



OUT FOR RIDE — Julie Riley was riding Wildfire, Thursday afternoon when the photographer stopped to take their picture. The horse belongs to Julie's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. John Riley, whose home is nearby. It's on U.S. 401 north business, not far from Julie's home. Julie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Riley.

Accent On Agriculture

What are the real differences now between farmers and non-farmers?

A recent survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture reveals that farm residents are older, more likely to be employed and have an income that is still well below that of non-farm families. Farm population continues to drop, too. In 1920, 30% of Americans lived on farms. That figure has now dropped to 2.6%.

Here are some of the findings: The median age of the farm population is 36 years, compared to 30 years for non-farm residents.

Farm men outnumber women. There are 107 men for every 100 women on farms. This compares to 88 men for every 100 women in the non-farm population.

Seventy-two percent of farm

women are married and living with a spouse, compared to 54% of non-farm women.

Farm women bear more children, and are less likely to be employed than non-farm women.

Unemployment of farm residents ran only 3% last year, compared to the non-farm average of 8%. But, there is a leading factor in that statistic. Even when farmers lose needed off-farm work, they're still not counted as unemployed.

Farm families continue to trail their non-farm counterparts in total income.

In 1980, the total income of farm families -- including both that earned on farms and non-farm jobs -- averaged \$15,775. This compared to \$21,151 for non-farm families.

What a thoughtful idea for Christmas.



Give a subscription to The News-Journal and keep someone informed on what's going on in Hoke County.

In the coming months, The News-Journal promises accurate, timely coverage of news, sports and events, as well as feature stories on county people and places.

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P.S. Don't wait until next year, because the rates are going up.

The News - Journal

875-2121

Farm Focus

by Richard Melton, Extension Livestock Agent
Banks Wannamaker, Extension Field Crops Agent

CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

At present a group of concerned cattlemen are working towards forming a Hoke County Cattlemen's Association. If you have some cattle or are interested in cattle, why not come out and take part? The next meeting is scheduled for November 30th at 7:30 p.m. in the County Agricultural Extension Office in the Lester Building.

RABBIT FACTS

Rabbits are becoming an important part of the livestock industry in Hoke County. Because of that growth and the related interest in rabbits, I would like to provide you with a few facts on rabbits. They are:

...rabbits were first domesticated in Africa

...they were first considered as a domestic food source in Asia, 3,000 years ago

...rabbits have been marketed in Europe for over 1,000 years

...there are more than 200,000 families raising rabbits

...over 31 million pounds of rabbit meat is produced in the U.S. annually

...only 7-8% of a domestic rabbit is bone

...over 85% of today's furs are duplicated with rabbit fur

...rabbits produce thromboplastin which is used in the daily medication of about 20 million people.

SOIL SAMPLING

The time of year for farmers, gardeners, and pasture owners to start thinking about next year's crops is rolling around. An important part of that crop, both

production wise and cost wise, is the fertilizer you will need to use.

Soil sampling can play a major role in helping you determine what analysis and what types of plant food you will need to use next year. Not only can a soil sample tell you how much nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium you might need, it can also tell you how little you might need.

With the costs of fertilizer today, you don't want to put down any more than what you will need. Knowing how much nitrogen and potassium you will need also can help keep you from wasting it since it leaches from our soils so readily.

You can pick up the necessary boxes and forms at our office on South Magnolia Street. Why not get next year's crop off to a good start by soil testing this fall?

FEED QUALITY

With cold weather just around the corner, cattle and horse owners need to start watching the quality of feed their animals are getting. Cattlemen should make sure their herd is getting adequate protein and energy.

If they are grazing dormant coastal bermudagrass pastures, their protein and energy needs will not be met. They need some type of supplementation.

Horse owners also need to watch the protein and energy intake of their animals. However, horse owners need to watch the overall quality even closer.

Don't feed moldy hay or feed which you suspect to be moldy to a horse. Also, watch your horse closely if it is on a dormant coastal bermudagrass pasture. Every year people have horses to colic because

they were grazing dormant bermudagrass pastures.

The problem isn't the grass the horse eats, but the sand the horse ingests when it tries to rip the dead leaves on the grass off. That is because the stems and leaves on the grass are tougher and it pulls up easier when it is dormant. Keep an eye on your horse and pasture.

If it looks like it is pulling too much grass up, increase the amount of feed and hay you are giving to cut down on its grazing. If the problem gets too bad you may want to take the horse off the pasture.

HOKE COUNTY HOGS

During the N.C. State Fair Hoke County had a young lady do an excellent job representing it. Lisa Adams, a Hoke County 4-H'er, took part in the State Junior Market Barrow Show and Sale the first day of the fair.

She took two out of a group of five barrows she had worked with to show. The lightweight barrow Lisa showed in a 210-220 pound class placed a solid fifteenth in a class of twenty-two fine looking barrows.

Lisa's other barrow was shown in the heavyweight class. In a very tough class of 22 she was able to place fourth with an excellent red and black spotted barrow.

Overall, Lisa did a very good job of preparing her animals and herself for the show. I hope we can get more young people like Lisa involved in livestock projects.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to Hendrix Livestock, and to Kenneth Hendrix in particular, for all of his help. (He helped Lisa pick her show barrows out of their herd and undoubtedly did a good job.)

POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District and Hoke County Agricultural Extension Office are sponsoring a Fishpond Management Workshop on Tuesday, November 23, 1982. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. with indoor instruction at the Extension Office on South Magnolia and conclude with field demonstrations at a local pond.

Some of the topics to be discussed are fish stocking and balance, pond fertilization, pond upkeep, and aquatic vegetation control.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Also, as a part of the program, all pond owners are invited to bring along a small bottle of their pond's water for an acidity test.

TOBACCO MEETINGS

November 19 - Annual meeting of the Tobacco Growers Association of N.C., Inc. at the Kerr Scott Building on the N.C. State Fairgrounds. The keynote address will be delivered by Secretary of Agriculture, John Block.

November 30 - Tobacco Day '82 will be held at the Jane S. McKimmon Center, N.C. State University, Raleigh, N.C. Anyone interested in tobacco is invited to attend.

Please get in touch with us at the Agricultural Extension Office if you would like to attend either or both meetings. We can provide you with more information about them at that time.

Hoke Citizens Join Farm-City Week Programs

Hoke County citizens will join with 15,000 other communities across the United States in Farm-City Week programs this year.

As in the past, Farm-City Week will be the week immediately preceding Thanksgiving Day. The dates this year are Nov. 19-25.

In commending this observance to North Carolinians, Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. said there is a continued need for farm people to recognize they are partners in

progress.

"The prosperity and well-being of all citizens of North Carolina depend on the products and services of both industry and agriculture," the Governor said.

"Heading Farm-City Week activities locally is Charles A. Hostetler, Attorney At Law.

The statewide chairman is Mr. Frank Boyette, an agribusiness and banking leader from Lumberton.

The state vice chairman is John H. Hendrick, a poultry farmer and agribusinessman from Shelby.

Staff members of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service coordinate many of the Farm-City Week activities across the state. Some of the local Farm-City

Week activities include a program with Kiwanis Club on November 18, 1982 with a speaker from Cotton Incorporated of North Carolina who will talk about the value of cotton to the economy.

On November 23 there will be a banquet with John Balfour as the guest speaker at Hoke County High School, Gibson Cafeteria.



Until the nineteenth century, nine out of ten persons in America spent all of their working lives producing and marketing food.

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N.C. Alternative Energy Corporation
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