

# Rural Youths Can Borrow Money

Rural youths can now borrow money from the Farmers Home Administration, according to North Carolina's FHA State Director, James T. Johnson. The new program, authorized by the Rural Development Act of 1972, is now being implemented

through all FHA county offices. It will enable rural youths who are members of 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, and similar organizations to receive loans to help them establish and operate income producing projects in

connection with their participation in organized clubs. The basic objectives of youth loans are educational and practical. Youths are taught basic economics and credit principals and provided an opportunity to use their hands and minds for self improvements. Generally, a project advisor and the FHA official will have a major role in planning the enterprise with the youths and providing guidance in operating it.

Loans can be made for both farm and nonfarm projects such as, but not limited to, crop or livestock production; farm custom services; auto and appliance repairs; wood working; welding shop; roadside stands or other income producing projects.

Some examples of how loan funds may be used are: (1) to purchase livestock, essential equipment, and resources and facilities for the project; (2) to purchase, rent or repair necessary tools, equipment, and facilities; (3) to pay operating expenses, and (4) to purchase inventory and supplies.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a citizen under 21 years of age, participate in an organized club, and reside in a rural area or city or town of less than 10,000 population. He or she must have the character, ability, and maturity necessary to plan, manage and operate the enterprise under the supervision of the project advisor. The applicant must be unable to obtain necessary credit elsewhere and obtain the recommendation of the project from his or her project advisor. If under 18 years of age, the applicant must obtain the recommendation from the parents or guardian.

Each project must produce enough income to pay operating expenses and the FHA loan. Each applicant is considered without regard to race, color, creed, sex, or national origin.

The applicant will be required to execute a promissory note and shall incur full personal liability for the debt. Loans will be secured by liens on chattel property, livestock, equipment, and fixtures purchased with loan funds.

The interest rate is the same as for regular FHA operating loans. At present, this is 5 1/2 per cent. The repayment terms are determined on the basis of the purpose for which the loan was made and on anticipated earnings of the project.

The amount of the loan will be the amount required to finance a modest project planned by the applicant and his project advisor, and approved by FHA. Information may be obtained at any local FHA office. The office in Hertford is located in the Perquimans County Office Building.



The Long Line Of Pallets Are Waiting To Lay Eggs

## Shipping Requirements Have Been Established

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced shipping requirements to apply June 5 through July 31 for potatoes grown in the Virginia and North Carolina federal marketing order area. Imports of round white varieties of potatoes must meet similar requirements for grade, size and quality.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) said the requirements call for round white potatoes to be

U. S. No. 2 or better grade, and be at least 1-1/2 inches in diameter. There will be no maturity requirements.

AMS said the new requirements will assist Virginia and North Carolina producers in the orderly marketing of this year's crop, and will keep low quality potatoes off the retail market.

By federal law, imports must meet the same requirements that apply to the most competitive U. S.

area where marketing order regulations are in effect.

A summary of the new import requirements and those continuing unchanged for round red and long white varieties is being mailed to imports, customs officials and other interested persons.

Copies are also available from the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250

## Testing Station Set

RALEIGH — The Appropriation Bill passed by the General Assembly includes an item for \$33,747 for a bull testing station to be located at the Piedmont Research Station at Salisbury.

The facility will be set up to handle 100 bulls to

determine their rate-of-gain being fed and managed under the same conditions. The bulls will remain at the station for 140 days, after which they will be sold at auction to strengthen the herds of piedmont and western North Carolina.

The supply of good bulls is

one of the major problems facing cow-calf herd operators in the state. This station will double the output of proven bulls available in the state in addition to the existing station at Rocky Mount.

That station, also with a 100 head capacity, tested 130 bulls on their last test. The new station will be operated as a part of the research activity of the farm by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, N.C. State University and the N.C. Cattlemen's Association.

Bulls to enter the station will be picked from herds using on-the-farm performance testing for 205 days. Bulls not showing average or better gain on performance testing will not be eligible to enter the bull testing station.

The cow-calf herd business in piedmont and western North Carolina is an established segment of the industry of agriculture. This new bull testing station will be a new source of proven bulls to strengthen these herds.

North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham stated that this action was one of the most forward looking and effective steps taken by the 1973 General Assembly in the interest of beef producers and consumers of North Carolina.

## Federal Cut Urged To Get Prices Down

A nationwide, independent survey involving 1,123 personal interviews in 24 metropolitan areas and 11 non-metro counties reveals that 86 percent favor cutting government spending to combat rising food prices.

The survey, made Leo J. Shapiro & Associates of Chicago, was sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation to determine national attitudes toward farmers and food prices.

B.C. Mangum, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau and a member of the board of directors of the national organization, said the idea that government should cut its spending was favored by a higher percentage of people than any other solution presented to the respondents.

The percentages favoring other solutions included: limiting profits of companies producing and packing food, 80; limiting the profits of the middleman, 78; limiting the profits of food store chains, 74; and consumers cutting food expenditures, 72.

On the question of whether higher wages or government spending is the greater cause of inflation, 78.7 per cent said government spending was more of a factor in causing inflation. Some 70.6 per cent, however, thought increased wages of American workers had resulted in higher costs for products such as food.

Are farmers to blame for food costs? 70.5 per cent said no; 26 per cent said yes; and 3.5 per cent didn't answer the question.

Of the 70.5 per cent who did not blame farmers for rising food prices, 20.8 per cent said the farmer doesn't control the market price and has no control over purchase price; 15.4 per cent blamed increased farm production costs; 19.7 per cent said the farmer had low profits and was not getting rich.

Respondents were asked to indicate their rankings of various groups involved in food production and marketing in (1) their concern for the public interest and (2) their power to make decisions to hurt or help the public. They gave farmers the highest rating (48 per cent) in concern for the public interest but rated them lowest (26 per cent) in their power to hurt or help.

Labor unions were ranked highest in power, 85 per cent, but with only 29 per cent ranking in concern for the public welfare.

According to the survey, farmers are generally liked as a group. Over three-fourths (78 per cent) said

they felt good when they think about farmers. When asked why, respondents most frequently said that farmers work hard and long hours to earn a living, and that they are essential to the nation because they produce food.

Mangum said the fact that most citizens desire to cut government spending, as reflected in the survey, is in line with Farm Bureau's nationwide campaign to control inflation and to avoid the necessity for a federal tax increase.

The farm leader pointed out that deficit spending by the federal government and programs and policies which increase the supply of money and credit faster than production of foods and services are basic causes of inflation. "Inflation has raised farmers' production costs to the highest level in history."

### STORAGE SPACE

Cardboard or knock-down furniture provides a room with instant, inexpensive storage space. Made of sturdy, corrugated fiberboard, the furniture can withstand from 100 to 200 pounds of pressure, depending on the unit, says Wilma Scott, extension house furnishings specialist, North Carolina State University.

### VARIES

Maximum weekly benefits for temporary total disability under workmen's compensation vary from \$175 in Alaska to \$56 in Mississippi.

## Farmers Give Leisure Time

The next time you jump in the car and head out for a weekend of fishing, boating, or just taking it easy, you might give some thought as to why you're able to enjoy considerable time off from your job.

Sure, you worked hard all week and are entitled to a little free time. And the money you're spending for recreation is what you have left over after paying for your family's food, clothing and other necessities.

But what if the food and clothing your family needs weren't produced by somebody else and you had to provide it all yourself? What would happen to your leisure time then?

Thanks to the hard work and ingenuity of the farmer, our food and fiber needs are so well met that we seldom give much thought to who makes it possible. A lot of us are probably in the same category as the city housewife who said her food comes "from the supermarket, of course!"

In no other nation on the

face of the earth do so many people depend on so few to provide their food and fiber needs as we do in this country. Put another way, 95 per cent of us depend on the other 5 per cent of the U.S. population to produce our food and fiber.

What it boils down to is that the well-being of American agriculture is of utmost importance to each of us. We hear talk about the Congress being "urban-oriented" and not really deeply concerned about agriculture. If your Congressman isn't thinking seriously of how he can work effectively to improve agriculture's role in the nation's economy, then you can be sure he's not thinking seriously about your future well-being.

All of us—whether we live in a city or a small town—are directly affected by agriculture. And, unless the farmer can make a decent living by selling his products for a profit in the marketplace, we're all destined to suffer.

## Survey Scheduled

The first estimates of 1973 crop acreages — and thus the first indications of how farmers are responding to market conditions and Department of Agriculture program changes — will emerge from a USDA survey to be taken from May 22 to June 4.

R.P. Handy, in charge of the North Carolina Crop Reporting Service, indicated that about 2000 North Carolina farmers will be included among the national survey total of 70,000 interviews. Other survey information will be collected by mail.

The number one goal of the June Acreage, Livestock, and Labor Survey, according to Handy, will be to collect data on crop acreages farmers planted or intend to plant this season. These data will be used as the basis for 1973 crop production estimates starting with the July 10th Crop Report. Additional questions about cattle, hogs, and poultry will give some indications of possible marketings in the second half of 1973 and early 1974.

"It's an understatement to say that the results of this survey are awaited with great anticipation," comments Handy. "Our foreign trade and domestic demand

for tobacco, grains and soybeans have created a marked increase in interest about 1973 production."

The cooperation of Tar Heel producers contacted in this survey is vitally important since they are part of a national sample selected to represent a cross-section of U.S. Agriculture. Only State and national estimates will be published from this survey.

## Farmers Should Note Worms

Perquimans County farmers are urged to beware of worms in small grain this time of the year.

Richard Bryant, county extension chairman said farmers should use 80 per cent wettable Sevin on the small grain. He added this should be 2 1/2 pounds per acre.

Farmers who do not know if worms are in their small grain should watch for birds dipping down in the crops. "They should also make a personal check," Bryant said.

Small grain includes wheat, oats and barley.

## We Still Need to Stay In Touch with Nature

By M. E. Gardner  
N. C. State University

This is the day of the environmentalist. Some of us, many years ago, tried to point out the pitfalls, but we only had a wee small voice. It appears that we drag along in apathy until our problems become so acute that they are difficult and, sometimes, impossible to solve. It is unfortunate that many of our present day environmentalists live in air conditioned cars and houses and are not attuned to the real problems facing us.

Keeping in touch with nature is increasingly needful. Ancient scourages of the human race have disappeared but new ones are appearing, not the least of which is the separation of man from the unending beauties of nature.

In the past one hundred years, man has made greater material progress than in all of

his existence. In doing so, he has replaced the fragrance of forests and fields with the smell of internal combustion engines and the reek of factories — and the end is not in sight. He has overrun the wilderness, polluted once sparkling streams of clear water and hemmed himself in with canyons of buildings. He has swamped his senses with impressions utterly foreign to the natural way of life.

Our nature study parks and national forests provide restful spots where man has not intruded with modern ways. Some are a part of the original face of this country, giving us some appreciation of primeval forces.

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