

Chowan Farmers See Advantage Of Permanent Pasture

Soil Washed and Eroded Areas Are Made Profitable

A. M. Forehand, farmer of the Small's Cross Roads section of Chowan County has seeded 14 acres of permanent pasture. The pasture was located on land formerly used for row crops. A part of it was subject to considerable soil washing. Mr. Forehand figures that this soil washing can best be stopped by the pasture method of treatment. He is using a mixture of orchard grass and Ladino Clover over the whole pasture with tall fescue added on the most-eroded areas.

E. N. Elliott, who farms in the same community, has recently completed seeding 7 acres of his land to a fescue-Ladino mixture for hog and mule grazing. This is the second year that Mr. Elliott has seeded some of this pasture mixture. He is using it on some of his low, wet land areas. It is Mr. Elliott's observation that fescue grows remarkably well in these low, undrained spots and that it forms a good sod which prevents his animals from tramping the clover and puddling the soil during rainy periods.

Noah Goodwin, a farmer of the Enterprise community, is seeding six acres of Fescue-Ladino this year. He seeded three acres in 1949. These three acres carried ten sows and 65 hogs from March to August. Mr. Goodwin is particularly proud of his pasture and reports that he often watches his hogs graze the grass and clover for an hour or two at the time. He states that his sows have more milk for the nursing litters when grazed on the pasture. The 69 thrifty, growing pigs of his fall litters furnished evident proof of his statement. Mr. Goodwin is locating his pastures on both wet and eroded areas.

B. P. Monds and his two sons who farm in the Bear Swamp section put in 14 acres of the fescue-Ladino mixture last week. They will use it for both hog and cattle grazing. All of the Monds' acreage was located on wet-natured or class III-A land as classified by the Soil Conservation Service.

In locating their pastures on low, wet or on eroding areas, these farmers are using their land according to its capability. The use of land according to its capability is the key suggestion of all soil and water conservation farm plans as prepared by Soil Conservation technicians working with the Albemarle Soil Conservation District.

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SPORTS AFIELD

By Ted Keating

Did you realize that almost every wild hickory, walnut, butternut, pig-nut and king nut in this country was planted by a squirrel? Some scientists believe it was squirrels which speeded up the reforestation of all the parts of North America swept bare of life by the great ice sheets of the glacial age. And of all the squirrels, the gray is the most efficient tree planter. Donald Cluross Peattie, one of our most famous naturalists, thinks that if the gray had studied at the Yale School of Forestry he couldn't do better by the woods.

The life of a gray squirrel usually begins at the end of winter when mating is at its height. Four or five young are born about 44 days after breeding. The babies don't open their eyes for 36 days, and are utterly helpless for eight or nine weeks. They are naked, their legs ridiculously short, their ears seemingly nonexistent, and the tails give little promise of future beauty.

All this time they see nothing of their father. In the first place there is nothing he could do to be useful. In the second place, the male is by this time pursuing another mate. This is not resented by the first; his promiscuous behavior merely puts more little squirrels in the world, and who objects to that?

When a gray squirrel is big enough to walk and balance himself, his mother puts him away from her and he has to go and look for his own breakfast. Then the fun begins. And nature has fitted him superbly to enjoy it.

He has big bright eyes, and a nose that can smell anything good to eat. His forepaws are almost as mobile and cleverly manipulated for handling things as a raccoon's; his hind legs are coiled springs for jumping. And finally nature has pinned on him that preposterous yet elegant

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tail. Once in a squirrel's lifetime an impulse stronger than love may overpower him—a wild desire to leave home. Every gray squirrel within a hundred miles travels with him. Studies in Ohio and Wisconsin have shown that these flights from nothing to nowhere recur in cycles of five years when the population has reached a peak of about 10.8 squirrels per acre. Back in the region they have left, a hunter will need an average of 11½ hours to bag one squirrel! But nature swiftly fills the void. Soon again in early spring every hollow tree has a nursery of little suckling grays, preparing to start their madcap existences.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FATHER McCOURT SUGGESTS A CHOWAN MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

To the Editor:
Since coming to Edenton over nine years ago, I have often thought of the critical need Edenton has for a public hall to suitably accommodate concerts, conventions, meetings, political rallies, etc., without inconveniencing or conflicting with other assemblages held in other buildings designated for other purposes.

A number of other Edenton citizens recently remarked to me the local need for such an auditorium, especially now, and I can think of no better time than now, when we are intensifying a drive for a N. C. Little Symphony concert here, than to urge everybody to favor my suggestion that the Chowan unit of the American Legion adopt as its

project for a Memorial the erection of a building to be known as "Chowan Memorial Auditorium" that would be a practical memorial to all from Chowan County that have given their lives for our country in any war and would have a framed "Roll of Honor" listing the names of such with space for adding future names.

Our County has already pledged \$500.00, our Town \$500.00 to a memorial and a campaign sponsored by the American Legion for sufficient funds

for such a patriotic building should enlist the enthusiastic moral and financial support of everybody and prove a cultural, social, civil and financial success.

REV. F. J. McCOURT,
President Chowan Unit N. C. Little Symphony.

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