

State Aid Offered To All Farmers In Grading Hay Crops

Hay, a crop valued at more than 14 million dollars in North Carolina, can now be graded officially by the State Department of Agriculture.

W. H. Darst, field crops marketing specialist of the Department's markets division, has been licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture to "inspect and officially grade all hays and straw produced within or moving into the State, upon request of the farmer or dealer."

Since the hay-straw grading program is supervised by the federal government, which also furnishes some supplies, a nominal fee for inspection service will be charged and the program will be operated "much in the same manner as the federal-state fruits and vegetable inspection service," Darst explained.

"The grading of hay in North Carolina can be the means of materially increasing the returns our farmers secure from this vital crop," he emphasized. "Hay, if officially graded, can be increased in value as much as \$5 a ton.

"Unfortunately, the great majority of farmers in North Carolina sell their hay on the basis of appearance and not grade. A farmer cannot demand the most for his hay if it is not certified as to grade."

Darst said that only three crops—tobacco, cotton and corn—exceed hay in value in North Carolina.

"While much of the hay produced in the State is consumed on the farms where grown, an increasingly large amount is being placed on the market," he added. "Too much hay is being shipped into the State considering the fact that this crop, if properly harvested and graded, can return substantial profits to the grower.

"The production of market hays is comparatively new in North Carolina. Due to lack of experience and equipment, much of the hay placed on the market is of poor quality. Handlers of 'shipped-in' hays buy and sell on the basis of grade, but when handling local hay the price is determined largely on general appearance. The rather haphazard method of buying local hay has resulted in unsatisfactory prices to the farmer and has discouraged the production of market hay so badly needed in our State.

"The inspection service must of necessity begin with an educational program. Producers and handlers should be instructed as to methods of harvesting and handling market hay, also as to the requirements of market grades. Commercial hays as most all other farm products should be marketed on the basis of grade."

New Bulletin On Feeds Offered Free By State

North Carolina's new feed bulletin—"Analyses of Mixed Feeds", 1940-1941, is now off the press and will be sent to farmers and others upon request to the Publications Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, North Carolina. Articles on feeds by well known livestock authorities are featured in the bulletin which contains 187 pages. Tables showing official analyses of feeds take up 129 of the 187 pages.

Articles in the bulletin have been written by R. S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry science department of State College; Jack Sams; Dr. G. Howard Satterfield, professor of Bio-Chemistry, State College; Professor R. H. Ruffner, professor of animal husbandry and dairying, State College; and Dr. J. D. Turner, chief of feed control, Kentucky.

FARM BRIEFS

DROP

The general level of prices received by farmers for agricultural commodities on November 15 declined four points from a month earlier, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

GOAL

Vance County has already reached the goals set up in the farm defense program for 1943, with 14 percent of the farm families still to be seen, reports Assistant Farm Agent J. T. Richardson.

FARM QUESTIONS

QUESTION: What type of brooder is best for North Carolina conditions?

ANSWER: Brooders have been devised to meet all situations from where only 40 to 50 are brooded with a lamp brooder to where many hundreds are brooded with a hot water system. The source of heat may be wood, coal, kerosene, fuel oil, or electricity. The type of brooder to select will depend upon the economy of operation, availability of fuel, and the cost of fuel. Practically all types of brooders have been tested and found satisfactory for North Carolina conditions. Copies of Extension Circular No. 251, "Chick Raising," may be obtained free by writing to the Agricultural Editor, State College, Raleigh.

QUESTION: What is the best means of protecting young orchard trees against damage by rabbits?

ANSWER: protection can be given by wrapping the trunk of each tree with newspapers or building paper. A repellent wash may be used which consists of equal parts of commercial concentrated lime sulphur, either liquid or powdered, and water. Then this wash should be applied with a brush. The wash can be made more effective if fish oil is added.

QUESTION: Do dairy cows provide a profitable sideline?

ANSWER: Fred M. Haig, professor of dairying, says North Carolina is still lagging behind more progressive states in the number of dairy cattle. Nearly one-third of the State's farms do not own a single dairy cow, this being especially true of tobacco and cotton farms. Thousands of these farms, Professor Haig believes, could grow sufficient feed for five to ten cows without interfering with the production of regular cash crops. This would provide a profitable source of extra cash for these farms and help the food-for-freedom campaign in addition.

QUESTION: Is it desirable to feed milk to baby chicks?

ANSWER: The feeding of milk as a drink in addition to the grain and mash fed is a common practice where surplus milk is available on the farm. When this is done, it is desirable to feed this for not more than two hours a day, preferably at mid-day or in the early afternoon. Water may or may not be placed before the chicks during the time the milk is fed. However, the feeding of milk does not eliminate the necessity of mash feeding. Metallic containers should not be used.

QUESTION: What is the best method of seeding a pasture on poor land?

ANSWER: Thousands of acres of poor land in North Carolina may be made into pastures within the next few years, but such attempts will be doomed to failure unless sufficient limestone and fertilizer are applied first. It should be remembered that fertilizer must always come before seed when preparing such land for pasture. If such a plan is followed, then good lespedeza sods may be established on poor clay soils. These sods may be used as a base upon which to build legume-grass sods of a more permanent nature after supplying supplementary pasturage at first.

N. C. Prison Population Reported Falling Off

The state prison department has reported a declining prison population with a larger number of trustees and a declining number of escapes with a larger percentage of recaptures.

The November 1 prison population of 9,001 was the smallest in recent state history. There were 3,033 trustees. A year ago, the state had 381 more prisoners and 239 less trustees.

Since May 1, when Oscar Pitts became director of the prison department, there have been 154 escapes and 137 recaptures. The average for the same period of the previous three years was 227 escapes and 182 recaptures.

Since November 1, only six prisoners have escaped. The previous low for a month is 18.

DEMONSTRATIONS

P. A. Morgan of the Cherryfield section and C. C. Yongue of North Brevard will conduct two swine feeding demonstrations this year.

Poverty On Farms Found Closely Akin To Fertility Of Soil

A prosperous, healthy and intelligent citizenship cannot long exist on a poor soil.

That is the opinion of a committee of extension workers after studying a report on soil fertility in North Carolina.

"Every acre on the farm should grow some productive crop," said the report as finally adopted by the entire Extension group. "Each acre should be either in forest, pasture or cultivated crop. All the cropland ought to be under a rotation system which should include at least one legume. In some tobacco rotations, a small grain or grass crop might be substituted for the legume."

The committee went on to declare that every section of the State had legumes best adapted to its soil and its system of farming. Legumes should be fertilized, especially with limestone, phosphate and potash, to increase their effectiveness. More legume seed needs to be grown on our home farms.

The control of erosion is also necessary to good soil fertility and therefore broadcast or sod crops should occupy from 25 to 100 percent of the cropland on every farm. The actual percentage per farm will depend upon the slope and the kind of farming done. Terraces, subsoiling, contour cultivation, and drainage are necessary in many cases.

Minor elements need to be carefully considered in all soil fertility and nutrition problems and county agents were urged, in the report, to study these elements and to become better prepared to aid farmers concerning these little known materials. More research with minor elements was recommended.

Elementary Students To Present Operetta At School December 17

After the lapse of two years the Andrews Elementary School is about to have another operetta. It is to be a primary grades operetta—one

SOLDIERS ARRIVE TO GUARD DAMS FROM SABOTAGE

85 Men From Ft. Bragg Sent To Santeetlah, With More Coming

War, grim and stark showed up here Tuesday when a detachment of soldiers arrived from Fort Bragg to guard the dam and penstock at the Santeetlah project of the Aluminum company.

The first detachment consists of 85 men. More will be sent here later. One hundred and twenty-five soldiers are at the Tapoco dam and power house and the Santeetlah power house at Rhymers Ferry; and 250 at the Calderwood dam and power house.

War, grim and stark showed up here Tuesday when a detachment of soldiers arrived from Fort Bragg to guard the dam and penstock at the Santeetlah project of the Aluminum company.

The time of the operetta is Wednesday evening, December 17.

Outstanding throughout the years have been the primary operettas produced here from the standpoint of color effects, staging, timeliness, and general appeal. "At the End of the Stant, Claus Trail" will be no exception to this rule. More than one hundred children will participate in the play. First grades will supply "bells", "snowflakes", "poinsettias", and the "North Wind". The second grades will produce "Northern Lights", "Sleigh Bells", "Rabbits", "Holly" and "Candles".

The speaking parts are taken care of by third grade pupils as follows: "Tommy",—Marks Hudson; "Alice",—Marlene Wemple; "Jack Frost",—Jerry Reece; "Christmastide",—Betty Heaton; "White Bear",—Dan Hawk; "Christmas Candy",—third grade boys; "Santa Claus",—Robbie Lewis; "King Winter",—Jimmy Summers; "Queen December",—Jackyie Ellard; "Christmas Trees",—Carolyn Nothstein and Sally Buchanan; "Snow Man",—Donald Cline.

A small admission fee will be charged to take care of costuming and other expenses.

Use Classified Ads

Reports are current that 3,000 soldiers are guarding the Alcoa plant at Alcoa, Tenn. During the first World War, the aluminum industry was an infant in this section. The plants were being built at Alcoa and the Tapoco, first dam ever built in this section, was finished in 1919.

At that time aluminum was used chiefly for cooking utensils. Now it is used universally for everything from foil to air planes.

The soldiers sent here will guard the several power houses, dams and the transmission lines in an effort to prevent sabotage by enemy aliens, who may attempt to stop the manufacture of aluminum for defense purposes.



THAN EVER BEFORE is the verdict of women whose permanent wave is a

Pure Paris

the new French Oil Wave. It beautifies, glorifies and renders soft and lustrous the most difficult hair. That is why American women are asking for "PURE PARIS" by name.

Edwina Hagaman Beauty Shop 211 Valley River Ave. Phone 250

XMAS WONT BE DARK

Old Kris Kingle reached an agreement with the Weather man, and sent the blessed rains that mean the end of the "blackout."

BUT—WE ARE AT WAR—SO DONT WASTE POWER!

The Town of Murphy wants you to have every comfort that the mighty, surging "horses" of your TVA station can bring. The Town of Murphy wants you to use washing machines—electrical refrigerators—toasters -- ironers -- heaters -- radios—all the devices that increase happiness by decreasing toil.

BUT—USE THEM SPARINGLY—PLEASE!

Every Kilowatt you save means more guns, tanks, planes, for our army and navy.

Your town appreciates your cooperation during the blackout.

THE CITY OF MURPHY ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT