

Diversification Pays Experiment Station Says R. D. Simmons Releases a Bulletin

After deciding that a one crop system of farming was not sound, R. D. Simmons, Duplin county farmer of Seven Springs, began following a diversified system of farming, and has set an example that others might follow.

That is what L. F. Weeks, county agent for the State College Extension Service, says about the balanced and live-at-home farming program which Mr. Simmons is carrying out.

This Duplin county farmer produces about 90 hogs and 6 or 8 calves for sale yearly, Mr. Weeks said, adding that most of the feed used in raising these animals is grown on the farm.

Mr. Simmons sold 90 hogs this year for \$4,910, used 7 at home which were valued at \$360, and has 5 sows on hand now with 48 young pigs. During the year, he bought no grain and is now harvesting 50 acres of corn which is averaging 58 bushels per acre. The only feed bought for his hog crop this year was 2 tons of tankage, and 1,000 pounds of fish meal.

Six calves, which were sold this year, brought him \$400, Mr. Weeks said. He maintains a laying flock of 65 hens and is gathering 3 1-2 dozen eggs daily. The male birds from his yearly flock of chicks are eaten at home or marketed locally.

In addition to the 6 acres of permanent pasture on the farm, Mr. Simmons seeded 2 1-2 acres in the spring of this year to a mixture of ladino clover, orchard grass, lespedeza, and red top clover. His cattle, hogs, and work stock get a good portion of their feed from these pastures and interplanted legumes in his corn field. For temporary grazing and a cover crop, he seeds 40 acres of small grain each fall.

The cash crops on his farm this year consist of 15 acres of tobacco, and 9 acres of cotton. A three-year crop rotation is followed which is planned to maintain and build the fertility of the soil, Mr. Weeks said.

Storage holdings of apples as of January 1 were reported at 30 million bushels as against about 27 million on January 1, 1947. While apples are grown in nearly all sections of the United States and distribution is general, the increase in apple holding over last year is largely on the west coast, the USDA has reported.

"Biology and Control of the Pickleworm" is the title of a technical bulletin just published by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. B. B. Fulton, professor of entomology at the Station and author of the bulletin, says that there are other pests which limit the production of the cucurbit crops. But none appear as regularly year after year as the pickleworm. The pest has an unusual ability to spread northward each year, though it kills out during the winter. It also increases in numbers at a very rapid rate during hot weather.

The first larvae of the pest usually appear from July 6 to 18 in the Raleigh area, the author states. But in the west, and north, it's usually a little later. Cryolite dust has proved to be the best insecticide of the many materials which have been tested. Dusting should start immediately after the first pickleworms are found. A weekly dusting is satisfactory, but a shorter interval gives better control, especially in rainy weather.

If the crops are picked just before dusting, Dr. Fulton finds that the residue is not serious, except perhaps on small cucumbers. The residue is easily removed by rain or by washing. Early crops usually escape injury. Fall crops may escape for a time if no early crops are produced nearby.

Copies of the bulletin, which is entitled "Biology and Control of the Pickleworm," are available to the public free on request. Write to the Agricultural Editor at North Carolina State College, Raleigh, and ask for a copy of Technical Bulletin No. 85.

1947 Was Good Year For Swine

The North Carolina Swine Breeders' Association conducted 16 purebred hog sales during 1947 and sold 354 hogs for \$36,257, according to Jack Kelley, Extension Swine specialist at State College.

Mr. Kelley stated that this was quite an increase over the 1946 sales when 136 hogs were sold for \$13,174.

The highest average received for purebred hogs during 1947 was obtained by breeders from Forsyth county when they consigned 11 hogs to the national sale at Centerville, Ind., the specialists said. These hogs sold for \$2,372, or an average of \$215.63 per head.

Plans for next year's sales have already been made, Mr. Kelley said, and the list of sales include the following: Berkshire Sale, Southern States Fair Ground at Charlotte, January 29; Duroc Sale, Worsley's Livestock Market at Rocky Mount, February 16; All Breed Sale, Benthall's Livestock Market, Rich Square, February 26; and All Breed Sale, Sawyer's Livestock Market, Elizabeth City, February 26.

Not only is the Association planning these sales, Mr. Kelley said, but they have set up the following four point program to be carried out this year: improve purebred hogs by production testing; use pasture to prevent worms and diseases; consign only outstanding hogs to purebred sales; and take part in county and district fat barrow shows.

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