

Agriculturally Speaking

By RUSSELL C. KING
County Extension Chairman



Warm weather has finally ended and many tobacco growers have finished fumigating their tobacco plantbeds for 1985. The next step is seeding. Remember that only 65 days are needed between seeding your bed and transplanting to the field if plants are grown under plastic. One-sixth to one-eighth ounce of seed is sufficient per 100 yards of plantbed.

Heavy seeding will result in spindly plants and lighter seeding will cause plants to be bunched.

As you know, fumigation can sometimes not control tough plantbed weeds such as clover. Enide, a grass herbicide, can give good results for many weed problems that may be missed by fumigation. This chemical does not control broadleaf weeds or plantbed disease; therefore, it will not take the place of fumigation.

For more information concerning plantbed seeding, contact me at the Warren County Extension Office.

Parktonian Youth Report Busy Times

By JOHNETTE ARRINGTON
Reporter

During the month of December, the Parktonian Youth-In-Action 4-H Club was very busy. We visited the Warren Nursing Center and sang Christmas carols to the patients.

Also, Sherman Johnson gave the members a guided tour of the WARR radio station in Warrenton. Johnson explained the job of being a disc jockey and working all the machinery at the radio station. Each member was given two records at the end of the tour.

Linette Alston gave the club members a demonstration on peanut foods at the December club meeting. She informed

us of the many uses of peanuts and gave different recipes using peanuts. Her demonstration was followed by a question-and-answer period.

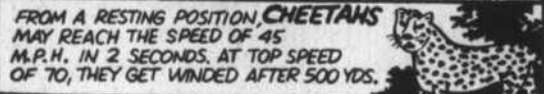
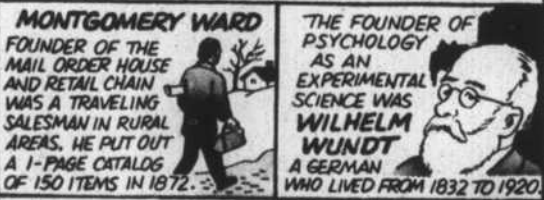
During the business session, members discussed Family Night, which was held Dec. 9 at South Warren School, and the 4-H Leaders' Banquet.

Wanda Bullock, vice president, called the meeting to order, followed by the 4-H and flag pledges, devotional, and roll call.

Mrs. Ella Alston served refreshments to members following adjournment.

The next meeting of the Parktonian Youth-In-Action 4-H Club will be Jan. 30 at 6 p. m.

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Soil Compaction Creates Problem For Our Farmers

By MICHAEL W. HARRIETT
Soil Conservation Technician

Mr. Farmer, among the many factors that reduce crop yields, have you considered soil compaction? Iowa State University conducted experiments on soil compaction in corn and found that compaction reduces potassium uptake by 70%, nitrogen by 30%, magnesium by 20%, and calcium by 10%.

Soil compaction can be recognized by uneven growth and purple coloring in corn. Soil compaction also increases runoff and reduces the available moisture for plants in times of drought. Smaller root masses occur because the roots cannot push through the compacted area. Fields with compaction problems usually have some serious problems with lodging.

Problems with herbicide performance and herbicide carryover can also be caused by soil compaction. Herbicide performance is restricted by the chemicals not being able to move through the soil. Surface compaction from rainfall has been enough to cause herbicide failure. Herbicide carryover is caused by limiting leaching.

Soil compaction is usually caused by traffic. It can also be caused by working soil that is too wet. Just because the soil is dry on the surface doesn't mean the soil is dry enough six inches down to prevent compaction. Large tractors with wide tires make it tempting to try to work land that is too wet. Also disking a wet field to let it dry out always adds to compaction.

There are several ways to reduce soil

Oine Road Club Members Meet

By MICHELLE MEADOR
Secretary

Members of the Oine Road 4-H Club met on Dec. 22. Those attending were Cindy Rollinson, Jeremy Harris, Donut Robertson and Michelle Meador.

The meeting was called to order by Cindy Rollinson, president.

After the business session, Cindy Rollinson gave a report on the hoof of a horse, and Donut Robertson reported on an Iceland Pony.

The club decided to begin collecting dues of 50 cents per meeting, beginning with the next meeting on Jan. 6.

Membership in the club is open to anyone who wishes to join in the fun and learning. Interested persons are asked to call Heather Harris after 5 p. m. at 456-4210.

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compaction. Make sure your fields are dry before you start working them. One day's waiting can make a big difference. Subsoiling is effective on sandy soils but should not be used on heavy clay soils. Farmers should also try to reduce the number of trips across the field. Integrated pest management techniques can reduce the number of trips for pesticides and cut chemical costs. No-till systems are excellent for reducing soil compaction by reducing the number of trips across the field and increasing the organic matter in the soil. Farmers should not use grass waterways as roads because compaction destroys the waterway.

If you feel you might have a soil compaction problem or other soil or erosion problems please contact the Soil Conservation Service at 257-3836.

For Better Living

Suggestions Given For Picking Supplies

By MARGARET J. WOODS

Are you a new cook planning to equip a kitchen? If so, here are some helpful suggestions for choosing supplies.

The cookware selected is critical in terms of cooking results, so utensils need to be chosen with care. Performance and convenience are as important as appearance. Materials and finishes of cookware vary and also dictate the cleaning procedures necessary for proper care. Check the various types and properties of each before buying. Any cookware purchased should be of the best quality a budget allows. Most utensils are used frequently and should be durable in order to withstand daily use and to last for years. Other factors to look for when purchasing cookware or bakeware include: material that is a good conductor of heat; flat or slightly concave bottoms and close-fitting covers for more efficient use of energy; knobs and handles that are sturdy, heat-resistant, and easy to grasp; cookware with good balance to prevent tipping when empty or full; appearance in terms of color, style, and finish that is pleasing; and construction and finish that is easy to clean with no seams, crevices, or rough edges.

What kitchen equipment to buy can be confusing for a new cook. The novice should concentrate on selecting basic items for starters and add others as the level of skill increases.

First of all, every cook should have at least two saucepans, one with a capacity of one to one and one-half quarts and the other two to two and one-half quarts. These saucepans are ideal for cooking vegetables, soups, sauces and cereals.

Also important is a pot/Dutch oven with a six-to-eight quart capacity for stews and fricassees, as well as two fry pans, one measuring seven or eight inches, the other ten to twelve inches. These pans are needed for browning, sauteing and frying.

Basic cookware can be bought separately or in matched sets. Matched sets can be particularly attractive and add style to a kitchen when hung or displayed on an open shelf. In some instances, they may be less expensive than pieces bought separately.

In addition to a basic cooking set, small portable appliances are most useful. An electric frypan is ideal for the new cook. A temperature control takes the guesswork out of cooking. This appliance does more than just fry. It serves as a pot for stews, as a braiser, and as a food warmer. A slow cooker is another convenient appliance especially for working people because it cooks foods slowly while the chef is away for hours.

Other convenient items are a toaster oven and grill. For most individuals, a coffee-maker, toaster, and blender or mixer are some of the indispensable appliances.

A list of baking equipment may include several casseroles of varying sizes with covers, two cookie sheets, loaf pan, muffin pan, two sizes of pie pans, two cake pans in eight-inch or nine-inch rounds, nine-inch square cake pan, two cake racks, a roasting pan and rack.

Utensils are another important part of basis kitchen equipment. They include a set of wooden spoons and plastic or rubber spatulas for use with all types of cookware, including those with nonstick finishes. By using a wooden spoon or spatula to mix and stir, metal surfaces of cookware will not be scratched. One should protect pans further by never slicing or dicing food in them. A chopping board is a good investment.

Some of the other utensils to consider buying include a peeler for paring fruit and vegetables. A pastry brush is handy for spreading sauces or melted butter. Tonges are ideal for turning meat instead of a fork that releases juices. A wire whisk is an efficient tool for smooth gravies and sauces; a slotted spoon drains vegetables.

Every kitchen should have at least four knives: a 10-inch chef's knife, eight-inch utility knife, 12-inch slicer, and four-inch paring knife. A grater is necessary for grating lemons, cheese, or onions; a colander or strainer is useful for pasta. A set of mixing bowls, dry and liquid measuring cups, and a set of measuring spoons are indispensable for cooking and baking.

Once having collected these kitchen supplies, one should make them last by giving them proper care. Labels and brochures provided with cookware offer valuable information on use and care. Users should take the time to read and follow the instructions carefully.

The kitchen equipment you invest in now should last a lifetime. Start first by selecting utensils that will help you master the basics of cooking while satisfying your needs and budget.

Bargain Shop

LOST

LOST: TWO BEAGLES, 1 male, 1 female between Vaughan and Macon, wearing collar, owner Alfred Wortham. 257-4572. Reward offered.
Jan. 9-c.

Members Give Yule Dinner

By LINDA PETTAWAY
Reporter

Parents and 4-H club leaders entertained the Up and Coming 4-H Club and choir members at a Christmas dinner at the Burchette Chapel United Church of Christ in Manson. All who attended had a wonderful time.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Angela Terry, followed by a song and the 4-H and flag pledges.

The meeting was adjourned with the repeating of the 4-H motto, "To Make The Best Better."

Big Variety

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Cards Of Thanks

I would like to thank my friends and relatives for the many acts of kindness shown me during my recent hospital stay and since my return home. Special thanks to the Rev. Jack Little and the Rev. Mr. Roy for their visits.

May God richly bless each and every one of you.

MRS. AUDREY BOLTON

The family of the late Ned Alston would like to thank their families, neighbors, and friends, for donations, food, visits, cards and expressions of sympathy, and all acts of kindness shown them in their time of sorrow.

May God bless each of you.

MARGARET ALSTON
Wife

EMMA BOONE
MARY ALSTON
Daughters

Miss Mary Newell would like to thank everyone for the cards, letters, visits and calls made since my stay in the nursing home.

MISS MARY NEWELL
Toney Nursing Home
Raleigh St.
Oxford, N. C.

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