

Land Utilization Projects In N. C. Being Developed

Resettlement Administration Is Pushing Development Plans On Three Projects

Lift Time Limit For Filing Cotton Sales Certificates

By WHITNEY THARIN
(Regional Information Officer, Resettlement Administration)

Work on development of the three land utilization projects recently announced for North Carolina by the Resettlement Administration has been started and a number of unemployed persons are being given jobs as fast as they are certified for employment by the State Works Progress Administration.

The exact number of persons working on the projects will not be available until the project managers submit their progress reports to James M. Gray, of Raleigh, N. C., regional director of resettlement's land utilization division. The number of persons employed will be increased as the work advances and as additional employables are certified by the State Works Progress Administration.

Virtually all of the labor for development of these projects is to be supplied by the Works Progress Administration, which in turn secures employables from the United States Employment Service. In order to qualify for employment, workers must be registered with the United States Employment Service. The Resettlement Administration cannot put any person to work until he has been certified for employment by the Works Progress Administration.

Utilization Of Land

All persons employed through the Works Progress Administration are being paid the security wage provided for in the expenditure of funds made available by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The security wage varies between counties, depending on population, and employees will be paid the security wage for the county in which employed.

The projects, designed to demonstrate the proper utilization of land, are the 6,000-acre Crabtree Creek Recreation project in Wake County, between Raleigh and Durham; the 30,000-acre Jones, Salter and Singletary Lakes project in Bladen County, near Elizabethtown and Fayetteville, and the 60,000-acre Sandhills project in Hoke, Richmond, Scotland, Montgomery, and Moore counties.

Funds were recently allocated for the purchase of the land in the project areas. Development is being launched with funds made available in a preliminary allocation for this work. Exact amounts for complete development of each project will be announced after the preliminary work has indicated more clearly the sums necessary.

The Crabtree Creek project will be developed as a recreational area. Preliminary work will include the clearing away of brush, building of roads and trails, correction of the severe erosion which has made this area unprofitable for farming, and construction of camp sites. The National Park Service will assist in the development of the recreational features of this project.

Relocating Farm Families

Similar preliminary work will be done on the other two projects. Later, both the Jones-Salter-Singletary Lakes and the Sandhills project will be reforested and re-stocked with game and fish.

Residents of the project areas, who have been trying unsuccessfully for years to make a living tilling the unproductive soil, will be aided by the Resettlement Administration in locating on better farms nearby.

"These projects," Mr. Gray said, "are designed to demonstrate the feasibility of giving stranded and former relief families a new start on lands better adapted to agriculture; to convert non-productive areas into uses that will benefit the people of North Carolina; and to give work, through development of these lands, to a large number of persons who otherwise would be unemployed."

"We have been fortunate in that we have had the complete cooperation of land owners, residents of the project areas, civic leaders, officials and others in launching our program in this state."

"I know that we will continue to receive this splendid cooperation but I want to emphasize that this work is a long-time, demonstration program that will require patience to follow through to the end. On a lot of these acres we are going to try to re-grow the trees that man should never have cut away. I just hope that the folks who are sincerely interested in this work will bear in mind that it takes a long time to grow a tree."

Hatcherymen And Poultrymen Hear Of Improvement Plans

Decision to defer approval of the federal government's national poultry improvement plan was reached recently by South Carolina poultrymen in session at Columbia. Although in favor of the government's plan, the poultrymen attending agreed to postpone approval pending consideration of certain specifications with the agriculture department at Washington.

Speakers at the session included Dr. C. W. Knox of Washington, senior poultry husbandryman of the bureau of animal industry, and P. H. Gooding, Clemson college extension poultryman.

The primary purpose of the national poultry improvement plan is to identify authoritatively poultry breeding stock, hatching eggs, and chicks with respect to quality in uniform terms throughout the nation. Adherents of the plan claim that the adoption ultimately would accomplish (1) more efficient and profitable poultry raising and (2) bring about an improvement in the quality of hatching eggs, baby chicks, breeding stock, and market methods.

Chickens Add To Family Income



Ben Freeman made himself a "free man" in reality by growing most of his living right at home. Poultry gave the family eggs and meat, and in addition, his poultry and egg surplus provided a cash income. Here is a success story, that is well worth reading—and putting into practice.

Practical Application "Brain And Brawn" Solves Farm Relief Problem

South Carolina Farmer Finds Answer In Live-At-Home And Diversity Program

By A. B. BRYAN
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(Specially Written For The State Farmer Section)

THE best way to find farm relief, according to a Pickens county, S. C., farmer, is first to make a living from the farm and then to have several sources of cash income. So Ben F. Freeman, of Pickens, has by his own statement "not spent a dime in years for necessities that can be grown on the farm," and has for cash sale not only cotton but corn and small grains, apples and peaches, and cattle and poultry. To these ends he used brain as well as brawn—he thinks while he works—ready always to put to practical good use any new ideas and methods to be had from his own or other people's thinking.

It is just as well, first of all, to speak here of what Freeman considers the basis of all farming success. He says that maintaining the soil is the bedrock of good farming and that humus is the bedrock of soil improvement.

Land Well Terraced

Then what? Well, every acre of his rolling hills is well terraced—done largely with his own Bostrom level—and every acre gets in rotation plenty of humus through legumes and other cover crops and lots of stable manure from his cows and other livestock.

Specifically, Mr. Freeman thinks Ootoot soybeans in corn is the cheapest and simplest way to build soils. Planting each year one-third of his land in corn, he interplants the corn with soybeans, hill for hill, using thus a bushel of bean seed to about 10 acres, so there is little cost.

Incidentally, he says, there is no perceptible decrease in corn yield because of the beans, and of course the legume adds nitrogen and humus for future crop benefits. These and other soil improvements are held safely on the Freeman acres, for he asserts that in 28 years since he terraced his land there have been no broken terraces.

Cash For Field Crops

Of cotton Mr. Freeman plants decidedly less than formerly, making now about 30 bales yearly on somewhat less than 40 acres with a five-year average yield of 400 pounds of lint per acre. Cotton is in a three-year rotation, seldom cotton following cotton; and the fertilizer practice calls for not over 400 pounds of 8-3-3 and 80 to 100 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre. This soda, he finds, is best applied, to help set a crop of bolls about when the forms appear. Potash may be applied for rust. Farm Relief, with its one-inch or better staple, gives him good yields and a premium price.

In his cultural practices with cotton he has found that the fertilizer, spacing, and poisoning recommendations of extension workers give best results in yields from year to year.

With one-third of his cultivated acres in corn and 30 to 35 bushels per acre average Mr. Freeman has corn for sale as well as ample supply for farm use. So too with a good acreage of oats averaging 40 bushels per acre with say 150 pounds of fertilizer. These grain crops pay good dividends on the money and labor invested in them in the Freeman crop rotation plan.

Apples A Specialty

The pet enterprise on the Freeman farm nowadays is the apple orchard of 1,200 trees of various ages. While apple growing in Pickens has passed the experimental stage, Mr. Freeman believes that for real success with apples you "must be in love with it," and that's just what he is.

In 1918 Mr. Freeman set 100 trees for a home apple orchard, and during the next few years he went roving among apple areas of North Carolina and Georgia to try to discover if apples might prove a good bet in a wider diversification. Some of these trips were led by Clemson horticulturists and Pickens county's veteran farm agent, Tom Bowen, and these farm leaders and Mr. Freeman believed apples a real possibility for Pickens.

In 1922 he set 400 trees, more from time

to time, and now has 1,200 trees, 700 in bearing. Last year these gave him around 3,000 bushels, this year towards 2,000 bushels. In cultivating these trees lespedeza is grown as a cover crop and turned in the fall, and harrowing follows during fall and winter. Fertilizer consists of say 300 pounds per acre of acid and potash and one to four pounds of nitrate of soda per tree as needed.

As equipment for his apple growing, Mr. Freeman has considerable investment—packing houses, power sprayers, sizers, cleaners, boxes—all of which more than pays for itself in a finer and more marketable product. Apple sales at satisfactory prices have so far been easy on nearby markets, with net returns more profitable than from cotton.

Cattle Herd Profitable

Another Freeman "cash crop" is a herd of cattle. With 30 to 50 head in a miscellaneous herd, he has a good outlet for by-product feeds and roughages produced in his diversified farming, and of course it has usually paid in cash returns from sales and trades, not to mention the profitable soil enrichment from compost.

Wheat, syrup, potatoes, vegetables, dairy cows, and poultry all in abundance to meet family and farm needs, together with money from the various sources indicated, make Mr. Freeman a "free man" in reality, reasonably independent of changing economic conditions.

FCA Conference Discusses Credits

(By HAROLD C. BOOKER, JR.)

Reiterating his faith in the future of the south and southern agriculture and expressing high praise for the agencies of the Farm Credit Administration, Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of a southern farm paper, made the principal address at the Farm Credit conference held at Columbia, S. C., October 30-31.

Dr. Poe, in discussing the administration, said that the agencies of the FCA, had enabled the farmers through cooperation to finance themselves and conduct their affairs in a business-like way. Recalling the days of his youth when farm financing was not as easy as it is today, he compared it with the present available facilities by which the farmer can secure his production money at low rates of interest without the necessity of going to the time merchant.

Declaring his faith in the south's future and southern agriculture unshaken, Dr. Poe pointed out that the south still has all its natural resources and there are so many agencies attacking the agricultural problems scientifically now that this is obliged to become one of the nation's favored sections.

On the first day of the meeting, executives of the administration outlined in detail functions of the individual agencies, and the visitors were taken on a tour of the various agencies on the second day.

These present at the conference were: I. O. Schaub, director of extension; O. F. McCary, L. B. Altman, B. Troy Ferguson and E. W. Gaither, district agents; T. E. Brown, director of vocational agriculture; J. W. Johnson, specialist in organization and marketing and P. H. Jeter, agricultural editor from North

Newport Young Tar Heel Farmers Have Fine Mountain Trip

By CLAUDE GARNER

(Newport Chapter Tar Heel Farmers)

Our trip from the seacoast to the mountains, is still the topic of conversation of the members of the Newport Chapter of Young Tar Heel Farmers.

This outing was under the supervision of O. S. Long, our teacher, and we made the trip on a large truck, especially equipped by us for such a tour. We arrived at Bessemer City about six o'clock that afternoon and pitched camp just outside the city, in a beautiful valley. The citizens of this town were exceptionally nice to us. We were given access to the park, swimming pool and springs.

The next morning, after a hot out-door breakfast, we continued our journey to Asheville. We arrived in Asheville at three o'clock Tuesday afternoon, stopped in West Asheville for more provisions to last until we returned from the rough mountain country the coming Friday.

Camp Site Selected

The camp site decided upon was Frying Pan Gap, a federal camp ground, near Pisgah Mountain, in the Pisgah National Forest. All the boys were observing the mountains for the first time and were thinking of a life of ease on the trip, but soon found out different when the truck, on a steep, narrow, slippery clay road, on the side of Mt. Pisgah, refused to go further with its heavy load. Everyone got out in the rain to push and help in other ways in aiding the truck to proceed up the mountain. Trying to climb a seven mile grade on a mountain slope with a heavy truck and trailer loaded with provisions and boys is a difficult task, especially in the rain.

But in spite of these handicaps we reached the top about 8 p. m. We were then two miles from our destination. At this point the caretaker of the Vanderbilt lodge (whose grounds occupy many acres at the top of these mountains) played the part of the good Samaritan. He gave us access to a two room cabin for the night. We made a large fire in the giant chimney and soon had a "real" supper ready to serve. The nights in the mountains are real cold, and believe it or not, we did some real sleeping that night.

View From Pisgah

The next day we were very delighted to see fair weather and sunshine again. During the morning we climbed to the highest peak of Pisgah Mountain, which is 5,749 feet above sea level. This was probably the most beautiful scene any of us had ever seen. We were told that on clear days, one could see mountains in the far distance in five states, namely, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia.

In the afternoon we made camp at Frying Pan Gap, where all the conveniences were available that one would wish for. Wood was ever cut for the convenience of campers. During the time we were stationed at this point we climbed all the adjoining mountains including Looking Glass Mountain, Ball Knob and others. We also visited the pink beds which is a sight of magnificent beauty. Wild animals such as deer, skunk, bear and birds of various kinds were plentiful and were often observed by members of our group. We were often entertained by Forest Rangers who would tell us about the points of interest and information about mountain life. Everyone seemed to be very, very cordial and courteous, always ready to assist in making our trip a pleasant one.

Getting The Meals

Tourists were plentiful in this section—always stopping at our camp for a chat or information. We saw more cars from Pennsylvania than any other state.

A good portion of our time had to deal with cooking and preparation for cooking. In spite of the fact that we carried an excellent cook with us, we were often called on to do such chores as peel potatoes, clean chickens, slice tomatoes, husk corn and other jobs that are required in preparing food twice each day for twenty-eight boys.

Our regular cook, "Uncle Speight Fisher," is the best old dorkie that one could wish for on a camping trip. He enjoyed the mountains but didn't feel young enough to do much climbing. At night he would sit by the camp fire and "spin yarns" help the boys roast and eat corn and potatoes. His little dog, "Nellie," was no less important. She chased skunks and ate chicken bones until she was as fat as a "butter ball."

On Friday morning we loaded the truck with our surplus provisions and started on our homeward journey, of 400 miles or more to the sea coast. Our return was made by a different route. We returned by the way of Marion, Hickory, Statesville, Winston-Salem, Chapel Hill and Raleigh. Friday night was spent in Statesville, where we all attended a picture show. We then rolled up in our blankets and wandered in dreamland, only to be disturbed early Saturday morning by our cook calling us to breakfast. We arrived in Newport about 5:30 p. m. The truck speedometer showed that we had travelled about 1,000 miles during our splendid trip.

All boys reported a grand time and are looking forward to a similar but longer trip next summer; that is, if our State Y. T. H. F. Camp at White Lake, N. C. falls to open.

WILSON COUNTY POULTRY SHOW

"The poultry show at Wilson County Fair last week was one of the largest and finest that I have ever seen," said C. J. Maupin, extension poultry specialist at N. C. State College. "Between 600 and 700 birds were entered in the show, and the quality of most of them was unusually good. This was probably the biggest display of standard breeds in eastern North Carolina in years," Mr. Maupin said.

Carolina; T. W. Morgan, assistant director of extension; H. A. Woodie, district agent; A. B. Bryan, agricultural editor; Verd Peterson, supervisor of agricultural education, and W. H. Mills, professor of rural sociology, from South Carolina; J. A. Evans, administrative assistant of the extension service; J. W. Fiore, professor of rural organization and marketing; C. G. Garner, marketing specialist, and L. M. Sheffer, supervisor of agricultural education from Georgia; Dr. Clarence Poe, E. B. Reid, director of information of the Farm Credit Administration at Washington, and J. L. Robinson, extension specialist of the Farm Credit Administration at Washington.