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S.C.S. Activities

F.O. Clark
District Conservationist

This week we begin a series on conservation on farm woodlands. Farmers and ranches own more than a third of the commercial woodland in the United States and nearly half of the privately owned commercial woodland. Conservation on woodland is therefore important to farmers, and every farmer is anxious to get the best return possible. Let me know if the Soil Conservation Service can assist you further.

Growing wood crops on the farm is a farm job. It is not a separate activity. It is an integral part of your farm business. And, since you can do your woodland work at any time, you can make more efficient year-round use of your labor and equipment. Growing wood crops is basically the same as growing any other farm crop. It involves an understanding of soil capability for woodland planting, care and improvement of the trees, and harvesting and marketing of the wood crop. Trees are plants. The growth of a tree and of a cornstalk or a cotton plant are similar. Trees respond to soil management and cultural practices just as other plants do.

Technical assistance in relating soils information to growing your wood crop or to other specialized aspects of growing wood as a crop is available from both public and private sources - from private professional foresters, from forest industries, and from county, state, or federal forestry and soil conservation agencies.

Trees will grow on most kinds of soil in regions having long growing seasons and enough rainfall, but their rate of growth is greatly affected by the kind of soil, even where climatic conditions are favorable. The kind of soil you have may determine what kinds of trees you can grow. It may also determine the conservation practices you need to adopt. For example, some soils compact more readily or retain less moisture than other soils. Some soils erode more readily or have a higher rate of runoff than other soils. Compaction, erosion, and excessive runoff reduce the rate of tree growth on most soils. On soils that compact readily, you should prevent trampling by livestock and avoid using heavy equipment during wet periods. On soils that erode readily, you should provide protection against direct exposure to rain or wind.

Wood crops require less labor per acre than many other crops. Therefore, they will produce a higher labor income per acre. The risk of a crop loss is low. For example, in most states effective protection programs have kept the yearly fire loss to less than one-half of one percent of the total area of wood.

Keep in mind the economic considerations. The cost-sharing provisions of the Agricultural Conservation Program apply to several woodland conservation practices. The Internal Revenue Law permits certain expenditures for woodland conservation practices to be deducted from income taxes. Income from wood crops is reportable as long-term capital gains in income tax returns. The Federal Reserve Act permits national banks to consider woodlands as improved land for real-estate loans. Real-estate tax exemptions apply to growers of wood crops in many States.

Woodland work normally is nonseasonal; wood crops can be harvested when the market is up. New uses for wood crops are being developed continually such as hardboard, particle board, and pressboard. Demands for plywood and pulpwood are increasing steadily. More wood crops are being grown for industry by private landowners each year.

(To be continued next week)

Scull A Finalist In Piano Grant

Walter Scull, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Scull of Raeford, is one of eight finalists chosen in nationwide competition for the Cliburn piano scholarship at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Walter will go to Cincinnati, March 15, to audition in the finals. He plans to perform Debussy's Estampes, Brahms Rhapsodie (Op. 79 No. 2), and Bach's Bartita No. 1.

The Cliburn Scholarship winner will receive \$8000.00 over four years of study at the Cincinnati Conservatory.

Walter will graduate from Pinecrest High School in Southern Pines this spring and plans to enroll in the Cincinnati Conservatory next fall. He is now studying music under Page Shaw of Southern Pines, a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory.

Walter began his music studies under Mrs. Beatrice McLaughlin of Charlotte, formerly of Raeford. His succeeding teachers include Mrs. Lewis Upchurch, Jr., of Raeford; Mr. McKellar Iseal of Southern Pines, and Mrs. William Hartgrove of Hamlet, formerly of Southern Pines.

Later this spring, Walter will be sponsored in concert by the Sandhills Art Council. In addition to the scholarship audition pieces, he will perform Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata", Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition", Khachaturian's Toccata and Haydn's Sonata No. 7.

The Cliburn Scholarship at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music was established by renowned pianist, Van Cliburn, a Cincinnati graduate, in honor of his mother.

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School Menu

FRIDAY, MARCH 7
Sloppy Joe
Cheese Stick
Buttered Corn
Slaw w/carrots - A,C
Cinnamon Crispie
Milk

MONDAY, MARCH 10
Hot Dog on Bun w/Chili
Slaw w/Carrots - A,C
French Fries w/Catsup
Betsy Ross Cookie
Milk

TUESDAY, MARCH 11
Hogie Sandwich
(Cheese & Turkey)
Lettuce and Tomato A.C

Buttered Lima Beans
Jello
Milk

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
Beef-A-Roni
Steamed Cabbage
Carrot Stick - A
Peanut Butter Cake
Cornbread
Milk

THURSDAY, MARCH 13
B-B-Que or Fried Chicken
Fluffy Potatoes - C
Peas and Carrots - A
Cranberry Sauce
Rolls
Milk

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