



# 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"

### RECIPE FOR WHITEWASH

Raleigh, N. C., May 26.—Numerous recipes are received by the extension division of State College about white wash to use for the repair of other outbuildings. The best are particularly numerous during the early spring and summer. The following directions used with success in other states may give an effective wash for use in North Carolina: Take a half bushel of quicklime or lime with boiling water, keeping stirred during the process. Strain and add a peck of salt dissolved in warm water, three pounds of lime dissolved in water until it thin paste, a half pound of Spanish lime and a pound of clear blue lime in warm water. Mix these together well and let the mixture stand for several days. Heat it and

apply as quickly as possible with the whitewash brush. "Alum added to whitewash will make it stick together. Use an ounce to a gallon. Molasses makes the lime more soluble and makes it penetrate the wood or plaster more deeply. Use a pint of molasses to a gallon of boiling water and added to five gallons of thick whitewash will impart a gloss like that of oil paint."

### EARLINESS IS FACTOR IN SECOND APPLICATION

Raleigh, N. C., May 26.—Experiments show that to get the best results from a second application of fertilizers to cotton and corn, the application must be put on early. "Our tests show that a bigger increase in yield is made when the nitrate of soda is applied to corn when it is from one foot to two feet in

height rather than to corn which is bunching in tassel," says E. C. Blair, extension agronomist at State College. "When the nitrogen is applied too late, more of it goes to increase stalk growth than to boost ear production. "With cotton, the best time to make the second application is immediately after the crop has been thinned or chopped out. This practice will nearly always result in more seed cotton being produced per acre. Bigger yields are secured in making the application right after chopping than when the same amount of nitrogen is applied when the cotton plant is on squares or is blooming. A part of this difference is due to the fact that a late application of nitrogen will tend to make the crop mature late."

Mr. Blair states that on very sandy soils it might be best to divide the nitrogen application and apply part at planting and the other part as a side application. However, he thinks that there is no reason why all the phosphoric acid and potash should not be applied before planting the crop. For that reason he recommends the second application to consist of nitrogen carriers like nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia or some other quickly available ammoniate. Where too little phosphate and potash has been originally, more may be applied with the side application of nitrogen.

### KILL EARLY WEEDS BY FREQUENT CULTIVATION

Raleigh, N. C., May 26.—The success or failure of a crop is often determined by the preparation of the seed bed and the early cultivation. The beginning of proper cultivation is in the careful preparation of the seed bed because it is hardly possible to

get the soil in proper condition after the seed has been planted.

"Three things are necessary for the germination and growth of all seed," says C. R. Hudson of the farm demonstration division at State College. "These are moisture, air and sufficient warmth. The first two are secured through good preparation of the seed bed while the warmth may be influenced by the same process. If the soil has been gradually deepened year after year by careful plowing, breaking the land should always be followed by harrowing or disking given, if possible, with 24 hours after the plowing. Then the soil needs to settle so that the seed bed will be hard after which another harrowing is given to re-establish the mulch."

Cultivation after the seeds are planted is not only to keep down weeds and grass which would take up the moisture and plant food and shade the crop, but also to keep the top soil open, to make more plant food available and to give help in warming the soil. The time to kill weeds and grass, according to Mr. Hudson, is soon after rains when the seeds are germinating or just coming through the soil. Any kind of stirring at this time destroys them. Weeds are more difficult to eradicate after they have grown an inch or two above the soil. Mr. Hudson urges the use of the weeder or harrow immediately after rains as one of the most effectual and economical cultivations that may be given.

Maintaining the soil mulch is one of the important things during the summer. If the soil crust is kept loose, very little other cultivation is needed.

A 12-acre field of alfalfa solved the feed bill of B. I. Dunlap of Ansonville in Anson county last summer. In spite of close grazing during the drouth, the crop came back in good shape after the fall rains.

### INFERTILE EGG BEST FOR SUMMER TRADE

Raleigh, N. C., May 26.—Summer heat has the same effect on fertile eggs as the setting hen or incubator. The germ, in hot weather, will quickly develop a blood ring which spoils the egg for food and market purposes.

"Fresh eggs for table use should be infertile," says Allen G. Oliver, poultry extension specialist at State College. "Those who keep poultry should either sell, kill or confine the male birds as soon as the hatching season is over. Those males which are good enough for breeding purposes should not run with the hens all the year around. By this method the males will produce stronger germ eggs that in turn will produce stronger chicks."

Mr. Oliver states that if the hen is properly fed, if the nests are clean, the eggs gathered twice daily, stored in a cool, dry place and delivered to the consumer in prime condition, the consumer will be willing to pay the highest market price. But if the rooster is allowed to run with the flock after hatching season, if the hens are not properly and regularly fed, if the nests are dirty and crowded and the eggs are gathered every few days and stored in a warm place before delivery some days later, the consumer wants a gas mask when the food comes to him at the table.

Bad eggs are certainly preventable, according to Mr. Oliver. As a first step in this direction, he urges the removal of the rooster from the flock and then better care and handling of the eggs until they are sold. The poultryman should also begin to look for mites and lice during the hot weather and take steps to control these pests.

Fifty acres of alfalfa in a demonstration in Halifax county will cut a ton and a half of hay at the first cutting.

### CLUB BOYS AND GIRLS WILL ATTEND SHORT COURSE

Raleigh, N. C., May 26.—Between 400 and 500 boys and girls, members of the organized agricultural clubs in North Carolina, will gather at State College for the sixth annual short course to be held during the week of July 5 to 10.

The short course will be held as a part of the Summer School and each organized county will be allowed to send 10 boys and 10 girls. These young folks will be selected from among the leaders in club work by the home and farm agents of the extension service, and will be given a week of intensive training while at the college.

According to L. R. Harrill, club leader, the organized clubs are now endeavoring to raise money for sending their representatives. The total expenses of the course for each member while at college will be \$7.50. This is a blanket charge which covers all expenses for board, room rent and the cost of materials and supplies used in laboratory or demonstration work. Mr. Harrill states that the railroads have offered a round trip rate of one and one-half fare on the certificate plan, and those members who intend to come by rail can secure the certificates from Mr. Harrill. The present enrollment of club members in the state is about 4,000. These members are in organized clubs and are studying specific problems. Instruction is being given by the home and farm agents and by the club leaders who have attended former short courses at the college.

Mr. Harrill states that many of the clubs have already secured sufficient funds to send their representatives and others are hard at work now on this project.

Pastures seeded this spring have been held back by lack of rain and should not be grazed too closely, says Sam J. Kirby, pasture specialist.

Iron and Brabham varieties of cowpeas are now much in demand for planting on wilt infested land in Richmond county. Demonstrations made last year by County Agent J. L. Dove proved these varieties to be efficient producers on such lands.

The commercial peach crop of Scotland county will be fairly good, reports County Agent S. E. Evans.

A combination of vetch, barley and oats is proving a fine hay crop for Union county farmers.

And now scientists destroy another illusion by finding that it is the discontented hen that sings. No more can we praise the peaceful and contented singing of the barnyard bird.

Tom Tarheel says the boll weevil may be coming out of his winter bed a little slowly, but he can make up for lost time when he gets out.

### PEACHES

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### RADIO REVOLUTIONIZING FARM ENTERTAINMENT

At the present rate at which radios are being installed by farmers, it is only a question of a short time until they will be more common than the telephone. Not long ago the writer was on a farm far removed from the railroad, the nearest town being something like fifteen miles away. Those on this farm were good people, but they have worked for a living and have done without some of the comforts and most of the luxuries of life. The house was not screened, nor was there any telephone in it, but in the front room there was installed one of the latest, most modern and most powerful radio sets made. Any station in the United States could be readily picked up by this outfit.

Only a few years ago, if one had talked about sitting in a farm home and listening to a pipe organ recital in New York City, grand opera in Chicago, dance music in San Francisco, and other forms of music and entertainment throughout the United States, he would have been thought crazy. Yet, all of this is now available, even to the most remote country home, and with comparatively little cost, as the only cost in securing this entertainment is the cost of the radio outfit. When you buy a radio set you really buy a perpetual ticket to a front seat at the best musical entertainments in America — seats such as cost \$2 to \$6 in New York City, Pittsburgh and Chicago — free transportation coming and going. — The Progressive Farmer.

Attendance at recent commencement shows that the country schoolmaster is another extinct institution.



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NOTICE—Miss Helen N. Estabrook, State Clothing Specialist, will hold a one-day Clothing School at the Home Agent's Office in Columbus, May 29th. She will speak on Color and Appropriateness in Dress. Every one who is interested is invited. Lois Holderbaum, Home Dem. Agent. May 20.

WANTED—Position as companion to children in a good home, or will consider house work. Can give reference. Box 123, Campobello, S. C. May 20.

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