

**Agriculturally Speaking**

# Ferry Is Being Replaced By Modern Pleasure Boat Fleet

**COMING EVENTS**  
 Jan. 20-21: Cotton conference, N. C. State.  
 Jan. 23: Warren County Planning Board, Agricultural Building, Warrenton.  
 Feb. 10-March 31: Sign-up period at ASCS office on the 1964 Feed Grain Program.

**CHANGE:**  
 It was just about one year ago that the only cabin boat on the Gaston Lake area was the one pulling Eaton's Ferry. Now, the old place has been covered up forever and it's nothing unusual to see cabin boats speeding all over the place. Things might be slow right now but don't be too impatient, spring is around the corner. The pictures verify the contrast.

A recent tour around the lake indicates some unusual activity taking place to make your lake visits more pleasant. Included among the developments are Dr. C. H. Woodburn's Marina at Eaton's Ferry Bridge; R. L. Salmon's Boat Launching and Picnic Area near Enterprise and O. S. Davis's Comprehensive Development on what was left of his grade "A" dairy farm. Even though the rising water put Mr. Davis out of the dairy business, it created a terrific waterfront development potential.

**CALFHOOD VACCINATION:**  
 Dr. B. S. Perryman, Extension Veterinarian, states that only a relatively few dairymen are vaccinating their young animals against brucellosis, and states further they could be leaving the door open to ser-



Brucellosis vaccination, coupled with good sanitation and herd management, greatly reduce the incidence of the disease.

# Great Salt Lake Pickles Swimmers

Washington--A lead weight is the ideal life preserver in the Great Salt Lake of Utah. It is impossible to sink in the lake, but the buoyant water tends to lift a swimmer's feet higher than his head. Theoretically, a man could drown while bobbing, head down, like a cork. Solution: a weight tied to his ankles to keep him upright.

The Interior Department announced recently that it favors establishment of a national monument at the bizarre lake. The monument area would include not the entire lake but part of a large island and its adjacent waters, the National Geographic Society reports.

**DIVER BROKE NECK**  
 Eight times saltier than the ocean, Great Salt Lake's water is remarkably dense. A swimmer who ignored warning signs suffered a broken neck when he dived from a pier into the mineral-laden water.

Despite hazards, bathing in the brine is peculiarly invigorating. Fitz Hugh Ludlow, a 19th century journalist, was one of the first people to extol the Great Salt Lake:

"It...gave me a tonic sensation like a brisk shower bath. I...felt a pleasant pungent sense of being in pickle, such as a self-conscious gherkin might experience in Crosse & Blackwell's aristocratic bath of condiments."

The exhilaration can be dampened, however, if a swimmer opens his eyes or nostrils underwater. The salts burn like acid.

Besides sodium chloride, or common salt, the water contains sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, and chlorides of calcium, magnesium and potassium. Almost 27 percent of the water content is minerals and several lakeshore industries extract chemicals. Chemists believe Great Salt Lake is one of the Nation's richest potential sources of magnesium.

The brine is so heavy that incoming fresh water (three major streams feed the lake) floats on the surface for miles before gradually sinking. In winter, the fresh sheets of water sometimes freeze, and buffeting winds pile up icebergs 30 feet high and 100 feet wide. The huge ice chunks once menaced not navigation, but railroad trains that crossed an arm of the lake on a wooden trestle. The trestle has been replaced by a solid dike.

**REMNANT OF SEA**  
 Great Salt Lake's 1,500 square miles are the remnant of Lake Bonneville, the huge inland sea which once covered most of western Utah and parts of Idaho and Nevada. Receding glaciers of the Ice Age left a lake 350 miles long, 150 miles wide, and about 1,000 feet deep. A substantial portion of the lake drained through a breach in the natural basin holding it.

As the present lake has no outlet, it loses water only by evaporation. The percentage of salts has steadily increased. Today, at low water, the lake is saltier than the Dead Sea. Its average depth is only 13 feet.

Though Great Salt Lake often is called "dead" several forms of larvae and algae and a tiny shrimp thrive in its briny waters. A commercial fishery seines shrimp to grind up as food for aquarium fish.

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"It would be interesting to know if our small grains have to struggle against a weed toxin as well as all the other natural adverse conditions," Worsham commented.

**CRY A LITTLE**  
 A young father blew up while trying to mediate the usual family hassle around the dinner table.

"Everybody, around here wants his own way," he yelled. "Me, I'm just the poor schnook of a father. When do I get my way once?"

Four-year-old Mark tugged at his sleeve and suggested: "Cry a little."

report in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science. Three species of knapweed were tested.

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# Farmers Hit Hard Blow By Weeds

Weeds may be hitting farmers for a bigger loss than they realize.

A. D. Worsham, extension weed specialist at North Carolina State, reports scientists are finding a new side effect of weeds.

"We have long known that weeds rob us by taking water, light and mineral nutrients from our crops," Worsham explained. "This, of course, lowers crop yields and quality."

"Scientists are finding more and more evidence that many weeds also inhibit the growth of surrounding crop plants by releasing toxins or growth-inhibiting substances."

The growth-inhibiting power of weeds has been shown in experiments on quackgrass and more recently on knapweed. Growth of tomato and barley plants was inhibited in soils naturally infested with knapweed and in soils artificially infested with powdered knapweed residues, according to a

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