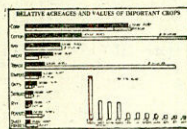


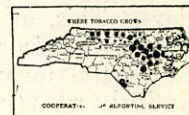
FARM FORECASTER

CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA



UNITED STATES
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Division of Crops and Livestock Estimates

NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Agriculture
Division of Markets
Office of Agricultural Statistics

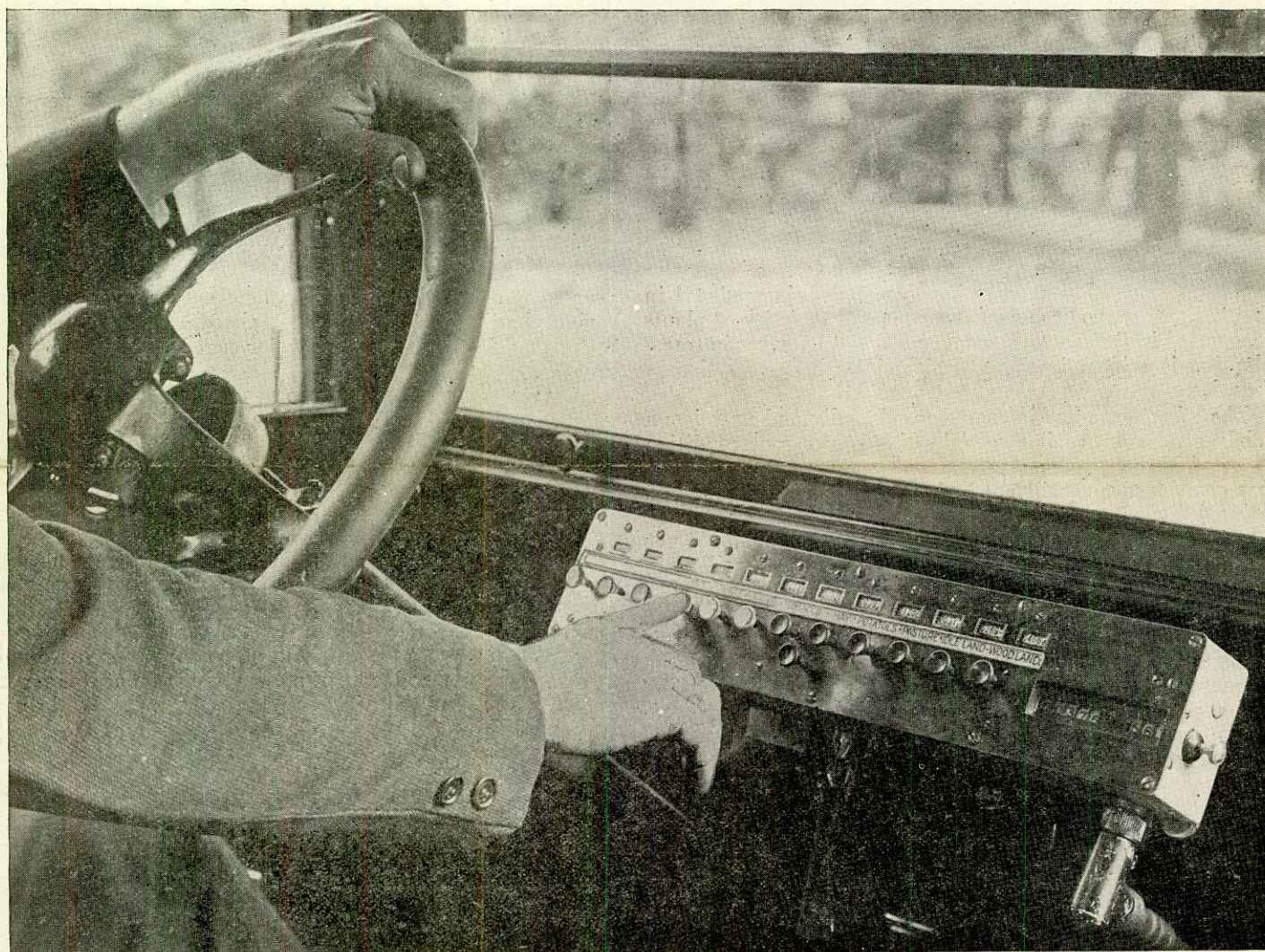


BULLETIN 24

RALEIGH

MAY, 1924

THE FRONTAGE METER—THE LATEST CROP REPORTER



SOMETHING NEW IN CROP REPORTING

The illustration above shows a frontage meter attachment for an automobile speedometer. This was developed by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture. It is used by the agricultural statisticians during field investigation trips for the purpose of measuring the fronts of fields, etc., that he passes.

The machine shown is the first one put into actual operation in this work. The Washington representative accompanied Mr. Parker during three days of travel through 13 Piedmont and Coastal counties. As will be shown above, and as more clearly illustrated on page 7, there are 12 keys attached to as many counters for separate items. Those used on this first trip were wheat, truck, cotton, oats, other, potatoes, plowed, hay crops, pastures, planted, urban and (Continued on page 7)

NORTH CAROLINA'S RANK IN AGRICULTURE

Tobacco.....	Acreage 2d	Value 1st	Acre value 15th
Cotton.....	Acreage 8th	Value 2d	Acre value 3d
Peanuts.....	Acreage 2d	Value 1st	Acre value 1st
Sweet potatoes.....	Acreage 4th	Value 2d	Acre value 19th
All crops.....	Acreage 20th	Value 5th	Acre value 7th
22 principal crops.....	Acreage 19th	Value 4th	Acre value 2d
Cultivated land.....	1.6% of U. S.	Acre value 23d	Area 26th
Total farm land.....	2.0% of U. S.	Acre value 26th	Area 21st
Total live stock value.....	Rank 28th	Very deficient.	
Population.....	Rank 14th	99% American born.	
Rural population.....	Rank 6th	Primarily rural State.	
Number of farms.....	Rank 5th	Farms one-third cultivated.	
Diversification of crops.....	Rank 3d	One-third corn; one-fifth cotton; one-tenth hay, etc.	

North Carolina ranks first in the per cent of foods raised and eaten on the same farms.

COMMENTS ON NORTH CAROLINA CROP REPORT

The farm notes received to May 14th indicate that the weather has been cool with plenty of rain for the past few days. This, of course, has interrupted farm work on the clay lands. In a general way, however, the weather has been warm and favorable. Conditions were getting rather dry until the recent rains occurred.

The progress of planting appears to be well advanced in the eastern counties, while it is slightly behind in the central part of the State. Material progress was made during the last month, as conditions were open and permitted steady field work. The work is still late, however, ranging from one to two weeks behind. The northern part of the State seems to be better up with their work than any part except the southeastern counties.

Crops are growing fairly well in the central Piedmont and mountain counties. On the other hand, the northern and northeastern counties appear to have only fair growth. Crops are late in almost all sections.

The cotton counties from Burke to Warren to Halifax report material increases in the acreage to be planted in that crop this year. The crop is quite late, however, as most sections indicate that it is just being planted, or else is just coming up. Of course, most of the cotton crop is planted in the eastern counties.

Very little tobacco has been planted thus far. Plants were small and late. The acreage is reported as being reduced in the northern central or Old Belt counties. Scarcity of plants is reported in the central coastal counties. Progress in transplanting is evident in the central and southern coastal area counties.

The wheat crop has improved wonderfully and promises a fairly good crop, as indicated by the 87 per cent condition reported May 1st. It appears that 3 per cent of the acreage was abandoned and will not be harvested. The acreage was reduced from 5 to 8 per cent, as compared with a year ago. The present outlook is for 4,720,000 bushels, or about 25 per cent less than was indicated a year ago. The April farm price average \$1.30, as compared with \$1.46 per bushel a year ago.

The oat condition was reported very low. The winter freezes did heavy damages to this crop, resulting in a large acreage being plowed up and planted to other crops. The spring planted crop is looking very much better.

The rye outlook shows a condition of 86 per cent and a probable yield of about 10.3 bushels per acre.

The condition of the hay crop averages a condition of 84 per cent. Fifteen per cent of last year's crop is said to be left on the farms May 1st.

The apple situation shows a condition of 88 per cent of a full crop promised. Peaches average 83 per cent. Home gardens show 77 per cent.

The plowing for spring planting is reported as being 78 per cent completed on May 1st, while the actual spring planting work done was 60 per cent. A year ago the plowing was 81 per cent done and the planting 62 per cent completed.

LIVESTOCK

The condition of livestock is shown to be very good, the condition of each class being as follows: horses, 94 per cent; cattle, 93 per cent; sheep, 90 per cent; and swine of all ages, 93 per cent of a normal state of healthfulness. These are much in line with the conditions reported a year ago.

The mortality of livestock shows that there was a material increase in the death rate of lambs as compared with last year. The mortality of the different kinds of livestock is, per annum: horses and mules, 2 per cent; cattle from diseases, 2 per cent, and exposure 1.1 per cent; sheep, from disease, 2.3 per cent, and from exposure 1.3 per cent; lambs, from both disease and exposure, 4.5 per cent, while swine of all ages show a mortality from disease of 5 per cent.

UNITED STATES COMMENTS

The May first Crop Reporting Board's release shows that the winter wheat crop had a prospective production of 553,013,000 bushels. This is within 4 per cent of last year's harvested production. The acreage abandonment is 76 per cent, or less than the usual. The condition of May 1st averaged 84.8 per cent of a normal or full crop prospect. This is 1.5 per cent less than the ten-year average, but almost 5 per cent better than at this time a year ago. The average farm price on a basis of April 15th showed 95.8 cents per bushel, or almost 13 cents less than a year ago.

The average condition of rye on May 1st was 88.2 per cent, showing a considerable improvement during the last month. This condition forecasts a production of almost 62,000,000 bushels, which is much the same as was made last year, but 42 per cent less than was made in 1922.

The stocks on hay on farms are estimated at 12 per cent of last year's crop, which is much as shown by the usual condition. Pastures are reported at 80.2 per cent, which is 3 per cent better than a year ago, and almost 5 per cent less than the ten-year average.

The spring plowing over the country is 71.5 per cent completed to May 1st. This is almost 3 per cent ahead of a year ago, and about equal to the ten-year average. The spring planting is 58 per cent completed, and also 3 per cent better than last year, but also 3 per cent behind the ten-year average.

THE INTENTIONS REPORT

It is already becoming evident that the farmers of the country are taking advantage of the information afforded them through the intentions to plant report collected about the first of March. Realizing what the average farmers over the country are intending to do, they had the opportunity and the time to change their plans so as to forestall overproduction and increase such crops as offered the greatest safety or prospective profitableness. The more intelligent and foresighted farmers realized that the intentions report was secured for the farmers' benefit and not for his disadvantage. There has been perhaps less criticism of this report in North Carolina than in any Southern State. We believe this to be due, to a great extent, to the fact that the North Carolina farmers are becoming awakened to the progressive methods and to the values offered by the various Government and newspaper information available to them. The Southern farmers are rapidly becoming awakened to the necessity of knowing production and marketing information. The only way to do this is to know what the mass are intending and to use their own judgment as to what the individual should do.

It is foolish to imagine that by keeping this information from the farmer or by not collecting it through the Government's agencies that the trade, or so-called speculators, would also be ignorant of this. As a matter of fact, these agencies are quite aware of the conditions regardless of what the Government does.



NORTH CAROLINA CROP REPORT, MAY 1924

Reported May 1st	Mountain Counties		Piedmont Counties			Coastal Counties			State Average		U. S. Average, 1924
	Northern Mountain 1	Western Mountain 4	Northern Piedmont 2	Central Piedmont 5	Southern Piedmont 8	Northern Coastal 3	Central Coastal 6	Southern Coastal 9	1924	1923	
WINTER WHEAT:											
Per cent will not be harvested.....%	5	8	4	1.3	3	10	3	3	3	2	7.6
Condition.....%	86	76	87	93	88	87	84	84	87	88	84.8
Acreage harvested compared last year.....%	89	77	89	92	91	94	79	90	92	98	-----
Acreage harvested compared usual.....%	86	76	88	91	91	95	79	91	88	94	-----
OATS:											
Condition.....%	83	81	68	62	61	83	77	73	67	-----	-----
RYE:											
Condition time of harvest.....%	88	78	94	91	88	83	89	87	86	91	88.2
Probable yield per acre.....Bu.	10	10	11	11	10	18	18	11	10.3	-----	14.2
HAY:											
Condition—tame hay.....%	90	89	85	85	85	71	88	76	84	all 88	86.4
Condition—wild hay.....%	87	84	84	86	86	83	87	83	84	-----	87.8
Per cent of last year's crop on farms May 1st.....%	11	14	16	17	16	17	23	21	15	17	12.0
POTATOES (IRISH):											
Condition.....%	95	89	85	84	89	84	89	84	87	-----	-----
APPLES:											
Condition.....%	98	96	94	95	91	94	92	87	88	-----	-----
PEACHES:											
Condition.....%	94	86	95	87	77	92	90	81	83	-----	-----
PECANS:											
Condition.....%	95	85	88	92	90	99	87	85	87	-----	-----
PLOWING:											
Per cent done by May 1st.....%	76	78	72	79	65	83	90	90	78	81	71.5
SPRING SOWING AND PLANTING:											
Per cent done by May 1st.....%	58	58	55	60	49	68	75	78	60	62	58.1
PASTURE:											
Condition.....%	85	82	82	84	81	81	70	81	82	85	80.2
HOME GARDENS:											
Condition of crops now growing.....%	87	77	75	79	74	76	79	75	77	-----	-----
FARM LABOR:											
Supply compared normal.....%	83	81	81	82	83	80	86	82	83	-----	83.1
Demand compared normal.....%	96	91	93	95	97	100	97	99	96	-----	89.4
MORTALITY OF LIVE STOCK—Number per 1,000:											
Horses and mules (of all ages), from disease.....No.	24	21	16	11	22	32	24	20	20	18	152
Cattle (of all ages)—											
From disease.....No.	33	22	21	14	16	31	16	18	20	18	178
From exposure.....No.	18	8	11	6	12	20	15	19	11	9	127
Sheep—											
From disease.....No.	59	23	10	7	14	40	19	18	23	23	200
From exposure.....No.	22	9	9	1	17	16	30	20	13	12	175
Lambs—From disease and exposure.....No.	101	34	21	8	41	52	35	30	45	37	502
Swine (of all ages)—From disease.....No.	22	27	31	25	29	107	50	46	48	44	529
CONDITION OF LIVE STOCK MAY 1, 1924:											
Horses and mules (of all ages).....%	94	95	93	96	80	94	94	96	94	94	93.9
Cattle (of all ages).....%	94	93	89	93	93	91	91	95	93	92	93.1
Sheep (not including lambs).....%	88	90	95	99	93	95	91	94	90	93	94.7
Swine (of all ages).....%	96	94	94	96	96	90	90	95	93	93	91.9

REPORTED APRIL 1ST (FROM APRIL CROP REPORT)

WINTER WHEAT:											
Condition.....%	81	69	83	84	81	85	82	79	81	88	83
OATS—Acreage this year (fall and spring):											
Compared acreage last year.....%	90	86	90	89	91	96	96	86	93	-----	-----
Compared usual acreage.....%	92	87	90	90	86	95	98	90	93	-----	-----
Condition.....%	71	67	68	58	51	72	70	68	63	-----	-----
RYE:											
Condition.....%	87	80	84	86	83	82	78	80	83	89	83.5
POTATOES, IRISH (early crop):											
Acreage this year compared last year.....%	96	95	96	94	94	98	102	99	109	-----	-----
Acreage this year compared usual.....%	96	97	94	96	94	98	99	97	101	-----	-----
Condition.....%	87	95	85	88	70	81	85	84	85	-----	-----
APPLES:											
Condition.....%	97	98	92	96	92	91	97	94	96	-----	-----
PEACHES:											
Condition.....%	96	90	91	97	96	91	97	94	95	-----	-----
PASTURE:											
Condition.....%	89	85	81	85	84	87	80	81	82	-----	-----
BREEDING SOWS (number on farms):											
Number April 1, 1924, compared with April 1, 1923.....%	92	93	93	93	93	94	97	99	95	104	-----
Compared usual number April 1, 1924.....%	92	91	93	92	95	94	99	97	96	97	-----
HOME GARDENS:											
Condition April 1, 1924.....%	79	84	75	76	66	71	73	63	74	-----	-----
FARM WAGES—AVERAGE WAGES PAID:											
By month without board.....\$	41.00	47.00	40.00	42.00	37.00	36.00	37.00	38.00	38.50	-----	47.62
By day without board.....\$	1.96	2.11	2.10	2.00	1.76	1.80	1.80	1.68	1.88	-----	-----
FARM LABOR:											
Supply compared normal.....%	89	83	80	83	84.6	80	85	80	83	90	83.4
Demand compared normal.....%	94	96	94	94	98.6	99	95	98	97	97	90.4

HISTORICAL SUMMARY, NORTH CAROLINA CROPS

OATS

Year	Acreage	Yield per Acre (Bushels)	Production (Bushels)	Price per Bushel	Value (Basis Dec. 1st Price)
1866	206,208	14.3	2,948,771	\$ 0.49	\$ 1,455,234
1867	261,578	13.3	3,479,000	.46	1,594,957
1868	267,615	13.0	3,479,000	.48	1,682,552
1869	231,788	15.1	3,500,000	.52	1,802,694
1870	169,753	16.2	2,750,000	.51	1,407,092
1871	207,547	10.6	2,200,000	.57	1,246,403
1872	207,246	13.8	2,860,000	.71	2,026,572
1873	193,006	16.3	3,146,000	.52	1,622,247
1874	238,992	12.9	3,083,000	.60	1,834,788
1875	250,000	13.0	3,250,000	.51	1,643,418
1876	261,481	13.5	3,530,000	.49	1,747,204
1877	256,774	15.5	3,980,000	.45	1,780,934
1878	278,000	16.0	4,448,000	.43	1,908,822
1879	266,900	16.0	4,270,400	.45	1,921,680
1880	501,400	11.0	5,515,400	.51	2,812,854
1881	506,300	8.1	4,081,000	.62	2,530,220
1882	582,245	9.8	5,713,400	.48	2,742,432
1883	593,890	8.7	5,142,000	.51	2,622,420
1884	617,646	7.5	4,622,000	.46	2,126,120
1885	599,117	7.5	4,483,000	.50	2,241,500
1886	635,064	9.9	6,276,000	.45	2,824,200
1887	654,116	13.0	8,504,000	.44	3,741,760
1888	660,657	9.2	6,078,000	.46	2,795,880
1889	680,477	10.2	6,941,000	.44	3,053,981
1890	673,672	9.2	6,198,000	.51	3,160,869
1891	538,938	9.5	5,120,000	.51	2,611,155
1892	549,717	9.7	5,332,000	.45	2,399,515
1893	544,220	14.1	7,673,502	.44	3,376,341
1894	527,893	10.9	5,754,034	.44	2,531,775
1895	506,777	15.1	7,652,333	.38	2,907,887
1896	481,438	12.0	5,777,256	.35	2,022,040
1897	447,737	13.0	5,820,581	.37	2,153,615
1898	443,260	14.3	6,338,618	.37	2,345,289
1899	398,934	12.0	4,787,208	.41	1,962,755
1900	363,030	13.9	5,046,117	.45	2,270,753
1901	253,344	14.4	3,648,154	.51	1,860,559
1902	238,143	12.7	3,024,416	.51	1,542,452
1903	216,710	11.4	2,470,494	.52	1,284,657
1904	205,874	15.8	3,252,809	.52	1,691,461
1905	203,815	15.3	3,118,370	.47	1,465,634
1906	195,662	16.2	3,169,724	.49	1,553,165
1907	192,000	15.6	2,995,000	.60	1,797,000
1908	200,000	16.5	3,300,000	.63	2,079,000
1909	228,000	12.2	2,783,000	.66	1,837,000
1910	221,000	18.2	4,022,000	.60	2,413,000
1911	219,000	16.5	3,614,000	.63	2,277,000
1912	204,000	18.6	3,794,000	.62	2,352,000
1913	230,000	19.5	4,485,000	.61	2,736,000
1914	250,000	17.5	4,375,000	.65	2,844,000
1915	350,000	23.0	8,050,000	.62	4,991,000
1916	390,000	17.5	6,825,000	.74	5,050,000
1917	275,000	16.0	4,400,000	.93	4,092,000
1918	300,000	17.0	5,100,000	1.08	5,508,000
1919	170,000	16.7	2,839,000	1.06	3,009,000
1920	154,000	22.0	3,388,000	.96	3,252,000
1921	170,000	18.0	3,060,000	.70	2,142,000
1922	220,000	21.0	4,620,000	.67	3,095,000
1923	231,000	22.0	5,082,000	.74	3,761,000

RYE

Year	Acreage	Yield per Acre (Bushels)	Production (Bushels)	Price per Bushel	Value (Basis Dec. 1st Price)
1866	55,422	6.7	371,327	\$ 1.18	\$ 438,982
1867	50,519	7.7	389,000	1.01	392,901
1868	52,567	7.4	389,000	.96	373,371
1869	48,192	8.3	400,000	.91	364,501
1870	48,192	8.3	400,000	.87	348,294
1871	48,484	6.6	320,000	.77	247,482
1872	46,216	17.4	342,000	.82	281,718
1873	37,901	8.1	307,000	.73	240,285
1874	39,294	8.5	334,000	.83	277,078
1875	37,777	9.0	340,000	.76	257,890
1876	42,857	8.4	360,000	.81	290,376
1877	43,258	8.9	385,000	.61	235,944
1878	42,700	8.3	354,410	.66	233,443
1879	40,600	8.0	324,800	.80	259,840
1880	59,458	8.0	475,664	.74	351,991
1881	60,600	6.2	376,000	.97	364,720
1882	63,630	6.3	402,320	.86	345,995
1883	61,266	6.1	394,274	.82	323,305
1884	65,551	5.6	367,000	.80	293,600
1885	61,895	4.2	273,000	.85	231,675
1886	65,551	4.8	315,000	.86	270,900
1887	68,173	5.8	395,000	.80	316,000
1888	68,855	5.3	365,000	.82	299,244
1889	56,496	4.9	276,339	.76	210,018
1890	55,366	5.7	315,586	.81	255,625
1891	54,812	7.0	383,684	.85	326,131
1892	54,812	6.5	356,278	.85	302,836
1893	55,908	7.7	430,492	.70	301,344
1894	53,113	9.0	478,017	.70	334,612
1895	56,831	7.7	437,599	.64	280,063
1896	51,148	7.5	383,610	.71	272,363
1897	49,614	8.8	436,603	.60	261,962
1898	52,591	9.1	478,578	.64	306,290
1899	45,754	7.9	320,278	.75	240,208
1900	46,212	8.9	411,287	.76	312,578
1901	26,191	8.5	222,624	.78	173,647
1902	22,786	8.2	186,845	.85	158,818
1903	20,735	8.8	182,468	.84	153,273
1904	19,698	9.9	195,010	.87	169,659
1905	17,334	9.5	164,673	.86	141,619
1906	15,427	11.0	169,697	.85	144,242
1907	14,600	10.5	154,000	.97	149,000
1908	14,000	8.9	125,000	.98	122,000
1909	49,000	5.8	280,000	1.03	288,000
1910	50,000	10.0	500,000	1.01	505,000
1911	47,000	10.0	470,000	1.00	470,000
1912	44,000	9.3	409,000	1.05	429,000
1913	46,000	10.3	474,000	.98	465,000
1914	46,000	10.0	460,000	1.05	483,000
1915	50,000	11.5	575,000	1.05	604,000
1916	55,000	9.7	534,000	1.30	694,000
1917	52,000	10.0	520,000	2.00	1,040,000
1918	60,000	8.0	480,000	1.98	950,000
1919	44,000	8.9	390,000	2.10	819,000
1920	43,000	9.5	408,000	1.90	775,000
1921	39,000	7.0	273,000	1.25	341,000
1922	60,000	8.0	480,000	1.20	576,000
1923	58,000	10.4	603,000	1.35	814,000

OATS

The fact is noticeable in the statistics of oats that the acreage during the past few years differs very little from that beginning about 1866. The tendency during the past twenty-five years has been towards a decrease. The average acreage for the years between 1874 and 1898 was 491,868; for the years between 1899 and 1923 the average was 243,180 acres. In other words, the State had more than twice as much area in oats about 25 years ago as it has now. The yield per acre gives evidence of improvement in cultural methods. It has made a steady increase since 1881. The average price for oats has been, on an average, slightly higher during the past few years than during the earlier years of the period shown.

RYE

The average acreage in rye for the past twenty-five years, as is the case with oats, shows considerably less than the average for a like period prior to 1900. However, the production of rye, which

was 603,000 bushels in 1923, is considerably more than it was 25 years ago, due to an increased yield per acre.

While the price of grain crops is not considered as high in North Carolina, the trend in most small grain prices has been upward.

The tendency to reduce the acreage of small grains may be traced through the same years, which also shows increases in the larger money crops.

The area planted in rye last year was only 1.2 per cent of the total cultivated area.

POTATOES (IRISH)

The statistics on white potatoes show a trend that is more constant than most other crops. The trend in prices has been upward, the average for the past 25 years being 91 cents, while the 25 years previous to this average was only 60 cents. Prices for the past eight years have shown quite an improvement. The average yield per acre does not show any material increase over previous years. The area planted in Irish potatoes amounts to about 1.29 per cent of the total cultivated area in the State.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY, N. C., CROPS—Continued

POTATOES (White)

Year	Acreage	Yield per Acre (Bushels)	Production (Bushels)	Price per Bushel	Value (Basis Dec. 1st Price)
1866.....	10,254	81.0	830,565	\$ 0.49	\$ 409,389
1867.....	9,010	93.0	838,000	.44	372,178
1868.....	11,026	76.0	838,000	.66	554,926
1869.....	9,121	74.0	675,000	.63	427,892
1870.....	9,160	81.0	742,000	.63	466,248
1871.....	7,771	105.0	816,000	.64	521,007
1872.....	8,233	103.0	848,000	.62	525,775
1873.....	8,298	94.0	780,000	.64	495,580
1874.....	9,360	75.0	702,000	.62	436,772
1875.....	8,764	85.0	745,000	.58	435,179
1876.....	12,142	70.0	850,000	.59	498,625
1877.....	11,847	72.0	853,000	.76	647,218
1878.....	12,100	99.0	1,197,000	.59	705,350
1879.....	12,000	92.0	1,104,000	.63	695,520
1880.....	12,120	105.0	1,272,600	.67	852,642
1881.....	18,682	38.0	709,916	.70	496,941
1882.....	19,803	55.6	1,100,370	.75	825,277
1883.....	20,199	65.0	1,312,935	.68	892,796
1884.....	19,997	63.0	1,260,000	.55	693,000
1885.....	20,597	61.0	1,256,000	.77	716,158
1886.....	21,215	60.0	1,273,000	.56	712,880
1887.....	21,427	52.0	1,114,000	.59	657,260
1888.....	21,856	63.0	1,377,000	.65	895,003
1889.....	18,369	73.0	1,340,937	.52	697,287
1890.....	18,553	73.0	1,354,369	.65	880,340
1891.....	18,367	75.0	1,377,525	.68	936,717
1892.....	19,285	55.0	1,060,675	.61	647,012
1893.....	18,321	97.0	1,777,137	.60	1,066,282
1894.....	17,955	62.0	1,113,210	.60	667,926
1895.....	18,494	79.0	1,461,026	.55	803,564
1896.....	18,309	79.0	1,446,411	.43	621,957
1897.....	16,295	66.0	1,075,470	.64	688,301
1898.....	16,132	67.0	1,080,844	.62	670,123
1899.....	16,293	57.0	928,701	.66	612,943
1900.....	17,434	61.0	1,063,474	.65	691,258
1901.....	24,644	64.0	1,577,216	.72	1,135,596
1902.....	24,800	64.0	1,592,960	.67	1,067,283
1903.....	24,641	67.0	1,650,947	.74	1,221,701
1904.....	25,627	78.0	1,998,906	.70	1,399,234
1905.....	25,883	77.0	1,992,991	.68	1,355,234
1906.....	23,812	75.0	1,785,900	.74	1,321,566
1907.....	23,000	88.0	2,024,000	.78	1,579,000
1908.....	25,000	79.0	1,975,000	.77	1,521,000
1909.....	32,000	74.0	2,372,000	.81	1,921,000
1910.....	33,000	89.0	2,937,000	.73	2,144,000
1911.....	31,000	48.0	1,488,000	1.08	1,607,000
1912.....	30,000	85.0	2,550,000	.76	1,938,000
1913.....	30,000	80.0	2,400,000	.82	1,968,000
1914.....	33,000	52.0	1,716,000	.92	1,579,000
1915.....	35,000	90.0	3,150,000	.73	2,300,000
1916.....	40,000	95.0	3,800,000	1.40	5,320,000
1917.....	50,000	90.0	4,500,000	1.43	6,435,000
1918.....	45,000	95.0	4,275,000	1.35	5,771,000
1919.....	47,000	80.0	3,760,000	1.63	6,129,000
1920.....	46,000	91.0	4,186,000	1.42	5,944,000
1921.....	46,000	88.0	4,048,000	1.43	5,789,000
1922.....	50,000	94.0	4,700,000	1.01	4,747,000
1923.....	46,000	86.0	3,956,000	1.20	4,747,000

North Carolina ranks as the 28th State in production of Irish potatoes, while she stands third in the production of sweet potatoes.

SWEET POTATOES

North Carolina was the first ranking State in the *value* of the sweet potato crop last year. The average price at which the crop sold in the State made it worth \$10,290,000. This is quite an increase since 1900, from a \$2,550,000 crop.

CULTIVATED HAY

The statistics for hay show a remarkable growth in the crop since 1900. The value has increased from \$1,979,000 to \$18,820,000. This has been due in part to the price per ton as well as to the increase in acreage.

SORGHUM SYRUP

Statistics earlier than 1909 on sorghum cane are not at present available. The value of this crop in 1909 was only \$495,000. Its value in 1923 was \$2,502,000, or an increase of over 500 per cent in fifteen years.

SWEET POTATOES (Units in Bushels)

(Production in Bushels)

Year	Acreage	Yield	Production	Price per Unit	Total Value
1900.....	69,000	88	6,072,000	\$ 0.42	\$ 2,550,000
1901.....	71,000	87	6,177,000	.46	2,841,000
1902.....	70,000	88	6,160,000	.46	2,834,000
1903.....	72,000	97	6,984,000	.45	3,143,000
1904.....	73,000	100	7,300,000	.50	3,650,000
1905.....	73,000	95	6,935,000	.47	3,259,000
1906.....	75,000	87	6,525,000	.50	3,262,000
1907.....	78,000	90	7,020,000	.60	4,212,000
1908.....	80,000	93	7,440,000	.53	3,943,000
1909.....	84,000	100	8,493,000	.57	4,841,000
1910.....	84,000	105	8,820,000	.55	4,851,000
1911.....	77,000	86	6,622,000	.63	4,172,000
1912.....	75,000	90	6,750,000	.62	4,185,000
1913.....	80,000	100	8,000,000	.61	4,880,000
1914.....	76,000	90	6,840,000	.65	4,446,000
1915.....	85,000	105	8,925,000	.56	4,998,000
1916.....	87,000	107	9,309,000	.75	6,982,000
1917.....	90,000	95	8,550,000	1.05	8,978,000
1918.....	95,000	110	10,450,000	1.32	13,794,000
1919.....	87,000	107	9,309,000	1.38	12,846,000
1920.....	99,000	104	10,296,000	1.14	11,737,000
1921.....	102,000	101	10,302,000	.97	9,993,000
1922.....	110,000	113	12,430,000	.80	9,944,000
1923.....	100,000	105	10,500,000	.98	10,290,000

CULTIVATED HAY (Units in Tons)

(Production in Tons)

Year	Acreage	Yield	Production	Price per Unit	Total Value
1900.....	125,305	1.41	176,680	\$ 11.20	\$ 1,978,816
1901.....	146,817	1.66	243,716	10.80	2,632,000
1902.....	132,135	1.44	190,274	12.25	2,330,856
1903.....	129,492	1.60	207,187	13.42	2,780,450
1904.....	128,197	1.72	220,499	14.56	3,210,465
1905.....	125,633	1.60	201,013	12.80	2,572,966
1906.....	125,633	1.54	193,475	15.00	2,902,125
1907.....	127,000	1.50	190,000	16.50	3,135,000
1908.....	175,000	1.50	262,000	13.50	3,537,000
1909.....	315,000	.95	299,000	14.40	4,306,000
1910.....	315,000	1.50	472,000	14.60	6,891,000
1911.....	290,000	1.05	304,000	17.00	5,168,000
1912.....	293,000	1.30	381,000	16.70	6,363,000
1913.....	320,000	1.31	419,000	16.50	6,914,000
1914.....	320,000	1.15	368,000	17.10	6,293,000
1915.....	350,000	1.85	648,000	16.50	10,692,000
1916.....	440,000	1.30	572,000	17.50	10,010,000
1917.....	506,000	1.13	572,000	19.70	11,268,000
1918.....	590,000	1.16	684,000	21.00	14,364,000
1919.....	682,000	1.02	696,000	24.20	16,843,000
1920.....	640,000	1.05	672,000	23.00	15,456,000
1921.....	690,000	1.30	897,000	19.80	17,761,000
1922.....	800,000	1.30	1,040,000	18.20	18,928,000
1923.....	784,000	1.20	941,000	20.00	18,820,000

SORGHUM SIRUP (Units in Gallons)

(Production in Gallons)

Year	Acreage	Yield	Production	Price per Unit	Total Value
1909.....	12,200	90	1,099,000	\$ 0.45	\$ 495,000
1910.....	12,000	102	1,224,000	.44	539,000
1911.....	10,800	98	1,058,000	.45	476,000
1912.....	10,300	90	927,000	.47	436,000
1913.....	9,600	93	893,000	.48	429,000
1914.....	9,100	90	819,000	.47	385,000
1915.....	10,000	88	880,000		
1916.....	9,500	100	950,000	.45	428,000
1917.....	37,000	92	3,404,000	.78	2,655,000
1918.....	48,000	98	4,704,000	.99	4,657,000
1919.....	31,000	80	2,480,000	1.01	2,505,000
1920.....	31,000	97	3,007,000	1.00	3,007,000
1921.....	32,000	94	3,008,000	.78	2,346,000
1922.....	30,000	98	2,940,000	.80	2,352,000
1923.....	32,000	92	2,944,000	.85	2,502,000

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

THE SEASONAL OUTLOOK

The month of April permitted the farmers to do a large amount of farm work, which resulted in conditions being more nearly normal than was expected a month ago. The present situation is that the work is only a week or so late. Although the backwardness of work has caused considerable inconvenience, the general spring plans have not been appreciably changed. The farmers are working very industriously with considerable optimism for the year's outlook. This is particularly true in North Carolina, where the farm results of 1923 were unusually good.

As might be expected, the inevitable results of cause and effect are having great influences on production and prices. More of the working people are eating chickens, resulting in 33 per cent increase in the poultry of the United States within three years time. This also means a great increase in the egg consumption. The low price of pork is due, in part, to the decreased consumption of that commodity. The egg situation is about reaching a level with wheat, milk and citrus fruits. In turn, various products fall under the pressure of lower prices and the weight of production swings to something else.

The outstanding shift this spring is the swing away from hogs. The Agricultural Department's estimate last month indicated 13 per cent decrease in brood sows in the corn belt from a year ago, while private estimates put the reduction at considerably more. In spite of this, the corn acreage is likely to be materially increased. It is an old story for hogs and corn not to swing together, and they usually go too far in each direction.

The shifting of production plans represents a skillful and courageous adjustment to the discouraging farm conditions. The management of crop acreages and livestock production during the past three years shows that the farmers were using good judgment. If the weather permits, agriculture may result in the best balanced production program since 1920.

The maintenance of agricultural production through these difficult times does not show the increased tension under which it is being accomplished; namely, the cumulative pressure of low buying power, labor shortage, high taxes, heavy debts and adverse markets. It is interesting to note that there has been about an 18 per cent increase in the ratio of crop production to workers. It cannot be presumed that this productive efficiency in agriculture or any other industry is going to be penalized indefinitely.

THE CROP SITUATION

Cotton planting is in full swing in the South. More and better fertilizers are being used. They are going heavily into cotton west of the Mississippi. Due to a poor hay crop and the freezing of winter small grains, the feed situation is serious over a considerable area of the Southern States. More sweet potatoes and poultry are being considered.

An increase in the tobacco crop of the South is probable. This is particularly true of the cigarette type. Peanuts are due for a large increase in acreage also. The vegetable outlook over the country as a whole is good. The truck crops in the South are considerably late. The North Carolina truck will come into unusually heavy competition with more northern producing areas.

THE WORLD SITUATION

Crops are very late in Europe. Wheat and corn in the Argentine made crops better than the previous estimates indicated. Europe continues to import wheat at same basis as a year ago. There has been a seasonal decline in the exports of American pork. Most of the decline was in the exports to Europe.

PRICE INDEXES IN RELATION TO 1913 PRICES

The readjustment of conditions since the war has been long-drawn out. Things are looking brighter. The purchasing power of farm products is gradually increasing or coming nearer to the 1913 basis. The illustration on the eighth page of this publication shows that farm products have a purchasing power of 74 per cent of the quantity of other products that they would purchase in 1913.

While the farm products are increasing in relative value, other commodities are gradually coming down. In other words, all commodities are becoming more normal. In the summer of 1922 farm products reached the lowest level when they would purchase only 64 per cent of all other commodities than farm products and foods.

It is probable that one of the main causes for the discrepancy between farm and other products is the labor wage. The farmers are positively unable to pay from \$2.50 to \$5 per day for labor on a ten-hour basis, such as is being paid elsewhere. The average farm laborer, realizing that he can get the higher rate of compensation, leaves the farm, leaving the work to be done by farm owners and tenant families. As soon as the boys on the farms get to an age of independence they rapidly leave for the town. This is largely true of the girls, too. The artificialities of farm life are not sufficiently attractive to hold them.

FARM PRODUCTS (PRICES AT THE FARM)

	Mar. 1923	Feb. 1924	Mar. 1924	Month Trend
Cotton	226	253	223	Lower
Corn	127	129	130	Higher
Wheat	135	125	126	Higher
Hay	111	124	124	Same
Potatoes	107	137	137	Same
Beef cattle	95	93	95	Higher
Hogs	100	87	89	Higher
Eggs	135	174	106	Lower
Butter	154	164	160	Lower
Wool	223	225	229	Higher

COMMODITY GROUPS (WHOLESALE PRICES)

	Mar. 1923	Feb. 1924	Mar. 1924	Month Trend
Farm products	143	143	137	Lower
Food, etc.	143	143	141	Lower
Cloths and clothing.....	201	196	191	Lower
Fuel and lighting.....	206	180	181	Higher
Metal and metal products.....	149	143	144	Higher
Building materials	198	182	182	Same
Chemicals, etc.	135	131	130	Lower
House-furnishing goods	185	176	175	Lower
ALL COMMODITIES	159	152	150	Lower

RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER (BASIS 1913)

(At March, 1924, Farm Prices)

In unit terms of:	Cotton	Corn	Wheat	Hay	Pota- toes
All commodities	149	87	84	83	91
Cloths, etc.	117	68	66	65	72
Fuel, etc.	123	72	70	69	76
Metals, etc.	155	90	87	86	95
Building materials	123	71	69	68	75
House-furnishing goods	127	74	72	71	78

	Beef Cattle	Swine	Eggs	Butter	Wool
All commodities	63	59	71	107	153
Cloths, etc.	50	47	56	84	120
Fuel, etc.	52	49	59	88	127
Metals, etc.	66	62	74	111	159
Building materials	52	49	58	88	126
House-furnishing goods	54	51	61	91	131

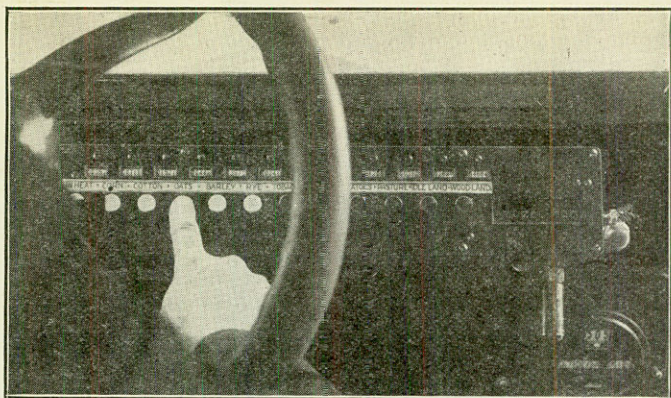
SOMETHING NEW IN CROP REPORTING

(Continued from page 1)

woodland. The illustration shows idle land instead of "urban," but since these are similar the urban may easily be understood.

The results of the first trip, covering 351 miles, showed 2 per cent of the acreage passed to be planted in wheat, 4 per cent in truck and fruit, 9 per cent in recognizable cotton, 2.5 per cent in oats, 1 per cent in rye, 8.2 per cent plowed but not planted, 6.4 per cent planted, 1 per cent clovers, 1.6 per cent pastures, 15 per cent urban, 26.4 per cent woodland, while "all other" amounted to slightly over 22 per cent. The counties covered were Wake, Durham, Orange, Alamance, Guilford, Randolph, Montgomery, Moore, Hoke, Cumberland, Sampson, Duplin, Wayne, and Johnston.

It was recognized that the month of April was really too early to use this machine to best advantage. Very few crops were actually in a growing condition, but it gave opportunity for getting preliminary information that might be of interest now and of value in another year. From the experience of this first trip, it was decided that some additional items that may be determined by using this machine are: Any crop desired, land lying out idle, orchards, companion crops, number of farm homes, etc. An individual crop, for instance, using corn, may be treated as follows: Companion cropped with cowpeas, soybeans, velvet beans or peanuts; fodder harvested in the form of topped, cut whole, left natural, leaves only stripped, intertilled or growing alone. Hays may be estimated by counting the individual varieties. Woods may be recorded as timber land, cut-over, scrubby, or waste. An individual trip's limit of counts will be 12 items, as there are only 12 keys. These can be varied in the different areas, however, where the importance of the crops justify.



One of the best results in operating this machine is that it constantly necessitates the close observation of crops, and, consequently, their condition. If not already familiar with them, it awakens the statistician to the distribution of crops and to prevailing sectional farm practices.

The reader may not see how this would give a practical estimate of crops. For instance, a field might be stretched out along the road or it might barely touch the road. When the operator drives along the road he punches the item corn against a cornfield, and if wheat adjoins this, the wheat key is punched at the edge of the corn. This automatically releases the corn key. In this way one key is kept counting during the entire trip, so as to check up with the speedometer reading at the county line or other natural divisions that the records are made for. According to the law of averages, a field becomes increasingly more nearly square with the greater number of fields counted to an individual crop. While we cannot use the records of an individual farm, or even perhaps of a single county, those for a district or certainly for several hundred miles become quite representative of the average practice and offer dependable facts for comparing with a second year's results. This enables the statistician to determine the increases or decreases in particular crops growing at a particular time of the year.

The statistician must, of course, be quite familiar with crops in all stages of growth in order to tell at a glance what to record. This instrument was developed and constructed within our own bureau at a very low cost. It is therefore patented and gives the Government exclusive privilege of its use. This means that information determined by this method will be devoid of bias or unfavorable influences of those not interested in the farmers' welfare.

It must not be supposed that the Government is going to do away with its crop reporters or any other methods now practiced. This instrument has barely passed the experimental stage, and, at best, will only be used as a check on other information procured. It is distinctly an advanced step towards procuring unbiased and current information in a speedy way.

THE JUNE CROP REPORT

The schedules for the June first crop report call for the condition of wheat, oats, Irish potatoes, apples, cultivated hay, clover hay, small grains cut green for hay, pastures, fruit, melons, pecans, and home gardens. In addition to these, the probable yield of wheat per acre is asked for, along with that of oats and rye for grain. The various methods of harvesting oats are called for. The acreage of tame hay, clover hay, and grains cut green, as compared with last year, are wanted. A fertilizer inquiry asking for the amount used on all crops this year compared with last year; also, what per cent of this is used for cotton is requested.

Reporters are requested to use every opportunity prior to the first of the month in talking with their supply merchants and farmer friends in order to arrive at definite conclusions regarding these subjects. A good way to get satisfactory estimates is to start an argument among a group of farmers, directing the line of thought by careful questioning. In this way the general trends of conditions may be easily determined.

A reporter should remember that an estimate is not a "guess." The guess is made without a real basis, while an estimate should have some well-founded reasons for the conclusion. One may not always be able to explain the reason, as they may be on the par with a woman's intuition. There are many conditions which we know to exist but cannot explain. Weather conditions may be adverse, causing us to anticipate a change in the crop before it actually occurs.

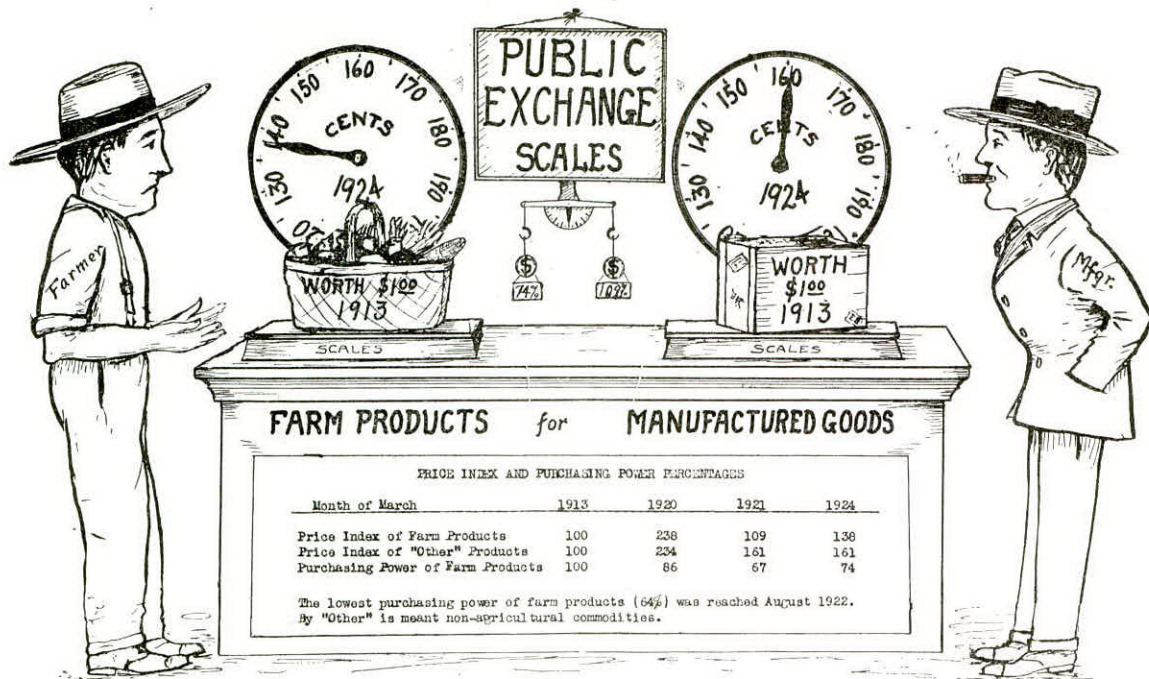
THE FRUIT OUTLOOK

The fruit outlook in North Carolina is unusually good for all crops. The January freezes did not do any damage and the late spring freezes about April 1st did material damage in very few spots. As a matter of fact, the late cold period had the effect of thinnings, which saved the farmers thousands of dollars, as the hand-thinning process is very expensive and tedious.

The Sandhill peach area expects to ship around 2,500 cars this year. The apple growers of the Mountain counties are anticipating a full crop. Even the small fruits are bearing better than usual. The growers have given orchards more than the usual care this year, especially in the commercial peach territory. The condition of peaches in this State on May 1st was estimated at 83 per cent of a full crop.

The outlook for fruit all over the country is good. Florida and Georgia have good prospects.

Although not officially so reported, the statistician found in field travel that very little damage is being done by the curculio (causing wormy peaches) this year. This is perhaps largely due to the very short crop produced last year and the consequent lack of breeding grounds. It is very probable, under these conditions, that even the poorly cared for peaches of the average farm will be better than usual, and that competition with the commercial fruit will be very keen. The second migration of the curculio in June, however, may do material damage.



PURCHASING POWER OF FARM PRODUCTS

The farmers of the rest of the United States, more than in North Carolina, have been deeply concerned because their crops buy so little of manufactured goods as compared with what they did ten years ago. This is what we mean by "purchasing power." The illustration above was made by us to give graphically a comparison of the prices of farm products as compared with 1913, as well as those of manufactured goods.

On the little scale in the center of the illustration is indicated the 74 per cent purchasing power of farm products, and the 120 per cent by other commodities. This means that the farm products will procure only 74 per cent of the quantity of other commodities that they would in 1913, and that the other commodities will procure a minimum of 120 per cent of all agricultural products as compared with 1913. As a matter of fact, this latter figure goes higher than 120 per cent.

The figures on the face of the bottom of the counter show the detailed data of price indexes and purchasing powers of farm products. This gives a true economic viewpoint of the agricultural situation of the United States. North Carolina has an advantage by virtue of the high purchasing power of cotton, which is quite equal to that of other commodities.

It will be the plan of the Crop Reporting Service to include monthly information on price indexes and purchasing powers of farm products, as well as other economic data, for the benefit of those interested in farm affairs.

FOR REPORTERS

New reporters are necessary for our work for the reason that the old ones are constantly dropping out or becoming negligent in returning reports. In order to get true averages, a large number of reports are required each month.

The longer a reporter continues, the more interested he becomes, and the more accurate are his estimates. Habit is the key to a dependable reporter—habit of filling out the schedules regularly and promptly upon their receipt and then mailing them before they are overlooked.

One of the best aids towards a reporter becoming interested in crop estimating is for him to get the *habit* of asking his neighbors and supply merchants concerning crop conditions. By this means he becomes really an authority for his local interests, as well as for his own benefit. In this way he will take more interest in reading the news items and official publications which come to his notice.

Merchants, bankers, and manufacturers make it a point to keep well informed on current trends, supply and demand. They want to know what others are doing in order to prepare themselves for emergencies. They want to know when to buy and sell to the best advantage. In order to do this, they must read their trade journals and keep informed on the conditions that their customers are interested in. The farmers have neglected this phase of their work, and do not realize what is actually for their benefit. Those who think that crop reports are injurious to the farmers' interest merely show that they themselves are not well informed concerning the real needs of the farmers.

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