

Farm life

Agriculture vital to county

Mention the word agriculture in Sampson County and the responses that are forthcoming will be varied, varied, that is, with a familiar chord — one steeped in traditions as old as the county itself.

There's tobacco, which is still king here. Technology has changed the way farmers do things — old harvesters, prickly sticks, gummy from reuse, and tiered tobacco barns with burners that had to be hand-lit have been replaced by bulk barns, conveyor belts and automation that our grandfathers and their fathers never imagined possible.

But, the essence of the family farm — where hard work rules the day — still exists.

In fact, in Sampson County, family farms still remain a tradition; the only difference is now those farms boast turkey or hog houses, some tobacco, perhaps even a few row crops — like squash, cucumbers and pepper — and always, the hard work.

While Sampson County is growing and spreading its versatile wings, branching out from a mainly agriculture community to welcome varied industries, agriculture is still the anchor which holds this community close to its roots and its traditions.

And, it is agriculture — where Sampson County now ranks first in income — that has kept many people in jobs and food on residents' tables.

We should never forget how important the land and its many uses are to us both individually and collectively, nor should we ever lose sight of what agriculture has done and continues to do for us.

Swine and livestock operations — now dotting the county from one end to another — are vital to the work force, important to the economy and significant in impact.

Their very presence has assured people work, helped promote community activities and supported schools and children, as have farmers and an assortment of agribusinesses which are all tied to agriculture and its continued growth here.

We should be appreciative for what agriculture has done for this county and what it continues to do, always understanding that many of the traditions that make Sampson County the special place that it is are deeply embedded in the land that farmers still till today.

It's important for us to grow and diversify, but it's just as important for us to hold onto the very things that have provided the opportunity for change.



Farming — Sampson County style

Whether it's tobacco or swine or corn, soy beans, cotton, pepper, cattle, turkeys or wheat, Sampson County has a thriving farm economy that continues to grow, providing more jobs in the agribusiness areas. Government officials from across the county will readily admit that the county's farming community is vital to the economy and provides a great many jobs in a variety of areas.



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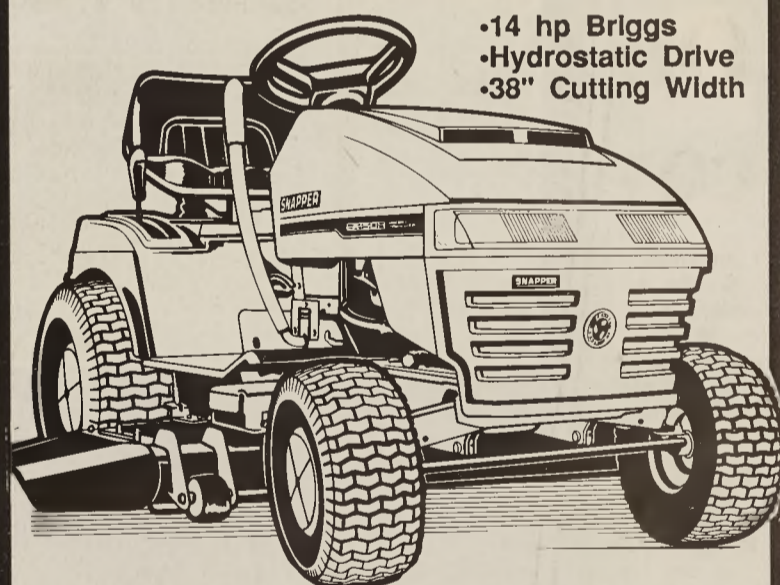
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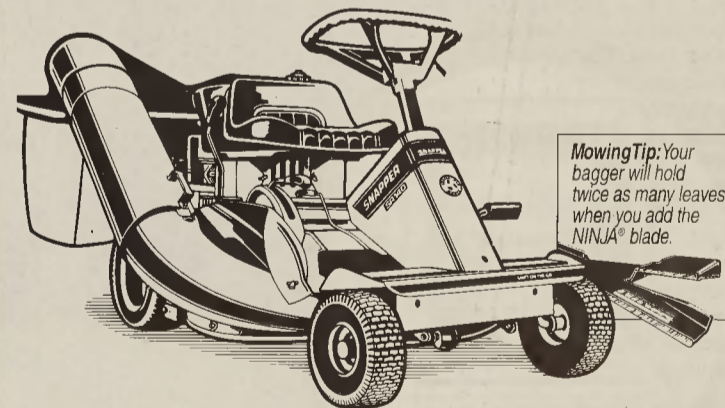
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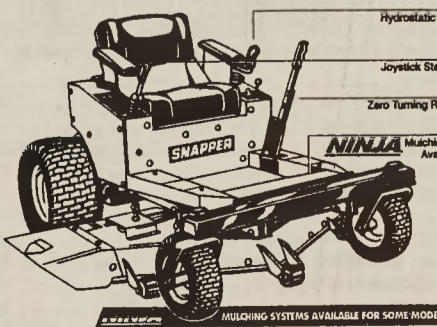
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