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The Mountaineer's

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Farm Review and Forecast



Rochester, Clay, Graham Counties Push Tree Planting

Western North Carolina have teamed-up to try to get landowners to plant for thousands of poor woodland and idle acres, according to Fred E. Whitfield, forestry specialist.

Outstanding Bull Now Available

An outstanding proved Jersey bull is now available to 65 North Carolina county artificial breeding associations, according to T. C. Blalock, extension dairy specialist.

The bull was approved unanimously by the Stud's Jersey bull committee after a thorough inspection of the bull and his daughters on the Mayne farm. Over 75 people representing 15 different county associations attended the meeting.

Those attending the meeting appeared to be impressed with the extremely good dairy qualities of the heifers. As one committee member expressed it, "Of the 25 daughters we saw, there was not one thick beefy heifer in the entire bunch."

The bull will be located in the Carmel stud for approximately 2 1/2 years and during that time will probably breed well over 15,000 cows.

Decay of the sills, joists, and other wood in the subfloors of houses without basements can be prevented by a soil cover.

Farm chickens sold this summer have been bringing farmers the lowest price since 1942.



FEMALE GRAND CHAMPION of the Aberdeen Sale and Show at Greensboro recently, was owned by N. W. Garrett, well known owner of two cattle farms—here and Cullowhee. Two animals from the Garrett herd of 143 were consigned to

the sale, and placed first and second in the same class. This animal (shown above) brought \$1,100 at the sale. His animals were the only ones at the show from this immediate area.

Farm Census To Bring U.S. Records Up To Date

Cover Crop Conserves Plant Food

An important feature of the new Winter Cover Practice under the Agricultural Conservation Program is the way cover crops take up plant food and hold these nutrients for use the following summer after the crop is plowed under.

He explained that for minerals to be of any value in feeding growing plants they must be soluble. When cropland is unprotected, winter rains and melting snows leach out and wash away these minerals.

Every year millions of tons of plant food — phosphate, nitrogen, calcium, potash, and other essential materials—are lost from cropland that is left unprotected during the winter. Actually this is the loss of millions of bushels of food crops that are probably already under tight allotments—a loss that the farmer just cannot afford at this time of drought and curtailment of production.

But with such cover crops as crimson clover, vetch, Austrian winter peas, rye grass, and rye, the land is protected against splash erosion and runoff and, at the same time, the growing plants take up the minerals in the soil. The minerals are held in the roots, stems, and leaves of the growing plants until they are plowed under in the spring. In the decaying process the plant food becomes available again for the new crop.

Keith explains that this new winter cover practice has only been approved for 71 drought-hit counties but that additional counties may be approved on the recommendation of the county technical committee and the County ASC Committee. By providing this type of assistance to Tar Heel farmers who grow and plow under cover

The Bureau of the Census, serving Uncle Sam as bookkeeper, brings the Nation's farm record book up to date in November with the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

Robert W. Burgess, census director, says, "We will get records of production, take inventory of our farm resources, and record major items of farm income and expenses."

Progressive farmers can compare items of income and expense from their own records with averages of such items from groups records to find how they can improve their own operations. Census figures by counties offer farmers statistics for groups against which the individual can compare some of his own figures.

One way the nation uses the census records is to answer questions about production. Burgess points out, "If Uncle Sam wants to know how much oil seed he has—and how much oil he can produce from seed crops—he turns to his census farm record book."

The Census Bureau has taken farm inventory every five years since 1920. Between 1920 and the first complete farm census in 1850, the inventory came every 10 years.

Farmers have been urged to cooperate with census takers to keep records up to date, complete, and accurate.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is actually helping to save tons and tons of scarce fertilizer.

An important factor in the 1954 crop production is the crop reduction program which covers cotton, wheat, tobacco, peanuts, and corn in the commercial area.

Consumption of cigarettes in 1953 fell a little below 1952, the first decline in several years.

Egg production this fall and winter is expected to be at record levels since the hatch was unusually early this year.

Harvest Sweet Potatoes When Size Is Satisfactory

By ROBERT SCHMIDT

Sweet potatoes should be harvested as soon as they reach desirable size. Since the sweet potato is a tropical plant it will continue to grow as long as weather conditions are favorable, so if the vines are allowed to grow until killed by frost many of the potatoes may be over size or jumbos. It is better to dig the crop as soon as the majority of the roots are of the most desirable size.

fully as possible so that there is a minimum amount of cutting and bruising. It is often said that sweet potatoes should be handled like eggs. That is an exaggeration but it is a fact that wherever the skin of the potato is bruised a hard spot will develop. Also, there is a chance that the potato may rot in storage if the bruise or cut is not properly healed. Grading should be done in the field and the potatoes picked up in the containers in which they are to be stored.

Bushel baskets and slatted crates are satisfactory storage containers.

For ten days to two weeks sweet potatoes should be stored at a curing temperature of 85° F. with about 85% humidity. After the curing period the temperature should be allowed to drop to about 55° F. for the remainder of the storage period. At no time should the temperature fall below 40° F.

Sweet potatoes should not be handled during storage. Handling will promote rotting. If any potatoes are to be sold, the entire containers should be removed, regraded, and not put back in storage.

Tobacco barns have been successfully used for storing sweet potatoes. However, they are not well insulated and the temperatures must be carefully checked during cold weather. Storage houses built especially for sweet potatoes are more efficient. Information about sweet potato storage and storage houses may be obtained from your county agent or from the Dept. of Horticulture, N. C. State College.

Cash receipts from farm marketings totaled 31.0 billion dollars in 1953, or four per cent less than in 1952.

Country dwellers increased from 18 million in 1940 to about 30 million in 1953.

U. S. farmers added about one million head of cattle and calves to their herds in 1953.

SPARTAN GROWS CHAMPIONS



Last Year's Winner Owned by Jackie Felmet, Route 3, Waynesville.

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Haywood County CHECKERBOARD NEWS By Joe Cline and Dick Bradley CLINE-BRADLEY COMPANY

you have probably already seen hunting and others are ready to go. To keep your dog in the peak of condition I'd suggest Purina Dog Chow. Feed 100 lbs. or more a week by our store, fill out my Card and you will be in for a big money-saving discount every bag of Purina Dog Chow.

FIRST FIELD When you take to the field with your dog, remember these safety precautions: 1. Keep your dog on a leash. 2. Keep your dog away from other dogs and people. 3. Keep your dog away from water. 4. Keep your dog away from fire. 5. Keep your dog away from electrical wires.

HEALTH HINT Several days before the cow is due to calve, clean and disinfect the calving stall with Purina Disinfectant. Simply follow the directions given on the Disinfectant bottle.

Several days before the cow is due to calve, clean and disinfect the calving stall with Purina Disinfectant. Simply follow the directions given on the Disinfectant bottle. Cleaning and disinfecting the calving stall is important, because cows are most likely to spread disease germs at calving time. Then, too, cows and calves are most susceptible to disease at this time. Make our store your headquarters for feed, sanitation and farm supplies. We will be happy to help you with your feeding problems. Next time you're in town drop by the store... let's get acquainted!

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