

Agriculture

Market summary

A total of 9911 feeder pigs were sold on 13 state graded sales during the week of November 27, according to the Market News Service of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Prices were weak to \$3.50 lower per hundred weight.

US 1-2 pigs weighing 40-50 pounds averaged \$112.89 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$92.35; 50-60 pound 1-2s averaged 103.89, No. 3s \$86.49; 60-70 pound 1-2s \$87.40, No. 3s \$82.08; 70-80 1-2s \$78.37 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$70.29.

At 10 weekly livestock auctions held within the state the week of November 27, 6,423 cattle and 2,185 hogs were sold. Utility and Commercial slaughter cows brought \$34 to \$42 with canner and cuttler at \$28.50 to \$39.

Choice slaughter calves 350-550 pounds sold from \$44 to \$54.50 with good grade at \$40 to \$47. Choice slaughter steers above 800 pounds brought \$52 to \$57 with Good at \$50.50 to \$55.75.

Few Good slaughter heifers above 700 pounds brought \$46 to \$51.25. Slaughter Bulls yield grade 1 & 2 above 100 pounds sold from \$42 to \$49.25 per cwt.

Medium frame No. 1 thickness 400-500 pound feeder steers brought \$54 to

\$63 with Small Frame No. 1s at \$49.75 to \$59, same weight Medium Frame No. 1 heifers brought \$44 to \$52.50 with Small Frame No. 1s at \$38 to \$46.50.

Beef type Feeder Cows carrying average flesh brought \$36.50 to \$41 with thin flesh at \$30 to \$36.50 per hundred pounds. Baby calves under three weeks of age brought \$20 to \$62 per head. Market hogs 200-240 pounds sold from \$53 to \$54 with sows 450 pounds up at \$47.25 to \$52.30.

Market hogs at daily cash buying stations about the state during the week of November 29 ranged mostly \$54 to \$55.25 per hundred pounds. Sows 500 pounds up ranged \$47 to \$50 per hundred.

The North Carolina FOB dock quoted price on broilers for the week December 1 through December 7 is 39.25 cents, with a preliminary weighted average on December 3 of 39.35 cents. The market is steady, and the live supply is moderate for a moderate demand.

Heavy type hens were higher this past week. Supplies were light and demand moderate. Heavy type hen prices 25 cents per pound at the farm with buyers loading.

egg prices were lower compared to

those of the previous week. Supplies were moderate. Demand was moderate. The North Carolina weighted average price quoted on December 2 for small lot sales of cartoned grade A eggs delivered to stores was 70.22 cents per dozen for Large, Medium \$9.61 and 48.30.

No comparison on corn and soybean prices due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. For the period November 29 through December 3. No. 2 yellow shelled corn ranged mostly \$2.41 to \$2.56 in the Eastern part of the state and \$2.37 to \$2.60 in the Piedmont.

No. 1 yellow soybeans ranged mostly \$5.48 to \$5.69 in the East and \$5.25 to \$5.48 in the Piedmont; No. 2 red winter wheat \$3.03 to \$3.15; No. 2 red oats \$1.20 to \$1.45. Soybean meal for the processing plant ranged \$188.20 to \$196.50 per ton for 44 percent. New crop prices quoted for harvest delivery wheat \$3.05 to \$3.23.

Sweet potato prices were steady this week. Demand was light. Fifty pound cartons of cured uncured US No. 1s on December 2 were quoted at \$5 some lower, few \$5.50. Jumbo \$2 to \$3. Prices paid to growers for No. 1s packed out at the end of belt were \$2.50 to \$2.75 per bushel.

Bright colors save hunters' lives

A hunter wearing brown is mistaken for a deer, and shot at dusk. A man swings on a running deer and kills his hunting partner, who is in the line of fire. Another hunter shoots at a movement in the brush and kills his son.

Wildlife agencies group these hunting accidents into two broad categories — "victims mistaken for game," and "victims in the line of fire." Few accidents arouse as much public indignation as when a man is mistaken for a deer and shot, but almost all of these accidents can be prevented. It takes one simple step — wearing blaze-orange clothing while hunting.

"Although hunters aren't required to wear blaze-orange clothing in North Carolina, we certainly encourage its use," said Winfield Fhyne, assistant chief of the Division

of Enforcement for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "This bright orange clothing not only reduces hunting accidents considerably, but has no effect on hunter success because deer and most other game animals are color blind."

Currently, over 30 states require blaze-orange clothing for big-game hunters — and some also require it for small-game hunters. In all of these states, hunting accidents have dropped considerably. Here are a few examples:

•In 1962, Massachusetts became the first state to require blaze-orange clothing for deer hunters. In 1961, there were 10 hunting accidents during the deer season with two

fatalities. There have been no fatal deer-hunting accidents in Massachusetts since the blaze-orange law was passed.

•Pennsylvania used to average 50 to 60 fatal hunting accidents annually among its half-million hunters. In 1980, when blaze orange was required, there were only seven fatal hunting accidents among one million hunters. Except for self-inflicted wounds, there has never been a hunting fatality in Pennsylvania involving hunters wearing blaze orange. The first year that the blaze-orange law went into effect, Pennsylvania had its lowest number of hunting accidents with record numbers of hunters.

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Perquimans Gardening  By Jean Winslow

Camellias—Royalty Among Flowering Shrubs
Camellias can be spectacular in the southeastern garden, given room to show off and occasional T.L.C. The Camellia japonica is the most widely grown. This shrub, or very often, tree, can grow to 30 feet, maintaining its glossy leaves year round.

Single flowered camellias have five petals and a dense cluster of prominent yellow stamens in its center. Semi-double have mature petals around the perimeter of the flower and bear a mass of petals in the middle which are really modified stamens. Doubles have great masses of mature petals set in a definite pattern. Colors are white, pink, red, variegated with a waxy appearance.

This is a rather formal-growing shrub which can be used best as a specimen in partially shaded areas. Pine trees provide excellent protection as does the northern exposure of your house. If possible, plant in the fall.

Camellias are shallow rooted and

do not like wet feet, which means great care must be taken not to plant too deep in the first place. Mulch new plants heavily with acid-producing coverage such as pine needles and oak leaves. These will provide the necessary 5.0 to 5.5 pH suggested by the North Carolina Extension Service through its Teletip Service. (1-800-662-7301; get your information pamphlet from our county office).

Fertilizer should be lightly applied the first year only. Decomposing organic material from your mulch will take over from there.

For maximum flower production, keep camellias under eight feet, though I must say, a tree-form camellia is a beautiful sight. Keep dead wood pruned.

Camellia susanquas are often used as hedges. Select one color only for major visual impact and plant six feet apart.

Root rot constitutes camellias most serious problem. It is not readily recognizable, but a fairly practiced

eye can discern retarded growth, small foliage and yellowing. The best control is to purchase disease-free plants from a reputable nursery (no cut-rate discount stuff, please) and avoid poorly drained soil.

Leaf gall appears in early spring in the form of thick fleshy blobs that are more alarming than dangerous. Cut them off and continue whatever you were doing.

Insect infestation consists mainly of tea and camellia scale. These var-mints live in crust or shell-like formations on the barks of twigs and limbs.

Not only are they ugly to look at, but they steal the plant's vigor and cause twigs and branches to die back. Treat with malathion or diazinon during the growing season. This is when scale "crawlers" are active.

If this fails to provide the needed protection, call our agricultural office for further help.

'Cause I've told you everything I know.

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