

This Month On the Farm



Bolivar Pigg, he sez, sez he:
 "Things don't seem like they used to be
 Yet I can't hardly figure out
 Whether it's things that's changed, or we."
 —Sez Bolivar P., sez he.

October finds the farm family preparing for winter, so here are a few suggestions from State college specialists for this autumn month:

DAIRYING

John Arce, State college's widely known dairy authority, says crops should be seeded now for early spring grazing. Oats, wheat, barley, or rye, or a mixture of one or more of these, together with crimson clover, sown during the early part of this month will provide an excellent low cost feed for dairy cows early next spring. When a crop is to be grazed, a dense sod is highly important. Seeding should be done liberally on a well-prepared fertile soil. A mixture of three bushels of winter oats and 15 pounds of crimson clover or two bushels of wheat and 15 pounds of crimson clover is recommended.

SWINE

One good way to select breeding stock and cull unprofitable sows, says Specialist H. W. Taylor, is

to weigh litters at weaning time. If all sows and litters have had the same care, those sows which produce the most pounds of pigs at weaning time should be the best breeding animals. This month and every month, Taylor said, sanitation and balanced rations are two of the most important factors in hog production.

POULTRY

October is a busy month for the poultryman, since the old poultry year overlaps the new, says T. T. Brown, State college extension poultryman. Here are a few suggestions which he offers: Select next year's breeding pen or mark the birds to be selected later; keep the hens and the pullets separated; if pullets have not been housed, this should be done immediately; check for drafts in the laying house; feed high quality laying mash; never overcrowd birds; and check for lice and mites.

HORTICULTURE

The closing days of October usually bring killing frosts to most

sections of the state. Harvest sweet potatoes before these frosts occur, advises Robert Schmidt, associate horticulturist of the experiment station at State college. Avoid bruising by harvesting carefully, since heavy storage losses will occur when potatoes are badly bruised. Grade in the field, pack in crates or baskets, and place in storage with as little handling as possible.

FAIRS

October is the month of fairs. Leading the procession is the State Fair, but then there are dozens of other smaller events in counties and communities where North Carolina farm products will be on annual display. Dr. J. O. Schaub, director of the State college extension service, says every farm person should attend one or more of these fairs and observe the agricultural exhibits, and see the progress which farming and home-making has accomplished over the year's period.

INSECTS

J. O. Rowell, extension entomologist, is advising all farmers to destroy cotton and tobacco stalks in the fight against insects. If the stalks are left standing, they will provide a haven for hordes of insects that will attack next year's crop.

TOBACCO

E. Y. Floyd, tobacco specialist, says tobacco fields can be prepared early for the sowing of wheat and small grain. The fertilizer not used by the tobacco is generally sufficient to start the small grain growing, so that it is only necessary to top dress the last of February or the first of March. This method will give good results in producing grain. Floyd says no tobacco farmer should be satisfied until he has grown sufficient amounts of small grain to take care of his needs.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Q. Is it too late to sow hairy vetch?

A. This legume may be seeded any time during September, October, or November, but should be planted as early as possible for a longer growing season. Where the vetch is to be used alone as a soil builder, use 20 pounds of seed per acre and cover to about two or three inches deep. Do not use vetch and rye together for turning under. Oats or wheat is best if a mixture is wanted. Vetch also makes good hay in combination with the small grains as it increases both the yield and protein content of the hay.

Q. Why is it that my scuppernong vine grows vigorously but does not produce any fruit?

A. In all probability you have a male vine. With the muscadine grapes, only the female plants bear fruit, but there are staminate or male plants in all the species which do not produce fruit. It is impossible to determine to which sex the plant belongs except during the blooming season and we suggest that a sample of the vine with blossoms be sent to the horticultural department at State college or to your local horticulturist for observation.

Q. When is the best time to harvest sweet potatoes?

A. The potatoes should be harvested when mature but before the vines are killed by frost and always before the first of November to reduce losses from soft rots. If the vines are killed by an unexpected early frost, they should be cut from the stems immediately and the sweets harvested as soon as possible. Handle the potatoes as carefully as possible during the harvesting so as to prevent bruising as this will render them subject to rots in storage and make them unfit for market.

Seed Treatment Will Control Smut In Grain

Howard R. Garriss, assistant plant pathologist of the State college extension service, recommends that farmers use fungicidal dusts to control smut (bunt) of wheat and other small grains if they are unable to obtain smut-resistant varieties of seed. He points out that smut diseases cost North Carolina growers thousands of dollars annually in reduced yields of small grain crops.

"Treating seed with such fungicidal dusts as ethyl mercury phosphate (Ceresan), copper carbonate, copper hydro, cuproside, or copper sulphate will give excellent control of covered smut, or that type of the disease which attacks the outside of the grain," Garriss reported. "However, this method cannot be used in treating loose smut which is an organism that works inside the seed coat.

"In the case of loose smut of wheat and barley, the hot water treatment when carried out with proper care gives good control. This treatment, however, is difficult and dangerous to the seed and is recommended only when known to be necessary and where proper equipment is available," the specialist added.

One-half ounce of ethyl mercury phosphate, costing about 5 cents per ounce, will give control of a bushel of seed. It should be applied in a barrel type mixer (the same type used for treating cot-

ton seed). This type of mixer is easily constructed by running a one-inch pipe diagonally through a barrel and attaching a crank to the pipe. Mount the machine on two saw horses and build a tight-fitting door in one end of the barrel. A board anchored to the inside wall of the barrel aids materially in mixing the dust and seed thoroughly.

Clean Chimneys Will Prevent Farm Fires

Winter is approaching and soon the rural family will find use for its heating system, whether it be a furnace, stove, or an open fireplace.

Each of these types of heating plants has a chimney, and right now is the best time to clean that chimney and check it for cracks which might cause disastrous fires, advises Prof. David S. Weaver, extension agricultural engineer of State college. "Of course, if a stove pipe is the only outlet for smoke, there is all the more reason to take precautions because this type of equipment is usually a greater fire hazard," he added.

Prof. Weaver pointed out that stopped-up chimneys will cause sparks to pour back into a room and set fire to furnishings, and often are the cause of spontaneous combustion. Also, chimneys built on wooden supports or built out of cheap mortar and soft bricks are likely to crack. Sparks go through the cracks to the wood or other inflammable material, and a fire is started.

"Rural families need to take extra precautions," said Prof. Weaver, "because they do not have the benefit of trained fire-fighters found in the cities, nor do they usually have the necessary water pressure to properly fight a fire. The chief cause of fire is carelessness. It may be divided into two types of carelessness—one with the material used in construction of the house and its care, and the other with the accumulation of inflammable materials in such places as to create a hazard."

Poultry Susceptible To Colds In October

Chickens, just like many humans, are susceptible to colds at this time of the year, says C. F. Parrish, extension poultryman of State college. The change of quarters, poor ventilation, crowding, dampness, parasitic infection, and under-nourishment are the chief causes of colds in poultry flocks, the specialist explained. "Each bird should have from 3½ to 4 square feet of space in the poultry house," Parrish declared.

The roof should be checked to eliminate leaks. If the opening in front of the laying house extends all the way across the front, the opening at each end should be closed for from two to six or more feet, depending upon the length of the house, so as to help break the draft through the house."

If colds or bronchitis develop in the flock, Parrish recommends the feeding of additional cod liver oil on the grain for two or three weeks. This is other than the amount of cod liver oil in the mash. A cod liver oil with known vitamin potency should be used, and the quantity recommended should be mixed on the grain fresh each day. The specialist al-

so said that the oil-coated grain should be fed in a trough to avoid picking up filth.

"Even though the birds do not develop colds, if the pullets have been raised in bare yards without sufficient green feed and the shanks of the yellow skin varieties are pale when there has not been heavy enough production to cause this condition, then it would be profitable to feed some additional cod liver oil for a few weeks," the poultryman stated.

Parrish also suggested that flock owners select at this season the hens that have laid steadily through the spring and summer and are still laying regularly, and mark them for the breeding pen.

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