

FARM FORECASTER

SEPTEMBER CROP REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

*It's in here - find it.
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AS THEY COME

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SEPTEMBER 1920

ISSUED COOPERATIVELY AT RALEIGH BY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Crop Estimates
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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

CORN MAY MAKE RECORD

The condition of 97 per cent of a full crop is indicative of about the best corn crop we have ever had. It is about 16 per cent better than the ten-year average. The indications are for a 62,464,000 bushel crop, this being an increase of 6 per cent in the last month, and about 14 per cent more than produced last year. The average price reported is \$2.19 compared with \$1.97 a year ago. When the new crop begins to be marketed this price will probably decline some. It has been a long time since North Carolina has known a yield of almost 24 bushels per acre.

WHEAT MADE GOOD YIELD

The wheat is harvested and practically all threshed, giving an average yield of over 11 bushels per acre, which indicates a crop of something over 8,000,000 bushels. The tendency seems to have been to depress the price locally more than was justified. The prospects for fall planting is for a less acreage than last year.

SWEET POTATOES GOOD

The present sweet potato outlook is good, as indicated by the 97 per cent of a full crop condition, which forecasts over 10,000,000 bushels; this is about 6 per cent more than last year. There has been less interest in the building of curing houses than last year, but the commercial interest is growing. Due to the continued wet soil conditions the keeping qualities of the potatoes may be inferior, although a dry fall will correct this tendency.

HAYS GOOD—HARVESTING BAD

The State has increased its hay production considerably during the last two or three years and this year's average of 1.4 tons per acre with high quality is indicative of a good outturn, or about 1,000,000 tons forecasted production. Clover hay has yielded almost 1.5 tons or about 280,000 tons production for the State, this being the same as last year.

PASTURE FINE

Live stock have done well this year, due to the good grass growing weather, which has saved the farmers much cost for feed. The present condition of 95 per cent tells the same story.

FIELD PEAS AND SOY BEANS GOOD

With an outlook of 85 per cent in condition for field peas the prospect is good for a crop, although production is decreasing and being supplanted by soy beans, which have a condition of 89 per cent. The beans will have a production of almost 1,500,000 bushels for the State. This State produced about as much grain or seed soy beans as all the other States combined, although the acreage for hay in some other States is quite large.

SORGHUM CANE PROMISES WELL

Having a 90 per cent of normal the sorghum crop promises a good harvest. Last year we made 3,500,000 gallons, which is a rather important crop item.

PEANUTS

The condition of 83 per cent of normal is the same for the State and Nation. Of the National crop of 38,880,000 bushels, North Carolina grows about 11 per cent. Our production has greatly decreased for the past few years.

FATTENING HOGS DECREASED

We have 96 per cent of the number of fattening hogs that we had a year ago, compared with 91 per cent over the Nation as a whole. According to this shortage there may be better prices paid during the coming winter than were paid or justified a year ago.

COMMENTS FOR THE UNITED STATES

WHEAT

The September 1st forecast for the winter and spring wheat crop is 770,000,000 bushels. This is 170,000,000 bushels less than was produced last year and 50,000,000 bushels less than the 1914 to 1918 average. The prospective yield per acre this year is 14.4 bushels, which is about equal to the average for the past few years. The price is \$2.19 compared with \$2.06 a year ago.

CORN

The present condition of 86 per cent of the full crop forecasts a production of 3,131,000,000 bushels. This is about 4 per cent more than last year's crop and about 12 per cent more than the average for the past few years. This condition indicates a yield of 30 bushels to the acre compared with 28 last year and 26 bushels for the average. The price for the Nation is \$1.56 compared with \$1.85 last September.

COTTON

The cotton crop, treated more extensively on another page, had an average condition on August 25th of 67.5 per cent. This is 6 per cent better than a year ago and about the average at this date for the past ten years. This condition forecasts a yield of but 174 pounds per acre, or a total production of about 12,782,000 bales. This is about 12 per cent more than was produced last year. Of course the fall seasons will be the deciding factor in its holding up to this yield.

TOBACCO

The report of 1,554,000,000 pounds is 12 per cent more than last year's production. The condition of 85 per cent indicates a yield of \$35 pounds per acre, or 14 per cent better acreage yield than last year, and but 3 per cent better than the average for the past several years. The average price for the season, limited to the South, is about 22 cents per pound. It has been published that the manufacturers have less stocks on hand than last year. If true, it should warrant a better price than is paid at present.

HAY

Since North Carolina has increased her hay production so much we are naturally interested in our National crop. The United States' prospects are for a production equal to last year's supply and 4 per cent less than two years ago; but it is about 9 per cent more than the average crop. The yield per acre averages one and one-half tons, with the average condition on August 1st at 90.5 per cent. The average price for cultivated hays is \$21 as compared with \$21.30 a year ago this date. The wild hays are selling at \$13.70 as against \$16.10 last year.

GENERAL SUMMARY

Included in the crops making larger productions than last year is the following: Corn 7 per cent, cotton 13 per cent, oats 16 per cent, Irish potatoes 15 per cent, tobacco 12 per cent, apples 51 per cent, peanuts 17 per cent, and sorghum syrup 16 per cent.

Of those making less production than last year are: Wheat 18 per cent, rye 12 per cent, buckwheat 5 per cent, sweet potatoes 2 per cent, hay 2 per cent, peaches 11 per cent, and of the number of stock hogs there is 9 per cent less than a year ago.

The trend of prices has been a decrease of about 11 per cent during August and 7 per cent lower than a year ago. The condition of all crops September 1st was 7 per cent above the average for that date and 72 per cent higher than the final yields of last year. The total acreage in cultivation was about 5.4 per cent less than a year ago. More labor in the South than elsewhere.

COMMENTS FROM CROP REPORTERS

Northern MOUNTAIN District No. 1

There has been continuous rain all the month. Crops have been damaged by the wet weather. The tobacco crop has fine growth but light in weight. Oats were damaged in shock. Production of wool has increased in Avery and surrounding counties but no market for the product. Brown rot damaged fruit considerably.

Western MOUNTAIN District No. 4

Rains during August were frequent and excessive. A month of wet weather. Fruit and truck were damaged and much rotting of all kinds was prevalent. Corn was damaged, but in general fine crop. Pastures good. Heaviest damage to crops along watercourses. Oats and hay crops damaged. Potatoes rotting on account of frequent rains. Too much wet and too little sunshine. Rain helped peas and pastures in Madison.

Northern PIEDMONT District No. 2

Tobacco was damaged by excessive rains. Leaf is off in weight. Wildfire has been prevalent. The corn crop is extra fine. Rains have been favorable to pastures. Cotton production short, though the weed has fine growth. Preparation for small grain has been slow. Heavy rains too frequent. In general, crops much better than last year.

Central PIEDMONT District No. 5

Rains have been excessive during August. Early corn extra fine, though late crop damaged some by rain. Cotton is late and poorly fruited, but shedding not as bad as last year. Tobacco damaged by rains, rust, and wildfire. Preparation of land for small grains slow on account of wet. Good crop sweet potatoes. Rain hindered cultivation.

Southern PIEDMONT District No. 8

Continuous rains throughout district. Rains almost every day during month. Damaged crops in bottom lands. Cotton has fine growth in weed but poorly fruited and shedding squares. Truck crops good. Fruit has been plentiful. Many new peach orchards being planted in the section around Moore County. Corn good, much above the average. Crop very late. Tobacco having light yields on account of wet weather. Pastures in fine condition.

Northern COASTAL District No. 3

Corn crop extra fine. Cotton good but shedding squares on account of frequent rains. Excessive weed growth at expense of fruiting. Crops have been damaged to some extent, though generally good. Soy beans in good condition. Fine tobacco crop. Hogs are plentiful, though poor market. Good tobacco crop. There was too much rain during august.

Central COASTAL District No. 6

Too much rain during August. Corn good, also hay crop. Tobacco, large growth but light in weight. Crop damaged some by worms and wildfire. More barns burned than usual. Cotton has good weed but few bolls. Number hogs increased. Many lost by disease (cholera), especially in Jones and Onslow. Labor scarce and indifferent. General crops in good condition.

Southern COASTAL District No. 9

Excessive rains during August have damaged crops. Cotton has poor fruitage with luxuriant weed, with the crop thirty days late, and failing since 25th. Hay was damaged by army worms. Early corn extra good. Tobacco damaged by wet weather. More hogs than usual, many dying from cholera.

WHEN CROPS ARE HARVESTED

Here it is told in a concrete-percentage way by months: e.g. one-half of strawberries gathered in May and most of the sweet potatoes in October.

	Jan. to April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Strawberries.....	8	52.2	34	5	1				
Watermelons.....			2	34	52	12			
Cabbages.....	2	12	22	18	14	16	16		
Peanuts.....				2	31	56	10	1	
Sorghum (syrup).....					10	49	37	4	
Tobacco.....				20	40	33	7		
Soybeans.....						33	37	15	10
Clover Hay.....		16	46	19	11	8			
Cowpeas.....				3	10	49	30	18	
Millet.....			15	20	30	29	6		
Timothy Hay.....			19	48	27	6			
Wild Hay.....			16	20	30	7			
Cotton.....					4	27	40	21	6
Honey.....	7	18	35	18	10	5	4	3	
Apples.....			8	17	22	26	23	4	
Blackberries.....			38	48	13	1			
Cantaloupes.....			9	40	41	10			
Grapes.....				7	36	44	1.3		
Peaches.....		2	18	36	34	8	2		
Pears.....				11	22	45	20	2	
Buckwheat.....				11	18	44	27		
Corn.....					1	5	40	46	
Oats.....		9	47	38	6				
Rye.....		5	75	18	1	1			
Wheat.....		2	83	12	1				
Potatoes, Irish.....		6	25	22	13	13	16	5	8
Potatoes, Sweet.....				2	7	24	56	11	
Hay, all.....		3	16	17	21	30	13		
Alfalfa Hay.....	1	11	22	22	20	17	7		

NOTE.—Early and late crops include hays, Irish potatoes, fruits, and honey.

PROPORTION OF BREEDS OF LIVESTOCK

Every time you plan to buy some new livestock there comes the question of "Which kind ought I to buy?" This table indicates the general trend of preferences as based on thousands of herds.

BREEDS	United States	North Carolina	
HOGS:	<i>Per Cent</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>	
Berkshire.....	9.2	17.0	
Chester White.....	10.7	4.2	
Duroc-Jersey.....	34.2	32.4	
Hampshire.....	3.9	3.4	
Poland-China.....	27.9	19.2	
Razorback.....	4.2	7.3	
Other.....	2.7	4.4	
Nondescript.....	5.6	10.4	
CATTLE:			
Aberdeen-Angus.....	3.6	2.5	
Devon.....	.3	3.0	
Guernsey.....	2.9	6.9	
Hereford.....	21.0	3.9	
Holstein.....	16.2	8.0	
Jersey.....	14.0	39.4	
Polled Durham.....	1.5	.2	
Red Polled.....	2.6	.9	
Shorthorn (Durham).....	22.6	7.2	
Other.....	3.1	6.3	
Nondescript.....	10.3	21.6	

NORTH CAROLINA CROP STATISTICS, BASIS SEPTEMBER 1, 1920

DISTRICT	COUNTIES BY DISTRICTS	ALL HAY (Cultivated)			HOGS, Per Cent*	CONDITION (Per Cent of Normal)										
		Acreage, Number	Yield Per Acre	Pro-duction, Tons		CORN	COTTON	TOBACCO (at Harvest)	IRISH POTATOES	SWEET POTATOES	PASTURE	FIELD PEAS	SOYBEANS	SORGHUM CANE	PEANUTS	APPLES
1	Alleghany.....	6,280	1.2	7,536	88	93	-----	-----	96	93	90	-----	76	100	-----	68
	Ashe.....	7,920	1.1	8,712	100	100	-----	-----	95	100	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	100
	Avery.....	3,030	.8	2,424	102	94	-----	-----	86	80	96	75	80	90	-----	76
	Caldwell.....	3,870	1.5	5,805	96	91	-----	97	100	88	93	86	90	93	-----	56
	Surry.....	5,300	1.4	7,420	96	94	-----	93	96	92	96	92	86	94	-----	81
	Watauga.....	4,550	1.1	5,005	94	91	-----	-----	92	82	99	-----	97	92	-----	50
	Wilkes.....	5,250	1.0	5,250	96	90	-----	91	97	95	100	91	88	96	-----	88
	Yadkin.....	8,000	1.5	12,000	98	91	-----	85	89	97	97	97	94	92	-----	83
	Northern MOUNTAIN.....	44,200	1.2	54,152	95	93	-----	92	94	91	96	88	87	94	-----	75
4	Buncombe.....	16,450	1.2	19,740	96	92	-----	85	97	84	98	93	90	94	-----	94
	Burke.....	8,920	1.4	12,488	96	92	-----	82	99	94	100	92	86	91	-----	58
	Cherokee.....	2,210	1.5	3,315	97	95	-----	-----	90	90	100	90	70	90	-----	90
	Clay.....	2,420	1.4	3,388	89	100	-----	92	90	92	96	88	75	95	-----	101
	Graham.....	3,460	1.1	3,806	-----	90	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Haywood.....	1,850	1.4	2,590	90	95	-----	83	87	92	100	100	100	92	-----	96
	Henderson.....	6,510	1.3	8,463	87	83	-----	82	87	84	102	89	93	88	-----	75
	Jackson.....	3,150	1.2	3,780	100	80	-----	-----	95	92	100	-----	90	88	-----	88
	McDowell.....	3,920	1.5	5,880	95	83	-----	95	90	91	93	83	92	102	-----	67
	Macon.....	6,615	1.3	8,599	100	90	-----	-----	90	80	95	90	90	90	-----	90
	Madison.....	15,050	1.1	16,555	90	95	-----	87	82	80	93	85	88	98	-----	97
	Mitchell.....	5,430	1.2	6,516	105	102	-----	-----	98	102	88	-----	105	95	-----	100
	Polk.....	1,700	1.2	2,040	92	82	87	-----	90	95	96	88	95	94	-----	-----
	Rutherford.....	4,986	1.3	6,482	80	87	83	-----	82	86	90	91	82	86	-----	65
	Swain.....	2,050	1.1	2,255	100	91	-----	-----	98	94	98	97	98	98	-----	94
	Transylvania.....	6,200	1.3	8,060	98	87	-----	-----	80	78	90	-----	100	90	-----	100
	Yancey.....	7,300	1.0	7,300	99	92	-----	95	98	100	96	85	96	92	-----	94
	Western MOUNTAIN.....	98,221	1.2	121,257	95	90	85	87	90	89	96	91	91	93	-----	87
2	Alamance.....	15,600	1.2	18,720	90	99	90	89	89	93	97	89	76	94	85	75
	Caswell.....	7,260	1.3	9,438	98	95	90	77	96	89	100	78	100	85	85	75
	Durham.....	3,630	1.2	4,356	103	92	75	87	88	90	98	87	75	81	-----	67
	Forsyth.....	18,050	1.4	25,270	99	98	-----	81	87	91	94	83	92	94	-----	66
	Franklin.....	6,190	1.5	9,285	92	99	79	86	86	90	93	90	88	83	80	90
	Granville.....	9,770	1.3	12,701	97	105	70	88	98	95	105	93	83	83	100	85
	Guilford.....	20,350	1.6	32,560	93	109	-----	93	103	98	108	100	105	98	-----	71
	Orange.....	6,360	1.2	7,632	97	95	86	89	88	92	94	94	75	88	-----	85
	Person.....	10,040	1.2	12,048	97	98	-----	86	88	87	96	90	90	90	-----	73
	Rockingham.....	11,190	1.5	16,785	93	91	-----	75	97	96	100	95	93	87	80	68
	Stokes.....	8,400	1.2	10,080	99	99	-----	91	90	97	98	91	83	94	-----	77
	Vance.....	6,960	1.0	6,960	98	94	73	75	90	100	100	100	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Warren.....	5,850	1.1	6,435	93	96	78	84	83	94	91	92	88	78	90	56
	Northern PIEDMONT.....	129,650	1.3	172,270	96	98	79	85	91	93	97	92	87	87	87	74
5	Alexander.....	5,740	1.3	7,462	95	94	81	91	86	93	97	90	93	94	84	69
	Catawba.....	15,720	1.5	23,580	92	100	77	-----	97	96	97	97	86	95	92	78
	Chatham.....	11,600	1.5	17,400	98	105	79	83	60	85	93	82	88	95	-----	63
	Davidson.....	20,150	1.2	24,180	83	85	80	90	100	92	-----	92	100	105	85	68
	Davie.....	7,340	1.0	7,340	98	92	77	82	92	99	92	92	90	88	100	50
	Iredell.....	11,490	1.3	14,937	80	99	88	91	83	87	98	83	87	92	92	56
	Lee.....	2,910	.9	2,619	99	94	75	84	85	80	89	85	90	91	85	92
	Lincoln.....	22,410	1.4	26,774	92	94	75	84	85	80	89	85	90	91	85	92

8	Anson.....	15,020	1.0	15,020	100	90	68	75	93	95	73	90	90	95
	Cabarrus.....	13,350	.9	12,015	87	97	85	75	87	92	82	100	100	98
	Cleveland.....	11,550	1.1	12,705	99	97	85	99	89	97	95	94	91	97
	Gaston.....	7,800	1.4	10,920	87	89	83	74	85	86	83	82	82	83
	Lincoln.....	7,770	1.4	10,878	92	94	88	76	87	97	92	85	86	90
	Mecklenburg.....	15,300	1.3	19,890	102	100	84	97	97	103	100	100	82	91
	Montgomery.....	4,190	.9	3,771	98	87	78	93	80	87	85	90	90	90
	Moore.....	5,250	.9	4,725	102	94	76	91	85	83	90	91	92	95
	Richmond.....	7,570	1.1	8,327	100	92	80	89	75	91	85	77	86	100
	Stanly.....	5,680	1.2	6,816	95	98	79	70	90	94	97	100	91	82
	Union.....	12,600	1.2	15,120	97	88	78	73	83	91	88	89	88	82
	Southern PIEDMONT	106,080	1.1	120,127	96	93	80	91	80	86	93	88	91	90
3	Bertie.....	22,400	1.3	29,120	96	102	74	84	80	80	95	77	85	77
	Camden.....	2,320	1.5	3,480	80	85	73	75	78	100	90	87	85	85
	Chowan.....	5,700	1.3	7,410	90	100	78	90	90	70	100	76	95	90
	Currituck.....	2,030	1.4	2,842	93	97	75	85	75	75	88	98	98	98
	Dare.....	320	.9	288	100	95	79	100	85	85	85	85	85	100
	Edgecombe.....	26,250	1.0	26,250	91	96	79	84	94	91	95	82	91	90
	Gates.....	10,780	.9	9,882	104	108	71	94	82	88	98	92	99	100
	Halifax.....	28,950	1.0	28,950	84	97	70	83	78	75	87	82	85	100
	Hertford.....	21,600	.9	19,440	96	96	78	85	90	89	97	82	95	89
	Martin.....	17,540	1.2	21,048	92	95	89	88	100	92	90	100	95	85
	Nash.....	9,370	1.1	10,527	93	99	84	92	88	87	94	95	100	92
	Northampton.....	17,400	1.0	17,400	95	90	79	80	75	72	85	80	85	82
	Pasquotank.....	2,700	1.3	3,510	88	90	82	82	78	95	75	102	95	80
	Perquimans.....	5,340	1.5	8,010	100	95	73	90	87	90	90	100	80	84
	Tyrrell.....	3,090	1.4	4,326	112	103	83	88	93	92	100	97	90	100
	Washington.....	5,910	1.5	8,865	92	101	77	78	82	85	90	88	95	80
	Northern COASTAL	181,900	1.1	201,348	94	97	78	86	86	83	94	86	93	89
6	Beaufort.....	10,250	1.1	11,275	111	95	76	88	71	80	95	77	82	89
	Carteret.....	1,900	1.1	2,090	100	105	66	87	90	90	100	100	100	75
	Craven.....	7,080	1.4	9,912	92	93	66	86	73	81	100	87	90	75
	Greene.....	3,810	1.0	3,810	95	93	78	87	68	72	88	85	95	75
	Hyde.....	4,690	1.5	7,035	92	92	72	80	82	82	82	80	80	100
	Johnston.....	16,800	1.3	21,840	87	96	76	88	86	85	82	74	89	72
	Jones.....	3,650	1.0	3,650	95	97	67	93	95	86	75	100	82	82
	Lenoir.....	7,470	1.1	8,217	100	104	79	97	82	62	96	93	98	75
	Pamlico.....	2,410	1.2	2,892	80	92	77	95	66	80	85	85	85	80
	Pitt.....	10,850	1.4	15,190	90	95	82	94	72	79	80	70	80	95
	Wayne.....	11,750	1.5	17,625	98	96	87	85	85	92	90	90	90	71
	Wilson.....	4,610	1.2	5,532	87	98	81	91	95	92	85	85	92	93
	Central COASTAL	85,270	1.2	109,068	94	96	75	89	79	83	89	83	90	81
9	Bladen.....	8,980	.9	8,082	100	100	82	86	85	81	92	73	73	83
	Brunswick.....	4,670	1.0	4,670	103	103	84	90	97	93	100	99	100	94
	Columbus.....	13,950	1.3	18,135	92	91	78	78	93	87	91	87	93	92
	Cumberland.....	7,750	1.2	9,300	92	90	72	82	80	85	90	100	100	90
	Duplin.....	9,690	1.3	12,597	103	96	76	93	77	83	90	70	75	100
	Harnett.....	5,250	1.1	5,775	100	97	85	89	98	95	100	100	102	90
	Hoke.....	2,150	1.2	2,580	105	90	71	80	90	83	102	70	75	90
	New Hanover.....	2,740	1.4	3,836	94	85	87	87	90	85	80	83	80	90
	Onslow.....	5,500	1.0	5,500	95	95	74	92	90	85	80	83	80	90
	Pender.....	3,190	1.2	3,828	91	87	79	80	87	72	88	60	75	73
	Robeson.....	12,090	1.3	15,717	91	92	80	76	70	73	95	85	73	90
	Sampson.....	15,200	1.2	18,240	94	97	80	85	70	80	100	64	100	93
	Scotland.....	6,480	1.3	8,424	95	95	76	83	92	73	95	95	95	80
	Southern COASTAL	97,640	1.2	116,684	97	94	79	86	86	83	93	81	87	91
	North Carolina.....	879,131	1.2	1,079,294	96	97	79	87	88	85	95	85	89	90
	United States.....	58,700,000	1.5	88,200,000	91	86	67	85	84	87	86	84	85	84

*The percentage of fattening hogs compared with last year at this date.

COTTON COMMENTS

Already our southern farmers have begun to speculate on the probable correctness of the recent official cotton report. The American Cotton Association has questioned its forecast. This same tendency has been shown by others for many years, and the Bureau of Crop Estimates has learned to allow for it. In fact the cotton forecasts have been low rather than high for the past few years.

The present outlook is for a good crop in spite of the weevil and wet weather. The average condition of 67.5 per cent on August 25th is 6 per cent higher than a year ago. It is not probable that we will have as late or as favorable a fall this year. The present condition is the same as for this date in 1917. The production forecasted at the present condition is 12,783,000 bales, which shows an average yield of 174 pounds per acre from 35,504,000 acres. This amount is an increase of 1,453,245 bales over the 1919 crop, and a decided increase over any of the past five years. The fall seasons will increase or lower this figure. If there is an early fall frost, we may not make last year's yield, instead of the 12 per cent increase expected.

There are many reports of heavy damage by the army worm and of late shedding and even rotting. Perhaps the more favorable recent weather will check this tendency as well as the boll weevil spread. The weevil has already been seen in Robeson to New Hanover counties, but no serious damage noticed. The red spider has not been serious, due largely to the frequency of August rains. These were not as damaging as was expected, though they resulted in an immense weed which was generally poorly fruited. The crop made some improvement during the month.

The rains continued through most of August and fields on sandy and low lands were badly drowned. The bolls have matured very slowly, and cultivation has been difficult owing to the wet soil. Plant growth has been too rapid everywhere. Early planted cotton has a healthy appearance and is fairly well filled. The boll worms are becoming very numerous in southern counties, and have damaged the crop considerably. Many fields were injured by rust and wilt, causing it to develop and open prematurely.

STATE CROP IMPROVED DURING AUGUST

The State has 1,556,000 acres of cotton this year, which is an increase of 2 per cent over last year. The condition of the crop on August 25th was 79 per cent of normal as compared with 77 per cent last month and 70 per cent August 25th a year ago. It forecasts a total production of 875,000 bales. This is 45,000 bales more than was reported by the ginner for 1919, at a 3-pound larger yield per acre.

The present condition of the crop is 5 per cent better than the average for the past ten years, and shows an increase over the 1910 crop of 209,868 bales or 32 per cent. In 1910, this State held the rank of 8th in acreage, but has been replaced by Louisiana since that time. The State has a better condition at present than any of the principal cotton producing States except Oklahoma's 80 per cent.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM COTTON REPORTERS

Rains have been excessive throughout the cotton belt. The crop is thirty days later than in 1919. Shedding badly on account of the rains. Fine growth but poorly fruited. Crop has improved during last 15 days. Many fields grassy and full of weeds. Much complaint of rust, insect damage, rotting, and too rapid growth. Early cotton well fruited. Crop in Lenoir and nearby counties has not recovered from hailstorms. Just started to bloom, bolls scattering. Prospects for good yields. Looks like a bumper crop in Johnston. With favorable weather, and late fall, will have normal crop in Pitt and Martin. Has rained every day for last twenty days. Plant large, sappy, red. Outlook good first of season. Labor shortage. Army worms bad in Cumberland. Sandy lands badly drowned, poor condition. Crop in Wilson doing nicely, fruiting well, and promises good yields. Best crop in years reported from Wayne. Rains have not been as heavy last two weeks as during first of month—Central Coastal District. Crop fine in New Hanover.

NORTH CAROLINA TOBACCO

While the tobacco crop was seriously damaged by the August rains, the yields have been good, and with this year's increased acreage, the expected production greatly exceeds last year's reports. The condition of the crop at harvest time was 86 per cent of normal, which is a drop of 2 per cent since last month's condition and forecasts a total production of 410,098,500 pounds from 581,700 acres. This State ranks first in acreage.

The continued rains gave the plant rapid growth but hindered its proper cultivation and damaged the texture of the leaf, resulting in the sale of a thin light product on the floors of the markets just opening. The color is generally good but shows evidences of being gathered too early. Considerable injury from insect pests, wildfire, and wilt have been reported from the Piedmont and Central Coastal districts. While much of the leaf on the markets is spotted, and shows poor grading, the low prices paid for good tobacco might be attributed to the expected increased production rather than to a prevalence of poor grades. The burning of barns has been more common than usual.

AUGUST WAREHOUSE SALES

The sales reported on the eleven markets selling in August totalled 15,128,810 pounds at an average price of \$26.42 per hundred pounds. Six warehouses failing to report are estimated to have sold 2,550,000 pounds, which makes a total of 17,678,810 pounds sold on the eleven markets and 27 active warehouses. This amount, at the average price reported, sold for \$4,670,740, and was 5,688,833 pounds more than was sold during August, 1919, and 7,742,662 pounds less than was sold in August, 1918. Last month, 3,625,960 pounds were sold on these same markets at an average price of \$23.35 per hundred, indicating that the bulk of the leaf was held until near the close of the season. This was fortunate to the grower as the higher prices were paid them.

The total season's sales reported from these markets to September 1st, amounted to 19,543,413 pounds and was valued at 5,036,338 dollars at an average price of \$25.77.

PRICES IMPROVED DURING AUGUST

In August, these eleven markets averaged \$3.07 better than for last month. Only Whiteville, Proctorville, and Clarkton fell below their July average. This was \$1.22 per hundred better than for August last year, when the average price was \$25.20. The opening sales on these markets averaged better than in 1919. Several of these Southern markets are staying open until late in September.

AUGUST SALES ON LOOSE LEAF MARKETS

COUNTY—Markets	NUMBER Houses	PRO- DUCERS' Sales	RESALES	TOTAL Sales	AVERAGE Price, August	AVERAGE Price, July
BLADEN						
Bladenboro.....	2 (1)	129,094	7,266	154,375	\$ 24.34	\$ 21.60
Clarkton.....	2	850,648	116,462	1,070,450	23.55	25.75
Totals.....	4 (1)	979,742	123,728	1,224,825	23.62	23.62
COLUMBUS						
Chadbourne.....	3 (2)	680,356	79,424	856,398	24.52	23.23
Fair Bluff.....	3	1,313,385	120,420	1,599,325	26.28	23.28
Tabor.....	3 (1)	1,461,206	206,191	1,795,543	27.00	23.09
Whiteville.....	3 (1)	1,444,515	70,809	1,860,325	25.66	28.27
Total.....	12 (4)	4,899,462	476,844	6,114,591	26.07	24.84
ROBESON						
Fairmont.....	3	4,062,268	324,569	4,517,152	29.96	23.88
Lumberton.....	3 (1)	1,117,822	57,008	1,315,520	21.94	18.59
Proctorville.....	2	315,345	59,764	375,109	22.00	23.25
St. Paul.....	1	500,767	69,824	598,564	22.25	14.71
Rowland.....	2	784,161	84,670	983,049	25.40	24.66
Totals.....	11 (1)	6,780,363	595,835	7,789,394	27.04	22.01
State totals.....	27 (6)	12,659,567	1,196,407	15,128,810	26.42	23.35

NOTE.—Figures in parenthesis indicate houses failing to report.

WHAT SHALL THE HARVEST BE?

When the world war was demanding Europe's attention and filling America's newspapers, the prices of things began to wobble. Because products could not be shipped, crop prices went down and implementants (metals) started up.

It was explained that, although the middlemen were making profits then, they would have to lose when things started down after the war. An age of history has been enacted each year since. Some prices are still going up. Labor and capital (all organized) have demanded and struck until they have only to work half time now to make twice that they used to get. The efforts of labor is much less efficient and they work less hours. Every one admits that times are "awful" yet they keep on with their money-getting schemes instead of helping to right conditions.

This year the cry has been, "Our hope is in the farmers making greater production of crops." These loyal crop workers, who have never let down, or struck for higher wages, put forth unaccountable efforts. Labor was almost unobtainable. It was very expensive, undependable, and inefficient. Machinery and necessities were expensive. The farm operating costs were terrific. More of the expensive fertilizers were used than in previous years. Heavy debts were made in order to make these crops. In spite of unfavorable weather conditions crops have yielded well. These faithful workers (not laborers please) have done the world's bidding alone. They have made foods and feeds enough for all.

Now that the harvest is here, what shall it be? If the farmers had struck and quit as all other manual laborers have, we would now be near or quite at starvation. The appreciation of the farmer's loyalty and hard work is nil or simply that the town people are glad there is enough of these crops to bring prices down. The big supply means less demand and low prices. They regret the farmer's fate, but it is the inevitable law, they claim. Poor appreciation to be sure.

Here the farmers have made corn at an average cost of about \$2.00, and wheat, at \$3.00 per bushel; cotton at 35 cents and tobacco at 32 cents per pound. They are offered \$2.50 for wheat, 25 cents for each of cotton and tobacco. How are the debts to be paid, mortgages to be lifted, families to be clothed and schooled, crops for another year to be planted when the remuneration for their long, expensive and honest efforts this year are less than their cost?

Why don't these wise advisers who claim that the farmers are getting rich, get out at daybreak, take hold of the plow before six o'clock and work steadily through the hot dusty days until dark? And for this "enjoyable and healthful exercise" get paid at less than \$3.00 per day. The owner of the farm who can turn his money but once a year gets less than cost for his goods, the same products that some others so indifferently profiteer with and consume at fabulous prices.

With raw wool, cotton, wheat, tobacco, and corn being bought from the farmers at low prices, why shouldn't the manufacturers of these products lower their commodities accordingly and at the same time? Every one admits that the cotton and woolen mills, the tobacco and other manufacturers have made big profits when paying high wages. Now the farmer at low wage prices is not paid enough to make ends meet, not to mention any profit or interest.

Thousands of farmers are taking the easiest course. Giving up their farming and moving to town, where as common laborers they live better, easier, and make more money than in farming.

Why shouldn't farmers get profits equal to cotton millers? It requires a year to make a pound of cotton. A piece of cloth can be made in less than a week from the time the bale is opened until the cloth is bolted. Suppose we say that the manufacturers paid 35 cents for their cotton, had a wastage of 15 per cent in cleaning it, making the net cost 40 cents. Plain gingham runs about seven yards to the pound of cotton, and sells at about 30 cents per yard wholesale. From this we see that what the farmer gets 35 cents for after a year's labor, the miller gets over \$2.00 for with less than a week's labor. The miller appears to get 500 per cent more for this cloth than he pays for the cotton. There is the additional profit to wholesaler and retailer, making the final gingham price at perhaps sixty cents per yard or twice the manufacturer's price. Of course it costs to spin, dye, and weave the lint, but so does it cost to plant, fertilize, chop, cultivate, pick and bale it. There is wear and tear of machinery involved in each case. It takes more actual brains, labor, and skill to grow good cotton than it does to spin and weave it.

Evidently the best harvest is made through organized cooperation.

DO CROP REPORTS FAVOR FARMERS OR SPECULATORS?

Quite frequently questions are raised or assertions made regarding the effects that the Government crop reports have on the farmers' interests.

In this connection we recently asked our reporters, who are almost all farmers themselves, for their candid opinions. Practically all replied that these reports furnished interesting and beneficial information. Specific instances of profits were mentioned.

The question was asked of Secretary E. T. Meredith at Washington recently. His reply showed conclusively that the crop forecasts were of greater advantage to the farmers than they were to the speculators.

"Farmers are benefitted directly and indirectly. The reports cover crop and live-stock conditions, present and prospective supply, for all States, and because they are unbiased, disinterested, and as nearly accurate as it is practicable to make them, farmers can use the information they contain as a guide to planting and marketing. That is, by observing whether the indicated supply is or will be relatively large or small as compared with previous years, the farmer can decide intelligently whether to increase or decrease the acreage in a particular crop, and whether to sell his harvested crop immediately or hold for a probable advance in price at a later date. Hundreds of farmers have written the Department that they have profited from a few hundred to several thousand dollars in a single season by regulating their plantings and marketings in this way, and many farmers state they have obtained top prices year after year by studying the crop reports. Every farmer could and should do the same.

"Crop reports are of fundamental importance to all marketing and distributing agencies, and to the extent that the risk involved, in buying farm products and carrying them in storage until needed, is reduced. Legitimate buyers can operate on smaller margins, and therefore, in competition with each other, they can afford to pay higher prices to farmers.

"The president of a county cooperative potato association in Minnesota states that the potato reports alone were worth more than \$100,000 to the growers of that one county last season. One farmer alone says that conservatively estimated he saved \$4,000 in his marketing sales by using the crop report information. Yet some raise the question that the Bureau of Crop Estimates is an expensive and useless bureau so far as the farmers are concerned. As a matter of fact the present cost of this entire bureau represents a tax equal to only one-third of a one cent postage stamp for each person in the United States.

"Speculators have their own means of getting information and no one can prevent them. They get information all the time through their own agencies. They thrive best in sections where the farmers use the crop reports least. Excepting for the disinterested Bureau of Crop Estimates, farmers and the public would be at the mercy of the speculators, who would be free to use any sort of misleading reports designed to influence prices to their own advantage.

"For their own and agricultural interests farmers should cooperate with State and Federal Departments of Agriculture by reporting conditions in their own neighborhoods and should not criticize the crop reports as inaccurate or detrimental to the interests of the farmers, because by doing so they are likely to play directly into the hands of the speculators.

"Farmers should realize that the prices of their products are determined largely by the relative supply, because the demand remains fairly constant, and that the law of supply and demand which determines or influences these prices is not limited to any one section, but is nation- and even world-wide."

CROP PRICES

The Crop Reporting Service issued a spring crop acreage chart in April. This gave comparisons with last year for the intended plantings. These charts were posted at postoffices, courthouses, and in many banks for the farmers' guidance in determining the competition that might be expected. Over-plantings usually result in low prices as with tobacco this season. Unless the farmers get together and store and sell their products cooperatively when over-production is made, sacrifice prices may be expected. The wise and wide-awake farmer will make use of our forecasts and plant those crops that do not have to meet with heavy competition. Others make money by this plan, why not you too?

WHY NOT AGREE?

When asked for the cause of the slump in tobacco prices, a prominent business man said that although the quality is inferior and all farm products have a tendency downward, yet he understood that the manufacturers has less tobacco on hand than a year ago by over thirty million pounds. Also that an increased price has been demanded for their goods. If true, the dealers and manufacturers certainly ought to be in a position to pay the farmers as much as last year. This year's crop has cost more to produce.

The fact that some buyers increased their bids twenty to forty per cent as soon as sales began to be stopped, is self-evident of something being wrong. It looks like an organized understanding if not an agreement. Doubtless the financial stringency has considerable sway, but perhaps it is used largely as another "reason." Anyway the Federal treasury should "rescue the perishing" ones. The difficulty is that the farmers are not organized so as to demand their rights. With the licensed warehouses that the State is trying to get the farmers and business men interested in, the tobacco and cotton could be held for reasonable prices.

Indignation meetings have been held, but in practical application their cooperative efforts have been failures. This has been largely due to their lack of confidence in each other and to their listening to the suggestions of the speculators instead. It is estimated that more than \$40,000,000 have been swindled from the farmers of North Carolina in the last year through the purchase of worthless stocks from smooth-tongued speculators.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Instead of assigning three State Fair season tickets to each county, it has been deemed best for all concerned to give these to the 300 reporters who have rendered the best service for the past six months. Whoever gets a ticket must come by our office to get it certified—signed. We will have an interesting exhibit at the Fair and we want every reporter to visit it. Don't forget. The date is week of October 18th to 22d. Worth seeing.

We regret to announce that the special session of the Legislature failed to provide a law for farm surveys. We have learned of but two instances where our reporters or others have taken any active interest in writing to their Legislators approving of this law. If we are to issue dependable crop reports, we must have a dependable basis for doing so, and nothing is nearly equal to the annual farm surveys for this purpose. The farmers are bound to be the losers through the *failure* of having such a law. It is going to be presented to the regular session in January, and we urge you *now* to wake up to the importance of this matter.

The tobacco sales in Eastern Carolina began with very low prices. This has caused considerable confusion on all the markets and may result in more activity toward organization of the farmers. They never will get their due except through organized efforts.

The State Farmers' Convention, under President Clarence Poe's leadership proved to be the best we have ever held, and was attended by a large number of farmers from all parts of the State. Secretary E. T. Meredith, of the United States Department of Agriculture, presented some figures that should awaken the farmers to their opportunities. He emphasized that the decreased Federal appropriations to the Department of Agriculture will mean millions of dollars loss to the American farmers. Yet these producers remain inactive toward urging Congressmen to consider these needs. Better begin now looking to the winter session of Congress.

Our Agricultural Statistician was called to Washington on the first of the month as a member of the Crop Reporting Board, and while there he saw one of the ways that our popular new Secretary of Agriculture is advertising his Department. They were making a moving picture story to "Tell" the workings of the Bureau of Crop Estimates. This picture will be shown over the United States to enlighten farmers as to how the reports are collected and used to advantage. Perhaps even you would be surprised at what it shows.