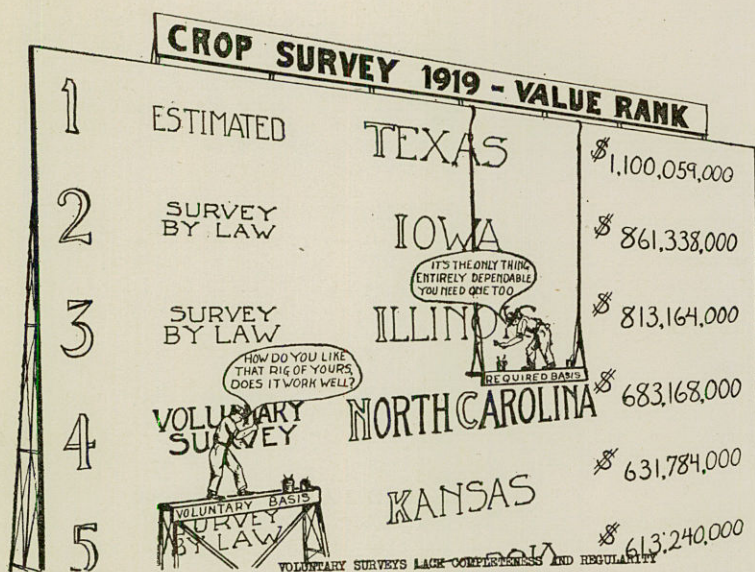


FARM FORECASTER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA

AUGUST CROP REPORT



VOLUNTARY SURVEYS LACK COMPLETENESS AND REGULARITY

AUGUST 16, 1920

ISSUED COOPERATIVELY AT RALEIGH BY

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

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

REPORT RELEASED THROUGH THE

CROP REPORTING SERVICE

FRANK PARKER, Agricultural Statistician

RALEIGH

COMMENTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA CROPS

JULY CONDITIONS MORE FAVORABLE FOR CROPS

The dry southern and western counties had good rainfall, the previously soaked areas were relieved by fair weather and some hot nights helped out the growth of all crops. August, until the 12th, has had a heavy excess of rainfall. This will damage tobacco, cotton, fruits, and some truck. It will also prevent some needed cultivation and harvesting.

There was a general expression of satisfaction at the prospects. Corn is better than for many years. Wheat is very good. Early Irish Potatoes did well. Tobacco promises well. Fruit made its best effort. Truck has been good. Pastures offer fine grazing. The August excessive rainfall may change these prospects somewhat downward.

CORN EXTRA GOOD

The acreage is slightly decreased in sections, but the prospects are for a fine yield per acre. The size of stalks, number and size of ears, and the good color of foliage, are unusually promising. It looks like our last year's yield of over fifty million bushels will be considerably increased on a less acreage.

WHEAT AT ITS BEST

The present wheat yield of 11.6 bushels per acre is the best on record excepting 1914, when 12 bushels was reported. Even though the acreage is reduced eleven per cent, the fine yield will give us a record crop of good quality. The great shortage of the nation's crop will give our farmers a nice advantage. There is no reason for low prices of wheat. The forecast is for 8,400,000 bushels.

COTTON IMPROVED

The lateness of the cotton crop cannot be overcome. The effects of the frequent wet spells must result in a shortened bollage as well as over-developed weed. This means that shedding is too great. Yet there has been enough of the good weather to improve it from 74 to 77 per cent in condition during July. The forecast is for 815,000 bales this year.

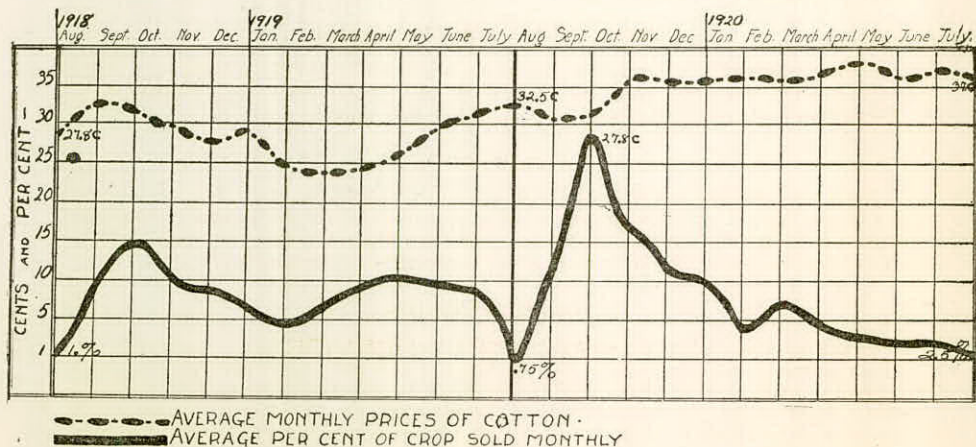
TOBACCO GOOD

The weight of the cured tobacco crop will be somewhat light, due to the frequent rains, by washing off the wax from the leaves. The plants are unusually vigorous and the leaves tend to be large. The quality is good and is curing a rich golden color.

GOOD HAYS AND PASTURES

The heavy rainfall is naturally conducive to good growth of hay and pasture grasses. More Field Peas and beans are planted for hay after small grains than last year.

RELATION OF COTTON SALES TO PRICES IN NORTH CAROLINA



COMMENTS FOR UNITED STATES CROPS

GENERAL CONDITIONS

There was a general wave of improvement in crops over the United States. The wheat crop is more than eighteen per cent less than last year, and fourteen million bushels less than was indicated a month ago. Corn is making a record. Oats, potatoes, tobacco, cotton, and apples made fine improvements.

The July weather conditions have been more favorable, and the crops have responded to it. This was in addition to June's fine improvement.

RECORD CORN CROP

The corn crop is five per cent better than a year ago and much better than for the past five years. The acreage is slightly increased. The yield indicated is nine bushels per acre. All these combined forecast a crop of over three million bushels, with an average value of \$1.64, making the crop have a value of \$4,920,000,000. The price is twenty-seven cents per bushel less than a year ago.

WHEAT DECLINES

The winter wheat prospect is improved, while the spring crop suffered a decided decline last month. The total acreage is twenty-seven per cent less than a year ago, with the yield forecasted at two bushels more or 14.8 bushels per acre at present. The price is \$2.32, compared with \$2.17 a year ago. With such a short acreage and an eighteen per cent shortage in production with the price so low in proportion to other things, it does not seem reasonable that the price can remain as low as it is now.

COTTON IMPROVING

Since the June 2d report, when the record low condition was announced, the crop has gradually improved twelve per cent. The improvement was seven per cent during July. The present condition is about equal to the average for this time. The acreage is increased one per cent. The present forecast is for 12,519,000 bales. This is more than a million bales greater than produced for either of the last five years.

TOBACCO IS GOOD

The crop of 84 per cent condition has improved considerably since a month ago. It is expected to make an eleven per cent larger production than last year's crop. The acreage is two per cent less, the yield one hundred pounds per acre, or fourteen per cent more than the 731 pounds made last year. The first sales prices have been better than they were a year ago.

IRISH OR WHITE POTATOES

With an acreage reduced four per cent, a condition of 87, an indicated yield of 98 bushels per acre, and a price of \$3.03 per bushel the crop promises well. There has been a decided improvement since last month.

FRUIT GOOD

Both peaches and apples improved in condition last month. The outlook of apples is forty-five per cent better than the last year's crop made. Peaches were better in the western states in 1919 than they are this, but the eastern crop is better now. Other fruit is good, especially in the South.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sweet potatoes have a three per cent better condition than a year ago, or about equal to the usual crop. The soybean crop continues to gain favor over a widening area of new territory. It could not be otherwise, however. Fruit is fine. Most of the peaches, including the Elbertas, are harvested. Brown Rot and the Curculio have been especially prevalent in spite of spraying. Peanuts are much better than last year.

NORTH CAROLINA CROP STATISTICS, BASIS AUGUST 1, 1920

District	COUNTIES BY DISTRICTS	WHEAT Pro- duction, Bushels	YIELDS PER ACRE			CONDITION											
			WHEAT, Bushels	RYE, Bushels	CLOVER HAY, Tons	CORN,	COTTON	SWEET POTATOES	TOBACCO	HAY	PASTURE	PEAS	BEANS	APPLES	SORGHUM	PEANUTS	
1	Alleghany	30,360	11	10	1	90		92	90	77	92		94	77	97		
	Ashelby	35,217	9	10	1	92		90		77	88		90	44	95		
	Avery	8,890	10	11	.9	90		100		88	79		95	67	96		
	Caldwell	109,980	10	8	1	97		94	90	95	89	94	82	52	95	80	
	Surry	159,600	10	8	1.7	94		89	91	92	95	82	90	63	89	90	
	Watauga	31,680	9	10	1.6	91		82	93	88	90		95	48	95		
	Wilkes	225,600	10	8	1.3	91		94	97	80	95	90	102	80	95		
	Yadkin	182,468	11	8	1	93		93	85	90	88	84	85	69	90	85	
	Northern MOUNTAIN	771,880	10	8.5	1.2	93		92	85	86	90	87	92	63	93	85	
4	Buncombe	314,520	12	9	1	99		88	85	84	94	95		105	100		
	Burke	258,480	12	9	1.5	93		81	80	89	96	92	92	58	95		
	Cherokee	17,248	8	9	1.1	88		90		100	90	85	90	80	85		
	Clay	49,390	11	10	1.5	95		88	94	90	95	98	95	87	105		
	Graham																
	Haywood	9,893	13	11	1.25	88		83	72		91	85	90	88	90		
	Henderson	18,228	12	10	.88	92		89	80	81	100	90	94	70	92		
	Jackson	66,600	10	10	1	91											
	McDowell	70,520	11	9	1.3	97		89	80	89	87	85	91	67	96		
	Macon	62,590	11	9	1.3	92		90		95	95	92	95	82	92		
	Madison	108,264	8	11	1.6	93		89	81	90	80	89	93	96	90		
	Mitchell	44,825	11	12	1.3	99		90		70	90	95	95	100			
	Polk	22,116	12	9	1.1	90	83	88	75	100	94	86	95	46	84		
	Rutherford	12,098	11.5	9	1.2	89	87	83		87	98	82	75	73	72		
	Swain	11,520	8	10		90		90			95			90	90		
	Transylvania	5,520	10	10	1.3	91											
	Yancey	50,400	9	10	1.6	89		90	88	78	89	88	93	96	100		
	Western MOUNTAIN	1,188,142.2	11.4	9.5	1.45	92	86	87	81	86	90	90	92	78	92		
	2	Alamance	239,700	12	9	1.5	96		84	98	93	91	78	85	66	92	94
		Caswell	99,160	10	9	1	94		87	92	95	82	78	91	72	72	93
Durham		36,000	10	9	1.4	84		84	85	60	83	73	90	50		90	
Forsyth		270,130	14	10	1	93		85	96	84	82	89	78	47	86		
Franklin		25,500	10	7	.9	92	78	85	87	90	88	88	70	95	83	100	
Granville		63,954	9	9	.75	94		95	92	93	93	90	83	70	75		
Guilford		380,133	13	9	1.6	99		95	103	71	101	101	90	65	100		
Orange		148,632	11	9	1.5	88	82	90	103	94	90	95	90	63	79		
Person		104,988	12	9	1.2	91		88	105	90	95	85		50	90		
Rockingham		196,944	12	10	1	89		86	97	78	96	87	98	57	73		
Stokes		173,184	11	8	1.2	89		87	89	86	83	89	93	72	86		
Vance		25,982	11	7	1.5	85	77	85	91	100	95	83		63	100		
Warren		24,684	12	7	1.3	86	81	87	86	85	91	90	100	53	83	78	
Northern PIEDMONT		1,700,864.7	11.3	8.8	1.46	91	80	91	92	89	89	87	88	63	84	84	
5		Alexander	165,710	10	8	1.3	96	85	87	97	88	91	88	92	56	94	98
		Catawba	261,936	12	8	1	93	86	87		86	80	85	75	57	92	75
		Chatham	305,910	11	8	1	100	75	88	94	90	95	95		60	96	
		Davidson	490,280	14	10	1.2	87	85	97	90	93	75	90	94	55	102	85
	Davie	168,804	12	9	1.1	93	68	93	95	95	75	85	88		98		
	Iredell	323,472	12	9	1	93	82	91	96	92	95	87	90	57	84	95	
	Lee	27,954	9	9	1	94	76	88	86	87	89	78	80	77	92		
	Randolph	380,640	13	8	1.4	103	85	93	88	98	98	93	93	71	101	90	

8	Anson	54,240	9	1.5	89	72	75	100	80	92	95	103	103	
	Cabarrus	190,440	12	8	1.8	93	75	93	103	90	92	95	103	
	Cleveland	192,840	12	8	1.2	84	84	80	78	89	73	75	70	65
	Gaston	110,000	10	8	1.2	84	74	89	89	92	84	80	50	92
	Lincoln	147,300	15	9	1.4	89	83	80	90	80	79	73	40	75
	Mecklenburg	78,480	12	11	1.4	88	79	92	60	90	90	77	74	93
	Montgomery	110,880	11	9	1.5	90	85	90	80	90	90	90	40	87
	Moore	81,000	12	11	1	95	79	90	95	75	78	78	85	75
	Richmond	43,400	10	8		85	83	90	65	80	75	75	85	65
	Stanly	225,500	11	10	1.6	85	75	83	87	90	90	95	73	87
	Union	88,200	10	10	1.4	86	73	83	82	82	81	88	62	88
	Southern PIEDMONT	1,390,200	12	9	1.5	87	78	85	79	89	85	81	83	79
3	BERTIE	5,168	17		1.5	101	74	94	75	85	89	85	88	92
	Camden	1,600	20			92	75	76	90	91	91	93	93	70
	Chowan					98	70	83	90	90	90	85	95	87
	Currituck					92	68	76	75	95	75	78	89	75
	Dare					103		96		90	90	90		
	Edgecombe	18,360	15		1.27	96	76	88	73	89	91	82	89	89
	Gates					102	68	89	88		78	75	100	73
	Halifax			1		90	67	73	80		75	84	91	92
	Hertford	8,280	15		1.3	90	67	86	87	80	90	82	100	92
	Martin				1.4	94	80	81	84	88	88	75	85	90
	Nash	16,545	15		1.3	93	75	87	89	96	98	86	88	86
	Northampton	7,020	13			91	70	83	80		77	85	93	88
	Pasquotank	2,604	14		1.2	94	70	75		90	90	75	90	100
	Perquimans	4,500	15			100	66	80	90	85	80		87	90
	Tyrrell					98	67	90		95		90	92	90
	Washington	2,034	18			104	70	95	85	100	90	92	91	68
	Northern COASTAL	100,928	16		1.3	96	71	89	82	92	87	84	91	85.5
6	Beaufort				1.25	98	69	76	92	94	90	86	80	80
	Carteret					97	78	75	77	90	90	67	83	90
	Craven					90	73	75	85	91		95		
	Greene					90	75	85	78	89	90	90	88	60
	Hyde					90	63	100					81	
	Johnston	51,296	15	14	1.5	92	71	82	77	98	85	72	85	88
	Jones	130	10			91	65	85	85		87	68		45
	Lenoir	3,542	14			88	80	86	79	88	87	72	100	65
	Pamlico					90	77	90	90			82		
	Pitt	6,215	13	10	1.2	99	83	91	95	90	90	85	89	105
	Wayne	10,912	12	11		102	79	90	82	95	80		75	70
	Wilson	23,850	16	10	1.4	96	81	90	78	78	91	80	84	98
	Central COASTAL	124,830	14	13	1.3	95	75	84	85	89	88	77	84.5	83
9	Bladen					97	86	85	95	90	90	80		80
	Brunswick					98	92	97	95	95	85	90		70
	Columbus	8,996	13	10		93	81	87	83	95	75	75	80	78
	Cumberland	32,430	15	9		100	69	87	87	87	85	90	70	85
	Duplin					95	70	85	87	80	90	87	85	83
	Harnett	43,745	13	8		90	81	94	94	85	90	78	95	90
	Hoke	41,600	16	10		95	71	98	90	90	97	70	85	87
	New Hanover					105	90	85	95	90	90	90	95	
	Onslow					91	79	78	85	90	75	75		75
	Pender					89	73	83	83	78	98	79	76	90
	Robeson	32,640	16	10		91	82	83	78	80	90	83	80	95
	Sampson	45,525	15	10		92	93	88	80	95	82	65	90	66
	Scotland	11,520	16	9		102	80	96		94			90	95
	Southern COASTAL	243,990	15	9		94	80.3	88	86	87	87	77	83	81
	State (N. C.)	7,979,988	11.6	9.5	1.4	92	77	88	88	90	89	83	86	71
	United States	53,652,000	14.8	14.2	1.5	86.7	74.1	87	84	90	86.3	83.7	79.5	70.4

Wheat productions given in thousands (,000 omitted) of bushels.

COMMENTS FROM CROP REPORTERS

NORTHEASTERN COASTAL DISTRICT No. 3

Fruit crop excellent, though damaged by blight, brown rot. Good crop of peaches. Good rains have improved all crops. Excessive rains in Camden and crops are a little late, but equal to an average. Quality of tobacco much better than last year. Crop made excellent progress in July, though damaged in sections by wild fire. Outlook good for corn. Early crop about safe. Considerable complaint of army worm in millet. Potatoes and melons were damaged by rain. Soybean crop best in several years. Condition of hay good. No sign of army or clover worm. Large quantity of peanuts.

CENTRAL COASTAL DISTRICT No. 6

Prospects fine for all crops. Cotton and tobacco were damaged some by cool nights and excess rains. Tobacco crop generally good, but stands are poor in sections. Sweet potatoes off 20 to 25 per cent; scarcity of plants. Heavy rains in sections have cut corn crop considerably. Hay prospects good. All crops late, due to cold late spring and wet in July.

SOUTHERN COASTAL DISTRICT No. 9

Hay considerably damaged by army worms. Early hay good; late planted indefinite. Production cut 10 per cent. Fall and winter oats fine. Spring oats short. Uneven stands of cotton, tobacco, and cowpeas, but prospects promising for good crops. Rains have been excessive in sections and lowland corn was considerably drowned.

NORTHERN PIEDMONT DISTRICT No. 2

Weather was generally favorable during the past month. Excessive rains damaged crops in sections, but dry at present. All crops look promising. Tobacco in fine condition, with largest acreage in several years. Crop was heavily fertilized and well cultivated. Ripening prematurely and coming in faster than can be cured. Plant has 20 per cent more growth than usual at this time. Reports of considerable damage from wild fire. Disease spreading slowly. Wheat yields are fine and quality good. Hay, potatoes, and apples in sections poor, but in general, condition good. Clover crop short, but condition hay crop fine. Cool May weather belated growth of crops. Hail storm occurred during month in Vance. Extra large cane crop.

CENTRAL PIEDMONT DISTRICT No. 5

Recent rains have helped all crops. Some were damaged in sections by excess rains. Crops two to three weeks late. Season is favorable for bumper corn crop. Quality of wheat is exceptionally good and yields are much above average. All crops had late start in spring with dry and cool weather. Not as many peas were sown this year as usual and price of seed high. Pasture and hay land in fine condition. Recent rains have improved tobacco.

SOUTHERN PIEDMONT DISTRICT No. 8

Weather during July has been ideal for all crops. Rains were excessive in sections, but bad effects about gone. Late and wet spring belated plantings, and fruit was damaged by late frost. Corn in low lands and near rivers damaged by overflows. Rains have been fine last part of month and prospects for all crops good.

NORTHERN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT No. 1

Very little rainfall during July. All crops needing rain first of August. Corn, hay, and pasture in poor condition account cool, dry weather. Wheat not as good as was expected; hurt by spring frosts. Truck crops fine condition in Avery. Excessive drought prevailing over Yadkin, though July was favorable for farm operations.

WESTERN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT No. 4

Clover short, due to late, cold spring. Dry weather shortened hay prospect, though condition of crop is good. Wheat yields best in years, quality fine. The crop was damaged by spring freezes and late plantings belated all crops. Local markets are plentifully supplied with home-grown fruit. Condition corn fine to excellent. Crops from five to ten days late. All have made fine progress during July.

WHAT THE FARMERS THINK OF IT

Among a few farmers gathered at a county meeting the subject of crop reports was being discussed. One fellow spoke up:

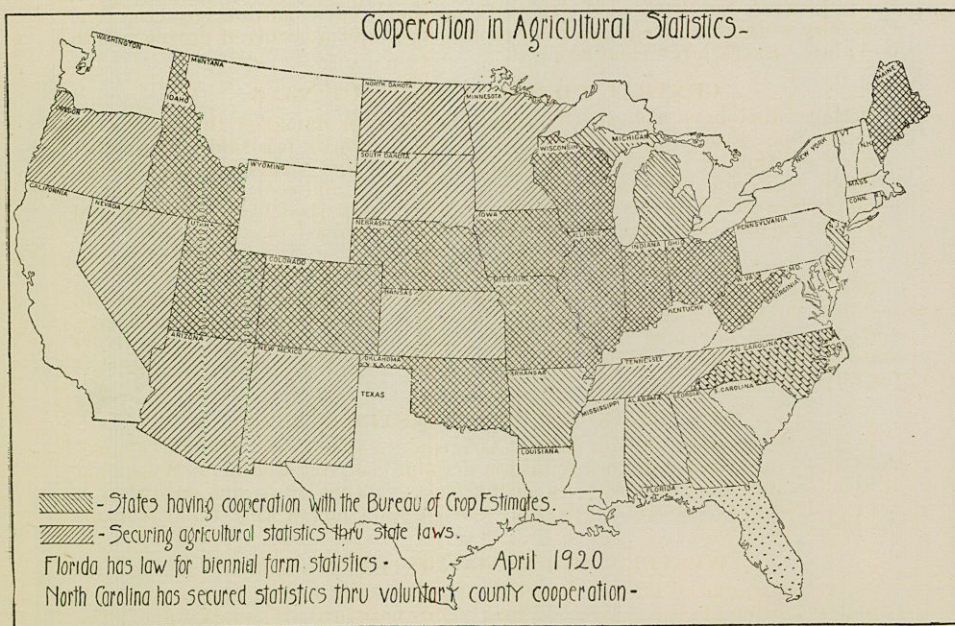
"Them fellers can't no mo set in them offices and guess what our crops is doin' then I kin fly."

Another farmer replied: "Well, I have been reporting to them for four years and have met their field agent, Parker. He says, that there are about two thousand of us fellows in the state who make reports to him and as many more who send reports to Washington each month. He travels about over the state each month observing crop conditions and inquiries of many well informed business men and farmers about changes and prospects. When he gets back to Raleigh, all our reports are collected into county batches of 5 to 20 reports from each. The averages of these are taken and unless unreasonable are used in their reports. So after all it is our opinions that you read in these crop reports."

"It seems to me," said the best business farmer of the crowd, "that there is something lacking even on that basis. The federal census is taken only every ten years. It has been ten years now since the last crop acreages were announced. How do they or we know what the corn acreage is in this county? Their estimates can hardly be exact."

"Well I'll be darned," says a prosperous-looking chap. "Didn't you report your acres to the tax lister last year? Oh, you didn't! Well, that's so, for that tax lister refused to handle it. He wasn't paid anything extra. It seems to me that the whole solution would be to have a survey law passed and by that established means get the information completely and regularly. Business men make annual inventories, why not farmers? I have often saved money by studying crop reports, which enabled me to market and buy to best advantage. This additional basis would help wonderfully."

WHAT OTHER STATES ARE DOING IN FARM SURVEYS



Others Added Since March—Why Let North Carolina Lag Behind in Efficient Data

ANNOUNCEMENTS TO CROP REPORTERS

The State Fair will be held October 11 to 16. The three best reporters in each county are to get a season's ticket to it. Are you one? Why not try?

A special train of farmers from "Ark-an-saw" visited Wilson County Saturday, August 7. They came to learn and were amazed. We are in favor of a similar trip for our farmers into the middle west. Perhaps we, too, can return saying, "It was worth many times the cost."

The State Farmers' Convention meets August 24, and judging from the past two conventions there was much to see and learn from besides the speeches. Better take a day off and come to Raleigh for this treat!

The Special Legislature is in session. We hope they will prove to be doers and not mere lawyers. There is important legislation needed. The farmers need and want an annual farm survey law so as to stabilize farm operations against the speculators' would-be price manipulations. **WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO PASS THIS LAW.** Do it now.

We are glad to announce that you reporters are being praised for your fine reports and aid. It is what makes a great State and service. Continue your good and **REGULAR** aid—for it is you who establish the reputation.

THE STATE'S DUTY TO HER CROP PRODUCERS

Suppose that in a corporation there were twenty-five in the office force and seventy-five of the workers—producers. If that corporation neglected the protection and welfare of its laborers while giving special attention to the office forces, what do you suppose might happen sooner or later?

Well this is comparable to our State legislation. Our farmers are being neglected, although they work from day-break to dark. Their remuneration is at a rate that does not justify labor competition with *any other* industry. Our laws have been primarily for the urban interests.

Every North Carolina urban interest is practically dependent upon the prosperity of the farmers. Why not help the farmers to greater prosperity. Our inventory of farms each year will soon prove to be indispensable if put into operation.

THE VOLUNTARY RESULTS OF FARM SURVEYS THROUGH TAX LISTERS

