

Farm News

Hoke Agricultural Extension News

by Willie Featherstone, Jr., Agricultural Extension Agent

PROTECT YOUR STORED GRAIN FROM INSECTS

There is probably more grain stored on farms in Hoke County today than ever before. And this increase in on-farm storage is followed by an increase in grain spoilage. Most often this problem is caused by insects.

These insects can be found wherever there is grain. Whether you store wheat, oats, rye, barley, shelled corn, grain sorghum, or soybeans, you must take steps to preserve the quality and market value of your stored crop.

The most cost-efficient way to protect stored grain from infestation is to treat it before storage. There are several insecticides recommended for this purpose. Some of them are Malathion, Dipel and Methoxychlor.

The second application involves

direct treatment of the grain itself. This should be done when it goes into storage. There are several ways to accomplish this. The most common is installation of a spray nozzle and metering device in the bottom of the auger. Subsequent turning of the grain helps distribute the insecticide throughout the storage area. Other methods of application include hand sprayers, drip applicators, compressed-air sprayers, and sprayers operated by motor driven pumps.

Third, a "topping off" treatment (top dressing the grain) helps prevent insects from entering the grain mass, or feeding on its surface.

For maximum benefits, be sure to apply the insecticide at the correct rate. When treating grain as it is stored, you must know the

capability of your auger and then calibrate the application equipment to match the grain flow.

Always read the label carefully and follow the manufacturer's directions for proper calibration and application.

When protecting stored grain, remember the old adage: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. A stored-grain treatment program which prevents insect damage and resultant economic loss is a wise way to protect your valuable investment.

A stored-grain treatment program has a number of important advantages, one of which is price. The cost of using the product as a preventive treatment is typically less than a penny a bushel, or about 1/4 the cost of fumigation.

Accent On Agriculture

Every so often we hear reports about how fast we're running out of farmland in this country. There's a big lobby out there called the National Agricultural Lands Study that keeps telling us this all the time.

However, University of Illinois economics professor Julian Simon is fed up with talk like that. In an article in the current *American Spectator* magazine, Simon cites updated crop reports that find that whereas in the 1960's there were some 290 million acres of cropland harvested, by the late 1970's they'd risen to 340 million. And, he says a conversion of some million acres of farmland a year into urban or other uses actually runs well below the normal trend of land attrition.

We hear a lot about the disappearance of trees; but Simon gets out the book to show an actual increase in tree planting and harvesting. Land for recreational purposes? Not less, as we're often told, but quite a bit more, along with more use by city people.

Ironically, part of the increase in cropland comes from a change in government farm programs that in the 50's and 60's paid farmers to take up to 60 million acres a year out of production. But, a lot of those programs are gone today. A lot more land is back in harness.

As to why a lot of people keep looking for a disappearing act is a complicated matter to figure. But, important thing to remember about farmland going out of production is -- that not very much of it is.

Beaver Trapper Sought By State

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is seeking trappers who are willing to help landowners who are having problems with beavers.

"Expanding beaver populations have caused an increasing number of landowners to seek assistance in controlling these animals," said Grady Barnes, assistant chief of the Wildlife Commission's Division of Wildlife Management.

"These problem beavers should be removed during the open trapping season when the fur is prime and can be marketed. Trappers can play a big role in helping landowners solve this problem," he said.

If you are interested in trapping beavers this season to assist landowners with deprecation problems, write to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Beaver Trapping, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, North Carolina 27611.

Include your complete address, telephone number (including area code), and the counties where you want to trap.

Your name will be given to landowners with beaver problems in the counties you list.



Tobacco seeds are extremely tiny. One teaspoonful can provide the seedlings to plant six acres. More than 250,000 seeds have been counted in only one ounce.



ROADSIDE CROPS -- This and other fields of cotton were brightening both flanks of N.C. 211 south of Raeford last week.



Ellen Willis
Home Economics Extension Agent

Thursday, October 7, 1982, 10:00 a.m. - Area Meeting - Rockfish, Wayside and Raeford Morning Extension Homemakers Clubs.
Hint: You have three business days to cancel an order of \$25.00 or more from a door-to-door salesman if you change your mind.

CURING GOURDS

Colorful gourds can spark fall centerpieces. And if you cure them right, they'll last for years. So here's something you might try. As soon as you pick gourds, give them a good bath. Add a disinfectant, such as a household bleach, to the water to get rid of mold spores.

Next, put the gourds on open shelves in a well-ventilated area for at least a month.

Don't let them touch each other or sit close to a heat source. Turn them daily. Before you use gourds, coat them with furniture polish.

This preserves colors and help protect against mold growth. If you keep gourds stored in a well-ventilated place, you can continue to use them in fall centerpieces for years.

FRESH GRAPES

There's a lot you can do with grapes besides eating them fresh or

using them to make a favorite beverage.

You can use fresh grapes in fruit salads, as an extra-special ingredient in chicken salad, or in mouth-watering desserts, including fresh fruit cups and scuppernong pie.

You won't have any problem finding grapes to put into your shopping cart right now either. In fact, if you and your family would like grapes for year round use, you can make grape juice; grape jams, jellies and preserves, or spiced grapes.

Just think of how good these preserves will taste winter, spring or summer. And you can use the raw pack method to can grapes for later use or if you wish you can freeze grapes for use during the non-growing season.

No matter how you plan to use fresh grapes, you'll want to select quality produce. Here's what to look for. When buying grapes -- choose firm, fresh-looking bunches -- the kind where plump, juicy grapes cling to stems, even when they're shaken gently. So take a tip. Add fresh grapes to your grocery list soon. And plan to can or freeze some for later use.

Hoke ASCS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has instituted an excess poundage carryover program for the 1982 crop of flue-cured tobacco.

This will enable producers to make arrangements with the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation to process and store their excess production without having to carry over unprocessed tobacco and expose it to insect infestation and quality deterioration, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said.

He said the program has been adopted because provisions of the no-net-cost tobacco program legislation, enacted on July 20, 1982, eliminated fall leasing -- leasing during marketing season -- for flue-cured tobacco. Prior to enactment of this legislation, he said, producers were allowed to lease additional quota for their farms if their tobacco production exceeded 110 percent of the effective farm marketing quota.

Since this is no longer allowed, many producers will have tobacco in excess of 110% of their farm

quota that must be stored unprocessed until the next marketing year, in absence of the carryover program, Block said.

Block said the handling of the processed tobacco under this carryover program has been limited to the producer-owned and operated Stabilization Corporation to assure the tobacco will be insulated from the commercial trade channels and will not be marketed until the subsequent marketing year, in compliance with the marketing quotas.

Block said that as markets close by belts, the Stabilization Corporation will name designated delivery points in tobacco producing areas where producers may deliver their carryover tobacco. The tobacco must be weighed and graded by an inspector of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service before being processed for storage and later sale.

Carryover tobacco is not eligible for penalty-free marketing or loan until the next marketing year, which begins on July 1, 1983.



TESTING -- This field growing Ed Hayes's cotton is getting an in-furrow fungicide and insecticide treatment for seedling disease and insect control. This field is on SR 1116 a short distance west of the N.C. 211 intersection south of Raeford. The on-farm test is being conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service of Hoke County giving 28 different treatments with several different chemicals.

Restricted Pesticide OK'd For Soybeans

The State of North Carolina has granted a Section 18 Crisis Exemption for the use of **Ambush** insecticide to control soybean loopers in soybeans.

Nationally, the soybean looper creates a 10.7% economic loss to soybean growers.

Under the Exemption, **Ambush** may be used at a rate of 0.1 pound of active ingredient per acre with a spray volume of 5 gallons per acre when applied by ground equipment and 1.5 gallons when applied by air. A maximum of two applications can be made up to 21 days before harvest.

Applications of **Ambush** should begin after blooming when 15 percent or near 15 percent foliage loss has occurred or when an average of eight worms per foot of row is present. There is a 60 day rotation restriction.

The soybean looper has become one of the most difficult pests to control. However, Charles R. Nash, product manager for **Ambush** at ICI Americas Inc., said, "The data submitted to EPA for label approval demonstrates **Ambush's**

outstanding control of the soybean looper and many other parts. We're happy to now provide the soybean grower with an effective alternative to the soybean looper's destruction."

Ambush is currently registered for application on cotton and has been approved under Section 18's on soybeans and a wide variety of other crops; it has also been granted 24(c) registrations for low-volume oil use on cotton in various states. Full registrations are pending for other crops.

ICI Americas manufactures other products for agricultural use. **Fuillade** herbicide is currently being used under Section 18's in six states, providing effective post-emergence control of a broad

spectrum of grasses in broadleaf crops. ICI also markets **Gramoxone** paraquat herbicide in the U.S. **Gramoxone** has been marketed worldwide for over 20 years.

Ectban insecticide is currently sold under 24(c) Special Local Need registrations for fly control around livestock premises. And **Havoc** rodenticide is available to control rats and mice on farms.

Ambush and **Gramoxone** are restricted use pesticides.

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