



The Farm And Home



HOW VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE HELPS A BOY

By TALMADGE GAY

Vocational Agriculture became a part of rural school systems in 1917 with the passage of the Smith-Hughes Bill, the U. S. Government matching funds with the states so that the teaching of Vocational Agriculture might be taught in all states and in the possessions of the United States.

To be a pupil in Agriculture inspires a boy in many ways. He must be honest and dependable. To be a candidate for any team scholarship is also considered in making the selection. We are all proud to be selected, we work hard, and we are determined to put forth sufficient effort to enable us to make the trip to Kansas City next year to the annual stock judging contest. We all realize that we must work in order to be selected.

All practice work is supervised, we are taught improved farm practices. We are also taught the skillful use of farm tools; the care and repair of farm machinery.

We are trained in leadership activities; each chapter member serves on at least one committee during the year. We receive practice in leading discussions, we compete in all contests for improvement. There is ample opportunity for chapter members to receive training that will enable them to become leaders in their communities.

Chapter members keep accurate cost and sales records, thus enabling them to become acquainted with the value and proper use of money. We use business methods and forms in all our project dealings.

For a boy to get the most out of his course his father must co-operate with him. A boy likes the secure feeling he has when he knows his Dad is behind him. To help and advise when necessary. If fathers do co-operate it stimulates the boy to take a more active part in chapter activities.

We boys appreciate the good work done by our former teacher, Mr. D. R. Senter. We were sorry to have him leave us. He was replaced by Mr. McIntire, whom we all like. We know he is for us, so we are for him, too; we plan to put the Wakelon Chapter on the map. We like our work, and we are going to do our best.

Our ritual briefly sums an Ag student's aims in these few words: To practice brotherhood, honor rural opportunities and responsibilities and develop those qualities of leadership which a Future Farmer should possess.

Mrs. J. S. Mitchell is planning to raise chickens this year on a bigger scale than usual. Her sons have made her a brooder house of willow poles, the cracks daubed, and the whole thing snug and warm. She is going to buy some hatchery biddies as well as setting a hen to stepmother the bought chicks and be mother to the ones she will hatch.

JAPAN SEES SILK LOSS

Yokohama, Japan.—Without reference to the American buyers' strike, it is admitted that exports of raw silk from Japan to the United States in 1937 dropped 48,040 bales from the 1936 figures.

FARM NOTES

J. E. McINTIRE

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

Mr. McIntire, accompanied by four of his students, Shelby Alford, Harvey Parrish, Wilmer Edkins, J. D. Murry, spent Friday in Raleigh where they attended the Tri-State Farmers Rally.

Norris Hales was selected to make a talk to the Wendell Ag. boys on the plans that were formulated to make the annual Father and Son banquet one of the most successful ever held in Wakelon. This talk was made in response to an invitation from Mr. Callahan, Wendell Vocational Agriculture Advisor.

MINING SOIL IS UNSOUND

Unless the farm lands of the country are handled in such a way as that productivity is kept at a constantly good level, both the future of agriculture and the future of the nation are threatened. It is shortsighted to follow such practices as will meet the present day needs at the expense of the needs of tomorrow. In other words, mining the soil is unsound, particularly from the long time point of view. Farmers, however, cannot be blamed if the economic structure is such that they necessarily overwork their land in order to meet the needs of a high standard of living with low price commodities. Again it is very important from a national point of view that agriculture receives that portion of the national income which will make it possible for the farmers to adequately conserve the natural and national resources in the form of soil and water.

Grass the most important of all crops, has been the most neglected.

The cotton seed crop this year—estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at about 8,300,000 tons, sets an all-time high production record.

The Y. T. H. F. boys wish to thank Mr. Vickers of the City Market, who made the slaw for their banquet at no charge other than the ingredients.

Thanks are also extended to Mr. Scarboro who loaned the cups and saucers and to the Woman's Club for silver. The boys say it is really a job to plan a meal and all the accompanying details involved, for 129 persons. The boys did all the work, and did a good job too.

The Ag boys are keenly interested in keeping their individual score cards up to date. Mr. McIntire has offered a prize of \$10.00 to the boy making the highest score. This award will be made on the last day of school.

FATHER AND SON BANQUET

The Wakelon Chapter of the Y. T. H. F. were hosts to their Dads at their annual Father and Son Banquet February 17, 1938. The guests were welcomed in the gym at six o'clock, where they spent a pleasant half-hour in conversa-

tion, and many enjoyed a visit to the Agricultural Department in the high-school building. Promptly at six-thirty, the Future Farmer March was played by Miss King and the boys escorted their guests to the school cafeteria, where covers were laid for 129. The tables were decorated with the official FFA colors. Miss Palmer, Home Economics teacher, assisted by 13 of her pupils served the meal. The following program was presented, Norris Hales, FFA President, acting as toastmaster:

Future Farmer March—

"Faith of Our Fathers."

Invocation—Rev. Carl L. Ousley.

Opening Exercises—Officers of the Chapter.

Solo—Elwood Perry and Staffin Pearce.

Toast to our Dads—Buddy Gay.

Response—Dr. Massey.

Solo—Elwood Perry.

Toast to the Faculty—Fred Chamblee.

Response—Mr. Moser.

"That Silver-Haired Daddy of Mine"—Elwood Perry and Staffin Pearce.

Toast to the Home Ec Teacher and Girls—Hilliard Denton.

Response—Viola Hopkins.

Future Farmers' Creed—Shelby Alford.

Solo—Staffin Pearce.

What Vocational Agriculture Means to a Boy—Talmadge Gay.

Some Facts on Vocational Agriculture—J. E. McIntire.

Duet—Elwood Perry and Staffin Pearce.

Closing Ceremony—Chapter Members.

Charles Winstead, Pianist.

By HORACE GAY.

These articles were written by two school boys. They have good ideas about what should be done. Watch for more of these articles by the boys.

BEAUTIFYING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

There are a lot of things that could be done to beautify the Wakelon school grounds, such as:

Fixing the roadway all the way around in front of the old and new buildings, and continued on out to the Northeast corner of the school property, and there go out to the highway. The grove in front of the baseball diamond would be a lot prettier if there was a drainage system there. Some of the old trees need to be cut down. Another important thing which should be done is to level out the grounds, and sow grass. I think a large aquarium in front of the old building with a fountain would be pretty.

I believe if the suggestions will be put in motion the agriculture boys will have a job, and we will have a much prettier school to go to.

ELLIE WATSON.

BEAUTIFYING OUR SCHOOL

The main thing to improve our schools is to improve the shrubbery. Some should be re-arranged, pruned and transplanted in better order. We should not plant all shrubs, but some flowers, something to improve our grounds during the winter, we need some evergreens, winter grass could be sown

The school ground should be leveled, so as not to have gullies and washed places in the drives. The trees in front of the buildings need pruning badly. Plant some new small trees, and let it be known that there is some life in our school environment, not only in the buildings, but in the grounds. The little folks need more playground equipment.

Ten things that should be done:

1. Planting and pruning.
2. Drainage and leveling of grounds.
3. Planting of winter grass.
4. Cleaning of fish pool.
5. Co-operate with the Clean-up committee, keep paper and all trash off the grounds.
6. Have outside so attractive that a passerby will know what to expect inside.
7. All work to raise the standard of our school. We want twelve grades; do our work in such a manner that members of the school board will always be interested in our activities.
8. Everyone fall in line with Mr. McIntire and Mr. Moser in their plans, and then come around and see what we are doing.
9. Build the Y. T. H. F. Club room. We want it very much.
10. Just watch Wakelon wake up and shine in more ways than one.

ERIC PERRY.

INTEREST IN EVENING CLASSES CONTINUES TO INCREASE

The local farmers attending the evening classes show keen interest; and the class continues to increase. The topic for discussion is the 1938 crop control bill. Questions are asked by the men, and lively discussions are in order. The meeting day has been changed to Tuesday, in order that those interested in the "Jack pot" drawing at the theatre may attend. Come out next Tuesday at seven P. M. We will be glad to have you meet with us.

NEW FARM PROGRAM DESIGNED TO STABILIZE CROP PRICES

The new farm bill recently enacted into law, will loose a double-barrelled attack on soil losses and crop surpluses.

The Agricultural Conservation program, which has already been mapped out and placed before the farmers, will be continued along with payments to growers who carry out soil building practices.

Included in the new Act are provisions designed to control surpluses of tobacco, cotton, wheat, rice and corn. Through the control of bumper crops, it is expected that farm income will be improved.

In addition, the new Act intends to protect the consumer as well as the farmer. By storing away surplus wheat and then releasing it when necessary a fairly constant level will be maintained. Also crop insurance will be provided wheat growers.

Under the Agricultural Conservation program, North Carolina's flue-cured tobacco allotment for 1938 will be 570,000 to 580,000 acres, while the cotton allotment is 902,525 acres.

One of the provisions of the

new farm legislation calls for the establishment of marketing quotas on the five basic crops if supplies reach top heavy levels. After the Secretary of Agriculture announces that quotas will be clamped on a particular crop, growers of that commodity will be given a chance to express their approval or disapproval in a referendum. If more than one-third of the farmers vote against the quota, it will not be effective.

A referendum among producers of flue-cured tobacco has already been called. Should the voters vote favorably North Carolina's quota would be close to 500,000,000 pounds or about 70 per cent of the total. Any farmer who grew tobacco in 1937 will be eligible to vote.

Because of the bumper cotton crop last year which resulted in a huge carry over, the Secretary has announced that quotas will be placed on this crop. As in the case of tobacco, farmers will be given a chance to express their wishes.

Burley tobacco quotas will not be effective at the present time, but if a large 1938 crop should result before the opening of markets next fall, quotas will be proclaimed.

Acreage allotments are separate from marketing quotas under the act. Most of the acreage allotments have already been set under the Agricultural Conservation program. They were determined after a detailed study had been made of the supply on hand and the amount of the crop which farmers might produce in 1938 to bring reasonable prices.

For instance after taking a look at the large crop of flue-cured tobacco in 1937 which resulted in an unusually heavy carry-over, it was decided that growers could not plant more than 570,000 to 580,000 acres in North Carolina this year if they wished to keep market prices up. Thus the allotment was set between those figures.

The marketing quota becomes effective if the Secretary sees that the allotment will be exceeded. North Carolina's quota for flue-cured leaf will be divided up among tobacco-producing counties, then apportioned to communities, and finally down to individual farms.

Marketing in excess of the quota established becomes subject to penalty. Supplies withheld under the quotas may be released under certain conditions to meet any need that might develop. The Act will be administered locally as have the other programs in the past.

Never bother to tell people how wise you are; they will find it out.

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A. G. KEMP ----- **Zebulon, N. C.**