

NORTH CAROLINA USING FEW MIGRANT WORKERS ON FARMS

An extension economist at North Carolina State University predicts that North Carolina will gradually use fewer and fewer migratory workers.

The economist, Dr. Charles Pugh, bases his prediction on the changes that are occurring in North Carolina agriculture.

"Already, we are getting about 45 per cent of our farm income from poultry and livestock," he said, "and these industries use practically no seasonal laborers."

Mechanical pickers and combines have replaced hand labor in the harvesting of cotton, peanuts, grains and soybeans, and chemicals have replaced many of the season "hoe hands" needed for these crops.

The biggest user of season labor is tobacco, "but every effort is being made to develop feasible means of mechanically harvesting this crop," Pugh commented.

Another user of seasonal hand labor is the fruit and vegetable industry. But here again, machines are being developed to do part of this work, especially in the harvesting of fruits and vegetables for processing.

Pugh pointed out that hired

workers, migrant and local, do only about 25 per cent of the work on North Carolina farms. The remaining work is done by farm operators and their family.

And, of the hired workers, only about 10 per cent or less are migratory workers. The remainder are fulltime hired men or local people who do some seasonal farm work.

North Carolina farmers currently hire about 15 times as much extra labor in July than they do in January. Dr. Pugh believes that both farmers and farm workers will be better off in the long run if these seasonal labor requirements can be spread out. If farmers can spread out their labor needs, they should then be better able to provide improved working conditions and wage rates.

"But there is and must be concern about the displaced farm worker, especially the unskilled. Society as a whole must deal with this problem," he continued.

For example, numerous programs have been discussed in Congress which would give to this group of workers some of the benefits now enjoyed by oth-

er workers.

"With so much attention being focused on the cities, it is unfortunately possible that the farm worker could become the forgotten American," he commented. "Because of his declining number, will people forget the contributions of the farm worker in putting food on our table?"

Pugh said two of the seasonal farm worker's problems were low wages and unpredictable employment, and the migrant worker, of course, has the expense of moving from place to place.

Farm wage rates in North Carolina have risen about 60 per cent in the last 10 years, yet they still average only 55 to 60 per cent as much as wages paid to production workers in manufacturing.

"Nor can the farmer always be responsible for the seasonal and sometimes unpredictable nature of farm work," Pugh continued. "He can't always control the maturity of his crops or weather conditions at harvest time."

Upward trends in labor costs suggest that mechanization will be adopted where possible or the expense of production and harvesting crops will eventually be reflected in higher food prices, he added.

of organic matter because the other sources might be too rich in nutrients for best performance.

If any of my readers would like to serve as Guest Columnist for Garden Time, please let me know. I will be happy to have you do this and will send you instructions for copy.

Working Mothers

Continued from page 5

tion to more family income for necessities, education, and recreation, children of working mothers seem to have more important responsibilities at home. They feel more useful and independent than children of mothers not working outside the home.

In addition, so long as society does not give homemaking much status, children may feel prouder of the mother who

has a job with status. So the question no longer seems to be should a woman work outside the home. The question

in many cases is what type and what quality of child care is a valuable for the children of these women.

GARDEN TIME

BY M. E. GARDNER, N. C. State University

This is the first in a series of articles on house plants so you may wish to save it. Others to follow will be concerned with fertilization, containers, watering, light, temperature, and kinds of plants best suited for different environments.

Growing potted plants is one of the most popular indoor pastimes. There is such a wide variety of choices to add color and beauty during the winter months. In addition, the growing of plants in the home helps satisfy the gardening urge for those who cannot have outdoor gardens and for those who wish to continue their horticultural activities during the winter. In many homes, plants are considered to be an important part of

interior decoration.

The artificial conditions under which house plants are grown are sure to present some problems. However, the selection of the proper types for a particular environment and a thorough understanding of their cultural requirements will simplify problems and insure a greater degree of success.

Since plants obtain water, nutrients and air (for the roots) from the soil, the proper soil mixture is of utmost importance. Most flowering plants will thrive in a mixture such as this one; three parts of a good garden loam; two parts of organic matter (peat moss, well decomposed compost, rotted manure, or leaf mold); and one part of coarse sand. All of these materials are measured by volume.

If your garden loam is heavy or clay-like, I would suggest increasing the proportion of sand. If the garden loam is light and sandy, the sand may be omitted.

Add bone meal, or 20 per cent superphosphate, to the soil mixture at the rate of one measuring cupfull per bushel of mixture.

The above mixture is best for flowering plants as I suggested. For foliage plants I would suggest that you use three parts of good garden soil and three parts of organic matter (50-50). Sand would be added depending upon the character of your garden soil — whether light or heavy. For the foliage plants, I would recommend peat moss as the source

Medicare Information

"When should I submit my doctor bills to Medicare?" This is a question asked many times.

According to Jerry Freeman, Manager of the Kinston Social Security office, bills may be sent in for payment any time a Medicare beneficiary wishes to send them, but not later than December 31 of the year following the year in which the medical services are rendered. For example, any bills incurred during 1970 may be sent in by December 31, 1971.

About 30 per cent of the claims received cannot be paid because the beneficiary's \$50 deductible for the year has not been met.

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TURKEY



Open all vents on a Kettle-type covered grill. On each side of foil drip pan put 30 briquettes. Light. When white hot, add rack.

Place thawed (giblets removed), rinsed, unstuffed Butterball Swift's Premium Turkey on rack. Retuck legs. Brush on melted fat for rich browning. Cover grill.



Hourly add five briquettes on each side of drip pan. No need to baste. Juices placed deep inside, baste the turkey as it roasts.

Check a 14-lb. turkey in 2 1/2 hours. If meat thermometer in thickest part of thigh next to body reads 180° to 185° F., bird is done. Or pinch thigh. If soft, remove turkey.



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