

FARM REVIEW and FORECAST

Seaboard Auction Set 9:30 A.M. Wednesday

SEABOARD — The 12th annual farm equipment auction, sponsored by the Seaboard Lions Club and originally set for February 14, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 21. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Seaboard Ball Park. "In 12 years, this is the first time we have ever had to change to another day," said Raymon Davis of the club. Proceeds from this sale will go to support the club's blind projects. Billed as the largest farm equipment auction in the area each year, the sale brings buyers from a wide area.

Sediment Control Bill Is Drafted

"Sediment continues to be one of the most troublesome and expensive problems in our environment today," says Charlie W. Taylor, Chairman of the Northampton Soil and Water Conservation District. "It is blown into our atmosphere and eroded into our streams, polluting the air we breathe and the water we drink. Many states, counties and cities are passing laws and ordinances placing limits on the amount of sediment allowed to leave a given area. A large portion of sediment pollution today is coming from rural and urban construction sites."

The 1971 General Assembly directed the Legislative Research Commission to study the need for legislation on: "Prevention and Abatement of Pollution of the State's Waters by sedimentation and siltation, particularly that occurring from runoff of surface waters and from erosion." The study was initiated by the

Environmental Studies Committee under the chairmanship of Senator William Staton of Lee County and Representative William R. Roberson, Jr. of Beaufort County.

The Committee's recommendation was that legislation be enacted in 1973 to control siltation and sedimentation to the greatest extent possible. A draft bill entitled "An Act to Establish a Program for the Control of Pollution from Sedimentation" and to be known as "Sediment Pollution Control Act of 1973" as prepared for the 1973 General

The National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts recently stated that those units of Government whose responsibility it will be to enforce those laws and ordinances relating to Sediment Pollution urgently need adequate and detailed guidelines in addition to valuable information and knowledge now possessed by

local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This can be provided by additional research on the problem. The Agricultural Research Service in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service has developed a Soil Loss Equation for wind and water erosion that is a very valuable tool for determining what conservation practices to apply to the land.

"If the present Legislature does pass sediment pollution legislation, and all indications are that it will," Chairman Taylor continued, "the Northampton Soil and Water Conservation District Board will be available to assist local units of Government in drawing up ordinances, rules and regulations necessary to establish and administer an erosion and sediment control program in our county."

Coastline

Unless you make the long automobile drive around, it is hard to realize the size of Pamlico Sound. With more than a million acres of water it is by far North Carolina's largest sound.

The sound grows nice, rounded oysters. Biologists

believe about 225,000 acres are potential oyster producing areas. Presently, however, they use a ballpark figure of 30,000 acres to indicate oyster growing areas. With statewide oyster production on a downhill trend for several years, this potential is inviting.

In 1970, state marine biologist Fentress Munden initiated, and has continued, large scale plantings of oyster shells and marl (small pieces of rock) in Pamlico Sound. The solids are put on the bottom to give young oysters a place to attach and grow. As it takes a Pamlico Sound oyster about three years to grow to the legal three inch length, the oysters are now being harvested from the 1970

plantings.

This past summer and fall, about 77,900 bushels of marl and about 69,000 bushels of oyster shells were scattered over 24 acres in Pamlico Sound, total planting of 255 acres. To do this required the use of a 110 foot self-propelled barge and another large barge and tug, plus loading and unloading equipment. It costs, but returns can be good, even fantastic if you like to play with figures. For example, there were about 500 shells or 1,300 pieces of marl per bushel. If one oyster grew to eating size, the investment would be small indeed.

Peanut Producers Get Good Advice

JACKSON — The N. C. Peanut Growers Association executive secretary, Joe Sugg of Rocky Mount, and N. C. State peanut specialist Astor Perry addressed Northampton's peanut growers last week in Jackson.

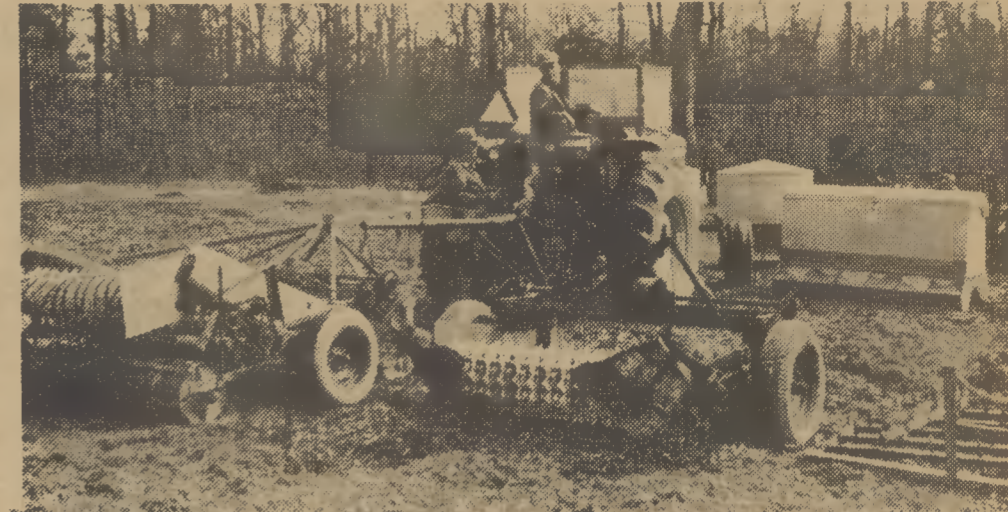
Perry spoke on improving crops by "good planning, keeping abreast of current developments and following proven practices."

Sugg spoke on peanut legislation.

Also addressing the meeting at which 150-175 growers were

present were Dr. Guy Jones, N. C. State specialist in charge of agronomy extension and B. H. Harrell, Northampton County Extension Chairman. Harrell introduced the topic, "1973 Profit Producing Peanut Practices."

Each peanut producer was given a list of 21 proven practices which would assist him in obtaining top yields and quality.



PREPARING FOR A "BIG" Auction in Seaboard Wednesday above is Raymond Davis, standing, and Jesse Moody, both of the Seaboard Lions Club, sponsors of the sale. Below, equipment is starting to collect for the sale. It was originally scheduled for this week but was moved to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in the Seaboard ball park. A lunch will be served.



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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Soil Conservation Notes

By JOHN B. LITCHFIELD
Soil Conservation Service

Travis Taylor, of Seaboard, is preparing for future drainage improvements on his farm. Last week Soil

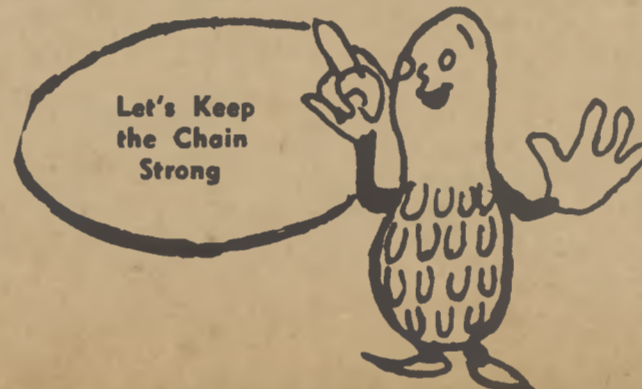
Conservation Technician H. R. Bryant, of the Soil Conservation Service, helped him with preliminary surveys to locate an outlet for tile drainage. Further surveys were made for location of an outlet ditch and to determine the extent of tile drainage needed. Plans were made for converting an open ditch to a grassed waterway.

Mr. Taylor has had a conservation plan in operation on his farm for several years in cooperation with the Northampton Soil and Water Conservation District. Practices that have been applied in carrying out the plan include tile drainage, grassed waterways, drainage land grading, grass field borders, improved woodland harvesting, woodland site preparation, tree planting, and others.

W. T. Garriss, of Raleigh, is developing a conservation plan on his family farm near Margarettsville. The District is cooperating by providing technical assistance. A diversion is planned for turning surface water away from a wet area. Several alternative methods for further improving drainage in the area are being considered.

Henry and Billy Britton, of the Galatia community are preparing to install 1925 feet of drain tile to relieve wet conditions in one of their fields. They have had very good results with drain tile in the past. In some places it has entirely replaced open ditches. In other locations they have converted open ditches to grassed waterways for safe removal of surface water. Drain tile was used for improved field drainage.

A preliminary survey was made last week for a diversion on a farm Thomas Lee Davis recently bought near Galatia. The diversion will help prevent severe gully erosion that has been taking place on the field. A layout survey for 850 feet of subsurface drainage was also made.



WANTED

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TIPS FOR SELECTING HIGH QUALITY SEED

1. STEPS IN SELECTING HIGH QUALITY SEED:
 - a) Choose an adapted variety. Choosing the best variety for your farm can result in increasing your yields. Make sure of varietal purity when buying seed.
 - b) Determine the minimum quality standards that you are willing to accept. Plant seed that are "true to variety," "high germinating" and free from weeds. The use of certified seed is the surest way to obtain these qualities.
 - c) Be a seed tag reader. Make sure you know what is in the bag by reading the tag.
2. HOW TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF SEED QUALITY WHEN BUYING. The first step is to always buy seed that are tagged. Read and understand the information given on the seed tag. All seed sold in North Carolina should be accurately labeled with the following information:
 - a) Variety and Kind - Variety name and kind should be printed on the tag.
 - b) Pure Seed - Indicates the per cent purity of the kind of crop and variety.
 - c) Inert Matter - Per cent of chaff, sticks, cracked seed, etc.
 - d) Other Crop Seed - Per cent mixture of other crop seed.
 - e) Weed Seed - Per cent of all weed seed mixed with crop seed.
 - f) Germination and Test Date - Per cent of seed germinating in standard laboratory tests and the date of such germination tests.
 - g) Noxious Weeds - Noxious weeds must be listed on the tag by name and by number per lb.
 - h) Where Grown - Name of state where seed were produced.
 - i) Lot No. - Number used by seller to identify a uniform quantity of seed.
 - j) Net Weight - Weight in lbs. of the contents of the bag.
 - k) Name and Address - Seed must be identified as to firm or individual who labeled the seed.

Be A Seed Tag Reader.

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