

Irrigating Pasture Pays Off In N. C.

Being prepared to supply additional water when it is needed may prove to be good insurance against pasture loss during the hot, dry months of summer and fall.

Howard Ellis, in charge of agricultural engineering for the College Extension Service, says that Heel tobacco farmers are pretty well aware of the importance of irrigation. But the dairy and beef cattle farmer may not be so sure.

Ellis says that during dry summers, such as North Carolina has experienced during the last three or four years, the grazing capacity of pastures can be increased 50 per cent with irrigated water.

In tests recently conducted by the Tennessee Dairy Experiment Station, returns from pastures that were irrigated averaged about \$100 more per acre than non-irrigated pastures—after cost of irrigation and other costs were deducted.

The tests compared irrigated orchard grass, alfalfa, and Ladino clover pasture with non-irrigated. It was found that the irrigated plots provided 257 cow-days of grazing per acre, compared with 170 days for the non-irrigated plots.

The irrigated plots produced 12,529 pounds of milk with 253 pounds of butterfat, compared with only 8,019 pounds of milk with 354 pounds of butterfat from the non-irrigated plots.

A Surprised Thief Will Find Python In Suitcase

Hagerstown, Md.—Harry Albacker, a traveling entertainer, told police that the person who stole his suitcase here was certainly in for a surprise. The suitcase contained a 50-pound, 10-foot python, which Albacker uses in his act.

Using Meters To Test Intoxication

After an experiment which has extended over a period of six months, the New York Police Department has begun a city-wide use of what the New York Times calls "drunkometer tests." The tests are scientific tests to determine the sobriety of drivers accused of violations.

In the past, the New York Police Department—like most other police departments—has relied on visual tests, and unscientific means. For the past six months, a pilot project has been conducted in Manhattan, and the results show that convictions for drunken driving there have increased considerably, and that very few drunken drivers are released because of a lack of proof, as was heretofore the case.

A state law was reinforced by the State Legislature in Albany in 1953, so that drivers accused of violations refusing to take the chemical test for intoxication became liable to license revocation. Before July, 1953, drivers could not be required to take the test under any penalty and had to do so voluntarily.

People Eat Well In This Country

The American habit of eating well has been an important factor in keeping retail sales at a high level, according to the report of a study made by the Commerce Department. In its "survey of current business" the department's publication says that sales by food stores, not including eating and drinking places, were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$40,552,000,000 in the first half of 1953. From January through April of this year, food stores sales were practically the same, at an annual rate of \$40,523,000,000.

Sales by retail stores as a whole averaged an annual rate of \$172,414,000,000 in the first six months of last year, and sank to a rate of \$167,227,000,000 in the first four months of 1954, the report said.

Sales of durable goods stores soaked up nearly the entire reduction of \$5,187,000,000 in the annual rate of retail sales from early 1953 to early 1954. Durable goods stores ran at an annual rate of \$61,793,000,000 in the first

Fingerprints Run In The Millions

The identification division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation passed its thirtieth anniversary on July 1. In this connection, the division reported that it has in its files fingerprint cards totaling more than 131,000,000 in number.

At the time of its founding in 1924, the division received copies of only 810,188 cards which had been maintained by police agencies and by Leavenworth Penitentiary. During the first year of its founding, F. B. I. Director J. Edgar Hoover said the division received additional cards at a rate of fewer than five hundred a day.

Now the division is receiving an average of 17,000 cards daily from about 12,000 police agencies, military installations, defense plants and the like in the United States and eighty-three foreign countries and United States possessions. The peak came in the World War II year of 1943, when 28,733,286 cards were received.

The fingerprint cards are divided into two divisions—the criminal and the noncriminal. Mr. Hoover said the noncriminal cards, which make up eighty per cent of the total, are used for such purposes as identifying amnesia victims and victims of accidents and disasters and helping to locate missing persons. With the help of the criminal cards the division has turned up to date more than 190,000 "wanted" men and women.

Extensive Tree Planting Project

Seven pulp mills combined their efforts and accounted for the planting of 9,572,200 trees in North Carolina during this past planting season. The survey was conducted by H. J. Malsberger, Forester and General Manager of the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association, Atlanta, Ga.

"This figure exceeds the industry's effort of last year by 3 1-4 million trees," Malsberger stated. "It has resulted," he continued, "in putting 9,572 additional acres of idle land to work growing profitable crops of trees." This is of great importance to the State whose economy is so closely related and dependent upon its forests and forest industries.

All of these trees were purchased from the nursery operated by State Forester Claridge with the exception of 177,000 which were secured from T. V. A.

The industry planted 5,395 acres of its lands and contributed to small landowners enough trees to plant 4,177 acres. In many cases, the use of tree planting machines by the landowner was also provided by the industry.

Jet Race Between U. S. And Britain

By Stanley James (Washington Correspondent) Washington—A United States and a British aircraft company are engaged in a close race to get the first jet airplane to hop the Atlantic non-stop in operation.

Only a couple of weeks ago the U. S. company Boeing flew its first test model of a ninety-five ton giant which will probably become the first U. S.-built all-jet commercial airliner.

The big plane is powered by four jet engines said to turn out about 10,000 pounds of thrust each. Its speed is estimated to be in the 500-mile-an-hour class. Its range is great.

Within a week, the DeHavilland Aircraft Company in Great Britain successfully flew the first proto-type of the Comet III, which De Havilland claims to be the first jet airliner with the capacity to hop the Atlantic.

The Comet III is also powered with four jet engines, reportedly producing 10,000 pounds of thrust also. Its speed is expected to be as great, or greater, than that of the Boeing jet. De Havilland is still holding grounded its Comet I aircraft, which operated two years before several accidents caused their grounding.

The Comet I carried 36 passengers, but the Comet III will have room for as many as 76, and should be able to fly from New York to London in roughly five hours, non-stop. Whether its heavier American-built competitor will be able to match that performance is not now known.

De Havilland says it will be about two years before the Comet III's go into operation. During that time, several U. S. companies, including Boeing, will be going forward with plans of their own. While Boeing is building its big jets primarily for the military, the thought of commercial models is also being given attention and an effort is being made to catch up with the British in this field.

Army security risk rules are found to be improved.

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Senate Facing Special Session

Just as Congressmen and Senators are ready to head for home, after several months of gas warfare in Washington, the word comes from the White House that President Dwight D. Eisenhower may be forced to call a special session of Congress this fall. The issue which may cause such a move at the White House is that of West German sovereignty.

The Administration is reliably reported in Washington to be far more concerned over the issue of sovereignty for free Germany than over the crisis in Indochina, Germany, unlike Indochina, is perhaps the key country in Europe and one of the key countries in the fight against Communism in all the world.

The United States and Great Britain promised West Germany sovereignty sometime ago and only objections from the French have kept them from filing this promise. The French government in Germany is stirring and the Communists are—of course—ready to take advantage of broken promises from the United States and Great Britain.

The most immediate danger is the fact that the Soviet Union can make political hay out of the situation in East Germany, where it controls the press and where the Russians could argue that West Germany has attained no more freedom than East Germany. The United States and Great Britain desire to give West Germany sovereignty so that West Germany may actually become a free nation.

After the present session of Congress ends—it is expected to end in the first two weeks in August—Congress was not scheduled to reconvene until a new Congress—the Eight-Fourth—meets in January. However, the President could call back his Eighty-Third Congress in a special session—a practice which seems to occur more frequently than not—and put the issue of German sovereignty before this Congress.

It is thought that the House of Representatives may not be reconvened, since only Senate approval of a West German agreement would be necessary.

Iran has sharply rejected a Soviet note that had asked for assurance that Iran would not join the Turkish-Pakistan pact. half of 1953, but were at an annual rate of \$56,761,000,000 in the first four months of this year.

Crime Program On Television

The television industry is now offering the nation's children four times as many crime shows as it did as late as 1951.

The National Association for better radio and television, which recently made this report, says tests of TV programs show that of sixty hours and ten minutes show time monitored during a week's study, twenty-six hours and ten minutes of this time was found to be "objectionable."

Only eighteen and a half hours were rated excellent or good for children's viewing, and fifteen and a half hours were rated as fair or poor for children's viewing.

The Association also found that the TV fare in the field of "Westerns," represented a "sordid distortion of the historical development of the Old West," and also contained too much brutality, crime and murder.

In line with recent drives to clean up comic books, the Association is making an effort to clean up the rotten shows which are viewed daily by millions of American youngsters. The increasing rate of juvenile disorder, recklessness and destruction of property can be traced, at least partially, to the "rotten" shows which children get in many comic books and on their TV screens.

Kitten Between Wheels Of Truck While Hiding

Magnolia, Ark.—Two men who had been following a truck flagged it down at an intersection. They, with the help of the driver, probed between the rear dual wheels and out came a little, whimpering kitten that had lodged between the tires when it scooted under the truck.

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