

GAME AS A FARM CROP

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I have written several articles intended to encourage farmers in Atlantic Coast Line territory to treat game as a farm crop, for there are thousands of sportsmen in this country who are constantly seeking new hunting grounds—men who are able and willing to pay within reason for their entertainment and sport.

In this connection the following article by W. L. McAtee, Principal Biologist, Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, advocating the use of farm land in the South for the production and protention of game as a source of income has impressed me as being worthy of dissemination:

Planting For Wild Life In The Cotton Belt

"In 1933 more than 10,000,000 acres of cotton land were removed from production, and the program for 1934 calls for elimination of an additional 15,000,000 acres. An enormous area, therefore, is available for use in a variety of ways that are in accordance with the policies of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Among uses to which some of this land may be put is planting for wild life. Farmers as a class enjoy hearing the cherry call of the bobwhite, seeing the cottontail timidly come out to browse at dusk, or in other ways sensing the presence of the wild things that help to make farm life attractive. For those who wish to hunt or to permit hunting on their lands, there are the additional rewards for good wild-life management—game brought to bag or revenue derived from the sale of shooting privileges. In some cases receipts from this source pay taxes, and where due attention is given to the matter, larger revenues are possible.

Planting for wild life should be planned with reference to two of the greatest needs of furred and feathered creatures namely, the need for cover and the need for food. Important and indispensable as food is, yet cover must receive first attention, for regardless of the presence of a plentiful food supply, wild life cannot persist on land without adequate shelter from its enemies and where there is no cover where the young may be safely reared.

Cover for the majority of the small forms of wild life means low, dense vegetation, some of which should be tangled, or stiff and thorny, so that in time of need, the pursued can dive into it to escape the pursuer. The common broomsedge, for instance, is fairly good concealing cover, but fields of it are much improved for wild life by the presence of rose or berry briar patches, plum thickets, or honeysuckle tangles.

Planting to improve cover can well be made to serve a double purpose by using food-producing vegetation, and a triple use by carrying it on where erosion control is needed. If only gullies and waste corners of the farm are planted much can be done to increase cover for wild life. Cover plants for the Cotton Belt that are useful both as soil binders and food producers include greenbriers or cat-briers, black-berries, dewberries, the Cherokee rose, grapevines, Virginia creeper and Japan hone, suckle.

Fruit-bearing shrubs or small trees that can be used to provide cover on any available land include red cedar, wax myrtle, near the coast, wild roses, thorn apples, blackberries, dewberries, wild plums, sumacs, gall-berry or inkberry, wild grapes, dog-woods, blueberries, sparkleberry, beautyberry or Mexican mulberry, elderberry, blackhaws, and honeysuckles.

Plants to be used primarily for food producers may be selected from the preceding lists or may be such additional things as mulberry, hackberry or sugarberry, wild cherries, hollies, sour gum, and persimmon. Good mast yielders are the scrub oaks in the eastern and shin oaks in the western, part of the region.

Trees and shrubs produce more or less permanent cover and feeding places, but much use is made also of herbaceous plants, annual or perennial, for feed patches. Land with alternating areas devoted to feed patches and covers, or in any event with plenty of food available near good covers, is ideal for wild life. Given these factors, with some attention perhaps to control of enemies at times, much land should soon harbor an abundant wild-life population.

Feed patches of a quarter acre to several acres in size are used. The ones are entirely satisfactory and it should always be borne in mind that proximity to good cover is necessary to full utility of a feed patch. Plants suitable for feed patches are chufa and peanut for wild turkeys, and winter pea, vetches, cowpeas, beggarweeds, Korean and common lespedesas, Lespedeza sericea and other species, soybeans, sorghums of various types, millets, benne, bullgrass, and Sudan grass for quail. Feed patches are fertilized and cultivated just as in agricultural production of the same plants. Live-stock and poultry must be excluded, not only for the benefit of the wild life that may use the feed patches,

but because production of some of the suggested plants for use or sale is prohibited under the contracts for acreage reduction that have been signed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Expert advice should be obtained as to the best methods of cultivation and as to tested strains of the legumes, sorghums, millets etc., for each locality. This information can be obtained from the County Agent or from the Agricultural Experiment Station.

A Farmers' Bulletin treating more fully the adaptation of farm practices to wild-life production has been published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The number is 1719-F, and the title, "Improving the Farm Environment for Wild Life." Copies can be obtained at 5 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C."

Higher Income From Better Type Cotton

The AAA loan and adjustment payment policy for the 1935 cotton crop is designed to provide greater returns for the producers of superior quality cotton.

This is why the adjustment payments to each grower are to be based on the average price of 7-8 inch middling staple rather than on the price of his own lint, said J. F. Criswell, of State College.

In consequence, the grower who can get more for his cotton than the average price of 7-8 inch middling—a time when the average is 10 cents or more—will receive a total of more than 12 cents a pound.

For example, he pointed out, suppose a grower sells his lint for 11.5 cents on a day when the average for 7-8 inch middling is 10.48 cents. This grower is entitled to an adjustment payment of 1.52 cents, which will give him a total return of 13.02 cents a pound.

But to take advantage of the arrangements which have been made to benefit the producers of superior cotton, the grower must demand a higher price for good lint than is being offered for cotton of average staple length and quality, Criswell added.

Too often, he went on, growers are willing to let their cotton sell for average prices without due consideration of the higher value of top quality cotton.

The North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station is now working on a program for improving the methods by which cotton is priced, Criswell continued. More attention on the quality of the individual bale is being stressed.

This is another reason why growers should seek to produce a higher

Winter Hays Are Aid To Dairyman

Winter Hays, grown as a cover crop, provide a good feed for cattle during the following spring and summer.

Moreover, a good supply of winter grown hay will keep dairymen from running out of roughage when dry weather cuts short the summer hay crops, says John Arey, extension dairyman at State College.

It has been found in experiments that when cows are fed liberally on good roughage and one-half a normal grain ration, milk production is only about 10 percent lower than when a full grain allowance is fed, Arey pointed out.

Since roughage is so much cheaper than grain, he added, the dairyman can save more on his feed costs by feeding roughage than he will lose by the slight decrease in milk production.

Another advantage in winter hays is the fact that they can be grown between October and May, at a time when the land is not being used for cotton, tobacco, corn, or other summer crops.

A good hay crop will protect the land in winter by checking erosion and leaching, Arey added.

Mixtures of oats, barley, wheat, vetch, and winter peas will produce a better hay than either will when grown alone. The seeding date in North Carolina is from October 1 to October 20.

Arey recommended the following seed-mixtures for one acre: two bushels of Norton oats, one bushel of beardless barley, one-half bushel of purple straw or red heart wheat, and 20 pounds of Austrian winter peas or 15 pounds of hairy vetch.

These varieties will mature at about the same time and give a yield of two to three tons of hay per acre when planted on good soil.

The best quality hay will be secured if it is cut while the cereals are in the milk stage.

DR. LEGGETT VERY ILL

Dr. J. L. Leggett, who underwent an operation at the Protestant Hospital in Norfolk, Va., last week, is reported critically ill.

CLOSE STORE HOUR

The store of J. C. Blanchard & Company was closed during the hour of the funeral of J. R. Elliott on Tuesday afternoon.

Modern Children's Room



Every consideration has been given to the children who will occupy this room by those who planned the juvenile apartment. Linoleum floor covering is easily cleaned, and the children's fun is not hampered by fear of spilling anything on the floor. With such an attractive nursery, brother and sister will be content to play at home, and far away street corners with their traffic dangers will not beckon. A room of this type may easily be created from waste attic space or other rooms under the Modernization Credit Plan of the Federal Housing Administration.

BRIDGE PARTY FRIDAY Friday night of this week. The party will be given at the home of Mrs. Nathan Tucker on Front Street, and everybody is invited.

James Roy Elliott Paralysis Victim

James Roy Elliott, 62, prominent Hertford resident, died at his home on Market Street on Monday, following a paralytic stroke suffered on the previous Wednesday, from which he never rallied.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Hertford Baptist Church, with the pastor, Rev. D. S. Dempsey, officiating. Burial followed in the Beaver Hill Cemetery, in Edenton, beside his wife, the late Mrs. Eva Byrum Elliott. A choir of selected voices sang "The Old Rugged Cross" during the service at the church, and at the grave "In the Sweet Bye and Bye."

Active pallbearers were: C. M. Harrell, Hurley Hoffer, B. G. Koonce, D. J. Pritchard, Albert Byrum and Captain J. L. Wiggins, both of Edenton.

The honorary pallbearers were: Mayor E. L. Reed, W. G. Newby, C. B. Parker, V. A. Holdren, W. H. Hardcastle, T. E. Raper, W. F. C. Edwards, J. C. Blanchard, Mark Gregory, Dr. T. P. Brinn, T. R. Winslow, and W. M. Divers.

Mr. Elliott was a native of Wapakonete, Ohio, the son of the late William V. and Mrs. Caroline Elliott, of that place. For more than twenty-five years he was in charge of the municipal electric plant here. He was a man of splendid character, honored by all who knew him.

Surviving are two children, Wil-

liam Thomas Elliott and Mrs. W. C. Dozier, and three grandchildren, William Thomas Elliott, Jr., Shirley Virginia Elliott and William Corbin Dozier. One sister, Mrs. Mabel Jewell, of Norfolk, Va., and Washington, D. C., also survives.

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