

# FARM and HOME

J. E. McINTIRE

## 1,885 HOME WATER SYSTEMS INSTALLED

Nearly 2,000 farm homes in North Carolina have water systems today whereas they were in the "bucket and outdoor pump" brigade a year ago. To be exact, 1,885 home water systems were installed in 78 counties during 1938 reports Miss Ruth Current, state home agent of the Extension Service.

These 1,885 systems ranged from the simplest, a pitcher pump bringing running water to the back porch or kitchen and costing only \$15, to the more elaborate systems piping hot and cold water to the home, yard, barn and orchard at a cost of several hundred dollars.

Miss Current says the Pamlico county extension agents, Sophie Lee Clark and A. T. Jackson, used this phase of agricultural engineering as a joint program for men and women in 1938, holding one 'leaders' school at which a simple water system was demonstrated. As a result 14 water systems were installed in that one county and one bathroom was equipped.

Miss Clark, the Pamlico home agent, tells of the following experience in connection with the farm and home tour conducted last fall: "One of the water systems was installed as a demonstration and was completed only a few days before the tour. In checking up on the demonstration, I visited the home the day before the tour. The husband met me at the door, his face beaming. 'Miss Clark, it works but what is worrying me is that my wife may use all the water and there won't be none when the folks get here tomorrow.' I assured him the water would last, and several months later he told me it was still holding out and had saved members of his family thousands of steps."

In Cleveland County the wind-mill water supply for the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carpenter was one of the interesting sights on that county's farm and home tour. Rachel Everett, home agent in Johnston county, says 24 water pumps and 30 water systems were installed in that county in 1938 despite a bad financial year.

## CAUTION IS ADVISED WITH ELECTRIC FENCE

Caution should be exercised in the use of the electric fence, which is becoming so popular with farmers in pasturing livestock, says David S. Weaver, agricultural engineer of the State College Extension Service.

While electric fences have met with general acceptance because the cost of the fence and the cost of operation is materially less than the standard type of stock fencing, all electric fencing does not have a clear slate of safety.

Reports by investigators have shown several instances where stock was killed by wiring that was improperly charged. In some instances it was homemade contraptions which were rigged up by persons who did not know what degree of shock the apparatus was delivering and did not understand how much shock was necessary or safe for livestock.

A word of caution to those who might be contemplating installing an electric fence would be to secure the equipment from those

sources which have had extensive experience and have the equipment on a safe basis. The buyer also should follow throughout the directions by the manufacturer for safely installing the controller.

No person should attempt to install homemade apparatus without first consulting some person competent of giving information as to safety precautions to be followed. The proper grounding of the wiring system and electrical equipment around farm buildings is also important, as a slight shock from improperly grounded systems has been known to kill cattle.

## PERMANENT PASTURES BEING PLANTED NOW

Farmers who realize that permanent pastures are the foundation of economical livestock production will seed an ample supply of edible and nutritious grasses between now and March 15, says L. I. Case, animal husbandman of the State College Extension Service.

The present increased interest in growing of livestock in North Carolina should logically be accompanied by an increased interest in improving old pastures and the seeding of larger acreages to adaptable pasture plants.

Pastures should be treated as crops, and they should be produced on land that has been built up, prepared and fertilized.

The selection of adaptable varieties of pasture plants is important. The kinds of grasses and legumes that are now thriving under similar conditions is a good indication of what will do best.

A variety of several pasture plants is better than one or two. One of the best pastures in Eastern North Carolina is on the farm of E. E. Bell in Jones County. The first plant to start growth in this pasture is hop clover and close behind it comes blue grass, white dutch clover and dallis grass. Then as the season advances lespedeza and carpet grass come along which, together with the dallis grass, furnish good feed well up into the fall. When the weather gets cool, blue grass and white dutch clover again furnish good grazing.

Finally, it is better to use 40 pounds of seed per acre than 25 or 30 pounds as is often done.

## PLOWING OF TERRACED FIELDS IS EXPLAINED

An automobile requires oil and grease to keep it in good working condition. Likewise, a terraced field must have consideration at plowing time to maintain it, says H. M. Ellis, agricultural engineer of the State College Extension Service.

Farmers in many sections of North Carolina will be breaking land soon, and unless they use proper methods of plowing, the work they have done during the winter in building terraces is likely to prove worthless. For this reason assistant farm agents in most counties of the State are prepared to conduct demonstrations showing how to plow terraced fields.

These demonstrations may be arranged upon request by groups of farmers, and the agents will attempt to make them as convenient as possible by holding them at or near the time the breaking of ground is started.

In explanation of proper methods

of plowing terraced land, Ellis says: "When breaking land the terrace should always be broken first by back-furrowing on the ridge. The furrows are continued (throwing the soil toward the ridge) until the bottom of the flow line is reached.

"A second furrow is then started 12 to 14 feet above the terrace channel. Plowing is continued toward this back furrow, throwing the soil uphill out of the channel, until the channel is again reached. This leaves an unbroken strip, between terraces which may be broken as a separate land.

The distance of the back furrow above the channel should be varied from year to year to avoid the formation of a deep dead furrow midway between terraces and also a ridge just above the flow line."

## LESPEDEZA SEED

When broadcast, at least one bushel (25 pounds) of lespedeza seed should be sown to the acre and the seed covered lightly with a weeder. Less seed are required when drilled and the drill should be set to run very shallow. If a drill is used, the seed may be mixed with superphosphate, basic slag or ground limestone. This method will give a good stand and use less than when broadcast.

## FAULTY

From the standpoint of nutrition 40 to 60 per cent of family diets of white employed city workers appear to be in need of improvement and the same is true for about 60 per cent of the diets of Negro families, the Federal Bureau of Home Economics found in a recent study.

## GOING PLACES

American farms are now being electrified at the rate of 200,000 a year, a far more rapid acceleration than was recorded in all the years prior to the depression. Nearly a million and a half farm homes are now using electricity.

## DROP

The government index of prices for farm products dropped two points during the past month, falling to 94 per cent of pre-war in mid-January as compared with 96 on December 15 and with 102 on January 15 a year ago.

## POTATO COOPERATIVE

A small cooperative association has been formed by a group of sweet potato growers in Nash county to market their surplus sugar spuds. Forty growers will take part and the steering committee is now at work.

## WILD TURKEYS

In the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Frank Botelho, Supt. of the territorial game farms, suggests that wild turkeys would be desirable for Hawaii's forests. Several paragraphs reprinted below are from an article written by Mr. Botelho.

There are no true turkeys found native anywhere except in America. The Indians in Mexico tamed the turkey and as early as 1524 Spanish explorers made it known to Europeans. All domestic varieties are derived from the wild turkey of Mexico.

There are only two distinct species of wild turkeys. One is the North American wild turkey, of which there are several subspecies. The other is the Honduras, or ocellated, turkey of Central America and northern South America.

Wild turkeys once were quite plentiful in many parts of the country. With the coming of the white man they were hunted with such thoroughgoing persistence that genuinely wild turkeys are now comparatively rare and can be found only in the more remote and

unsettled districts.

It is a forest loving bird and favors thickly wooded localities, the depths of swamplands and similar haunts far removed from man. If undisturbed for a long period it may behave quite boldly. However, once having learned the ways of hunters, there is no bird more cunning, wary and suspicious than the wild turkey, nor one more capable of taking care of itself.

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3:07 P. M. Lv. ....	Greenville .....	Ar. 10:52 A. M.
3:32 P. M. Lv. ....	Farmville .....	Ar. 10:18 A. M.
4:27 P. M. Lv. ....	Wilson .....	Ar. 9:25 A. M.
5:26 P. M. Lv. ....	Zebulon .....	Ar. 8:25 A. M.
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