

Tobacco Barn Fires Cause Heavy Losses In Leaf Belt

A considerable loss of money is sustained annually by North Carolina tobacco farmers when barns filled with tobacco burn, but a few precautions against fires would prevent a tremendous amount of worry and money, says David S. Weaver, Extension agricultural engineer of State College.

that the replacement cost would be about \$400 each with an average loss of \$300 worth of tobacco, or a total loss of \$700 for each fire. Professor Weaver points out. The three important causes of fires in tobacco barns are: 1. Tobacco leaves falling on flues and furnace. 2. Defective flues and furnaces. 3. Inadequate and unsafe foundations.

Professor Weaver suggests the following methods of fire prevention: Careful selection of sticks of proper length and sufficient strength, together with the correct looping and hanging of the tobacco on the sticks. The placing of poultry wire netting directly over the furnace and flues might be of considerable value in reducing fires. The furnace and flues, says Professor Weaver, should be carefully checked for any defects before the first firing of the year and between each cure. Furnaces should be at least two feet longer than the length of the

HINTS TO HOME-MAKERS

BY RUTH CURENT
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Home demonstration specialists of the State College Extension Service, studying time and motion, have agreed on the following six principles to speed production on the home assembly line.

Leave out any part of the task you can. For example, in dishwashing scald dishes with boiling water and leave on rack to dry instead of wiping dry. Choose recipes requiring less time and fewer utensils.

Make both hands work. It pays to learn to use both hands at the same time instead of overworking the right hand. Such jobs as putting away dishes, setting the table and dusting can be done by both hands at once.

Keep everything in easy reach. Wasted steps mean wasted time and energy. Keep the coffee pot, coffee and measuring spoon or cup at the place where coffee is made, and the bread box and toaster side by side. Group ironing equipment—iron, clothes rack, hangers, and basket—as near the ironing board as possible.

Use the best tool for the task. For example, use tongs to remove jars and glasses from hot rinse water, and to take baked potatoes from the oven. A long-handled dustpan prevents stooping and saves time.

Sit at work whenever you can. Tired backs and feet slow up work. Much ironing can be done as well sitting as standing. A lap table saves effort in preparing vegetables for cooking and canning.

Tomatoes grown in the sun on healthy plants are considerably richer in vitamin C than those grown in the shade. Tomatoes produced outdoors have more C than those from greenhouses. Tomatoes gathered from the garden after a sunny spell will offer more vitamin C to family meals than those ripened during dark weather. Tests by scientists at state experiment stations show that the intensity of light on the plant during growth is of more importance in increasing this vitamin than any other factor yet discovered.

Sunshine alone, however, is not enough. Undernourished, thirsty plants, suffering from loss of foliage, are likely to produce poor-quality, sun-burned fruit. Plants that are unevenly watered or have too much moisture at one time and drought at another are also poor in quality, even in sunny locations. Sunshine can add C value only if other conditions are favorable for the plant, nutritionists say.

Peaches are plentiful in all parts of the country. Commercially canned fruits will be short this year and point value probably high. Peaches offer fair amounts of vitamin C and, in addition, yellow peaches offer vitamin A. Because they are naturally sweet, peaches need little sugar when canned.

FARM QUESTIONS

Question: How can I control bottom-end rot of tomatoes?

Answer: Blossom-end rot can be materially reduced, but not entirely prevented, by avoiding the use of heavy applications of nitrogen, especially manure and by supplying additional superphosphate. Also the application of water to the roots of the plants will frequently check the disease.

Question: What is an effective control measure for boll weevil?

Answer: Boll weevils may be controlled by dusting the cotton with five to seven pounds of calcium arsenate per acre. Applications of the dust should be made at intervals of five to seven days. If aphids become numerous, add 40 per cent nicotine sulphate to the calcium arsenate to make a two per cent nicotine dust. This would be on pound of 40 per cent nicotine sulphate to 20 pounds of calcium arsenate.

If the iron sticks during ironing, rub it on a little salt sprinkled on paper or smooth lightly with paraffin or beeswax. A pinch of salt in the starch will help keep starched clothes from sticking to the iron.

wood used, so that the fire is well up from the mouth of the furnace.

Furnaces and flues should be well protected by masonry, such as brick work, from parts of the wooden structure. At least twelve inches should be the distance between any part of the furnace and a wooden piece. The stacks should always extend higher than the roof of the barn.

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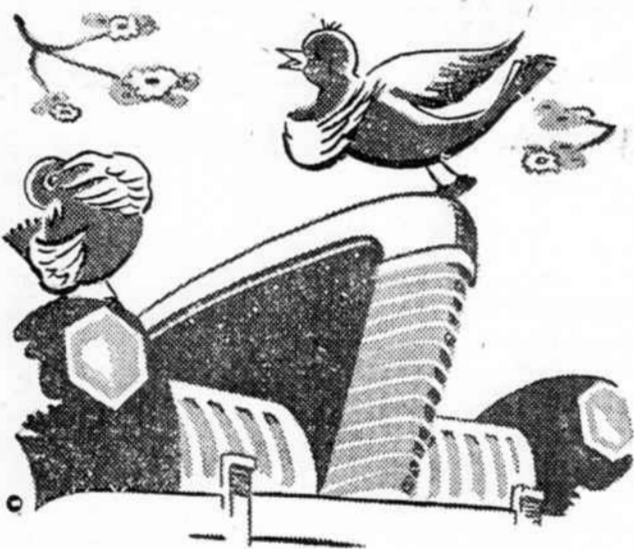
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