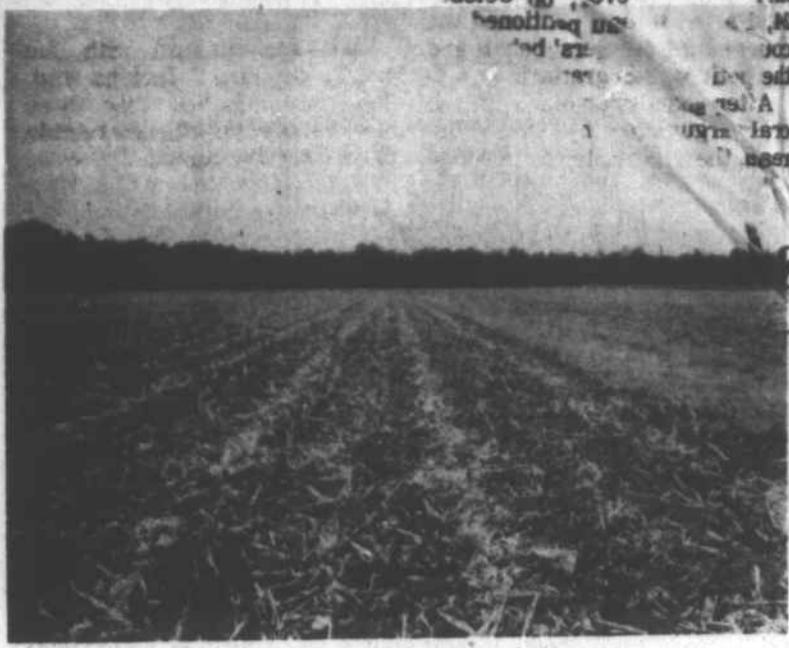


# AGRICULTURE



Crop residue left on ground during winter months

## Protect your cropland during winter months

Crop residue management and cover crops can protect cropland from wind and water erosion during the winter months. Residue management is simply leaving the residue of the harvested crop on top of the soil surface. This residue will prevent the wind from picking up the soil and blowing it away. It will also aid in controlling water erosion. Infiltration of rain water will increase on a field where there is less runoff and a reduction in erosion.

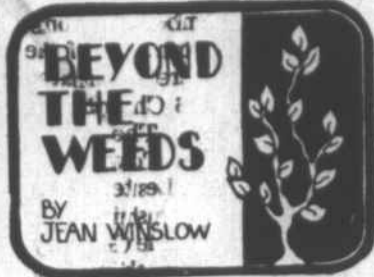
There are many reasons, such as incorporating lime, why the crop residues are destroyed. In such a case a cover crop may be planted for overwinter protection of the soil. Cover crops, which are close growing grasses, legumes and smallgrains, also increase infiltration and reduce runoff. Cover crops can also be used as winter grazing for cattle or turned under in the spring and used as a green manure crop. Cover crops and crop residue will

add organic matter to the soil, increase soil, increase soil aeration and soil tilth.

For more information about cover crop and crop residue management contact your local SCS Office.

## Preparing vegetables for winter pantry

Peppers should be separated from the plant with a sharp knife, as branches break easily. Peppers continue to ripen after picking. Place in a cool area so the process will not be too fast.



Refrigerated banana and bell peppers remain in good condition for two to three weeks. They may also be frozen. Clean out seeds and veins and chop. Blanching is unnecessary.

Hot peppers may be dried by stringing and storing in a well circulated area. Another method is to dry flat on a drying tray. Using rubber gloves, remove the stem and seed core. Grind into flakes and store in airtight containers.

Plants of small peppers, such as 'Tequila Sunrise', can be pulled up whole and pinned to a clothesline. Allow to dry thoroughly, then carefully snip off the fruits.

Sweet red peppers are delicious in many ways. Char whole fruits under broiler until black.

Take out of oven and place in a brown paper bag for 20 minutes. This method softens the pepper, making the skin easy to slip off.

Remove seeds and cut into strips. Place in sterilized jars and cover with olive oil. They will keep almost indefinitely.

### RUTABAGAS

There are three good storage methods for this yellow root vegetable.

Store in a cool area that stays between 32 and 40 degrees.

Set the roots in a moisture-proof container and store underground. It is important to mulch because rutabagas will be spoiled by frost.

'Crockett's Victory Garden' suggests dipping roots in warm water with a paraffin layer on the top. The resulting coating protects roots from air.

### SQUASH

Cut winter squash from vines about two weeks before frost is expected. Store in a dark dry area maintaining a temperature of about 50 degrees. Check for mold, which may be removed with a cloth lightly saturated with vegetable oil.

### SWEET POTATOES

Using a pitch fork, carefully dig potatoes to prevent any damage to the protective skin. Let cure on the ground for a few hours.

Sweet potatoes last longer if they are first placed in a well-

ventilated area with a temperature of at least 85 degrees high temperature will deter rhizopus rot.

After two weeks relocate potatoes in a storage area that will maintain a 50 degree temperature.

### GREEN TOMATOES

Gather unblemished fruits

only. Place in a dark, well ventilated area that stays 45 to 50 degrees. Contrary to opinion, green tomatoes will not ripen in sunlight! They just shrivel, turn pink and taste awful.

Might as well wait for winter tomatoes that stores sell. Shrivelled, pink, and awful.

## Counsel, referral service offered to farm families

By JOAN GOSPER Farmers and their families who are feeling the stress of low farm prices, declining land values, tight credit and other problems may need to talk it over with someone.

Workers trained to be supportive and to make referrals are on duty from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Callers do not have to identify themselves, and the service is confidential. This telephone service is being offered by the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service and numerous cooperating agencies and organizations.

In addition to the help that has always been available at the county agricultural extension office, a toll-free answering service is now in operation. By dialing 1-800-7NC-FARM, one can get information, referrals and counseling on: farm and family financial problems; legal options; and individual and family problems.

"A good book is the best of friends, the same today and forever."  
M. Farquhar Tupper

# ELIZABETH CITY'S NEWEST CITIZEN WORKS 24 HOURS A DAY.



It takes about 150 gallons of water to make the paper for one Sunday newspaper.

• Quality service  
• Experience  
**Vote JOHN BEERS**  
For Hertford Town Council  
Paid for by John Beers

**Radiator problems?**  
See your Radiator Aid Station. We're specialists.  
1. Complete Flush  
2. Cleaning • Repairing  
3. Recoring • Replacement  
**Byrum Implement & Truck Co.**  
482-2151  
Highway 17 North, Edenton, N.C.

First Citizens Bank's new automatic teller machine in the Elizabeth City area is now on the job. It works 24 hours a day, every day, at 1609 W. Ehringhaus Street.

That means added convenience for everyone holding a First Citizens Bankcard. Now, you can make cash withdrawals, deposits and other transactions at any First Citizens Bank 24 in North Carolina. And because First Citizens is a member of the Relay network, your First Citizens

Bankcard provides access to more than 1,000 automatic teller machines in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Don't have a First Citizens Bankcard? Simply drop by any of our offices and pick up your application. It's easy. Very soon you'll receive your First Citizens Bankcard and your personal secret number. Then you'll be able to put Elizabeth City's newest citizen to work for you. 24 hours a day!



FIRST CITIZENS BANK  
Service You Can Count On From The Bank You Can Trust.™

