

"CIVILIZATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH THE PLOW"

THINGS TO PLAN TO THROUGHOUT COMING YEAR
The Farmers' Day at the test farm at Swannanoa on May 17, 1928.

- Poultry loading depot with facilities for grading eggs.
- An annual poultry show.
- Monthly livestock sales.
- Farmers' own line of delivery trucks.
- Purebred sires and seeds on every farm.
- Guernsey cattle breeders association.
- A semi-annual seed exchange day.
- A Harvest Carnival one day of the bread and butter show.

FARMING AS SHE IS DONE IN MACON

The following named farmers are going to produce their cream and livestock mighty cheap. They are going to put in three acres of sweet clover; and they are liming and inoculating their soil in the latest improved methods.

Up on highway No. 28 one day last week a man with a pole on his wagon. The wagon was stuck in the mud. He was muddy from head to foot. The mules were wringing wet with sweat and too tired to hardly make an effort. The pole was worth \$3.50 delivered at Franklin. While he was struggling to get up the hill another man came by, sitting in a light buckboard, driving two little mules. He drove around the wagon through a mud hole waist deep, and went on over the hill dry-footed and free of mud. This last man had in his buckboard a 5-gallon can of cream that brought him \$7.50 at the creamery, and he can go back next week and get another one where he got this one. The \$3.50 pole is gone for-

Mrs. Edd Bradley, of Otto, is getting six dozen eggs a day now. And Edd is selling from \$30.00 to \$40.00 worth of cream per month. There is no fear of hard times there.

Charlie Norton has one of the best kept herds in the county. He has seven cows and four grade heifers that will come in next fall. Charlie is sitting pretty and asking nobody for help.

Two men in this county are putting out an acre of strawberries each. They are doing some thinking.

C. L. Garner cashed cream check for a little over \$500.00 in 1927, and has got his calves, manure and ski milk to add to that.

Mrs. Jesse Thomas is in the market for turkey eggs. Anybody having any for sale will find a ready market there.

There has been two carloads of lime ordered for the county and three more booked to ship out later.

The cream checks are increasing in size considerably since the beginning of the year. Speaks mighty well for the farmers of Macon county.

George Dowdle has several hundred pounds of Lespedeza seed on the way. He is sowing it on all his small grain and the bare spots in his pasture.

The old man told his boy to "put the old team to the old wagon, and begin cleaning out the old cow shed. "Why do you want the old stuff handled first, pa?" asked the boy. "Cause it's the most useless, and I want to wear it out and get it out of the way." "Well, pa, just practice your own preaching and go and do it yourself."

Orchard Management to Be Followed As the New Leaves Start to Come Out

Delayed Dormant Spraying of Apple Trees
Apply the winter strength of either of the commercial forms of lime sulphur, or one of the oil sprays for scale insects as follows: Liquid 5 1-2 gallons or powder (dry) 12 to 15 pounds to 50 gallons of water. Dissolve the powder in hot water before adding to the 50 gallons of water.

Oil Sprays—Follow directions recommended by the manufacturers of oil sprays. Add 1-2 pint of Nicotine Sulphate to either mixture for aphid control. Lime sulphur is to be preferred since it will also kill the early apple scab infections, oil sprays will not unless Bordeaux mixture is added; this increases the cost of spraying.

Make the spray application just as the leaves are 1-4 to 1-2 inches long, and drench the buds as well as covering all parts of the tree thoroughly with spray solution.

KEEP YOUR FARM AND IT WILL KEEP YOU AND YOURS

SPRING APPLICATIONS OF FERTILIZER

Apple Trees
Nitrogen is only fertilizer that has a direct influence on tree growth and setting of blossom buds. The quickly available forms and amounts to use are recommended as follows:
Nitrate of Soda—Use the amount equal to 1-2 the diameter of body of the tree: i. e., if the diameter is 6 inches use 3 pounds.
Sulphate of Ammonia—Use 3-4 of amount that would be used for Nitrate of Soda.
Calcium Nitrate—Same amount as for Nitrate of Soda. This form of nitrate is being extensively advertised at present time and compares favorably with the other two forms as to its availability or its immediate effect on tree growth, however, when exposed to air it will take up moisture and thus becomes liquified. Scatter either form on ground in an area extending under and beyond the branches as the buds of the trees are swelling, or several weeks before they bloom.

Peach Trees

Applications and amounts similar to the apple, except not as much is required. With heavy pruning use small amounts than under light pruning. The usual amount under light pruning and prospects for heavy crop are from 1 to 3 pounds to trees 4 to 12 years of age, depending on size of tree. For young trees up to 4 years a small handful to 1 pound. If trees are in vigorous condition and you are skeptical about fruit buds being killed later in spring, without nitrate until all danger is past, and if fruit is killed reduce amount of nitrogen.

Have A Real Garden

The county agent is, of course, expected to write about good seed, balanced rations, purebred sires and the other things which would give the farmer a larger cash income. He does write about these most of the time. But when lazy soft-southern winds push fat white clouds along the hills, he wonders if there isn't

and better livestock.

As the smell of growing green things, and the odor of newly turned earth stir his memories, he dreams of beautiful gardens. These gardens, by the way, are farm gardens where tall lilacs, hardy shrubs and gorgeous bulbs have a place as well as those plain vegetables which make the farmer's table a joy forever. So he has scribbled the above to introduce a small portion of an article written by the late E. E. Miller, editor of the SOUTHERN AGRICULTURIST:
"Once there was just such a garden—an old fence on the north made into a tangled hedge by clambering honeysuckle and wild rose vines; on one side a goodly row of gooseberry and currant bushes; on the other, against the fence, pieplant and sage and thyme and lavender and a notable asparagus bed; a walk from both the southern corners to the gate, and along this walk old-fashioned flowers—snowdrops and jonquils, tiger lilies and white lilies, sweet Williams and clove pinks, phlox and bachelor buttons, and a host of others, so that the blossoms never ceased from the time of the earliest breaking out of the violets and stars of Bethlehem in the spring until the frosts caught the hardy chrysantheums in the fall. Just outside at one corner grew an apple tree, and the apples fell inside, and here a boy had fixed up for himself a rude seat. Perhaps he spent more time than was advisable in this seat, especially when the sun was hot and the weeds were vigorous, but it seems to him now that there was always a fragrant breath in that corner, and about it the hum of bees, and within reach something good to eat—without which no boy was ever entirely happy."
Would it not be worth while for every farmer to plan a garden which would not only give the family fresh green food, but also be a place of contentment and rural beauty?

The best time to use silage in the fattening of beef cattle that are to be highly finished is during the first part of the feeding period, when large quantities of roughage can be used to the greatest advantage. During the last half of the feeding period, a full feed of grain should be given in conjunction with the silage in order to obtain a better gain and finish on the cattle.

A RECORD OF 35 YEARS

Mr. H. P. Ray, the genial merchant of Jotta, believes in his county paper as evidenced by his record as a subscriber. For thirty-eight years he has been taking The Franklin Press and both Mr. Ray and the paper are still going strongly.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank the people for their kindness through the sickness and death of our beloved mother—Mrs. E. M. Angel, Mrs. Tom West, Lee Poindexter, George Poindexter, Frank Poindexter.

The farm pages of The Press are edited by the county agent in collaboration with the editor.

In feeding the dairy cow, one-half of the grain is ordinarily fed in the morning, the remainder at night. If cows are milked three times or more per day, the grain should be proportioned accordingly. It is common practice to feed it just before or during milking. Some dairymen spread it over the silage. All grains should be ground or crushed. There is little value in cooking or soaking grains for dairy cows.

In February and March eggs begin to be baundant again, and any time during the spring it is good policy to put down a few of the surplus eggs in waterglass as soon as they are taken from the nest. Next fall you will be glad to have them. The United States Department of Agriculture will tell you exactly how to save these eggs so that they will be in perfect condition when taken out of the waterglass solution.

Just About the Farm

Three cheers! The weather has moderated and the sun is shining, and the old demon gloom seems to have lifted—and left people in better heart.

There has been a good deal of inquiry for soy bean seed. By getting these by the car load we will save from 25 to 50 cents a bushel. All interested advised to see the county agent at once.

Indications are, owing to the heavy killing of grain by the cold, that there will be a great demand for soy bean seed, and the price will rise in the immediate future.

I saw a man with a fur-mule team

mules wouldn't stand, the man grabbed it by the bit and gave it a few healthy kicks in the ribs. Finally he got it where he could tie it, and just to show his manhood (?) he lams it in the side with a brickbat. I had a great respect for this man before that. Takes a long time to get some folks to see things—and that is often a great virtue—but more and more people are feeding tankage and receiving benefits therefrom.

The grown-up farmers of this county had better look to their laurels, else the kids are going to beat them.

Let's hope the self-appointed utopia howling politicians that have been farming the farmers for the last decade will get their attention riveted on the presidential election this year and give the farmer a chance at his own rights. Then once started let's hope that farmers as a class will be self-respecting enough to do their own thinking, and managing too, from now on.

John Bingham says "There's nothing in this world now but trouble and the satisfaction of beating it out."

Didn't know John was a philosopher until today.

The first lick you hit in your field is your first step in your marketing problem, so plan accordingly.

CANNERY

\$100,000.00 turned loose for garden sass will be some money; but its not visionary at all to say that we are going to have it.

Wild blackberries alone brought Wilkes county \$5,000.00 one year.

Many think in all earnestness that vegetables cannot be grown profitably at cannery prices. A lot of us know that it can.

The only thing for the doubter to do is to try and see.

Then another thing about our cannery is that should there be any profit, it will be divided up in proportion among those selling stuff to the cannery.

DAIRYING

Following are the big ten in cream delivery the last two weeks:

E. A. Vanhook, C. H. Norton, E. V. Ammons, D. W. Love, E. N. Keener, Leonard Horn, G. W. Dowdle, H. C. Hurst and J. H. McDowell.

Bert Slagle and John Ferguson are not among the "Big boys" this time as they were last week, and there has been a mix up generally, but on the whole, the amount received for cream averages more than the two weeks previous. The amount this time being \$265.52.

Where wheat has been killed out soy beans should be planted for hay.

A dairy cow has got to have legume hay to do her best.

A good many folks are going to try some stock beets. If you want some seed let me know right away.

There is nothing that juices the old cow up so much as a few beets in winter time.

FERTILIZER

Here's the problem: Our red soils do not need potash, and potash is an expensive ingredient used in fertilizer.

Do we want to buy mixed fertilizer and throw away money, or do we want to study the question a bit and see what's what?

HOGS

The best dates for selling hogs, and practically the only dates when you can get good prices, are March and April, August and September.

Why not breed your sows so that your pigs will be 6 months old at that time?

Pigs born in February, March, August and September will about meet the right dates at 6 months old.

INSECT PESTS AND DISEASES

How many bugs are you going to fatten this summer?

The fore-minded men will prepare to get their spray materials in just the same as he prepares to have his other farm equipment ready for spring work.

Below you will find some suggestions on fruit growing and spraying. Also, fertilization of fruit trees: Studies of the relation of leaf area to single fruit spur and fruiting performance gave further evidence that fruit bud formation does not occur without adequate leaf surface—Oregon Experiment Station.

the yield and growth in a Baldwin orchard with data for the preceding 10 year period, 1909—1918, showed that trees in sod have steadily declined in vigor and yield, those in culture with and without cover crops have held their own, and those in cultivated cover cropped, and fertilized areas have increased in vigor and yield. Of three fertilizer plats receiving extra phosphoric acid, nitrogen, and potash respectively, the extra nitrogen plat was the only one to show a decided gain in yield and general appearance, suggesting that nitrogen is probably the only ingredient of value to the apple tree."—New Hampshire Experiment Station.

"If you grow fruit and will pick from your trees only fruit of light quality, which it is profitable to grow, and do not grow fruit of low quality, you will find the business of growing fruit to be profitable. Develop a reputation of growing high class fruit, "The kind you eat in the dark," and dealers will go there first to get their apples"—Kentucky Horticulture.

Available nitrogen and moisture will lead to more annual blossom buds on your apple trees. Spraying to control orchard pests will assist in keeping the trees vigorous, and the fruit free from worms and specks, as well as cause the fruit to stick better. Moisture and sunlight will give better colored fruit. Good soil fertility and thinning of fruit will increase the size of the apple.

Are you trying to grow the kind of apple that will please the dealer and consumer? Have you pruned your trees so the sunlight can reach the leaves and fruit? Have you ordered your nitrogen to be used on such trees as they need it? Have you ordered as need it? Have you ordered enough spray material for a complete spray program? Do you realize that it cost money to grow fruit and that you can't afford to grow cull apples and peaches? Do you intend to cultivate your orchard during the first few months of the growing season and sow cover crops such as beans, vetch, etc., later in the season? If you can't cultivate, are you planning to feed your trees that are in sod some form of available nitrogen? If you don't do your part, don't blame the weather. Give your trees a chance to become fruitful and profitable. Let's produce good apples for 1928 and not good and bad apples.

The future of the apple industry depends upon growing the best varieties and the production of high quality fruit at the lowest possible cost, grading and packing and proper methods of distribution. The Government forecast states:—"The apple industry is approaching a more stabilized condition, but with an average crop, prices will undoubtedly be higher next season. Commercial plantings are hardly justified at present, except where local production or market conditions are unusually favorable." The U. S. Market Report on apples dated March 8th, states:—"Total exports for U. S. in 1926 were 3,082,000 barrels

THINGS TO PLAN FOR RIGHT NOW

- That cream check every two weeks.
- That cannery check every time you come to town.
- Fat hog sale in March.
- Poultry sale February 15.
- Bread and Butter Show next fall.
- Encourage the 4-H Club youngsters.
- Big Farmers' day on March 5th.
- Local Curb Market.
- Breed sows so that the pigs will go on the market in March, April, August and September.

rels and 6,922,000 boxes. This is 80 per cent more barrels than were exported the year before, and 123 per cent above average of four years—1922—1925. Total estimated value of exports in barrels was slightly more than \$15,000,000." The world is eating more good apples. Let us produce our share of good apples.

POTATOES

The following is a statement of the outlook for potatoes this year:

Early Potato Outlook

Last year the farmers were cautioned against over-production of early potatoes. Our report stated that it would be advisable for growers to adjust their acreage with anticipation of lower prices. However, farmers increased their acreage about 5,000 acres which resulted in an increase in production of about 1,000,000 bushels. As forecasted in February, 1927, the prices for early potatoes were considerably under those for 1926. For the five months, April to August inclusive, the average price in 1926 was \$2.54 per bushel compared with \$1.75 per bushel in 1927. A decrease of 31 per cent.

This year the outlook is not better

plant on an increase in early potato acreage. In fact, a decrease would be advisable. Prices of early potatoes are governed to a large extent by the stock on hand from the late potato crop. In 1927, the late potato crop was 48,000,000 bushels more than the late crop of 1926. Stock on hand will, therefore, be higher this year than a year ago, which means that early potato prices will tend to be lower.

Areas Competing With North Carolina

Farmers in planning their production program this year should keep in mind the probable competition from producers in areas outside of North Carolina. Florida farmers ship potatoes from late March to mid July. The bulk, however, reaching market in May. As a rule Florida does not seriously compete with North Carolina. Texas ships from mid April to mid August, the bulk reaching market in May and June. Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana start shipping the first of May and continue until the first of August, the bulk reaching market in May and June. The bulk of the Georgia crop arrives in the market in May and June. The most serious competitors after the 15th of June are states to the north, such as Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey. A large crop of North Carolina potatoes reaching market after June 15, may, therefore, experience severe competition this year.

Table II. Average Carload Shipments for 1926

State	May	June	July
Florida	3,180	142	
South Carolina	1,248	3,939	
North Carolina	14	5,148	1,328
Virginia		4,375	11,422

The following, very logical treatise on the cotton situation makes us glad that we live in the mountains and not in the cotton country:

"Cotton is the overcoat of a seed that is planted and grown in the Southern states to keep the producer broke and the buyer crazy. The fiber varies in color and weight, and the man who can guess nearest the length of the fiber is called a cotton man by the public, a fool by the farmer, and a poor business man by his creditors.

"The price of cotton is determined in New York and goes up when you have sold and down when you have bought. A buyer working for a group of mills was sent to New York to watch the cotton market and after a few days' deliberation he wired his firm to this effect: 'Some think it will go up and some think it will go down. I do, too. Whatever you do will be wrong, act at once!'"

"Cotton is planted in the spring, mortgaged in the summer, and left in the field in the winter.

"You can and you can't; you will and you won't. Be damned if you do, and be damned if you don't."—Anon.

MACON COUNTY—The Land of Super-Farmers Who Think.
LYLES HARRIS, County Agent.

CONSULT YOUR COUNTY AGENT AS YOU WOULD YOUR DOCTOR OR YOUR LAWYER