

Hot Weather Items

- FANS
- :-
- SCREENS
- :-
- INSECTICIDES
- :-
- THERMOS JUGS
- :-
- ICE CREAM FREEZERS
- :-
- LAWN MOWERS (Push & Follow)
- :-
- FISHING TACKLE
- :-
- OUTBOARD MOTORS
- :-
- CAMP STOVES
- :-
- BOAT PADDLES
- :-
- WATER PUMPS (For the Camp)
- :-
- PAINTS Every Kind
- :-

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Short Term Debt Hits High Level

The short-term debt owed by U. S. farmers now totals about 6 billion dollars—the highest amount since the peak levels of the early 1920s. About 2.6 billion of this is owed to individuals, merchants and dealers, and about 3.4 billion to institutional lenders such as commercial banks and federally sponsored lending agencies.

Furthermore, says Charles E. Clark, extension farm management specialist at State College, it is likely that the short term debt will continue high, at least for 1951. Money spent for machinery, equipment, and livestock is becoming a larger proportion of the total farm investment. Farms are less self-sufficing, and cash costs are heavier now than before the war.

Clark says the Korean situation brought in several new factors that stimulated the use of short-term credit. Farmers generally feared a recurrence of war time shortages and expected substantially higher prices. They did not hesitate to increase their debt to acquire goods for future needs as well as to expand production.

The volume of short-term debts may expand and shrink rather rapidly. Crop production loans usually call for repayment during the same year in which they are made. Even loans made for the purchase of farm machinery and basic livestock ordinarily are paid within two or three years.

Clark says Tar Heel farmers are conscious of their need for adjustments and are moving toward increased use of machinery and increased livestock production. Lending institutions, he says, must recognize that farmers of the state need credit to finance improved pastures, fencing, buildings, and breeding stock. Repayment plans must be practical and cover longer periods to fit farm income possibilities.

Garden Time

By Robert Schmidt

About two months ago I commented in this column about the use of hotcaps for the protection of warm season crops such as cucumbers and melons planted before the safe planting date for those crops. Early in April one of my State College classes in vegetable crops planted water-melons at the Horticultural Farm. Every other hill was covered with a plastic hotcap as soon as planted. At that time it did not appear as though we would have much contrast between the protected and the unprotected hills. The weather was warm and the unprotected hills came up almost as soon as those under caps. However, during the past two weeks the weather has been cool—especially at night. We left the caps on for that reason.

As of today, the unprotected plants have made little growth because of the cool weather, while plants under the caps have made nice growth and are much larger. Also, the cucumber beetles are beginning to attack the unprotected plants. Whether or not the early advantages of the protected plants will continue throughout the season will have to be answered later.

For the benefit of the housewife who likes to grow iris, I would like to pass on the information that bearded iris may be divided and transplanted as soon as they are through blooming. New, healthy rhizomes should be selected and transplanted so that the top of the rhizome is about level with the surface of the soil. The foliage may be clipped back about one-third to one-half. Iris should be divided at least every three years. A location with full sun is best.

County 4-H Club dairy judging teams will compete in the State contest at State College, Raleigh, on July 19.

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