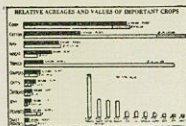


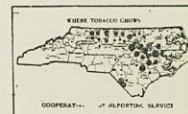
FARM FORECASTER

CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA



UNITED STATES
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
H. C. Taylor, Chief
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NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Agriculture
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BULLETIN 18

RALEIGH

MAY, 1923

COTTON

The intended plantings this year as a percentage of last year's planted acreage for the various cotton states are as follows:

Virginia	150%	Louisiana	110%
North Carolina	102%	Tennessee	119%
South Carolina	103%	Texas	114%
Georgia	101%	Arkansas	111%
Florida	130%	Missouri	200%
Alabama	113%	Arizona	121%
Mississippi	110%	Oklahoma	120%
United States	112%		

"It is the opinion of this department that, so far as possible, farmers should be apprised in advance of the planting intentions of farmers generally, in order that they may individually have the opportunity to make such changes in their plans as they might consider wise in the light of such

information and thus be able to avoid the disastrous effects of over-planting or correct a tendency toward under-planting. It is expected that reports of this character will be issued regularly hereafter." Preliminary planting figures for all principal crops in North Carolina, were published in April, by counties.

THRESHED GRAIN REPORT

This report recalls to mind a flagrant evasion of one of our State laws. This law requires that all threshermen operating in this State, report the following information to their county Register of Deeds: Number of bushels of wheat, oats and rye threshed, and the number of acres from which they are threshed.

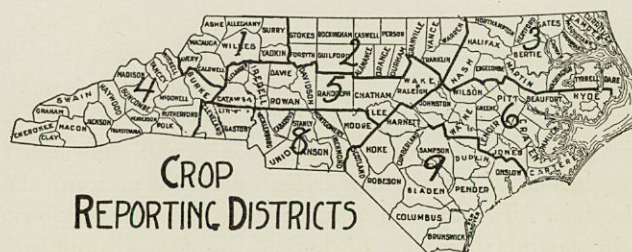
Last year North Carolina produced 5,508,000 bushels of wheat on 612,000 acres, 3,738,000 bushels of oats on 178,000 acres, and 320,000 bushels of rye on 40,000 acres.

These figures are government estimates. The State Legislature passed a law some years ago requiring that the threshermen report their operations so that we might have a check on the exact production of these crops in North Carolina. Since that time we have never gotten over 50 per cent of a report from these men. Last year we received the following report from the threshermen: WHEAT, 1,169,133 bushels, or 21 per cent of the total; OATS, 315,775 bushels, or 8 per cent of the total; RYE, 102,366 bushels, or 32 per cent of the total. From these figures it would appear that someone is neglecting to carry out the provisions of this law.

The duties of the Department of Agriculture are to supply blanks to the threshermen on which to make their reports, to receive these reports from the Register of Deeds, and to

publish them after threshing operations have ceased. There is no cost involved for any one but the Department of Agriculture. It merely takes the time of the Register of Deeds to issue licenses and blanks, collect the reports, summarize, and return to the Department at Raleigh. The Registers of Deeds have aided the department well in doing this, and it seems that some threshermen are evading their duty in making this report.

The information that would be available in a complete report of this kind would be a wonderful help to the State in determining that part of its food supply, to millers, to dealers and to the State in general. It is unfortunate that this law has been so openly evaded.



MAY 1, 1923, CROP REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

	REPORTING DISTRICTS									United States
	Northern Mountain *1	Western Mountain *4	Northern Piedmont *2	Central Piedmont *5	Southern Piedmont *8	Northern Coastal *3	Central Coastal *6	Southern Coastal *9	State	
	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent
Expected acreage to be harvested compared with acreage harvested last year:										
Winter wheat.....	91	90	97	95	99.3	88	91	94	98	95.1
Rye.....	90	88	94	93	94.7	95	86	90	97	-----
Tame hay.....	97	95	96	97	96.7	90	97	101	99	-----
Wild hay.....	95	95	95	94	93.0	95	102	93	100	-----
Compared with usual acreage:										
Winter wheat.....	89	87	92	94	97.3	89	85	95	94	-----
Rye.....	87	88	94	94	95.6	96	87	97	92	-----
Tame hay.....	98	96	96	97	98.6	92	102	101	102	-----
Wild hay.....	96	94	100	94	92.9	96	107	106	98	-----
Per cent of fall sown wheat, not to be harvested this year	2.7	4	23	3	40.8	12	2	2	2.0	14.3
Per cent of last years' hay crops remaining on farms	10	13	19	16	16.5	23	24	24	17	12.0
Plowing—% done by May 1st.....	85	85	79	77	69.0	83	91	84	81	68.9
Planting—% whole work done by May 1st.....	63	63	58	59	55.7	65	80	77	62	55.4
CONDITION (full crop prospect.)										
Winter wheat.....	92	90	88	86	90.4	89	90	86	88	80.1
Oats.....	84	86	85	84	87.9	85	92	87	87	-----
Rye.....	93	88	89	89	94.3	88	89	89	91	85.1
All hay.....	90	91	86	87	89.4	78	89	90	88	-----
Apples.....	78	80	64	58	55.9	55	62	56	76	-----
Peaches.....	38	20	20	16	16.8	27	29	26	24	-----
Pasture.....	85	85	84	87	87.7	85	89	88	85	77.0
Irish potatoes.....	91	88	83	85	80.4	83	83	80	82	-----
Truck.....	87	82	81	82	77.3	79	79	78	80	-----
Berries.....	90	90	84	87	81.6	75	73	75	82	-----
Condition of Livestock, compared to Normal healthfulness, (100%):										
Horses and mules, (all ages).....	95	93	93	96	95.0	86	91	94	94	-----
Cattle, (all ages).....	73	91	91	92	93.3	85	91	90	92	-----
Sheep, (not including lambs).....	93	93	91	95	92.5	85	88	98	93	-----
Swine, (all ages).....	96	80	94	93	95.5	83	91	91	93	-----
Mortality of livestock:	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
Number per 1000 dying during year ending April 30, 1923, from causes indicated:										
Disease—										
Horses and mules, (all ages).....	27	20	22	12	24.4	32	26	31	18	-----
Cattle, (all ages).....	30	22	27	23	25.4	29	30	37	18	-----
Sheep, (all ages).....	45	24	39	30	26.0	29	20	3	23	-----
Swine, (all ages).....	33	36	43	28	35.7	84	63	51	44	-----
Exposure—										
Cattle, (all ages).....	11	14	23	11	11.6	24	24	16	9	-----
Sheep, (all ages).....	21	16	32	19	15.0	23	26	17	12	-----
Disease and Exposure—										
Lambs.....	68	44	48	39	44.4	66	38	38	37	-----

*NOTE:—The reporting districts represent the group of counties situated as indicated.

1923 FARM CENSUS CHART

Our 1922 Farm Census chart is now in the hands of the printer. It has taken a year to get this in shape to publish. This was due to the fact that the survey in the counties was so incomplete that a vast amount of checking was necessary before the work could be accounted reasonably reliable. We hope, this year, to be able to complete the 1923 census before December, so that farmers may have the information before their plans are made for the following year.

This is new work in this State. The four years that have passed, have enabled us to understand how the information is to be prepared and released to the best advantage. The chart, which will be released this month will show the following information: County area-acres; total area in farms; total owned farms in each county; acres cultivated by owners and by tenants; number of tenants on farms; number of

farms having tenants, and no tenants; idle (lying out) acres; pasture land in county-acres; number of acres, and number of farms growing all of the principal crops, including as special features the number of bearing and nonbearing fruit trees; acres in home gardens; numbers of bee-hives; number of horses and mules worked; and number tons of fertilizer used.

This work has cost the Department of Agriculture several thousands of dollars in tabulating, printing, checking and supervising. The average cost to the county for listing does not run over two or three hundred if that much. It can readily be seen that the expense to the department is nearly as great as the expense to all the counties combined. This fact should eliminate the desire on the part of some counties to have the department pay for the listing.

COMMENTS ON MAY CROP REPORT

Considering the great furore that has been occasioned by the recent Government crop reports concerning the publication of prospective 1923 crop acreages; and especially concerning cotton, it is well to offer a word of defense for such reports.

For the farmer to know that our State has a present intention of increasing the cotton acreage 2%, and that the whole south intended to increase it 12%, should offer them an idea of the probable stocks to be made this year, and for them to plant or replant accordingly. It was found that the North Carolina tobacco acreage was intended to have a 6% increase, which was also representative of the bright leaf belt. The mills can take care of the cotton, but the tobacco situation does not justify such an increase.

The cotton trade had private reports indicating the farmers' intentions for planting, which were partially responsible for the government offering the farmers similar information in order that they, too, might know the situation.

WHEAT

The present wheat acreage for North Carolina shows 2% decrease from the acreage harvested a year ago. The prospects are for an 88% crop as compared with 92% a year ago. As evidence that the condition at the present time is not indicative of the final outturn may be cited last year's results when the condition of 92% for May fell to about 80% in June. The drought and other unfavorable conditions during this time having seriously affected the yield. A 2% abandonment is reported as of May 1st. A prospective yield of about 600,000 bushels is now evident.

HAY

The condition of all hay, which embraces mostly clovers and grains cut green, shows an average for May 1st of 88% while the acreage expected to be harvested shows from 1 to 2% than a year ago, when one of the largest hay crops of recent years was made. Of last year's hay crops remaining on the farms, 17% is reported as compared with 13% twelve months previous. The production of hay for 1922 was 1,174,000 tons worth over \$21,000,000.

FARM WORK

While farm work is considered behind and crop growth late, our reports indicate that 81%, or 2% more plowing for spring planting was done by May 1st of this year than a year ago. The spring sowing and planting showed 2% more than the 60% of the whole work done by May 1st, 1922. The labor situation indicates that North Carolina has suffered least from the exportation of negro labor than have the states south of us.

CONDITION OF SPECIAL CROPS

The cold weather was particularly damaging to peaches and so our survey was made to show what the real situation

over the State is. As a result the average for peaches showed 23% of a full crop condition; the sandhills showing 24 per cent. The apple crop shows a prospective condition of 76%; the commercial growing counties having much the better prospect. *Pastures* show an average condition of 85%. *Truck* crops show an average condition of 80%, while strawberries and dewberries show an average of 82% of the full crop. *Irish Potatoes* show an average of 82% normal condition, which includes proportional consideration of the trucking belt.

SMALL GRAINS

The oat crop has a condition of 87%, while rye is reported at 95% of the full crop prospect. The acreage of both rye and oats is decreased 3 to 4% from last year's crop.

LIVESTOCK

The condition of all classes of livestock range from 92 to 94% of the normal condition. This good result is natural considering the mild winter, and a larger quantity of feed produced last year than is usually the case.

The mortality of livestock shows that about 2% died from disease during the past year. Practically the same is true of both cattle and sheep, while 4% is nearer representative of lambs than swine. About 1% of cattle of all ages and of sheep died from exposure, which includes starvation as well as weather conditions.

GENERAL CROP COMMENTS

The prospective acreage of all crops now seems to promise practically the same as was grown last year, excepting for local labor conditions the farmers are more optimistic than last year. The 1922 results of growing more food and feed crops showed that it was a wise practice and should be followed to a greater degree this year. Farmers have too long been planting crops in haphazard extent because they did not know what others were doing. This blind-folded condition should be overcome by encouraging the government to publish reports of farmers' intentions in order that over and under production may be largely prevented.

Every other industry has its statistical information and depends on their future plans by studying what the past results were as well as what the present and future plans of competitors are. The North Carolina farm census is enabling this State to know these facts and is developing some very practical and needed crop and livestock information. In this respect we are taking the lead in the south. Even if individual farmers did no more than to sit down and map out just what acreages are going into each crop, together with his intended summer plantings, he would be taking the first step towards modern business methods. This he does when reporting to the tax listers his crop acreages. Practically all counties are now strongly in favor of this annual farm

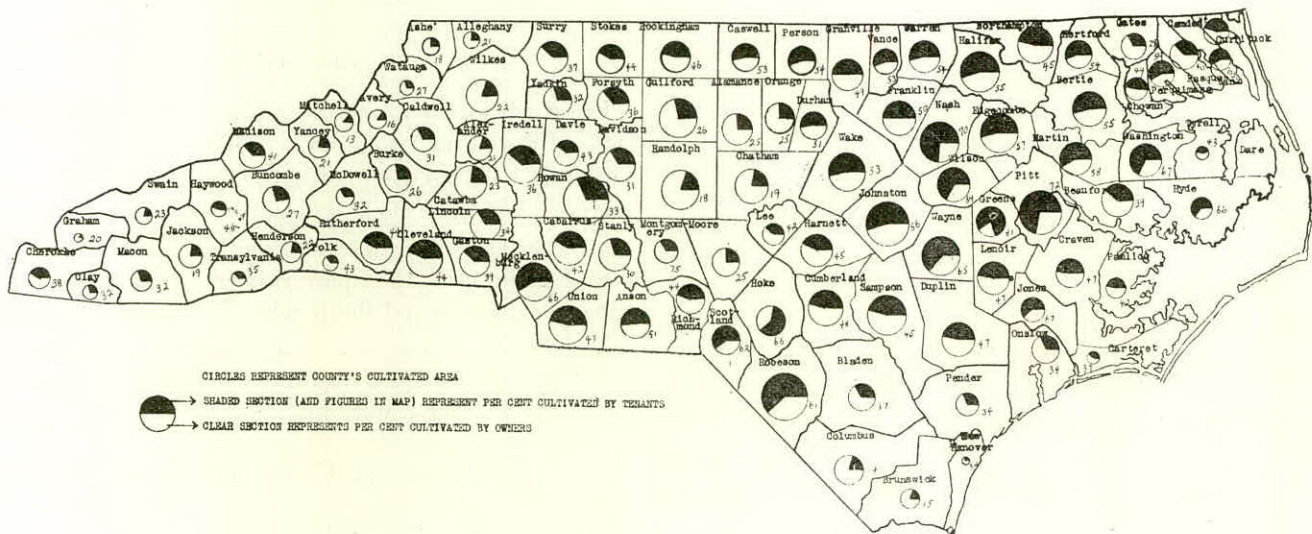
census work, and this year's result will doubtless offer a basis for some wonderful information and practical results.

The coöperative crop reporting service is planning to develop information that will be of practical usefulness for county farm demonstration agents, instruction at the State College of Agriculture and for coöperative marketing organizations. Within a few years county interests, such as the commissioners, superintendents of schools and local teachers will increasingly realize that they can use this information for local study in a way that will be far more interesting and valuable than from books prepared in some foreign territory having no local application.

TENANT STUDIES

The State Land Tenancy Commission made some investigations in eastern counties recently, and in aiding their studies questionnaires were sent out from the Department of Agriculture, a large number of replies offering a valuable means of further investigation. For instance, it is observed that certain counties and systems of tenantry result in more land-owning farmers, more progressive communities and naturally more ambitious tenants. The idea that tenants lack ambition and the ability to own land should be overcome. There is a way to do it, and the problem is to discover it. Any one having suggestions to this end should write to Dr. Carl C. Taylor, State College, offering their ideas.

CULTIVATED CROPS IN NORTH CAROLINA



In 1920 the United States Census reported North Carolina as having 31,193,600 acres in land area. Of this area 20,021,736 acres were in farms. 8,198,409 acres of this farm land was reported as improved land in farms.

The map above shows graphically, according to our 1922 Farm Census, the cultivated area in each county. The shaded portion of this area represents the portion cultivated by tenants, which is also shown by the figures in the counties. 100 less this figure represents the clear portion of the

circle or that part of the cultivated area which is cultivated by farm owners.

According to our 1922 Census, there were 6,315,579 acres of cultivated land in the State. 2,771,842 acres were cultivated by tenants and 3,543,737 acres by farm owners. There were 136,615 tenants operating 43% of the cultivated area in the State. This means that only 57% of our cultivated land is actually farmed by the farm owner. We are expecting an interesting report in the near future from the Farm Tenancy Commission, which is working on this subject.

JUNE 1st CROP SCHEDULE

The June first crop schedules which will be mailed to the crop reporters about June 25th, will call for condition of winter wheat, spring wheat, oats, barley, rye, apples, hay, including timothy, clover and alfalfa, in addition to the condition of most of the truck crops. Acreage figures compared with acreage a year ago will be asked for the following crops: oats, barley, timothy, clover and alfalfa.

In addition to the regular schedule, the department has prepared a supplementary schedule which applies especially to the southern states. This schedule will call for the amount of fertilizer used this year, numbers of bearing pecan trees, as well as conditions of the crop; questions concerning acre-

age and harvesting of velvet beans. In addition to these, the acreage and condition of sugar cane and rice will be called for.

The above is added with a view to acquainting the crop reporters with the schedule so that they will be prepared better to answer the inquiries when they arrive.

Issued Coöperatively by the

CROP REPORTING SERVICE FOR NORTH CAROLINA

An original service to the press, our reporters, and to those interested in agricultural economics studies.

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