

THIS PAGE DEVOTED TO FARMING, DAIRYING, POULTRY AND SWINE PRODUCTION, HORTICULTURE AND TRUCK FARMING

The Press and the Farmer

On the editorial page of this issue appear two editorials, one from The Asheville Citizen and one from The Asheville Times, both stating their opinions regarding what The Press is trying to do to help the farming industry in Macon county. With the assistance of the county agent (Whose notes, by the way, will not appear this week as he is on a trip to purchase dairy cows), The Press hopes to accomplish much in the way of getting new ideas before the farmers. But to make this feature of this paper a complete success we must have the co-operation of the farmers themselves. As stated elsewhere there are any number of successful farmers in the county whose examples are not being followed for the simple reason that others do not know what these successful farmers are doing. One farmer is an expert hog raiser, another grows better potatoes than his neighbor, still another has made a success in the dairy business, and so on indefinitely. If each farmer who has made a success in any line of agriculture would send his experiences to The Press, it would be a great help to other farmers in the county. You need not be a writer to send in the facts. The facts are what we want and the story can be written to place these facts before the public.

Our country correspondents are also requested to include in their items any matters that are of interest to the farmers. Some man buys a tractor, another purchases a riding cultivator, Mrs. Smith or Jones uses an incubator, a farmer builds a concrete potato house. Such items are of intense interest, and we shall be glad for the correspondents to include such items along with those that are purely personal. There are also other ways that the farmers may help the editor to make an interesting paper for the rural population. In this connection the following article written by Prof. John H. Casey, head of the community journalism work at the University of Oklahoma, is reprinted from Country Newspaper Advertising:

I am quite sure that most farmers would be surprised to see how glad a newspaper editor is to get real local farm news. There would be a great

deal more of it published if there were more of it furnished. Town news is so much easier to get. The folks in town see the editor every day, as John H. Miller, who owns and operates a half dozen weeklies in Illinois, points out. Town folks drop in and chat.

The more progressive farmers can help the editor, and so help other farmers of the community, by also dropping in to chat, by stopping at the newspaper office to tell the editor about exceptional crop yields, shipments of livestock to market, methods that have proven profitable, and the like.

If the local paper has a correspondent in each rural neighborhood, farmer-readers should get acquainted and co-operate with her—it's usually a woman—in getting published the important news of the community. If there is no correspondent, probably some farmer, or one of his family, could have the job for the asking.

Other ways the farmer-reader can help the editor help the community to progress agriculturally are: To have farm sale bills printed at the local newspaper office; to pay up his subscription promptly when due; and to interest neighbors, who borrow the paper, to subscribe for themselves. It doesn't cost much, about 3 cents a week in most localities. The local editor may look lean, and like a poor feeder, but he can't live on air alone.

Farmer-readers should not be too hard on the local editor. If he doesn't have all the news of the immediate neighborhood, perhaps it's partly the neighborhood's fault. The editor probably means well. And anyway, there are the ads full of store news. There are the legals or official notices that keep everyone informed about the county and township and school district affairs. There's probably lots of the more important news well displayed on the front page, maybe a good serial story by some well-known author, and we'll hope there's an editorial column—for there are so many things in every community that need editorial attention.

About the only person who can't get his money's worth out of his home newspaper—be it ever so humble—is a blind man; and he usually has a wife, or friend, whose duty it becomes to read him the local news.

A Pay Day Twice a Month For the Farmer

Dear Editor:—One of the worst troubles with the Macon county farmers in the past was only having a pay day for a few weeks in the fall, then having to wait till the next fall for another.

That is all changing slowly, but should change faster. The remedy is dairy cows and chickens. That gives us a pay day twice a month for cream and oftener for eggs. Our county ought to furnish all the cream our creamery could handle. But it is a lot better to have cream shipped into the county than for us to ship to some other county or state.

We only have two cows. We do not know the pedigree of one. The other is half Jersey and half Guernsey. Since the first day of April, 1927, to January 1, 1928, we have sold \$95 worth of cream and raised two male calves that we sold for \$10 each. The cream was hand skimmed. We have fed milk to pigs and chickens nearly every day besides the family used all the milk they wanted. We made some butter, but only part of the family use it as the others do not like butter.

During the past year from January 1, 1927 to January 1, 1928, we have had from 15 to 30 hens at different times. We raised about 95 chickens large enough to sell. We kept about 35 pullets that are just beginning to lay. We sold and eat most of the others. We got, during the year, 193 dozen and 3 eggs.

I have not written this as a record breaker, either for cows or hens, for I know it can be beat, but only shows that there is a profit in either, one or both.

Yours for better farming,
D. J. MOSES.

ROTARY LUNCHEON

At its weekly meeting Wednesday the Rotary Club of Franklin had as its guests Revs. R. E. Mock and J. A. Flanagan. Both made interesting talks which were thoroughly appreciated by those present.

Forest Fires Costly To Woodlot Owners

Raleigh, N. C., Jan.—The landowner who does light burning of his timber land during the months of January and February to provide grazing for his livestock later in the season is following a costly practice.

"This plan is all wrong," says R. W. Graeber, extension forester at State college. "The benefits from preventing grass and forest fires are ten times greater than the cost. Trees and crops do not thrive without humus and this humus is necessary to hold moisture in the soil and to furnish food for bacteria which make fertility. Where land is burned over frequently, the loss of humus and plant food amounts to about one inch per acre in ten years. One inch of humus from one acre of land weighs from ten to twelve tons and has a greater value than commercial fertilizer. The man who burns such valuable humus does not even get credit for giving it away."

Mr. Graeber states also that unburned land produces from two to six times more feed in a single season than do burned over lands. Rough pastures and woods hold their moisture while the burned lands do not. The burned over lands suffer more from drought and the run-off water carries away the valuable top soil. Each fire lessens the growing power of the land.

Burning the woods also prevents the natural seeding and the growth of baby trees, states Mr. Graeber. Most of the trees which do start are soon killed and the ones which survive rarely ever make normal growth. It is estimated that the absence of thrifty young pines in some of the eastern sections of North Carolina is a loss many times as great as the residents of these sections would have paid in taxes during the past 25 years.

The prevention of forest fires is a community problem in which every class of citizens should join in solving and the owner of the land should be the most concerned, says the specialist.

MADE POULTRY PAID DESPITE HARD L

Raleigh, N. C., Jan.—Success in a branch of farming is not always easy as telling about it, and especially this true with poultry reports. Four-H club boy of Caldwell county, Ralph H. Hartley, of Hudson Caldwell county, is now rated as one of the best poultry club members in North Carolina. He holds several "firsts" in his list of accomplishments. He was first to join any poultry club in the county; the first to do poultry work; the first to join a wheat club; the first to join a turkey club and the first to begin club work. He is also the president of an organized club in the county.

But all this came about gradually. Ralph became a poultry club member in 1924 after his mother had given him six barred rock hens during the previous year. He bought several other chicks hatched from the hens. The family moved in 1923 so Ralph sold all for \$45.

When he began poultry raising in 1924, he first bought 100 white leghorn chicks, started

Hendricks, county agent. He raised 23 pullets and 20 cockerels from the bunch and sold the cockerels. He went into 1925 with the 23 hens and one male bird but that year he had lots of hard luck and failed to make a profit. In 1926, he made a net profit of \$46.36 from a flock of 55 leghorns but when he began his poultry year for 1927, he found that he had to build brooder houses, buy an incubator, build an incubator house and construct a laying house for his flock.

He did all this and finally made a profit of \$371.15 for his labor during the year. Ralph received assistance from both Mr. Hendricks and Allen G. Oliver, poultry specialist. He fed home grown grains in some feed rations and he is now on a profitable basis together with his other club projects.

TO THE MEMBERS

The management of your federation recently sent a letter, with stamped envelope enclosed, to every stockholder in the Macon County Farmers Federation. This letter requested a reply.

Several have replied, but others have not.

We had hoped to get that much

CO-OPERATION

from every owner of these stores.

Pause a moment—think—and then—COOPERATE. Help to make YOUR federation a success.

Macon County Farmers Federation

E. S. HUNNICUTT, General Manager