

Garden Time

By ROBERT SCHMIDT

It seems out of place to talk about irrigation when we are having plenty of rain. It reminds me of the story about the man who wouldn't fix the roof of his house in fair weather because it wasn't necessary, and when it rained he wasn't able to fix it. Rain or not, it is timely to discuss irrigation and prepare for it against the time when we will need it.

Many vegetables attain high quality when they make rapid growth and this is made possible by plenty of moisture. Good examples are the greens crops and other leafy crops. Two or three weeks of dry weather can check the growth of some vegetables so they will never recover and the result will be a tough, stringy and fibrous product. It has been my experience that you cannot depend on natural rainfall if you expect to grow high quality vegetables.

You should have an inch of rainfall each week or ten days. When

the rain falls, you should have an amount of water stored in your garden. This can be done by digging a trench in the garden and filling it with water. The water will seep into the soil and be available to the plants. This is a simple and effective way to store water for your garden. It is especially important in areas where the rain is not regular. You should have an inch of rainfall each week or ten days. When the rain falls, you should have an amount of water stored in your garden. This can be done by digging a trench in the garden and filling it with water. The water will seep into the soil and be available to the plants. This is a simple and effective way to store water for your garden. It is especially important in areas where the rain is not regular.



520,000-A-YEAR FARMER—Moses H. Smothers, left, 20-grand-a-year farmer of the Montgomery, Alabama, area, is currently doubling his cotton crop, but not at the expense of diversification and sound farming practices. County Agent J. T. Alexander (right) has had great success in encouraging the farmers in his county to grow larger crop within the limits of a balanced farming program. Farmer Smothers' tractor load of cotton is a good example.

Facts For Farmers

SUGGESTIONS GIVEN ON POTATO HANDLING

Care in harvesting Irish potatoes will help Tar Heel growers put a better quality product on the market and receive higher returns for their crop, says H. M. Covington, extension horticultural specialist at State College.

"Spotted-bag" can be held to a minimum by handling the potatoes carefully, putting them in sacks within 30 minutes after digging, and removing filled sacks from the field immediately, especially during the heat of day. Generally, digging should be done early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

To eliminate skinning and bruising during mechanical loading, padding should be provided at all possible points on the platform or machine. Old burlap sacks may be used as "shock absorbers."

Good lighting should be provided over the picking table so that all defective potatoes may be easily seen and removed. Reflectors should be used to direct all the light to the table surface.

Graders should remove all cut potatoes and those with bruises which penetrate deeply. All tubers with greening, growth cracks, and scab, and those that are badly misshapened or have other obvious defects should be removed from the No. 1 package.

Potatoes shipped by rail should be refrigerated. All washed potatoes shipped by truck should be pre-cooled to 60 or 65 degrees. If this is not possible, they should be iced in transit. Loading should be done to permit good circulation. Over-loading trucks with 400 to 500 bags should be avoided.

Shipments should be routed to provide a minimum of delay. Truck drivers should be instructed to keep their loads moving during clear, hot days.

HONEYBEES NEEDED IN DEFENSE EFFORT

Farmers have known for years that honeybees were useful not only as gatherers of honey but also as pollinators of seed, fruit, and fiber crops. Now Uncle Sam has discovered that bees are also vital to the defense effort.

Beeswax, a by-product of honey, is needed for coating war munitions and for the manufacture of airplanes. Although the wax is a short supply, no satisfactory substitute for it is known.

Bees make their comb out of beeswax. After they gorge themselves with honey, their wax glands secrete a liquid that hardens when it comes in contact with the air. This material is used by the bees as capping for cells of honey and for the cells where the young bees are hatched, as well as for the combs which hold the honey and serve as cradles for the young bees.

Beekeepers should save all of their precious beeswax and sell it to dealers. The price is higher now than ever before.

Small amounts of beeswax can be melted down by heating in hot water. It should not be allowed to boil. When it cools a cake of solid wax will be floating on top of the water.

For information on how to handle old combs and large amounts of wax, farmers should write the Extension Beekeeper, State College Station, Raleigh, and ask for Information Sheet No. 3 entitled "Salvaging Beeswax."

ONE COMES HANDICAP BY BUYING TRACTOR

Sometimes when the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak. But John Smith, Negro farmer of Chocowinity community, Beaufort County, failed to give up when a severe attack of rheumatism left him unable to follow his team in breaking land and cultivating his crops. (Continued on page 13)

Hints To Homemakers

By RUTH CURRENT
State Home Demonstration Agent

KITCHEN-WISE TOOLS

Double-use kitchen tools are usually a better investment than those for a special purpose. A can opener, for instance, that opens several types of lids is more useful than one that does a single job. A pancake turner with holes not only turns cakes but lifts eggs of fat, draining off the drippings. A medium-sized butcher knife is valuable for more different jobs than a special ham slicer or boning knife.

How much use tools and utensils will get is an important guide in buying. When choosing metal items use may determine the materials—steel or heavy aluminum for hard use, lighten plate or lightweight aluminum for more occasional use.

You may wish to write for a single copy of "Tools for Food Preparation and Dishwashing," free on request to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

CLEAN BEFORE PRESSING

When pressing out wrinkles in suits and coats, take care not to press in stains or soil. Heat sets many stains, making them difficult or impossible to remove. Even grease or soil may be driven into fabric by the heat and pressure of the iron and then may be more difficult to remove. Before pressing clothes at home, look them over to see if they are stained, spotted, or soiled. If so, take out stains or

sponge with cleaning fluid before applying the iron.

To the man or the family, specialists suggest that it is a economy to send a badly soiled suit or dress to be pressed. Cleaning costs only a little more and takes out soil before pressing. Best of all for saving clothes and money is giving clothes the daily care that keeps them of an as long as possible and holds them in shape.

THE FARMERS' ANSWER BOX

QUESTION: What kind of records am I required to keep in connection with payment of social security taxes for farm workers?

ANSWER: W. L. Turner, extension farm management specialist at State College, says the law does not specify the type of records to be kept. However, it does say that some kind of records must be kept and they must be available for inspection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue if necessary.

Filing out Form 941 (quarterly return filed with Bureau of Internal Revenue) will be easier if the farmer keeps some kind of record which gives him the following information: names and social security numbers of regular hir-

ed farm workers, length of time worked, and total amount of cash paid each during a calendar quarter.

It is not necessary to buy an expensive or elaborate record book. An adequate record can be set up simply by ruling off eight columns on a blank sheet of paper or by purchasing eight- or 10-column paper. A separate page is needed for each worker. At the top of the page write the name, address, and social security number for the worker. Column numbers and headings used may be: Column 1, date; Column 2, date period starts; Column 3, date period ends; Column 4, days worked; Column 5, total cash wages; Column 6, tax withheld; Column 7, amount of tax paid and Column 8, notes or comments.

Duplicate copies of quarterly returns should be kept by the farmer with the labor record of each regular farm worker. All records should be kept for at least four years after payment of taxes.

A needy, underfed old man appeared at the offices of one of North Carolina's 100 county welfare departments a few weeks ago, and made an application for Old Age Assistance. He was helped to fill out the proper application form and a thorough investigation of his circumstances followed.

An old family Bible showed him to be 72 years old. He owned no property, had had little formal schooling, and his wife and only child had both passed away. His total resources amounted to the clothes on his back and the odd amounts he picked up gardening for some of the ladies around town. A medical examination showed that he was no longer able even to perform this work.

He was well known in the town and there was no doubt of his having been a resident of the state for the required period. Thus, when his application and the department's findings were presented to the county welfare board, it was obvious that he met all the requirements for a grant under the Old Age Assistance program—he was over 65, had needs greater than his resources to meet them, and had lived in the state for more than a year.

The old man became the 178th person in that county to be currently approved for an Old Age Assistance—OAA—grant. Since his needs were greater than most, his grant was slightly higher than the county's average OAA payment, which was only \$24.94. That is admittedly a very small amount for anyone to live on for a month. Yet, multiplied by the number of persons receiving grants, it placed a burden on the taxpayers of \$4,414 a month, about \$50,000 a year.

This was only one of North Carolina's counties. Other, larger counties have more recipients, make higher payments. In the light of this information, many citizens are to look at each other perplexedly and utter a time-honored question: "Where does the money come from?"

The answer while not exactly simple is clear-cut—it comes from Federal, State, and county tax funds, with Uncle Sam shouldering the biggest part of the financial burden while leaving the largest part of administration and supervision in the hands of the state and local governments.

The county making the payment described in the foregoing case history actually pays only \$450 of the \$2800 which the man receives every month. Yet it retains the responsibility, under a carefully and cooperatively developed framework of state-wide regulations, of determining the man's eligibility to receive the grant, the amount he shall receive, and the right to terminate the payment if his circumstances change sufficiently for the better.

On a different yardstick, the same county pays only \$651.25 per month of the total of \$4,414 expended in the county for Old Age Assistance. The state government pays an equal amount of the total. And the Federal government comes through with the remainder—approximately \$3,111.50.

The Federal share of OAA payments according to the "formula" is three-fourths of an average payment not exceeding \$20 monthly, and one-half of the excess above \$20 up to a maximum grant of \$50. The state and county each pay one-eighth of an average payment not exceeding \$20 and one-fourth of the excess above \$20.

A simpler rule-of-thumb which is sufficient for explanatory purposes is that the Federal government puts up six out of every 8 dollars spent for the program, with the state putting up another dollar and the county the final dollar. Out of every dollar expended in



AIR OFFICER'S WIDOW AT WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY—Mrs. Daisy Brown, of Hattiesburg, Miss., whose husband, Ensign Jesse Leroy Brown, was the first Negro Naval officer killed in the United States service, meets Lieut. (Jg) Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., USN, when President presented him with the Medal of Honor for heroic efforts to save the life of Ensign Brown. After his plane had been hit in an encounter with the enemy over rugged mountain country near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Ensign Brown managed to crash land in a field five miles from friendly territory but was severely injured. Lieut. Hudner circled the stricken pilot to protect him from hundreds of Chinese troops in the immediate locality. Hudner made a crash landing and ran to help his injured shipmate and called a rescue helicopter. Ensign Brown died before he could be extricated from his plane. He was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., in 1926, graduated from Eureka High School in Hattiesburg and attended Ohio State University. He was appointed a Naval Aviation cadet in April, 1947, and commissioned October 21, 1948. He leaves his widow and a daughter, Pamela, aged two, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Dudley Brown, all of Hattiesburg.