

# Farm News

## Farm Focus

by Richard Melton  
Extension Livestock Agent  
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Extension Field Crops Agent



There are many ways performances are tested or checked in the world.

In the business world worker performance is tested or evaluated. Also, businesses themselves are evaluated as to their performance.

The focus of all performance evaluations should be on getting an accurate idea of where whatever is evaluated is at that point in time.

The goal of any evaluation should be to aid in improving the thing evaluated.

For beef cattle producers in North Carolina, there is a program available which does just that. It is called the North Carolina Beef Cattle Improvement Program. (BCIP).

N.C. BCIP was founded in 1959 to aid beef cattle producers in increasing the overall productivity and efficiency of their operation. Through the efforts of the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association and the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service the program was developed here in North Carolina.

Our program has served as a forerunner to most of the more than 50 other similar programs in the United States.

Through the use of information generated by the program, a beef cattle producer can improve the genetic potential of his herd. That improvement can occur if the producer selects animals with superior genetic properties. Many of those properties can be passed on to their offspring. For instance the weight of a calf at one year of age is greatly influenced by its parents. By selecting for properties of economic importance, such as yearling weight, frame size and carcass grade, cattlemen should be able to provide a more efficient and consistent beef product to North Carolina consumers.

N.C. BCIP can serve as an excellent management tool for both

small and large cattle producers. At present there are several Hoke County cattlemen using the program.

### HORSE CONFERENCE

A statewide Horse Science Conference has been scheduled for December 3 and 4. Plans are to have it at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Many different topics related to horses for both the business-minded horseman and pleasure horse owner will be discussed. A few of the specific ones to be discussed are health care, general equine management, financing, taxation, liability insurance, and legal aspects of horse ownership.

There will be many special demonstrations, presentations and films covering subjects ranging from practical horsemanship to breeding management.

If you are interested in attending, start making plans today. Please contact Richard Melton at 875-3461.

### HORSE FAMILY BOSS

Recent research has shown that geldings tend to be the most aggressive animals in a horse herd. Mares were second in aggressiveness and stallions third.

Three herds of wild horses and three herds of domestic horses were studied. The domestic geldings were the most aggressive of the animals in all six herds.

Overall, the domestic herds were most aggressive. That was explained by the fact that they were grouped closely together and competed for a single food source.

The wild herds were allowed to graze over rangelands.

According to this research it looks like the female wears the pants in the horse family.

The reasons for that are still not known. Maybe future research will shed some light on it.

## Farm Production Aides US Economy

### Agriculture's Role in the Economy

The agricultural sector plays a significant role in the economy of the United States. Through in-

creases in productivity, agricultural output has increased more than 70 percent since 1950.

This has enabled today's farmer to provide food and fiber for about

68 domestic consumers plus meet the needs for an ever growing number of foreign customers.

In contrast, one farmer provided for only 10 domestic consumers in 1929 and produced very little for export.

Currently, just under 3% of our Gross National Product (GNP) originates in production agriculture; however, the overall flow of agricultural products through the entire food and fiber system accounts for 20% of GNP. In 1981, for example, the food and fiber system generated nearly \$580 billion in GNP.

Perhaps most importantly, the economic activity in the food and fiber system requires the services of 22 percent of the labor force -- over 23 million people.

The export of agricultural products also has an impact on the U.S. economy and on production agriculture, in particular.

Production from nearly one-third

of our harvested cropland is exported.

Agricultural exports are expected to exceed \$42 billion in fiscal year 1982. Each \$1 billion worth of exports is reported to provide for 35,000 jobs.

In short, through improved productivity in agriculture we have been able to move from a predominantly agrarian nation to one of the most highly industrialized nations in the world.

It is well that we always keep in mind that the financial health of production agriculture very clearly influences economic activity throughout the U.S. economy. At the same time, events in the larger economy also affect the viability of agriculture.

## Hoke Agricultural Extension News

by Willie Featherstone, Jr.  
County Extension Chairman

### FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN EXHIBITING VEGETABLES AT THE STATE FAIR

Fair time in the fall provides an opportunity for many home gardeners to show off some of their garden products to the general public.

Experienced vegetable exhibitors know that "bigness" is not the only criteria for judging vegetables unless the entry class is for the biggest watermelon or cantaloupe, etc.

Some of the factors that will affect the placing of the vegetable entry in a particular class are as follows:

--All specimens exhibited should be typical of the named variety being judged.

--Each specimen should be as identical as possible in size, shape, color, freshness and degree of maturity. Uniformity is a must in a winning exhibit.

--Entries selected should be at the stage of maturity for eating quality. Specimens should not be cracked or blemished. They should be free from insect, disease or mechanical injuries and mold. Specimen quality and condition is enhanced by having a clean pro-

### Extension Looking For Refinishers

Do you have an old picture frame or a trunk you would like to refinish? If so call Ellen Willis at 875-2162 and discuss this.

A workshop can be planned later.

This is lots of fun as well as work. You will be proud of your finished product.

duct. Generally root crops need to be washed before being exhibited. Excess soil may be removed from most other vegetables with a soft brush or fine spray of water. Peppers and eggplant should be wiped with a damp cloth or a cloth to which one or two drops of salad oil has been added. Always make sure specimens are not injured in the cleaning process.

--Specimen size should be medium or slightly larger, or the size most commonly sold in the grocery store. Large specimens should be avoided because they indicate poor quality and over-maturity.

--October 15-23 is the time for the annual N.C. State Fair. The theme this year is 'A Treasure of Pleasures.'

There will also be County Fair's in some counties near Hoke County. You may want to check Local news media for dates, times and places.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

The federal projects, Title VI-B and Title I (ESEA) for federal assistance for education of handicapped children in the Hoke County Schools for the year 1982-83 is available for public inspection during planning and preparation in the office of the superintendent, Hoke County Board of Education between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Vote For  
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**Evelyn Manning**  
**HOKE COUNTY**  
**COMMISSIONER**

General Election  
November 2, 1982

Paid Pol. Adv.



Vote for a person  
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about Hoke County.

## Hoke ASCS News

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment to help determine the national marketing quota for the 1983 crop of flue-cured tobacco, according to Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The 1983 quota will be based on an estimated 1983 disappearance of 1,023 million pounds and on any needed adjustment, he said.

Rank said USDA estimates the total supply for 1982 at 3,135 million pounds based on a carry-over of 2,145 million pounds and estimated marketings of 990 million pounds. This figure excludes 13 million pounds of 1982-crop flue-cured tobacco USDA estimates will be marketed in 1983.

Rank said the estimated total supply for 1982 of 3,135 million pounds also is 588 million pounds above the reserve supply level, which now is forecast at 2,547 million pounds. However, USDA still is studying any needed adjust-

ment to be made before establishing the 1983 quota, he said.

Rank said the reserve supply level is determined by a formula set by law. This level equals the sum of a year's normal domestic consumption plus 175 percent of a year's normal domestic consumption, plus a year's normal exports, plus 65 percent of a year's normal exports, plus 5 percent of that total.

Normal consumption and export levels are based on a 10-year average adjusted for trends.

As part of the comment process, USDA will hold a series of public meetings, the times and dates of which will be announced later.

Written comment on the quota should be sent no later than Oct. 26 to the director, analysis division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C., 20013. All comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in room 3741-S of USDA's South Building here.

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Of course, costs and savings may vary, but the idea is to get the best deal you can on energy. So look for the label when you shop. Or just ask us for the details. Because the more you get out of your energy dollars, the more we can get out of ours. And the less your bills will have to go up later on.

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