

Agriculturally Speaking

By L. B. HARDAGE
County Extension Chairman

This has been an unusual year weather wise. Today, July 14, crops are really showing the effects of heat and dry weather. Corn is firing up, especially bad in the light soils and will soon be gone unless rains come real soon. Tobacco is hurting, however, it will stand the heat and dry weather longer than any of the other crops and recover if good rains come in the next 10 days. Cucumbers and cantaloupes are also hurting. The crop will be short especially on the late planted ones, unless good rains come now or certainly by the weekend.

irrigating and certainly this is about the only thing you can do. Most farmers are topping and this should be kept up as the buttons show up. This is one of the few times I can remember that there was not a good deal of leaching of the nitrogen in tobacco, very little has taken place this season.

The soybean crop as a whole looks good and is fairly clean and still has a chance to make a good crop. Pastures are in a critical condition in most of the county. Grain and hay crops were real short this spring so it looks bad for beef cattle producers. Gardens are

hurting; now is the time to see that they are worked and clean especially butterbeans, tomatoes, and other late crops.

It is about time to plant fall garden vegetables such as tomatoes, string beans, and others, soon. If you need lists and planting dates, we have bulletins available.

There have been a good many Japanese Beetles in the county. Sevin does a good job of controlling this insect.

In some sections of the county crops are still looking good, other sections fair, and in a few sections they are looking poor. Hope good rains come real soon.

Miss Ballinger Gives Canning Instructions

By EMILY BALLINGER
Extension Agent

The food preservation season seems to be getting in full swing throughout the county. As you go about your canning and freezing of fruits and vegetables, I can't emphasize too much the importance of following recommended methods for both types of preservation.

In giving tips for food preservation, I would like to share some of the questions I have been asked recently and give you the answers. Maybe you too have some of these same questions.

Q. Is it necessary to blanch or scald vegetables before freezing them?

Yes, for a top quality product vegetables should be blanched before freezing them. The scientific reason for this is that scalding, also called blanching, arrests the action of enzymes. Enzymes help vegetables grow and mature. If you do not stop their action before you freeze the vegetables, they stay active. The vegetables keep changing. They lose color, flavor, food value and tenderness.

Q. What is the correct way to blanch vegetables for freezing?

Put a pound, usually about a pint to a quart, of clean fresh vegetables into a wire basket or blancher; lower into at least a gallon of vigorously boiling water. Have the basket or blancher ready in the kettle of water, so it will be hot and will not cool the water. Put the cover on and start counting the time. Keep the heat high under the kettle. When the recommended time for that vegetable is up, lift the wire basket, or blancher, of vegetables out of the boiling

water. Plunge it into cold (icy is best) water. Chill thoroughly, remove from cold water and package in moisture vapor-proof containers.

Q. Open-kettle canning is not recommended. Why?

In open-kettle canning, food is cooked then packed into hot jars and sealed without processing. For fruits and vegetables, the temperatures obtained in open-kettle canning are not high enough to destroy all the spoilage organisms that may be in the food. Spoilage bacteria may get in when the food is transferred for kettle to jar.

Q. How Should Fruits and Vegetables Be Processed?

We recommend that fruits and tomatoes be processed in a boiling water bath. This is a method in which the filled jars are put into a container containing hot or boiling water. For raw pack, have water in canner hot but not boiling; for other packs have water boiling. The water should be an inch or two over tops of jars. Put cover on canner. When water in canner comes to a rolling boil, start to count processing time. Boil gently and steadily for time recommended for the food you are canning. Add boiling water during processing if needed to keep jars covered. Remove jars from the canner immediately when processing time is up.

We recommend using a steam pressure canner for processing all vegetables except tomatoes and pickled vegetables.

Follow the manufacturer's directions for the canner you are using. Here are a few pointers on the use of any steam-pressure can-



BENDER
Camp Experience

Is Recalled By Jeffrey Bender

By JEFFREY BENDER
My week at 4-H Forestry and Wildlife Camp was very educational and fun. It was an event any 4-H'er would love to participate in.

The camp's main purpose was to give the campers an insight into the forest industry, wildlife management, and the great outdoors. The campers had already completed 4-H projects in forestry and/or wildlife as a qualification

ner:
—Put two or three inches of boiling water in the bottom of the canner; the amount of water to use depends on the size and shape of the canner.

—Set filled glass jars on rack in canner so that steam can flow around each container. If two layers of can or jars are put in, stagger the second layer. Use a rack between layers of glass jars.

—Fasten canner cover securely so that no steam can escape except through vent (petcock or weighted-gage opening).

—Watch until steam pours steadily from vent. Let it escape for 10 minutes or more to drive all air from the canner. Then close petcock or put on weighted gage.

—Let pressure rise to 10 pounds (240 degrees F.). The moment this pressure is reached start counting processing time. Keep pressure constant by regulating heat under the canner. Do not lower pressure by opening petcock. Keep drafts from blowing on canner.

—When processing time is up, remove canner from heat immediately.

With Glass Jars, let canner stand until pressure is zero. Never try to rush the cooling by pouring cold water over the canner. When pressure registers zero, wait a minute or two, then slowly open petcock or take off weighted gage. Unfasten cover and tilt the far side up so steam escapes away from you. Take jars from canner.

You may get additional information on canning and freezing from the Home Economics Extension Agent's office in the Warren County Agriculture Building, Warrenton, telephone 257-3997. Bulletins giving the recommended blanching times for freezing vegetables and processing times for canning are available just by asking for them.



ATTENDS ELECTRIC CONGRESS—Warren County 4-H member Alvelon Williams was a delegate to the State 4-H Electric Congress at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, July 11-13. Grace Williams, adult leader and Joe Gregory, agricultural services employee with Carolina Power and Light Company, accompanied the delegates. The 4-H'ers were selected for achievement in their electric projects. Carolina Power and Light Company sponsored Williams' trip to Electric Congress.

Charlotte Electrical Congress Held

By ALVELON WILLIAMS
The 30th annual 4-H Electric Congress was held

for attending the camp. The schedule at camp was much like that of any other 4-H camp. We had flag raising before 7:15 breakfast, camp duties, and classes after breakfast. We had four, hour and a half classes everyday, two in the morning, and two in the afternoon. In the evening, we had an 8 o'clock assembly.

During the free time, there was much available recreation. There were two swimming periods a day. We played volleyball, horse-shoes, football, basketball, softball, and numerous other games during free time. The campers were divided into six groups, named after trees—pines, poplars, oaks, etc. The teams from these groups played in a softball tournament with the winner playing a team of instructors. For the 24th year in a row, the instructors won!

The classes were generally interesting. We had classes in tree measurement, habitats of insects, wildlife management, use of map and compass, insects and diseases affecting trees, wood products, forest tools and safety, camping, fish management, and archery-gun safety. Most of these classes were instructed by Extension workers from N. C. State or men who taught the course year around. In addition to lectures, we participated in workshops on the various subjects. For example, in archery-gun safety, we learned safety by shooting a bow and arrow, and shooting shots with a 12 guage shotgun.

While plotting a course on the map and compass course, one of my classmates got lost, and was found one mile from camp. We were concerned for his safety, due to the large amounts of woodland that surrounds the camp.

At the evening assemblies, we were shown films on forestry and wildlife; following the films everyone danced. On Thursday night, Southern Bell, one of the sponsors of the camp, gave an interesting talk on the work of Bell Labs. After the talk, everyone square danced. On Friday, we had a test on everything we had learned during the week. Half was written and half was field exercises. The first prize for highest score was a bow; second, a camera; third, a flashlight. The winners were announced at the evening assembly and to my surprise, I was second place winner. I received a new Kodak Tele-instant camera, equipped with film and flashbulbs.

On Saturday morning, we ate breakfast, said our good-byes, and left. Everyone was sad to leave.

There were 26 girls and 60 boys from all of North Carolina for this program. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and educational week. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in it.

July 11-13 at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The delegates from Warren County were Alvelon Williams, County Electric Project Winner and Mrs. Grace Williams, Elam's 4-H Club Leader.

The Congress was sponsored by four power companies.

I had looked forward to swimming the first day, but when we arrived we only had time to register, take pictures, and dress for the award banquet which was a most enjoyable one with Mr. R. G. Pond, Virginia Electric & Power Company, presiding. Dr. Dean W. Calvard, Chancellor UNC-G gave us a warm welcome. Mike Helms, Anson County 1976 State Winner gave a report on his trip to National Convention, Chicago, Ill. The four power companies gave out territorial awards to top boy and girl in each territory. After the banquet there was a dance. The Time Square played. This was most enjoyable, because I won a dance contest.

On Tuesday, we had a general meeting with Mr.

John Glover, N. C. State, presiding. There were project and recruiting reports given by various counties. Randy Kilebrew, Edgecombe County, gave an educational demonstration entitled, "which switch showing various switches for different purposes." Then each of the four power companies representatives presented certificates to the county winners they sponsored. In the afternoon we departed for Carowinds. I enjoyed every moment there, White Lightning, Thunder Road, and above all the picnic that was provided for us before we left Carowinds.

We had Vesper every night at 11:30 p. m.

Wednesday, we had breakfast and talent closing remarks, and adjournment of Congress by Frank Humenik, N. C. State University.

I would like to thank the N. C. Extension Specialists and County Agents for our trip, the four power companies, especially CP&L, who sponsored us for such a enjoyable and rewarding Congress.

4-H Members Find Fun At Betsy Penn Camp

By SUE SALMON
If there seems to be an unusually high number of tired but smiling 4-H'ers in the county this next week, you can be sure it's the result of a week of 4-H Camp at Betsy-Jeff Penn near Reidsville.

Forty-five 4-H'ers spent July 11-16 at the camp which is located beside a 20-acre lake in gently rolling Piedmont hills full of bridle trails and foot paths. The hot weather was noticed, but couldn't put a damper on the good ole' 4-H Spirit as campers hiked, canoed, played volleyball, and participated in other activities.

During the week Warren County 4-H'ers did their best and made it better as a result. Awards went to Leslie Lanier, Swim Relay Winner and Plain Front Dive; Sylvia Carroll, Penny Pick-up; Tina Salmon, Prone Glide for Distance; Sabrina Williams, Big Splash; Glenn Woolard, one-half mile swim; Kim Pitchford, Honorable Mention for the Calm Control of his horse when the reins broke; Kevin Cheston, Archery; Mallette Hargrove, for getting more "Bulls-eyes" in archery than could be remembered; Annetta Greene, Recreation and handicraft; Timothy Sledge, Leadership in classes and Handicraft; Kevin Cheston, Handicraft; Kim Pitchford, Handicraft; Josephine West, Singing; Angela Daniels, Guitar; Wade Powell, Ecology; Percell Harrison, Ecology; Derrick Cheston, Ecology and Crafts; and Julia King, Ecology. Two of our campers, Derrick Cheston and Jackie Waters got Superior Camper Awards.

Others attending were Reuben Clayton, James Groom, Jr., David Hayes, Kerry Gerard Henderson, James Patrick Jordan, Andy Lanier, Gregory Lucas, Tim Moseley, Tracey Perkinson, Kennedy Ben Richardson, Leon Short, David Sledge, Lee Roy West, Jr., Derrick Williams, Greg Williams, Michael Hargrove, Janice Coleman, Kathy Jo Cooper, Pam Currie, Susan Currie, Stan-

tina Evans, Shenee Greene, Maxine Sellers, Betsy Shearin, Sreda Steed, Josephine West, Tammy Lee West, Vonda Wilson, Shaunda McAllister, and Kimeko Wilson. Leaders attending were Mrs. Kathy Wilson, Mrs. Leora Davis and Miss Sue Salmon and two agents, George W. Koonce and Glenn Woolard, also attended.

The week was full of hard work, enjoyment, and new insights. The hike up to the Chinqua-Penn Plantation was hot and tiring, but this was forgotten as wide-eyes stared at jade door knobs, French furniture, and Persian rugs and tapestries hundreds of years old. The leaders and agents though sorry to admit, were slowly wilted under the merciless assault of the camp staff during the volleyball game. At night the chorus of "Butterbeans" and the "Baby Bumblebee Song" cheered the darkness until the snores of cabin leaders drowned them out.

Julia King, who could never be outwitted in her own county, was conned expertly by swimming instructor, Mike Ritter, as she fell for the watery "Look at this bug!"—Joke! Jim Pippin, ecology instructor, brought out the "woodsman" in the campers and little Annetta Greene probably never thought she'd get to the top of that steep hill on one of those "survival" ecology hikes!

Our Oita Cheston was a welcome sight among the camp staff. One of the writer's own special memories was of the last night at camp when the cross shown over the lake and a feeling of "this is what was meant to be," and of all the challenges that had been met and overcome, some gracefully and others not so gracefully, during the days before.

This week could not help but affect the growth of all who attended, especially as we "became one" during the "Love" song as all God's creation also praised Him. It was a week to remember and learn from.

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