

FARM REVIEW and FORECAST



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY Soil Conservation Notes

By JOHN B. LITCHFIELD
Soil Conservation Service

A revision of his conservation farm plan was delivered to J. A. Wells of Gaston last week. The plan was worked out in cooperation with the Northampton Soil and Water Conservation District.

A map of the farm showing soil types was prepared by the Soil Conservation Service. This map is accompanied by interpretations of the capabilities and limitations of the soils for various uses.

Divisions and parallel terraces have been used in some of the fields to regulate the flow of runoff water and reduce erosion. Grassed waterways were established to provide protected outlets for the terraces and diversions. These practices are planned to be extended to other sloping areas.

Land too steep or too severely eroded for successful cultivation will be used for growing trees. Fields with existing stands of trees will be managed for full production.

E. R. Bolton of Rich Square has recently seeded

grassed waterways that were constructed earlier in the year. The waterways were seeded to tall fescue. At the time construction was completed the weather was too hot for fescue to become successfully established. Seeding was postponed until the fall. A field border around the edge of the field was also shaped to help remove surface water. It was also seeded to fescue.

Along with construction of the waterways and field borders he did an extensive job of grading one of the fields to improve surface drainage.

Layout surveys were made last week for a grassed waterway 1,575 feet long on Dr. Charles Cooke's farm near Rich Square. A survey was also made for grading 2,700 feet of field border. The field will be graded so that surface water will drain to the waterway and field border. They in turn, will lead the surplus water safely to an outlet ditch.

Gary B. Bridgers of Roanoke Rapids recently extended one of the grassed waterways on his farm near Conway. The waterway was first built two years ago to replace a ditch that was not doing an effective job. Drain tile was installed beside the waterway to relieve a wet condition. A good sod of fescue protects the land from washing when runoff water is concentrated in the waterway.

Mrs. Ursula Griffin of Woodland has constructed a grassed waterway on her farm and seeded it to tall fescue. Earth removed from the waterway was used to fill low spots in the field to provide improved surface drainage. The gently sloping sides of the waterway will allow for more effective maintenance by machinery than was possible with the old ditch it replaced.

Fountain Again Opposes Leaf Allotment Increase

TARBORO — Congressman L. H. Fountain Monday again urged the Secretary of Agriculture not to increase tobacco allotments next year.

"I believe an increase in allotments would not be justified at this time," Congressman Fountain said.

He added, "Our tobacco farmers have long been caught in a vicious cost-price squeeze and only began to get some relief this year during the earlier part of the selling season."

"Now that the supply of tobacco for both domestic and foreign uses has reached a normal level, it would seem foolish to risk upsetting the balance," Congressman Fountain pointed out.

"The purpose of the acreage-pounding program was to bring supply into line with demand and apparently that is about to happen," he said.

"The Secretary of Agriculture should not forget that only one year ago over one billion pounds of tobacco was on loan," Congressman Fountain noted, adding, "we don't want that situation to happen again because it naturally would have a bad effect on prices."

The Secretary of Agriculture is expected to announce his decision on 1973 allotments by December 1, 1972.

Congressman Fountain urged all interested persons and organizations to express themselves in writing to the Agriculture Department. Write to Director, Tobacco Division, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. All comments must be received by November 10, 1972.

Hunters With Poor Eyesight Make Targets Of Companions

DURHAM — Beware that you, a fellow hunter or an innocent bystander do not become the game when going hunting, warns the North Carolina Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Pointing out that deficient eyesight is responsible for many shooting accidents each year, Eros Pitts, the Society's president, urged hunters to have their vision tested before taking to the field. He said the Society has been advocating vision testing as a requirement in all hunting license applications for many years.

Information from the National Rifle Association indicates about one in four victims in hunting accidents is

a case of mistaken identity — a human being mistaken for an animal. Faulty vision and poor judgment are linked in a further percentage of accidental shootings which occur when hunters shoot at moving objects without waiting to determine the nature of the target. And apparently you are in the greatest danger from members of your own hunting party; a recent report from New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, for example, shows that more than half the shooting accidents which took place during the State's 1971 hunting season involved hunters shot by their companions.

HIRE WITH A WANT AD

COTTON HARVESTING is at the halfway mark in Northampton with an average so far of 250 to 300 pounds per acre. Like last year's harvest picture this year may not be a good one. A request has

been made by the USDA Emergency Committee for Northampton designating the county as an "Emergency Loan Area."

Cotton Quality High So Far This Fall

RALEIGH — North Carolina cotton quality has measured very high so far this year. It has been better than last year's crop in grade, color, fineness of fibers, and breaking strength. During the past week, cotton market activity increased sharply, prices were firm to higher and harvest rate remained slow, according to E. M. Stallings, extension economist of North Carolina State University.

E. C. Hanson of the Raleigh Cotton Classing Office, reports that 20,609 bale samples had been classed through Friday, October 27. Ninety-three per cent of all samples classed white. Strict Low Middling was the most prevalent grade and comprised 61 per cent Low Middling plus. Micronaire fineness of fiber readings show 98 per cent in the desirable range of 3.5 to 4.9. Fiber length has been excellent with 21 per cent stapling 1 1/16 inches, 76 per cent, 1 3/32 inches and 3 per cent, 1 1/8 inches. Fiber strength averaged a high 83,000 pound per square inch for zero gauge measurements. "Mill buying for prompt delivery rose sharply this week. Purchases were mostly

of Strict Low Middling and higher grades at prices moderately above those of the previous week," says Stallings. "The problem of delays in transportation of Central Belt cotton to North Carolina mills worsened and crop quality prospects in some Southwest United States areas decreased slightly. Merchant shipper buying of producer-ginner owned cotton increased considerably and spot prices for Strict Low Middling and better grades were also higher than the week before. Most producers continue to hold uncontracted cotton. Prices paid to North Carolina producers and ginners were mostly 28.00 cents for Middling, 27.00 to 27.50 for Strict Low Middling plus, 26.00 to 26.50 for Strict Low Middling, 25.50 to 26.00 cents for Low Middling plus and 24.00 to 25.00 for Low Middling."

Stallings adds that the North Carolina cotton crop sustained considerable damage to late maturing fields from the October 20 heavy frost and freeze. Damage was heaviest in the Northeast area. Plants were killed and less than fully

mature bolls were destroyed in many fields. Picking was limited to one to two days this week in most counties due to rainy weather and harvest rate was at 62 per cent of last year's pace. Only about 17 per cent of the state crop had been harvested through October 27.

Accent on AGRICULTURE

BY B. C. MANGUM
N. C. Farm Bureau Federation

The story of the American farmer's efficiency is not a new one, but sometimes it's

taken for granted. That's why some recent studies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture should remind consumers of the spectacular job the nation's farmers are doing.

For example, USDA reports that farm output per man-hour in 1970 was 357 per cent of 1950. In 1950, one U.S. farm worker produced enough food and fiber for himself and 15 other people. In 1971, one farm worker produced enough for 47 other people.

Improved and larger planting equipment, along with mechanical harvesting, reduced the man-hours required to produce 100 bushels of corn from 40 hours in 1950 to seven in 1971.

Burgwyn Board Nominee For Election By FCX

COLUMBIA, S. C. — Around 1,500 farm people are expected to attend the annual joint meeting of FCX, Inc., and the Carolinas Cotton Growers Association which will be held here Thursday, November 9.

The two major farm cooperatives rotate these annual gatherings among Columbia, Charlotte and Raleigh. The last meeting in the South Carolina capital was

in 1969. William L. Harrelson, South Carolina commissioner of agriculture, will welcome the delegates after the meeting gets under way in the Columbia Township Auditorium at 10 a.m.

During the business session, members will elect four directors to the FCX board. Up for re-election are James H. Campbell, Williamston, S. C.; Lester Miller, Hamptonville, George D. Cox, Winterville; and C. V. Howard, Salemburg.

The association likewise will elect four board members. Incumbent directors nominated for new terms are J. McN. Gillis, Fayetteville, and Victor Crosby, Harmony. The other nominees are John G. Burgwyn, Jackson, and William A. Davis, Rowland.

The meeting will be closed with annual reports from the presidents of the two cooperatives. A. J. Haynes will discuss FCX operations, and G. D. Arndt will review Cotton Association activities.

FCX is a farmer-owned supply and marketing organization with branches throughout the Carolinas. It has about 50,000 active members. The Cotton Association, founded in 1922, markets cotton for its members.

FCX is one of four cooperatives which owns equal shares of Farmers Chemical Association, Inc., which manufacturers chemical fertilizers from plants at Chattanooga, Tenn. and in Tunis.

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Prepare Spray Equipment and Other Equipment for Winter Storage

1. Remove pump from sprayer, clean, fill with oil or antifreeze, make sure all parts move freely, and store in dry place.
2. Remove all strainers and tips, clean thoroughly, and store in light oil.
3. Clean barrel and cut-off valves. Apply a light application of oil before putting in storage.
4. Make sure all water cooled engines are provided with enough anti-freeze to avoid freezing.

Leftover Pesticides

1. Take all empty pesticide containers 5 gallons and under to the county sanitary landfill, located behind the old county home near Jackson. Punch holes in all containers.
2. Store all leftover farm chemicals in a safe place away from children and livestock, under lock and key. Store only in original containers, tightly closed.
3. Do not allow insecticides, herbicides, and other pesticides to freeze during storage.

Nematode Assays

1. November is an ideal month to take a soil sample for nematode count. Can be taken at the same time soil samples are pulled.
2. Put one pint of soil in a plastic bag, seal, identify field, and bring to County Agents Office.

Soil Samples

1. Take soil samples soon to avoid Spring rush.
2. Remember — peanuts respond to the residual elements in the soil. Needed potash and lime should be applied before Christmas if possible.
3. Cartons and information sheets are available at the County Agents Office and your fertilizer dealer.
4. Soil samples will be delivered to Soil Testing Laboratory from County Agents Office.

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