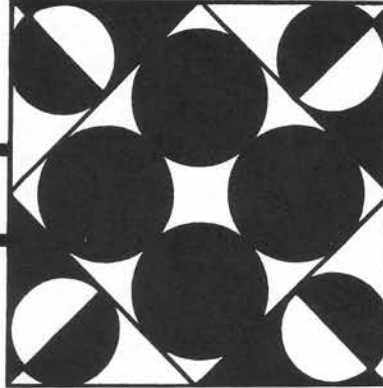


Idea Corner



Tornado! Help!

On Wednesday, April 3, 1974, tornados ravaged through southern Indiana hitting several communities. At once the wheels were set in motion to help the disaster victims. Agencies and organizations, including home economics Extension and the Cooperative Extension Service of Clark County, Indiana, worked together to offer this help.

As a result, collection centers were organized to collect and distribute clothing, bedding, and household items. Extension homemakers were notified early Friday morning, and began collecting items to be brought to the centers. Many did this, even those with relatives and friends who were hit by the tornado. The homemakers and 4-H junior leaders, with the help of volunteer service groups, sorted and sized clothing and packed it for distribution.

With the help of other governmental agencies, three collec-

tion sites were maintained for a four-day period. The main collection center was located at Jeffersonville, Indiana, and operated by the Clark County Extension homemakers. Two other sites were set up at a Soil Conservation office and an Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

While the centers began their operation, the county Extension coordinator surveyed damaged areas of the county and remained in contact with other counties reporting damage. He worked with the Welfare Department to set up an office in Daisy Hill in Clark County to give free food stamps for one month's supply of food to disaster victims—a program authorized by the governor of Indiana.

By Saturday noon, the collection center had three trucks loaded and ready to leave for the Daisy Hill area. The Army Reserve provided the trucks, drivers, and men to load and unload. Two other trucks had brought in items

from one of the other centers and working with the Salvation Army, the clothing needs were met. The first three trucks at the direction of the Salvation Army carried the items to Martinsburg, another community outside of Clark County that had also been in the path of the tornado. The same night, a truck was loaded and sent to the Madison-Hanover area.

Sunday, the third day of operation, three additional trucks were loaded and sent to Daisy Hill. By this time, the response to the radio broadcasts was overwhelming. More and more household items, personal items, food, clothing, and toys were being brought to the collection centers. On Monday, a truck was loaded and sent to Palmyra and still the residents of Clark County responded.

By late Monday, the collection centers were closed. The disaster sites were over-supplied. A storeroom was located to keep the items from the collection center to be distributed at a later time.

A month or more has passed and we have filled needs of the victims as they called the office for items we'd stored. The families of Clark County that suffered losses faced the reality of the situation and began almost immediately to rebuild their lives and their homes.

The many comments heard as residents contributed made me appreciate the totality of the sit-

uation. The contributions and cooperation of other agencies and organizations can't go unnoticed. All that was needed was to say "we need . . ." and these groups responded.

It was overwhelming effort, but Extension in Clark County responded to help its victims and those affected in surrounding communities.

SONDRA SUE JENKINS

Extension Agent

Purdue University

Jeffersonville, Indiana

Slash Pine Fertilization

Large expanses of land acreages in northwest Florida are poorly drained, infertile soils that are largely unproductive of farm and forest crops. Costly drainage, clearing, plowing, and other land-preparation practices have been employed on some of these lands for the production of pine timber.

Landowners would benefit by the use of a more economical practice for the production of timber on these lands that are now producing very little merchantable products.

We've developed, in Gulf County, Florida, concrete evidence that a very small amount of phosphorous, applied to young slash pines on those wet, phosphorous-deficient soils will produce a very satisfactory growth of wood in plantations, thus eliminating much of the expense of drainage and plowing practices.

St. Joe Paper Company personnel cooperated with me in building a demonstration of pines fertilization between Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka in 1953 on the very wet pitcher-plant meadow, crawfish flats. The pines were fertilized with 1 ton, 2-12-12/A one time at planting.

In 1968, when they were 15 years of age, 34 cords of wood per acre had been produced; in 20 years, 50+ cords/A. This is truly an astounding, spectacular revelation. This practice can be used on many hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands in this area.

We've learned that, on this type land area, 80 lbs. P_2O_5 per acre is the optimum amount for use and should be applied within the first 2 years of age of the slash pine—the sooner the better after the trees are planted.

The use of phosphorous on water-stunted slash pines, 15-20 years old, spurs them to make a spectacularly increased rate of growth. This opens a vast potential with regard to older natural stands of these trees.

We're continuing our work with pines fertilization here. We're studying combinations of land preparation and fertilization practices to gain more complete information on the economics of the use of these practices. Researchers at the University of Florida are cooperating in these studies.

Helicopters and airplanes, as well as ground equipment, are now being used to apply phosphate materials on many thousands of acres of slash pines in northwest Florida.

A total of 500 lbs. of ground rock phosphate per acre produced marvelous growth during the past few years.

CUBIE R. LAIRD

*County Extension Director
University of Florida
Port St. Joe, Florida*

Many Ideas from the "Show Me" State

I'm a Missouri area livestock specialist who in 1957 organized the Osage County, Missouri, Livestock Improvement Association to sponsor cooperative feeder calf and feeder pig sales. In the rough hill country of Osage County, which is half covered with forest, these two commodities seemed the best prospects for boosting farm income. Educational programs in breeding, nutrition, and forage management were built around the growth of these feeder products.

The feeder calf market zoomed from a 705 head volume grossing \$73,500 in 1957 to 5,100 head totaling over \$1 million in 1973. Eleven hundred feeder pigs were sold for \$21,000 in the one sale held in 1958. Monthly sales are held now; in 1973, they totaled 11,000 feeder pigs for \$371,000.

The success of feeder pig sales also caused the Mid Continent Farmers Association (MFA) to start a Tel-O-Auction in Westphalia in 1967. This organization sold 28,000 feeder pigs out of the area in 1973 for \$908,000. So the feeder pig and cattle enterprises have grown to more than a \$2 million business in the Ozarks area.

To improve the quality of stock going into the cooperative sales, state specialists and I worked with purebred hog and cattle producers through on-the-farm performance testing. As a result of being constantly on the search for improved methods, one of the first field demonstrations of EMME (electronic meet measuring equipment) in the U.S. was featured at the 1973 Mid-Missouri Hog Day. It's being used regularly now by many purebred producers in mid-Missouri.

Farm management achievements centered around expansion of the Balanced Farming Program in this area. Thirty-nine families were paying \$40 each to finance a Balanced Farming Association in the county in 1954. This brought them personal help with farm planning and bookkeeping.

With helpful urging by the County Extension Council, the County Court agreed to start paying the Balanced Farming fees in 1955 and active membership jumped to 128. To reach more people, I set up 5 Balanced Farm-

ing Schools in each of 10 communities to work with people in groups.

To increase feed and forage supplies for the growing feeder cattle production herds and raise cash grain income, we organized an Intensified Soil Fertility Program in 1962—one thing just sort of leads to another.

More than 200 people accepted responsibility for demonstrations and committee work the first 2 years of the fertility program. Fertilizer usage went up 19 percent in 2 years. Three new bulk fertilizer plants in the county are one sign of the success of this program.

Droughts forced livestock producers to ship in a lot of hay in 1962 and 1964, so a lot of emphasis began to center on grass production. A "Grass Grows Green" contest among 26 communities was called "the most significant local agriculture program in Missouri" by the *Missouri Ruralist* magazine in the early 1960s. A large scoreboard on the courthouse lawn along Highway 50 in Linn kept score on the contest. Forage analyses were made on alfalfa and grass plots for three years.

Grass tours led to holding a Hay Day in May, 1967, with 8 machinery companies cooperating. As one of the first in Missouri, it served as a model for others held throughout the state in succeeding years.

Turkeys began to holler for help in 1966, so with the help of local producers, I developed the "Osage County Turkey Sanitation and Disease Control Program Check Sheet." The Watt Publishing Company of Mt. Morris, Illinois, published the check sheet and Missouri Extension made a state publication of it. The check sheet proved one of the most valuable tools developed in the turkey industry in many years.

During my years of Missouri Extension work headquartered at Linn, counties have been grouped into areas for administration and service. My title has changed from balanced farming agent to county agent to area livestock specialist, serving the eight-county mid-Missouri area.

Regardless of what your title is or what territory you serve in Extension, I've always felt that

the important point to remember is that our success depends on the local people. We can provide information to help plan; we can demonstrate and teach scientific methods. We can help people achieve their goals, but as we work together, they make the decisions.

It's a cooperative effort between the people of the community and university people, working toward a better future.

VINCE RAAF

Livestock Specialist

University of Missouri

Linn, Missouri

Editor's Note: Vince Raaf won one of the first Search for Excellence awards from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents for ideas for raising income of farmers.

PJB