

# MACON COUNTY AGRICULTURE

Soaking, steaming, or cooking stock feeds increases their digestibility slightly, but usually not enough to pay for the expense and work. When maximum gains are desired, cooking may encourage the animals to eat more feed.

According to available reports more than one-third of the annual farm slaughter of hogs takes place during one month—December. In some years more hogs are killed on farms in December than in all the packing-houses and other places where Federal meat inspection is carried on.

Many farmers now carry fire protection through farmers' mutual fire insurance companies. According to the latest figures available, about \$10,000,000 worth of fire insurance is carried by these mutuals, at a low annual cost averaging 26 cents per \$100 for the country as a whole.

When the calf is three weeks old, it should be given a little hay and grain. Clean, bright clover, alfalfa, or mixed hay is best. Alfalfa hay that is too leafy should not be fed to a very young calf. Corn, oats, wheat, bran, and linseed meal are the best grains for a calf.

Shredded corn stover has about the same feeding value as unshredded stover. It is better than timothy hay or straw for milk cows, and better than straw for horses. For bedding purposes, shredded stover is more valuable than straw, and much better than the long unshredded stover.

Failure to grade eggs is one reason why many farmers don't get a higher average price per dozen for their eggs. When small and bad eggs are marketed with good ones the result is a lower price for all. If only a few eggs are obtained from a small flock, grading is less likely to be done than when the eggs are produced by a good-sized flock. A flock of 200 to 400 birds is particularly desirable, in order that the marketing of the eggs and also the management of the flock may be put on the most economical basis.

The time to buy feeder cattle depends on the system of feeding, the feeds used, and the quality of the cattle. If the lower grades of cattle are bought for immediate fattening in dry lot, it is generally better to buy in early fall, so as to get them marketed in late winter or early spring. The lower grades usually reach their peak prices before June, though steers of good quality and condition may sell to advantage a little later in the season. If cattle are to be finished on grass and there is sufficient roughage to carry them through the winter, fall is the time to buy. Buying feeders in the spring for finishing on grass the following summer should be limited to cattle that are fairly mature. Not much finish can be obtained on young growing cattle that are roughed through the winter and marketed off grass the following summer.

The little pig that doesn't get to market has much to do with losses in the swine industry. The average hog raiser markets only 56 per cent of the pigs farrowed and gets no direct benefit from 14 per cent of the feed used on this account. Efforts toward reducing this infant mortality obviously must begin with the sows. A plan that has proved successful at the U. S. Animal Husbandry Farm at Beltsville, Md., is to put the bred sows in a corn field after the corn has been gathered. When they have cleaned up the field, shelled corn is fed by scattering it thinly over the field. This gives the sows plenty of exercise. About 2 pounds of corn per 100 pounds weight is allowed, and enough corn is thrown out at one feeding to last a week. Good third-cutting alfalfa is always accessible in a rack, also 60 per cent tankage or fish meal in a self-feeder. Then each sow gets about 1 pound a day of middlings or shorts, fed dry in a trough. Water is always available in an automatic waterer. The sows are housed in ordinary hog houses with

## Smoking Meat

The best fuel for smoking meat is green hickory or maple wood smothered with sawdust of the same material. Hard wood of any kind is preferable to soft wood. Resinous woods should not be used, as they may give a bad flavor to the meat. Corn-cobs are a good substitute for hard wood. Juniper berries or fragrant woods may be added to the fire to flavor the meat. The fire should be kept burning slowly, keeping the temperature between 70 degrees and 90 degrees. If the fire dies down too much the meat gets cold and the smoke doesn't penetrate readily. If it grows too hot it may scorch the meat. Oiled or waxed paper is best to wrap the smoked meat in. It should then be done up in heavy muslin or canvas and covered with yellow wash or ordinary lime whitewash to which glue has been added, as a protection against flies and insects. Hang each piece separately in the storage room; do not stack in piles. A dry, cool cellar or attic, with free ventilation, is a good place to store smoked meats if it is kept dark and flies are excluded.

## Industry's Stake in the Home Market Pledge

(Editorial, The Minneapolis Tribune, October 14, 1929)

Industry's stake in the Republican party's famous "home market pledge" (reproduced at the end of this editorial) is as pronounced as agriculture's.

At present the American people pay about a billion dollars a year to foreigners for agricultural products which American agriculture could quite as satisfactorily produce.

Through the home market pledge the Republican party promised to exclude from American shores this annual billion dollars' worth of imported agricultural products and so to turn that billion dollar market over to the American farmer.

The exclusion was to be accomplished by a tariff revision which would wall off that inflow of competitive agricultural products.

This particular billion dollars of American money spent on agricultural products is now passing outside the boundaries of continental United States, and traveling to the Argentine, Cuba, the Philippines, the West Indies, the East Indies, Java, the Hawaiian islands, Germany, Holland, Porto Rico, and countless other far places.

How much good to American industry is a billion dollars of American money scattered over the four corners of the globe?

Perhaps some small fraction of it may be recovered by the American automobile manufacturer and the American movie corporation, but the bulk of it, obviously, is lost to American industry.

Consider now what would happen if that billion dollars, instead of being disbursed abroad, were disbursed among the American farmers living on the mainland of the United States.

The largest part of the sum would inevitably linger but a short time in the hands of the American farmers. It would quickly be turned over to the American manufacturers in exchange for products which the manufacturers have to sell.

Thus that billion dollars might be likened to a football which the United States government would toss to agriculture, and which agriculture, in turn, would toss to industry.

Logically, therefore, industry should be fighting as hard as agriculture to see the transfer of that billion dollar market effected.

Yet here we are confronted by the paradox that industry is opposing the fulfillment of the home market pledge instead of championing it. Here we are confronted by the paradox that industry is making extra and special efforts to escape the annual billion dollars' worth of sales freely offered it.

What causes industry to stand in its own light, to range itself against its own interests, to block its own advancement?

One need not hunt long to discover why. The individual American industry is well organized, but American industry as a whole is not.

It so happens that the interests of

The County Agent is responsible only for articles over his signature. For the rest blame the editor—Editor.

often diametrically opposed to the interests of American industry as a whole.

Thus, while a fulfillment of the home market pledge in terms of casein might be harmful to one individual American industry, it would be helpful to American industry as a whole.

Or while a fulfillment of the home market pledge in terms of vegetable oils and fats might be harmful to one individual American industry, it would be helpful to American industry as a whole.

Or while a fulfillment of the home market pledge in terms of starch might be harmful to one individual American industry, it would be helpful to American industry as a whole.

Hence this strange situation develops: When a concrete issue is under fire, the one adversely affected industry, that is to say the one unrepresentative industry, is certain to speak for industry as a whole.

Industry as a whole, being unorganized, is inarticulate.

It remains silent and indifferent while the one individual industry which is really fighting its best interests volunteers to act as its spokesman.

In other words, industry as a whole is the victim of unrepresentative representatives.

Were industry organized as a solid unit, did it have a supreme directorate let us say, this sort of thing could never happen. The directorate would put all its power and weight and authority behind every move intended to fulfill the home market pledge made agriculture. The false credentials of the individual, vocal, and unrepresentative industry would be exposed.

Surely it is high time that industry as a whole began to organize in its own defense.

A failure to redeem the home market pledge will cheat industry out of an annual billion dollars' worth of sales quite as certainly as it will do the same thing to agriculture. Agriculture's loss will be industry's and industry's will be agriculture's; the two are one and coterminous. Cannot American industry as a whole see the damage it is likely to suffer unless it finds some method of stamping out this evil of unrepresentative representation?

### The Republican Party's Promises to Agriculture

A protective tariff is as vital to American agriculture as it is to American manufacturing. The Republican party believes that the home market, built up under the protective policy, belongs to the American farmer, and it pledges its support of legislation which will give this market to him to the full extent of his ability to supply it.

We favor adequate tariff protection to such of our agricultural products as are affected by foreign competition.

The Republican party pledges itself to the development and enactment of measures which will place the agricultural interests of America on a basis of economic equality with other industries to insure its prosperity and success.

Extracts from the Republican platform, adopted at Kansas City, June 12-15, 1928.

Will the Republican party keep its campaign pledges to the farmer!

### GOOD WOOD SHED NEEDED ON FARM

Because about one-half the weight of freshly cut wood is water, every farm needs a good wood shed under which the fuel wood may dry and season before being used in the home.

"A good wood shed on every farm will mean timber conservation and less labor expended in cutting and preparing the annual wood supply," says R. W. Graeber, extension forester at State College. "Dry, well-seasoned wood is an efficient fuel. It will lighten the work of the housewife and will pay liberal dividends to the whole family in terms of greater comfort and happiness. The more water there is in wood, the less heat it will throw off, because consider-

boil the water and change it to steam."

As a basis for this argument, Mr. Graeber uses figures recently secured from investigations in another state. These figures show that when first cut, about one-half the weight of wood is water. A cord of red oak, when freshly cut weighs about 5,000 pounds or about 2 1-2 tons. About one-half of this is water. Thus is seen the need of drying or seasoning before such wood is needed.

During the first six months, if the wood is piled in loose stacks, in the open where the sun and rain can work on it, the timber will lose about 40 per cent of its water content. A cord of red oak, therefore, after six months of efficient seasoning would contain about 1,500 pounds of water. At the end of the year, if stored properly under shelter, it would still contain about 1,000 pounds of water.

But wood piled in the open, absorbs a large amount of water every rainy day. The water content of red oak wood during a rainy spell may go as high as 1,500 pounds to the cord, says Mr. Graeber. But wood stored under cover, in loose piles, will show small change in water content after it is once dry.

### Brief News Items

Seventy-one 4-H poultry club members of Catawba county made a net profit of over \$12,000 with their flocks during the past season.

The mass meeting of tobacco growers to be held at State College for the purpose of deciding on the formation of a co-operative marketing association has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 17.

A car containing 77 fat hogs was shipped to eastern markets by a group of six Carteret county farmers last week.

Sixty-three cars of fat hogs have been shipped by Craven county farmers this season. The first co-operative car of peanuts was also shipped this fall.

Eight pure bred Guernsey bulls were sold recently in Cumberland county for an average price of \$81.00 each.

A co-operative shipment of 200 turkeys was made to the Baltimore market from Avery county last week.

After farming for 40 years, G. W. Owenby of Candler in Buncombe county says the opportunity for the young farmer is greater than ever before.

E. D. Bowditch was recently appointed as county agent in Clay county.

W. F. Bowman of Flat Rock in Henderson county reports that his flock of 114 White Wyandottes paid him a net profit of \$251 a bird during the past year.

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This is a Famous Vivani Set and includes Face Powder, \$1.00, Rouge, 75c, Tissue Cream \$1.00, Depilatory, \$1.00, Facial Astringent, \$1.75, Bath Salt, \$1.00, Toilet Water, \$1.25, Perfume, \$2.75, Brilliantine, 75c, Skin Whitener, 75c. Total Value, \$12.00. Special price, \$1.97 for all ten pieces to introduce the line.

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Your money promptly refunded if not satisfied.

Cullasaja, N. C., Dec. 3, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little girl seven years old. I have been a good girl this year. Please bring me a doll, a little stove, some candy, and some oranges.  
Your friend, MARIE SCOTT.

Cullasaja, N. C., Dec. 3, 1929.

Dear Santa:  
I am a little girl nine years old. I have been a good girl. Please bring me a doll, a tea set, and some candy and oranges.  
Your friend, JESSIE TALLENT.

Cullasaja, N. C., Dec. 3, 1929.

Dear Santa:  
I want you to bring me a doll, some candy, some nuts, and apples. I have been a good girl.  
Your friend,  
HELEN McCONNELL.

Cullasaja, N. C., Dec. 3, 1929.

Dear Santa:  
I am little girl six years old. I thank you for what you brought me last year.

This year I want some nuts, some candy, oranges, and a wagon. I will thank you very much.  
Your friend,  
LOIS CLARK.

Cullasaja, N. C., Dec. 3, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:—I am a little girl seven years old and in the first grade. For Christmas I want a doll, candy, nuts and bananas. Don't forget my other brothers and sisters.  
Your friend, EDNA HENRY.

Kyle, N. C., Dec. 6, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little girl eight years old. I am in the second grade. I want you to bring me a big doll, some candy, oranges, and nuts. Don't forget the other little girls and boys.  
Your little friend,  
JESSIE BALDWIN.

Kyle, N. C., Dec. 6, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am eleven years old. I want you to bring me a doll, a tea set, and some candy and oranges.  
Love, OPAL EVANS.

Kyle, N. C., Dec. 6, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:  
For Christmas, I want you to bring me a big doll that goes to sleep and says mama. I want a story book, tea set, and some candy and nuts. Don't forget the other little girls and boys.  
Your little girl,  
MAE BIRL ROWLAND.

Kyle, N. C., Dec. 6, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little girl ten years old. I have been good all the year so that you would bring me a doll and some dishes.  
Your girl, FRANCIS LEDFORD.

Kyle, N. C., Dec. 6, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little girl nine years old. I want you to bring me a big doll that will go to sleep and say mama, a doll bed, and a tea set. Bring some candy and oranges, too. Please do not forget other little girls and boys.  
Your little friend,  
FRANCIS ROWLAND.

Kyle, N. C., Dec. 6, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I want you to fill my stocking. I am in the third grade. I go to school every day. Please remember all the other little girls and boys.  
With love, LOU ELLA ROWLAND.

Kyle, N. C., Dec. 6, 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little boy ten years old. For Christmas I want you to bring me a little aeroplane and a gun.  
Your friend, NEWEL BALDWIN.

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