

County Agent Hendren Reviews County's Progress In Agriculture

Great Strides Made In Many Phases Of Agriculture; Suggestions Offered

Improvement Methods Add Materially To Average Yield of Many Crops

By A. G. HENDREN
(Wilkes County Farm Agent)

May I review briefly improvements in agriculture and living conditions on the farm in Wilkes County for the past 20 or more years. Indeed progress has been slow but sure. Many changes have taken place in the two decades.

When this agent commenced work in 1911 we had corn patches in many places where we now have fields. I remember one man only had 3-4 of an acre that he considered worthwhile for corn, and in this good year, 1935, he has 35 acres on the same farm that will make an average of more than 60 bushels per acre. This change has been brought about by a good system of farming, to wit: Keeping cows and sowing clover and soybeans. Statistics show that in 1911 our average corn yield was 13 bushels per acre. Now it is 24 bushels per acre. In the same good year of 1911 our average yield of wheat was about 6 bushels per acre and now it is a little more than 12. Other crops have increased in about the same proportion. In 1911 there were almost no registered or purebred cows in this county, now there are more than 100 farmers who have registered jerseys with a total of about 800 cows. This is saying nothing of registered herefords, shorthorns and guerneys. Back in the "old days" when we made brandy (so called according to law) our apples would bring from 8 to 15 cents per bushel. At that time the orchards were poorly cared for, now they are being pruned, sprayed and cultivated, and it would be safe to say we produce an average of more than 200,000 bushels of apples per year, and the average price is around 75 cents per bushel. New orchards are being set each year and we are learning more about how to grow and to market the apples.

Perhaps the thing that has contributed most to improving the soil and increasing crops has been the different legumes, such as red clover, sweet clover, peas and soybeans. The most wonderful white clover is the lespedeza. This has only been with us a few years but it is working wonders. The cow and legume is the salvation of the soil, as has been clearly demonstrated in this county.

One of the greater improvements has been that of roads. When this agent commenced work in 1911 we had gullies and pig paths. The mode of travel was a horse and buggy and sometimes horse back and other times on foot. On different occasions the road was so steep and rough the driver would walk by the side of the horse helping him hold back the buggy down the rough places. On other occasions the horse would be hitched to a sapling and the journey would be continued on foot. In 1916 when the greatest of all freshets (referred to as the flood) came and washed away many of the so called roads, something had to be done. This was a trying time indeed, we had poor soil, roads washed away, already in debt and no money crops. The wise heads got together and worked out a plan. We commenced at the county seat and built out toward the other county. We have made wonderful improvements in the road system but it is far from being completed. We have good highways leading into all the other counties, but many of our cross country roads are in bad condition. The state is doing work in many sections opening out the old roads and applying top soil, crushed rock and etc. These better roads will help us market our apples and other farm products more cheaply, thereby, give us a bigger profit.

Another improvement is that of the boys and girls. They have organized into corn, poultry and calf clubs, electing officers and holding meetings of their own. Our corn club boys have made a wonderful record at the State Fair—winning first prize on all white corn and also winning sweepstakes. This is quite an honor when we consider there are other counties in the state to compete with.

Our apple growers won many prizes at the State Fair, which shows skill not only in growing apples but selecting as well. There has been perhaps as great improvement in poultry as in any other line of farming. We have in the county four commercial hatcheries that hatch and many thousands of chicks

County Agent



A. G. HENDREN

each season. Many of these chicks go into other counties, but a very large per cent are grown in this county. To show something of the vast amount of poultry grown and sold we give you these figures. From January, 1933, to January 1st, 1934, we sold 3,300,000 pounds which brought approximately \$360,000.00.

In conclusion let me suggest a few things that are necessary to continue our progress, and to make our county self supporting. First, we must produce at least 30 bushels of corn per acre on the acres now cultivated. With this extra corn we can produce enough meat to supply our needs. Then too, we must make an average of at least 18 bushels per acre on the acres now sown in wheat to supply our people with wheat bread. This writer's ideal of a county is for all the people to own their own homes and for the farmers to make not only their own support, but to make enough extra to supply the town people with the things they have to buy.

Resettlement Plan Is Saved By McCarl

Comptroller General Authorizes Work On Land Contracts For Purchase

Washington, Oct. 30.—Comptroller General J. R. McCarl, a frequent thorn to new dealers, today was hailed as the "salvation" of Rexford G. Tugwell's resettlement administration.

Officials said prospective months of delay were swept away by a McCarl opinion authorizing work on land contracts for purchase but whose title has not been cleared finally to the government.

The resettlement administration said options had been accepted on 3,884,008 acres to cost \$17,169,361 in the sub-marginal land purchase program. In addition, an option has been taken up on 10,000 acres at Berwyn Heights, Maryland, to cost about \$1,000,000. This land is to be used for the first of four major suburban projects.

But, officials said, three to four months will be required to clear titles to all these tracts, a situation that would have brought operations of major parts of the resettlement administration to a standstill.

In addition to the lands actually accepted, the administration said options remained to be accepted on 5,835,369 acres at a cost of \$23,553,458.

It told McCarl that authority "to proceed with certain preliminary development work" on tracts contracted for purchase "would enable us to more rapidly take persons off the relief rolls."

McCarl replied that there was involved in the problem not only "the matter of possible unlawful use of the appropriation in improving private lands but a danger of inflicting damages, or providing a basis for damage claims, which the Congress will be importuned to pay."

GASOLINE FUMES KILL TWO BOYS

Blackshear, Ga., Oct. 28.—Gasoline fumes brought death to two small boys who crawled into a storage tank here today and a brother, who apparently attempted to rescue the two is critically ill.

The victims are Gene and William Johnson, aged 6 and 8, who were dead when found, and Bobbie Johnson, oldest of the three, all sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Johnson.

In Coca-Cola Co.



C. O. McNEILL

Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Is Progressive

W. A., R. T. and C. O. McNeill Active In Business and Civic Life

North Wilkesboro has every reason to feel proud of its Coca-Cola Bottling plant. It is one of the most progressive bottling firms to be found in North Carolina, and is now enjoying the greatest prosperity in its entire history.

The present Coca-Cola Bottling Company is an outgrowth of the Red Top Bottling Company operated by the late Thornton S. McNeill for a number of years. The founder was one of the county's best known and most popular citizens. Mr. McNeill purchased the bottling business in March, 1909, and operated the plant until his death in 1919.

The present business was reorganized after Mr. McNeill's death by his sons, and the following officers were elected, all of whom are serving actively today: President, W. A. McNeill; Vice President, R. T. McNeill; Secretary and Treasurer, C. O. McNeill. Mr. W. A. McNeill in addition to being president also serves his company in the capacity of general manager.

Taking over the control of the business in 1919 when the plant was only bottling about 3,000 cases of Coca-Cola annually, the McNeill brothers have seen the business grow by leaps and bounds until today approximately

150,000 cases of Coca-Cola and other soft drinks are bottled each year.

The company has not spared expense in installing the very finest equipment money can buy. Inadequate machinery has been replaced, and the latest type automatic bottling machine which turns out hundreds of bottled Coca-Cola per hour, and the most modern sterilizing outfit obtainable are now in use. The company uses a fleet of trucks in its

delivery service that gives its many patrons in its territory extra prompt attention.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Company employs ten people. The company is imbued with much public spirit and progressiveness, and is ever ready to lend its support to all worthy movements to promote the best interest of North Wilkesboro and Wilkes county.

The officers of the Coca-Cola Company are all active in civic

and political affairs. Mr. W. A. McNeill was the Democratic nominee for the House last year, and has been president and general manager of the Great Wilkes Fair for the past six years, during which period he has paid the association completely out of debt. Mr. C. O. McNeill is chairman of the County Board of Education, secretary of the County Democratic Executive Committee, a member of the Board of Directors of the D. & S. Bank, and is

connected with both the Radio Sales Co. and D. & S. Electric Co. Mr. R. T. McNeill is manager of North Wilkesboro, also interested in the Radio Sales Co. and D. & S. Electric Co.

In speaking of the growth of his company, Mr. W. A. McNeill states that he contributes much of the success of his company to newspaper advertising. The company is a large user of newspaper space and each year runs one or more advertising campaigns.

Trade With Us For the Best Values In Groceries, Flour, Meat, Feedstuff, Fertilizer, Etc.

This old-established grocery firm, one among the first to open in North Wilkesboro, cordially invites the merchants to investigate its prices on all kinds of groceries, flour, feedstuffs, etc., before they buy. We buy on the closest margin of profit and our merchant friends will always find us in position to give them real values. The public is also cordially invited to patronize our retail department.

Stocks are now complete. We are ready to sell you anything you need in our line. We give you prompt delivery, and prices are always right.

HY-MARK

Lime Filler
FERTILIZER

will make your
crops better. Buy
from us.

Special Notice to Teachers

CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

We have always co-operated to the extent of our ability with the teachers of Wilkes County who purchase the "treats" for the children's exercises at Christmas time. We want all teachers in Wilkes County to call on us for their . . .

ORANGES, RAISINS, NUTS, CANDIES

We will give the teachers of this and adjoining counties special prices on the above Christmas needs, and will greatly appreciate their patronage.

Use "Made In Carolina"

Monogram

HIGH-GRADE FLOUR
and
"EASY-WAY"
SELF-RISING FLOUR

Both manufactured by
Harmony Milling Co.,
Harmony, N. C.

Pearson Brothers

(WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERIES, FLOUR, FEEDS, ETC.)

TENTH STREET
NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

ICE-COLD COCA-COLA IS EVERY PLACE ELSE

IT BELONGS IN YOUR ICE-BOX AT HOME!

Refreshment begins at home

You never hear a complaint from junior when mother asks him to go for Coca-Cola. There is indeed no place like home where the pause that refreshes with ice-cold Coca-Cola fits on so many occasions. Everybody in the family likes it. Guests always welcome this wholesome drink of natural products.

You can always get a few bottles at a time quickly, but the best way is to order by the case (24 bottles). Serve ice-cold.

COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO.

North Wilkesboro, N. C.