

WITH THE FARM WOMEN

By MAIDRED MORRIS

Read As A Hobby
Miss Katherine Millsaps, home economics agent in Alamance County, reports the Home Demonstration Club women in her county do find time for reading.

Recently the Highland Club met with Mrs. H. C. Walker, Burlington, Rt. 1. She had a basket of library books on display so the women could easily pick up their books. She tries to have books available at each club meeting.

Good Management Practices
Could one be more economical than Mrs. Joe Davenport of Roper? Mrs. Frances Darden, home economics agent in Washington County, says Mrs. Davenport has good ideas about conserving food.

Her daughter sent her some oranges and grapefruit from California. Some of the fruit was eaten, some made into marmalade, some of the rinds were candied while some were grated and dried to flavor cookies, cakes and sweet potatoes.

Furniture Arrangement
Is your problem furniture arrangement? If so, why not try arranging it for convenience and best use of space. Mrs. Ruby Corpening, assistant home economics agent in Madison County, says "livability is the first and final rule of furniture arrangement."

Mrs. Corpening has been encouraging the homemakers to group their furniture according to activities followed by family members such as reading, sewing, and television viewing.

Make Use of Paint Samples
Have you tried painting sample boards before painting the

rooms in your home? Realizing that paint sometimes looks different after it is put on the wall, Mrs. Virginia Evins, home economics agent in Sampson County, decided to do something about it.

Mrs. Evins had some samples of wall board painted by one of the local stores so she could show the samples when working with families in planning color schemes. You may want to try this method before investing in paint.

County Women Honor Homemaker
The Pitt County Home Demonstration Club women honored Mrs. J. Erantley Speight recently at a reception at the home of Mrs. Obed Castelleo, Winterville, Rt. 1.

Mrs. Sue May, home economics agent, says the women were honoring Mrs. Speight for having won one of the A & P leadership awards. Mrs. Speight won for showing outstanding leadership in her club, church, and community activities.

Why Grow Strawberries?
Mrs. Fetzor Blalock of Norwood, Rt. 1, has adapted a unique system for growing strawberries. When she desires strawberries for breakfast, she goes only a few feet from her back door to reach her strawberry garden.

Mrs. Rebecca T. Mooney, assistant home economics agent in Stanly County, says the portable strawberry gardens are grown in three metal rings which are graduated in size and stacked in tiers. The plants require little care and furnish enough berries for Mrs. Blalock's use.

Jeanette Perry Weds Jack Nixon



Miss Marion Jeanette Perry became the bride of Jack Linwood Nixon on Sunday, June 4, at 4 o'clock at the home of the bride at Hobbsville.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Carl Hart, pastor of Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Perry, Jr., of Hobbsville. The bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Kermit L. Nixon of Edenton.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a ballerina length dress of white silk organza with matching accessories. She carried a white prayer book topped with a white orchid and showered with stephanotis.

Miss Carole Perry, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor and only attendant. She wore a dress of nylon organza and had matching accessories. Belinda Perry, cousin of the bride, sang "The Lord's Prayer" for the benediction. David Nixon, brother of the bridegroom, was the best man.

After a reception in the home of the bride, the couple left for a wedding trip to Nags Head. When they return they will reside in Rocky Hook.

Root-knot and Rotation — Root-knot nematodes is perhaps the major disease problem confronting commercial vegetable growers. All summer vegetable crops are susceptible to severe damage.

Nematodes can be controlled to a large extent if the proper crop rotation is practiced. Root-knot resistant crops include crataegus, fescue, oats, millet and sudan. Soil treatment with ethylene dibromide (EDB), DD

or Nemagon is effective and economically practical. If root knot is severe and is the major disease problem, soil treatments pay large dividends in the form of markedly increased growth and yield. For most materials, it is safer to treat in the fall several months before planting in the spring. Follow all directions in land preparation, time of treatment and materials used for best results.

(a) select the proper chemical for the particular disease; (b) use the chemical at the right time (before the disease becomes severe and at recommended intervals); and (c) do a thorough job of spraying or dusting.

(4) Healthy Plants and Resistant Varieties — Many diseases start in young seedlings in greenhouses or plant beds and

later cause heavy losses in field. Always purchase plants from reputable growers who have practiced disease control in their own plant beds. The best bet is to produce your own plants. Plant varieties resistant to diseases when they are available.

(5) Dusting and Spraying — Many diseases have to be prevented by dusting or spraying the plants with fungicide. Examples are early and late blight of tomato and downy mildew of cucurbits (cucumber, squash, cantaloupe). Sprays and dusts are preventive treatments and are most successful when the following points are carried out:

(1) Seed Selection — Obtain seed from seedsmen that have a reputation for selling high quality, disease-free seed. Use certified seed whenever available.

(2) Rotation and Sanitation — Remember seed treatment is not a cure-all. It is of little value to treat seed and then plant them in the same spot where the crop was planted the year before. As soon as each crop is harvested, old plants should be plowed under or removed and burned to destroy the disease organisms.

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Census Reports Pickup In Trend To Big Farming

Average Size Farms In U. S. Over 300 Acres Compared to 215 In 1950

The trend toward big farming in the United States, accompanied by a growing concentration of agricultural production and marketing of farm products, has picked up momentum since the middle Fifties, according to preliminary findings made public from the 1950 Census of Agriculture.

Some of the highlights in a recent summary of the U. S. Bureau of the Census are:

The number of farms dropped by more than a million or over a fifth since 1954, and by close to 1 1/2 million or nearly a third for the 1950-59 period as a whole, with the predominant part of the decline occurring in the small farm.

Average Size a Record
The average size of farms in the United States is now more than 300 acres as against 242 acres in 1954 and 215 acres in 1950. The 1954-59 rise in this respect was the biggest on record, and reflected the accelerated trend toward farm enlargement in an era of increasing mechanization of farm production.

The average value of land and buildings per farm exceeded \$23,000 in 1959, over three-fifths greater than in 1954 and close to 2 1/2 times the 1950 figure.

The number of farms with sales of \$10,000 or more of agricultural products annually increased by more than a third since 1954 while there was a general decline elsewhere, particularly in farms with sales of under \$4,000 a year.

In keeping with this trend, an increasing proportion of farmers have been supplementing their income with off-the-farm work, the ratio reaching 45 out

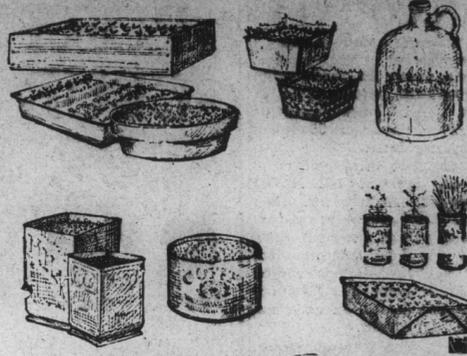
of every 100 farm operators in 1959. In fact, the Census Bureau stated that 36 out of every 100 farm operators reported that the income they and their families received from other sources in 1959 exceeded the value of all farm products sold during the year. The comparable proportions were 30 out of every 100 farm operators in 1954 and 29 out of 100 in 1950.

Rise in Federal Aid

While farms were getting fewer and bigger and production surpluses of principal agricultural commodities were increasing, Federal expenditures under agricultural programs were showing a big increase, rising from \$2 1/2 billions in the 1950 fiscal year to a record \$6 1/2 billions in the 1959 fiscal year. Reflecting the declining number of farms, Government agricultural outlays were the equivalent of around \$1,750 per farm in 1959, more than three times the comparable figure in both 1954 and 1950.

A breakdown of the figures on

Tips on Sowing Seeds Indoors



Planters? For sowing seeds indoors, you can use practically anything from regular flats to strawberry boxes lined with foil, hothouses made of bottles, milk cartons, coffee cans or cake tins.

One look at the new seed catalogues and you'll want to start gardening immediately. Start your seeds indoors and you'll have blooms earlier and they'll last longer. Indoor planting is also excellent for seeds that take longer to mature.

1. Seeds can be planted indoors in practically anything from a conventional planter to a coffee can or half of a milk carton. An excellent little hothouse can be made by cutting off the bottom of a gallon or half-gallon bottle and putting it over a coffee can. The circulation of air is excellent as it comes in under the bottom of the bottle and goes out through the top.

2. Planters should have sub-irrigation to prevent damping off of tiny seedlings.

3. Vermiculite and sphagnum moss are excellent for starting seeds, as they are disease-free.

4. Soluble plant foods are ideal for giving young seedlings strength and stamina.

5. Good health for seedlings depends on adequate light, temperature control and proper watering.

6. Seeds do not need light to germinate. However, as soon as the seedlings are up, give them full light at a warm window. In weak light they stretch and get spindly.

7. Temperatures should be from 60 to 70 degrees until seeds sprout. After that, 55 to 65 degrees is best. If it gets too hot next to the window, shift the planter to a cooler place to keep the seedlings from getting soft.

8. Too much water rots tiny plants; not enough water will cause them to shrivel. Dampen them lightly but don't soak them.

9. In four weeks or so, young seedlings will be ready to be thinned out and transplanted to other boxes, cold-frames or a protected place outdoors.

10. Seedlings should be "hardened-off" before finally being planted outdoors in the garden.

and as a result they represented about one out of every 11 farms in 1959 as against one out of 15 in 1954 and around one out of 18 in 1950.

CENTER HILL CLUB MEETS

The Center Hill Senior 4-H Club held its regular June meeting at the Center Hill Community Building. The meeting was opened by Emmett Jones, Jr., with a devotional.

Harry Venters discussed the Senior 4-H Camp which is being held at Manteo June 26 through July 1.

Emphasis was placed on more recreation. The members tried several new folk dances.

Refreshments were served by Jackie Boyce, after which the meeting adjourned.

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Plant Specialist Outlines Six Points To Cut Annual Losses

Disappointed with your vegetables last year? Were they hit by some disease? Could very well have happened. J. C. Wells, extension plant pathologist at N. C. State College, says vegetable diseases cause a multi-million dollar loss in North Carolina each year.

Wells believes, however, that much of this loss can be prevented by following a few preventive disease control practices. Here are some of the practices that Wells suggests:

(1) Seed Selection — Obtain seed from seedsmen that have a reputation for selling high quality, disease-free seed. Use certified seed whenever available.

Good examples of seed-borne diseases that can cause severe damage when conditions are favorable are anthracnose and bacterial blight of snap beans, black rot of cabbage, bacterial spot of pepper and anthracnose of watermelon, cucumber and cantaloupe.

To prevent diseases of this type, buy seed grown in the arid regions of the West where these diseases do not develop. In the case of pepper and cucurbits, treat seed with bi-

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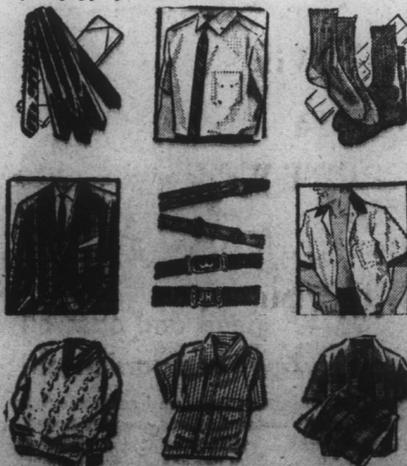
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