



Farmers Preparing For Next Year Crop

Many Negro farmers throughout the state are taking advantage of the post-harvest lull around the farm to make sure next year's crop is better fertilized and limed.

J. M. Spaulding, Negro county agent for the Agricultural Extension Service, says his Columbus County neighbors are taking soil samples earlier and more frequently this winter than ever before.

The farmers are not only testing samples of their 1954 tobacco soil, says Spaulding, but also their corn, cotton and peanut lands. This is encouraging, says the county agent, since tobacco is their most important crop and they could normally be expected to have their tobacco soil tested.

A group has made attractive center pieces for the tables in the lunchroom. In the lower grades children have made jumping Santas, Santas of cotton and many other unique things. Christmas cards of all types are posted on the bulletin boards. One type that catches the eye is the white spatter paint done on red, green, or blue outlining familiar Christmas objects. Home Economics girls have made fairy Christmas trees of crinoline stars, huge candles of wax wondrous to behold, jolly clowns of gingham for some lucky child and other fascinating things.

The Christmas spirit is evident in many other ways also. Children enjoy singing Christmas songs and listening to Christmas recordings. One class has studied in detail Dickens' "Christmas Carol." Another class has collected food and clothing for a needy family. The Student Participation Organization is cooperating with civic clubs in collecting toys and other needed things for poor families. Classroom clubs have planned programs for the last day of school. In the auditorium the band, mixed chorus, and a group of high school students have put the finishing touches on their Christmas program.

Yes, Christmas is an enjoyable time at school, and out of it. All the STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF THE KINGS MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL THE PATRONS OF OUR TOWN A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Commercial slaughter of the important species of livestock in North Carolina during October totaled 23.8 million pounds live weight.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

No one has greater cause to be grateful at this season than I. For one thing, it has been granted me to have one of the most interesting jobs in the State. Better still, I have been fortunate enough, through the years, to have had the privilege of working with a great group of sensible, intelligent and interesting people. You who edit and publish the newspapers of North Carolina have had as much, if not more, to do with the forward progress of North Carolina's rural life as any other one agency or organization. It is you who have told the story of how a better farm life may be lived.

You have realized that once around is not enough, and you have repeated that story in all of its various forms and ramifications since the old days of the cowpea and the one-horse plow to this new day of atomic research and self-propelled combines. Steadily, year by year, you have told of this farming advance and how the successful man needed to use all the late information available to keep pace with the changing times. As a result, North Carolina has not fallen behind; but rather has been in the vanguard of the nation's agricultural progress.

At this Christmas season, therefore, permit me to again thank you for your service to the farm people of this State. Permit me further to thank you on behalf of the North Carolina State College for making available to your rural readers the information which is developed here for the benefit of our people. It's good to work with you, and for you, and through you.

Those of us in this editorial office are always keenly aware of the service you are rendering. At this Holiday Season we say simply, thank you.

Sincerely,
F. H. Jeter, Editor

Broilers Research Shows Protein Gain

Recent research with broilers indicates that birds between six and ten weeks of age gain weight most efficiently on rations containing 18 or 10 per cent protein, according to Howard Clapp, Cleveland County farm agent for the State College Extension Service.

Birds younger than six weeks require between 20 and 22 per cent protein for most rapid growth and development. But after six or eight weeks, gains are equally rapid on the lower-protein ration, according to Mr. Clapp.

On the other hand, broilers placed on a 16 per cent protein ration at six or eight weeks fail to gain as well as those on a ration containing 19 per cent protein. This means that 16 per cent is an inadequate protein level in the 6-to-10-week growth period.

The protein level in broiler rations can be reduced, says the county agent, by feeding grains, by feeding low-protein finishing pellets, or by using a lower protein all-mash system. Of these methods, the use of a lower protein all-mash system is the easiest and the most foolproof. The extra work involved in feeding pellets or grain and the chance of reducing protein too much may offset the savings to be realized through the use of a lower protein ration.

The all-farm products index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased 27 points (8.9 per cent) during the month ended November 15.

Yule Decorations Need Re-Checking

Mamie Whisnant, State College extension specialist in home management, says that now is the time to check your Christmas lighting and decorations for safety. Test last year's bulbs and see how many of them can be used again this year.

We like to think of the Christmas season as one of joy and happiness, but some of the most tragic home accidents have happened during the Yuletide season. Both fires and falls take heavy tolls during the holiday season.

Miss Whisnant advises that you check and recheck your Christmas lighting fixtures, wires and plugs. A frayed wire or a damaged socket can be a source of grief.

Miss Whisnant cautions, too, that in placing your Christmas tree this year, to place it close enough to a wall socket so that you do not have to use extension cords. Some extension cords are not designed to carry an extra load. Cords placed under a rug are hazardous — they may cause fire — and those lying in the open may snare someone's foot.

Placing your Christmas tree in a pile of damp sand will help to keep the tree fresh and green throughout the Christmas season and will reduce chances for fire from hot bulbs. Whenever you leave the room in which the tree is placed, turn out the lights. The tiny Christmas lights heat quickly and may ignite a dry

tree or some of the other decorations. Be especially careful this Christmas season and be certain that yours is truly a merry one.

Vic Vef says

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