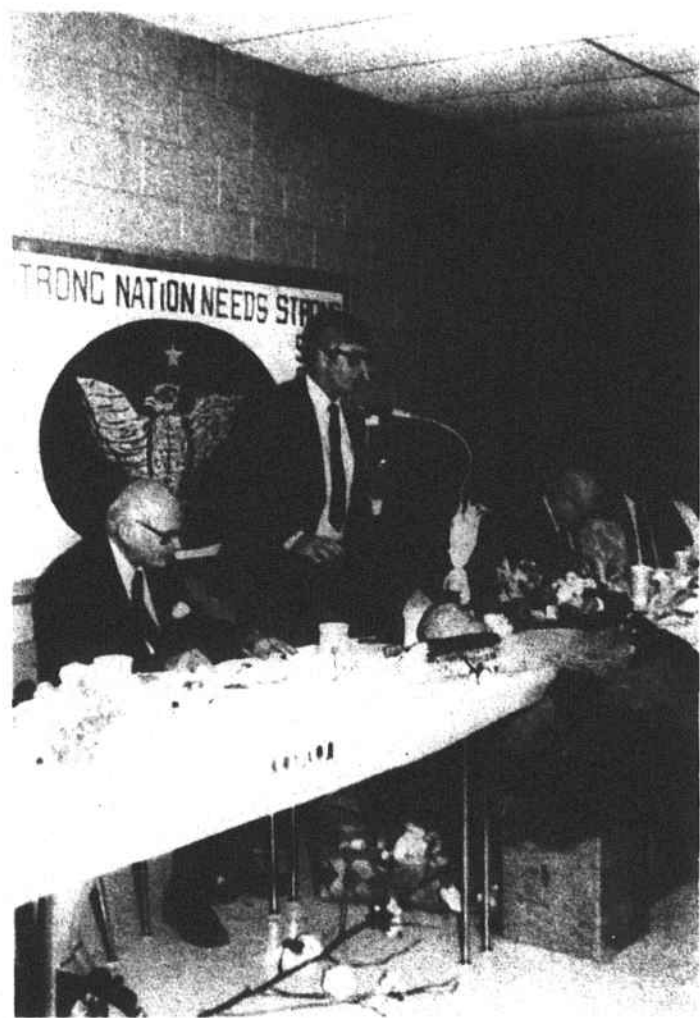


Garden/Farm



John Balfour starts making his address at the dinner. Seated at left is Charles Hostetler, and at right, Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr.

Farm-City Week Dinner Draws Crowd

By Bill Lindau

A total of 175 men and women in Hoke County businesses and in farming, and their guests last Tuesday saw T. B. (Tommy) Upchurch honored for his years of service to cotton farmers and heard farmer John Balfour describe cotton's present importance to Hoke County's economy.

The occasion was the 1982 Hoke County dinner meeting held in observance of National Farm-City Week. It was held in Gibson Cafeteria of Hoke County High School.

The theme was "Come Home to Cotton." Cotton contributes an average \$1.5 million of the \$20 million gross the county receives in income from agriculture.

Upchurch was presented a plaque by master of ceremonies Charles Hostetler on behalf of the Hoke County Farm-City Week Observance committee.

The occasion for the gathering was the annual Hoke County observance of National Farm-City Week in a dinner meeting held at Gibson Cafeteria of Hoke County High School. Hostetler is a Raeford attorney who also farms.

Upchurch has served on the board of the National Cotton Council, and as president of the North Carolina Cotton Cooperative and the North Carolina Cotton Growers Association. He is owner of T.B. Upchurch, Inc., and of producing farmland.

Balfour recently was elected a producer delegate of the National Cotton Council. Cotton is one of the crops he produces on his Stonewall community farm. He also is chairman of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners.

Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., welcomed the visitors after Hostetler noted the purpose of the observance. Dr. John C. Ropp, pastor of Raeford Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation.

Following Balfour's address, a cotton fashion revue was held, and Willie Featherstone, Jr., chairman of the Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service, talked about agricultural in general in Hoke County. The fashion show was narrated by Ann Hostetler, wife of the master of ceremonies.

Featherstone on behalf of the Agricultural Extension Service presented Hostetler with a plaque and each of the other members of the Farm-City Week planning committee a certificate in appreciation of their efforts of the past two years in connection with the Hoke observance.

The other members are Ann Hostetler, Edward Hayes, Lawanna Hayes, Ellen Willis, Onnie Dudley, Ken McNeill, Betsy Ann McNeill, Julian Butler, and Featherstone, who is committee vice chairman.

Hostetler also gave recognition to the Hoke Farm-City Week sponsor; the Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank, Tar Heel Turkey Hatchery, Farm Bureau Federation, Hoke Auto Co., Farm Chemicals, Inc., Raeford Oil Co., Hoke Cotton Warehouse, Parker Equipment Co., Raeford Merchants Association, Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce, Southern National Bank, United Carolina Bank, Hoke County Civic League, House of Raeford Farms, Inc., and Faberge, Inc.



Diners at the Farm-City Week dinner listening as the program starts.

Hoke Agricultural Extension News

by Willie Featherstone, Jr., Agricultural Extension Agent

DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE LEAVES!

Leaves, grass clippings, and many forms of vegetative waste materials can be made into valuable soil conditioner and plant food by composting.

There are several ways to use compost in our varied North Carolina soils. It provides a good usable soil amendment for the garden and is less expensive than peat.

When incorporated into the soil it is beneficial to improving soil tilth, water holding capacity and nutrient retention. Compost also makes an excellent mulch to help discourage weeds, conserve moisture and prevent crusting of clay soils.

Composting is the partial decomposition of organic materials. The best way to compost materials in a residential landscape is to make a compost pile.

Located in a well drained area the compost pile can be formed by concrete blocks, boards, or fencing supported by posts - the latter being the most popular.

Organic materials will decompose more rapidly if shredded first. Leaves can be shredded by running

the mower over them several times. Decomposition relies on microorganisms and the length of time before the pile will be ready for use in the garden is dependent on their growth.

Warm weather, minimum nutrient and moisture requirements are essential. Too little or too much of any of these factors will reduce growth and delay decomposition.

Try to locate the compost pile in an out-of-way place in the landscape, but one that is convenient to the gardening area and easily accessible when working with a mower or wheelbarrow.

Be certain to give the pile the support it needs. Use 4 x 4 treated posts and heavy-duty wire mesh screening.

In an area of about 20-sq. ft. (4' x 5') allow 1 foot of organic matter to build up, then sprinkle 2 cups of 10-10-10 and 2 cups of agricultural lime per layer. The compost pile should not be allowed to dry out completely. Keep a small depression in the center of the compost to collect water.

A layer of soil can be added to every 1 foot layer of organic matter also.

Hoke Soil & Water Conservation District

GRASSED WATERWAY

A grassed waterway is a natural or constructed depression, usually broad and shallow shaped. Waterways are normally installed on cropland, but may be used on any land where added capacity, vegetative protection, or both, are required to control erosion resulting from disposal of concentrated runoff.

Grassed waterways need a stable outlet to prevent damage at the disposal point.

Construct waterways large

enough to contain the runoff and shape to permit crossing with desired field equipment. Overgrade to permit topsoiling before establishing vegetation.

Final dimensions are determined by the volume of surface water, soil type, grade and type of vegetation to be established.

Perennial vegetation should be established as soon as possible after grading and shaping are completed. Spreading, close-growing type grasses adapted to the site are best. Bermudagrass, bahiagrass, bluegrass and tall fescue have proven effective in stabilizing soil under flowing waters. Consider maintenance requirements in making the selection.

Apply lime and fertilizer according to a soil test. Work the lime and fertilizer into the soil and continue working until a smooth and firm seedbed is formed. Uniformly apply seed and cover lightly.

Operating seeding equipment across the slope will reduce rilling during establishment. Apply suitable mulch materials and anchor. When available, bedding straw with manure is excellent mulch.

Check the new waterway after each rain for damage. Repair, reseed, and mulch if needed. Normally an additional application of fertilizer is necessary within the first year to get vegetation established.

Avoid using the waterway as a road, damaging the sod with tillage implements, or damaging with application of herbicides from adjoining treated areas.

Mow and apply fertilizer annually to maintain a vigorous sod. Repair eroded or damaged areas as they occur to avoid excessive damage and major repairs later.

Accent On Agriculture

A recent report prepared by the National Academy of Science concluded that most common cancers are influenced by diet.

The report also included dietary guidelines to reduce the risks of developing cancer. Two of the guidelines directly affect the livestock and dairy industries.

One contained this information: "Eat less foods high in saturated and unsaturated fats. Overall, fat should be reduced to about 30% of daily calories."

Their press release noted that the major sources of fat in the U.S. diet are fatty cuts of meat, whole milk

dairy products and cooking oils.

Another guideline read this way: "Eat very little salt cured, salt-pickled and smoked foods." Examples given of such foods commonly eaten in the United States were sausages, bacon, smoked fish, ham, bologna and hot dogs.

A group of animal agricultural industry organizations were quick to respond and they demanded that the National Academy of Sciences immediately name a task force to clarify the confusing information that was released to the public.

Perhaps the best advice for now is to follow the traditional guidelines: eat a balanced diet, with food from all four food groups and continue to enjoy living in one of the healthiest nations in the history of the world.

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Safety Stressed For Wood Stoves

Squirrels, those reportedly dependable predictors of an approaching freeze, are storing their winter supply of nuts higher in trees than in previous years.

If the squirrels and all other, more scientific forecasters are correct, this winter could be one of the coldest of this century -- 10 degrees below normal in some sections of the country.

The Insurance Information Institute says it's more important than ever before that people using wood burning stoves as a primary or secondary source of home heating exercise all the proper precautions to make sure that their lives and property will remain safe.

Since 1976-77, when the use of wood burning stoves started to soar as home owners sought an alternative to rising heating oil prices, there has been a steady rise in the number of residential fires caused by wood stoves as well as an increase in people killed and injured.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 112,000 fires in 1980 were caused

by solid fuel burning heating equipment, resulting in the death of 350 persons.

Both figures represent an increase of approximately 60 percent over the prior year. And, while figures for 1981 are not yet available, CPSC estimates that they will show another increase in the number of fires and deaths.

Burn injuries have also risen dramatically and in 1980 approximated 9,800, an increase of more than 80 percent over the 1979 total.

The magnitude of the problem of wood stove safety cannot be minimized, particularly when it's noted that in 1980 wood stoves were responsible to 53 percent of the 210,000 residential fires caused by all types of heating equipment.

During the same year, there were 757,000 residential fires of all kinds. In other words, wood stoves accounted for one out of every seven fires.

While wood burning stoves are attractive, a topic of lively conversation, a cozy way to heat a room or home, and generally well made, they are also highly dangerous if not properly cared for and cleaned.

To help reduce wood stove fires and their tragic consequences, the Insurance Information Institute offers a free leaflet, "Wood Stove Safety."

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NOTICE

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