



FARMS..... AND FOLKS

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Ever Hear of This?

D. M. Causey's herd of 100 Hereford brood cows is now feasting on lush clover and fescue in the valleys away up in the northeastern corner of Pickens county near the mountains. That pasture was irrigated last summer. And that's why, on top of proper management, he now has plenty of grazing. Over 2,000 bales of hay were cut there last summer when his pastures needed mowing. Most of this will be sold.

As he showed me his herd, I noticed a few black cattle among them. He explained they were his fly catchers. He said flies prefer a black cow. So he just keeps the black ones sprayed with effective poisons. And that takes care of his insect problem.

I had never heard of that. So I asked some of the dairy and cattle folks here. They said it was a fact, flies bother black cattle worse than others. Even on a Holstein, that is black and white, the flies work on the black spots practically all together.

Mr. Causey used to try to keep his whole herd sprayed against flies. Now he just keeps the few black ones sprayed. And thereby, he saves over a hundred dollars a year on sprays and spraying.

Something new every day in this diverse agriculture that's growing in our midst.

Plant Beauty Now

Did you see our painted mountains and hills and hedge rows of the Up Country in October?

Did you see the beauty spangled spots of the Mid-State and Low Country, as autumn was painting its great pictures there?

Truly, we live in a veritable fairyland each fall, as the frosts of winter tint hedge, field, and woodland with rainbow colors.

Maple, hickory, sourwood, dogwood, the gums and so on. My, what beauty they bring. And it is the occasional tree, the tree exposed, where all of the glory of the sun hits it, that we see transcendent.

Do you have one or more of these varied sorts on your place there by the house? If not, now is the season to transplant one from the woods. A young hickory, for instance, I never thought so much of one before. But a ten foot one on our lot, from around which we cut other sorts that crowded and shaded it, was a billow of pure yellow and gold for weeks. And as the sun hit it, the light was reflected in a sort of luminous glow that was simply bewitching.

We look at azaleas in the spring, and they are gorgeous. I would take nothing from them. Let's have 'em, sure. But I would speak for the equally-inspiring beauty that so often comes to the common trees at autumn. They are nature's plants here, strong, hearty, and easy to have. So many we have are shaded by pines, large oaks and the like. And surely we want the majesty of great trees around us too. But let's stick a few of those that color best in the fall in semi-open places where the sun can hit and fall color can become intense. Then we can have color spectacles in the fall that are the equal of azaleas in the spring. And they are a lot easier to have.

Ask your county agent about resetting woodland things. The time is now.

Said Well

Senator Aiken of Vermont, recently said: "For the past few years, since the end of World War II, the world has needed two things almost above all else. They are DDT and the American county agent. DDT to bring them health, and the county agent to help them make a living."

Present Farm Squeeze

Our Mr. Rochester tells me that since the fall of 1952 farm prices have dropped an average of 16 per cent. That's all of the things the farmer has to sell. Some dropped less and some more than that. At the same time, the many things farmers have to buy have dropped but 3 per cent.

And that's the squeeze that's hurting now.

The individual can't remedy this. But there are a few things he can do to help. He can try to improve efficiency and cut costs. And he can more nearly live at home so he won't have to buy as much. Then he will be improving his lot at both ends. And when you can do that, it counts twice as fast.

Best Potato Show

The 4-H sweet potato exhibit of 150 one-bushel hamper at the Florence fair in late October "was the best agricultural display ever put on in this state," according to District Agent J. T. Lazar, as quoted by Bob Martin in his news feature on that subject.

This 4-H project was started 8 years ago with the aid of sponsoring firms interested in the commercial development of the sweet potato. The highest yield of qual-

ity potatoes has been the aim from the start. And that remarkable exhibit of 150 bushel baskets of fine sweets by the boys at the Florence fair indicates the progress that has been made. Those potatoes were sold at the close of the fair and brought twice the current market price of the usual number one potatoes.

This project is carried right on to the terminal markets when, later, the winning youngsters pool their cured stock and accompany it to one of the big markets up East. Growing, showing, and marketing 'em, the youngsters get the whole story.

Water

I've been out at parched places in the Far West where it practically never rains. Saw clouds there at times, that looked like rain to me. But an old-timer said, "Bud, no one ever tries to predict rain until he had been here a hundred years. And then he's got better sense." Looks like the clouds would just forget sometime and rain there anyway.

Life and greenery out there, as elsewhere, follow the water. At places I've seen them bringing it several hundred miles. Where mountains get in its way, they tunnel right on through. Where valleys bother, they build aqueducts across them. And where they run into a dead end with it, they pump it up hundreds of feet to a new level, from which it flows on to the appointed spot.

With diversification of both farm and industry here, we are beginning to value water more. And at places we already feel the pinch of its scarcity.

Good, fresh water in abundance is getting to be one of the world's most critical items. Water is life to farm and factory. Ours is a problem of conserving it. The Almighty sends plenty of it here to us. But most of it runs away before we can use it. Then later we need it, critically. Surely we can work out economical means of detaining more of it for future use. Our legislature is considering laws to govern the beneficial use of our great water resource. We have a long rocky road ahead on that.

Boys Are That Way

We kids always hated to see summer go. But after the first frosts had marred things, we liked to see them bite down hard and really give us winter.

It took dried, sweet, ripe persimmons, we thought to make the 'possums fat. And it took sharp, cold weather to get the "wolves" out of the backs of the squirrels and rabbits.

And, when the jackfrost spewed from the ground, we knew an end had been put to snakes. Therefore we were then free in our great outdoors. No danger then when we waded through the briar patch to get the rabbit out, or walked heedlessly across hedge or swamp.

Game was rather plentiful then. We trapped rabbits, caught 'possums, and shot birds.

Along the rail fences were our favorite spots to set rabbit traps or boxes, as we called 'em. They would gnaw the rails where they went through. And a fresh know meant a rabbit or two for sure, for they used those paths over and over. We were ever looking for new gnaws, and would change our boxes as the older places were out.

With dogs, we hunted the wary, yet dumb, old 'possum at night. We'd build a fire and wait for the dogs to tree, as they circled a wide area, guided by our occasional yells. Their bark would change when they had treed. Then we would put the fire out and go. No matter how big the tree, it was cut. And the smallest 'possum always seemed to go up the biggest trees.

Dr. Fred E. Holcombe
OPTOMETRIST

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