

NEWS OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

Just About the Farm

The first great trip ahead of us is the farm picnic at the Swannanoa Test farm, on August 18. This is going to be a great day for farmers, and near farmers; a chance for them to combine knowledge gained with pleasure. Jim Corbin says he is going to take all the "fiddling" boys over, and that's worth going for by itself.

People keep talking about "fodder pulling time" is close at hand. Folks, if you have got from 5 to 15 bushels of corn to the acre more than you need, just leave it on the land to improve the soil. Don't waste it by pulling the fodder. Cut the corn and shock it, shred it, or feed it as tops; or if your field is fenced just pull the best of the corn, or as much of it as it will take to do you through the winter and turn the cattle and hogs in to do the rest.

If you don't believe that you loose more in the weight of the corn than the fodder is worth, just try it and see. The thinking farmer doesn't have to see a thing to believe it nohow, for he knows that the leaves of the corn stalks—that is the fodder—is the factory in which the grain is made. In the language of the biological chemist, it is the action of sunlight on the chlorophyll (green) in the plant cells of the leaf,—which process is known as photosynthesis among the wise guys—that manufactures the starches and sugars of which the grain is made. And when the process of photosynthesis is stopped, owing to the pulling of the fodder, before that process is fully complete, it is bound to cut off the supply of starches and sugars necessary to fill out the grain cells.

Sweet Clover Fields Source of New and Useful Strains

"All sweet clovers are variable in their habits of growth, and many individual plants of distinct type and form may be found in nearly any sweet-clover field. This offers an opportunity for the development of new strains of sweet clover for definite uses, according to L. W. Kephart, forage crop specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture.

There is considerable interest at present in the production of better hay varieties, he says, since the common sweet clovers, especially the white-flowered species, are too coarse and heavy to make good hay from the second year's growth. Several good hay varieties have already been developed, notably the early flowering Grundy County, Crystal Dwarf, and Early Dwarf varieties of white sweet clover, and the Albretra and Switzer varieties of yellow sweet clover. Recently a type of sweet clover bearing many more and finer stems than the common sorts was found at two of the western Canadian experiment stations. It resembles alfalfa so closely that it is easily mistaken for that plant. This important discovery will no doubt add a distinct new type of forage plant to the present list.

The need for winter-hardy types has been met with the Arctic, or Hansen's Siberian, a white-flowered variety from western Canada, and Albretra, also from Canada. A sweet clover much better suited than the common sorts to the cold, dry climate of the northern Great Plains appears to have been developed at the Redfield, S. Dak., field station of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Several persons are endeavoring to find a sweet clover that will grow on acid soils, lack of lime being a serious hindrance to culture for the crop in many localities. Still others are trying to develop a strain suited to the drought and hot winds of the southern Great Plains.

A type of sweet clover that would be exceedingly useful, according to Mr. Kephart, is one that would remain green late in the fall, start growth early the next spring, and remain green and in good feeding condition well into the following summer. A number of experimenters, both on farms and at experiment stations, have approached this type with selections of common white sweet clover. Perhaps even better results will come from tests now being made with species and varieties brought from Europe and eastern Asia, on such species this year having remained green six weeks later than any sweet clover heretofore grown.

The above is from the United States Department of Agriculture and shows the greatness and also the possibilities of sweet clover. The man who calls himself a farmer and does not use sweet clover in some manner on his farm is taking a long step toward joining the ranks of the Hick farmer.

Sweet clover is cow pasture, bee pasture, hay and soil food all combined.

The following is also copied from the notes of investigators of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It shows us very plainly why the farm income if the farmers of the states mentioned are 3-4 times greater than ours here.

One great day of agricultural enlightenment will have dawned when each of us have learned—and practice—that real progress is made when we stand together in our common cause viz., better prices for better produce in quantity.

Ten Years of Farm Organization Growth

"In the 10 years from 1915 to 1925 the number of farmers' marketing and purchasing associations, chiefly cooperative, listed by the United States Department of Agriculture practically doubled, and their aggregate membership increased by 315 per cent. The amount of business handled by the associations reporting in 1925 was 277 per cent greater than that handled by those reporting in 1915. Although not all the active associations in the country make reports to the department, those who do not are few and small.

The department had 10,803 associations listed on its books at the close of 1925. These associations had an aggregate membership of 2,700,000. Many farmers, however, belonged to more than one association so that the total number of farmers served by cooperative associations in the United States is estimated at 1,900,000.

The associations from which the department has obtained records transacted business in 1925 to the amount of \$2,400,000,000, probably nine-tenths of which amount represented sales of farm products, while the rest represented purchases of farm supplies. Seventy per cent of the total was handled by co-operatives in 15 states constituting the north central and Pacific coast groups. The remaining 30 per cent was handled by associations scattered through 33 states.

The largest volume of business credited to any one state was \$223,980,000, for 1,383 associations in Minnesota. California came next with \$223,960,000 worth of business done through 350 associations. Illinois was third, Iowa fourth, Wisconsin fifth, Ohio sixth, New York seventh, and Kansas eighth in the amount of farmers' collective business handled. These eight states transacted 52 per cent of the total cooperative business of the country.

Marketing and purchasing associations in 10 states—Minnesota, Iowa, California, Wisconsin, Illinois, North Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, New York and Michigan—constituted 63 per cent of all the active co-operatives in the country for the 10-year period. Membership increases of 1,000 per cent or more occurred in Missouri, Oklahoma, Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, and Mississippi. Six states—Washington, Delaware, New Jersey, Idaho, Nevada, and Rhode Island—had fewer cooperative association members in 1925 than in 1915. Only one state, however, Nevada, handled a smaller volume of co-operative business in 1925 than in 1915.

Cover crop sowing time is here, and there's one thing the Hick farmer can't do: Cover up his laziness by not covering up the nakedness of his soil with a cover crop.

One day of our bread and butter show is going to be called "Exchange day," and on that day everyone will be given the opportunity to swap off anything that he doesn't want. Alluding to the county agent's work—or lack of it—in the county, the good folk of these hills and hollows have solved that problem themselves. They have organized several meetings in the county and demanded his presence. That is the proper spirit.

One of the big meetings of this week is to be held at Charlie McClures on Thursday, August 4. What the exact purpose of this meeting is, I do not know. They just told me to come up there; that they had a job for me. I wish more communities would do the same, then they would get the things they need, and not be bothered with superfluous endeavors on the part of the county agent.

Bale no hay this season, until you get it sold. There is going to be more hay made in the country at large, by several times, this year than there is livestock to eat it. The best policy for us here is to save all we can feed and plow the rest under and sow cover crops on it.

Wonder if any of our people in Macon county, who are needing help on their farms, have thought to write to the Relief Headquarters in the Mississippi flood area, and open negotiations for getting one or more of the 600,000 homeless farmers, whose land is still under water.

Speaking of poultry again, the small farm flocks are still supplying three-fourths of the poultry and eggs of the world's markets. And they will continue to do it, for the wise farmer is going to have from 100 to 200 hens and stay with it.

It's the big guys and the get-rich-quick who will have to go out of business after this year's catastrophe, leaving the poultry farmer a clear field. Think over this and act according to your best judgment.

Quality produce always sells, but quality stuff in quantity, which means a group of folk selling together, which again means co-operation, is better than a little stuff at a low price.

When farmers sell individually, they are competing with their neighbors as well as the rest of the world; hence the oft' repeated, unreasonable, far-fetched, false, pusillanimous, pseudo howl "A pore farmer ain't got no chance nohow."

Under the special farm notices, look at the dates of all the good meetings to be held within our reach this fall, and plan to go to them all.

Macon County—the Land of Super-Farmers Who Think—Maybe. LYLES HARRIS, County Agent.

Talks With County Agents

There has just closed at State College a conference of 4-H club members that can have greater effect for good on the future rural life of North Carolina than any conference held or to be held this year. More than six hundred 4-H boys and girls gathered from every section of the state to study together ways of improving the daily work of farm life and, more important, to study methods of improving rural recreation and comradeship.

The leaders of this conference worked earnestly, and we believe, effectively to show these boys and girls that the future for good rural development lay in the combined earnest effort of 4-H members to bring to the rural communities that spirit of community consciousness that builds fertile fields, comfortable, convenient homes and a happy educated people.

These boys and girls are going back home with a direct challenge to every farm and home agent for earnest and effective assistance in bringing into and maintaining in their communities that spirit and progress embodied in the principles of the 4-H creed. They know that this cannot be done effectively by sewing clubs, pig clubs or other similar clubs working separately for the same end. They know that it can be done by all these groups combining their energies and enthusiasm in a real 4-H club where a spirit of "all for one and one for all" prevails.

I feel confident that the farm and home agents are going to answer with their very best efforts this call from these club members and thousands of other boys and girls of the state who are anxiously waiting to be shown the profits, beauties and comradeship of rural life.—J. M. GRAY, Assistant Director.

Important Farm Meetings

Agents Itinerary for week beginning Monday, August 8th.

August 8th
Gneiss Postoffice, 1 p. m.; Scroll Postoffice, 3 p. m.

August 9th
Elijay Postoffice, 9 a. m.; Higdonville Postoffice, 11 a. m.; Cullasaja Postoffice, 1 p. m.

August 10th
Tryphosa Postoffice, 9 a. m.; Otto Postoffice, 11 a. m.; Prentiss Postoffice, 1 p. m.

August 11th
Etna Postoffice, 9 a. m.; West's Mill Postoffice, 11 a. m.; Leatherman Postoffice, 1 p. m.; Iotla Postoffice, 3 p. m.

August 12th
Rainbow Springs Postoffice, 9 a. m.; Aquone Postoffice, 11 a. m.; Kyle Postoffice, 1 p. m.; Flats Postoffice, 3 p. m.; Tellico Postoffice, 5 p. m.

The above meetings are called for three main purposes. One is to meet the folks and give them an opportunity to meet me. Another is to learn direct from the folks themselves if, and how, and along what lines they might wish to use the Agricultural Extension Service. And another purpose of the above meetings is to give out some very important information on several vital questions of county-wide importance, that very greatly concern every citizen of Macon county.

Therefore, I urge every one in all the above communities to be present at these meetings on the dates and at the places and hours given.

It may be you do not want your county agent fooling around and worrying you. Then come and tell him so. It may be you have some particular thing you want your county agent to do. Then come and tell him so.

The main thing is to get together and let's find out all these things straight from the horses mouth. Not mince matters, or beat the devil around the stump or fuss to ourselves about it, but just come right out and express ourselves. Get in line to do something or nothing. But which ever it is make a clean cut and leave no ragged edges. That's when the harm is done—in a faint-hearted, weak-kneed, half-bent, passive attitude.

We want to try to over come this and put ourselves on the map as producers of real quality stuff of the right kind.

LYLES HARRIS, County Agent.

BIG TIME PROMISED AT FARM PICNICS

The 20,000 or more citizens of North Carolina who visited the branch station farms during the annual picnics and field days held last summer know what to expect at the field days this year but even they will be surprised.

"A good time will be had by all," promises Dr. R. Y. Winters, director of the experiment station. Dr. Winters is workin' gwith Fred E. Miller, in charge of test farms, and the several superintendents to see that good programs and valuable exhibits are prepared for each gathering.

Last year many persons attended these events and this year the college authorities invite all farmers and their friends living adjacent to the station to make plans to attend the picnic held at the station. A good sneaking program is being arranged. There will be trips of inspection over the fields and grounds and there will be exhibits showing the nature of the work being done on the farm. Much time and labor will be expended to make the picnics successful.

HOGS PAY WELL IF HANDLED RIGHT

Corn Sold as Pork Brinks Better Price Than as Grain

Since 1910 the price of corn has ranged from 7½ cents per bushel for 1910 to \$1.85 in 1919. The average of the seventeen years prices is \$1.08 per bushel.

During that time the price of hogs has ranged from \$6.75 in 1911 to \$19.15 in 1919. The average of the April and September prices of hogs for the period is \$11.33.

There has not been a year during that time that hogs, properly fed and sold during the months named, have failed to return more than the market price for the corn they ate.

Corn grown on land yielding thirty bushels per acre is produced at an approximate cost of 75 cents per bushel. Sold at the average of seventeen years' market price of \$1.08 per bushel, the profit per bushel would be 33 cents, or \$9.90 per acre.

Converted into pork according to the system advocated by the State College of Agriculture, the returns at the average of prices of hogs prevailing during the last seventeen years would be \$1.56 per bushel. The profit therefore, would be 81 cents per bushel, or \$24.30 per acre—an increase of 48 cents in profit per bushel, or \$14.40 per acre, approximately two and one-half times as much profit.

Better land would, of course, return more profit, and poor land, less—W. W. SHAY, Swine Extension Specialist.

Memphis, Tenn., July 26, 1927.

Mr. Lyles Harris, County Agent Franklin, North Carolina.

Dear Sir: Replying to your letter of July 21, I am sending you, under separate cover, 200 letter inserts relative to the National Dairy Exposition, per copy enclosed.

A little later on we will have more extensive literature which we will also be glad to send you.

The railroads are offering a one and one-half fare round trip rate for the exposition.

It will be the biggest event of the kind ever held in the United States. Both the number of cattle shown and the number and quality of the educational exhibits will exceed former expositions. Of course, the Dairy show is primarily for people interested in dairy cattle and dairying, and from that standpoint, is the last word in dairy ideas.

We are pleased to note that your people are interested and trust that a good many of them will attend the exposition.

We will mail you a premium list in a few days. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please let us know.

Very truly yours,
FRANK D. FULLER, Secretary-Manager.

WORK ON STREETS

Mr. Ed Whittington has recently been employed by the town to devote his entire time to street work. In favorable weather he will keep the street machine at work on the streets where improvements are most needed.

Farmers Marketing Bureau NANTAHALA PRODUCTS

Prices for poultry next sale, Thursday August 11 at Franklin and Friday 12th at Otto.

- Heavy hens..... 15c Lb.
- Light hens..... 13c Lb.
- Light fryers..... 15c Lb.
- Heavy Fryers..... 20c Lb.
- Cox 8c Lb.
- Turkeys 16c Lb.

Potato Sale next week. Potatoes will be graded and sold on grade. No ones only. Price right around one dollar per bushel f. o. b.

LYLES HARRIS, County Agent.

NOTICE TO FARMERS!

Farmers' Picnic, Swannoa, August 18th.

Macon Bread and Butter Show, September 29-30 October 1st.

Western North Carolina Fair, October 4-5-6-7.

National Dairy Show, Memphis, Tenn., October 15-22.

Tri-State Fair, Memphis, October 15-22.

One look is worth 1,000 words.

Let's Go.

LYLES HARRIS, COUNTY AGENT