

Tips Given For Cutting Tobacco Disease Losses

Tar Heel tobacco growers can save much of the \$20 million that they lost from diseases in 1969 by following eight disease control steps in 1970.

The steps were outlined by Furney Todd, an extension tobacco disease specialist at N. C. State University.

Step No. 1 is to plan and follow a rotation system, said Todd. A well-planned rotation system reduces losses to all major diseases: nematodes, black shank, Granville wilt, mosaic, Fusarium wilt, black root rot and brown spot.

Step No. 2 is to consider the level of disease resistance that a tobacco variety has in making a variety selection. All varieties available for farmer planting have been evaluated for resistance to the most common diseases. Varieties are either listed as susceptible to a disease or they are said to have low, medium or high resistance. Some varieties also have resistance to root knot nematodes and some show more

tolerance to brown spot than others, although there is no resistance to this disease.

Step No. 3 is to control the plant bed diseases and prevent the spread of mosaic. Producing plenty of healthy tobacco plants is the first step toward a successful crop. The major plant bed diseases—blue mold, anthracnose and damping off—can be controlled with fungicides. A milk treatment can be used to control mosaic.

Step No. 4 is to use a nematocide if needed. Where the population of nematodes is moderate to high, the use of a pre-plant nematocide can increase the value of the tobacco crop by as much as \$200 to \$500 per acre.

Step No. 5 is to consider the use of "multi-purpose" disease control treatments. Certain chemical soil treatments have been found to be effective in reducing losses to black shank, Granville wilt, black root rot and certain other diseases in addition to nematodes.

These materials, combined with the use of resistant varieties, have increased the value of tobacco grown in infested fields by as much as \$200 to \$600 per acre.

Step No. 6 is to apply chemicals to the soil correctly. The chemical soil treatments differ in their make-up & method of controlling disease. There-

fore, each one must be applied according to the directions for that particular chemical.

Step No. 7 is to control the brown spot disease, which was the most costly tobacco disease in 1969. Brown spot losses can be reduced by keeping tobacco plants healthy, practicing crop rotation, cleaning up old tobacco fields immediately after harvest, controlling nematodes and other diseases, using proper amounts of fertilizer, increasing the rate of harvesting when the disease appears, and spacing plants so they can receive adequate sunlight.

Step No. 8 is to clean up old tobacco fields immediately after harvest. This step is referred to as Operation R-6-P, meaning reduce six pests. The stalks should be cut immediately after harvest. Stubbles must

be plowed out, and all old tobacco refuse should be plowed under two weeks later. Then a cover crop should be seeded. Tests have shown that Operation R-6-P will cut losses from brown spot, mosaic, nematodes, budworms, hornworms and flea beetles.

In giving these disease control steps for 1970, Todd pointed out that tobacco growers lost slightly over 4 percent of their crop in 1969 from diseases.

Brown spot accounted for the biggest loss, \$5.6 million. Nematode losses amounted to \$4.7 million and black shank losses were put at \$4 million. Mosaic losses were nearly \$3 million.

Growers also experienced losses from six other diseases, pushing the total disease bill up to \$20,250,000.

Faculty Self Study

The faculty at Cane River High School has been involved in a self study for the past year in preparation for an evaluation by the State Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of this study is to become re-accredited by the State Department.

Each department in the school has written a revised course of study, and an attempt has been made to upgrade each department. A general self evaluation of the school has been made by the steering committee and short and long range goals for the school have been established. Also a faculty and a student handbook have been written.

To be accredited implies that a school has met certain standards set up by the State Department of Public Instruction or by one of the regional associations. The school will be visited by an evaluation team this spring.

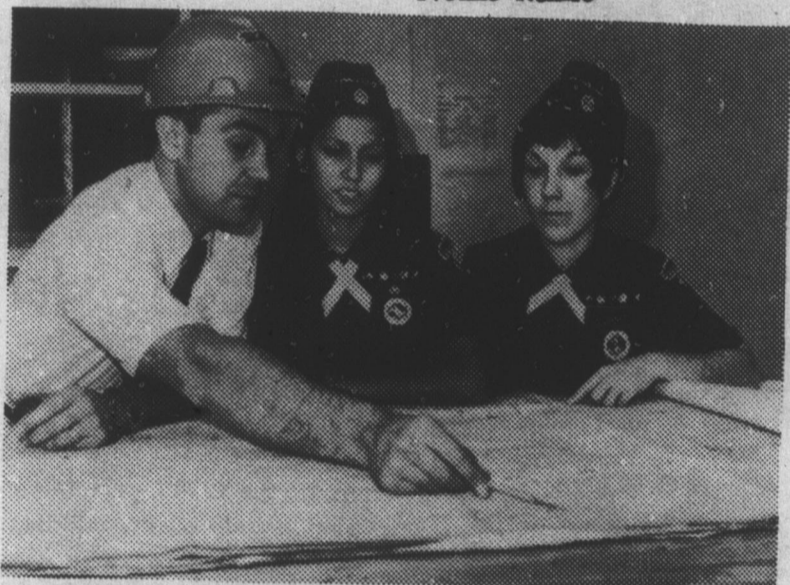
Hospital Happenings

ADMISSIONS:

Minnie Proffitt, Jewel Stanley Edna Silvers, Delia McKinney Herbert Hollifield, Ethel Hall Jake Peterson, Gus Edwards Fred Robinson, E. P. Blevins Patricia Hughes, Dora Hylemon Verzellia Thomas

DISCHARGES:

Elsie Price, Russell Burleson Mildred Gibbs, Verzellia Thomas Mae Shook, Laura Edwards Edith Ness, Mae Williams Pearl Hughes, Alma Austin Cora Cooper, Lee Boone Max Green, Louella Honeycutt Lillie Miller, Effie Ledford Yvonne Renfro



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'The Hut' News

Friday, the 13th of March, is a lucky day for swingers because that's the day the Cardigan's make one of their rare appearances in this area. They will play their rockin' music from 8:00 to 11:00 p. m. at "The Hut" (Scout Hut across from Ellen Knitting in Spruce Pine). Admission is only \$1.00. Don't miss this exciting night with the Cardigans.

"The Hut" activities are sponsored by the Pioneer Youth Council in Spruce Pine.



Being #1 ain't all that easy

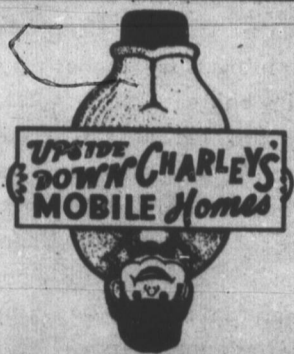
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