

June 22 Wool Pool Is Huge Success

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

By the truck load wool arrived at Leary's warehouse on Thursday, June 22. Jointly sponsored by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and the N.C. Extension Service, the local "wool pool," which brought 68 sheep producers from many counties east of Raleigh, was one of four annual pools held in the state.

"Pooling wool commands a better price on the market," said Glenn Rogerson, a Chowan producer.

"There once were a lot of sheep in the county, but they became infected with worms and died. People stopped raising them. Four of us, Debbie Boyle, Ben Wood, C.Y. Parrish and myself, are venturing to try again.

"Not only that," he said, "but we share our knowledge with each other. Some of us are raising one breed of sheep, while others are raising different breeds. This should establish the stock best suited to the area."

Rogerson anticipates that his flock of 68 will greatly increase with the fall lambing. His enthusiasm for the business extends to wearing a bright red shirt embossed with a sassy white lamb.

Chuck Miller, director of livestock for the N.C. Department of Agriculture, said that pooling wool in this area began around 1950.

"The first pool took place in Washington, N.C.," he recalled, "and we've been pooling ever since."

Ralph Ketchia, a N.C. Department of Agriculture official, graded the wool as clear (free of burrs, sand, debris, etc.), light burry, heavy burry, short wool (young sheep or lamb's wool) and tags (matted around the hindquarters).

Rogerson said that graders test for fleece strength, with micronair tensile strength being a test of each shaft of hair and 58 medium wool being the standard classification. Grading quality determines the price paid per pound.

"Spinners who prefer spinning in the grease buy clear wool," he said. "They had rather spin the wool in its natural, pliant state. Some wash it as yarn and others wait until after it has been woven."

Because it protects the body from outside temperature changes, thereby acting as an insulator against both heat and cold, wool is a choice material for clothing.

Realizing the value of the product, the U.S. Military now uses more wool in its uniforms, especially in the commando sweater. Adapted from the British, the garment is also popular with civilians.

In addition, Jantzen Co. recently issued a men's line of clothing called "Worsted 64." Woven in an American Indian motif, the fabric is 60% acrylic and 40% wool.

Packed in 250 lb., 7ft. tall burlap bags, this year's harvest weighed in at over five tons, said Area Specialized

Agent in Livestock Jeff Copeland. Copeland said this was at least a ton more than the 1988 pool.

Jones Receives Scholarship

RALEIGH -- In announcing scholarship awards for the 1989-90 school year, the North Carolina National Guard Association Education Foundation has named Susan Jones of Edenton, a recipient.

Ms. Jones competed with 138 other men and women in the foundation's awarding \$39,500.00 in scholarships to deserving individuals. "This is the largest amount ever awarded", according to foundation president, William D. Lackey.

"We are thrilled in being able to announce a total of sixty-two recipients this year and proud to assist such outstanding individuals as Ms. Jones in their educational endeavors", said Lackey.

Awarding its first three scholarships in 1969, the foundation has presented a total of 469 scholarships to date totaling \$239,420.00.

Scholarships are awarded in varying amounts depending on available funds. Applicants are evaluated individually and competitively on the basis of need, academic achievement, leadership/citizenship and other pertinent information.

Ms. Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Wood, will be a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tours Slated

By JIM MANSFIELD
Horticulture Ext. Agent

The second annual Chowan Farm/Horticulture Tour will be held July 11 from 6:30 p.m. until dark. The tour is jointly sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service, the Chowan Horticulture Club and local Ruritan Clubs. It will be open to the general public. Participants will car pool from stop to stop.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the group will meet at the Virginia Fork Produce to tour sweet corn cooling and snap bean handling equipment.

The next stop will be Carlton and Alice Perry's farm, for a look at vegetable production with drip irrigation and a new nursery operation by their daughter, Pat Mansfield.

The final stop will be Bateman Produce Farms in the Wingfield area. The Batemans grow many acres of sweet potatoes, peanuts and cotton. The group will be able to see a sweet potato curing and storage house and a cotton harvester.

For more information, contact the Extension Service at 482-8431.



A Woolly Task - It is not an easy job to pack 250 lb., 7 ft. tall sacks with wool. To ensure that it is tightly stuffed, (l. to. r.) Willie Parker, Anthony Turner and Roy Ferebee take turns climbing inside the massive bag.

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Bids should be submitted to the County Manager's office, County Office Building, P.O. Box 1030, Edenton, by 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 20, 1989.

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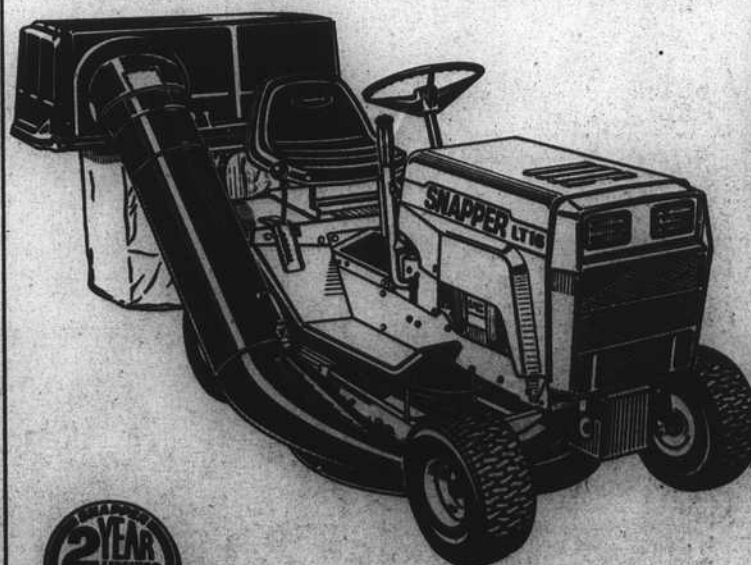
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