## Local 4-Hers will compete in Livestock Show

Spring is upon us and with it comes the 1989 Albemarle 4-H Livestock Show and Sale. All across Perquimans County, 4-H'ers are busily working with steers, hogs and lambs in prepara-tion for the big event. They spend



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

many hours feeding, grooming and training each animal for the show. Each child's pride comes shining through as they tell about their animal.

Perquimans County has a good group of 4-H'ers participating again this year. Many of them are "old hands" having shown animals for several years. They approach the show with a relaxed confidence; while the younger 4-H'ers are excited and a little anxious about what is ahead. Each child is enthusiastic and ready to do the best job possible. Fifty-one of our 4-H'ers are participating in the show this year, showing a total of 64 animals; 4 steers, 44 hogs and 16

Here in the Perquimans Extension Office, we take a lot of pride in each of these 4-H'ers as we get ready for their show. Watching these children grow and mature is a pleasure. Knowing that the Livestock Show is a positive event in each child's life makes the preparation very fulfilling. We wish every 4-H'er the best of luck with their animal. Also, we want to invite everyone in Perquimans County to attend the 1989 Show and Sale to support and cheer on our 4-

This year's show will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday; April 25th and 26th following is the schedule of events

Tuesday, April 25

7 a.m.-12 noon - Weighing and Entering all Hogs, Lambs & Steers

12:30 p.m. - Youth Livestock **Judging Contest** 

4 p.m. - Fitting & Showmanship of Lambs

6:30 p.m. - Adult Livestock **Judging Contest** 

7:30 p.m. Official Judging of Lambs, Mr. Steve Cabell, Judging Team Coach, N.C. State Univer-

## Fire ants invade Washington, DC

For years, farmers in the south, including some parts of North Carolina, have fought the fire ant with little success. The insects' large mounds can damage crop and pasture land and their sting can be se-



rious, and even deadly, for livestock as well as humans

Some chemicals used early in the fight were outlawed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Research to find replacements for the insecticide have been costly and with limited success.

Unfortunately, the federal government hasn't really gone all out to try to find a deterrent to the pest.

Most research has been done by private companies and funds for other research provided through interested organizations such as Farm Bureau. But now Uncle Sam may notice the fire ant; not be-cause it finally invaded Washing-ton, D. C. and built mounds on the White House lawn, but the pesky insect has been found to chew through underground cables and spark power outages.

The fire ant population is high in

the Texas farmland designated at the site for the \$4.4 billion Supercollider Physics Project. The Department of Energy noted in its 26 pound final environmental impact statement that the insects "appear to be attracted to electrical equipment and can chew through insulation, causing shorts by crowding into spaces around electrical con-

tacts. Now that the ants finally have the attention of the government, perhaps something can be done to eradicate the pest, and farmers and homeowners will get relief from this costly insect.

### Booths available

Booth space is now available for the Annual Currituck Craft Fair that will be held on Saturday, Au-gust 12 from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, August 13 from 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

The fair is sponsored by the Currituck Extension Homemakers Association and will be held at the Currituck County High School in Barco, located on US 158. General admission is \$1.00 for adults and 50

ants for children ages 6-12.

Those wishing to reserve booth pace should contact Bertha erry, 232-2050; Marie Sawyer, the Currituck Agricul-

Wednesday, April 26

8 a.m. - Official Judging of Hogs, Judge: Phil Rowan, Pitt Co. Ag. Ext. Agent, Greenville

10 a.m. - Fitting and Showmanship of Hogs

12 noon - Fitting and Showmanship of Steers

2 p.m. - Official Judging of Steers, Ralph Blalock, Jr.

Edgecombe Co. Ag. Ext. Agent

7 p.m. - Sale of all animals, Auctioneer: Harold Winslow

Thursday, May 4

7 p.m. - Awards Banquet, Elizabeth City State University, Kermit E. White Graduate Center, High-

34, Elizabeth City, Speaker: Jim Butler, Ext. Animal Husbandry Spec. (retired), N.C. State Uni-

# Wise advice to prevent poisoning

Every year, thousands of peo-ple suffer illness from misuse of toxic products, including agricultural chemicals. Most cases could be prevented by small effort by users and parents:

-The cardinal rule when using any chemical product is to read and follow the label or container directions. Note specific warnings, protective equipment required and first-aid measures.

Forget the old saying, "if a little is good, a little more must

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be better," when applying pesticides. Use the amount specified on the label. Mix accurately and carefully, and set up application equipment for proper dosage.

-Keep all potentially toxic products, including household cleaning aids and medications locked up or out of reach of children. Store in original containers, never in a food or drink container.

-Safely dispose of containers and leftovers



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