

**State College Answers Timely Farm Questions**

Q. How early should baby chicks be given a grain ration?

A. Chicks should be given grain feed after the first seven to 10 days. This should be fed two or three times a day on top of the mash. It is very essential that sufficient mash hopper space be supplied so that the chicks can all eat at one time. As early hatched chicks do not have access to range and direct sunlight or green feed, their ration should be supplemented with one and one-half per cent of straight cod liver oil that contains 85 U. S. P. units of vitamin, D per gram and not less than 600 U. S. P. units of vitamin per gram.

Q. Should seed sweet potatoes be treated before planting?

A. Yes. The seed sweets should be treated to destroy any surface borne disease producing organisms that might be present on the potato. Use mercuric chloride 1 to 1,000 (one ounce to eight gallons of water) for 15 minutes and bed after drying. Do not wash the potatoes after treatment. The solution should be warm or about 100 degrees F. for the most effective control of any organisms. Seed already diseased cannot be cured by seed treatment.

**LIME MAKES CLOVER**

Gus Peterson of Burnsville in Yancey county says limestone will make clover and clover will make other crops grow. He reports that, at this season of the year, he can see results from applying one ton of lime per acre to red clover and orchard grass sod last year. Where he applied lime, he harvested one and one-half tons of hay an acre last season as compared with one-half ton where no limestone was used.

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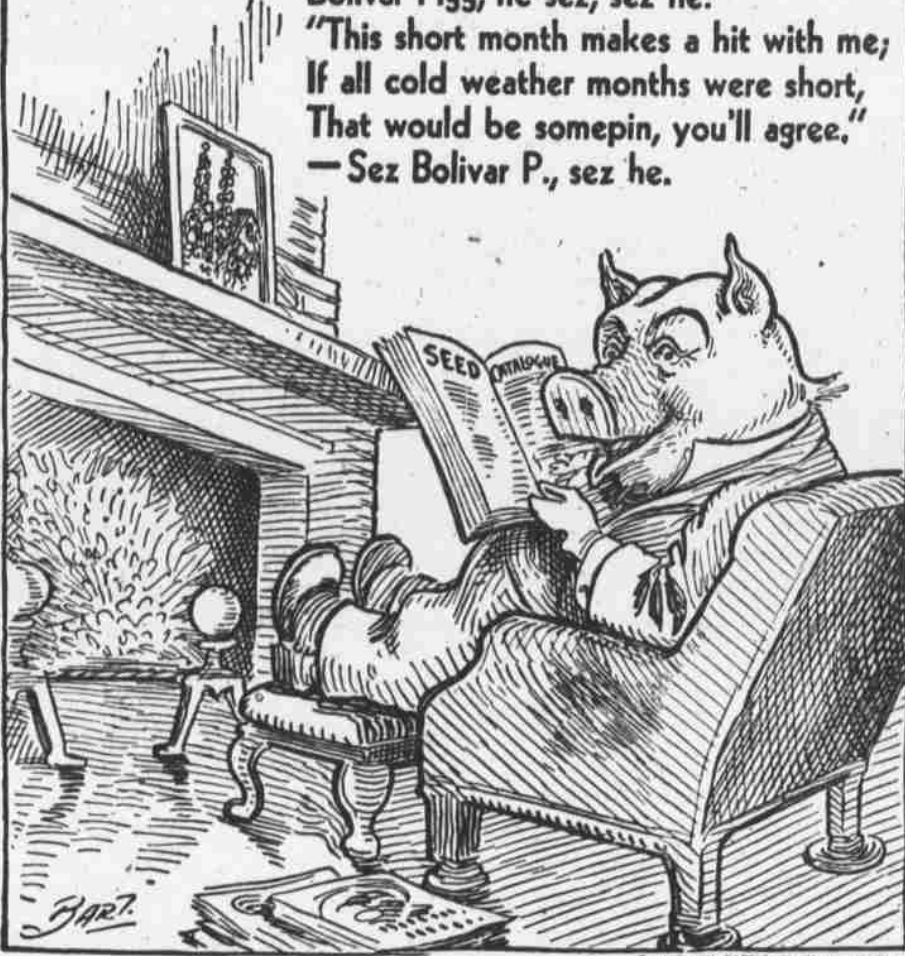
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**This Month On the Farm**

**FEBRUARY**

Bolivar Pigg, he sez, sez he: "This short month makes a hit with me; If all cold weather months were short, That would be somepin, you'll agree." — Sez Bolivar P., sez he.



The following are good farming practices recommended by extension specialists of State college for the month of February:

**SWINE**

Brood sows that are to farrow in February should be provided with plenty of minerals and vitamins, says H. W. Taylor, State college extension swine specialist. If winter pasture is not available or is covered with snow, furnish vitamin A by feeding yellow corn or small amounts of bright green, leafy, legume hay.

**POULTRY**

February is a month of hazards as well as a month of intense activity for poultrymen, says Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the State college poultry department. He advises starting chicks from blood-tested parents. Also remember not to overcrowd or overheat them. Provide a good starting mash and plenty of fresh, clean water. Rigid sanitation and strict culling are essentials in the good poultryman's program.

**PASTURES**

It's pasture seeding time once more, says John A. Arey, extension dairyman at State college. Spring seeding of permanent pastures should be completed by March 1 in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont areas and by March 15 in the Mountain counties. Heavy seedings, usually 30 to 40 pounds to the acre, will bring best results. If pastures are started after the recommended dates, they may not be entirely successful.

**AGRONOMY**

Here are three or four suggestions from C. B. Williams, head of the State agronomy department: Decide upon best quantities and analyses of fertilizers that should be used for each crop for greatest returns per acre; use improved seed of each crop adapted to your section; break your land early and plant on a good mellow seed-bed after the season opens; and plant to handle your land so that it will be a little more productive each succeeding year.

**TOBACCO**

One per cent rotenone dust has been found highly effective in controlling tobacco flea-beetles in plant beds, according to J. O. Rowell, extension entomologist at State college. The dust may be applied with a hand-operated duster or by a bellows-type hand duster at the rate of one-half pound to each 100 square yards of plant bed surface.

**FLOWERS**

J. G. Weaver, State college floriculturist, says "farm people must have their minds on summer flower gardens judging from the enormous number of seed catalogs which the mail carriers have been delivering recently. However, there's one thing the gardener should be

careful of, Mr. Weaver says, and that's to avoid too many of the new novelties or so-called "All-American" selections until they have been tested locally. The gardener who likes to experiment should buy only a small package of these seed.

**Explains Production Of Early Vegetables**

A farm family can have a "Live-at-Home" garden at least a month or six weeks longer every year by using hot-beds, cold-frames and other such equipment, together with the best cultural practices.

This is a statement made by H. R. Niswonger, horticulturist of the State college extension service, in a circular just published telling how to grow early vegetable plants. In addition to information on temperature-controlling devices and cultural practices, Dr. Luther Shaw, extension plant pathologist, and J. O. Rowell, extension entomologist, have contributed sections on disease and insect control, respectively.

The publication is available free to North Carolina farmers and home gardeners upon request to the Agricultural Editor at State college for Extension Circular No. 231, "Growing Early Vegetable Plants."

Niswonger explains the construction of hot-beds and cold-frames, and recommends soil preparation, seeding and fertilization of frames and hot-beds. He also takes up transplanting and frame management.

Rowell tells how to control the seven most common insects which attack early vegetable plants, namely: Cutworms, flea beetles, aphids, (or plant lice), red spiders, cabbage maggots, mole crickets, and slugs.

Dr. Shaw discusses disease control by (1) plant bed sanitation, (2) planting seed of disease-resistant varieties when available, (3) seed treatment, (4) spraying, and (5) proper plant bed management.

**Home Diet Varied By Canned Meats**

Canned meats offer many possibilities for variety in the diet, says Miss Mary E. Thomas, nutritionist of the State college extension service. With cans of chicken, beef and pork on the pantry shelves the home-maker has at hand fresh meats already cooked that may be quickly converted into an appetizing dish for unexpected company, or for the family.

Nothing develops flavor so readily as browning, Miss Thomas points out. Therefore it is well to add a shade or two more when the meat is taken from the can. Because the meat is very tender, the slow steady heat of the oven is usually better adapted to browning canned meats than is the quick, intense heat of the frying pan, she added.

One recipe Miss Thomas especial-

ly recommends at this season of the year is for "Sweet Potato and Sausage Puff." The ingredients are: 3 or 4 sweet potatoes; 1 tablespoon of butter; 1 egg, beaten; 1 tablespoon of brown sugar; one-half teaspoon of salt; one-half cup of milk; and three-fourths of a cup of canned sausage.

The potatoes should be cooked, peeled and put through a ricer. Add seasonings, egg and milk. Beat until light and fluffy. Add sausage, finely minced. Pile in a buttered baking dish and bake in a hot oven until heated through and brown on top. Serve at once from baking dish.

Miss Thomas also suggests "Meat and Tomato Casserole," as follows: Place a layer of thinly sliced raw Irish potatoes in the bottom of a greased baking dish. Season with salt and pepper and a little chopped onion. Add 1/2 cup of gravy or white sauce. Over this place a layer of canned meat which has been heated. Use another layer of meat and potatoes if necessary. Add 1 cup of canned tomatoes. Sprinkle with buttered bread crumbs. Cover and bake slowly until potatoes are done, about one hour. Remove cover and brown crumbs the last 15 minutes.

**Treatments Prolongs Life Of Fence Post**

Many North Carolina farmers are cutting fence posts at this winter season of the year, but because of the comparative shortage of such durable woods as black locust, red cedar, bald cypress, red mulberry and catalpa, in many cases it is necessary to use softer woods like pine and gum.

W. J. Barker, assistant forester of the State college extension service, says it is possible by creosoting or the use of other preservative treatment to make even the less durable woods last from 15 years upward. He explains that decay in fence posts is due to certain low forms of plant life called fungi. These consist for the most part of very fine threads that penetrate the wood and dissolve the wood structure with which they come in contact. Their basic requirements for growth are moisture, air, warmth and food. If any of these are eliminated, decay is stopped.

On the other hand, a good preservative must be reasonably cheap, should penetrate wood readily, should not be corrosive to metal, should not evaporate or wash out of the wood easily, and should be poisonous to fungi. The most commonly known and used preservative today is coal tar creosote.

Briefly, the recommendations for treating fence posts in North Carolina with creosote are, first to have the wood peeled clean and thoroughly dry. Then place the posts on end in a boiler containing creosote oil and boil for two hours. Posts should be in the oil to a depth of six inches or better than they will stand in the ground, and upon removal from boiler, place the entire post in a tank of cold creosote oil and allow to remain for two hours.

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**DEPENDS**

Changes in domestic wheat prices during the next few months will depend largely upon the total quantity of wheat taken by European buyers and upon importers' purchases of United States wheat.

**HIGHER**

Domestic demand for most fruits is expected to be maintained at a higher level this spring than the relatively low level of last year, reports the U. S. bureau of agricultural economics.

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