

Items And Ideas For The Farmer



Soldiers fighting in trenches and foxholes on foreign soils may not be interested in the contour of the land, but farmers back home find contoured "trenches" pay dividends in food and fiber needed for victory. Conservation practices carried out in the past 10 years have done a great deal toward increasing per acre yields on North Carolina farms, and contour farming is one of the modern conservation methods which will help farmers meet their food production goals this year.

BLUE MOLD IS SPREADING OVER SOUTHERN GEORGIA

Demands for All Kinds of Materials Are Developing

Howard R. Garriss, Extension plant pathologist at N. C. State College, announces that Georgia has a widespread development of blue mold on tobacco, far more than usual for this season of the year. He says that no one can predict how serious the trouble will be in North Carolina but urges all tobacco growers to be on their guard and prepare now for its control.

Garriss suggests that growers anticipate their requirements in spray materials and paradichlorobenzene for fumigation because these materials may be hard to get on short notice. Emergency demands for all kinds of supplies are developing in connection with war needs and farmers should make definite commitments for their materials used in controlling blue mold.

Supplies of the heavy muslin cloth, suitable for gas treatment, are described as "very critical" and large scale demands for it will probably be discouraged, unless it can be shown that its need is absolutely essential. Growers should carefully preserve all cloths which can be used for fumigation and make the best possible use of them.

According to Garriss, most of the materials used for blue mold control are present in normal amounts but, as stated before, they may be very hard to get on short notice, with a consequent damage to young tobacco plants in this territory.

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GROWERS OFFERED NEW PUBLICATION ON PEANUTS FOR OIL

Discusses Factors Involved in Growing Crop Successfully

A new publication entitled "Producing Peanuts For Oil" has just been issued by the Extension Service of N. C. State College. Growers may obtain a free copy by addressing a postcard to the Agricultural Editor of the College at Raleigh.

The bulletin discusses "Proper Soil Selection", "Choosing a Variety", "Seed Treatment", "Fertilization," and many other factors involved in successfully growing the crop. Farmers who are planting peanuts for the first time, as a part of their war effort, should by all means get a copy of this publication and study the many practical suggestions found in it. Other growers, who have been producing the crop for many years, will find it interesting and instructive.

The national farm program is calling for a large increase in the peanut acreage, since oil-bearing nuts are so sorely needed to replace the imports which have been cut off by the war. Thousands of "new" growers are putting in peanuts and "old" growers are expanding their acreage to help in the war effort.

"What are the lime requirements of the crop?"; "Should Peanuts Be Inoculated?"; "What Cultural Methods Have Proved Best?"; these and many other questions are fully answered in the new publication.

Dr. E. R. Collins, in charge of Agronomy Extension at State College, compiled the information in cooperation with other agronomists of the Extension Service

and the N. C. Experiment Station. He points out that it is imperative that the crop be produced with the most efficient use of land, fertilizer and labor, at all times keeping in mind the maintenance of soil fertility for other crops.

TO HELP FARMERS IMPORT MORE SHEEP

To Rebuild Sheep Industry in State

The State Department of Agriculture will assist farmers in importing hundreds of sheep from Montana into North Carolina within the next two months on an effort to provide extra meat for the war effort and to rebuild the sheep industry in this state, Robert S. Curtis, livestock marketing specialist with the Department, said recently.

Curtis and his associate, T. L. Gwyn, are attempting to determine the reasons for the apparent lack of interest in sheep-raising in North Carolina. Since 1870 sheep production in this state has dropped from 560,000 to 50,000 head.

"Under normal conditions, with proper management, no other livestock can compare with sheep in profits to the grower," declared Curtis. He added that "many farmers make the mistake of trying to grow too many sheep on small farms. The average farm can not properly graze more than 40 head."

He explained that the biggest deterrents to sheep raising in this State—according to the farmers—are dogs and the stomach worm. Curtis said growers can meet these problems satisfactorily by not attempting to grow more than they are able to look after as regards safety and pasturage. As a rule, the pasture should be changed three times each year, if the stomach worm problem is to be avoided.

Last June, the State began a movement for the purchase and resale of seven thousand 60-v—resale of stock ewes and feeder lambs. (The project, now well established, was instrumental in bringing into North Carolina 750 sheep last year. Supervised by members of the Markets Division of the State Department of Agriculture and the Extension Service of State College, the project will be materially expanded this year. Efforts are now being made to contact small farmers interested in the sheep industry. The sheep will be imported and shipped to various points throughout the State. Each purchaser will in turn receive the sheep ordered through the project, paying for them upon delivery.

"Sheep purchased this year should return their initial cost—around \$17 each—in lambs and wool during May, June and July of 1944, depending on the date the ewes are bred after arriving in the State," said Curtis.

The ewes will be shipped from Montana sometime in June. They are being imported from Montana because the dry climate of that area prevents the stomach worm's thriving; consequently, the sheep are in good condition upon arrival. The annual 55 inches of rainfall in North Carolina sometimes prove harmful to young sheep, explained Curtis in warning growers against the stomach worm.

The ewes may be bred within two months after arrival if they are placed on good pasture and fed some grain occasionally. However, they should be given at least 30 days in which to recover from

the rigors of moving before an attempt is made to breed them. If the ewes are bred in September, the lambs may be sold in February. When one considers that the present retail price of lamb chops is 55 cents per pound, it is easy to see that sheep-raising can prove highly profitable.

Farm News

Fourteen Pitt county growers are protecting their hog crop by having 32 head vaccinated against cholera, reports S. C. Winchester, assistant county agent.

Jack Miller, 4-H club member of Nathans Creek in Ashe county,

grew one-half acre of Sequoia potatoes, produced 140 bushels, and declared a profit of \$73.20 on the small plot.

Ben Nicholson of Johns Creek in Jackson county set about 10,000 pine seedlings five years ago on a steep hill above his cultivated acreage. Six inches of pine needles prevent damage to his crop from washing.

Burl Talbert, 4-H club member in Catawba county, has invested the \$50 in profits which he made from one acre of cotton in a dairy calf, reports Assistant County Agent Jesse F. Giles.

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