

### Farm Demonstration Agent's Column

Contributed by EARLE BRINTNALL

**VETCH.**—600 pounds of vetch seed was sown this year. Some of this was sown for use as a green manure crop and some will be cut for hay. At least eight farmers are using vetch for the first time. We have had all of them inoculate the seed. One farmer sowed the seed on a firm clay soil and made no pretense of covering. He reports a good stand.

**AUSTRIAN PEAS.**—Two farmers had the county agent secure for them Austrian peas for seed, the first to be used in the county. The result will be of interest.

**KOREAN LESPEDEZA.**—Three trials of this legume are being made in the county. It is too early to give results but the growth has been very satisfactory this year.

**HORTICULTURE—APPLES.**—We have two young orchards, set two years ago, that are excellent demonstrations of the economy of using first class trees when setting an orchard. On the farm of Chapel Tweed, White Rock, is a young orchard set with trees from a nearby nursery; trees that were unsatisfactory to the purchaser when bought. The trees in this orchard are only just getting started to grow and are not developing into first class trees.

In another section of the county Clyde Brown set an apple orchard the same year as Chapel Tweed. He used the best of trees from a reliable nursery. This orchard has made a remarkable growth the past season, some of the trees showing as much as five feet of new wood. These trees are well developed and some will be starting to bear fruit in another year. There is at least two years difference in the growth of this orchard and that of Mr. Tweed's. Brown's trees will be bearing by the time Tweed's are well started. The difference in the cost of the trees will be amply made up by the early returns.

**STRAWBERRIES.**—Mr. Leake, of Revere, reports a successful year with his strawberries set in 1927. He had no difficulty in disposing of the crop at a nice profit, many at his door. A sample given the county agent was of the extra grade.

T. A. Woody also reported a very good year with his new strawberry bed. He had a variety of berries and his season was lengthened more than the usual strawberry season.

**DAIRY CATTLE.**—Last year in our report we made the following statement regarding the dairy business: "We believe that it will mean much in dollars and cents to Madison County once the dairy business is well established." A statement of the amount of cream sent to the Biltmore Dairy and of the amount of money received for the same for the year ending September 30 bears out this statement. According to the statement mentioned there were 22,940.61 pounds of butterfat sent from Madison County during the period named. This is an increase of 54 1-3 per cent over the previous year's delivery. This amount of butterfat brought to the county \$19,706.07. This was new money received for something produced in the county. It was just so much more money than had been received previous to starting of the cream sales in March, 1926. It replaced nothing that was being sold at that time.

During the five months beginning with May the average amount of butterfat hauled from Madison County was 2719 pounds, bringing an average of \$1,227.00 per month to the cream producers. At the flush period 50 or more farmers were selling cream as compared with 30 at the height of the season in 1927.

Not only are we gratified with the amount of cream sold but are more than glad to add that this cream has all been of high quality. From the start 'quality' has been one thing that has been emphasized and the cream producers expect to deliver this sort of cream. The cream goes into the famous Biltmore Dairy butter which is largely sold direct to the customer from the Biltmore truck. Only once has the flavor of the cream drawn criticism. Then the county agent was notified and he quickly located the cause and had it removed. The only other complaint has been that the cream delivered by some of the customers was too rich in fat. We should state that there was another complaint. This was that not enough cream was being delivered. We hope to remedy this fault as time passes.

Early in the year the county agent influenced a dozen of those selling cream to purchase spring balance scales. He also secured a supply of

sample bottles and a Babcock tester. Then he taught a boy to operate the test. He hoped to induce some of the regular customers to weigh and test the milk from the individual cows and to use the results in feeding these cows and in culling if necessary. The success of this venture has been only partial. Starting with ten farmers who tested in March this number has dwindled to three on whom a report can be made.

J. E. Carter has a record of production on three cows, two of these running for 8 months each and the other for 5 months, an average of 7 months per cow. For this period these cows averaged 4129 lbs of milk each, 212.4 lbs. of fat, and returned an average of \$98.17 for cream. The average feed fed including pasture at \$2 per head per month was figured at \$50.47, leaving an income over feed cost of \$47.70 each. Besides this there was 10,420 pounds of skim milk which was used to feed chickens, calves and pigs.

Don Fisher kept a record on four cows for 8 months each and on one cow for 5 months, or an average period of 7 1-2 months each for five cows. During this time they milked an average of 8752.3 lbs of milk each which contained an average of 204 lb fat. The returns for cream were 470.23 or an average of \$94.05 each. Calculating the feed and allowing the pasture at \$2 per month, we have an average feed cost of \$37.45 each, aving a return over feed cost of \$56.60 each besides 47,387 lbs. of skim milk. Four of these cows wereifers with their first calves.

J. J. Keys kept records on 6 cows, five of these for 7 months each and one for 6 months each. Five of these started their test the first of April and one the first of May. Two were dry in September and two went dry the month of October. Averaging 6 months the cows milked we find at this average was 6 1-2 months, during this time they produced an average of 3896 lbs of milk, 305.6 lb fat, and returned their owner for is fat \$92.69 each. Their feed cost, allowing for pasture and grain, an average of \$32.50 each, leaving \$60.09 as the average return above feed cost for each cow for the 6 1-2 months. There was 19,660 lb of skim milk available for feed.

The above figures are for the summer months except that Mr. Fisher's cows and two of Mr. Carter's cows milked during March. We realize that the feed cost would have been increased during the winter months. So also would the price of butterfat. The figures given do show the possibility there is for the production of butter during the summer months in Western North Carolina.

There seems little doubt but that J. J. Keys is the master dairyman of our county. He was one of the three who purchased eleven cows in Tennessee in the fall of 1925. He drew from these eleven an aged purebred cow and two grade heifers. All were bred and freshened that winter and spring. Keys seemed to have drawn the lucky card when he took home the aged purebred cow. Not only has she been a profitable producer but she is fast becoming the mother of a herd of pure bred Jerseys. Today there are 6 pure-bred females in the Key's herd, all descended from the old cow. Always when you visit this herd you find the cows in the best of condition, they are never allowed to become thin in flesh. Never do they seem excited. They have been taught by their owner that man is their friend and show it in their attitude toward him. We may expect to hear more of this herd in the future.

J. E. Carter and J. F. Bryan, the others who purchased cows in that 1925 buy are also developing a purebred herd each. They have not been quite as fortunate as Mr. Keys in finding heifer calves from their purebred heifers but each has 3 or 4 purebred females in his herd. Mr. Bryan keeps the Jersey bull that all use.

Another farmer who is making good at the business of selling cream is W. O. Rector, route 1, Marshall. Mr. Rector does not have the select bunch of cows that Keys does but is a good example of what a few ordinary cows can do to a farmer's purse. Ten cows are maintained on this farm, the largest herd in the county. They are bred to freshen the late winter and early spring. They are fed for the greater part the feed that the farm provides, only a small amount of cottonseed meal and wheat bran being purchased. They are never fed heavily on grain, the intent being to utilize the rough feeds and the pasture that the farm affords. For a period of six months the past summer, according to Mr. Rector, their cream check

averaged over a hundred dollars each month. We believe that this herd of cows would produce more and perhaps as cheap fat were they fed with more attention to their production but we give this as an example of what 'just cows' can mean to a farmer.

The dairy business will continue to grow. The banks and the business men are strong for it. The Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, recently organized, gives it an endorsement. We have heard many farmers say that they are preparing to milk some cows. They see what their neighbors are doing and the lure of that steady stream of dollars coming in every two weeks thru the year is too strong. We have in Mr. Adde Fisher, who collects our cream and delivers it, a man who takes a personal interest in his work and who is doing much to keep up the growth of the dairy business. We have at least a few examples of the truth of our slogan:—

**5 CRACKING GOOD COWS and 100 CRACKING GOOD HENS PROPERLY KEPT build BANK ACCOUNTS AND FARMS**

We often remark that those who are milking the cows and who are looking after some laying biddies are those who are meeting the daily expenses with the most ease. Their attitude shows it, their clothes show it.

**POULTRY.**—The poultry business has suffered. The period of low prices for both eggs and hens early in the year discouraged many that were starting and today there are not as many good flocks in the county as there were a year ago. Not many new flocks started and only three new houses built. However we have those who are making good at the poultry game. In the fall of 1927 we induced nine to keep records of their flocks on the blanks furnished by the state. Most of these were carried for five or six months and then stopped. One did nothing after two months owing to sickness. Another stopped after 3 months, lacked stamina. A third gave no report after four months. We have the report on one flock for the entire year.

Chapel Tweed, White Rock, started with a flock of 142 birds and had 133 at the end of six months. He mixed his feed at home and sold his eggs at ordinary country prices. He realized a net profit of \$70.69, cents in six months on eggs sold over feed cost.

Mrs. Porter Bryan had a flock that varied from 124 down to 98. She mostly used home-mixed rations. Her profit from eggs sold, over feed cost, for the four months that we have her record was \$40.81.

Mrs. Jeter Bryan had a flock of Barred Rocks that varied in size from 98 down to 47. She kept a record for 5 1-2 months and then sold the entire flock. During this time she fed home-rations to a great extent and made a net profit of \$29 from eggs sold above the feed cost.

Den Fisher kept a record for five months on his Barred Rocks and had then sold it down to 20 hens. He started with 98 birds. His net profit over feed cost from eggs sold was \$61.27.

Mrs. V. E. Bryan had a flock of Barred Rocks that ranged from 114 to 31 laying hens. She made \$38.46 over the cost of feed.

T. A. Woody is perhaps the one that has made the greatest success with poultry. He and Mrs. Woody are very much interested in their flock of White Leghorns of the English Barron strain. They have not attempted to hatch their own chicks but purchase each year what they need. They buy from the same place, putting their order in several weeks ahead of the time they want the chicks. These chicks are carefully grown out and develop into large well put-up hens. The cockerels are sold at broiler age and usually pay for the feed used in raising the pullets to laying age.

The first of November, 1927, the Woody's had 180 birds in their laying flock. During January and February they had a severe outbreak of roup and pneumonia in the flock which cut it to about 140 birds. Many of these 140 were out of business for a while. They have culled regularly since then, always getting rid of the hens that stop laying. The first of November, 1928, they had 50 of their best old hens left in the flock.

The Woody's sold their eggs to a peddler until the cooperative egg marketing was started in June. During the year they sold eggs to the value of \$458.66. Their feed cost has been \$186.75. This leaves a profit of \$272.91 on eggs alone, or a profit per average bird of \$2.13. Besides this there has been sold old hens to the value of \$46.20 besides those eaten at home. (We understand that chicken is a welcome feed in their home.) Had they not had the outbreak of sickness in the flock during the winter their profits from eggs alone would have mounted well up to \$3 per bird.



To close the books without an expression of appreciation for your many courtesies during the past year would leave a debt unpaid—We wish you a very

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## The Bank of French Broad

plan at the suggestion of the County Agent. It has a cement floor and gutter; is separated from the horse and feed barn; the anchors are placed ready to fasten the James stanchions and stall which have been ordered.

**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.**—We have spent much time and energy in building the marketing of the farmers. We believe that this is one thing that will benefit the farmer as much and perhaps more than anything else. What is the use of encouraging the production of anything without there is a market for that thing? So in order that there is a market for that which we believe should be produced in this county we have worked to find it, to keep that which we already had.

**CREAM.**—We seem to have found a very desirable market for the cream. No change has been made this year, whereas, in 1927, two changes were made. A local party selected by the county agent, is employed by the Biltmore Dairy to gather the cream between Mars Hill and Marshall with a truck and to deliver it to the creamery. He weighs and samples the cream of each patron, and then the checks are written payable to the producer, the cream hauler delivering the checks twice each month. The matter of gathering the cream, sampling, testing, and the payments are gone thru without any attention by the county agent.

We have watched after the quality of the cream delivered, been on the job when complaints were made in this direction and corrected the same. We have in many instances acted as a go-between in getting slight mistakes in checks corrected. Until the amount of cream increases to three or four times its present amount, the market we have will satisfy. When such an increase is made then perhaps a cooperative creamery should be supplied.

**EGGS.**—During the winter, from early December until the hatchery burned, we packed eggs each Saturday and shipped to a hatchery. 48c per dozen was paid for such eggs. In June we arranged with the Biltmore Dairy to buy eggs, they paying a premium of 8 cents per dozen over the market for 'Grade A' eggs. Since then twice each week, the candling and grading of eggs has been a regular business. There is no record here of the number of eggs delivered but it will average very close to 120 dozen per week. The last delivery, Monday, Nov. 26, was 245 dozen. The price received for these eggs is at least 12 cents over the local price. The last check was for 53 cents per dozen. From this must come a cent a dozen for grading, and a slight amount for cases and fillers. A local lady attends to the grading, receives the check for the eggs from the dairy, and pays the producer. We calculate that, including the eggs sold to the hatchery last winter, at least \$400 more has been received for eggs sold than would have been received if disposed of on the open market.

**RURAL ENGINEERING.**—So much for this subject. We furnished plans to one person for a stock barn but they have not been used. Three, at least, laying houses have been built since we North Carolina plan. Mr. T. A. Woody was advised by the county agent to build a laying house.

different farmers gave one day each per month and kept the warehouse that is, in charge of it, calling and collecting for sales. This fall, farmers donated their services and kept the warehouse open for the busy period. We consider this a step forward the market we have in view, a new brick warehouse and a competent man employed to take charge of it. Thru this warehouse the farmer can buy their fertilizers, seed, feeds; thus it may dispose of their surplus farm products in quantities lots, 13 car loads of fertilizer were sold thru the warehouse, 9 in the spring and 4 in the fall. This fertilizer was purchased on a cash basis and sold at an advance of only 15c per bag of 200 lbs. At least 300 farmers patronized the warehouse in purchasing their fertilizers. We calculate that a round \$2180 was saved to these 300 buyers.

\$900 worth of seeds were purchased and delivered thru the warehouse. There was some saving on some of these seeds but the principal inducement to buy was that the right sort of seed of the best suitable variety was sold. Grass, clover, soy beans, corn, and a small amount of grain seed was handled.

\$740.50 worth of poultry feeds were bought and sold. The purchasers saved under the local price, about \$150. Fish meal made up about a third of this amount and was used for home mixing of poultry mash.

Three carloads of limestone were placed during the year. As with the cottonseed meal there was no solicitation the orders being given by those wanting the limestone. The dealers commission of 50 cents per ton less a nickel for handling charge was saved to these buyers.

Thru sales of cream during the year and thru the premium on eggs secured by the county agent finding a market, the extension service has meant \$11,100 to the county. Thru the cooperative buying the farmers have saved themselves \$1605. Either would have paid the agent's salary.

**CHRISTMAS AT BREVILLE.**  
No wreaths of red tipped holly,  
No sprigs bright and gay,  
Adorned the Saviour's cradle,  
Where rudely wrapped He lay,  
There were no Christmas dainties,  
No bright and pretty toys,  
Nor rang the joyous laughter there,  
Of merry girls and boys,  
But in the dingy stable low,  
On a bed of hay,  
The Prince of the house of David,  
All uncomplaining lay.  
Sweet mother near to love Him,  
Kind shepherds to adore;  
And his Father, God above him;  
He did not wish for more.  
It is the fine surroundings,  
That Christmas joy imparts,  
Nor gifts of price and beauty,  
But love of gentle hearts,  
Christ comes to all the lowly,  
And the proud he passes by,  
But they sing his angels holy,  
Only where Christ is nigh.  
—By Geneva King.

Tom Tarheel says that he gives thanks to an almighty God for the bountiful harvest and for the food and feed now stored against the coming winter.



**OLD FOLKS SAY DR. CALDWELL WAS RIGHT**

The basis of treating sickness has not changed since Dr. Caldwell left Medical College in 1876, nor since he placed on the market the laxative prescription he had used in his practice.  
"He treated constipation, biliousness, headache, mental depression, indigestion, sour stomach and other indispositions entirely by means of simple vegetable laxatives, herbs and roots. There are still the basis of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, a combination of roots and other mild herbs, with pepsin.  
The physician remedy for constipation, the order for the child and for you. And so you can get ready in a mild and safe way by using Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, why take chances with cheap drugs?  
A health will not stand months, and a weak will not stand years. It is placed on the market by Dr. Caldwell, and is the only one that will stand the test of time.

**The Store of the Christmas Spirit.**  
**Woolworth's**  
AMSTERDAM'S LEADERS STORE  
LAYWOOD ST. HONN 4312  
Head of Write  
LOCAL SHOPPER