

# Agriculture

## Sluggo provides fatherly protection for Miranda and family

A note to new readers: For several years Jean's favorite friendly foe in the garden is Sluggo, who is a you-know-what. He first caught her attention when he drank all the beer she had put out to do him in. It didn't. He loved it, the lush. Every summer he returns to her squash patch for a vacation from his winter's adventures.)



an old story. Naive maiden taken in by a river-wise domestic dude, you know how it goes. The courtship was quick, and she paired off with the same ardent devotion she had observed in her parents. It was when she told him about being in a family way he took flight. Parenthood would have ruined the free and selfish life he loved.

By this time I began to notice her visiting the yard, but paid no mind. Sometimes six or eight ducks would visit in the morning, relishing worms and insects, quacking in the sun. In fact, we didn't know anything about her until Julian found the eggs.

As I said, Dude Duck dumped her.

When she realized he was gone for good she tried to reassemble her life. I can't leave now, she thought. At least I have my brothers and sisters, even if there's no one to mate with at this late date. I'm in a delicate condition. I'm going to have to pull myself up by my golph-straps and get through this thing. She bravely carried on, feeding conscientiously because she had to maintain her health.

She was pecking through the grass one sunny Sunday, seeking an earthworm or two for breakfast.

"Madame, desist, I implore you!" She looked up, around, and down. The vocalization, though, had emanated from her own beak which was full of something. Somebody, apparently, and she immediately released the vocal object.

She didn't know Sluggo, like you and I do. She was too new to realize that instead of a worm she had picked up our imminent beer loving mollusk acquaintance who comes up from the rain forests of South America to summer in my zucchini. It was his only respite during the year from the tribulations of running the country of Canopy, a haven for the misunderstood of the animal world.

"Please forgive me," she cried. "I don't even notice what I'm eating, actually. It's just that I hardly know what I'm doing lately. While it is necessary to find sustenance, I myself have been treated so shabbily, I would not willingly be cruel to another creature. You will not be eaten, sir."

"Your eyes are sad, ma petite bochas. In repayment for my life, perhaps I can help."

His tone of sympathy unlocked pent-up sorrows of the last few weeks. He was visibly shaken by her lament of abandonment, and listened quietly until the last sad word was spoken. She nestled in the grass beside him, exhausted. After long silent moments, Sluggo knew what must be done. This was, after all, not

the first time his protection was needed by the destitute.

"You spared my life, Madame. For this you will be amply rewarded. Your children must be cared for, and I intend to see they are provided with the finest. We will find you a home immediately, and in the absence of your ex-husband, I shall protect you always..."

Julian came up from the boathouse without the battery he had gone down to retrieve from the cruiser for charging.

"Miranda has established her family in the engine hold", he explained. "There are 14 eggs under the left cushion. I can't move anything for a while. It's just..."

"Why are you shaking your head?" I asked.

"The furnishings. They're incredible. First of all, the whole cradle is cushioned with tiny bits of boat insulation. There are soft grasses, pieces of moss. A curtain of magnolia leaves have been strung over the back, as if to provide a private area. There are two lily pads absolutely chock-full of Duck Chow. One of our old gourds from last year's harvest holds drinking water. We both know she's been alone for the last two weeks. Who could be showering such gifts—

"Sluggo!", we both said at the same time. And so we knew that the Godfather was once again in operation.

I ran down to fertilize and water the squash, and there he was reclining under a brick, since the



### Sluggo provides nursery for Miranda.

zucchini leaves were still a mite small.

"We know about Miranda, Slug," I said.

"Merely doing what I do best, m'dear, taking care of the down-trodden. Which, by the way, is more than I can say for you. Not one pan of beer and I know Julian stocks Coors, Schlitz and all that good stuff at the C-Store. I would think you'd have at least a little generic in a pieplate by the water pump.

"No sooner said than done, Slug.

You just watch after Miranda and the children, and I'll watch out for you."

He sighed contentedly as he heard duck wings fluttering against the indoor-outdoor casement.

"Fine, I'll be right here. By the way Jean, when you come back with my Schlitz, bring me the rain forecast, would you please?"



Modern postage stamps came into use in 1840.

### ASCS update:

## Spring seeded crop deadline nearing

By TOMMY RIDDICK  
CROP REPORTS — May 10th was the final date for producers to file their reports of acreages planted to small grains.

Small grains on conserving use acreages (set-aside) has to be disposed of by May 10 or the producer must have filed a request with us by May 10 to leave on the land for reseeding purposes and pay for a field visit to later determine use of.

Producers in the programs that have small grains on set-aside, and failed to report such by May 10 are out of program compliance at this time. To get in compliance, he may report now and pay late report charges assessed, plus the cost for a field visit.

June 15 is the deadline for reporting spring seeded crops and August 1 for summer seeded crop (milo). These are important dates.

CONSERVING USE ACREAGE — North Carolina will have in excess of 840,000 acres in conservation use acreage this year. We can't over

emphasize the importance of complying with program requirements. There will be a lot of farm checks made to determine compliance for program benefits.

Producers are reminded that this land being devoted to conserving use acreage, must have been in a row crop or small grains in two of the last three years. The land area for partial fields must be a minimum of 5 acres in size and 66 feet wide unless the set-aside requirement is less than 5.0 acres or it is finishing out the acreage requirement. Whole fields are accepted regardless of size.

This acreage must be devoted to an approved conservation use, can't be harvested or grazed from April 1 through September 30 and protected against erosion, weeds and insects.

PEANUTS The final date for leasing and transferring peanut quota is June 1. Producers are reminded that when certifying, they need to have a copy of the seed bill to show seed purchased for this crop year as in the past.

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**INVITATION TO BID**  
**The Hertford Housing Authority**

will receive bids for Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program Project NC31-901 (FFY82) at existing Low-Rent Housing Projects NC31-1 and NC31-2 in Hertford, North Carolina.

Bids will be received until 1:30 P.M., Local Time on the 14th day of June, 1983, at the main office of the Housing Authority at 104 White Street, Hertford, North Carolina 27944. At that time, all bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Proposals submitted by mail should be addressed to the Housing Authority at the address set out above and plainly marked as indicated in the "Instructions to Bidders", Section B. All proposals submitted by mail will be collected at the above mentioned mailing address at 1:00 P.M., Local Time, on the day mentioned above and held unopened at the office of the Housing Authority until 1:30 P.M., at which time they will be opened with those that have been hand delivered.

Bidding Documents, including Plans and Specifications, are on file at the office of the Architect, Francis B. Sheets, Jr., A.I.A., Sheets, Aiken and Aiken, Inc., 2722 Piedmont Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30305, Post Office Box 52639, Atlanta, Georgia 30355 and at the office of the Housing Authority at the above address.

Plans and specifications may be ordered from the Architect's Office in Atlanta. Two copies of the documents may be obtained by prime contractors by depositing \$25.00 with the Architect for each set of documents so obtained. Prime contractors may purchase additional sets and subcontractors and material suppliers may purchase sets of the documents for the cost of reproduction which is \$15.00 per set. This \$15.00 is not refundable. Each request for plans and specifications should indicate that the request is for a prime contractor or otherwise.

Prime Contractors who return the plans and specifications within ten working days after the bid opening will be refunded their full deposit for plans and specifications that have not been defaced. If the plans and specifications of prime contractors are not returned within the above ten day period the entire deposit will be forfeited. In the event a prime contractor orders plans and specifications and does not submit a bid, or does not inform the Architect of his intention to submit no bid within 72 hours prior to time of bid opening, he will forfeit his entire deposit for plans and specifications.

A certified check, or bank draft, drawn on a bank or trust company insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation made payable to the Housing Authority, Owner, U.S. Government Bonds, or a satisfactory Bid Bond, executed by an acceptable surety on the Bid Bond Form contained in the Specifications in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid shall be submitted with each bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond(s) in the amount of 100% of the contract amount. In lieu of the Performance and Payment Bond the successful bidder can furnish a 20% cash escrow, or a Letter of Credit subject to the requirements of State and Local laws.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding.

No bids may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the consent of the Housing Authority.

All contractors shall be required to comply with the equal employment requirements of the Federal Government.

Attention is called to the fact that salaries not less than the Davis-Bacon wage rates as published by the U.S. Department of Labor and as set forth in the Specifications must be paid on this project.

Please address all questions regarding plans and specifications, or bidding procedure to the Architect and not to the Housing Authority.

THE HERTFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY

Date May 11, 1983

May 19, 20, 21

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**AUCTION SALE OF VALUABLE FARM EQUIPMENT**  
ESTATE OF RICHARD S. JONES  
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1983 - 10:00 A.M.  
SALE LOCATED: Richard S. Jones Home: Between Sunbury, N.C. and Corapeake, N.C., off Hwy 32 on State Route 1325. FOLLOW AUCTION SIGNS.

**TRACTORS**

- John Deere Tractor - 2840 - Diesel
- I.H.C. Tractor - 1066 - Diesel - Turbo
- I.H.C. Tractor - Diesel - 856
- I.H.C. Tractor - 656 - Hydrostatic - Gas
- I.H.C. Tractor - Gas - 606
- I.H.C. Front-End Loader - #2350

**HARVESTING EQUIPMENT**

- I.H.C. Grain Combine - #615 - Gas - Hydrostatic
- 4 Row Corn - 4 Row Bean Header
- I.H.C. Rotary Disc Hay Mower - #3106 - High Speed
- I.H.C. Hay Baler - #430
- Alto-Chambers Hay Rake - 3 Ft. Hitch
- Geist Sage Cutter
- Pauk Peanut Digger Inverter - 2 Row
- Pearson Peanut Digger - 2 Row
- McCormick Peanut Shaker - 2 Row

**MACHINERY**

- Long Back Hoe - 3 Ft. Hitch
- Bush Hog Disc - 6 Row
- I.H.C. Disc - 4 Row
- I.H.C. Seed Drill - #510
- W & A Bedders - 4 Row - with Hyd. Pow. Markets and Gauge Wheels
- King Bedders - 4 Row
- K.M.C. Chest PLOW - 12 Tong
- Lillian Rolling Cultivator - 4 Row
- I.H.C. Cultivator - 4 Row - #63
- I.H.C. Middlebushers - 4 Row
- Stalk Cutter - 4 Row - 3 Ft. Hitch
- I.H.C. Planters - #295 - with Alto-Chambers No-Till Coulters and Dandy Hoppers on Def. Tool Bar - 4 Row
- I.H.C. Planters - #250 - 4 Row with Row Strikers

- I.H.C. Grider-Mixer - #1050 on Rubber
- Rotary Cutter - 4 Row
- Fertilizer Applicator with Stainless Steel Tank - Approx. 200 Gal. on Rubber
- Johnson Sprayer - Fiberglass Tank - Approx. 150 Gal. 3 Ft. Hitch
- Lane or Fertilizer Disk - 4 Row on Rubber
- Lely Spreader - 3 Ft. Hitch - #1250
- Dart Tractor Blade - Front Mount
- I.H.C. Bottom PLOW - 4 Bottom #411
- Super-Two Blade - 9 Ft.
- Lillian Rotary Cutter - 6 Ft.
- I.H.C. Sickle Mower - 7 Ft. Bar 3 Ft. Hitch
- Gran Trailer with Auger
- Long Conveyor on Rubber with Motor
- Hammer Mill
- Wheland Mixer - Approx. 14 ton
- 2-Augers on Rubber - 8 inch - with Motors - Approx. 40 Ft. Each
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- Hay Fork - 3 Ft. Hitch
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- Wood Saw
- Tractor Boom
- Belt-Harvester Conveyor - with Motor
- 4 - Pig Feeders
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