



FARM AND HOME

J. E. McINTIRE



OUR TOWN

For it isn't by money you measure a town,
Or the miles that its border extends,
For the best things you gather whatever the town,
Are contentment, enjoyment and friends.

If you live and you work and you develop your town,
In spite of the fact that it is small
You may find that your town—
your own little town,
Is the very best town after all.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

Construction is to begin on the new agricultural building this week. Mr. Lockhart was out on Monday and the site of the building approved. This building is badly needed, and will be the means of a more comprehensive course in vocational agriculture to be offered to the Wakelon boys. The new building will house a complete work shop as well as class room and office. The contract calls for the work to be finished in five months.

SWEET POTATO CROP

The majority of farmers report a splendid crop of sweet potatoes in this section. The second year boys are studying the harvesting and storage of this crop, this week and next articles will be published by these boys, dealing with these jobs.

In digging potatoes an implement should be used that will not cut or otherwise bruise the roots. One of the best types of digger is the plow, with rolling cutters on the beam to cut the vines with rods attached to the moldboard to free the roots from the soil and vines. The "middle buster" is also used in digging.

After they have been dug, potatoes should remain long enough to dry somewhat. (They should never be thrown about, because this will cause bruises). Potatoes should be dug when the soil is dry.

Sweet potatoes should be graded in the field to reduce the cost of handling to a minimum. First go over the rows, selecting the largest ones, piling them into crates. Second, select the seed stock, placing them in crates. Into separate crates place the injured ones. The crates should be loaded and carried directly to the storage house.

Pit Storage

The most common type of storage in the south is called pitting. To store potatoes successfully in this manner it is necessary to have a well drained site. To a large extent the term "pitting" is a misnomer, as the depth of the excavation is usually slight, from practically nothing to 1 to 2 feet. The size and shape of the pit is of course governed to large extent by the quantity to be stored and the severity of the weather. Where extremely low temperatures are likely to occur, the pit may be 2-3 to 3-4 as broad as long, whereas under the opposite conditions it should not be over half as broad as long. Never put a large quantity in one pit because of disease and decay. There should be a light layer of straw placed on the ground before the potatoes are placed. Plenty of air must be allowed to penetrate thru them. The potatoes should be in a ridge or inverted

V shape. When piled in this way the largest possible area of the pile is exposed to the air. Provision should be made for aeration when piling the potatoes in order to allow the escape of moisture given off in respiration and transpiration.

The potatoes are best insulated against cold and heat by covering with alternate layers of straw and earth. The potato pile when completed should be covered at once with a layer of straw of sufficient depth to exclude light and at the same time to protect the tubers from frost. A light scattering of soil over the straw will prevent its blowing off. Unless extreme cold weather sets in immediately, it is desirable to leave the pile in this condition for a week or ten days to allow the escape of heat and moisture. The first covering of straw should be sufficient to provide a six inch layer when compacted by the soil. As the weather grows colder a layer of soil 4 to 6 inches deep should be added. If rain threatens soil should be added to shed the rain.

Care must be taken to stop ventilator opening, or loss from frost will be sure to occur. The ventilator should be provided with a wooden cap in order to shed snow and rain. The chief objection to the pit is that the potatoes stored therein are not accessible during the winter.

NOTICE OF ELECTION MEETING

To members of the Wake County Agricultural Conservation Association: Little River township.

Community Committeemen for the 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program for your township or community will be elected at Wakelon High School on Tuesday night, Nov. 2nd, 1938, at 7:00 o'clock. Delegates to the county convention will also be elected at this meeting and the county convention in turn will elect a county committee for 1939.

Only those growers or producers who have cooperated in the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program will be eligible to vote for committeemen in this election. This applies to both landlords and tenants if you have cooperated this year.

It is very important to elect the best men available to serve as community committeemen for another year. I urge you, therefore, to attend this meeting and vote for the men you think will best serve the interest of the cooperating farmers of this county.

JNO. C. ANDERSON,
County Agent.

There is a difference between pride and vanity. Pride formerly meant the consciousness of being valiant. On the other hand, vanity means empty, or a pride that has no foundation in reality.

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