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**STATE COLLEGE**  
**ANSWERS**

**QUESTION:** What value is the Smith-Doxey Classing Service to me as a cotton grower?  
**ANSWER:** The classing service, which is free, tells you the grade and staple length of your cotton. Thus you can know exactly what your cotton is bringing on national and local markets, and the government loan value of your cotton. It is considered by

many farmers to be the first step to take in marketing your lint intelligently.  
**QUESTION:** How much oats will I have to produce to warrant my buying a combine?  
**ANSWER:** Yields of at least 70 bushels per acre should be sought to give reasonable dollar return if you own a combine and do no custom work. You would have to sow at least 20 acres to cover your cash costs alone, paying nothing for labor. Before buying such expensive equipment, you should give careful consideration to the relative cost of custom combining. Generally, you need a large acreage of any small grain to justify buying special equipment. And you should fertilize adequately to insure high yields.

**QUESTION:** What is the outlook for cattle prices?  
**ANSWER:** Most experts believe the surplus will be disposed of by late 1954 and the price will rise again.

**QUESTION:** How should the ridge ventilator on my tobacco barn be set during the coloring and drying process?  
**ANSWER:** At the beginning of the color setting and leaf drying period, it is suggested that the ridge ventilator be open. Close completely, or begin to close gradually as soon as the condition of the tobacco permits (usually not later than when the difference between the dry and wet bulb is 20 to 30 points).

**Rise In Cattle Market Forecast**

With most observers predicting a disposal of surplus beef cattle by late 1954 or early 1955 and a subsequent rise in the market, a State College cattle expert today urged farmers to seriously consider establishing beef herds now.

A. V. Allen, animal husbandry specialist for the college's Agricultural Extension Service, pointed out that the fall feeder calf sales, which begin in the state Wednesday, afford the best opportunity in several years for entering the cattle business. Quality is expected to be high and prices low.

Allen said that the market is bound to go up, whereas two years ago it was bound to go down. "This is the most favorable time in two years to buy foundation and replacement females," he said.

"A man buying heifer calves now could breed in the spring of '54 so that they would calve in the spring of '55 — in time to hit the expected rising market," Allen explained.

The 14 sales are offering 5,000 feeder calves that grade medium or better. Last year, 71 per cent of the consignments to the annual sales placed in the top three grades. All animals have been vaccinated for blackleg and shipping fever; heifer calves will be blood-tested for Bang's disease; all calves will be dehorned, and no bull calves will be offered. Transportation is available at all sales, which start at 1 p. m.

Allen pointed out that farmers could purchase feeder calves and thus utilize their corn that has been damaged by dry weather.

He pointed out that North Carolina packers prefer slaughter animals that weigh between 800 and 1,000 pounds and that grade good or choice.

"The farmer who purchases feeder calves at the bargain prices expected at these sales can get them to the preferred grade and weight by one of several methods," Allen said.

These are:

1. Dry lot feeding on corn and cottonseed meal. This takes from 90 to 100 days to get the animals to market condition.
2. Winter on rough hay, silage, cover crops, and accumulated pasture. Finish on dry lot feeding, or feed grain while on grass.
3. Winter in the same manner as in No. 2 and finish on grass alone. Feeder calves that grade medium do well when finished on grass.

Sales, and the number of head offered, follow: Goldsboro (200), Sept. 21; Elizabeth City (125), Sept. 22; Burgaw (150), Sept. 23; Rocky Mount (600), Sept. 24; Sanford (175), Sept. 25; West Jefferson (500, all heifers), Sept. 29; Asheville (750), Sept. 30; Laurel Hill (150, all Angus), Sept. 30; Pembroke (200), Oct. 1; Boone (250), Oct. 5; West Jefferson (600, all steers), Oct. 6; Statesville (600), Oct. 7; Greensboro (400),

**GARDEN TIME**  
**ROBERT SCHMIDT**  
**N. C. STATE COLLEGE**

With the coming of the fall season we begin to think of lawns and lawn grasses both for temporary winter lawns and for permanent ones. In most of North Carolina the fall months are the best time of the year to build permanent lawns because the young grasses get a chance to become well established before next summer's heat and dry weather. If you are interested in building a new lawn this fall you should write to the N. C. Agricultural Extension Division for John Harris' bulletin on "Carolina Lawns".

I should like to say a few words here about winter lawns. Most established lawns in this state are of Bermuda grass, crab grass, Dallis grass, bluegrass or a mixture of these and others. All except bluegrass will turn brown at the first hard frost. With the mild winters that we are blessed with over most of the state it is very desirable to keep our lawns green the year round. This is made possible by sowing Italian ryegrass in the established sod during late September or early October. If your permanent sod is heavy it may require five pounds of ryegrass seed per 1,000 square feet of lawn. If the sod is not heavy, two to three pounds per 1,000 square feet should be sufficient. Italian ryegrass is an annual and will die out next June.

By that time the permanent grasses should take over again. Since bluegrass remains fairly green in winter it is not recommended that ryegrass be planted in a good bluegrass lawn. The spring growth of ryegrass is often very heavy and may kill out the bluegrass. In order to give a good dark green color to the ryegrass it should be fertilized before planting. About two pounds of a 5-10-5 or other good garden fertilizer per 100 square feet of lawn should give good results.

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**Electric Appliances Simplify Day's Work**

Various electric appliances have certainly simplified the daily routine of the average home-maker, but purchasing such equipment should require careful study. After you've decided to buy a piece of equipment, you should ask yourself, "What should we know about this equipment before we buy?" Mamie Whisnant, State College home management specialist, advises that you ask questions of neighbors and sales people before making the final decision.

You should consider the reliability of the manufacturer and the dealer. An established reputation, says Miss Whisnant, is a company's greatest asset and your best guarantee. You should know the terms of your guarantee. Determine what service is really available in accordance with this guarantee.

See, too, that the piece of equipment is listed as having been approved by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Before buying an electrical appliance, you should consider the initial cost, the cost of operation, the cost of installation, and the cost of upkeep. Maintenance and replacement costs are likely to be higher for electric equipment than for equipment using other fuels, says Miss Whisnant. Study your guarantee to determine what servicing you will be furnished by the particular firm.

Overall construction is important too. Examine the product to determine the rigidity of the frame and the material of which it is made. Be sure the exterior and interior finishes are durable and easily cleaned.

Insulation is another important factor to consider. In most electrical appliances, insulation is an indication of quality.

Private industry spends an estimated \$140 million a year for research on agricultural products and on machinery used in agriculture. Public expenditures total \$107 million.

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