn worms has occurred in many sections of Edgecombe County causing serious damage to tobacco crop, reports County Agent J. C. Powell of the State College Extension Service. Shortage of both dusting equipment and labor has made it difficult to control the worms, but many farmers are having their tobacco sprayed by the two airplane dusting services offered in this section.

## Pitt County Will Have Million Dollar Crop

GREENVILLE, July 15.—Oxford 26 tobacco, developed by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, will be worth one million dollars annually to Pitt County farmers because of its resistance to Granville wilt, it was reported here today by County Agent F. F. Hendrix of the State College Extension Service. The only disadvantages of the tobacco discovered by Pitt farmers are that it is brittle and is easily damaged by wind, Hendrix said.

## Manpower Regulations Have Not Changed Here

According to a recent bulletin issued by the United States Chamber of Commerce, "local manpower officials henceforth will have the authority to suspend wartime manpower regulations either in communities or plants. There has been no relaxation, however, of such regulations in the Wilmington area, according to Henry I. Shepherd, local area director.

Wilmington is still in the No. 3 Labor Market area, he said, meaning that the supply of labor is "little greater than the demand and there are no present indications that show it will be put into another classification."

## FARM FACTS

The United States never has and probably never will produce enough wool for its own use, and the price of wool should always be good, according to L. I. Case, animal husbandry specialist of the State Extension Service.

Total crop production for the whole country promises to be well above the average—not quite in the bumper class of 1942 and 1944, but higher than any of the other years on record.

The domestic wheat supply for 1945-46 is now indicated to be about the same as the supply of 1,395 million bushels a year ago. Cooperative sales of both mar-

ket lambs and wool in North Carolina are helping producers to increase their profits, according to State College livestock specialists.

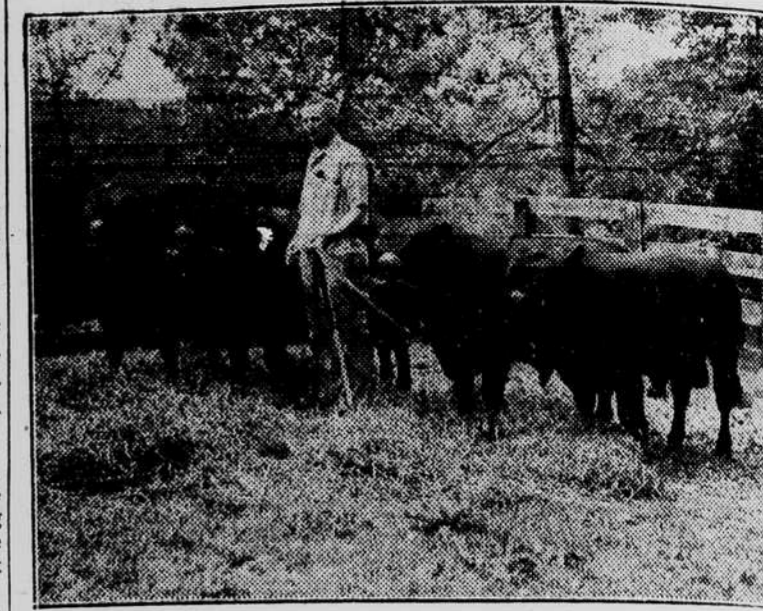
Polo was played in Persia only a few hundred years after the birth of Christ, and is one of the world's most ancient games.

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FUTRELL'S PHARMACY

## Outstanding Aberdeen-Angus Bulls



W. Avery Neaves of Elkin, president of the North Carolina Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Breeders Association, and vice president of the Chatham Manufacturing Company, is shown with four of his outstanding young bulls. Recently he shipped a bull from his herd of registered animals to a customer in Ohio. Neaves has specialized on building good permanent pastures, using orchard grass, blue grass, white Dutch clover, and lespedeza as the basis of his pasture mixtures, according to Leland Case, in charge of Extension animal husbandry at State College.

## Expert Gives Pointers For Corn Yield Increases

Corn yields can be materially increased in North Carolina, if increases in both tobacco and cotton yields in recent years are taken as an index. The 1944 tests of the Agricultural Experiment Station at State College give supporting evidence and also the more than 500 demonstrations that are being conducted this year in all sections of the state.

Although about one-third of the cultivated acreage in North Carolina is devoted to corn, still the state is forced to bring in large amounts of corn from other states to support its livestock population. In the past, when a farmer needed more corn, he simply planted additional acres and slightly increased the amount of fertilizer per acre.

**Feed Bottleneck** With beef cattle, dairying, and hog production on the increase, together with large increases in poultry, feed production has become the bottleneck of livestock production and more corn per acre is one of the answers.

When tobacco and cotton acreages were reduced, growers simply gave more attention to selecting varieties seed bed preparation, spacing, fertilization, cultivation, rotations and other factors which gave larger yields per acre. The result is that total production has been maintained, and in some cases increased, on a much smaller acreage and at a lower cost per pound. Dr. B. A. Krants, soil scientist for the Experiment Station, maintains that the same thing can be done with corn, if all the factors which lead to high corn production are put into practice.

## To Double Yield

Last year he studied corn fertilization, especially nitrogen, and such other factors as spacing, methods of cultivation, and varieties. These studies, together with other corn tests of the Experiment Station, have caused many to believe that the average yield of corn in North Carolina can be doubled in the next ten years.

Dr. Emerson R. Collins, in charge of Extension agronomy in discussing the work of the Experiment Station with corn, outlines five points that lead to higher corn production. First, a proven local variety, or an adapted hybrid strain, should be selected.

Second, the tests show that fertilizer applications should be made in line with the requirements of the corn crop. For example, a fifty-bushel crop of corn actually takes up about 83 pounds of nitrogen, 36 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 57 pounds of potash, when both the stalks and leaves are counted. This would be equivalent to 519

pounds of nitrate of soda, 200 pounds of 18 per cent superphosphate, and 114 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash.

"One can easily see that with the present use of fertilizer, it would be impossible to produce large yields of corn unless the fertilizer was already in the soil," Collins says.

## Spacing

Third, plants in the tests were spaced thick enough to produce big yields. Corn is like broilers or hogs, the food or feed is most efficiently used up to certain weights. In the case of corn, the fertilizer is used most efficiently and higher yields result when the ear size is below half a pound. This is a small ear. Most farmers grow large ears that do not use fertilizer efficiently. The stands of corn were regulated so that the desired yield could be produced with about one-half pound ears.

With plants averaging 1 to 1.2 ears per stalk, the following spacing is required for 3 1/2 row rows: 50 bushes per acre, 24 inches in drill; 75 bushes, 21 inches; and for 75 to 100 bushes, 16 inches in drill.

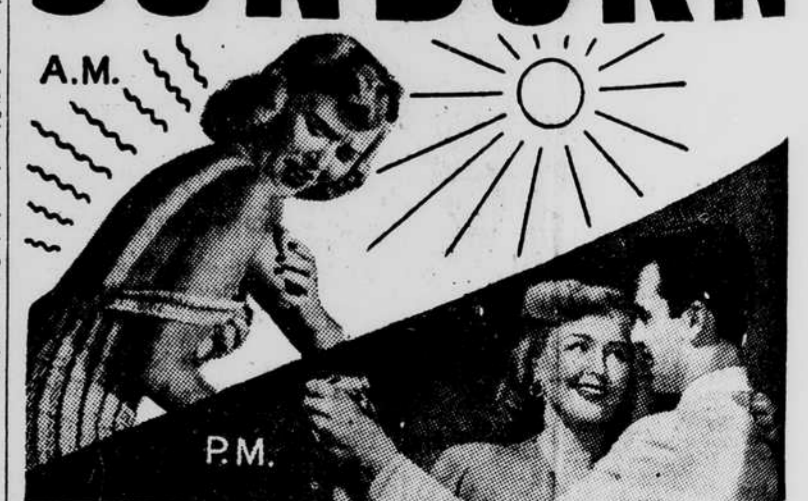
**Cultivation** Fourth, the tests showed that the cultivation should be shallow enough to kill weeds without damage to the corn roots. The corn root system is very extensive and close to the surface of the ground. Deep cultivation destroys the roots, injures the plant, and prevents it from feeding in the surface soil which contains most of the fertilizer. These roots are closer to the surface than most people think. They can be easily observed by digging in the surface soil where deep cultivation has not destroyed them.

Shallow cultivation means using a weeder, spike-tooth harrow, or similar implement until the corn is about 6 to 8 inches high. Then, just use a sweep which will just scrape under the surface to kill the grass and build the type of ridge desired.

Fifth, a topdressing of nitrogen, and potash where needed, was applied when the corn was about 2 1/2 feet high. The corn was laid by at this stage, as later cultivation would destroy too many roots close to the surface.

**Demonstrations** Corn production demonstrations are being carried out in all parts of North Carolina this year and county agents will be glad to direct farmers to one of the demonstration near them. In one section they have a slogan that goes like this: use more fertilizer to replace the work of growing corn. The tests show, however, that all of the practices must be included if maximum production is to be obtained.

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