

# FARM REVIEW

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY**  
**Soil Conservation Notes**  
 By JOHN B. LITCHFIELD  
 Soil Conservation Service

Conservation plans for three farms were delivered to Thomas Lee Davis of the Galatia Community last week. The plans were worked out in cooperation with the Northampton Soil and Water Conservation District. Billy Britton, who operates the farms, helped with the planning. Soils maps prepared by the Soil Conservation Service were used as a guide in making decisions on land use and treatment.

Most of the wet areas on the farms have already been treated with drain tile. Erosion control measures that are planned include parallel terraces, diversions, and grassed waterways.

Sterling High of Gaston says he can see a lot of benefit from soil conservation work he did last spring.

Two parallel terraces and a diversion were built. The structures fit into a long range plan of development.

Exceptionally heavy rains during the growing season gave the structures a chance to prove their worth. Runoff water was turned to safe outlets. Severe erosion of a type experienced in the past was avoided.

The protection afforded by the practices completed helped point up the need for the additional structures that are planned. Soil Conservation Technician H. R. Bryant is helping him this week with the layout of additional terraces.

Grassed waterways established several years ago are doing a good job of safe water disposal for Jesse Moody of Seaboard.

One of the waterways was constructed by reshaping a gully that was becoming a serious problem. After shaping, the waterway was

liberally limed and fertilized, then seeded to tall fescue. A heavy mulch of peanut vines was applied to hold moisture and protect against erosion until the young grass could become established. A thick sod of grass now protects

the land from washing and serves to filter water leaving the field. Diversions have also been constructed at strategic places to provide further protection against excess erosion.

## 4-H Club News

Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Building in Jackson, a special program on terrariums will be presented by the 4-H agents of Northampton County. Please, all Northampton County 4-H'ers and adults, make plans now to attend this program in place of your regular monthly club meeting, or as an extra activity for the month of October. The Northampton County Council officers will preside at this meeting in October.

National 4-H Club Week is just around the corner, Oct. 8-12. Northampton County 4-H'ers are making plans now for a really big and successful program of events and activities during this week.

The Northampton County 4-H clubs will have an educational exhibit at the 52nd Annual Atlantic District Fair, Ahsokie, Sept. 24-29. The exhibit will be concerned with some phase of 4-H. The exhibit will be displayed in booth No. 3 at the fair for all those planning to attend and who would like to see the exhibit.

Also several 4-H'ers from the county will have various items displayed at the fair. Some of these will be judged during the fair's exhibit competition. Any 4-H'er in Northampton County wishing to enter an exhibit at the fair contact one of the 4-H Agents at the Extension office in Jackson.

4-H clubs in Northampton County will soon be involved in fund raising drives to raise money for the 4-H Development Fund. Each club is supposed to raise \$70 to go to the fund. Please help these 4-H'ers as the money for the drive will go toward scholarships, recreational facilities and other 4-H programs.

A 4-H horticultural judging, identification and information contest team is in the process of organizing in Northampton County. This team will judge at next year's N. C. 4-H Congress in Raleigh during the annual state contest there each year. If successful the team will go on to judge at the National Junior Horticultural Association National Convention contest finals.

So far only seven 4-H'ers from the county have signed up to participate, although plans are to get more 4-H'ers to participate. They are Brenda Best, Margaret Davis, Harvey Moseley, Patsey Moseley and Macella Porch all of the Garysburg Jr. Citizens 4-H Club; Bernard Grant, Shady Pines 4-H Club; and Randy Burnette of the Gaston Rebels 4-H Club.

Randy Burnette is participating this year in the Experimental Horticulture Project of the National Junior Horticulture Association. Thus the program offers many channels to success in its varied and educational programs.

For more information concerning this team, contact one of the 4-H agents at the Extension Office in Jackson.

A cucumber field day on a new picker for cucumbers will be held Tuesday afternoon, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., at Broadnax Cucumber Station in Seaboard. Any 4-H'ers with horticulturally related projects should find this event quite worthwhile and interesting.

George Hughes, cucumber specialist of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service will be on hand to give a speech on new production techniques for cucumbers. Please join us if you can.

You've heard of the "land of mild and honey". But how about the "land of syrup and sugar"?

There really is one, you know. Even though few people have heard of it, a vast sugar maple forest stretches from Main to the Mississippi River and south to the Ohio Valley. It indeed is the "land of syrup and sugar".

But more important than the trees and the sugar and syrup they yield, are the region's curious young explorers — 4-H-age kids — anxious to learn all they can about their environment, their heritage.

What an opportunity! If only there were a catalyst to ignite a reaction, an interaction between young people and their heritage... 4-H of course!

Dickinson County 4-H Council, calling into action 4-H's long-standing philosophy to make learning fun and relevant to kids' interests, wants and needs, hit upon an old fashioned "sugaring".

Dickinson County is located in Michigan's picturesque Upper Peninsula, timbered with sugar maples. These forests are dotted with "sugarbushes" and "sugar shacks". Why not visit one? So that's what the council decided to help 4-H youngsters do.

Let's back up a minute. Unless you come from this sugaryland, you probably don't know about "sugaring". For centuries, Indians collected the sweet water which flows through sugar maples during the spring. They boiled down collected sap to thick syrup and used it to sweeten their food. When early settlers arrived, the Indians shared their secret.

Understandably, the popularity of this sweet, natural resource spread rapidly. This popularity continues even today — demand for maple syrup and maple products exceeds supply. Even so, many potential sugarbushes — a sugar maple forest that is being tapped — remain untapped.

The 4-H council called its exploration of this heritage "sweet tooth day". Through it, they wanted 4-H'ers to see the connection between sweet sap and maple products like ones they had been selling in a fund-raising campaign. They also wanted to stimulate some backyard sap collecting and processing because it's so easy and such an enjoyable learning activity for club or individual.

"Homemade Maple Syrup," a pamphlet published by Michigan State University's Extension Service, lists all equipment needed for a small scale venture, and tells step-by-step how to tap a tree, collect sap, boil it to make syrup, and filter it before packaging. Recipes for converting the syrup to other maple products—maple sugar, maple candy, maple fudge—are available from Department of Forestry, Michigan State University.

Most of all, council members wanted 4-H'ers to have fun. And that they did.

The spring day dawned beautiful and warm...that was fortunate because freezing nights and warm days are necessary for sap to run. Spring fever ran high among the kids—200 of them and their leaders descended upon the sugarbush we selected. They saw hundreds of buckets hanging from as many trees, collecting sap from three-inch deep holes bored into trees for holding spouts.

While youngsters examined the site, guides told them that trees had to be 8 to 10 inches in diameter before they could be tapped and that each additional five inches in diameter allowed for an extra taphole. They showed youngsters slices from trees harvested for timber, pointing out stains from former tapholes.

Since sap will not flow from maple trees unless temperatures are right, daily production varies. Normally a

single taphole produces from a quart to a gallon of sap per flow period—ranging from a few hours to a day or more—with a seasonal accumulation of 10 to 12 gallons likely.

Youngsters eagerly tasted the sweet water dripping from trees. Early birds even rode with the collecting wagon crew and helped empty buckets. Some sugarbush managers eliminate this process, hooking several trees together with plastic tubing and letting gravity or vacuum pumps collect it at a central area.

Leaving the sugarbush, 4-H'ers visited the sugar shack, where collected sap was dumped into storage tanks and flowed into evaporating pans as needed, where an oil fire burned at over 2,000 degrees. Such a commercial enterprise is a far cry from the wood-heated kettles the youngsters' forefathers used, but there wasn't much difference in the sweet results, except perhaps more accurate quality control.

Youngsters watched as sap became thicker and thicker, moving along the evaporator pans. Finally, when the syrup reached a boiling point of 218 degrees, it was ready. So you do not have a sugarbush handy? What about your country's heritage? What's its economic base? Find out. Then visit local industry... investigate its birth. Finding out is bound to be fun!

## Suggestions From The County Agent

### The Peanut Marketing Situation In 1973

- I. Problems facing growers:
  - (a) There will be no sheller-purchase program;
  - (b) Very little storage for Seg. 2's and Seg. 3's available;
  - (c) Not enough graders;
  - (d) Inadequate storage facilities;
  - (e) Select buying will probably be practiced.
- II. Growers should do everything possible to maintain the highest quality peanuts:
  - (a) Dig for optimum maturity;
  - (b) Operate combine for maximum efficiency in order to minimize LSK and foreign material;
  - (c) Place peanuts in curing facility immediately after combining;
  - (d) Do not allow temperature in curing facility to exceed 95 degrees F. Maintain 10 cu. ft. of air per cu. ft. of peanuts.

Very Important: — To aid in orderly marketing and higher prices, make plans now to hold the last batch of peanuts in your dryers off the market. On-the-farm loans can be

secured from the ASCS office if needed.

- ### Tips For Harvesting Quality Seed
- I. Digging Process: (a) Dig seed slightly on the immature side; (b) Keep digger blade razor sharp; (c) Make sure digger is properly adjusted for soil conditions. Clip the lower one inch of the tap root. Remove as much dirt as possible; (d) Make sure tractor speed and digger RPM are synchronized; (e) Invert peanuts in tight windrow.
  - II. Combining Process: (a) Do not combine until seed moisture in the windrow is down to 15 to 18 per cent. Combining at high moisture bruises seed; (b) Do not combine when vines are tough or when vines are extremely dry; (c) Make sure combine is properly adjusted. Slower cylinder speed will reduce seed injury. Synchronize tractor speed maintaining a steady ribbon flow.
  - III. Curing Process: (a) Put peanuts on curing system

## Odom Inmates Found In Pa.

JACKSON — Donald Batton, an official at Odom Prison Unit here, said today two honor grade prisoners who walked off the prison grounds Sept. 4 were picked up yesterday in Philadelphia, Pa., by FBI agents. Donnell Johnson of Roanoke Rapids and Johnny Hunter of Philadelphia, Pa. are being returned to the prison where they will continue their terms. Johnson is serving a 22-30 year term for armed robbery and Hunter, 16-20 years for the same offense.

## Deloatch Promoted

SAN DIEGO — Marine PFC James C. Deloatch has been promoted to his present rank while serving at the Naval Air Station, North Island here. Deloatch is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Deloatch of Rt. 2, Conway.

immediately after combining; (b) Maintain 95 degree F. temperature and at least 10 cu. ft. air per cu. ft. of peanuts; (c) Keep heated air continually flowing through peanuts until moisture in seed is 9-10 per cent; (d) If weather permits run fan with no heat until hull and seed moisture equalizes at 8 per cent. IV. Storage Process: (a) Store in a facility, free of condensation, and free from rodents; (b) Maintain a storage temperature between 50 degrees and 70 degrees F. A constant temperature within this range will maintain seed quality.

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### VERY IMPORTANT!!

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THIS REPORT TO BE RETURNED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PLANS TO USE ITS REVENUE SHARING ALLOCATION FOR THE ENTITLEMENT PERIOD JAN 1, 1973 THRU JUN 30, 1973, IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER BASED UPON AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF \$547,209

ACCOUNT NO. 34 1 066 066  
 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY CO MANAGER JACKSON N CAROLINA 27845

OPERATING/MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES				CAPITAL EXPENDITURES					
PRIORITY CATEGORIES (A)	PLANNED EXPENDITURES (B)	PERCENT PLANNED FOR MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING SERVICES (C)	PERCENT PLANNED FOR NEW OR IMPROVED SERVICES (D)	PURPOSE (E)	PLANNED EXPENDITURES (F)	PERCENT PLANNED FOR:			
						EQUIPMENT (G)	CONSTRUCTION (H)	LAND ACQUISITION (I)	DEBT RETIREMENT (J)
1 PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 36,000.00	%	100 %	10 MULTI-PURPOSE AND GENERAL GOVT.	\$ 86,209.00	30 %	70 %	%	%
2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	\$ 50,000.00	100 %	%	11 EDUCATION	\$100,000.00	%	100 %	%	%
3 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	\$	%	%	12 HEALTH	\$200,000.00	50 %	50 %	%	%
4 HEALTH	\$	%	%	13 TRANSPORTATION	\$	%	%	%	%
5 RECREATION	\$ 50,000.00	%	100 %	14 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	\$	%	%	%	%
6 LIBRARIES	\$	%	%	15 HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$	%	%	%	%
7 SOCIAL SERVICES FOR AGED & POOR	\$	%	%	16 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 25,000.00	%	100 %	%	%
8 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$	%	%	17 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION	\$	%	%	%	%
9 TOTAL PLANNED OPERATING/MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES	\$ 136,000.00			18 PUBLIC SAFETY	\$	%	%	%	%
(N) ASSURANCES (Refer to Instruction G)				19 RECREATION & CULTURE	\$	%	%	%	%
				20 OTHER/Specify	\$	%	%	%	%
				21 OTHER/Specify	\$	%	%	%	%
				22 OTHER/Specify	\$	%	%	%	%
				23 TOTAL PLANNED CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$411,209.00				

The news media have been advised that a complete copy of this report has been published in a local newspaper of general circulation. I have records documenting the contents of this report and they are open for public and news media scrutiny.

I assure the Secretary of the Treasury that the statutory provisions listed in Part G of the instructions accompanying this report will be complied with by this recipient government with respect to the entitlement funds reported herein.

Sidney T. Ellen, County Manager  
 9-12-73  
 Northampton County Times News  
 9-20-73