

Growers Look For New Crops

Philip J. Denlinger
Assoc. Agricultural Extension Agent

The limitation of markets for grain as well as vegetables will be uppermost in the minds of farmers attending the Vegetables Growers School and Tradeshow in Kinston on Dec. 12.

The low grain prices this year have many growers looking for alternatives. "This may be a very risky strategy," said Dr. Ed Estes, extension economist from N.C. State. "Vegetables can net more per acre, but markets are very sensitive and an increase in supply of five percent can cause a 50 percent price reduction in some cases."

Estes will discuss ways of avoiding, reducing and dealing with the risks of vegetable production.

Another crucial area of concern for vegetable producers is obtaining credit.

"Many farmers just don't understand what lenders need in the way of information," says Dr. Jim Rathwell of Clemson University, another speaker at the meeting. "The real problem arises when lenders don't have the time and knowledge to communicate their needs for information," Rathwell continued. "Often loan agents are inexperienced and have difficulty asking the right questions to demonstrate a farmer's qualities as a good risk. We'll discuss more about how a farmer can help his lender to approve a loan request."

"I think our vegetable industry can grow dramatically if we concern ourselves with marketing as well as production," said Dr. Chester Black, director of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service. Black will speak on "Building a Solid Vegetable Industry."

There are many complex components of a vegetable operation, but two very critical areas are taking more play these days. "Irrigation is an important part of a vegetable grower's farm plan. It can assure a crop in any season," says Dr. Ron Sneed, NCSU extension agricultural engineer. "Vegetable growers can be helped by irrigation at almost any stage of the crop. At planting irrigation can improve stands. It keeps the crop growing rapidly. No stress at flowering assures a good fruit set," Sneed went on to say. "Irrigation during the crop maturation stage assures quality of pack."

Quality will be another subject of discussion at the vegetable meeting when Jeff Morton of N.C. Department of Agriculture discusses grading of vegetables. Jeff teams with Dr. George Wilson, NCSU extension horticulturist, who will discuss post-harvest handling. Wilson's subject, "There is Life after Death - Heaven? or Hell?" should prove interesting.

The group will also be treated to an update of production practices, new varieties, new pesticides and the latest in plastic culture.

"The program this year is outstanding," said Daniel Barefoot of Newton Grove. Barefoot is president of the N.C. Fresh Vegetable Growers Association. "We will have many exhibitors of vegetable specific

supplies at our tradeshow."

"Last year we had growers from as far away as Winston-Salem, Charlotte and even South Carolina," said Vice-President Eddie Byrd of Warsaw. "We are looking forward to

an even bigger meeting this year."

The N.C. Fresh Vegetable Growers School and Tradeshow will be at the Lenoir County Extension Complex, three miles south of Kinston on Dec. 12. The door opens and program starts at 9 a.m.



Kenansville Troop 50 Order Of The Arrow

The Kenansville Boy Scout Troop 50 has three members of the Order of the Arrow. According to Scout Master Conrad Jenkins, the Order of the Arrow is the honor society of the Scout organization. To be inducted as a member of the Order of the Arrow, a Scout has to be nominated by his troop. Troop 50 Order of the Arrow

members are pictured, left to right above: Bobby Hughes, Bo Hobbs and Brandon Hobbs. Bobby and Brandon have been inducted into the Order of the Arrow in the past two months; Bo has been a member one year.

Lenoir School Menus

Week of Dec. 9

Monday - chick filet or combo, potato rounds or broccoli with cheese sauce, applesauce or Waldorf salad, peanut butter delight

Tuesday - Manager's choice
Wednesday - sloppy joe or spaghetti with meat sauce, lettuce and tomato or vegetable sticks, peaches or pineapple, rolls, gingerbread

Thursday - hot dog or bologna and cheese, vegetable beef soup, fresh fruit, cookie

Friday - cheeseburger or steakum, french fries, or green peas, apple crisp or prunes.

Milk is offered with all meals. Each school offers extra items for sale.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank Dr. Dietrick, Dr. Redwine, the nurses, neighbors, friends and relatives for all the acts of kindness and concern shown me during my recent illness and convalescence at home with a broken arm. I love each of you.

Lena Davis



Chairperson Named

Duplin County Commissioners elected Commissioner Dovie Penney as chairperson of the board for 1986. Penney is pictured above receiving the gavel from the outgoing chairperson, Commissioner C.C. Turner.

Adults Need Tetanus Protection

Joe Costin, director of the Duplin County Health Department says that adults should show more concern about whether or not they are protected against tetanus disease.

Many adults may be susceptible to tetanus disease simply because they have not had a TD (Tetanus/Diphtheria) booster in the last ten years.

Older people in many instances cannot remember if they ever completed a primary series of three shots against tetanus. If this is the case, Costin recommends that they visit the health department or their private physician and inquire about protection.

Cases of tetanus have declined from a high of 601 cases in 1948 to only 87 cases in 1983.

Of the 87 cases, 84 (97%) occurred in people 20 years old or older. Sixty-seven cases (77%) occurred in people 50 years of age or older. Only one case occurred in a person known to have been completely immunized against tetanus. The other 86 cases were in individuals with no vaccination history, an unknown history or an inadequate history of tetanus vaccination.

In addition, Dr. C.L. Quinn, county medical consultant, states that if the potential tetanus exposure risk is high, you should keep tetanus immunization current ever six years. High exposure occupations include farmers, people who deal with livestock and poultry, including processing dead birds and their parts.

The highest risk of contracting tetanus is from a deep puncture wound, especially if the wound is contaminated with dirt that contains manure. Tetanus is a spore that lives in dirt. It grows best in deep wounds because it doesn't like oxygen. As it grows, it produces a toxin to the central nervous system that causes muscle spasms. The first muscle to be affected is the jaw muscle. Hence the common term is "lockjaw."

Costin urges all adults to seriously consider being vaccinated against tetanus. The vaccine is available, it is very effective, and in most instances, very inexpensive.

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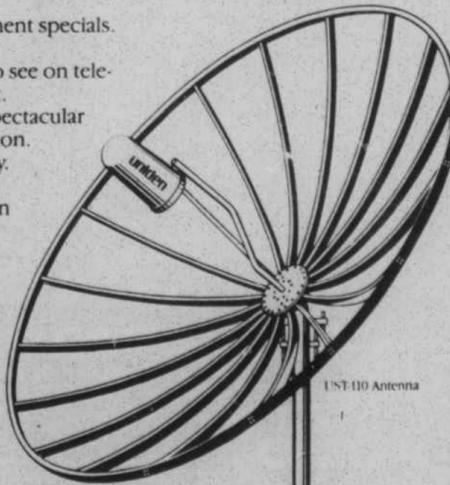
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