



Consider your dirt

This is the time of year when we go to meetings where people talk about weeds and herbicides, insects and insecticides, diseases and their remedies and more. Most of the discussion deals with crop varieties and the products that are used for management of the production system. Occasionally we talk about methods for reducing or avoiding problems, but it seems that these discussions are not as common as they should be given the fact that most of them are either free of cost or relatively low cost measures.

The most popular topics are the technologies that are being offered to deal with weeds and pests. The bulk of time at meetings is spent on varieties of cotton, and corn that not only produce high yields but also act as vehicles to bring insect resistance to the field. These varieties are resistant

to one, two, or even three kinds of herbicides and enable the farmer to spray products over the crop that once would have killed not only the weeds but the crop as well.

I have heard it said that these technologies have “made” farmers of people

Prayers continue for Mitch Land. All are thankful he is feeling better and look forward to his return home with his family again. Mitch and family are loved and appreciated by family and a great host of friends.

Mrs. Edith Moss Word continues to be pretty much homebound and is scheduled for further medical tests. Prayers are that she will be feeling much better soon. We all miss seeing her.

The family of Shirley, Sammy and Jay Higginbotham met together in Clinton at Mazzio’s Pizza Place Friday evening in honor of Jay’s 40th birthday. We all love him a lot and look forward to many more birthdays.

Herald editor and Lexington Rotarian Matthew Breazeale attended the Rotary’s Centennial Celebration that was held at the Jackson Country Club on Saturday, February 25. He reported that over \$44,000 was raised that evening by Rotarians for international service projects.

First Baptist Ladies Night Out is set for Saturday evening at 5 at Kaffay Mile-O’-Way.

The family and many friends of Mrs. C.H. (Dot) Blanton are thankful she is improving from a recent accident at her home.

Mr. Francis Brantley left Monday after spending the week with Mark Underwood while visiting family and friends in the area. Local

who might have not found the motivation or ability to deal with the same problems during the era prior to the advent of “genetically modified” or GMO varieties. Personally, I feel that given the necessity the farmers of today could master the methods of the past, but the scale at which these farmers produce crops today might not have been possible in that previous era.

The topics that seem to get the most attention are not what I consider as critical

for “sustaining” the land and its long term productivity. We rarely discuss soil fertility even though it is at the core of the management system for all crops. Although the subject of cover crops sometimes gets a mention it is seldom discussed to the extent it deserves. Tillage is rarely discussed even though reduction of these practices conserve vital water and nutrients.

Issues like soil organic matter and the mulch effect of cover crops that is

the First Baptist Homecoming in October. More details later.

The many friends of Mrs. Lucy Howell are very thankful she is feeling better after a time of illness. Hope to see her out and feeling well real soon.

The church choir at First Baptist will present the Easter Musical on Sunday, April 9 during the evening service at 6:00. All are invited to attend.

The 150th Anniversary Celebration at First Baptist Church is planned for October 22 during the morning services. All church members, former members, pastors, interim pastors, music leaders, instrumentalists, youth directors and relatives of deceased are asked to make plans to attend.

DURANT NEWS
by Rowena Hill

friends are glad he returns often for visits.

Mr. Julian Bishop of Brookhaven passed away during the week after an extended time of failing health. Funeral services were held at his church and burial was near their former home in the Boyette Community Tuesday. He leaves his wife Edna Horne Bishop, formerly of the Harmonia Community. Sympathy is extended to family and many friends.

Our hearts are saddened because of the untimely death of Mr. Ramage. His dad has a business in our town.

Plans are in the making for

WEST REPORT
by West Civic Club

Inez Dickerson and her daughter Toni Borst, of Madison, visited lots of family in the Shreveport/Bossier City area recently. They stayed with Inez’s granddaughter Darla O’Brien in Shreveport and had lunch with Inez’s sister Ruth Mitchel and Ruth’s son and daughter, Greg and Diane. Greg lives in Dallas and Diane lives in Mansfield near her mom. Inez’s daughter Terry Branch met them for lunch and most of the ladies visited and shopped after lunch. They attended Darla’s church Sunday and finished the day at Terry’s house and were entertained by Terry’s granddaughter,

six-year-old Kinzlee.

West is growing. Another family has moved into our town, the Sharon Howard family. Welcome.

Wayne Black and his son Phillip were in the area this past weekend for another quick visit.

A brunch honoring Dr. Connie McCaa on Saturday at the Jackson Yacht Club was attended by Jean Aldridge, Ruth Aldridge, Buddy and Lynn Hathcock, Sara McLellan, Bill and Carolyn Tate and Mary Ann Stevens of West.

Bill and Carolyn Tate visited B.B. Brock and found him doing quite well.

so beneficial to the soil and to the management of difficult weed species is seldom discussed. We are trying to negotiate our way through the maze of varieties, herbicides, insecticides, seed treatments, foliar fungicides, adjuvants, and other complex issues, and we just don’t get around to these basic subjects.

We seldom mention the management of nematodes that are in many cases capable of reversing the benefits of all the fertilizers, pesticides, and varieties that are available. They too reside within that unseen dark subsurface soil world and interact negatively with almost every part of the production system if allowed to reach high numbers.

As I have mentioned in the past, I have a small collection of the Yearbooks of Agriculture with issues reaching back well over a century. These volumes contain descriptions of methods for dealing with soil and pests that in many ways seem more practical than some of the methods

we are using today. The use of animal manures was a primary means of supplying nutrients to crops, and this is still true today as poultry litter is being applied to many thousands of acres of crops. Cover crops were stressed as a way to discourage weed emergence, increase water infiltration, reduce soil loss, and increase soil organic matter.

These days some of these old principles are being reintroduced by the most innovative producers who have realized that the soil and its needs must be addressed first, before technologies, before pests, and even before resistant weeds. We have the tools to deal with these new problems and we have to learn how to use them correctly. Still, the basics have not changed, and the needs of the land must be satisfied in order for the crops we plant to produce the yields needed to pay for all the other things we have to do.

The soil does indeed need some consideration too

Thanks for your time.

IN AND AROUND
LEXINGTON
BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

On Wednesday, February 22, this writer went home to Coffeerville, Mississippi, to visit and stay with my brother in the hospital. He came home on Friday, February 24.

Mrs. Coraine Torry called this writer Friday. She is doing fine. She’s still trying to figure out a way to get back home from the nursing home in Greenwood.

Believe it or not, watermelons were being sold in the local grocery store in Lexington, in February!

A tip for crabapple preserve lovers: add a little apple juice to the preserves to dissolve the sugar crystals, if the preserves get surgery.

Congratulations to Mr.

George Ellison on his retirement.

To get your news items in to this column, call 662-834-1489. Talk directly to Mrs. Fields, her answering service is messed up.

Bridal Registry

Mary Kate Jenkins
Tanner Bartlett
June 3, 2017

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Lexington, MS 39095
Telephone Number: (662) 834-2175
Office hours: 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

The Holmes County School District is participating in an ongoing statewide effort to identify, locate and evaluate children from ages birth through the age of twenty-one with disabilities that impact early childhood development or educational performance.

We offer services to children with the following disabilities:
*Autism *Deaf-Blind *Intellectual Disability
*Developmentally Delayed *Language/Speech
*Emotional Disability *Hearing Impairment
*Multiple Disabilities *Orthopedic Impairment
*Other Health Impairment *Specific Learning Disability
*Traumatic Brain Injury *Visually Impaired

Holmes County School District provides homebound services, language speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling and transportation for eligible students.

If your child is birth to two years of age and in need of services, Holmes County School District will make referrals to the local Early Intervention Program.