

Pesticide workshop planned in August

Pesticide training workshops for persons desiring to become certified as a commercial or non-commercial pesticide applicator are scheduled at three locations in East Texas.

According to Charles Arnold, Angelina County Extension Agent, the workshops are scheduled in Kilgore, August 22 in the Van Cliburn Auditorium on the Kilgore Junior College campus; in Nacogdoches, August 22-26 in the Starlight Room on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus.

Specialists of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service are conducting the workshops as a service to the people desiring to be certified. The Extension Service is providing only the educational opportunity for the people. Designated regulatory agencies will give the examinations and issue certifications. Participation in the workshops is not a requirement for the examinations.

"Persons in Angelina County interested in participating in the workshops are requested to pre-register at the local extension office located at the courthouse Annex in Lufkin," Charles Arnold emphasized. This pre-registration will help in planning for adequate facilities and study material for all participants. Those who pre-register will be given first priority on space at the workshops."

Effective October 21, 1977, the Environmental Protection Agency is scheduled to classify all pesticides as either general-use or restricted-use pesticides. Applicators must be certified to legally apply or supervise the application of restricted-use pesticides. The Texas Pesticide Control Act establishes three types of pesticide applicators; the private applicator, the non-commercial applicator and the commercial applicator. This training is developed to meet the needs of those seeking certification as commercial or non-commercial applicators.

The Texas Pesticide Control Act defines a commercial applicator as "a person who owns or manages a pesticide application business engaged in the application of restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides to the land of another". A non-commercial applicator is defined as "a person or government agency or department which wants to use restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides or the authority to demonstrate restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides and does not qualify as a private applicator and is not required to have a commercial applicator's license."

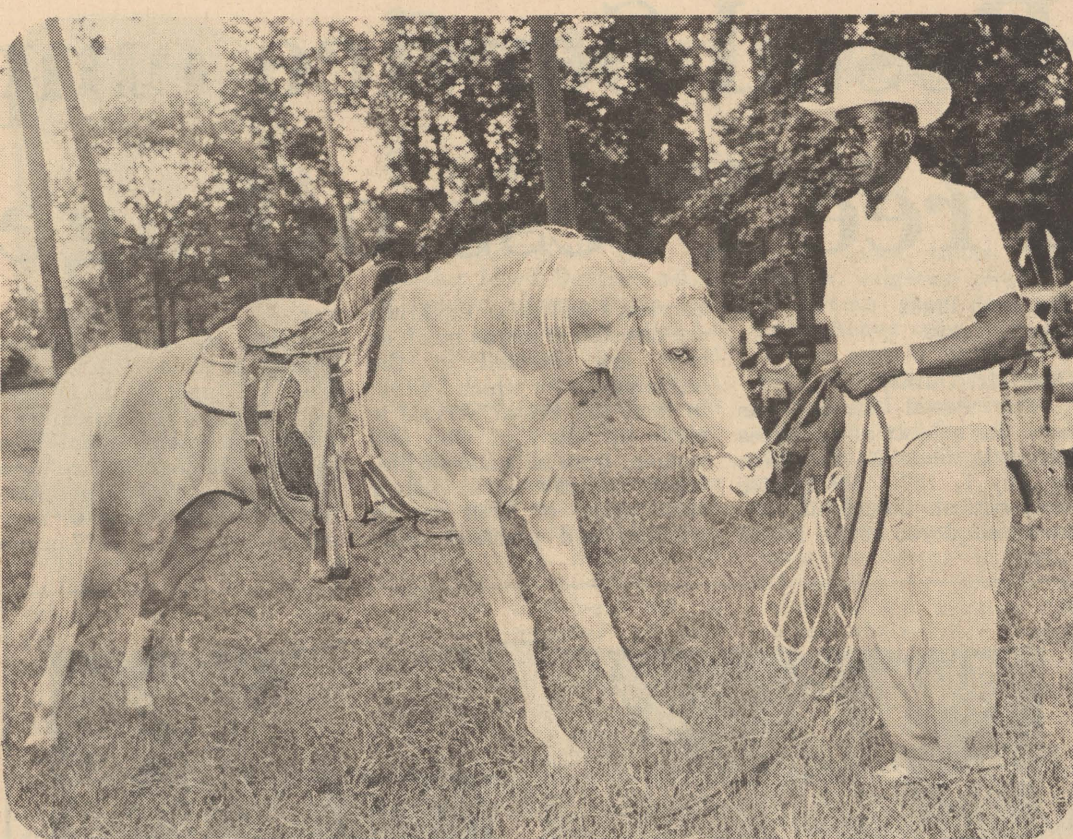
Persons who have applied for a private applicator's permit and plan to apply pesticides only on their own property should not be concerned with the commercial and non-commercial certification.

Each workshop will follow a similar format. A general session will be held for all participants on the first day. Following the general sessions, training in specific categories will be given in separate sessions.

A person may attend one or more specific categories, depending on which categories of certification he is interested in studying and the schedule of the various presentations. Overall, a person could possibly take an examination and become certified as a commercial or non-commercial applicator in as many as 17 different categories as established by the regulatory agencies.

Representatives of the regulatory agencies responsible for certifying applicants have indicated that they will be present at the workshops to give the examinations in the various categories.

To dispose of a credit card, cut it in small pieces, advises Claudia Kerbel, consumer information specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.



NAMON CALHOUN is one of the area's longtime horse trainers. His palomino favorite, Chief, will stretch out completely along the ground at Calhoun's orders, or will kneel or sit on command. (Free Press Photo)



CHILDREN ALWAYS SURROUND Namon Calhoun. Usually there are a number of horses and ponies for them and other children in the community to ride. (Free Press Photo)

Namon Calhoun

Horse trainer and mule skinner

By ELLEN TEMPLE

Have you seen the black man riding the beautiful palomino horse in Diboll? He's Namon Calhoun, 71 years old, and he's got an interesting past. He trained and drove mules when they were used for logging operations in these East Texas forests.

Calhoun grew up in Forrest, Cherokee County, one of ten children, son of the Willis Calhoun. His grandfather Billy York, a slave, was brought from Georgia to Pollock and freed during the Civil War. Billy York moved to Alto where he hauled freight with oxen drawn wagons from Alto to Beaumont; round trips would take as long as a month.

When Namon was 12 years old, he took a job running the mail from Alto to Forrest, 11 miles. He'd gallop off at 4 a.m. and return by 3 p.m. And he claims that when his boss got a registered American saddle horse for Calhoun to ride, he could go in 45 minutes and be back to Alto in 45 minutes! That was Namon's first work with horses.

And he worked with them all of his life, training trick horses, race horses and gaited horses. In 1960, after a number of annual sessions at the Berry School in Pleasant Hill, Ohio, he was certified to train saddle horses in all gaits, to teach riding and to judge American saddle horses.

Calhoun first worked with mules building roads in Cherokee and Rusk Counties. It was then that he learned to train and talk to the mules.

So that when Calhoun got a job with Southern Pine Lumber Co. in Diboll, he hired on as a mule trainer and driver. Each logging camp would have its teams. Many years ago the loggers would use the teams to pull eight wheel wagons and slip tongue carts to haul logs out of the woods. But more recently they used them just to skid or drag the logs up to a loading spot and then to pull the logs onto the truck.

Calhoun's first four mules at Southern Pine had never had a bridle on them, but within a week he had trained them enough to work all four with one line.

Ol' Buster became the line mule in that team of four. He was the one who had to follow orders because as the control mule, when he moved, they all did.

Calhoun would jerk the line to get Ol' Buster's attention, and then he'd talk to him. Although each different skinner had his own special way of talking to his mules, these were the words that Namon used: "Yeaa" ordered Buster to the right; "Come ere haw" to the left; "Whoa" and "get up". He'd shout "Ho" and the corralled

mules would head for the harness rack. "There was no way to catch one; he'd kick your head off."

Those mules had to be perfectly trained to respond to orders. Calhoun says that after a mule is broken in, you don't have to use the line to direct him. "The proper way is to tell him what to do and he'll do it," explains Calhoun.

Lee Zeagler of Diboll, who grew up around and admired mules working and who used to run a sawmill says that mule skinner who were good commanded a lot of respect. The mules were valuable pieces of property and had to be cared for and handled just right. He adds that to see the skinner calling orders and the mules working together, to see the rhythm of skidding the logs and loading them was a wonderful sight.

Namon Calhoun was evidently one of those elite skinner who had trained one of his mules so well that it could work without a bridle on. And the mules did the job over and over again until they could almost work by themselves.

One of Calhoun's mules in particular, Ol' Buster, would go out dragging his tongs which someone would throw onto a log. With the tongs gripping the log, he'd drag it onto the rolling chains and then ease back to loosen the tongs to drop the log. Then the mule would go around the truck and wait for someone to hook his drag chain up to the rolling chain. At which time, Ol' Buster would pull the drag chain to roll the log up the ramp onto the truck and stop when the log rolled into place on the pile. Amazing! Zeagler confirms that he's seen it done and it's a beautiful sight.

Those smart mules had names like Ol' Blue, Ol' Buster and Brownie and special places in the hearts of their skinner. The last mules that Calhoun worked with when the company retired them in the early sixties, were Ol' Frank, Rowdy, Pit and Rube.

Namon Calhoun is retired now, too; but he's still busy teaching children to ride his many horses and ponies. Over the years he's conducted rodeos for the kids and taught hundreds of them to ride. And he still trains horses. Chief, the beautiful palomino that Namon rides, can stretch out and bow.

Horses and children are an important part of his life now, but Namon Calhoun loves to talk about those past days when he logged with the mules.

In fact, he says, "If I was going to go logging in the morning, I'd get a mule, not a machine."

Angelina County -- Some History

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Former CCC members now being sought

AUSTIN — People visiting some of the older state parks in Texas have seen the work done by a hard-working group of men known as the Civilian Conservation Corps.

These depression-era workers constructed many cabins, trails, fences, group shelters, lakes and other facilities not only in Texas but around the country. Many of these facilities are still in use today.

Although the program lasted only five years, from 1936 through 1941, CCC workers in Texas were responsible for the planting of millions of trees as well as other outdoor restoration projects.

To give recognition to some of the people who helped build a fine state park system during the 1930s and early 1940s, "Texas Parks and Wildlife" magazine is planning a feature article on the CCC in state parks. If you, or a member of your family or friend worked in a state park, the magazine staff would like to hear from you.

Such information as which park or parks you worked on; what your job title was; some of the structures you worked on; some memorable experiences you had as a member of a CCC work project, and your current address is needed.

Send all information in care of Neal Cook, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

Larry Barfield in Navy force

NORFOLK, Va. — Navy Operations Specialist Seaman Larry G. Barfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henson M. Barfield of 1401 Doris, Lufkin, is currently participating in naval operations off the east coast of South America.

He is serving as a crewmember aboard the guided missile cruiser USS South Carolina, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

He is one of 6,500 Navymen aboard a five-ship U.S. Navy task force taking part in the six-week deployment.

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