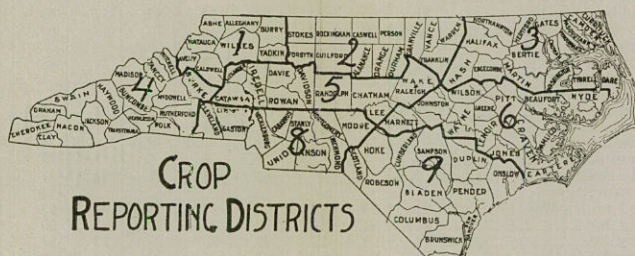


NORTH CAROLINA
FARM FORECASTER
MAY REPORT



CONTENTS

State, County, and United States comments and figures on the Wheat, Rye, Hay acreages, and Crop Conditions; the progress of plowing and planting; livestock mortality and conditions; a graphic comparison of the numbers and values of livestock.

Issued Cooperatively by

THE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

FRANK PARKER, DIRECTOR, RALEIGH, N. C.

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
W. A. Graham, Commissioner
Division of Agricultural Statistics

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Crop Estimates
Leon M. Estabrook, Chief

NORTH CAROLINA—MAY 1, 1919, CROP AND LIVESTOCK FEATURES BY DISTRICTS

INQUIRIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	N. C.	U. S.
WHEAT:										
Per cent abandoned acreage.....	2	2	2.2	2.2	1.2	2	3	2	1.6	11.9
Per cent of State acreage.....	10	22	1	16	30	1	17	3	100	-----
To be Harvested—										
Condition (per cent normal).....	91	86	85	86	89	91	86	87	88	79
Total Acreage Wheat—										
Compared with last year.....	91	87	84	88	90	72	92	74	88	-----
Compared with usual.....	91	86	86	91	89	69	92	83	90	-----
RYE:										
Condition (per cent normal).....	92	93	91	88	91	98	92	87	91	85.1
Per cent of State acreage.....	33	14	-----	23	18	-----	9	3	100	-----
Acreage to be Harvested—										
Compared with last year.....	90	89	87	90	86	85	93	79	89	77.4
Compared with usual.....	90	89	87	91	94	85	91	89	90	-----
HAY:										
Condition (per cent of normal).....	93	90	92	93	88	94	85	91	90	89.4
Per cent of 1919 crop remaining on farms.....	11	14	26	12	9	31	13	20	16	10.5
Acreage Cultivated—										
Compared with last year.....	97	92	98	98	93	97	97	91	94	99.7
Compared with usual.....	94	91	91	98	94	95	97	90	97	-----
FARM WORK:										
Per cent plowing for spring planting done by May 1st.....	81	65	83	53	74	85	57	83	75	60.1
Spring work done by May 1st.....	57	50	59	59	54	70	48	64	53	50.2
SPRING PASTURE:										
Condition May 1st.....	84	83	83	85	79	88	78	88	83	79.8
LIVESTOCK MORTALITY:										
Deaths Past year, Per Cent—										
Horses and mules.....	1.6	2.8	1	1	1	2.4	1	2.5	1.8	1.7
Cattle from disease.....	1.9	1.8	2.3	1.4	1	1.6	1.2	1.9	2.0	1.9
Sheep from disease.....	2.2	1	1.8	2.3	6	2.3	.5	2.7	2.6	2.4
Lambs from disease.....	3.4	1.4	2.8	3.6	5	5	1.3	3.2	4.2	6.6
Swine of all ages.....	2.5	2.3	7.6	2.5	1	4.5	1.5	7	4.7	5.2
LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS:										
Horses and mules May 1st.....	95	96	94	96	95	93	96	93	94	93.1
Cattle May 1st.....	93	94	87	90	93	92	93	99	92	91.9
Sheep, May 1st.....	92	100	90	90	86	70	96	84	91	91.6
Swine, May 1st.....	96	96	88	91	96	90	93	90	92	92.3

GENERAL COMMENTS

The winter grain crops of the United States show a considerable decrease in acreage and condition from last year. Wheat is officially forecasted at 484,647,000 bushels, compared with a crop last year of 731,636,000 bushels. The present abandonment is estimated to be twelve per cent of the acreage planted, making a thirty-four per cent decrease in the forecasted production. The greatest abandonment is in the main wheat belt of the central and north-western States, which is also indicative of a poor condition of the growth there. North Carolina shows but two per cent abandonment and twelve per cent decrease of the planted acreage. This condition is worthy of careful consideration since our main bread crop is tremendously threatened.

The livestock of the State and Nation have had about two per cent mortality—deaths from disease during the past year. The condition of stock on May 1st was generally good. Less cholera than usual reported.

The farmers have at last largely succumbed to the popular strife for money. Tobacco and cotton are to receive their principal attention in this State, excepting in the twenty mountain counties, where neither of these are grown extensively. Yet our farmers are to be commended and sympathized with. They were the last class of producers and workers to get into the selfish game, and to exist by themselves. It has become almost necessary since grain crops cannot be produced at profit under present conditions.

Wheat is now officially quoted as averaging \$2.51 to farmers of the United States, and \$2.80 per bushel in North Carolina. The last two years have shown an average of barely more than seven bushels per acre in this State, meaning that at present prices, only \$20 per acre may be expected. It costs far more than this to plow, fertilize, seed, and harvest the crop. If the farmer should follow the example of industries in charging overhead expenses, supervision, interest on the capital, marketing, and other costs, he would have to get more dollars per bushel for his wheat, to clear a ten per cent profit.

COMMENTS FROM CROP REPORTERS

NORTHEASTERN COASTAL DISTRICT NO. 3

"The late winter and rains have put planting two to three weeks behind. It has been too wet to plow. About eighty per cent of the spring planting done to May 1st. High prices paid for labor, and it is not much 'when you get it.' Wheat no longer planted to any extent in this section, due to low yields. (It was higher than in the important wheat counties.) Hog cholera in Edgecombe caused a heavy loss."

CENTRAL COASTAL DISTRICT NO. 6

"Continued wet weather has caused much delay in farm work. Little wheat grown in this district. Hay crops decreasing yearly, due to heavy plantings of money crops. The potato crop will be late. There is a tendency toward more diversification of crops. A large increase in tobacco is planted. Jones County reports an epidemic of hog cholera. The spring plowing is 85 per cent done."

SOUTHERN COASTAL DISTRICT NO. 9

"Farm work in most localities retarded by wet soils. Some thrifty farmers have finished planting both corn and cotton, and are planting peanuts. Spring meadows are in good shape. Some farmers have not been able to secure all needed fertilizers. Labor conditions are very, very bad. Farm labor is scarce and tenants are careless. Too much rain and cool nights have belated the work on farms from two to three weeks. Hog cholera in Brunswick has been very severe."

NORTHERN PIEDMONT DISTRICT NO. 2

"The excessive rains during the months of March and April have in many places drowned out wheat on low lands. Land has been too wet to plow. No contagious diseases are reported amongst livestock. The condition is about normal. Wheat looks good. There will be an increase of from 15 to 20 per cent in the tobacco acreage. Very few cases of cholera reported among swine. Least corn ever planted at this time of May."

CENTRAL PIEDMONT DISTRICT NO. 5

"The spring has been very cold and wet and unfavorable for planting. There are some reports of Spanish Fly in Winter Wheat. Some farmers in this section have quit growing wheat and are growing more cotton and tobacco. A shortage of fertilizer may cause a shortage in tobacco planting. The farm labor has all gone to towns and factories, the results are short crops of all kinds."

SOUTHERN PIEDMONT DISTRICT NO. 8

"Spring work on farm has been greatly retarded by so many rains and storms, and but very little corn and cotton has been planted. The land is now getting dry enough to work. The farmers are 20 days late in planting on account of excessive rains. We have had only about 6 work days for plowing in 3 months. The condition of small grain is about normal. The condition of livestock is normal. There is a great effort being made for the largest acreage this spring ever planted before. There is quite an increase in tobacco."

NORTHERN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT NO. 1

"Excessive freezing and thawing has damaged small grains. The cool late spring has kept the grass back. There will be a shortage in wheat this year owing to the hard winter and no snow. Cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs are all in a good healthy condition. A number of young cattle have died with black leg. Wheat and rye made wonderful improvement in last 30 days. There was not a full wheat crop sown. The increase in the tobacco acreage probably equals the decrease in the acreage of wheat. Spring was late."

WESTERN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT NO. 4

"There has been very little planting and plowing, owing to the excessive rain. Wheat is looking good in Burke. The poor condition of grain crops has been due to poor germination, winter freezing and excessive moisture. There are reports of low condition in wheat and rye on account of rust. There will probably be more wheat threshed this year than was last. Oats have all been sowed. Livestock are in good condition. Rutherford reports that much of the grain acreage will be followed by hay crops. The fall was so dry, farmers had difficulty in getting the land ready for the wheat crop."

LIVESTOCK COMMENTS

There has been a decided increase in the improved breeds of livestock in North Carolina for the past few years. The dairy breeds are being increased in the Watauga and the Rowan-Mecklenburg sections. Haywood County and some other sections are increasing the beef breeds. Purebred hogs are increasing all over the State, due to the educational work of various sources. Interest in sheep is being recuperated since the passage of the dog law by the last Legislature, especially so in Ashe and Watauga counties, where most of them are grown. Our sheep industry numbers only about one-half what it was ten years ago.

MORTALITY AND CONDITION

The past year has been rather favorable to all kinds of stock. No conspicuous epidemics of disease have been reported. Less hog cholera was prevalent, excepting in certain southern coastal counties. The condition of most stock has been good. The increasingly better attention being given to feeding, housing, and breeding has meant much to the advancement of the industry in this State. The deaths from winter exposure and poor care have been slightly less than usual.

BREEDS OF LIVESTOCK

The percentage of the different breeds of livestock have been determined from estimates of livestock reporters. The following figures for both North Carolina (first) and the United States (second) are of interest to livestock men. Only the breeds showing large percentages are included.

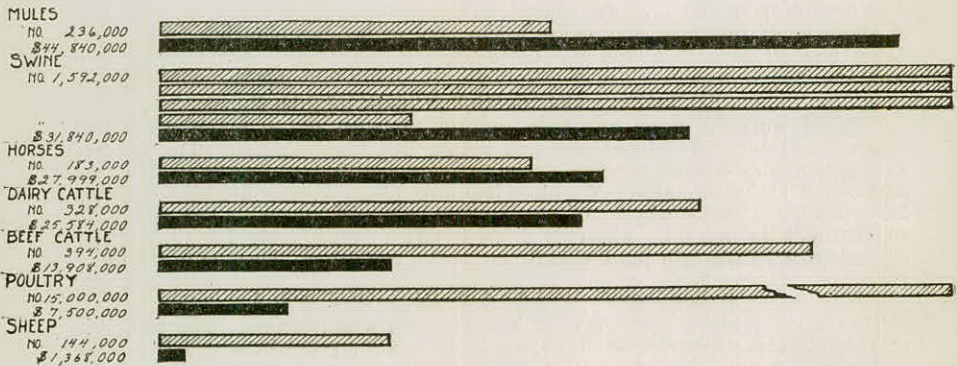
Hogs

Duroc-Jerseys, N. C., 32, and U. S., 34; Poland Chinas, 19 and 28; Berkshires, 17 and 9; Nondescript, 10 and 6; Razorbacks, 7 and 4; all others, 13 and 6 per cent.

Cattle

Jerseys, N. C., 39, and U. S., 14; Nondescript, 22 and 10; Holstein, 8 and 16; Shorthorns, 7 and 23; Guernseys, 7 and 3; Herefords, 4 and 21; Aberdeen-Angus, 2.5 and 3.6; with all others numbering 10 per cent.

THE STATE'S COMPARATIVE LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND VALUES



CROP REPORTING SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

About June 1st there will be issued our annual statistical edition. This bulletin will contain forty pages of illustrations, graphic drawings, maps, tabulations, comments on the many crops and general notes of importance. It is the first of its kind to appear in North Carolina, and is prepared after months of painstaking care in the information offered and the style of its presentation. This issue offers an untold source of information that should aid all agricultural interests in their plans for planting, buying, and selling so as to be fairly sure of safe operations.

It shows in which counties the most or the least of each crop is produced. The acreages, yields per acre, production, and values by counties for each of the important crops are included.

FRANK PARKER,
Field Agent.

May 10, 1920.