

# Rural Development Panel Hears Talk By Mrs. Clayton

Mrs. Eva Clayton, assistant secretary for Community Development with the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, was the speaker at the regular August dinner meeting of the Warren County Rural Development Panel, held at the Warrenton Carriage House at noon on last Friday. The panel consists of representatives of all department heads and special interest groups.



MRS. CLAYTON

Mrs. Clayton was presented by L. C. Cooper, chairman, Agricultural Extension Service, who presided over the meeting. For many years she made her home in Warren County, where she was active in the Civil Rights movement.

After expressing her pleasure in coming home for an afternoon with friends and neighbors, and pledging the support of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Mrs. Clayton briefly reviewed the character and occupation of the people of North Carolina and the work of the agency with which she works.

North Carolina is among the most rural states of the union, with most of our people living in small towns and rural communities, the speaker said, and pointed out that in October 1978, North Carolina was the first state to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Farmers Home Administration to work together to alleviate problems in rural areas, and Governor Hunt established the Rural Development Coordinating Committee to deal with rural issues and problems.

In spite of the availability of state and federal assistance, Mrs. Clayton continued, local leadership will be required to ensure that this assistance is accessible to the local community. She said that the state's interagency cooperative efforts are being tried as demonstration and pilot programs.

Mrs. Clayton said that Warren County citizens continue to suffer from the lack of job opportunities, low income, decent health care, poor housing, lack of child care and a general lack of community facilities and services.

The ability to attract and retain the type of leadership and industries needed, Mrs. Clayton pointed out, depend upon the quality of life in Warren and other rural North Carolina counties. These include decent housing, a good educational system, recreational facilities, and adequate community facilities and services.

Mrs. Clayton said she feels that the Warren County leadership committee should identify the ten most important needs of the county and give priorities to these, and work out some strategies to rectify the top three or four most pressing issues.

Through the state committee and Dr. Blalock, chairman, Mrs. Clayton said, we could take our lists of priorities to the Governor's Rural Development Coordinating Committee for help or other sources. Through this process, she added, we have a golden opportunity to at least be heard.

In closing Mrs. Clayton

a brief summary of their Copies of the secretary's statement on rural development were distributed to members present.

Among those present, in addition to Mrs. Clayton, were Vernon R. (Pete) Vaughan, Warrenton town administrator; Mrs. Inez Miles, N. C. Senior Citizens Federation of Henderson; Paul Keck, Employment Commission, Henderson; B. G. White, mayor, Town of Warrenton; Thomas E. Watson, county executive director, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; L. C. Cooper, County Extension chairman; Glenwood B. Rose, road maintenance supervisor; James E. (Jim) Duey, district conservationist, Soil Conservation Service; Ms. Andura Harris, associate director N. C. Senior Citizens Federation; and T. T. Clayton, Warrenton attorney.

expressed her confidence job responsibilities. that we can make "some significant inroads into solving our problems here in Warren County." Members of the agency reviewed the July meeting, at which L. C. Cooper, chairman and Jim Huew, secretary of the panel were elected with each member giving

## Fire Destroys Tobacco

(Continued from page 1) destroyed at a fire in a barn belonging to M. C. Abbott, which was left standing, at 12:53 p.m. Tuesday. Eight firemen, a pumper and a tanker were sent to the scene.

Twelve men, a pumper and tanker were dispatched on Monday at 1:15 a.m. to the farm of William Henderson on Macon Route 2, where a tobacco barn, the property of John Henderson, was on fire. Barn and contents were destroyed.

On Wednesday, Aug. 6, at 6:35 p.m. eight firemen, a pumper and tanker were dispatched to the farm of Leon Cheek, where a barn, the property of Ella Cheek, was on fire. Barn and contents were completely destroyed.

The fourth barn to be completely destroyed with its contents was the property of Steven Alston of Route 1, Warrenton. The alarm was turned in at 12 o'clock on August 8. Seven men, a pumper and a tanker were sent to the scene.

On Monday of this week at 5:45 o'clock 11 men, a pumper and tanker were called to a grass fire on the Warrenton Henderson road, only to find that the call was a false alarm.

A frame building, the home of James Green on the Churchill road, Route 2, Macon, was completely destroyed by fire at 7:25 o'clock on August 7. Five men, and a tanker were sent to the scene in support of the Macon Company.

On Aug. 8 at 7:10 p.m. five firemen and a pumper were sent back to the scene of the Steven Alston barn fire where they extinguished an oil barrel fire.

A dumpster fire at 12:40 a.m. on August 9, was responsible for three men and a pumper being sent to the scene where the fire was extinguished.

Six men were placed on standby at 2:15 o'clock on August 11, because of a brush fire near Centerville, but were not called out.

Five firemen, two woods trucks and a crash wagon were sent to the Pett Boyd Farm near Warrenton at 1:45 o'clock on Thursday of last week, to a grass, woods and brush and sawdust pile fire. The fire was extinguished after having burned approximately 20 to 30 acres. The origin of the fire is not known.

On the same day, at

2:30 p.m. Nine men and a tanker were dispatched to a woods fire on the Davis farm between Arcola and the Fishing Creek road. The woods were ignited during controlled burning and were extinguished.

Six firemen and a tanker were sent to the scene of a wreck near Arcola at 4:45 on Thursday when two cars were involved in a fatal wreck.

Controlled burning on the Connell property near Warrenton was responsible for seven men, a pumper and a woods truck going to the scene.

A call to a house fire in Greenwood Village at 6:45 o'clock on last Saturday proved to be a false alarm. Twenty men, two pumps, a tanker and a crash wagon were sent to the scene.

## Drought Aid

(Continued from page 1) harvested so that an appraisal can be made.

3. Keep production separate by farm. This is necessary in order to determine eligibility and amount of payment for each farm. Do not furnish false production data.

Warren County was declared eligible this week to participate in the Emergency Feed Program. This program provides assistance to eligible livestock owners by sharing the cost of feed for eligible livestock when such feed must be purchased in quantities above normal. The assistance is for the preservation and maintenance of livestock in any area where drought exists and the County Committee determines that an emergency exists.

Farmers interested in this program must have suffered a loss of at least 40 percent below normal production in their livestock feed and pasture. The amount of assistance is 50 percent of the cost of the feed purchased not to exceed 3 cents per pound of feed grain equivalent.

Watson stated that producers who would like to apply for assistance under this program should apply immediately at the ASCS office as the pounds of assistance is determined by the number of days in the feeding period which begins on the date of application.

There's even a new toothpaste called POLITICIAN. It gives you the brush after every election.



Blood pressure checks were part of a recent program on chronic disease presented to the Warrenton Lions Club by members of the Warren County Health Department. Taking part in the checks

are, left to right, J. Howard Daniel, Mrs. Betty Bolton, Mrs. Pam Draffin and Phil Daniel. Not shown but having a part in the program was Mrs. Margaret Mangum. (Photo by John Boyd Fleming)

# Wisconsin Family Learns To Avoid The Crunch And Become Debt Free

By C. F. MARLEY

Out in Wisconsin the Peters family have a different way of farming, including the stimulation of earthworms. It seems to work, for the family seems to be both prosperous and debt-free. The article is reproduced from Acres U. S. A. by special permission, in the hope that our readers will enjoy it.—Editor.

While many, many farmers are suffering under an interest crunch, eco-farming and dairying has meant economic independence and good herd health for Roger Peters and his father, Albert, Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Equally enthused, Roger's son, Paul, now has become a partner in a business which has a good future.

The Peters family farms thin upland clay ground in the undulating hills of southeast Wisconsin. Some of their cropping and feeding practices make this a one-of-a-kind operation.

There they maintain 110 head of dairy cattle, 43 of which are in lactation, on 160 tillage acres out of a 180 acre farm.

The Peters farm is free and clear of any pesticide or herbicide, free and clear of salt fertilizer or anhydrous ammonia, and best of all free and clear of debt.

And, this was no case of coming into a family inheritance. The Peters family made it on their own.

In the 1940s, Albert was crop share renting the prairie lands of Illinois, near Kankakee.

In the late 1940s, Albert took his family to southern Wisconsin, a move which was to set the stage for current operations.

Roger says he "always had a feeling toward eco-farming" but it took some nerve and studying to make the switch. Part of that studying had to do with books and literature, along with a study of the Bible.

Roger will tell you his dairy herd is profitable now at a time when there are lots of reports of farm distress. He says it is "because we have learned to maintain our own production and keep other peoples' hands out of our pockets."

At the same time their very thin soil on those Wisconsin hills is protected against erosion.

A very conservative crop rotation, spreading of liquid manure, encouraging angle worm populations, and some unorthodox cropping and dairy rations make the Peters operations not only unusual but are in a large measure responsible for the good animal health and good

returns they receive.

The rotation is 5 years of alfalfa followed by 1 year of row crop silage, then 1 year of oats. Every 7th year calls for the application of 100 pounds per acre of Planters II to increase earthworm populations.

In order to enhance earthworm activity, the Peters have discontinued the practice of close cutting of alfalfa in favor of leaving a 4 inch stubble as a mulch and ground shade.

"We found that if we cut too close the ground surface dries out and the angle worms move down," Roger says.

Peters likes to keep his earthworms active regardless of the crop being grown. He says neighbors who apply anhydrous ammonia find they have few or no earthworms. Peters says he has about 30 earthworm punch holds per square foot.

To get the best possible response from the use of manure, Peters applies it as a liquid and at such time as he can moldboard plow it down almost immediately. He says lots of the beneficial nitrogen will be wafted away into the air otherwise. The manure is applied to the alfalfa fields that are to be plowed under to raise silage.

Peters' silage crop is quite unusual, and the silage produced is fed along with a grain ration even more unusual.

Peters plants corn, soybeans, and sunflowers in the same row. It is this mixture from which he makes his silage.

Getting the most of the silage mixture requires selecting varieties of corn, soybeans, and sunflowers that will be at optimum growth at harvest time.

Peters uses 100 day corn, 110 day sunflowers and tall, growthy soybeans. He harvests silage when leaves are still on the beans. He plants in 40 inch rows to make forage handling easier.

After Peters gets his silage crop, the next year he plants these acres to oats. This provides him grain as well as bedding straw. He can also start his new seedlings of alfalfa.

We mentioned Peters unusual grain ration. He includes in it some of the oats he raises, but in large measure grain screenings and weed seeds which he buys from neighbors at 2 cents per pound make up the ration.

The ration he feeds his cows is made up of 1,800 pounds of such material plus 300 pounds of black strap molasses.

Peters put up a 4,500 bushel bin with a full

drying floor to store his weed seeds and screenings. He says the screenings are dry when he receives them, so there is no problem with keeping them. Ordinary outside air does the job.

Peters uses custom grinding services, and has his weeds and screenings ground the finest possible so as to make certain they do not pass through cows and become a source of weed contamination. The weed seeds involved are largely made up of giant foxtail and buttonweeds. He uses no herbicide and yet has no problem with these weeds even after manure is spread.

Peters says weed seeds have about 17% protein and are a source of beneficial amino acid.

Before launching into this admittedly radical method of feeding, Peters checked it out with a farmer near Appleton who had a reputation for feeding weed seeds. It turned out the Appleton man had fed weed seeds for years and had maintained a 4.7% test on his dairy cattle. Peters says he was convinced and then copied the system.

Peters not only has no problems with weeds, but his farming and cropping system has meant better herd health as well. Nearby farmers using anhydrous ammonia are having troubles with vitamin A deficiencies in their cows. The result is abortions and high veterinary cost to supply the vitamin A which the cows must have.

Neither does Peters have insect problems in his fields or among his animals. He has not even

sprayed for flies for years.

While Peters does not test their cows in production they do sell breeding stock and do keep track of any records they make.

For example, the record of a cow bred by Peters, Hyalone Moonlight Fancy 2E-92, and her picture was published in the March 25, 1980 Holstein-Friesian World. She is listed as having lifetime credits of 99,820 pounds of 4.3% milk.

Peter sums up his experience by saying "healthy soils, health crops mean healthy animals."

It goes without saying that being free and clear with an operation like his in today's uncertain economy has to be an up-beat feeling.

### Cool Dad

Fathers are the calm, cool, self-assured individuals who ask their wives, as they're being wheeled into the delivery room, "Are you sure you want to go through with this?"

### Canned Iranian

My grandmother would have known precisely how to handle the Iranian situation. She would have frozen some of their assets and canned the rest.

## Correction Is Noted

In an account of the proceedings of the Monday night meeting of the Warrenton town board on last week it was stated that Ms. Jereann King, promotion director of Radio Station WVSP, appeared before the board to request that August 26 be designated as Radio WVSP Day. Mrs. King did not appear before the board. Instead the station's promotion

## New Line Is Developed Here

A tobacco breeding line which may contribute to the development of commercial varieties with resistance to the disease Potato Virus Y (PVY) has been developed in North Carolina.

The flue-cured breeding line NC 744 is being jointly released for research and breeding purposes by the Agricultural Research Service at North Carolina State University and the Science and Education Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

PVY is a potentially destructive disease of tobacco that has occurred sporadically in North Carolina and other producing states since it was first identified on tobacco in 1964.

The source of the PVY resistance in NC 744 is a resistant line obtained from Rhodesia. It was crossed with the multiple disease resistant variety Coker 86.

NC 744 was tested at the Oxford and Whiteville research stations and later entered in regional tests where it was tested in all of the flue-cured tobacco growing states. The breeding program began in 1975.

The development of this line involved the use of a new breeding method known as the haploid-diploid technique which reduces by about one-half the time of developing a line, according to Dr. James F. Chaplin, director of the Tobacco Research Laboratory at Oxford.

The experimental line, which possesses many favorable traits of a commercial variety, has tolerance to the mild strain of PVY and apparent immunity to the severe strain of the disease.

NC 744 is being released to plant breeders as a source of resistance in breeding commercially acceptable PVY resistant varieties.

director, Ms. Georgia Collins, appeared and made the request. Mrs. King was on the agenda concerning another matter but failed to appear.

The Warren Record regrets its confusion of the two names, and apologizes for any embarrassment it may have caused Mrs. Collins and or Radio Station WVSP.

# PROCLAMATION WVSP DAY

WHEREAS, Public Radio Station WVSP of Warrenton, North Carolina, has completed four years of broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, the station has made dedicated efforts to meet the musical and informational needs of the residents of Warrenton and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, Warrenton as the city of license has received local and national recognition for being the location of this regional resource;

NOW BE IT THEREFOR RESOLVED that I, B. G. White, Mayor of the Town of Warrenton, North Carolina, and the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Warrenton do HEREBY DECLARE

August 26, 1980, as WVSP Day in Appreciation for the station's commitment to make public radio a valued resource, accessible to our community. We hereby wish the station many more years of service.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the town to be affixed this 18 day of August, 1980.

B. G. White, Mayor