

EXTENSION SCENE

by John G. Richardson
Extension Chairman



In last week's column, we mentioned that several activities had been held in the county recently that were worthy of note. One of those activities included the two final stops on the Research on Wheels program. The Extension Research on Wheels program involves a coordinated effort, which is led by Furney Todd, an Extension plant pathologist at NC State University, many extension agents throughout North Carolina, and tremendous number of cooperating individuals who allow the agents to place demonstrations on their farms.

Two farms which were visited during the Research on Wheels program included the Montie Oxendine farm and the Jean Barnes farm.

At Montie's farm, the test is to check the effectiveness of various nematocides which are available on the market and

others which are still under going research and tests. Upon observation of the nematode test one can actually observe the difference in performance of many of these materials. Clarence Stockton, our tobacco agent, has labeled each of these plots and anyone is welcome to stop in and visit this test. The test is located just east of Interstate 95 and US 74. Anyone in the area can give directions to the tests.

Following the visit to the nematode test area, the many representatives from throughout the United States as well as foreign countries traveled to Jean Barnes' farm in Marietta to observe a research test involving various fungicides. Recently Clarence conducted two Twilight Tours for local folks to see the variations in this test which is located on severely infested black shank soil. In giving the welcome to the tour group, I shared with the participants that they were

going to observe the most dramatic examples of effective fungicides in the treatment of black shank they would ever see.

Every individual who has taken the time to walk through the tests on Mrs. Barnes' farm has seen some of the most dramatic results that they could ever hope to see regarding farm chemical. Ridomil, which seems to be a savior of the tobacco industry as it relates to blue mold, has also shown its colors in its effectiveness for preventing infection of tobacco by black shank as well. In reviewing the many plots located throughout the two acre field, the only plots which appear perfectly normal are the ones which had Ridomil as one of the treatments. In our information previously, Ridomil was being tested last year for its effectiveness in black shank control when it was found to be equally effective in controlling blue mold.

This test located on Mrs. Barnes' farm certainly under scores the total effectiveness of this material. We, in the Extension Service, are not in the business of promoting one material over another. However, when the results of on-farm tests indicate that a material is most effective, then we surely do not have any problems in sharing this in-

formation with our clientele and with the general public.

As nearly every tobacco farmer is aware, Ridomil was the only material which was available for effective blue mold control this year. However, there are a number of other materials available for effective black shank control and while the Ridomil has been quite effective on the test in Marietta, we do not intend to dilute the effectiveness of other black shank control materials which have proven themselves in their performance over the years. The only reason that I am sharing this information about Ridomil is that it is a new material and has gained notoriety as a result of its ability to control the blue mold fungus.

In this test on the Barnes' farm, another material called Galben is being tested for effectiveness against blue mold. In my discussions with Clarence Stockton, he has indicated that Galben also did a very excellent job in blue mold control during the rampant spread of the blue mold fungus in early June.

While our discussions are centered this week only on these two tobacco tests, which are associated with the overall Extension Research on Wheels program, Clarence has been conducting numerous other

tests in the county which will provide valuable information that will be utilized in formulating recommendations for the 1981 crop year.

The various tobacco tests which the Extension Service is conducting in Robeson County are also being conducted in several other counties by other agents. As a result of this replication throughout the tobacco growing areas of the state, the information obtained from the individual tests becomes much more valuable when it is compiled and combined with all the other similar tests. As a result of this replication, the Tobacco Information Booklet, which is made available each winter to our growers, contains the information that is obtained from these tests. Therefore, the Tobacco Information Booklet is an especially current piece of information and is always helpful to tobacco growers for the upcoming year.

We encourage anyone who would like to review these tests, to please stop by the farms where the large Extension signs are located and visit these test plots. These research plots, and the cooperators who work with the Extension agents in conducting these plots are only as good as the information which is obtained and the lessons which can be

learned through observation of these plots while they are in production.

So, if you have ever wondered, please do not wonder any longer, we know that you will be welcome to stop and review the many Extension research plots which are located throughout Robeson County. They are readily identifiable by the large red and white Extension signs which usually provide information on the type of demonstration which exists at that location. Then, if you would like additional information regarding any of these tests, please do not ever hesitate to call the county Extension office at 738-8111.

Don't Touch

Did you know that you don't even have to touch the leaves of poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac to be infected by them? The irritating oils these plants secrete can be spread in many ways... just touching an animal that has been in contact with the leaves, or through exposure to the smoke of the burning foliage.



Many people suffering from the unbearable itching and discomfort these plants cause mistakenly believe that scratching will lessen their misery... but, although scratching may provide momentary relief, it can actually spread the rash and even cause infection. Fortunately, real relief is now available... new Lanacort Hydrocortisone 0.5% Creme... from the makers of Lanacort. Lanacort's hydrocortisone acts to relieve the torment of poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac... helps natural healing to begin.

Recently Married

Janice Faye Jones and Larry Hunt were married Friday evening, August 1, 1980 at the Marriage Chapel in Dillon, South Carolina. She is the daughter of Gary Locklear and Annie Bell Jones. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Hunt.



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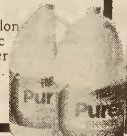


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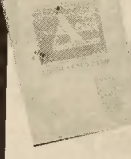


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