

Ventilation Adjustments Help Solve Prob. Scald, Sponge - Damaged Tobacco

North Carolina tobacco growers can take a critical look at their curing facilities as they search for ways to insure against poor quality leaf.

Improper ventilation in the curing barn can result in loss of quality through brown scald and sponge damage, specialists at North Carolina State College point out.

Brown scald results when tobacco dries too slowly (sweats) with temperature and humidity too high for the condition of the tobacco. This condition can be controlled by supplying sufficient ventilation and properly loading the barn.

Sponge is caused by too high humidity or too low temperature or a combination of the two. This can be controlled by keeping the temperature up with the condition of the tobacco and by providing ventilation for rapid drying.

Under ideal conditions in the curing barn, cool, relatively dry air is taken in through the bottom ventilators and warmed as it passes over the heating units. The warm air picks up moisture from the leaf as it rises through the tobacco and goes out through the top ventilator.

Holes around the eaves or gable ends can result in cold spots as air is drawn down through the tobacco before it is heated.

The specialists recommend the following steps in guarding against "sweating" and sponge:

1. Don't overload the barn. Hands should be limited to an average of three leaves. Put 32 to 34 hands on each stick. Space the sticks eight to 12 inches apart on the tier. Tiers should be 22 to 28 inches apart vertically.

2. Provide sufficient and effective ventilation during yellowing and drying. There should be about 12 square feet of ventilation in the ridge and at least four square feet at the bottom for 16-foot barns.

3. Do not close bottom vents while the top vents are open during yellowing and drying out. Bar-

bottom vents especially if there is considerable wind blowing. Open top and bottom vents while yellowing as well as drying. Sometimes it may be necessary to close vents when yellowing tobacco harvested under extreme dry conditions or very thin tobacco. Early ventilation may dry the leaf too fast and set green color.

These and other more detailed recommendations are available in Extension Folder 170 entitled "Does Your Tobacco Sweat?" It may be obtained without charge at local agricultural extension offices or by writing Department of Agricultural Information, N. C. State College Raleigh.

Carolínians Look For Foreign Markets

How can we sell more of our farm products to Europe?

This is the question that 160 Carolina bankers and farmers, who will form the 1953 Agribusiness Caravan, will try to answer on a two-week, 10,000-mile trip to six European countries later this month.

The 1953 caravan, largest study group of its kind to visit Europe from the United States, will explore progress in agricultural production, processing marketing in England, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France.

Sponsors of the caravan are North Carolina State, Clemson College, N. C. Department of Agriculture and Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. Dates for the caravan are June 17-30.

Dr. H. Brooks James, dean of agriculture at N. C. State, describes the forthcoming caravan as "one of the finest things we have ever planned."

"The way to increase trade with other countries is to visit them, and find out what the people want and need," Dean James explained.

Meetings have been arranged with high officials of the European Common Market, and with agricultural, business and government leaders in each of the nations. One conference has been arranged with Dr. Sicco Mansholt, who is in charge of agricultural affairs for the Common Market.

Other caravan plans include: In England, seminars led by business and government officials on

market opportunities for tobacco, poultry and feed grains, and an inspection of modern cattle farms near London.

In Denmark (the world's second ranking nation in percentage of farm products exported), a study of advances in pork production and processing.

In Germany, a visit to West Berlin and a firsthand look at industrial growth along the Rhine River from Frankfurt to Cologne.

In the Netherlands, a study of bulb growing and other phases of Dutch horticulture and the importance of the port city of Rotterdam to Holland and the Common Market.

In Belgium, a tour of the National Institute of Agriculture and 3,000 acres of grapes being grown under glass plus a comprehensive seminar conducted by Common Market

officials.

In France, a study of achievements in farm production and marketing, particularly grain production and storage, and a discussion by officials of American companies doing business in Europe on 'what the Common Market Means to My Company.'

The six Common Market countries to be visited import about \$160 million worth of tobacco, cotton, poultry and feed grains from the Carolinas annually.

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Deaths

MRS. PEARL CARTER RICH
 Mrs. Pearl Carter Rich, 68, wife of L. R. Rich of Richlands, RFD, died Friday afternoon in the Duplin General Hospital at Kenansville after a brief illness.

Funeral services were held at the Baysden Chapel Free Will Holiness Church at 3:00 O'clock Sunday afternoon conducted by Rev. B. A. Daughtry. Interment followed in the Family Cemetery near the home.

In addition to her husband she is survived by four daughters Mrs. Pauline Williams and Mrs. Julia Grace Pickett of Beulaville, Mrs. Rhoda Pearl Lee of Swansboro and Mrs. Arlene Sanderson of Jacksonville, six grand children and five great grand children. Three sisters Mrs. Sarah Foster of Richlands, Mrs. Lina Tyndall of Pink Hill and Mrs. Mattie Whaley of Beulaville. Three brothers Kirby, Lewis and William Whaley all of Beulaville.

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