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Progress Report

Educational efforts in tobacco mechanization seem to be in step with "the times". Increasing labor cost and the fear of insufficient labor are pushing mechanization of tobacco at a rapid pace. For the 1972-73 year, manufacturers of bulk curers and tobacco harvesters were, for the first time, able to sell more machinery than they could assemble and deliver. Approximately 200 automatic tobacco harvesters and 2500 bulk barns were placed on North Carolina farms for use in 1973.

Extension's role of conducting innovative farm tests to demonstrate the feasibility of marketing machine primed leaf has now changed to a role of educating growers on cultural practices and machinery operation for successful mechanization. Agricultural Engineering has played a vital role in inter-disciplinary efforts to educate County Extension Agents, farmers and trades-people by conducting in-service training schools, radio and television programs, and by writing newspaper and magazine articles and by conducting local farmer meetings as time permits.

Committees Served On

Rupert W. Watkins

1. Faculty and Financial Resources Committee. 1972. Self Study Report for Biological and Agricultural Engineering.
2. Extension Tobacco Coordinating Committee.
3. Social Committee (Departmental)
4. Vice-Chairman, Agricultural Engineering Section, Twenty-fifth Tobacco Workers' Conference. January 1972 - August 1973.
5. Nominating Committee, Twenty-fifth Tobacco Workers' Conference, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. August 1973.
6. Fuel Use and Conservation Committee.

Elder, Oakland Presbyterian Church
Study Committee for Educational Facility Needs
Building and Finance Committee (Chairman)
Committee for Strengthening the Church

Cleveland School Advisory Council (Chairman)

Activities

Rupert W. Watkins

1. Conducted training schools for Extension agents - 12 days.
2. Conducted training schools for FHA District Supervisors - 3 days.
3. Local meetings conducted with county Extension agents and farm groups, and conferences with machinery manufacturers and tobacco company personnel - 74.
4. Presentations for large audiences (Research on Wheels) - 2.
5. Presentation for Plant Food Association.
6. Presentation for Short Course in Modern Farming.
7. Attended School for Mechanical Tobacco Harvester Operators - 2 days.
8. Prepared Program for Agricultural Engineering Section of 25th Tobacco Workers' Conference.
9. Radio programs - 2.
10. TV Workshops - 6.
11. Conferences and tours conducted for visiting foreign dignitaries - 2.
12. Attended Burley Tobacco Conference in Greenville, Tennessee - 3 days.
13. Planned burley tobacco curing farm demonstration - 6 days.
14. Attended numerous committee meetings and conferences with State and Federal Extension personnel.