

Asks The Elimination Of Food Waste

\$20,000,000 In Food Wasted Annually

George R. Ross, marketing specialist with the State Department of Agriculture, who has been closely associated with agriculture in North Carolina for 28 years declared recently that "according to all available information, we lost in North Carolina each year more than twenty million dollars in wastage in food, feed and fiber crops."

"We have forgotten Grandmother's methods of conserving, and we are now almost entirely dependent on cans, dehydration and quick-freezing processes to supply our wants. This year, labor is short, containers are extremely expensive, trucks are few, and the cash sales of fruits and vegetables are at the end of the line. Consumers and producers must be brought together in neighborhood drying, canning and grading projects so that our products in 1943 may all be saved."

"Our waste is caused by carelessness, insects, weather damage, habits. We have not developed waste-saving methods and processing plants," said Mr. Ross.

In pointing out that peanuts, soybeans and sweet potatoes are both food, and feed crops, he asserted that an average of 200 pounds in each acre of these products are left in the field to decay. An estimated total of 85,000 tons of these three crops are being wasted in this manner each year in this state, because "it is no more profitable to gather and handle them in small quantities than it is to pick up tin cans, waste paper and other scrap."

"We ship by truck, boat and train from a dozen counties in Eastern North Carolina the equal to eight thousand carloads of the spring crop of Irish potatoes. But a million bushels are left in the fields and at the packhouse because it does not pay to handle them," declared Mr. Ross. He added that "the prices paid by the Government are on number one grades; and some of the number two and virtually all of the number three grades—small and delicious—are left behind to rot, since spring potatoes do not keep well."

An estimated annual loss of

Questions and Answers

Question—Can dirty eggs be cleaned?

Answer—Slightly dirty, or stained, eggs can be cleaned with an emory cloth, or with a damp cloth and soda, says C. F. Parrish, extension poultryman at N. C. State College. Dirty eggs should never be washed. The hands should be clean when handling eggs and they should be marketed in clean, odorless cases or containers. Remember that eggs are food.

WAVES and **SPARS** are filling a wide variety of shore jobs—and each has the satisfaction of knowing she is releasing a man to fight afloat. Enlisted ratings include cooks, clerks, storekeepers, typists, photographers' mates, accountants, meteorologists, bakers, chauffeurs, morale workers and telephone operators.

\$825,000 occurs in corn, wheat and in other grains from damage in the field and from insects and various diseases.

In the past five years producers of tobacco in this state have averaged an annual income of \$116,000,000. However, the estimated losses that have been brought about by faulty harvesting methods, damage in packhouse and poor grading have cut the gross income to approximately \$9,976,000.

In regard to cotton, the shortage of labor last season caused much of it to be left in the field to ruin. Annually, hundreds of bales are lost in hauling it to the gin and by weather damage before it is finally sold. Bad gins sometimes waste a great deal of cotton.

Ross said that "some part of one pig out of every five becomes unfit for human consumption. Insects and weather conditions take a big toll of fresh meat. Our meat losses in this state are enormous."

Looking into the future, Mr. Ross believes the time will come when each community will have its own processing and storage center. Until the war is over, however, we must learn anew "the old methods of conservation."

ONE OF COUNTY'S BEST SILOS



Here is shown the stone silo at the dairy barn on the farm of D. B. Swaringen, of Traphill, one of Wilkes county's most outstanding farmers. The silo, a very attractive and durable structure, was constructed with cement and stones, which were gathered from the fields on the farm. At the base of the silo stands Mr. Swaringen, as he takes time out from his work to talk farm problems with J. B. Snipes, Wilkes county agent. (Staff photo by Dwight Nichols).

LARGE COWS GIVE MORE MILK THAN THE SMALLER BREEDS

On the average, large cows of any breed, when given an equal opportunity, have the advantage over small ones in milk production.

Fred M. Haig, professor of dairying at N. C. State College, says that, in addition to size, dairymen should pay special attention to the production, type, and pedigree of animals selected for breeding and for milk production, type, and pedigree of animals selected for breeding and for milk production. Other essential requirements to be kept in mind are prepotency, longevity, and reproductive ability.

According to Haig, it should be remembered that size alone does not necessarily indicate high milk production efficiency. On the other hand, it is a well known fact that size, within the breed, is one of the important factors in economical milk production, and it is dependent both on inheritance and environment.

More good heifers could be produced, except for the fact that some calves are stunted. Growers miss much by not getting heifers of good size. Haig said that the way the calf is fed after birth is just as important as having proper sized calves, if such calves are to grow into large, high-producing cows.

Weights and measurements are being taken of 60 dairy calves in the herd of N. C. State College each month. These calves are Jerseys, Holsteins and Guernseys. About two-thirds of these calves have exceeded the standard birth weights for their respective breeds, and their weights will be carefully checked as they begin producing milk. Cattle, which are grown to sufficient size, will mature earlier, freshen earlier, and will produce milk more economically.

COTTON

Cotton farmers will have 15 more days in which to apply for Federal crop insurance on their 1943 cotton crop than on their 1942 crop, the closing date in North Carolina being April 1.

HOGS

The production of hogs in 1943 will greatly exceed 1942 production, which was more than any other year, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's December pig crop report.

SCARCE

Farmers are scouring the countryside in Forsyth county in a search for dairy cattle and feeder pigs, reports S. R. Mitchner, assistant farm agent of the N. C. State College Extension Service.

Seven thousand WAVES and SPARS, the woman's branches of the Navy and Coast Guard, are now in uniform throughout the United States. The majority are in various training schools, but soon these will be on the job. Each one enlisting releases another man from shore duty to fight at sea.

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