

Agriculture

Farm-City activities set

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox has proclaimed Nov. 21-27 as Farm-City Week in Perquimans County.

Among activities slated for the week-long observance are a tour of industry and farms, as well as a contest for local school children.

According to R. L. Stevenson, Farm-City Week Chairman, and W. R. Jester, County Extension Chairman,

a tour of Don Juan Manufacturing Company and the Harrell Farm will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 25. Persons interested in participating in the tour should meet at the Perquimans County Extension Office at 2 p.m.

According to Jester, the purpose of the tour is to give people on the farm and in the town an opportunity to share experiences and develop a better understanding of each

other's way of life.

A poster contest is also being sponsored by the Farm-City Week Committee, the Perquimans Agricultural Extension Service and Perquimans County Elementary Schools. Jester said the object of the poster contest is to develop the child's concept of the interdependence of farm and city. Trophies will be awarded to the winners.

Market summary

A total of 11,671 feeder pigs were sold on 13 state graded sales during week of November 10, according to the Market News Service of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Prices were mostly \$3 to \$5 higher per hundred pounds.

US 1-2 pigs weighing 40-50 pounds averaged \$76.46 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$56.95; 50-60 pound 1-2s averaged \$72.47, No. 3s \$53.61; 60-70 pound 1-2s \$65.02, No. 3s \$49.39; 70-80 pound 1-2s \$57.87 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$45.34.

At weekly livestock auctions held within the state, prices for slaughter cows were steady to \$2 higher and feeder calves \$1 to \$4 lower. Utility and Commercial cows brought \$42.25 to \$51; Choice Veal 150-250 pounds \$61 to \$70. Medium frame No. 1 muscle steers 400-500 pounds brought \$64 to \$76.50 per hundred pounds and same grade heifers 400-500 pounds sold \$51 to \$59.50. No. 1 muscle feeder cows sold from \$40 to \$49.50. Baby Calves under 3 weeks of age brought \$40 to \$100 per head. Market hogs brought mostly \$44 to \$47.90 per hundred weight and 300-600 pound sows \$37.75 to \$42.

Corn prices were steady to 3 cents lower per bushel and soybeans 7 to 39 cents lower through Thursday, Nov. 13 compared to the same period of the previous week. No. 2 yellow shelled corn ranged mostly \$3.52 to \$3.78 in the Eastern part of the state and \$3.63 to \$3.70 in the Piedmont. No. 1 yellow soybeans ranged mostly \$8.51 to \$8.74 in the East and \$8.30 to \$8.51 in the Piedmont; No. 2 red winter wheat \$4.30 to \$4.60.

Sweet Potato prices were steady this week. Supplies are

moderate to short. Demand seasonally good. Fifty pound cartons of cured US No. 1s on Nov. 13 were quoted at \$9.75 to \$10, some \$9.50, occasional preferred brand \$10.50 to \$11. Jumbo \$600 to \$6.50. Prices paid to growers for No. 1s packed out at end of belt \$7 to \$8 per carton.

The broiler-fryer market is higher for next week's trading. Supplies are moderate with some plants short. Demand is good. The North Carolina dock weighted average price is 47.98 cents per pound for less than truckloads picked up at processing plants during the week of November 17. This week 8.4 million birds were processed in North Carolina with an average live bird weight of 4.01 pounds per bird on Nov. 12.

Heavy type hens were higher this past week. Supplies were fully adequate and demand good. Heavy type hen prices were mostly 26 cents per pound at the farm with buyers loading.

Egg prices were 2 to 3 cents per dozen higher to those of the previous week. Supplies were moderate, instances of shortage. Demand was very good. The North Carolina weighted average price quoted on Nov. 13 for small lot sales of carton grade A eggs delivered to stores was 80.51

cents per dozen for large, Medium 78.58 and smalls 68.68.

For the period Nov. 10 to 14, gross tobacco sales on Eastern Belt totaled 8.6 million pounds and averaged \$126.25 per hundred, down \$11.94; Old and Middle Belt \$1.5 million pounds were sold for an average of \$117.19 per hundred, down \$12.88. For this period the Stabilization Corporation received 30.3 percent on the Eastern Belt and 38.3 percent on the Old and Middle Belt.

Market hogs at daily cash buying stations about the state sold \$1 to \$1.25 lower during the week of Nov. 10 and ranged mostly \$46.75 to \$48. per hundred pounds. Sows 300-600 pounds ranged \$33 to \$44.

Perquimans Gardening



By Jean Winslow

Check your sprayers for any solution left in them. Throw it away, as it will be ineffective by next growing season, and will possibly corrode the container.

Prepare rose beds now. The soil needs to settle before planting during the end of December and into January.

It is still too warm to move trees. Wait until they are totally dormant. I've found that a wet January is ideal planting time for seedlings, especially.

Susanquas, of the camellia family, are in bloom now, and must be kept watered.

Keep leaves raked. They mat, and will kill even the best stands of grass if left to settle. Use them for compost.

Check evergreens for iron deficiency. State horticulturists suggest checking with our extension office for testing of soil. In this area, soil naturally runs acid, which is what evergreens like, but if, for some reason, the soil becomes too "sweet," correction is in order.

TO ADJUST pH

- Use sulphur or aluminum sulphate to lower pH (make more acid);
- Use lime to raise it (make more alkaline).

While iron makes up a minor part of the composition

of soil, it is needed to make chlorophyll. If there is too much calcium or lime, the iron becomes unavailable.

This may be ascertained by the green color of the plant. Yellow leaves spell bad news.

One thing to watch for is the color of plants close to brick, stucco, or cement blocks. Lime in mortar can be death on plants if it leaches out over a period of time.

"Coastwatch" is a periodical published by the North Carolina Sea Grant College Program, and a good source of information. (I signed up for it while visiting the Marine Resources Museum between Manteo and Mann's Harbor.)

In the last issue was a report on the progress of the gypsy moth. The larvae of these

insects have killed whole hardwood forests in the North, and now, signs are, they are moving south.

The department set out traps baited with a synthetic sex hormone which attracts male moths. No need for hysteria yet: even though traps in Currituck, Camden, Dare, Perquimans and Pasquotank yielded over 4500 males this summer, it is suspected they literally "blew-in" on strong winds from the north, mainly from the heavily infested Cape May, N.J. area.

Since, at that time of the year, females are hopefully too heavy with eggs to be transported by winds, it is assumed that the coast has not yet been picked by the gypsy moth for its first major assault on the South.

Forest land care, management urged

by TONY R. SHORT DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Almost 60 percent of forest land in this country is in farm and private holdings. The demand for wood products will double by the year 2000. What does this mean?

It means that the future looks good for you, the forest landowner. But many of our forests are in poor shape. They need upgrading as a result of years of overcutting. Forestland is like any other asset it must be managed to produce good yields.

Assistance is available to help provide management. The N.C. Forest Service can help provide a management plan. This includes detailed recommendations for work. The Soil Conservation Service can provide basic planning. The paper companies offer assistance also.

There are cost-share programs to help with the expenses of re-forestation of a cutover tract. This can be carried out with technical help from the Forest Service.

Farmland woods are a lot more than scenery. They provide jobs for 80,000 people in North Carolina. It is a multi-million dollar business, bringing in over \$40 million to the state annually.

Proper management of your forest land will provide profits in later years, but in the meantime, it offers a recreation potential at habitat for wildlife. These do have a value.

Consider starting a management program on your woodland. The N.C. Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service and the N.C. Extension Service can help.

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