

**AROUND THE FARMS
IN CHOWAN COUNTY**

By C. W. OVERMAN, Chowan County Agent

Mulch Planting Demonstrations following small grain harvest were conducted on Thursday and Friday of last week. Edenton Tractor and Implement Company, Hobbs Implement Company and Byrum Implement and Truck Company rendered excellent cooperation by furnishing various types of equipment for this work.

On Thursday morning we used Lloyd Bunch's farm in Enterprise community for trial and error work. Here the different kinds of equipment were tried and adjustments made to get good performance. On Mr. Bunch's farm, about half of the field was worked with a rotavator, a rototiller-type machine. This power driven equipment thoroughly pulverized the upper six inches of soil, chopping the straw up and mixing it quite uniformly in the soil. We found that this machine did better work when a stalk mulcher or shredder was run ahead of it to tear up the straw.

A single blade rotary mower

was used for shredding the straw. This did a very satisfactory job in light straw but more than one trip was necessary to do a good job in heavy straw. A double blade rotary mower, or stalk mulcher, did a very good job tearing up the straw and stubble in both light and heavy straw. A forage chopper was also demonstrated for chopping up straw and this did a very good job.

With Bertram Hollowell at Chowan Cross Roads two types of planting were used. A portion of the field was rototilled for planting flat or in a slight furrow. The remainder of the field was planted in the stubble sod. Sod planting was accomplished by using a row opener in front of the planter and then planting in the furrow. The aim in sod planting is three-fold: First, to cover the straw so that it will rot; second, to plant the seed down in moist soil to get quicker germination; and third, to do the

ABUNDANT LIFE

by ORAL ROBERTS

ARE YOU LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE?

A famous man once purchased an old abandoned farm house which was situated on the slope of a mountain in a sparsely settled area. The man and his wife wanted seclusion from the world, and this place offered it. No "nosey" neighbors to pry, no noisy traffic, no neighborhood children to trample the flower garden! They truly wanted to be alone.

But after the man and his wife had repaired the house and had become settled, they both admitted reluctantly that things were "too quiet." They were bored.

"Let's take a walk down into the valley and see what's down there," said the man. So he and his wife started exploring their "neighborhood."

When they got down into the valley, they came, quite suddenly, upon a tiny house situated on a slight rise on the side of a ravine.

"Hello," they called. No answer. "Anybody home? Yohoo!" they cried and pounded on the door.

They were met by a little old lady, hobbling with a cane. "Glory be!" the old lady said, "and welcome to me little home. Be yours the window with the light across the valley?"

The man and his wife admitted that it was their light the old woman had seen. "Yer light sure has meant much to me,"

the old woman said. "It's been so lonely out here in the dark."

Then she asked them: "Be ye agoin' to stay on your side of the valley and keep yer light burnin' nightly?"

The man and his wife then realized that the old lady was depending on their light. Just to know that someone was near—even though on the far side of the valley—gave the old woman comfort.

"We'll keep our light burning every night, just for you, dear, and you're welcome to visit us anytime," the man's wife said. Then they went home and pulled back the curtains so their light would shine brighter across the valley.

Are you letting your own light shine? There are many who desperately need and want the light that shines from the window of a Christian experience.

Sometimes people will tell us how they are blest through our own individual testimony or influence. Sometimes they do not. We may be assured, however, that somewhere someone "on the hillside across the valley" is watching for our light.

If we radiate our light so people can see what God has done for us, we can serve as a guiding light for those who need help, particularly when those people are depressed and upset.

entire job at one operation.

At Hutch Winborne's, near Cross Roads, we delivered the field into three plots. The plot next to the road was sod planted. The center of the field was rototilled and planted in a slight furrow. On the remainder of the field the straw was burned off and the soil prepared and planted just as Mr. Winborne had intended. This field should give us a very good test on the three different methods used. At S. J. Bunch's field on the George Bunch farm we used a rototiller compared with the sod planting method.

The purpose of mulch planting is to keep the straw on the land for its organic value. Most often, farmers burn the straw off their small grain fields to get rid of the straw. In the last couple of weeks I have observed at least ten to fifteen farms in this county and others where the straw has been burned. This is a very destructive method when the organic matter is so much needed in the soil.

Good Laying Flock Management is very important all of the time, and especially so with the present low egg prices. This involves proper feeding and watering, good ventilation in the house, sanitation and disease and parasite control.

During the last few days I was called to a farm where low egg production was occurring. I found that one year, two year and three year-old birds were all housed in the same house together. The production was down to about thirty per cent. I advised rigid culling to remove the non-layers and poor layers. This was done and the rest of the flock remaining should give economical egg production.

Flocks must be watched carefully for parasites and disease. Lice and mites are quite prevalent and multiply very fast dur-

ing summer weather. When these appear, they must be checked promptly or else egg production will fall. Any birds showing signs of disease should be pulled out, housed separately for observation or, better still, just killed and thoroughly destroyed.

First Cotton Blooms Reported at the County Agent's office have been made. Lester Harrell of Rocky Hock community reported a bloom on Monday, June 22. C. H. Fain on Jesse Lane's farm in Center Hill community reported a first cotton bloom on Tuesday, June 23. There are possibly other blooms showing up in the county.

Examine your plants and squares carefully for any sign of boll weevils or boll weevil punctures. When you begin to find them start your dusting program. I hope to get time to make the first weekly cotton survey sometime this week.

Buy Grain On Basis Of Cost And Energy

Many Tar Heel turkey growers are now asking themselves these questions: How much is oats worth as a turkey feed, How many tons should I buy?

You can answer these questions, says W. C. Mills, Jr., turkey specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, by using the following system:

Since corn is used as a basis for comparing other grains, give it a value of 100. When comparing grains, several factors should be considered; but the most important is the energy value of grains. Consider this value and forget the others at this time.

Based on energy value per 100 pounds of grain, milo is worth about 98 per cent as much as corn, barley about 87 per cent, and oats about 84 per cent as much as corn.

Translated into dollars, if oats is 65 cents per bushel or 2 cents per pound, you can afford to pay 2.5 cents per pound for corn and 2.44 cents per pound for milo to get the same energy value.

If corn is costing \$154 per bushel or 2.75 cents per pound delivered to your barn, then milo is worth \$2.88 per 100 pounds, barley \$2.63 and oats \$2.52 per 100 pounds.

Mills says other considerations in purchasing grains are the quality, ease of handling, trash content, moisture content, ease of storage, and the feeding program for the season of year. For example, during the hot weather a farmer can utilize more oats in his feeding program than he can in cold weather. Whereas, during cold weather he will want to use mostly corn or milo.

It pays to know how much energy you get when you buy grain. Mills concluded. Buy right and make more profit.

You may depend upon books, even more than upon human beings, for pleasure, culture, education, amusement and recreation.

SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS

By JAMES H. GRIFFIN, Soil Conservationist

Mulch plantings were made on the farms of J. B. Hollowell, W. H. Winborne near Cross Roads and S. J. Bunch on River road, last Thursday and Friday.

Farmers who attended these demonstrations seemed to like this type of planting because it saves labor, conserves moisture and straw doesn't need to be burned. Some concern was expressed about cultivation. I'm sure these plantings will be watched this summer.

Several farmers and agricultural workers from neighboring counties attended these demonstrations. C. W. Overman, Chowan County Farm Agent, was in charge of the demonstration.

Byrum Implement & Truck Company, Hobbs Implement Company and Edenton Tractor & Equipment Company furnished the tractors and implements for these mulch plantings. Several company representatives were present in the fields to answer farmers' questions concerning the equipment. Regular equipment was used except a "Rotovator" was used on part of the field.

This tool is like a rotary weeder except it has knives that break about six-inches of the soil plus destroying the wheat straw.

W. H. Winborne had heavy straw on his field. He mulch planted part of the soybeans and burned the straw off the other part of the field. This should give a good comparison of the two planting methods.

Conservation needs for Chowan County were prepared last week by the agricultural workers. Agencies who assisted in this survey were C. W. Overman, County Farm Agent; H. O. West, ASC office manager; J. H. Griffin, Soil Conservationist, and the N. C. Forest Service. Reports show that at the present time we have 37,700 acres of cropland and by 1975 we will have 40,186 acres. Pasture will remain about the same, 2,500 acres. Woodland is now 68,355 acres and will be 65,433 acres in 1975. The loss in woodland acres will go to culti-

vated land and urban building sites.

Chowan County has three watersheds and seven small watersheds within the three major watersheds. The seven small watershed projects are Burnt Mill Creek, Queen Ann Creek, Pollock Swamp, Rocky Hock Creek, Dillard Creek and Warwick Swamp and Bear Swamp. These projects will need group action to solve their conservation problems, mostly drainage and flood prevention. As you know, Burnt Mill is already organized in a watershed group and Pollock Swamp has started organization.

A new postage stamp on Soil Conservation will be released by the Post Office Department on August 27, 1959. Details can be obtained from the Edenton Post Office or the local office of the Soil Conservation Service in the basement of the Post Office building in Edenton.

National Association of Soil Conservation Districts has a "First Day Cover" available for stamp collectors and others who desire it. See the local Soil Conservationist for details. This special postage stamp is part of the hard work and effect of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. It's the world's first special soil conservation stamp. It is being issued as a tribute to conservation farmers, their Soil Conservation Districts and the professional conservationists and other agricultural workers who have helped make the United States a world leader in soil conservation.

Cyril Winslow, Gliden community, is preparing his soil and water conservation plan. Technical assistance is being furnished by the Albemarle Soil Conservation District through the Soil Conservation Service. Soil survey maps have been prepared by Ed Karnowski, SCS Soil Scientist. Soil information will be given to Mr. Winslow and he will decide what practices he will carry out on his farm. Conservation farm plans are farmers' de-

isions or a plan of operation for the farm. Why not plan your farm within its capabilities and treat it according to its needs.

CENTER HILL CLUB MEETS

Center Hill Home Demonstration Club met Tuesday night, June 16, at 8 o'clock with Mrs. E. P. Jones. The feature of this meeting was a clothing demonstration given by one of the local Center Hill 4-H Club girls, Sunny White. In her demonstration, Sunny compared a cheap bought blouse with a better grade blouse as compared with a homemade blouse of the best grade ma-

terial made better and costing less.

Final plans for the variety show were made and committees named for the last minute details. The Home Demonstration Club is very well pleased with the various acts which have been engaged. The purpose of this show is for the benefit of Tyner Explorer Post 154, since the club is the sponsoring organization.

Mrs. B. P. Monds, president of the club, presided at the meeting and the meeting adjourned after a social period. Mrs. Hallett Hobbs will be hostess in July.

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