

FARM FORECASTER

OCTOBER CROP REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Bulletin Seven Commercial Bank Building, Raleigh October, 1920

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

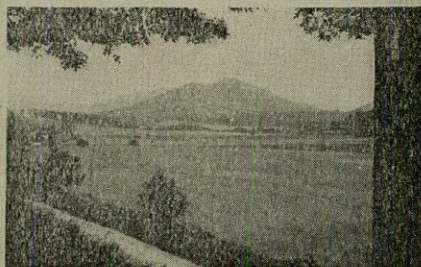
NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
W. A. Graham, Commissioner
Division of Agricultural Statistics

ISSUED COOPERATIVELY THRU

FRANK PARKER, Agricultural Statistician

ITEMS OF THIS REPORT

Important Comments for North Carolina.
Outlook for Leading National Crops.
Condensed Statistics for Counties and Districts.
The State Cotton and Tobacco Crops.
Crop Prices. Crop Report Benefits.
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FARM SCENES OF HAYWOOD COUNTY VALLEYS

NORTH CAROLINA CROP COMENTS

(Special Cotton and Tobacco on page 6)

CORN

Corn, with its condition of 93 per cent of a full crop, offers one of the best prospects that the State has ever had. The acreage was slightly reduced from last year, but the prospective production is about seven million more than was made last year. The yield will be in the neighborhood of twenty-two bushels per acre. There has been a drop of 4 per cent in condition during September due to the heavy rainfall of August followed by dry weather in September. Reports of damage have come primarily from the eastern and southern counties.

OATS

As with wheat, the oat crop is much better than we have had recently. The final condition of 86 per cent indicates much the same yield as the threshermen report and that the October yield report of 21 bushels showed. This yield per acre is almost 50 per cent more than last year, and 30 per cent more than the average. The acreage is 12 per cent less than last year's, although the production indicated is about 40 per cent more than last year. The quality is good, better than usual, being 88 per cent of normal.

SWEET POTATOES

The condition of 86 per cent condition indicates a 102-bushel yield, which forecasts a production of 10,230,000 bushels. This is 3 per cent more than last year's production. The acreage is 5 per cent less than that of 1919. The vines are looking good and some early potatoes taken out indicate good prospects, but many plants are found to be almost barren.

APPLES

The condition of the State-wide agricultural crop is 75 per cent, while that of the commercial crop is 62 per cent of normal. Much of the crop last year was affected with the rot. The commercial crop was damaged by the late spring and unfavorable pollinating conditions. The bloom was good, but the drop was heavy. Very little disease has shown up except that resulting from the heavy summer rainfall in poorly sprayed orchards. The estimate is for about 3,500,000 bushels, and the commercial crop of something over 200,000 barrels for North Carolina.

TOBACCO

September showed a decline in condition from 89 to 81 per cent of normal. This change was not realized until the tobacco was cured. It was then found that there was little body or weight, and the quality was very poor—without wax and had a papery texture. The present prospect amounts to a State crop of 381,653,000 pounds, which is 43,000,000 pounds less than forecasted a month ago; but it is 50,000,000 pounds or 16 per cent more than last year's State production. The price fell considerably during the month.

GENERAL COMMENTS

About 36 per cent of the wheat crop was marketed in the State prior to October 1st. The total acres in all field crops is 2 per cent less than last year and 3 per cent less than the usual. The condition of the peanut crop is 79 per cent as compared with 74 last year. The acreage during the past few years has gradually decreased in the State. The fall Irish potato crop is reported at 85 per cent compared with 78 for the ten-year average. Pastures are very good. Soy beans are not as good as usual. Sorghum cane is not equal to last year.

UNITED STATES COMMENTS

CORN

The National corn crop with 89 per cent of a full crop forecasts a production of 3,216,192,000 bushels. This is 10 per cent more than last year's final production. The condition is 15 per cent higher than the ten-year average. The 1920 acreage is $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more than that of last year. There was an improvement of almost 3 per cent in condition of the crop during September.

OATS

The average yield per acre of oats for the United States is 35.2 bushels, indicating 1,444,362,000 bushels. This has meant a steady improvement in the crop since July, and over 12 per cent increase in production more than last year's. The quality of 93.3 per cent indicates high grade.

SWEET POTATOES

The National sweet potato crop, with a condition of 82.7 per cent forecasts a production of 103,779,000 bushels. This is approximately the same as was made last year on about the same acreage. North Carolina has not kept pace with some more southern states in the acreage of this crop.

TOBACCO

The condition of 82.3 per cent forecasts a production of 1,478,788,000 pounds, which is approximately 6 per cent more than last year's final production. The prospective production of the bright leaf belt declined considerably in September, as the shortage was not fully realized at the time reports were made for September.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The fall Irish potato crop has a condition of approximately 83 per cent as compared with 74 for the ten-year average. The total acreage was reduced 4 per cent from last year. The part of the wheat crop marketed by October 1st was about 12 per cent. The apple prospects for the Nation was about 75 per cent of a full crop. The normal condition is 74.7 per cent. The commercial apple crop of 34,287,000 bushels composes about 15 per cent of the National agricultural crop. The peanut crop stands at 81.5 per cent condition, forecasting 38,217,000 bushels. Our recent rank of first in this crop has gradually fallen until we are now about fourth.

The National wheat crop is almost 200,000,000 bushels or about 25 per cent short of last winter's expected yield. The average price reported is \$2.15. Corn has an 84,000,000-bushel prospect better than a month ago and is about 10 per cent more than last year's crop. Oats are forecasted at more than they were a month ago and about 15 per cent more than were produced last year. The Irish potato crop is considerably increased over last year's crop and is selling at about \$1.40 per bushel. The tobacco outlook decreased to the extent of 75,000,000 pounds during September, but is about 90,000,000 pounds, or 6 per cent more than last year's crop. The average prices of tobacco and cotton are below the cost of production. Cotton declined 4 per cent, which was equal to 660,000 bales. The expected yield per acre is 165 pounds, which is four more than was made last year.

NORTH CAROLINA CROP STATISTICS—BASIS OCTOBER 1, 1920

COUNTIES BY DISTRICTS	DISTRICT	OATS		FIELD AND SOYBEANS		ACRES IN ALL CROPS		GRAIN		CONDITION (Per Cent of Normal, or Full Crop)									
		Average Yield Per Acre	Production 1920—Bushels	Per Cent Normal Yield	Acreage Harvested, Per Cent Usual	Compared 1919, Per Cent	Compared Usual	CORN, Condition	WHEAT, Per Cent Crop Now Marketed	IRISH POTATOES	SWEET POTATOES	TOBACCO (at Harvest)	APPLES	PASTURE	COWPEAS	GRAPES	SORGHUM (for Sirup)		
1	Alleghany	23	18,000	---	---	88	95	88	20	88	80	---	83	98	---	90	95		
	Ashe	21	20,300	---	75	80	80	88	30	85	80	---	80	82	---	---	90		
	Avery	22	6,000	---	80	90	85	85	18	95	80	---	80	85	---	---	90		
	Caldwell	19	28,600	80	78	96	99	86	27	81	89	78	70	96	86	95	88		
	Surry	18	45,200	98	68	98	102	85	34	97	84	71	70	90	85	85	81		
	Watauga	24	67,900	93	95	99	105	93	43	81	85	80	78	103	87	72	88		
	Wilkes	25	35,700	84	97	93	91	84	41	93	82	82	88	93	87	100	81		
	Yadkin	22	47,600	---	---	92	95	87	28	87	92	75	85	92	82	100	84		
	Northern MOUNTAIN	22	259,300	95	84	94	96	87	35	87	89	76	76	95	85	88	90		
	Buncombe	18	109,000	---	---	92	87	100	20	95	89	---	97	100	95	110	100		
4	Burke	20	24,800	80	100	90	85	92	32	92	92	---	94	100	100	100	82		
	Cherokee	18	8,400	100	100	100	93	90	30	85	90	---	93	100	92	100	100		
	Clay	21	3,900	---	---	---	---	91	21	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
	Graham	22	1,600	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
	Haywood	23	95,900	100	100	98	97	92	35	80	80	75	95	105	100	100	92		
	Henderson	23	7,000	100	100	96	98	86	30	93	90	90	84	98	95	92	95		
	Jackson	23	30,100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
	McDowell	21	6,000	80	82	105	101	92	16	89	88	---	80	93	89	100	84		
	Macon	20	10,600	90	97	93	90	92	20	88	92	---	80	97	86	88	84		
	Mason	17	75,600	100	100	95	96	88	20	88	85	83	94	95	93	90	96		
2	Mitchell	20	88,200	110	100	105	103	95	30	80	80	---	90	101	101	76	100		
	Polk	20	6,400	88	73	98	94	80	25	80	86	---	77	88	85	76	80		
	Rutherford	22	49,100	65	100	103	100	93	26	85	84	---	70	80	72	67	84		
	Swain	19	4,000	100	100	95	90	85	28	85	90	---	95	100	---	---	100		
	Transylvania	18	1,400	---	---	---	---	---	25	85	90	---	85	96	---	---	---		
	Yancey	22	68,600	---	---	---	---	---	27	101	89	97	89	100	100	77	100		
	Western MOUNTAIN	20	580,600	100	92	100	96	90	33	90	89	83	89	95	85	87	91		
	Alamance	16	40,800	76	73	102	96	96	35	84	95	78	65	88	86	90	99		
	Caswell	20	28,900	89	65	96	92	96	34	86	91	77	72	94	84	83	76		
	Durham	17	6,500	75	100	93	95	94	31	85	91	85	72	93	84	80	80		
5	Forsyth	20	55,900	78	75	102	100	100	34	100	97	85	78	92	87	100	93		
	Franklin	18	22,700	80	75	92	87	97	40	96	85	76	87	82	87	90	90		
	Granville	20	22,900	85	75	103	102	96	35	90	85	79	78	90	85	88	93		
	Guilford	25	112,800	---	---	93	100	93	23	86	86	84	79	87	90	88	93		
	Orange	17	7,800	90	100	101	100	91	34	85	89	84	74	90	95	90	94		
	Person	20	38,000	---	---	98	98	98	23	80	89	79	53	90	88	88	94		
	Rockingham	23	34,600	95	---	97	103	98	31	80	88	87	84	87	87	84	84		
	Stokes	23	31,200	80	80	101	98	93	30	84	88	80	81	92	94	85	90		
	Vance	16	15,700	90	85	100	100	100	30	87	97	81	85	83	86	90	90		
	Warren	17	1,500	83	73	98	99	91	36	84	86	81	85	76	86	83	83		
Northern PIEDMONT	Northern PIEDMONT	20	419,300	83	79	98	98	95	30	88	91	---	77	88	88	89	92		
	Alexander	16	20,200	100	---	95	85	96	48	88	90	79	62	90	92	90	101		
	Catawba	21	84,300	100	90	98	95	86	50	80	94	---	62	85	98	77	90		
	Chatham	17	100,900	---	---	98	91	86	41	80	88	72	77	87	83	---	83		
	Davidson	20	116,800	---	---	100	80	95	45	85	80	75	75	82	---	100	---		
	Davis	18	48,600	88	87	103	107	82	43	85	86	68	73	90	83	85	---		
	Fredell	7	139,900	89	---	97	87	92	41	83	90	68	44	80	90	85	---		
	Irrell	20	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
	Irrell	20	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
	Irrell	20	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		

8	Anson.....	20	150,000			100	100	90	20	75	82		95	95	62	92	50
	Cabarrus.....	18	142,500			95	100	95	40	90	85		70	87	82		95
	Cleveland.....	18	60,900	92	97	97	96	94	39	93	88		70	79	88		92
	Gaston.....	26	92,700	80		97	92	88	41	80	91		83	68	81	74	71
	Lincoln.....	25	33,700	82	90	93	94	88	43	73	87		52	90	90	65	92
	Mecklenburg.....	20	59,700	100	87	96	95	92	37	76	89		80	85	82	93	86
	Montgomery.....	20	48,000			97	100	95	26	86	88	80	66	98	85	85	82
	Moore.....	20	40,000	90	95	97	96	90	40	75	85	71	80	80	74	65	80
	Richmond.....	19	17,800			100	100	92			92	74			80		
	Stanly.....	19	128,500	100	100	93	93	93	34	72	85		57	95	91	78	97
	Union.....	22	60,000			100	99	88	27	85	86		55	78	69	82	87
	Southern PIEDMONT.....	20	833,800	88	94	96	95	91	34	79	88	72	71	84	82	80	86
3	Bertie.....	20	6,100			94	94	104		74	78	81	96	85	68	63	80
	Camden.....																
	Chowan.....	22	300	75	100	105	95	100		80	75	80	85	90	70	60	93
	Currituck.....	26	400					97		83	80				70		
	Dare.....					100	100	90			90					75	
	Edgecombe.....	17	21,900	95	90	101	99	99		85	84	77	95	93	87	84	88
	Gates.....	16	5,200	95	92	96	97	98		78	71	90	94	75	69	90	89
	Halifax.....	18	9,800	100	120	100	101	87		80	80	79	75	92	88	75	80
	Hertford.....	18	5,000	87	85	98	99	96		90	92	84	90	90	74	90	89
	Martin.....	22	18,000	90		97	98	93		86	78	83	92	87	77	86	87
	Nash.....	20	22,800	80	80	100	104	92	42	89	87	85	91	72	63	72	95
	Northampton.....		800														
	Pasquotank.....	16	2,700			99	97	98	45	84	82		91	92	87	100	92
	Perquimans.....	18	13,900					96		86	80						
	Tyrrell.....		500														
	Washington.....	20	8,500	92	90	104	104	97		85	84	85	70	75	75	78	
	Northern COASTAL.....	20	115,900	89	80	99	99	96	44	84	82	83	91	84	74	79	83
6	Beaufort.....	25	5,500			100	103	103		73	84	75	75	90	90	93	
	Carteret.....	24	11,400	70	100	98	105	96		68	82	82	67	80	68	88	75
	Craven.....	25	17,300	95	100	100	100	93		65	75	85	80	88	67	80	
	Greene.....	23	29,000	88	100	97	97	91		80	85	79	75	93	101	100	83
	Hyde.....	27	49,000			105	105	88	28	70	95		90	90	80	100	
	Johnston.....	23	49,500	95		100	100	99	48	70	75	88	85	70	95	75	95
	Jones.....	19	2,700	90	80	90	88	92		85	85	78	60	77	78	75	75
	Lenoir.....	18	9,400	90	95	100	102	89		65	83	85	81	79	73	84	90
	Pamlico.....	23	9,900	80		90	90	90		80	75						
	Pitt.....	20	9,400	96	75	100	100	96		71	79	92	113	73	79	90	83
	Wayne.....	21	20,200	85	70	101	98	97		80	85	98		70	80		
	Wilson.....	17	6,900	80		102	103	90	46	85	90	90	120	77	65	95	80
	Central COASTAL.....	23	220,200	90	87	99	100	94	45	74	84	86	83	81	77	88	83
9	Bladen.....	24	29,600	75	70	93	98	93		83	84	80	92	72	95	88	
	Brunswick.....	17		100	100	93	93	99		90	86	93	86	98	89	100	100
	Columbus.....	26	15,100	80	73	102	108	92		95	93	77	95	98	77	88	90
	Cumberland.....	24	24,000			100	100	90		83	80	78	75		60	80	70
	Duplin.....	22	12,000	73	67	92	94	96		63	78	84	78	94	53	80	87
	Harnett.....	20	30,000			97	96	95	35	80	84	77	80	90	72	85	86
	Hoke.....	28	97,000					96									
	New Hanover.....							90									
	Onslow.....	15		70		102	102	91		75	79		90	100	63	83	100
	Pender.....	18	2,100			102	102	90			82	90			60		
	Robeson.....	28	130,600			91	96	97	45	80	83	75	90	100	57	80	82
	Sampson.....	32	92,000			100	100	101	48	84	78	82	90	100	59	85	90
	Scotland.....	30	6,000			80	85	90	38	76	87	75	80		62	97	
	Southern COASTAL.....	27	438,400	79	78	96	98	94	45	79	82	83	85	94	67	89	87
	North Carolina.....	21	3,789,500	88	84	98	97	93	36	85	86	82	75	93	80	85	88
	United States.....	35	1,444,362,000	80				89		83	87	83	75	86	81		88

COTTON

The October 1st National condition of 59 per cent forecasts a production of 12,212,000 bales. This is 7 per cent more than last year's final production, and 14 per cent more than indicated at this time last year. The western cotton belt has averaged better conditions than a year ago, which counterbalanced our poor conditions in the eastern belt.

The State prospect of 68 per cent of a full crop indicates 799,000 bales. The poor condition of the crop is due to the late spring, the heavier usage of fertilizers, the cool summer nights, and rainy August weather. Our normal or full crop yield is 365 pounds per acre at this season, it being the highest of any important cotton State. Our present condition of 68 per cent indicates 248 pounds per acre yield. The 1,550,000 acres is 2 per cent more than last year, and had conditions of 70 per cent June 1st, 74 July, 77 August, and 79 September 1st. Most other States had a decline in condition during this time.

The October 1st report showed a decrease of 11 per cent from the previous State's estimate. The farmers did not seem to appreciate the effect that the late and heavy weed growth had on the fruiting until the picking was actually begun. The yields fell short of expectations. Shedding of the bolls, especially the top crop, has been heavy. The August and September dry weather following the preceding wet seasons favored shedding. There is a small top crop. During September heavy deterioration was reported. There is a very large percentage of unopened bolls that may be heavily damaged by the early October cold wave. Storm and boll worm (not weevil) damage was reported from the southern counties. The army worm has showed up in many sections and resulted in considerable damage.

SEPTEMBER TOBACCO SALES

The old and new bright leaf belt tobacco sales began in September after the close of the loose leaf markets. During the past month, there was sold 39,000,000 pounds of farmers' tobacco at an average of 19.21 cents, while the September, 1919, producers' sales amounted to 79,222,071 pounds at an average of \$41.10 per hundred pounds. The season's sales so far amount to 59,723,200 pounds compared with 95,813,569 a year ago. From reliable sources, estimates of the cost of producing tobacco this year averages over 30 cents per pound.

NORTH CAROLINA LOOSE LEAF TOBACCO SALES—SEASON 1920

COUNTIES—Months	Producers' Sales	Total Sales, 1920	Total Sales, 1919	Average Price, 1920
BLADEN				
July.....	298,658	344,681	-----	\$ 23.62
August.....	1,008,395	1,256,954	-----	23.60
September.....	84,252	98,072	-----	14.79
Total.....	1,391,305	1,699,707	1,428,853	23.10
COLUMBUS				
July.....	1,884,501	2,216,511	-----	24.84
August.....	8,607,025	10,473,536	-----	25.95
Total.....	10,491,526	12,690,047	10,400,121	25.75
ROBESON				
July.....	1,688,321	1,854,411	-----	22.01
August.....	7,567,899	8,697,454	-----	27.04
September.....	1,949,222	2,217,726	-----	16.80
Total.....	11,205,442	12,769,591	12,971,423	24.49
State total.....	23,088,273	27,159,345	24,797,397	25.01

NOTE.—These markets closed early in September.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRICES

The average prices of animals reported for last month per 100 pounds live weight were: hogs, \$14.63; beef cattle, \$8.80; sheep, \$8.65, and lambs, \$9.60. Milch cows were \$87.30, and horses \$153.00 per head. Milk was 47 cents per gallon whole-sale and 70 cents retail. Apples were reported at \$3.06 per barrel, peanuts 11 cents per pound, beans \$4.08, sweet potatoes \$1.73, and cowpeas averaged \$3.60 per bushel. Cabbages averaged \$2.75 per hundred pounds and \$4.58 per 100 head. Timothy hay was \$34.00, clover \$30.00, and alfalfa \$34.00 per ton. The price of eggs was 50 cents per dozen and chickens 30 cents per pound. The products bought by farmers averaged for bran \$69.00, cotton-seed meal \$68.10, and cotton-seed hulls \$23.80.

COST OF COTTON PRODUCTION

The cost of producing cotton is estimated for our readers. This is based on 900 pounds production of seed cotton per acre, 600 pounds use of fertilizers, \$3.00 man and \$2.50 horse labor per day. Picking was allowed \$1.50 per 100 pounds. The *cultivated* land used is valued at \$200 per acre. Seed valued at \$34.00 per ton. These figures are reasonable and are very nearly the average in eastern counties. The census gave 40 acres cultivated by the average white farmer. We have charged only \$200.00 per farm for all supervision.

Rent, one-fourth lint and seed or equivalent.....	\$ 22.00	Total cost.....	\$103.00
Preparation of land.....	10.00	Value of seed.....	10.00
Planting and seed.....	4.50	Net lint cost.....	93.00
Fertilizers.....	18.00	300 pounds lint.....	93.00
5 cultivations.....	7.50	This is per pound.....	.31
3 choppings.....	5.00	A reasonable profit is <i>not</i> added.	
Picking.....	14.00	The supervision is very low.	
Hauling.....	7.50	No storage or insurance charged.	
Ginning.....	4.50	The present selling price is about two-	
Implements, sheets, etc.....	5.00	thirds the cost of production.	
Supervision.....	5.00	Try this plan for finding costs.	
Total cost.....	\$103.00		

AUTHENTIC STATEMENTS FAVORING FARM FORECASTS

- 1.—“Farmers, through crop reports, are equally informed with speculators; keep pace with them.” (Eight reported this.)
- 2.—“I study the crop reports with a view of deciding when to sell or to lay in supply. (Four so stated.)
- 3.—“By them, I held cotton and received over 40 cents last year.” (8)
- 4.—“We usually plan our crops and marketing schedule on basis of crop reports. Find it pays.” (6)
- 5.—“Government crop reports give nearest exact conditions.” (3)
- 6.—“Without the government crop reports, the speculators would have full sway through information of private reports.”
- 7.—“Due to crop reports, farmers have planted more and marketed to advantage.”
- 8.—“By knowing the condition of the Irish potatoes, I disposed of my crops advantageously before the Virginia potatoes came on the market.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Robert C. Young, of Buncombe County, a State College of Agriculture graduate, has been secured as Field Assistant to our work and has been active since October 1st. His primary duty will be to aid in making agricultural statistics of the best practical value to farmers. He will seek and welcome suggestions and cooperation.

WINNERS OF STATE FAIR TICKETS

Three hundred letters that are good for Fair Tickets have gone to as many of our *best* reporters. These are given as awards for good service and to express appreciation of the same. Another letter has been sent to all reporters inviting them to attend the Fair and to take part in our crop reporters' meeting on Wednesday, as well as to visit our exhibit in the Agricultural Building and the office downtown, in the Commercial Bank Building.

CROP REPORTERS' MEETING

At ten o'clock of Wednesday morning, October 20th, we have arranged for a meeting of our reporters and others who are interested to be held in the Live Stock Judging Pavilion. We are expecting one of the heads of the Bureau of Crop Estimates from Washington, Dr. Poe of the *Progressive Farmer*, T. B. Parker, and other prominent agricultural men to point out the way for farmers to make practical use of Farm Forecaster Reports. There is a beneficial side to these, for farmers as well as for the speculators, who obtain private reports anyway. Next month we will tell you of what we learned from this meeting.

PRESS SERVICE

It has been gratifying to observe the way that newspapers have been publishing local crop condition reports during the past few months. Why not send a short story to your local papers more frequently, thus aiding and spreading practical information and increasing the agricultural interest in your papers. Editors want more agricultural news, and besides farmers can study such information more carefully. Low conditions and short crops lead to higher prices if conservatively marketed. Heavy productions lead to more careful study of markets. Secrecy of farm conditions hurts farmers only.

FARM PRICES

Beginning with September, the collection of reports on prices paid to producers was added to our duties. Hereafter the district averages of these will be presented on the more important products. See inside.

APPLE SHOW

The Western North Carolina Apple Show is to be held in Asheville, October 27th to 29th. A large premium list is offered. Commercial methods will be shown. This offers a good opportunity to apple growers.

WHAT'S WHAT

The crop reports released by us are just as dependable as the farmers aiding make them. They are just as representative of conditions as the regularity of reporters make them. The reporters get benefits in proportion to the interest and regular attention given. One who believes that crop reports offer useful information will not only get it but will make a better reporter. Unfortunately, too many farmers are pessimists and fail to hunt for the good opportunities about them. Few know what it costs to make a crop or how to determine it. We are in a position to help, but we must have many dependable reporters in each county to do so. We will welcome suggestions for securing and holding good reporters. We talk with pride of our many faithful and capable aides.