

# Agriculture



Jason Harrell is shown as he gets his heifer ready for Saturday

## Hog inventory dropping

All hogs and pigs on North Carolina farms September 1, 1986, totaled 2.3 million head, four percent below September 1 of last year, according to the North Carolina Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This decrease in total inventory was the result of a five percent drop in market hogs which totaled 2,010,000 head. Breeding stock at 290,000 head was unchanged from the previous year. North Carolina ranks seventh nationally in the total number of hogs and pigs.

The State's pig crop during the June-August period totaled 984,000 head, three percent less

than the same months last year. These pigs were produced by 120,000 sows for a record high average of 8.2 pigs saved per litter.

North Carolina producers intend to farrow 235,000 sows during the next 6 months—September 1986-February 1987—unchanged from the same period a year ago.

Hogs and pigs on farms September 1, 1986, in the 10 Quarterly States are estimated at 39.6 million head, down five percent from a year ago. Breeding inventory at 4.84 million head was ten percent less than a year ago. Market hogs totaled 34.7 million

head, five percent less than last year. Total inventory and market hogs are both at the lowest September level since 1975. Breeding stock is at the lowest level since 10 State estimates began in 1973.

The June through August pig crop was 15.9 million head, a six percent decrease from last year. Pigs saved per litter average 7.79, a record high for this period.

Producers intend to have 2.06 million sows farrowed during the September-November period, a decrease of nine percent from the same period in 1985.

## Americans spend time and money on lawn care

Americans love their lawns, says *Avant Gardener Magazine*. Indeed, more is spent on lawn care (\$4 billion) than on ornamentals and landscaping (\$3.75 billion). So if you are a grass nut, here are a few reminders as we wind down another growing season.

If you need to reseed in places, be sure to buy the right grass seed for this area. You get what you pay for. Bargain seed will cost you in the long. Look for named varieties, check for high germination percentages, and make sure the amount of crop and weed seed is very low.

Beautiful lawns in the spring are the product of proper care in the fall. First of all, lower the

height of your lawn-mower blades to about one inch from the ground for the last cutting only. Growing points of grass will be cut off, encouraging plants to send out basal shoots which will thicken the turf the following spring. In the meantime, very short grass facilitates accomplishing chores such as raking leaves and removing debris. Remember to readjust the height of the mower blades to two inches. Grass plants will need the top growth next spring to carry nutrients to the root system.

Flower and Garden magazine suggests that you fill your lawn mower with gas poured from the niftiest can around: Pumper USA offers a 2½ or 5 gallon-size

can that dispenses gas from a pump handle that looks and works like the standard filling station pump, flexible hose and all. No more ground spills and wet, smelly boots! For information, write Pumper U.S.A., Dept. EMMM1-FG, 11300 Hampshire Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55438.

Make your watering count. The most popular recommendation for most crops and lawns is an application of one inch of water per week. According to N.C. State agricultural specialists, an inch of rain on an acre requires 28,000 gallons of water.

By using a little math, or in this case letting me tell you right now, we can estimate the amount



of moisture needed for a smaller space, say a 20 by 50-foot garden. That's 1000 square feet, which requires 643 gallons.

If you really want to get scientific, you can estimate the amount of time required to apply

this amount by reading your water meter. If the system runs 10 gallons per minute, divide 10 into the number of total gallons you wish to apply.

Thus, putting 640 gallons on 1000 square feet requires 64 minutes.

The most important feeding a lawn receives is in the fall. Shorter days and cooler nights signal grasses to begin storing food in the roots to tide them over until next spring. If there is a shortage in the very early spring, grass starts the growing season undernourished and generally stays that way.

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## Contest winners announced

We are very pleased to have the 1986 State Wheat Yield Contest Winners in Perquimans County. Albert, Karl and Burt Eure of White Hat Seed Farms claim the title with a yield of 97.6 bushels-acre on Florida 302 Wheat. They will receive a plaque and cash awards at the N.C. Plant Food Association Annual Meeting in January. Congratulations to each of them.

duce peanuts above their contract have options in marketing their peanuts. Uncontracted additional peanuts must be placed

under loan, but may be available for domestic use, through the immediate pay-back.



Extension News  
north carolina  
AGRICULTURAL  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE  
By Stan Winslow

I received the following report on peanut production about a week ago and wanted to share it. Please consider all your options before selling your peanuts this year.

"U.S. peanut production is forecast at 1,733,175 farmer stock tons, by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board, September 1, 1986 report. The 1986 crop is forecast 16 percent less than last year and 21 percent below the record harvest of 1984. The area for harvest total 1.49 million acres, is up 1 percent from last year, but down 3 percent from 1984.

Production in the Southeast is expected to total 1,116,500 tons, a 19 percent decline from a year ago, although planted acres increased 9 percent. Yields in the Southeast to average 2326 pounds, down 823 pounds from a year ago, reflecting this year's drought.

The Virginia-North Carolina crop is set at 335,675 tons, off 9 percent from last year, due primarily to an 8 percent reduction in acres planted. Yield for the area is expected to average 2919 pounds, only 24 pound less than 1985.

The Southwest crop is forecast at 281,000 tons, 10 percent less than last year. Acreage is down 13 percent from 1985 with yield forecast at 1892 pounds, up 54 pounds from 1985.

Total demand for U.S. peanuts is about 1,800,000 tons, including a domestic demand of 1,300,000 tons and exports of 500,000 tons. Stocks and Processing reports show less peanuts in inventory than 1985; yet, slightly above normal for this time of year.

Peanut growers in Virginia-North Carolina have contracted the major portion of their production on quota and additional peanuts for export. Those growers who did not contract or pro-

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