

Local agencies promote environmental awareness to students

By VAL SHORT
Promoting environmental awareness was the aim of the Environmental Field Day held last Wednesday at Perquimans Union School.

Sponsored by the Perquimans committee of the Albemarle Conservation District, the day was planned for approximately 150 seventh graders at Union. It is usually held in conjunction with Environmental Awareness Week, which is April 11 through 16.

Four agencies that are involved in conservation of natural resources participated in the field day, including the Soil Conservation Service, the N.C. Wildlife Commission, the N.C. Forest Service and the Perquimans County Extension Service.

Chairman of the Perquimans Committee Floyd Matthews opened the event, telling the students, "We want to make you all more aware of the conservation of all our natural

resources. Conservation, unlike preservation, is wisely using our natural resources."

John Hurdle and Scott Smith of the N.C. Forest Service demonstrated how tree rings can determine the age of a tree. Using the rings, they showed the students how trees grow under good and poor conditions.

Bill Jester, chairman of the Perquimans Extension Service

showed the students how to identify diseased plants under a microscope and discussed basic plant physiology.

Extension livestock agent Jeff Copeland showed two pigs, pointing out the good and bad qualities of each.

"We tried to show what kind of educational programs we conduct, tying in with the the recommendations based on research. I

though it was extremely successful and well worth my time. It was very productive and the students were very attentive," Jester commented.

"An important point (of the field day)," said Jester, "is for children to learn to understand the environment and the agencies that work with the environment."

Representing the N.C. Wildlife Commission at the Field Day were

Mike Overton, Ken Craft, David Rowe, Bobby Madrid and Rod McClanahan. They discussed tagging game, hunting safety and trapping game.

The highlight of their presentation was the firing of a capture net over duck and goose decoys. This is usually used to capture geese, ducks or turkeys for tagging or transplating.

Overton, who is educational representative with the N.C. Wildlife Commission, said the day was a success. "I thought it went real well - it was a real learning experience for the kids," he commented.

Tony Short of the Soil Conservation Service showed a model conservation farm with various conservation practices such as, no-till, contour cropping and planting cover crops. SCS Soil Scientist Phil Tant discussed soils and how they are formed. He told the group what soils were made of and just how important they are to all of us.

Short said "I am very pleased with the response that we got from the students. They were very attentive and well-behaved. This was a very worthwhile coordinated effort by all four agencies. I hope that we can do this again next year."



At the Environmental Field Day at Perquimans Union Tony Short, of the Soil Con-

servation Service, shows a good and poor conservation model farm which indicates practices.

Roanoke colonies course set

The Roanoke Colonies 400th Anniversary Celebration will be during the year 1984. The College of The Albemarle's Continuing Education Division wishes to familiarize interested persons in the history and meaning of this celebration.

A course entitled The Roanoke Colonies will be offered and will be taught by Ray Winslow, writer of the Historical Notes Column, which appears in THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY each week. It will be held each Tuesday night from 7 to 9 p.m., beginning May 10 and continuing through June 14. Classes will be held at the Perquimans County Vocation Building.

FHA interest rates drop

Larry W. Godwin, North Carolina State Director for the Farmers Home Administration, has announced a change in the agency's interest rates for community program loans effective April 1, 1983.

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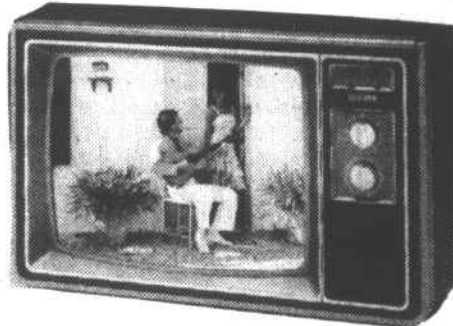
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