



AGRICULTURAL NEWS

INTEREST TO POLK COUNTY FARMERS Gathered Here and There Which Has a Local Angle that Makes It Worth the Progressive Farmer's Attention

Edited By "A Dirt Farmer"

SERVICE RENDERED BY AGRONOMY WORKERS

Several... have been ex... the department... College this... fertilizer recom... made to farm... examinations and... which have been... of the soil types... these soil samples... information sent in... the sample is

submitted, we are able to give specific recommendations as to the kind of fertilizer that should be used for a crop grown on the soil," says C. B. Williams head of the department of agronomy. "For years, we have been conducting fertilizer experiments on the various soil types. Recently we have begun to make these results of these tests more valuable by giving the farmer specific recommendations. These are based on an examination of a sample of soil taken from the field about which information is wanted. If the sample is representative of

the field, we can locate the type of soil on our survey maps and then find out the results of our fertilizer tests on such a soil and with a given crop. We are then in a position to advise definitely in regards to the kind of fertilizer that would pay best.

Mr. Williams states that a blank form is sent the farmer giving in sample and asking for certain specific information. When the sample is received, the soil is classified, an examination made as to its acidity and form all of the information given the agronomy workers are then in a position to advise the farmer definitely as to the fertilizer needs of his particular soil.

FRUIT OF QUALITY PRODUCED BY THINNING

Raleigh, N. C., April 26th.—While the mite frosts and cold weather will probably thin the fruit in many orchards, some growers may yet find it profitable to thin the fruit to produce good size and high quality. "The tendency of a tree is to produce the largest number of seeds orchardist wishes for his tree to perform the two-fold duty of perfecting a high quality of fruit and at the same time lay a strong foundation for bearing next season," says T. B. Morrow, extension horticulturist at State College. "This makes it necessary to thin. The objects of thinning are to increase the size, color, quality and uniformity of the fruit, to prevent

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Jacob Owensby, late of Polk county, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Fingerville, S. C., Route 1, on or before the first day of May, 1927, (date to be twelve months from the first publication of such notice) or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 14th day of April, 1926.
ROBERT OWENSBY,
Administrator of Jacob Owensby,
Deceased.

April 22-29-6-13.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Wesley Durham, deceased, late of Polk county, North Carolina this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Rutherfordton, N. C., R. F. D. No. 2, on or before the 15th day of April, 1927, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
N. D. MOORE,
Administrator of Estate of Wesley Durham, Deceased.
Edwards & Dunagan,
Rutherfordton, N. C.
Attorneys.

April 22-29-6-18-20

the branches from breaking, to reduce the amount of disease and insect damage and to maintain the vigor of the tree by regulating the amount of fruit to meet the size of the tree.

For best results, Mr. Morrow states that thinning should be done before the pits of seeds harden but after the heavy drop which usually occurs from four to six weeks after blossoming. No arbitrary rule can be given, but at the proper time, the peaches and apples will be about the size of a man's thumb. The proper spacing depends on the vigor of the tree, the fertility of the soil and other factors, but it is realized by most growers that a vigorous, stocky peach shoot from 12 to 18 inches long can bring to maturity 3 or 4 peaches much better than a weak, spindling shoot of the same length. Mr. Morrow states therefore that the peaches should be thinned to 4 to 6 inches apart and the apples to one to a cluster. Sometimes, if the apple clusters are closer than 6 to 8 inches, it may be advisable to remove some clusters entirely.

Tests made by the North Carolina Experiment Station show that a higher quality of fruit of good marketable quality is produced when the young fruits are properly thinned.

MORE INTEREST NOW IN DAIRY FARMING

Raleigh, N. C., April 26th.—Interest in dairy farming is steadily growing in North Carolina as shown by the report of John A. Arey, in charge of dairy extension work at State College. During 1925, three new cow-testing

dairy farmers owning 1,936 cows. These associations were located in Buncombe, Forsyth, Wake and Durham counties. There are now five active associations in the State. These comprise 108 herds and 2,722 cows. Some of the associations, notably the one Gaston and Mecklenburg counties, are buying feeds and mixing rations at home for the cows. During part of 1925, the Gaston-Mecklenburg Association bought cooperatively 34½ tons of grain and 75 tons of hay at a saving of approximately \$3,450.

The better sire campaign carried on last year resulted in twelve county agents putting on intensive campaigns and 250 pure bred dairy bulls were placed. In 1924, only 49 such bulls were brought into the State. A total of 221 cows were also placed in 1925.

Mr. Arey states that the 16 creameries operating in the State made 1,677,000 pounds of butter last year and that about 7,650 farmers are furnishing cream to these plants. Nine of the creameries received aid from the College last year in standardizing their butter.

Only four cheese factories operated during 1925, but these made 67,000 pounds of cheddar cheese and the Brushy Fork factory made 2,743 pounds of Swiss cheese.

Several of pure bred dairy cattle were fostered by the dairy extension office with 248 animals being sold. Some of these came from outside the State while others were both consigned and bought by breeders in North Carolina.

READ POLK COUNTY NEWS

Care of Breeding Stock Is of Great Importance

Apparently much of the trouble we have each year with poor incubator results is traceable to the condition which the breeding stock has been in for several months previous. A study of the results which some of our hatcheries are obtaining with eggs from different flocks hatched in the same machine indicate the great importance of this factor.

The hens should have plenty of grain in addition to the regular laying mash. Five per cent of linseed oil meal may be put in the mash to help the late molters in refathering. Green feed is particularly important to breeders. Do not use lights on the breeding stock.—O. G. Krum, Poultry Extension Specialist Colorado Agricultural College

Education of Children and Building of Roads

Two of the big items in public expense are the education of the children and the building of good roads. Does anybody seriously propose to stop in any degree financing school privileges and opportunities or halting the good roads program? The cost of chewing gum, cigarettes and cosmetics is greater than the combined cost of the public and private schools, colleges and universities, and lifting the highways of the nation out of the mud. Good roads are big dividend payers, and the education of the children much more necessary and profitable. There are plenty of places to economize without throwing the monkey wrench of disaster into the school-houses or the road machinery.—St. Cloud Journal-Press

All Good Thoroughfares Well Worth the Money

Middle-aged men, remember when there was a bicycle club in nearly every enterprising city, and road scrapers were sent out once a week, to scrape a path along one side of the dirt highways smooth enough for cyclists to ride on in comfort, until it rained again. There were no paved roads. There were few macadam roads.

More than \$1,000,000,000 are being spent in building roads through the country this year. More will be spent next year. The automobile club, replacing the bicycle club, keeps plugging for that, with help from motorist and even the pedestrians—if there are really any such persons left.

Everybody who knows anything knows the importance of good roads now. Yet there is always a question how far to go. Many good and intelligent men hesitate, again and again, to pay the money demanded for a street or highway improvement, in the belief that individuals or communities "cannot afford it." It has been proved over and over again that what cannot be afforded is bad roads. For good roads make transportation, and transportation makes business and property value. Every good thoroughfare, wisely planned and well built, pays for itself many times.

Convicts Struggle for Lead in Road Building

Prisoners from California's two state institutions have entered a race believed to be unique in the annals of road-building history. Under the direction of the California state highway commission, the convict camp from San Quentin is pitted against the camp from Folsom prison in a competition to be first to complete state roads into Yosemite National park.

San Quentin camp is seeking to finish the last seven miles of new state highway leading into Yosemite in Merced canyon. The Folsom gang is now completing grading of eight miles of state highway in the Kern river canyon.

The rival camps present the unique spectacle of state prisoners enthusiastically vying with each other to unlock the world famous Yosemite valley to motorists by a water-level highway that, it is believed, can be traversed at all seasons of the year.

Convict labor on highways has been in successful operation in California for some years.

Study of Revelations

The book of Enoch is an apocryphal book, first mentioned in the Epistle of Jude 14-15 and quoted by Clement of Alexandria, Origen and Tertullian. It purports to be a series of revelations of God made to Enoch and gives a history of the kingdom of God and the secret origin of laws of nature. It was much quoted in Jewish and Christian writings during the first five centuries after Christ; but disappeared with the exception of a few fragments about 900 A. D. The book furnishes information concerning Jewish theology and speculation during the centuries immediately preceding the Christian era.—Kansas City Star.

Thought in Lower Animals

Just as the monkey or orang-utan behave and think precisely as men do, so we find many animals, birds and insects thinking, and it is this capacity to benefit by the teachings of experience, the cultivation of memories and the power to reason clearly, quickly and logically that enables them to find ways and means for securing themselves in comfort during the coldest days of winter.

They do this in innumerable ways, and many species appear to exhibit greater intelligence and foresight than man in preparing for the winter season.

POULTRY FACTS

LIGHT AND FRESH AIR FOR POULTRY

Hens are on a strike. Colds, rump and frozen combs, the greatest food bin robbers and profit side-trackers of the poultrymen are chiefly responsible, say Kansas State Agricultural college poultrymen. Comfort for the flock means dryness more than, it means warmth. The hen is a high speed motor and in breathing throws off a vast amount of moisture. The solution is to leave at least one-third of the south side open, with no glass or glass substitute present to interfere with the free passage of fresh air or the direct sun rays, the college poultrymen advise.

"Poultry must have an abundance of fresh air and light. One of the simplest and least expensive methods of securing it is by means of the open-front principle," says W. G. Ward, the college extension architect.

"Openings should be provided in the upper part of the south wall, with an area equal to one-tenth of the floor space. If the house is reasonably deep no glass will be needed in these openings but muslin frames should be provided to protect the flock from draft during severe storms. In houses already built with many windows, the upper sash should be replaced with muslin frames which should remain open most of the time.

"In buildings inadequately lighted, the present small windows may be removed and the openings enlarged. Poultry will thrive in relatively low temperatures providing they are dry and free from drafts."

The poultry house also must have ample space to give best results, Ward says. From three to four square feet of floor area and from seven to ten inches of roosts should be provided for each hen, the larger figures applying to the heavier breeds. Too many poultry houses are overcrowded, and in many cases it will be found profitable to decrease the flock size, if it is not possible to increase housing facilities.

Good Stock Kept Warm Essential in Brooding

Chicks from stock of good quality, and a warm hover are two essentials of successful brooding. In the opinion of specialists at the New Jersey State college poultry department. High feed prices, they contend, can be offset only by heavy layers, and such birds can be produced only from vigorous chicks. Experienced poultrymen maintain a hover temperature of 95 to 100 degrees. At this temperature the chicks will arrange themselves around the edge of the hover perhaps not evenly, but at least in a few groups, and when so located one can feel reasonably sure that his flock is being properly heated.

As the birds become older they can move away from the heat if they so desire. If the heat is removed from them, however, they will crowd in close to the stove or in the corner in an effort to get warm.

In addition to plenty of heat, have a temporary wire fence, of three-fourths-inch mesh and eighteen inches high, stretched around the chicks for the first few days. After the third day, gradually open out this fence until the chicks have the run of the house. When entirely opened, however, the fence should still be rounded at the corners and should be three or four inches from the sides of the house. In case the chicks have a tendency to crowd to one side they will not be crowding against a solid partition. There will be an air space back of the flock, so that no serious results should follow.

The rival camps present the unique spectacle of state prisoners enthusiastically vying with each other to unlock the world famous Yosemite valley to motorists by a water-level highway that, it is believed, can be traversed at all seasons of the year.

Profit and Loss

Calculate the profit or loss on the past year's work with poultry. Outline the program for next year. Make a number of good resolutions to improve the weak points in the past year's program. Poultry will pay good dividends on the investment in proportion to the careful planning and wise management used in caring for it.

Poultry Hints

Firm, smooth eggshells are made with plenty of oyster shell and grit.

This is a good time to repair the hen house and provide comfortable quarters for the flock.

The only way to give them a good start, and to insure a heavy lay, is to give them the benefits of a clean house, free from insects, pests, and free from disease.

Cleanliness is one of the most important problems confronting poultry flock owners.

Straw costs money in some parts of the country, but bear in mind the distinction between a hen house and a dairy barn.

Clean eggs, packed in bright new cans will bring top prices. A short fattening period pays on all fowls to be marketed. A separate pen with moist mashes and grain before them at all times means quick fattening.

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