

MY BOY TO BE A FARMER

By O. E. BAKER, U. S. D. A.

You may wonder why in these hard times for agriculture we should wish our children to become farmers or farmer's wives. May I tell you?

1. The farmer and his family have more and better to eat than have most city people, and in times of depression they are more certain of a livelihood—if they have not mortgaged the farm. About six million people went from the cities back to farms during the years 1930-34 seeking shelter and sustenance, and two million of these were still on farms when the census was taken January 1, 1935.

2. The farmer has better health than the city man and lives longer—four to five years longer—according to a recent study made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. If the farming people had equal medical facilities, the difference in duration of life would be still greater.

3. The farmer becomes a wealthier man than the majority of city men, judging from the per capita wealth of rural and urban states. This may not be true in the South. It is true in the North because of the millions of city people who have almost no property at all—except an automobile and some second-hand furniture.

4. The farmer is more likely to enjoy his work than are most city people. Most city work is monotonous—tending a machine in a factory, operating a typewriter, standing behind a counter in a retail store hour after hour. The farm boy or girl may dream of a professional career in the city, or of being a successful business man or woman, but it is certain that relatively few young people from the farms will realize this ambition. Most of the young men and women who go to the cities will continue to do the simple tasks of city life—if they find work at all.

5. The farmer is more likely to rear a family and promote the welfare of the Nation and the race. The family is becoming smaller and weaker in the cities. Only two-thirds to three-fourths enough children are

now being born in our large cities to maintain their population permanently without accessions from outside. The conditions of living and the philosophy of life in the cities tend toward the extinction of urban families. The rural philosophy of life, with its recognition of the family as the fundamental economic as well as social institution, tends toward survival. If there is one word that science teaches to be more important than any other it is the word "survive."

I cannot minimize the difficulties facing the farmers of the United States. The approach of a stationary and probably later declining population suggests a long period of low prices for farm products. The message I hope you can give to the boys and girls whom you talk with on your return home is that the prospect for becoming rich through farming is not bright, but the opportunity to serve their Nation and civilization is, in my opinion, greater than it has ever been. I would that they could see the rural people as the conservers of the traditions, the literature, the art, and, it may prove, of the science that has accumulated during the centuries. I would that they could see above them a cloud of witnesses, the farmers and farm women of the past, their ancestors for a thousand years, heroes and heroines many of them. If modern civilization is to preserve its strength, the young people must, I believe, see the beauty of the river of life; they must realize that the individual is only a link in our endless chain which reaches back through geologic ages. I would that they could see in front of them the opportunity to build not a transitory urban but a permanent rural civilization; a civilization not founded on selfishness as the motivating principle but on cooperation, in which the economic objective is to produce sufficient for everyone while conserving the natural resources, and in which the social objective is service and preservation of the strength of the people.

Fresh Eggs Bring Higher Prices

Don't offer a customer a "pig in a poke," says T. T. Brown, Extension poultryman of State College, in urging farmers to sell only fresh eggs which command a higher market price and keep customers satisfied. He advises that all eggs be candled before being marketed.

In candling eggs, take out those which show a large air cell, a flattened end and plainly visible yolk, blood spots, and a thin, white, Brown said. A fresh egg has a small air cell, a rounded and dimly visible yolk, and a thick white.

The poultry specialist made eight suggestions for the production of quality eggs: (1) Keep only pure-bred poultry; (2) provide floored house with clean litter; (3) enclose dropping boards or roosting racks with wire netting; (4) use high quality feed; (5) keep nests filled with clean nesting material; (6) gather eggs at least twice daily in wire baskets so as to allow them to cool quickly, and leave in wire baskets overnight or spread on trays to cool; (7) store eggs in a cool, fairly moist place until marketed; and (8) sell or pen males at the end of the breeding season, and sell infertile eggs.

A six-point program for the sale of quality eggs is offered by the Extension man as follows: (1) Grade for size and interior quality; (2) candle to remove stale eggs and ones with blood spots, and to separate according to interior quality; (3) weigh eggs of doubtful size and make at least two size grades; (4) clean dirty eggs; (5) use good cases with clean filters and flats, or pack eggs in attractive labeled cartons; and (6) market twice weekly.

Beekeeper Has Work To Do In Mid-winter

Bees are inactive at this season of the year, but the beekeeper should not go into hibernation, says C. L. Sams, Extension apiarist of State College. Now is a good time to clean and repair equipment not in use, and new equipment should be secured and made ready for installation before the spring rush, he advised.

Sams does not think that the cold weather this winter will seriously cripple the beekeeper industry in North Carolina. "Most of the colonies are in good shape, and if they are left alone the bees will come through," the specialist stated.

He strongly advised against attempting to feed bees during cold weather. It may be possible to nip a comb of honey into the hive during the warm period of a mild day, but if the store of food was sufficient at the start of the winter season, the bees will survive the frigid blasts, Sams declared.

On the subject of package bees, or

caged swarms, the apiarist said: "To profitably start hives from packages, they should be secured from six to eight weeks before the main honey flow begins. For the Piedmont section of the State, this would be about March 1 to 15.

"Many beekeepers use package bees to strengthen weak hives, in which case they need not be bought quite so early. At this time of the year such bees must be purchased from further South, and the price is approximately \$1.00 per pound of bees. With a queen included in a three-pound package, this is about 15,000 individuals.

"This is a minimum number of bees that is recommended for starting a new hive, and they would have to be fed liberally until early honey plants begin furnishing nectar."

Employment Service Places 107,621 Workers

Raleigh.—During the calendar year 1939, the Employment Service Division of the North Carolina Unemployment Commission placed a total of 107,621 workers in jobs as compared with total registrations and renewals of 343,005.

Of these 107,621 placements during the year, 63,429 were in private jobs, 35,356 of which were in regular employment in private industry, 27,073 were temporary employment in private industry, and 44,194 were in public activities.

During the past calendar year, the active file was reduced by 66,169, a drop of 43 per cent, which is exactly equivalent to the ratio decline in registrations. These figures indicate the improvement in industry and work conditions in North Carolina over the preceding year of 1938.

BURGESS CLUB MEETS

The Burgess Home Demonstration Club met at the home of Mrs. W. E. Lane on Wednesday afternoon. The meeting was called to order by the president and "America, the Beautiful" was sung. The members repeated the Collect in unison.

Miss Hamrick made several announcements and explained the new Year Books and score sheets. She then led a round-table discussion on Farm Outlook for 1940 with Mrs. J. B. Basnight, Mrs. Josiah Proctor and Mrs. C. D. Rountree giving readings on the subject.

Mrs. C. E. Lane conducted an advertisement contest with Mrs. J. B. Basnight winning the prize.

Those present were: Mrs. C. B. Parker, Mrs. Tommie Matthews, Mrs. Josiah Proctor, Mrs. C. D. Rountree, Mrs. J. B. Basnight, Mrs. Sidney Layden, Miss Gladys Hamrick and Mrs. W. E. Lane.

The hostess served ambrosia and cake.

LEAGUE TO MEET

The Woman's International League of Peace and Freedom will meet at the home of Mrs. Roy Winslow on Wednesday afternoon, February 14th, beginning at 2:30 o'clock. A large attendance is urged.

Delayed By Snow And Ice, Work On Pier Begins Anew

Work has really begun . . . in clement weather and a frozen river stopped it soon after it started . . . but work has begun in earnest now on the town's recreation pier.

Approximately twenty WPA laborers Monday were laying the concrete bulkhead and floating the barges as the first favorable weather in weeks saw a beehive of activity at the Grubb Street location.

The work will be completed during the summer season just ahead if no unforeseen difficulties develop to delay it.

Asked about the sewer pipe at the point where the shore end of the pier will rest, Fred Chalk, WPA supervisor, explained that the pipe will be relaid. The shore end will remain where it is now, but the deep water end will be laid to the south of the pier and further up the creek.

A Federal allotment takes care of the labor and also a part of the material. A provision is included to provide for the cleaning up of the river front at that location; for the removal of stumps and sunken logs.

Machinery Is Leading Farm Safety Hazard

Safety on the farm is largely home-made, says Joe B. Richardson, assistant agricultural engineer of State College. One of the reasons there are so many accidents on the farm is that farm families operate largely on their own responsibility. For city people at work or at home, there are numerous safety precautions, and someone to enforce them. Richardson lists machinery as a top hazard in farm work, despite the many improvements made on machinery in recent years. The older hazards, such as unruly bulls and kicking horses, is next.

Surveys show, however, that most accidents are caused by carelessness such as haste, the use of makeshift repairs, by taking chances, by using machinery without guards, or with guards removed.

Among the reasons why the farm is a fertile field for accidents, says Richardson, are these: Much farm work is done by individuals at some distance from others so that an accident may be serious because help is not at hand. On the farm there are frequent changes in work and machinery used, which may mean unfamiliarity with equipment and less accuracy of movement. Under the pressure of summer work, there are often long hours in the field, and chores done in a hurry after dark—both conducive to accidents.

"The suffering, the loss of time, and the actual cash cost of these accidents," says Richardson, "shows the need for avoiding them. It has been shown time and time again that the well-ordered farm, with well-ordered activities, is good insurance against accidents.

"But still, to a great extent the farmer must be his own safety engineer and almost entirely his own disciplinarian."

Consumption Of Pork And Apples Promoted

Eat more pork, cook it with apples.

This is a call from North Carolina farmers as they unite in promotional campaigns to increase the consumption of these two important foods produced in this State.

C. L. Ballance, chairman of the executive committee of the North Carolina Cooperative Livestock Marketing Associations sponsored by the Extension Service, is directing the National Economy Pork Sale campaign in the State. It will be divided into two periods—February 1 to 10, and February 29 to March 9.

"It so happens that the "Apples—For Health" event also will take place at the same time as the first period of the pork sale campaign, but this is fortunate since both are frequently included in the same menu," said Mr. Ballance, who is a prominent swine grower of Robeson County.

H. W. Taylor, Extension swine specialist of State College, is actively supporting the pork sale, and he points out that it will be especially valuable this year when the 1939 pig crop of 84,000,000 hogs goes on the market.

"The North Carolina hog crop is consuming over two billion pounds of feed annually, which is no small item to agriculture in this State," Taylor declared. "Cash sales from hogs in North Carolina are exceeded only by cash sales from tobacco, cotton and cottonseed, and milk; therefore, the price of pork is of considerable importance to us."

Mr. Ballance said that civic clubs, cafeterias, hotels, and restaurants are being asked to serve at least two pork luncheons during the two periods designated for National Economy Pork Sale.

If curtains are thoroughly dried before being starched they will keep clean longer.

CENTER HILL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Turner and son, Robert, and Mr. and Mrs. Cotter B. White went to Duke Hospital, Durham, Thursday, and brought home the little son of Mr. and Mrs. White, who had been there for the past two weeks following an operation. The little boy is getting along nicely.

Miss Marian White, a student at Louisburg College, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. White.

Miss Mary Frances Dail, of near Hertford, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Nearest Jordan.

Mrs. W. H. Lane is sick with flu. Miss Lillian Turner spent Friday with Mrs. Willie Byrum.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Ellis visited Mr. Ellis' mother, Mrs. Ida Ellis, Sunday afternoon.

Miss Bonnie Rowe is able to return to her classroom, after being out with an attack of flu.

Mrs. J. S. Turner and daughter, Peggy, visited Mrs. Joseph Hollowell, at Sunbury, Monday.

Mrs. Joe Wiggins and children visited Mrs. C. B. White Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Byrum and daughter, Shirley, spent the week-end with Mrs. Byrum's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Byrum.

Little Bernice Hollowell, of Sunbury, is spending this week with little Peggy Turner.

Mrs. Willie Lamb and son, Stacey, Mrs. Louis Harrell and daughter, Carolyn, of Edenton, spent Wednesday with Mrs. Theodore Boyce.

Miss Elizabeth White, who teaches in Guilford County, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. White.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Barnett were in Elizabeth City on Sunday.

Mrs. J. S. Turner and daughter, Peggy; and Mrs. Otis Ellis visited Mrs. T. E. Chappell Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Edwin White and Miss Sarah Chappell, of Belvidere, visited Mrs. W. H. Lane and Mrs. H. E. Lane on Sunday.

NEW HOPE NEWS

Mrs. Lewis Walston, of Baltimore, Md., Kermit, Robert and Carlton Barclift, of Washington, D. C., left Friday, after being called home on Friday because of the death of their brother, Leon Barclift, and the illness of their mother, Mrs. Nettie Barclift. Mrs. Barclift is now improving.

Mrs. S. T. Perry, Mrs. R. R. Perry and Miss Vida Banks attended the meeting of the County Council of Perquimans Home Demonstration Clubs in Hertford Monday afternoon. Cold and snowy weather and much sickness have caused a decline in church and club activities, but with better weather and the improvement

of the sick, it is hoped that ere long new interest will be shown in the work of the church and the club.

Miss Vida Banks and Mrs. T. A. Hurdle motored to Norfolk, Va., on Saturday to see "Gone With the Wind."

Miss May Webb accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Alphonsa Chappell, of Belvidere, to Norfolk, Va., Saturday. They attended "Gone With the Wind."

L. R. Webb, who has been suffering with a cold for some time, is slowly improving.

Miss Rebecca Webb, of the Rob-

ersonville school faculty, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Webb.

Mrs. J. A. Sawyer and Mrs. C. B. Goodman visited their respective parents at Somerton, Va., Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henry Gregory, of Elizabeth City, visited Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie White Sunday.

Mrs. Heywood Umphlett is sick at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Goodman.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peele and Mrs. Mattie Turner, of Elizabeth City, visited Mrs. Nettie Barclift on Thursday night.



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