

Farm News

County Agent

(BY W. D. REYNOLDS)

The farmers from Duplin and Sampson Counties loaded two car loads of hogs at Warsaw last Friday, September 17. They received \$18.05 per hundred for top hogs, or hogs weighing from 180 to 250 lbs. F. O. B. Warsaw. The farmers were exceptionally well pleased with their sale. This was a fine lot of hogs as most of them went to, or at least over two-thirds of the number were in top class.

The Duplin-Sampson Livestock Marketing Association has already set dates through October to ship hogs from Warsaw. The next shipping date will be Friday, October 1st, and every two weeks through the month of October. The hog growers or those planning to market through the cooperative association, should notify their County Agent at least two or three days before the marketing date, in order that we may be able to notify the buyers and make arrangements for getting cars, etc., for the number of hogs to be loaded. If the farmers will cooperate with

us in this particular way, it will be a great help in handling the sales and make the job easier for all concerned.

The County Agent and Vocational Agricultural Teachers are particularly urging the farmers this year to finish out their hogs before offering them for sale in every case where this is possible. We feel like by doing this that the farmers will be able to realize more profit from their hogs, and at the same time, we can build up a better market in this county by having the hogs finished out and in top class which ranges from 1-30 to 250 lbs. provided that the hogs are in good shape. The hogs are usually lower in price when they are not up to top weight. We believe, by past experience, that the average farmer can put on more economical gain before the hogs reach top weights which in turn will set back to the farmer a nice profit for feeding, a few weeks longer in many cases.

Notice to Cotton Growers or Cotton Producers who wish to

take advantage of the Cotton Price Adjustment should keep their cotton sales records until we are able to get forms for them to list their records on. At the present time, the County Agent's office has not been furnished with sufficient forms to give to the buyers and the producers. However, we hope to have these in a few days and will notify the buyers when we have the forms ready, but by keeping the records of all cotton sold until we get the forms, it will be very easy to bring them up to date on the official forms.

There have been several inquiries, especially by the cotton farmers in this county as to whether it will be possible under the Soil Conservation Program for the farmers to destroy by plowing in or any other method any part of their cotton that was almost a failure, due to boll weevils and other causes or not. The answer is, that they cannot destroy any food or fiber and receive payment for same under this program.

There is one thing very encouraging to the Extension Department, at the present time, and that is the increased interest that the farmers have in planting winter cover crops on their farms this year. The County Agent has had more inquiries concerning planting of winter legumes, such as Crimson Clover, Vetch, and winter Austrian peas than ever before. We would like to see every farmer in Duplin County plant at

least a small "patch" of winter legumes on their farm this fall or winter. We shall be very glad to any time to offer any assistance

to any farmer who may desire to plant some of these legumes this year.

Crop Rotation Maintenance

The maintenance of a crop rotation system involves the continuing of crops that make up the rotation, especially the soil conserving crops, as well as maintaining the mechanics of the rotation cycle.

When seasonal or other conditions prevent the planting of a crop as scheduled, the field should be worked back into the regular schedule as soon as possible by substituting another crop of the same type. If this is not possible or feasible, the field should be in some sort of protective cover until the regular rotation can be resumed.

Maintenance of the soil conserving crops in the rotation requires good soil preparation and the proper use of lime, fertilizer and seed. The farmer should save his own seed whenever possible in order to have high quality seed and in quantities sufficient to secure good stands of the various crops in the rotation, especially of soil conserving crops. Land should be prepared for the different crops in advance of seeding so that a farm seed bed can be obtained and planting done at the proper time. The periodic use of ground limestone will be necessary on land where alfalfa and red clover are grown. Where the proper amount of fertilizer is used in the row and small grain crops of the rotation, probably no fertilizer will be necessary for the close growing crop succeeding them, except in places where sheet erosion persists and where the growth of vegetation is apt to be retarded. Such areas should be reinforced with

and additional application of fertilizer, preferably in the form of well rotted stable manure. Legume fields should be mowed when necessary to keep down weeds.

In many cases rotations can be improved by supplementing winter cover crops. Eye, crimson clover, vetch, or Austrian winter peas, sown in legumes, especially where the legumes has been cut for hay, make excellent winter cover preceding a corn crop.

Where the farmer's available acreage does not permit a good crop rotation, winter cover crops should be used on all bare fields. On tobacco land, rice or wheat may be used for this purpose. Winter cover crops in soil to be applying organic matter when picked under, assist in preventing erosion and leaching while occupying the land. In controlling erosion too much emphasis can not be placed on building up and maintaining the humus content of the soil. Humus acts as a sponge and allows the water to be absorbed and held by the soil, thus reducing runoff and washed and at the same time making it possible to withstand drought that may come later in the season.

Where a good system of crop rotation and other soil improvement practices are maintained over a period of years, the row crop acreage in the rotation may be reduced due to higher yields. Thus, the three year rotation of corn, small grain and lespedeza may eventually be lengthened into a longer rotation where corn is grown only once every four or five years.

SOIL CONSERVATION

GUY A. CARDWELL
Agricultural & Industrial Agent
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co.

We have heard a great deal about soil conservation during the past several years; more than most of us had heard before during a lifetime. In this connection the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering and the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Extension Service cooperating recently issued Extension Circular 216, entitled, "Safeguard The Gains Of Soil Conservation." Appreciating the importance of this subject and fearing that the circular might not come to the attention of the readers of my articles, I am using the material contained in Bulletin 216, not in one article, but in a series of eight articles, trusting that many persons may find time to read these articles and become acquainted with the principles of maintenance of soil and water conservation practices as set forth in the bulletin.

FOREWORD
During the past few years the people of North Carolina have made great gains in combatting

soil erosion. Such gains are evidenced, not only by such erosion control practices as terracing, strip cropping, contour tillage and rotations, which now protect thousands of erodible acres, but also by the large acreage of formerly cultivated land not retired to such erosion resulting crops as trees and grasses.

But erosion once under control will not remain under control without continued care. Terraces once built will eventually cease to function if not properly maintained; woodlands must be protected from fire and grazing; a good rotation, once established, must be continued indefinitely. To safeguard these gains, therefore, gains made at the cost of much time, thought, labor and money should be the concern of every land owner who has launched upon a program of soil conservation.

Although peanut harvesting has just begun, prospects look favorable for a high yield of good quality goods in Edgecombe County this fall.

STATE COLLEGE ANSWERS TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS

QUEST: How can manure be stored in general applicator?

ANS: The tank should be built so that the ends are not exposed to the weather and finished in such a way that water will not run down the center. Curves for ends are recommended for use on top of the tank. Fall two rows across on the center side 12 inches from the top to keep the sides of the ground. Loose soil in the tank will also come down to the ends and water and for this reason the ground should be fairly dry when the manure are dug.

QUEST: May skim milk or buttermilk be substituted for the dried milk recommended in the poultry laying book?

ANSWER: Yes. Where milk is produced on the farm this substitution can be made with a big saving in feed cost for the average farm flock. When only the dried milk is removed from the mash, one gallon of skim milk or buttermilk should be fed daily to 100

chickens. When milk or buttermilk is fed at the rate of 100 lbs. per 100 birds, it may be substituted for all of the dried milk products contained in the feed mash, and a small amount of the most usual recommended.

QUEST: How can I control the lice on my hogs?

ANS: The following remedy has proven effective in controlling this insect. A four percent solution of kerosene applied with a spray pump or brush. Cotton seed oil and kerosene, equal parts, and kerosene, applied in powder form. A dry or liquid remedy should be applied in an even layer over the entire body of the animal. Oil, however, should not be used on very warm or very hot days. When powder is used the hair should be clipped from the affected parts of the body and the powder applied only on the clipped places. A second treatment should be given within 15-20 days to kill lice which hatch after the first treatment.

Pick Cotton Early and Keep it Clean

The best ginning equipment in the country cannot produce high quality lint from dirty, trashy, damp cotton, said J. C. Ferguson, extension gin specialist at State College.

To get best prices for their cotton, he urged growers to pick the seed cotton as soon as the bolls are well opened, and to keep the crop as free from trash as possible.

When a boll opens, the fluffy cotton has a bright, creamy white color the market likes. But when exposed to sun and rain, the cotton becomes dull and gray, which makes for a lower grade.

Newly opened bolls have a brilliant luster that soon fades out with exposure to weather, Ferguson added.

While the gin can remove some of the trash, he continued, it cannot remove it all, and when trashy cotton goes through the gin, the lint is usually damaged enough to lower the grade materially.

Early picked cotton is not only more lustrous, he added, but it is cleaner—the longer that lint is exposed to weather, the greater its chance of getting dirty.

Cotton that is picked early in the season should be kept separate from that picked later, Ferguson said, as it is usually of better quality.

And if the cotton is damp when picked, he said, give it time to dry out before it is taken to the gin.

Seed cotton should be stored loosely in a dry place, and stirred frequently to facilitate drying.

Farmers of Yadon County are highly pleased with the new milk route, with reports indicating that about 295 gallons are collected each day from farmers along the route.

Legume Crops Make Nutritious Animal Forage

Legume crops, well known as soil-builders, also make excellent forage for livestock.

They give larger yields of more nutritious hay than the common hay crops, said Dr. Frank Sherwood, nutrition chemist of the central experiment station at State College.

Since legumes are more palatable also makes them a good feed per cent good legume hay added less waste.

Legumes are rich in protein elements not found in the proteins of cereal or grain crops.

Animals need all of the elements in forming skin, wool, or bone material, in building muscles, and for internal organs and tissues. A combination of legumes and corn provide an excellent protein mixture for cattle.

Legume hays are too bulky for swine, however, and the corn fed to swine should be supplemented with concentrated proteins such as is contained in fish meal or tankage.

Legumes are rich in calcium, but contain a small amount of phosphorus. Real grains and especially cottonseed meal and soybean meal are rich in phosphorus and supply this material when included in the animal's ration.

The high vitamin content of legume also makes them a good feed for milk cows and growing animals. Only fresh, tender pasture crops exceed legume hay in vitamin content.

If young pigs do not have the run of a pasture as little as five per cent good legume hay added to their ration will determine the difference between profit and loss—even loss of the pigs.

An increased interest in vetch, crimson clover, and Austrian winter peas is being shown by growers of Gates County.

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BASKETS OF TOBACO ARE SELLING UP TO \$75.00 PER HUNDRED POUNDS, AND MANY INDIVIDUAL AVERAGES ARE BEING MADE AROUND \$45.00.

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