

Duplin's First Farmer-Of-The-Month Selected



The Maready family seated in their den at their home near Chinquapin. (L to R) Hilton Maready, Mrs. Lois Maready, daughter Jo and Donna.

The mainstay of Duplin's economy is the farmer. He offers his tobacco at one of five warehouses in the county. He brings his cattle and swine to Wallace, one of the larger livestock markets in the southeast, or to one of several hog-buying stations in the county. He draws upon the facilities of the huge Faison and Wallace produce markets handling a million and a half packages of beans, corn, squash, pepper, cucumbers and eggplants each "green season." And, he spends his money in the growing variety of retail stores and farm supply outlets.

The agricultural income in Duplin last year was a whopping \$55,272,285, up seven million over 1962. This regained for Duplin her rank as the number 1 agricultural county in North Carolina.

Tobacco was the leading farm enterprise in Duplin, 32 million pounds to sell for \$19,249,323. Poultry rated a close second, bringing in \$19,057,500, largely from broilers, twenty five million head. The third crop was corn, 5½ million bushels, worth \$6,600,000.

Hilton Maready, Duplin's farmer-of-the-month, specializes in these three major sources of farm income in Duplin. He is growing 18 acres of tobacco this year, raises out 80,000 broilers a year and plants a limited amount of corn. He is cautious about truck crops, cotton, livestock, and grains.

Duplin occupies 822 square miles of rich farm land, the seventh largest county in the state. The Northeast Cape Fear River bisects the county and Mr. Maready lives "over the river" in that fertile southeastern section of Duplin, only three score miles from the At-

lantic Ocean, low and rich were folks live close to the land, 3 miles south of Chinquapin just off of Highway 50. There Mr. and Mrs. Maready and their two daughters enjoy a modern, comfortable brick home and lend their support to a thriving and harmonious community and to a well-rounded spiritual and recreational life.

Mr. Maready is the son of Mrs. Epsy Maready and the late George Maready. He was born and has lived all his life in this same community. His mother lives just across the road from his home. Mrs. Maready is the former Lois McClung, the daughter of Mrs. Sallie Cavanaugh McClung and the late William Drew McClung. Her mother has recently purchased the Robert Cavanaugh grocery store on Highway 41, between Wallace and Chinquapin, and is now operating this large store as Sallie's Grocery. Mrs. Maready is a hairdresser and operates a beauty shop in the yard of their home.

The Mareadays were married in 1948 and have two lovely and charming daughters, Lois McClung Maready, 15, a sophomore at East Duplin High School, and Jo, 11, in the 6th grade at Chinquapin Elementary School. Jo is studying music and can already make the piano in their living room "talk." Mr. Maready is a deacon in the Salem Presbyterian Church, and he and his family are faithful and regular in their church attendance and interests. Mr. Maready remarked that he believes that he has attended every service at the church, without missing a time, for the last 18 months. The family is interested in church work and it seems to

give them much contentment, sustenance and comfort. Mr. Maready says that he lives in a good community of helpful and encouraging neighbors, always willing to bear one another's burdens and help in times of misfortune and discouragement.

All the folks are busy this week with their tobacco. They put tobacco in five of their eight barns the first two days of the week. The 18 acres of tobacco is tended about half by Mr. Maready and half rented to tenants, so that about 14 persons are involved in its culture, giving nearly enough labor to house the crop without help. One man is employed to help care for the 16,000 broilers in two houses, so that there are some 15 helpers on the farm.

Mr. Maready leases part of his tobacco acreage from others, and he is raising some 30 plots under contract to State College. The purpose of these test plots is to determine the effect various chemicals have on controlling black shank.

Speight G-5, with moderate black shank resistance, and N-C-2326, a high resistance variety of Hicks type tobacco, are used in the tests. The plots are treated with different chemicals such as Manzate, Dithane, Dow M-2633, Vorlex, Polyrax, etc. Some plots are untreated to show the difference between the untreated tobacco and treatment with various chemicals. The untreated plots are showing some 23 per cent loss from black shank where Speight G-5 was set and only 13 per cent loss where N-C-2326 was set. Chemicals applied to the soil have reduced the damage from black shank to some 3 per cent in the case of Speight G-5 and to less than 4%

with N-C-2326.

Mr. Maready's farm was chosen for these tests because black shank infestation is heavy in his soil. He lost about a fourth of his tobacco last year from black shank and some 25% of his '62 crop was destroyed by excessive water. But, this year, Mr. Maready says, "I have the best tobacco crop I have ever raised. Its culture has been strictly according to State College recommendations. Some of my friends laughed at me about farming by the 'book' at first, but it has certainly paid off."

He had been using heretofore some 2500 to 3000 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, but has a far better crop this year and used only 1600 to 1900 pounds to the acre, according to recommendations, saving some \$30 per acre.

Fertilizer dealers, farmers, chemical representatives, tobacco warehousemen and farm extension workers have trooped back and forth through Mr. Maready's yard and the test plots, even coming by the busload, until he is becoming so well known over the state that he jokingly said that he might run for something come next election time. "But, somebody has to do it, so we can cut our production cost," Mr. Maready said "and I just as well be the fall guy this time." State College will pay the money cost of the plots, but the Mareadays have put in a lot of labor and spent hours talking with various interested persons concerning the research project. Mr. Maready knows now that the growing of tobacco will have to be more scientific and that chemicals

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