

Strip Cropping Proves Great Soil Builder

Anyone who doubts the value of strip cropping on rolling land should visit V. E. Coltrane of Julian in Guilford county, says Frank Doggett, Extension soil conservationist at State college.

Strip cropping not only saves soil but it also helps to greatly increase crop yields. Coltrane produced 74 bushels of hybrid corn per acre on one of his strips last year as compared with about 20 bushels of open pollinated corn under the old method of up and down hill, as was the case several years ago.

So enthusiastic is Coltrane about strip cropping that he maintains that he will soon be able to make 100 bushels of corn per acre and "not strain his land."

The fields on the Coltrane farm are planted in strips, alternately to row crops and soil building legumes. "If the soil and water break away on the cultivated strips, it is caught by the crop strips, and the water seeps into the ground instead of running off," says Coltrane. "Then the cover crops are turned under, making the soil loose and as porous as plotting paper. I believe that with this practice I am building at least one-half inch of topsoil on this land a year."

"The sod waterways in these fields furnish a surer crop of the finest kind of hay twice a year. I don't have to buy expensive seed every year and I don't have to take the time and expense of preparing a seed bed. I also don't have to buy fertilizer every year to get hay crops. I have that time and money, and also the land, to grow legumes for soil building purposes."

"The string-row method has helped me increase tobacco yields. The Soil Conservation service is due much credit for introducing these new practices."

With North Carolina agriculture scheduled to enter an area of mechanization, new emphasis will be placed upon hay, small grains and pastures, according to Dr. I. O. Schaub of the Extension service.

Clyde Morton of Jacksonville blasted a drainage ditch four feet deep, eight feet wide and 450 feet long at a cost of less than \$60.

State College Hints To Farm Homemakers

(By Ruth Current)

Smart shopping is one way to make a dollar do a better job. Comparing prices among stores often brings savings. For the large family, buying large rather than small quantities may be another economy. Sales sometimes offer good bargains, if the shopper is a judge of quality. End-of-season buying often means savings in the cost of clothes. Or the family may buy with a group, thus getting goods at wholesale prices. Some things can be bought through cooperative buying associations, which are already established in many communities.

If the homemaker has a knack with a needle, she may make some of the clothes, curtains, or slip covers. Repairs, painting, and even simple furniture may be the contribution from the men in the family. Of course, says the family economist, when doing a job at home, make sure the saving is worth the time and effort it takes. Sometimes materials and equipment cost almost as much as the ready-made article. Also, if family members are inefficient in doing a job, they may waste valuable time and materials. But most people can readily learn some skills that are real money-savers.

Home-made fun is another thrift device. Home parties and pictures give the family good times at little cost.

Another way to stretch a dollar is to make full use of community services, such as parks, libraries, and public concerts. By finding out about and using local community health services, a higher level of health may be possible at little or no increased cost.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Q. When will the State's Farm and Home Week short course be resumed?

A. Plans are being made to continue the annual event at State College next August 19-23 after a lapse of four years. A number of nationally, internationally prominent persons are being considered as possible speakers for the event. There is even a chance that Singing Jack Criswell will be back to add to the fun in the evenings.

Q. What are the most likely markets for North Carolina black Walnut timber?

A. Logs in carload lots may usually be sold to the Carolina Veneer Company of High Point, the Pulaski Veneer Company of Pulaski, Va., the Redmond Lumber Company, of Richmond, Va., or the Wood Mosaic Company of Louisville, Ky. If you have but a small quantity of timber, it is suggested that it be sawed into lumber and used locally.

Q. I plan to build a new home. Does the Extension Service have a bulletin which may help me make plans?

A. There is a new bulletin called "Homestead Planning" which offers advice about selecting the site, locating the residence, positioning other buildings, grading, walks, drives and arranging plant materials. It is available free of cost to those who write the Agricultural Editor, State College.

Q. What is the 56-day weight which must be attained by a litter of pigs in order to qualify for the Production Register?

A. The total weight of the litter at the end of 56 days (after farrowing) must be 320 pounds. Cards for nominating

N. C. Trains An Agent For Venezuela

The good neighbor policy is now going to give some concrete results because Andy Cardenas has returned to his native Venezuela to become a county agent after a year's training in North Carolina. He was one of eleven college graduates who were chosen from more than 200 leading Venezuela students for study and training in the United States.

First he studied the organization of the Extension Service at State college and then he spent five months on the dairy farm of L. H. McKay near Hendersonville, doing all kinds of dairy and farm work under the direction of Mr. McKay. During September and October he worked on a farm in Benton County,

litters for the register may be obtained from breeding associations and entries must be made within five days after farrowing time.

Indiana, studying hybrid corn. In recent months Andy was in Union County under the direction of Veteran County Agent T. J. W. Broom and his assistants, W. Z. Smith and N. B. Nicholson. While there Andy made a special study of 4-H club work and the general crops and livestock grown in that section. He attended the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago in December and while in Union met with all of the 4-H clubs in the county, discussing the work with the boys and girls and telling them about agriculture and customs in Venezuela.

"Andy should make an exceptionally good county agent in Venezuela because he is smart, quiet, and willing to work," says Smith. "He likes North Carolina and its people very much and expressed the hope when he left us on January 25 that he would be able to come back to see us some time. Our best wishes go with Andy in his work back home."

Chicken feathers for combination with wool and synthetics soon will be in wide production as a fine new source of fiber for cloth and other materials.

FEED SUPPLIES 4,000,000 TONS SHORT

Livestock farmers and feed dealers must conserve feeds carefully because domestic supplies are short of requirements for the livestock and poultry population at the present rate of feeding. Emory L. Cooke, southeastern member of the Feed Industry Council, asserted in announcing results of a national survey.

"For the feeding year ending September 30, a shortage of 4,156,000 tons in grains, mill feeds and high-protein meals is indicated," said Mr. Cooke, vice-president of Ashcraft-Wilkinson company of Atlanta.

"This means," he continued, "that either considerable importation of feed will have to be made, a lot more wheat than normal will have to be withdrawn from the flour barrel for the feed bin, the rate of feeding will have to slow down, or considerable liquidation of livestock will be necessary."

Mr. Cooke said the survey gives a "rather bleak, picture" to feed manufacturers and feed dealers; who are, he pointed out, already under pressure to supply more feed to farmers than they can procure.

"Wasteful feeding methods must be eliminated and we must be certain that every pound of feed produces the maximum amount of meat, milk, and eggs," Mr. Cooke said.

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Farmers and Woodmen

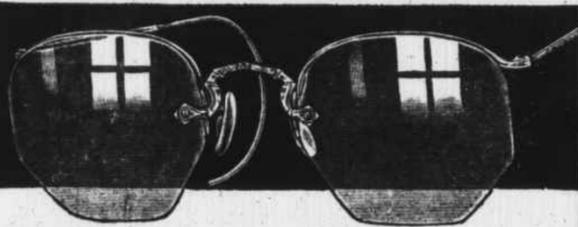
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