

# Agriculture

## No-till crops to key meet

The corn-soybean meeting, considered by many to be the most important of the winter agricultural meetings, is scheduled Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. at the county extension office on Edenton Road Street.

John Anderson, area crop specialist, will head up the agenda, and will speak on no-till corn and soybeans.

No-till crops are expected to play an increasing roll of importance in Perquimans County in the future, according to county extension chairman Bill Jester.

"It's going to be a practice used more in the 1980 crop season and in the future," Jester said.

No-till is a process by which the seed can be planted into the stubble of the prior year's crop without plowing.

Spiraling fuel costs and the need for sediment runoff control will make no-till crops increasingly popular in the future, Jester said.

Another speaker at the meeting will be Dwayne Newman, an extension economist in farm management. Newman will examine the costs of various production practices.

Pest control will also have a place on the agenda, with Jester reviewing control strategies for the soybean cyst nematode.

The cyst nematode is a limiting factor in production in various areas of the county, he said.

Between 75 and 100 producers are expected to turn out for the afternoon event, Jester said.

## Hog show will benefit area

Entries are currently being sought for a market hog show set February 21 to benefit the new five-county livestock arena in Elizabeth City.

All entries will be sold at the show and will go to immediate slaughter.

Perquimans County Extension chairman Bill Jester said that the arena, sponsored jointly by Perquimans, Gates, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck Counties, will be used primarily for 4-H livestock shows, but will also be used for various market hog show and sales, and should be a boost to the livestock industries of the five counties.

"We encourage all persons interested in the development of the livestock industry in North Carolina to enter at least one hog in the show," said Jester.

The show, open to both adults and young people, will

be for market barrows or gilts weighing between 180 and 240 lbs. Classes will include light weight market hogs (180-200 lbs.), medium weight market hogs (201-220), and heavy weight (221-240).

A fitting and showmanship contest will also be held, with a \$10 entry fee required. Trophies will be awarded to the grand champion and reserve grand champion, and a trophy will be awarded to the first place winner in fitting and showmanship.

The show will be followed by a dinner.

Market hogs entered in the show will become the property of the Albemarle 4-H Livestock Show and Sale Committee and will be sold to help make payment on the new livestock arena.

For more information, contact the Perquimans County Extension office at 426-5428.

## Peanut meeting set

Conditions were a bit too wintry for the winter peanut meeting last week, with a five inch snowfall forcing the session to be rescheduled for tomorrow (Feb. 8) at 2 p.m. at the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission building on South

Church Street.

The meeting will focus on variety selection, environmental effects on yield and quality, lime and gypsum interaction and weed control.

The crop year peanut production award will also be presented at the meeting.

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### District conservationist

Tony Short, a Warren County native, has recently joined the staff of the Perquimans and Chowan Soil Conservation Service.

## Conservationist joins USDA staff

A new district conservationist, Tony Short, has recently joined the staff of the Perquimans and Chowan Soil Conservation Service.

Short, a Warren County native, assumed the responsibility of the office on January 28, which ended a three month vacancy of a conservationist in the Hertford office.

Short was reassigned here from the Trenton Field office in Jones County, where he had been the District Conservationist for four years. Prior to that he had held a soil conservation position in Northampton County.

Keep bromeliads in medium to high light, average humidity, and fertilize every two months. Once a "vase" blooms, it rarely blooms again, but sends up offshoots

## Market summary

A total of 8,744 feeder pigs were sold on 11 state graded sales during the week of January 28, according to the Market News Service of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Prices were \$3.50 to \$6 lower per hundred pounds. US 1-2 pigs weighing 40-50 pounds averaged \$56.40 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$48.63; 50-60 pound 1-2s averaged \$55.65, No. 3s \$44.32; 60-70 pound 1-2s \$50.12, No. 3s \$40.52; 70-80 pound 1-2s \$43.68 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$33.47.

Corn prices were 2 to 3 cents per bushel higher and soybeans 12 cents higher through Thursday, January 31, compared to the same period of the previous week. No. 2 yellow shelled corn ranged mostly \$2.77 to \$2.93

per bushel in the Eastern part of the state and \$2.76 to \$2.90 in the Piedmont. No. 1 yellow soybeans ranged mostly \$6.36 to \$6.64 in the East and \$6.19 to \$6.48 in the Piedmont; and milo \$4.09 to \$4.60 per hundred.

Sweet potato prices were lower this week with movement slow at the first of the week but improving at week's end. Demand is moderate. Fifty pound cartons of cured US No. 1s on January 31 were quoted at \$6.10 to \$6.75, few \$5.75 and some best quality \$7.

At weekly livestock auctions held within the state the week of Jan. 28, prices for slaughter cows were \$4.10 to \$5.10, higher, veals \$3.10 to \$5.10, higher and feeder calves \$2.50 to \$7 higher.

The Marine Corps veteran was raised on a tobacco farm close to Henderson, North Carolina. He graduated from Louisburg College and received his B.S. in Conservation from North Carolina State University in 1974. He enjoys quail hunting, fishing and outdoor activities.

### Perquimans Gardening By Jean Winslow



Hope you have put your snap peas in, or at least have received the seeds in preparation. Last year we talked at great length about this new vegetable. We put in a small crop the first of February for experimentation, and I can honestly say that everything Burpee says about this plant, produced by the Gallatin Seed Co. in Idaho, is true.

We used it for dips, stir-fried it for Chinese dishes, and I froze a lot to cook as a regular vegetable for the dinner table. It has to be strung, and it cannot be canned-but I don't care. I planted it again.

By the way, Burpee sends along a little booklet discussing preparation, etc., which is quite illuminating on the subject of sugar snaps.

Bring in some branches of various spring-blooming shrubs and trees such as forsythia, apples, peaches, spirea, shadbush and ornamental quinces. Put them in deep water and force them into bloom. Pussy willows are quite easy.

Fertilize pansies lightly, and pick off blooms to strengthen plant.

Check dahlia tubers. If they have become shriveled in storage, sprinkle fairly often to prevent drying out. Or, you can put them in a plastic bag, or store in sawdust, vermiculite, or peatmoss.

Houseplants require extra attention now, as we have been discussing. Besides judicious watering, and plenty of sunlight, provide several layers of protection from the cold by using newspapers between the windowpane and the plant.

I'm sure many of you have a bromeliad in your collection of houseplants. These are the ones that are characterized by rosettes of stiff, fleshy, fibrous leaves often in the shape of a funnel. Indeed, the funnel should always be filled with water. Of course the potting mixture should be kept moist, but should you have to be away for a while, the plant will live on the water left in this "vase".

Bromeliads range from the familiar pineapple to other genera such as Aechmea, which has wine-colored leaves with creamy stripes—very popular. Another is Black Jack which sends up a spike of red and blue flowers.

The Urn plant is another good one for the house. It has stiff grey-green leaves with irregular silvery bands, and sends up a flower stalk with

showy orange-red bracts. These bracts remain for as long as three months or more, before the bluish and white fruits mature.



Urn Plant  
*Aechmea Chanrinii*

## Pine Beetle kills

The Southern Pine Beetle, an insect about the size of a grain of rice, has killed enough timber in southern forests this year to build 34,500 homes, according to Southern Forest Institute.

"Beetle activity is reported in ten of the thirteen southern states, but hardest hit are Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and North and South Carolina," said Don Smith, director of forest resources for SFI.

The five states report 610,986 cords and 140,143,775 board feet killed by the insect that chews through the living tissue of a tree and cuts off the normal flow of moisture and nutrients.

First evidence of attack is small white pitch tubes on the tree trunk. Once the tree's food source is severed, pine needles begin to turn a yellowish green color. Not long after that, the tree dies.

Smith added, "There's not too much a landowner can do to stop the initial beetle attack. However, he can prevent infestation of surrounding trees and salvage some of the wood by harvesting the beetle-infested trees."

There are two approved insecticides that can also be used to kill beetle eggs, larvae, pupae and adults that might be under the tree bark. The insecticides, Lindane and Dursban, should be used on uninfested trees surrounding a beetle-hit area.

SFI suggests landowners who think they have a beetle problem in their woodlands contact their state forestry agency, a nearby forest products company, or a consulting forester.

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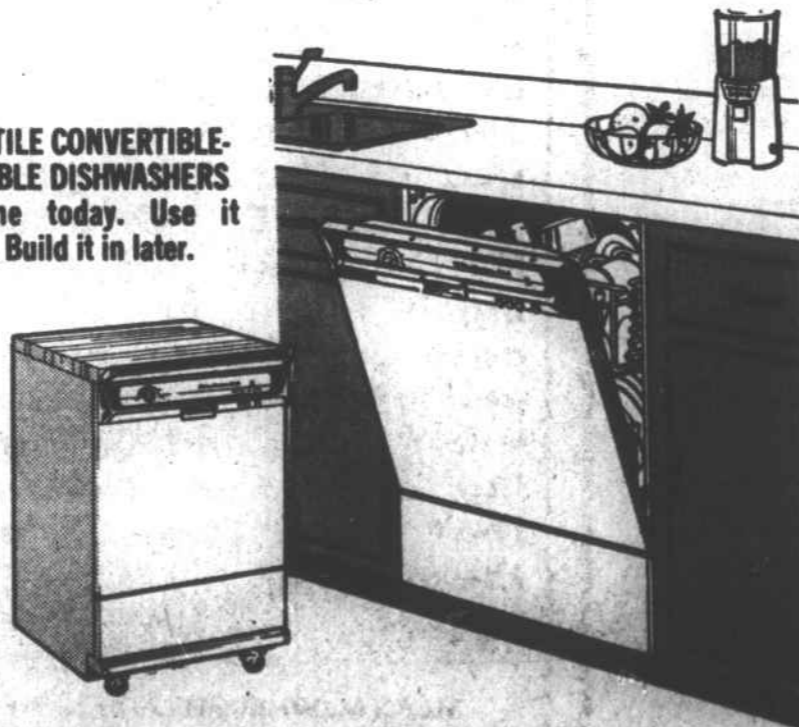
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