

Swine Production Shows Increase

Almost two-thirds of the nation's farms now depend on hogs for part of their income, according to figures cited by the American Foundation for Animal Health.

In the north central states, almost three-fourths of the farms raise some hogs while in Iowa the percentage climbs to 85 per cent, according to the Foundation.

Between 10 and 12 per cent of the national farm income come from the sale of swine, the study continues.

More than 86 million hogs were slaughtered during 1953 making an average of 67 to 70 pounds of pork for each person in the nation. Pork also provided 50 per cent of the total meat consumed in the country, and swine are the greatest single outlet for farm-raised grains.

It was also noted by the Foundation that during the past five years a larger percentage of hogs was vaccinated against hog cholera than in any previous year. In 1953, more than 55 per cent of the total swine production in the nation was vaccinated, the Foundation reports.

Speed Expense In Many Ways

Raleigh — Cut your speed and cut driving costs.

Tom Creekmore, director of the Motor Vehicles Department's Financial Responsibility Section, said this week that excessive speed not only endangers your life but also hurts your pocketbook.

Creekmore was discussing the vehicle agencies traffic safety program in which speed control plays a vital role.

"At the pocketbook level," said

ON SAVING \$103,000.00

Robert Horongeff and Prof. John Hugh Jones think they have found a way to save \$103,000 on a normal 8,000-foot runway. The method of saving is surprisingly simple, but it seems to make sense.

The two University of California engineers studied the wear and tear on normal airport runways. They found that over ninety-five per cent of the traffic stays in the center of a runway, meaning a center area sixty-feet wide.

The normal runway strip is about 150 to 200 feet wide and, therefore, the center area, sixty feet in width, is the only area of the runway which has to be built to stand maximum wear.

The two engineers believe this center area should be built the usual 36-inches deep, but that the runway could be tapered down so that it was not as thick on the edges. Although savings would vary, depending on the soil in different parts of the country, the savings would be considerable in every case and the average saving on only one concrete runway of this size would be \$103,000, they say.

Foresight has a curious way of coming to a man after he is so old he has nothing to look forward to.

Creekmore, "driving costs go up every time you step on the accelerator."

He pointed out that when speed is increased from 40 to 65 miles an hour, gasoline costs jump almost 30 per cent. Cost of oil consumed goes up almost four times when speed is increased from 40 to 60 mph. At the same time, the cost of wear and tear on tires is two and one-half times as much at the higher speed. "Excessive speed is also costly in terms of human life," Creekmore warned.

Referring to figures compiled by the Motor Vehicles Department, he pointed out that during 1954 excessive speed was a factor in about one out of every three fatal auto accidents in North Carolina.

"Speed Kills — Take it easy" is a traffic safety slogan being advanced constantly by the vehicle agency.

Creekmore urged Tar Heel drivers to take it easy and take it seriously.

SUB HUNTS TREASURE

Edward J. LeCompte, of Oklahoma City, Okla., is an individualist. When he read about the discovery of \$2,000 worth of gold several years ago off the Bahama Islands, which was part of an old treasure, he decided to act.

LeCompte, a former airplane pattern maker, began the construction of a submarine. It was his idea to take the submarine into the Caribbean and other areas where old treasures might still be unlocated and probe around the ocean depths for wrecks and possible gold.

Though many people have had similar ideas, LeCompte is unusual in that he built a submarine, a three-man sub made of fiberglass. The submarine cost him only \$17,000 and is described as being fourteen feet long and containing its own power plant.

It weighs over 6,000 pounds, but is supposed to be able to withstand water pressure at great depths. The submarine is stronger than steel for its weight and the new submarine will probably make its debut in March when LeCompte heads for the Caribbean and secret treasures which are reportedly to be found in that area.

"We have no idea whether the expedition being planned by LeCompte will succeed or not, but we commend him for his individuality and perseverance. Whether or not he finds any treasure, he will certainly have whipped the problem of boredom and will have done something he will remember for and which he will remember himself pleasantly, until the end of his days. That is, of course, unless he falls to surface on one of his dives."



Two Madison County Boys Among Those In Land-Judging Contest

Among those expected to enter the Western North Carolina area land-judging contest next month are two boys from Madison County — Bruce A. Phillips, of Magnolia Hill, and Alvin Craine, of Walnut.

Teams from eight counties will compete in the April 2 event near Asheville. The contest is an event of the state contest at Dunn April 12. The contest is an event of the Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Finer Carolina program. The contest will be for the best land-judging in Avery, Buncombe, and Wayne counties, Jackson, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

Sheep Prove Most Practical To Mr. George Thomas

Madison County farmers are looking around for some other source of income to supplement their tobacco income. A number of farmers could try what has worked very successfully for George Thomas, a Madison County farmer of the California Creek section.

George is convinced that a flock of sheep is one livestock enterprise which pays its way the first year. He has a flock of twenty-nine ewes. George finds that the lamb pays for the cost of the ewe. The wool takes care of the cost of wintering. George feels that the lamb crop is clear profit after the first year, and then the wool pays the way.

One characteristic George likes about sheep is the fact that sheep will browse on bad days in the fall and winter when cattle stay close to the lot and have to be fed. Sheep keep his pastures free from weeds and briars. George says sheep have cleaned the daisies out of his pastures that used to be covered with blooms in the spring.

George is also furnished a good market through the wool pool in Asheville and the lamb pool at Clyde.

The U. S. Forest Service operates under three branches: State and Private Forestry, Research, and National Forests.

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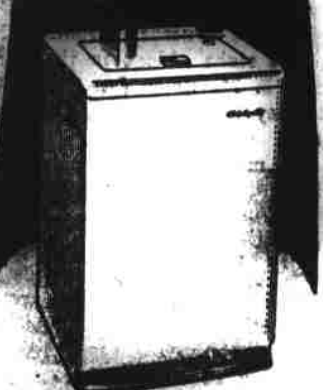
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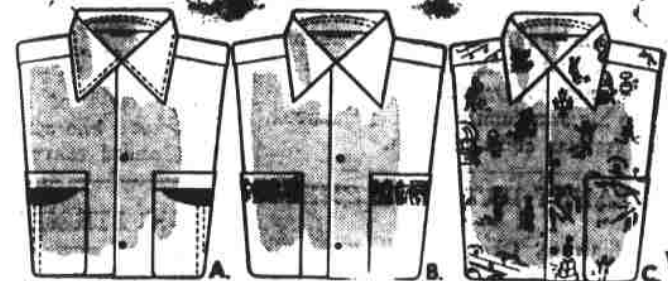
MOUNTAINS BETWEEN SEASONS

The mountains still are white with snow And wintry winds upon them blow. The balsam trees are green and bright And fir and spruce enhance the sight. With laden limbs all bent and low, Picturesque views the mountains show.

The signs of Spring will soon appear Where nature gives, year after year. The green to fern and mossy beds Mingled with wild flower-heads. God grant me strength if life prevails To walk again the mountain trails.

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