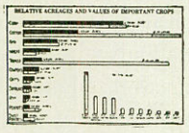
FARM FORECASTER

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 25 RALEIGH JUNE, 1924

One way the State Agricultural Statistician gets information on crop conditions. Field inspections in State travel.

THE 1924 FARM CENSUS

The North Carolina farmers are familiar with the farm census in so far as the tax-listers ask questions regarding their various crop acreages, etc. Many farmers are interested to know what becomes of the tax-listers' farm census report. He turns them in to the County Supervisor, who inspects and forwards them to the Crop Reporting Service office at Raleigh. Here they are carefully edited to insure their being reasonable in every sense.

Unfortunately some listers are so short-sighted that they do not realize that it is easy to see their indifference and incomplete information. If we did not know where crops are usually grown, it would still be easy to discover carelessly made reports by comparing them with the good reports made by listers in adjoining townships.

It is a pleasure to announce that the 1924 farm census reports are decidedly the best ever made in this State. They are more complete and there is distinctly a greater evidence of trying to follow the instructions given them. It is also a pleasure to find that practically all of the farmers are convinced that this information is not used for taxation or for the benefits of private speculative interests. It is quite evident that all interests, including the majority of the listers themselves, realize that the farm census method of getting information is the most reasonable, economical and practical method of getting reliable, basic crop data. Those familiar with the methods of stock traders know that they get their information from private agencies to whom they contribute heavily in a financial way for their support. It is also realized that the speculators do their best business between the time their private information is received and that when the

(Continued on page 6)

OUTSTANDING FARM FORECASTS

The prospective productions of crops of the United States are as follows: Winter wheat, 89 per cent, as compared with last year; spring wheat, 86 per cent; oats, 95 per cent; barley, only 80 per cent; rye practically the same, 99 per cent of last year's production; peaches, 115 per cent, and apples, some increase. Apples show the general condition of 74 per cent, while the commercial crop averages about 72 per cent. Tame hay is reported at 84 per cent of a normal crop; pastures, 82 per cent, and peaches, 73 per cent. Farm labor shows a 15 per cent shortage in the supply, while the demand is designated at 10 per cent short of last year's demand.

In North Carolina the labor situation is quite serious. Farmers have about discontinued seeking for hired labor for the simple reason that it is not obtainable. It is quite common to see the farmers' entire family in the fields at work. The cotton outlook, provided there is a 5 per cent increase in acreage, has an unofficial prospect of about 862,000 bales on a condition of 71 per cent of the normal or full crop prospect. Wheat is looking good. The heads are short but stands unusually good. The production prospect is about 8 per cent less than last year's crop on a basis of 87 per cent and a 10 per cent shortage in acreage. Oats may lack 30 per cent of equaling last year's production, due primarily to the winter freezes. Rye prospects are 15 per cent better than a year ago. Early Irish potatoes have a very fine outlook with over 300 cars shipped to June 12. There is a probable large increase in the early Irish potato crop.

Fruit is looking unusually good; however, blight is attacking apples and pears worse than for many years. This pest is really serious this year. Peaches in the Sandhills are beginning to move. Except where the spring cold caused heavy dropping, there is a likelihood of the fruit being too thick and small unless the growers hand-thin it. The outlook for hay this year is unusually good, particularly for oat hay.

CROP REPORT FOR JUNE 1, 1924

The farm outlook for North Carolina is generally good. This is said in spite of the belated seasons caused by abnormally cool weather and frequent rains, which have seriously hurt cotton and some other crops. The grass is keeping the farmers very busy and worried. Many in the east are already barring off corn with one-horse turn plows. It is amazing to see how slow most farmers are to realize the advantages of wheeled implements which cultivate a whole row at one trip through.

The tobacco crop has a good stand, and, if late, is growing nicely. Hay crops are good. Small grains are doing nicely except the fall-sown oats. Fruit is unusually good. The recent hot nights have helped cotton amazingly. Farmers are, as a rule, in good spirits. A distressingly large percentage of the open farm land is lying idle in the central Piedmont counties this year. This is due to low-priced small grains and to high and scarce labor. It is the rule to see the farmers' families doing the field work. The contrast of country tasks with those of the towns, in physical, social and financial ways is resulting in the young folks leaving the farms.

There has been no material change in the condition of the State's wheat crop since May first. The condition, according to reports June first, is 87 per cent of normal, which is about the average for the Piedmont counties, the principal wheat producers. According to the reported acreage planted last fall, this would indicate a production of 5,596,100 bushels for harvest, at a yield of about 10.7 bushels per acre. This condition is the same as for June first last year, although the final yield reported for the 1923 season was 11.1 bushels to the acre.

Fall-planted oats are in poor shape, but judging from the reports of several of the principal producing counties, there has been a slight improvement in the crop since May first. The methods of harvesting oats in this State are shown from a special inquiry, which indicates that only about 50 per cent of the oat acreage is harvested for grain, about 31 per cent is cut mature for combined grain and forage ration, 12 per cent is cut green for hay, about 2 per cent is used for pasture only (not cut), and the remaining 5 per cent is either abandoned or turned under without cutting. The probable yield figures were secured with this report, but are merely indications, since they are made prior to the harvesting.

The early Irish potato crop is considered as unusually fine this year. The plants are of uniform size, healthy and comparatively free from pests. The condition of 88 per cent of normal indicates an average yield of 94 bushels to the acre. The condition of the cultivated hay crops averages much better than at this season last year, and most of them have shown some improvement since May first this year. Clover hay is 89 per cent of normal, compared with 86 per cent a year ago. Alfalfa was 91 per cent both years. All tame varieties are reported as 89 per cent, compared with 87 per cent last year, while wild hays are 90 per cent of normal. The acreage shows a slight reduction, though more grain crops will probably be cut green for hay than in previous years. Preliminary reports on velvet beans show the acreage about same as last year, with the condition of the crop as 82 per cent of normal.

The fruit crop, so far, is experiencing its most favorable season in several years. Peaches, which at this season last year promised about one-fifth of a crop, are, at present, 90 per cent of normal, which forecasts a commercial shipment of 2,500 cars. Last year we shipped less than 200 cars. Apples are reported as 84 per cent of normal, as compared with 50 per cent at this season last year, while pears show a condition of 73 per cent, as compared with 23 per cent last year.

A most interesting feature of the June report is that concerning the use of fertilizers this year. The inquiry as to the percentage of fertilizer used on crops this year compared with last year showed an increase of about 2 per cent. Of the total amount used, 49 per cent was reported as devoted to cotton, while the remaining 51 per cent was used on all other crops. There is a distinct increase in the high grade of fertilizers used.

UNITED STATES CROPS

After getting away to a slow start, the season is hardly yet in full stride. The weather has been unduly wet in the east, dry in the west, and cool in the south. Early fruits and vegetables have begun to move to the markets and, within the month, wheat harvest and haying will be well advanced. The general level of prices shows a declining tendency, while farm products have slightly advanced.

The condition of most of the principal crops averages lower at this season than was the case last year, and in many instances show a considerable decline since last month. The preliminary estimate of winter wheat for the United States, which shows a condition of 71 per cent of normal, is 509,319,000 bushels. This condition is 7.6 per cent poorer than the past ten-year average condition and 2.3 per cent lower than at this season last year. It is also a 10.8 per cent decline since May first this year, when the report was 84.8 per cent of normal. The acreage planted last fall was 36,898,000, or nearly 2,000,000 acres less than that harvested during the 1923 season. The crop is reported as having headed fairly well, but has much short straw. It has suffered some from drought in Kansas and Nebraska. Harvest is beginning in the southwest. Farmers in the wheat belt are not in a very optimistic frame of mind.

The 83 per cent condition of oats forecasts a production of 231,728,000 bushels from 41,625,000 acres planted last fall. The condition of oats June first last year was 2.6 per cent better than this year.

In view of the low condition of small grains, it should be remembered that seeding in the western states has been so late that favorable weather from now on may cause a considerable change in the prospects. It should likewise be remembered that the poor beginning of cotton a year ago resulted in a final large crop. A dry June is said to be especially conducive to good cotton yields and a minimum boll weevil damage.

The peach crop in the South and East is large, while in the mid-west the prospects are for a poor crop.

In a general way the United States crop conditions are over 7 per cent below the ten-year average. Fruit is considerably above the average, while spring wheat, cotton, pastures, and winter wheat are low.

THE PRESENT SITUATION ON THE NATION'S FARMS

The study of agriculture at present shows two underlying factors that stand out prominently in the situation today. For one, the program of Agricultural production has arrived at the best general balance since 1920. Farmers have obeyed the economic signals as expertly as any industry ever did, and have made far-reaching and skillful readjustments in the major lines of production. The community at large hardly understands how extensive this readjustment has been in the major lines of production. It is an easy matter for farmers themselves to upset the balance, and the tendency, too frequently, is to over-do certain crops.

The second factor is the noticeable wane of the industrial boom of the past two years. This is likely to result in a leveling down of the disparity between city and country. This slackening of urban demand for industrial products apparently means, under present circumstances, some easing down in prices of things farmers have to buy, likewise in wages.

The facts above are borne out in the study of price averages during the past two or three years as compared with the average ten years ago. Cotton at 28.7 cents approaches a reasonable average according to the cost of producing it. Wheat at 95.8 cents a bushel is much lower than at this season last year. Products higher than the general price level, and therefore "high priced," included cotton and wool. Butter stood at the average level. Products below the general price level, and therefore "low priced," included potatoes, corn, hay, wheat, eggs, beef cattle, and hogs. However, the general trend in prices of farm products during the month of April was upward, while that of other commercial commodities was downward. This has resulted in raising the general purchasing power index of farm products. Only cotton and wool were high enough in price during April so that a unit could be exchanged for other types of commodities at an indicated advantage.

The following table shows the trend in wages and prices during the past few years. Taking the unit in 1913 as representing 100 per cent, the figures for the following years show the percentage of increase or decrease as compared with that year:

Year and Month	General Wage Level	Farm Wages	Retail Price of Food	Farm Price of Crops	Farm Price of Crops and Live Stock Combined	Wholesale Prices of Non-agricultural Commodities	Purchasing* Power of Farm Products
	1914=100%						
1913		100	100	100	100	100	100
1915	103	99	101	110	102	97	106
1920	226	214	203	238	203	234	86
1921	206	143	153	109	108	161	67
1922	201	138	142	113	112	163	69
1923	218	155	146	136	120	167	72
1924	224		150	137	116	158	73
Jan.	223	151	149	140	119	160	74
Feb.	222		147	141	120	162	74
Mar.	226	153	144	138	119	161	74
April	222	157	141	140	121	159	76

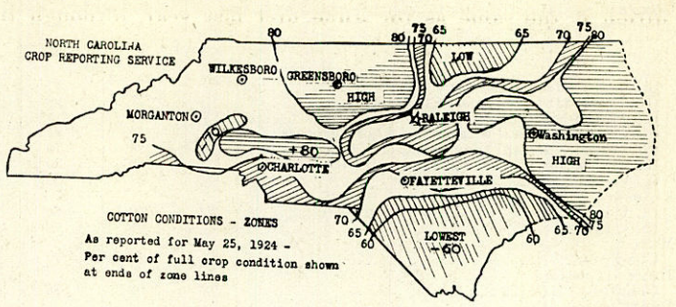
*Purchasing power of farm products represents their purchasing power of other than farm products.

The movement of grain to the market begins to show the end of the season falling off. More corn came in during April than same month last year, however. Compared to the same month last year, practically the same number of hogs went to market in April, while there were more cattle and fewer sheep. Butter receipts continue fairly heavy, reflecting the trend in production.

COTTON

This year's cotton crop is reported to be next to the lowest for this season of the year for many years. Last year's average yield was only 130 pounds per acre. North Carolina made close to 300 pounds per acre after a poor spring start. It is possible that the ultimate yield in North Carolina this year will be equally as good, but the probability is far from that. The start is much poorer and the chance of boll weevil damage is great. The setting of bolls last year was the heaviest for June and July in this State's history. There is a probability of increased acreage all through the South, and especially in North Carolina. There is no prospect of a greater production of lint than is actually needed, but there is great likelihood that the farmers will not use the protective measures needed this year, especially if the setting of bolls occur later than last year, which is probable.

It is generally reported that more and better fertilizer is being used, the average for North Carolina being about 458 pounds. The average fertilizer cost is $26.40 per ton. Much less cotton is chopped to date than last year or the usual year. The time at which the cotton is up to a stand is much later than usual. In fact, the planting was later than usual. The report of May 25th showed an average condition of 71 per cent or 6 per cent lower than last year, and 13 per cent lower than two years ago, while the 1921 crop was 6 per cent below this year. The North Carolina production may reasonably be more than 100,000 bales short of last year even on an increased acreage.



There was a general falling off in exports of agricultural products during April, though substantially more cotton and tobacco went out of the country than during April last year.

The great increase in crop production during the past few years is a very significant factor in the prosperity of the country and marks a distinct improvement in the rural sections both socially and financially. According to Mr. George K. Holmes, Statistician in the United States Department of Agriculture, farm labor became more effective in crop production in the United States from 1910 to 1920 by about 18 per cent, or nearly one-fifth. The fact that crop production grew in mass about 13 per cent from 1910 to 1920 and that farm workers decreased in number about 4.2 per cent, indicates the improvement in farming methods in general use. These conditions have been brought about by the use of more and better machinery, by the use of more animal power, more tractor power, by using the time-saving automobile, by motor trucks, and by harder work on the part of the farmers themselves. The fact that certain machines may be more effective on larger farms may be the reason why the average farm became ten acres larger in 1920 than it was in 1910.

JUNE 1 CROP REPORT

(See District Map, page 6)

Crops and Features Reported	Unit	Mountain Counties		Piedmont Counties			Coastal Counties			State Average		U. S. Average, June 1, 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	June 1, 1924	June 1, 1923	
Winter Wheat:												
(a) Condition at harvest	%	87.6	78	83	88	89.5	97	94	89	87	87	74
Oats:*												
(a) Condition at harvest	%	86	72	80	63	57	74	87	79.5	70	88	83
Percentage of total acreage this year—												
(b) Cut ripe for grain	%	80	70	65	58	53	9	18	23	50	----	----
(c) Cut unripe for combined grain and forage	%	12	20	17	20	18	55	55	55	31	----	----
(d) Cut green for hay	%	5	7	8	7	11	24	24	15	12	----	----
(e) Used for pasture only (not cut)	%	2	1	3	1	4	2	1	4	2	----	----
(f) Abandoned or turned under without cutting	%	1	2	7	14	14	10	2	3	5	----	----
Rye:												
Quality of crop†	%	86	86	96	92	92.5	74	88	84.5	90	----	----
Potatoes, Irish (early crop):												
(a) Condition at time of harvest	%	89	91	89	91	85	84	87	85.6	88	----	----
(b) Probable yield per acre	Bu.	122.5	74	82.5	97	91	90	84	106	94	----	----
Apples:												
Condition (per cent of full crop promise)	%	88	87	83	83	84.8	85	79	74	84	50	74
Hay (all tame):												
Acreage this year—												
(a) Compared with acreage last year	%	98	97	93.7	98	94.5	95	99	94.5	97	----	----
(b) Compared with usual acreage	%	96	98	94	95	94.8	98	99.7	93	99	----	----
(c) Condition	%	90	89	90.5	90	92	91	88	86.6	89	----	84.3
Hay (wild):												
Condition	%	93	84	90.5	94	92	91	90	97.5	90	----	77.9
Clover Hay:												
Acreage intended for cutting—												
(a) Compared with acreage cut year ago	%	95	93	81	95	91	92	89	96	97	98	----
(b) Compared with usual acreage cut	%	95	95	81	99	87.6	91	91	93.5	96	96	----
(c) Condition	%	89.5	86	86	89	92	83	93	82.5	89	86	----
Alfalfa:												
Acreage this season—												
(a) Compared with acreage year ago	%	90	81	97	96	94.5	93	99	95	97	101	----
(b) Compared with usual acreage	%	92	81	99	98	100.5	92	98	92.5	99	103	----
(c) Condition	%	95	83	95	90	96	91	95	75	91	91	----
Grain Cut Green for Hay:												
(a) Compared with acreage year ago	%	85	91	88	97	91	90	87	92.5	105	----	----
(b) Compared with usual acreage	%	84	83	88	96	91	91	87	94	107	----	----
(c) Yield per acre	Lbs.	2,138	2,500	1,920	2,675	2,160	2,600	1,750	2,058	2,100	----	----
Pasture:												
Condition	%	87.5	85	92	94	89.5	92	89	92	89	92	82.2
Pears:												
Condition (per cent full crop promise)	%	71	73	80	78	77	73	65	60	73	23	----
Cowpeas:												
Condition	%	88	85.5	85	85	79	83	83.7	68	82	88	----
Soybeans:												
Condition	%	83	95	92	87	72	82	93	83	86	----	----
Velvet Beans‡:												
(a) Total acreage compared last year	%	75	92	82	102	104	110	98	87	99	----	----
(b) Total acreage compared usual acreage	%	77	96	85	106	108	100	101	94	98	----	----
(c) Percentage total acreage for beans	%	61	19	53	27	39	33	30	16	20	----	----
(d) Percentage total acreage for other purposes	%	39	81	47	73	61	67	70	84	80	----	----
(e) Percentage total acreage planted alone	%	20	70	65	45	58	38	20	16	24	----	----
(f) Percentage total acreage planted with corn	%	80	30	35	55	42	62	80	84	76	----	----
(g) Condition	%	55.7	89	90	89	85	81	100	80	85	----	----
Peaches:												
(a) Condition (per cent full crop promise)	%	90.6	86	92	89	91	96	92	83	90	28	72.7
(b) Quality*	%	96	90	92	89	91	89	85	83	90	----	----
Melons:												
Condition	%	83.6	79	79.7	79	78	74	80	77	80	81	----
Home Gardens:												
Condition	%	90	86	82	88	85	76	87.7	85	85	----	----
Fertilizers:												
(a) Amount used compared last year of total used§	%	101	103	102	108	108	105	101	105	102	----	----
(b) Per cent on cotton	%	7	16	23	60	65	62	45	51	49	----	----
(c) Per cent on all other crops	%	93	84	77	40	35	38	55	49	51	----	----
Farm Labor:												
Supply compared with normal	%	88	85	84	84	84	83	83	80	83	----	85.1
Demand compared with normal	%	94	94	99	96	100	100	94	104	98	----	90

*Oats—Total of b, c, d, e, f, should be 100. †Rye—Quality (per cent of normal). ‡Velvet beans—Total c and d should be 100. total e and f should be 100.
§Fertilizer—Total of b and c should be 100.

JUNE 1 COTTON REPORT

	Mountain Counties* 4	Piedmont Counties			Coastal Counties			State Average, 1924	U. S. Average
		Northern Piedmont 2	Central Piedmont 5	Southern Piedmont 8	Northern Coastal 3	Central Coastal 6	Southern Coastal 9		
Condition May 25†%	79	59.7	70.9	74	70	74.5	69	71	61.6
Average date of planting this year	May 7	May 8	May 5	May 7	Apr. 29	Apr. 23	Apr. 22	Apr. 27	----
Usual average date of planting	Apr. 27	May 3	Apr. 29	Apr. 28	Apr. 28	Apr. 22	Apr. 19	Apr. 24	----
Average date cotton was up to a stand	May 26	May 23	May 24	May 22	May 19	May 15	May 15	May 19	----
Usual average date cotton up to a stand	May 11	May 15	May 13	May 12	May 13	May 10	May 10	May 12	----
Per cent of cotton chopped by May 25%	2.3	2.4	5.4	5.0	4.0	12.0	31.9	12	
Fertilizer used—									
Per cent of cotton acreage fertilized%	96	98	99	98.6	99	99	98	99	----
Average number of pounds used per acre No.	380	395	345	368	520	542	478	458	----
Average value per ton $	25.90	27.72	25.85	26.14	27.30	28.23	25.78	26.40	----

*District (4) includes reports from Rutherford and Polk counties only.
†Condition May 25th refers to condition compared with a normal.

JUNE 1 CROP REPORT—COUNTY AVERAGES

District	Counties	Cotton Report, June 1, 1924					Winter Wheat—Condition at Harvest, per Cent	Oats—Condition at Harvest, per Cent	Potatoes (Irish)—Condition at Harvest, per Cent	Clover Hay—Condition, per Cent	Fertilizer—Amount Used Compared Last Year, per Cent	Pasture—Condition, per Cent	Peaches—Condition, per Cent	Home Gardens—Condition, per Cent
		Condition May 25	Usual Average Date of Planting	Usual Date Cotton up to Stand	Fertilizer Used: Average Pounds Used per Acre	Fertilizer Used: Average Value per Ton								
1	Alleghany					$	73	90	100	92	98	90	93	83
	Ashe						85		100		110	75	63	70
	Avery						67	40	92	92	100	79	25	74
	Caldwell						80		90	100	105	95		95
	Surry						93	87	76	87	98	86	98	86
	Watauga						95	88	100	94	111	93	78	98
	Wilkes						94	96	96	92	105	89	102	95
	Yadkin						94	82	80	86	99	72	100	88
	Northern Mountain (N.W.)						**87.6**	**86**	**89**	**89.5**	**101**	**87.5**	**90.6**	**90**
4	Buncombe						70	77		82	105	83	83	83
	Burke						86	62	94	95	105	85	92	90
	Cherokee						72	75	97	95	105	100	90	97
	Clay						68		87	90	115	70	70	87
	Graham													
	Haywood						62	90	97	90	104	85	86	88
	Henderson						75	90	96	73	102	81	78	75
	Jackson													
	McDowell						85	66	91	88	86	83	94	91
	Macon						55	85	90	80	110	72	90	80
	Madison						50	90	90	100	100	92	75	95
	Mitchell						60	80	95	85	104	93	93	93
	Polk	75	Apr. 29	May 13	400	23.50	92	85		95	100	97		90
	Rutherford	85	Apr. 26	May 11	400	26.50	94	33	70	100	108	88	99	67
	Swain						50		85	95	100	80		90
	Transylvania						80			75	110	75		80
	Yancey						80	102	100	79	102	80	48	99
	Western Mountain (W.)	**79**	Apr. 27	May 11	**400**	**25.90**	**78**	**72**	**91**	**86**	**103**	**85**	**86**	**86**
2	Alamance						88	83	90	89	108	94	81	85
	Caswell						77	95	90	78	100	87	115	75
	Durham	80	May 1	May 13			70	70	85	80	96	90	72	76
	Forsyth						100	90	100	87	99	90	91	85
	Franklin	59	May 5	May 16	364	27.13	90	60	75	87	100	85	110	76
	Granville						82	65	80	95	106	105	105	85
	Guilford	80		May 15	400	25.00	74	68	94	79	95	90	89	75
	Orange	80	May 2	May 17	333	26.25	86	91	92	93	106	95	91	89
	Person						74	92	100	95	100	98	100	74
	Rockingham						86	82	90	87	95	90	90	81
	Stokes						89	80	92	89	98	91	95	88
	Vance	59	May 6	May 18	533	26.30				80	105	94	90	85
	Warren		May 3	May 13	406	30.00	71	75	72	85	107	97	90	65
	Northern Piedmont (N.)	**59.7**	May 3	May 15	**395**	**27.72**	**82.6**	**80**	**89**	**86**	**102**	**92**	**92**	**82**
5	Alexander	67	May 2	May 14	300	27.07	87	63	90	94	117	83	88	77
	Catawba	47.5	May 1	May 10	300	24.50	88	72	97	82	107	90	91	89
	Chatham	58	May 3	May 14	425	22.50	79	38	100	99	115	88		75
	Davidson	62	Apr. 27	May 12	267	21.33	92	70		68	102	107	100	91
	Davie	72	Apr. 29	May 10	227	21.50	90	80		90	100	100		
	Iredell	72	May 3	May 17	311	25.23	92	50	88	93	114	102	92	91
	Lee	77	Apr. 24	May 10	400	28.00	86	95	100	99	112	90	78	97
	Randolph	85	May 3	May 15	381	26.75	91	68	92	92	109	98	90	91
	Rowan	68	Apr. 25	May 9	280	25.14	90	43	88	78	113	80	91	85
	Wake	70	Apr. 27	May 12	465	28.04	87	85	90	84	92	99	89.5	84
	Central Piedmont (C.)	**70.9**	Apr. 29	May 13	**345**	**25.85**	**88**	**63**	**91**	**89**	**108**	**94**	**89**	**88**
8	Anson	78	Apr. 20	May 4	333	26.66	100	100	100	100	100	90		90
	Cabarrus	81	Apr. 28	May 11	297	25.44	95	50	75	90	105	92	95	82
	Cleveland	64	Apr. 28	May 17	400	26.00	89	41	82	83	102	82	84	79
	Gaston	77	Apr. 25	May 11	325	24.30	91	82	82	88	117	85	100	91
	Lincoln	81	Apr. 28	May 13	336	26.50	92	100	92	93	120	96	75	85
	Mecklenburg	69	Apr. 26	May 9	296	24.36	81	66	75	97	110	87	77	81
	Montgomery	79	Apr. 29	May 9	437	29.50	78	57	82	70	102	90	83	60
	Moore	70	Apr. 26	May 10	541	27.16	98	75	100	115	108	82	95	87
	Richmond		Apr. 20			26.00			83		100		100	75
	Stanly	77	Apr. 29	May 12	366	25.33	96	70	91	100	105	97	93	93
	Union	72	May 4	May 16	400	23.44	73	73	80	97	109	90	95	87
	Southern Piedmont (S.)	**74**	Apr. 28	May 12	**368**	**25.90**	**89.5**	**67**	**85**	**92**	**108**	**89.5**	**91**	**85**
3	Bertie	67	Apr. 28	May 13	483	25.91			73	75	101	80		78
	Camden	80	May 6	May 13	500	25.00					112	85		70
	Chowan	85	May 5	May 18	450	30.00		97	97	100	100	92		
	Currituck	80	Apr. 26	May 11	475	25.00								
	Dare								100		100	100	100	100
	Edgecombe	79	Apr. 22	May 11	586	27.00	95	61	98	87	100	95	102	93
	Gates	62	May 5	May 20	520	28.00		65		100	125	100	90	75
	Halifax	60	Apr. 29	May 19	441	27.31	90	55	67	69	111	92	95	60
	Hertford	63	Apr. 24	May 9	450	27.13		77	85	90	103	72	87	71
	Martin	85	Apr. 24	May 7	623	26.28		95	87	95	100	97	94	94
	Nash	75	May 1	May 14	590	29.14		82		94	100	98	97	84
	Northampton		May 3	May 14	500	25.31			82	74	107	97	97	77
	Pasquotank													
	Perquimans	78	Apr. 25	May 16	450	28.33	105		95	100	102	100	110	60
	Tyrrell	95	May 1	May 10	600	30.00								
	Washington	68	Apr. 15	May 5	550	30.00			82	92	100	95	70	63
	Northern Coastal (N.E.)	**70**	Apr. 28	May 13	**520**	**27.30**	**97**	**74**	**84**	**83**	**105**	**92**	**96**	**76**
6	Beaufort	79	Apr. 23	May 12	544	29.47			88	98	98	100	112	91
	Carteret							80	80		100	83	90	95
	Craven	75	May 1	May 20	500	30.00			88	60	105	90	90	83
	Greene	78	Apr. 20	May 9	545	28.40	75	80	88	60	101	95	95	91
	Hyde	76	May 1	May 12	450	23.25		80	60	75	88	88	50	58
	Johnston	72	Apr. 22	May 9	528	26.97			75		104	75	88	92
	Jones	60	Apr. 30	May 23	425	31.50					94	83	83	78
	Lenoir	72	Apr. 19	May 12	605	28.89			84		101	85	88	93
	Pamlico							80	96		118	85	93	105
	Pitt	75	Apr. 23	May 6	630	29.55		92	93	85	105	93	100	89
	Wayne	73	Apr. 18	May 9	481	27.69	100	88	88	90	101	92	98	95
	Wilson	80	Apr. 21	May 7	620	28.50	100	95	98		105	100	93	89
	Central Coastal (E.)	**74.5**	Apr. 22	May 10	**542**	**28.83**	**94**	**87**	**87**	**93**	**101**	**89**	**92**	**87.7**
9	Bladen	53	Apr. 16	May 12	388	26.25			90		125	100	70	80
	Brunswick	83			500	24.67			85		99	82	88	90
	Columbus	75	Apr. 15	May 1	600	27.00		63	90		103	95	81	91
	Cumberland	69	Apr. 15	May 4	463	24.63			93		105	78	75	80
	Duplin	58	Apr. 19	May 6	383	27.67			82	70	100	80	82	77
	Harnett	78	Apr. 24	May 9	608	26.58	95	81	92	95	105	100	95	93
	Hoke	68	Apr. 11	May 1	567	27.83	90	75			100	100	50	100
	New Hanover								90		100	90	90	97
	Onslow	61	Apr. 22	May 13	410	25.76			85		102	95	88	98
	Pender								80		100	80	80	100
	Robeson	61	Apr. 20	May 12	410	27.66	85	88	90		118	100	84	75
	Sampson	73	Apr. 21	May 13	458	24.58			75		103	90	83	75
	Scotland	80	Apr. 14	May 11	615	26.60	100		88		102	98	93	74
	Southern Coastal (S.E.)	**69**	Apr. 19	May 10	**478**	**25.78**	**89**	**79.5**	**85.6**	**82.5**	**105**	**91.6**	**83**	**85**
	State	**71**	Apr. 24	May 12	**458**	**26.40**	**87**	**70**	**88**	**97**	**102**	**89**	**90**	**85**

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

In returning from a trip of field inspection this month it was quite common to see children and women working in the fields. In talking with these farmers the explanation was that labor was not procurable, and that they had to use their families in order to get any crops made. They complained that crop prices would not warrant paying nearly the prices asked for farm labor and equal to that which is readily being paid by public works and urban interests. It is no more reasonable to expect a farmer with his $20,000 farm capital to have to use his family as labor than it is any other industrial operator with an equal capital to use his family and children as common laborers.

There will be no hope for the farmers towards obtaining better conditions until they become better students and organizers. In securing the farm census results, discussed elsewhere in this FORECASTER, the evident lack of familiarity with the business side of farming is only too apparent. Other industries are avoiding disaster by taking advantage of the improved methods and studying the new ideas developed in their special line of work. Our farmers must come to the point where they read and study agricultural economics and statistics more consistently.

THE 1924 FARM CENSUS

(Continued from page 1)

government reports are released at Washington. The reason for this is that the government information is generally accepted as being impartial and as nearly accurate as it is possible to gain. The government reports, therefore, stabilize conditions on a basis of actual conditions.

It is being realized in all lines of business that the truth is the best foundation for all dealings. Trade secrets are fast becoming unknown factors. Exchange of basic information is quite the rule in all industrial organizations. Bankers, industrial organizations, packers, cotton mills, etc., are finding it increasingly beneficial to let the public know the important features of their book, especially the financial conditions. This gains confidence of customers. Where uncertainty exists, the largest margin of profit and the least favorable considerations exist.

Just as with industrial dealings, agriculture will not be on a safe or profitable basis until basic information is obtained and made practical use of. As soon as the public gains the confidence in the agricultural organization and the farmers' methods and economic information, just so soon will the farmer fare better and gain the sympathy of those interested in his affairs. These conditions will also bring about a basis for more business-like dealings and stabilization of production and prices.

The idea that farmers can keep their own dealings secret is absurd. In our field work we do not have to see farmers to find out what they are doing. The time merchants, bankers, and other business men are surprisingly well informed on what the farmers are doing. They, in turn, do not have to ask the farmers because by weekly or monthly trips along the highways the practices and trends of operations may be readily observed. Just so with the crop meter developed by our Bureau last year, and as discussed in last month's FARM FORECASTER. We can now pass along the road and measure fairly accurately all of the important crops.

After all, however, the very best information we get is that secured through the farm census, and we are confident that the farm owners are taking more interest in this and giving as reliable facts as they can. One outstanding feature of this work is that the farmers are discovering that they know very little about their own distribution of work and crops. The farm census has aided to a tremendous degree in causing them to become familiar with the economic side of their business.

Last week a party of men from our Bureau in Washington were compiling detailed data for determining the cost of production of crops in Johnston County. They were generally agreed that the farmers in North Carolina were more familiar with what they were doing, as well as the crop acreages, than any of the ten other Southern States they had been securing similar data in. They were greatly impressed with the evidence of prosperity and optimism of the North Carolina farmers. They were amazed at the high yields of cotton made last year. These specialists were especially pleased with the comprehensive data available through the Crop Reporting Service. They promised us the results of their cost of production findings, and we hope to reprint much of it in the FARM FORECASTER as soon as it is available.

CROP CONDITIONS JUNE 1, 1924

The combined condition of all crops of the United States on June 1 was about 7.3 per cent below their ten-year average condition on that date. Last year the June 1 condition of all crops was 4.7 per cent below the average.

The composite condition of all crops in North Carolina June 1 was 95 per cent of the average condition for the past ten years.

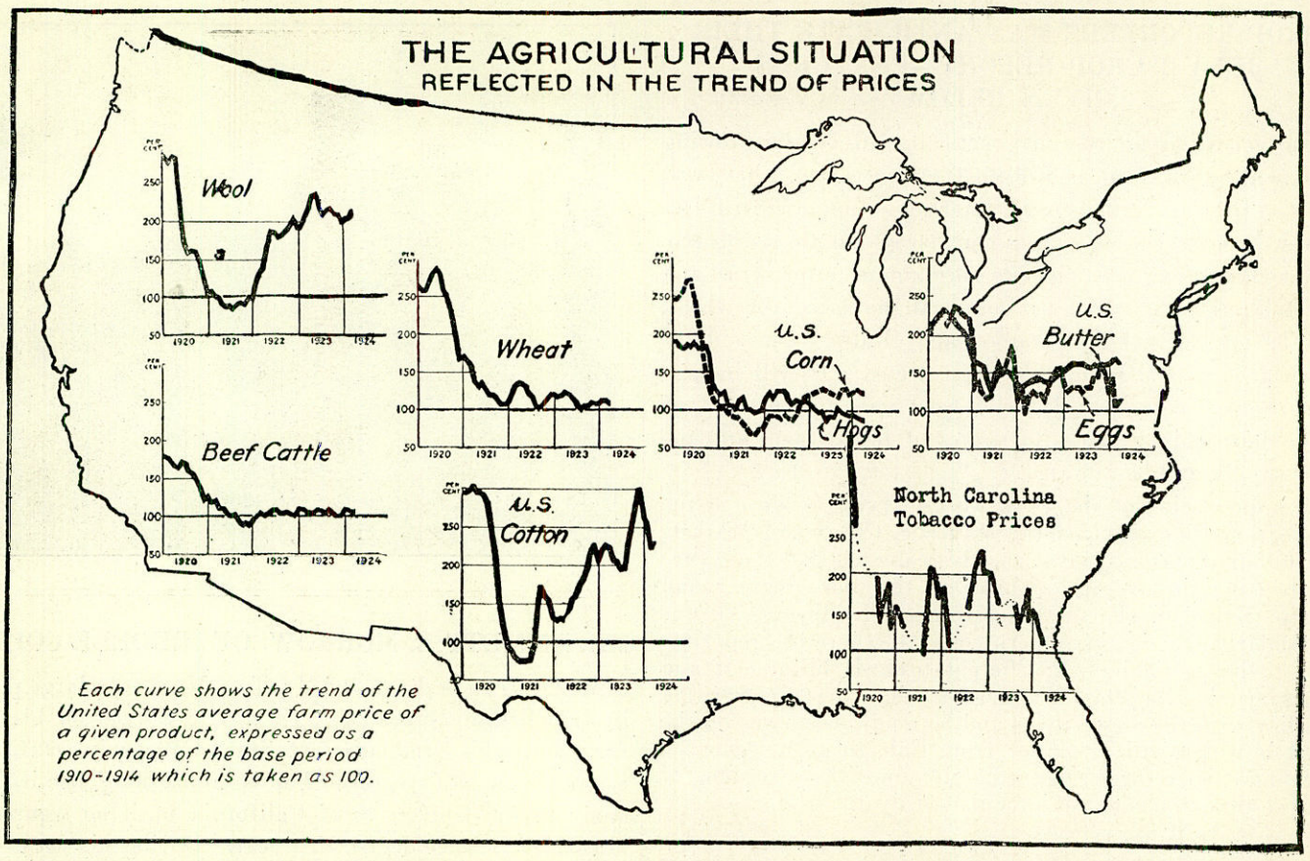
The cotton crop is 10 per cent below the ten-year average for this date. So is the condition of pastures and wheat. Fruits, on the other hand, are much above the average. Peaches are 15 per cent better than usual and apples about 6 per cent above the ten-year level.

CROP REPORTS—WHY

There are still some farmers and even business men who do not see any value in, or advantage to the farmer through, crop reports. If no farmer used this information directly it would still be well worth while. The merchant, banker, and manufacturer, seeing the advantages of this type of information in their own particular lines of endeavor, have come to read with interest basic information concerning farming and other interests. Every one is interested in farming because it is the basis of most raw products. It is well known that when the farmers prosper, general prosperity exists.

The stabilization of prices is brought about by a balance of supply and demand. Farmers have come more and more to depend upon getting advice from bankers, merchants, and traveling men, than from more direct sources, such as reading newspapers. The indirect benefit of crop reports is therefore the largest factor. If no crop estimates were secured by the Government, the farmers' friends, or those interested in their welfare, would have no unbiased agency for securing free agricultural information on crop conditions, acreages, productions, values, etc. Not only so, but the press of the country would be lacking in information that goes daily to the public, carrying valuable and current facts.

If the speculators had no competition in securing crop report information, they might manipulate their affairs more nearly as they wished, than they can under present conditions. One thing the average critic does not seem to appreciate is that cotton is only *one* of the thirty crops that the speculator has any material affect on, so far as North Carolina crops are concerned. Since the information is free to all, any person may avail himself of the same information that the trade secures. The farmer being the producer, the speculator cannot take advantage of him until he sells his produce. If he knew the trend of production and prices for two or three years preceding, together with the probable demand, a farmer could fairly well judge what price to expect for his farm products.



Relative prices tell the story of optimism or depression. With urban prices and wages from 60 to 100 per cent above pre-war level, producers of beef cattle, wheat, hogs, or other products selling at or below pre-war prices, are at serious economic disadvantage. This chart shows at a glance why the Far West is favoring sheep over beef cattle; why the Wheat Belt favors less wheat and more dairying; why the Corn Belt is increasing corn and reducing hogs; why the South has increased cotton acreage. (North Carolina tobacco prices, in map, are shown only for months during which sales occur.)

COMMENTS ON TREND OF PRICES ILLUSTRATION

The average farmer does not keep in close enough touch with the market trend of supply and demand which affect prices. Unless his marketing is done through coöperative or other organizations, there are apt to be glutted markets, meaning far more supply than there is demand, therefore heavy loss of produce.

The drawing above shows the trend of prices during the past four and one-half years for cotton, corn, hogs, wheat, butter, eggs, beef cattle and wool for the United States as a whole. It shows the tobacco prices for North Carolina only. The dotted line in the North Carolina tobacco prices are shown for the season when there is no tobacco sold—therefore, no prices available. In January, 1920, a point 400 per cent above the pre-war level was reached. The October and November prices seem to consistently show the highest level.

Looking at the cotton heavy line, it is observed that the prices in 1920 reached a point 300 per cent higher than the average price received by farmers from 1910 to 1914. During the latter part of 1920, the price, 13 cents, fell the entire 300 per cent, to a point below the average five-year period mentioned. The low level of early 1921 prices ranging around 12 cents started upward, reaching around 20 cents in September. With the newly-harvested crop coming on the market, the price declined again to about 15 cents, starting upward in April of 1922. The peak price was reached in December, 1923. This was about equal to the high point of 1920. The present price is close to 30 cents, and where it will go next is quite a problem.

It will be impossible to make a big crop of cotton this year, as the start was very backward and conditions since have not been entirely favorable for its growth. Production is likely to fall below the world needs.

The other crops mentioned may be interpreted in much the same way as explained with cotton. Corn and hog prices are shown as having been relatively high in early 1920, falling to a low level late in 1921. Hogs have steadily declined since early in 1922, while corn has had a trend upward since the fall of 1921. It is natural to expect hog prices to be low, following cheap corn. There has not been the usual heavy waves in hog prices for the past three years as is usually the case. This is probably due to the fact that farmers are using more business judgment in the corn and hog states, since the Department of Agriculture has been issuing more comprehensive reports, such as this and other economic publications offer.

The beef cattle producers of our mountain counties have been seriously discouraged by the low prices received for their beef. As is shown above, the prices of beef cattle have been quite on a par with the average pre-war prices. North Carolina is increasingly becoming more interested in butter and eggs. As with other products, 1920 was the high mark. Butter holds a more steady trend and has been making a steady climb since 1921. Eggs, on the other hand. have varied considerably, going low each spring. The fall of 1921 showed a peak price level, while the present year's spring prices of eggs averaged next to the lowest for several years.

PRICE TRENDS

Every business man has found it necessary to keep informed as to his business, in so far as the public is affected. He must know what the Nation's apparent supply and demand is. The business man must study competition, economic selling methods, advertising, over-head expenses, depreciation, insurance, etc. He must reckon with the transportation factor in so far as cost and carrying possibilities are concerned.

Agriculture has the greatest degree of risk of any industry. There are the ungovernable factors of rainfall and temperature, winds, diseases, and insect troubles. This risk has been so great that until quite recently no insurance company would cover any of them except hail damages. It is just as essential, or even more so, for the farmer to study these factors in the same light as the business man does those affecting his line of work. Even the florist can control his products largely by the aid of heat and housing. The manufacturer can start or stop his production at will. His turnover may be made several times annually. The farmer has a big investment, a slow turn-over, and a narrow margin of profit type of products. The solution to the farmer's production and marketing problems must come from a great increase in the producer's careful study of economic information.

CROP REPORTERS MAY ANTICIPATE THEIR JULY 1 CROP REPORT—FEATURES GIVEN BELOW

The condition figures on practically all of the growing crops will be asked for as of July 1, except cotton, which will be asked for June 25th as usual. Acreages compared with last year will be asked concerning corn, sweet potatoes, tobacco, hay, soybeans, cowpeas, peanuts, sorghum cane for syrup and velvet beans. The yield per acre will be asked for wheat, oats, barley, early Irish potatoes, and alfalfa. The quality of wheat, oats and barley will be expected. It will include the average weight per fleece of wool and the per cent of sheep shorn this spring. The rates of farm wages and the labor supply will be repeated.

In appreciation of the work we are trying to do and the publications like this and the Weather, Crops and Markets sent to our reporters, it is earnestly requested that more care be given by the average reporter to the more regular and prompt return of the schedules received by them. This is particularly true in the eastern counties where the reporters seem to be particularly indifferent towards filling out and returning the reports. We suggest that the reporter get familiar with the above items and be ready to answer on the schedule which will be mailed from Raleigh about June 25. They may be returned immediately upon their receipt, or between that time and not later than July 1.

THE CROP METER RESULTS FOR MAY

In making a trip of 908 miles last month many interesting observations were made in the different sections of the State. The principal one was that there is great difference in crop distribution and in systems of farming throughout the State. Some sections have the majority of the land lying out idle, notably in the northern Piedmont counties, while other areas have scarcely any land not under actual cultivation, as in the central and northern Coastal counties. In the western counties meadows and pastures make up the principal features of the farm program. In the east it is cotton.

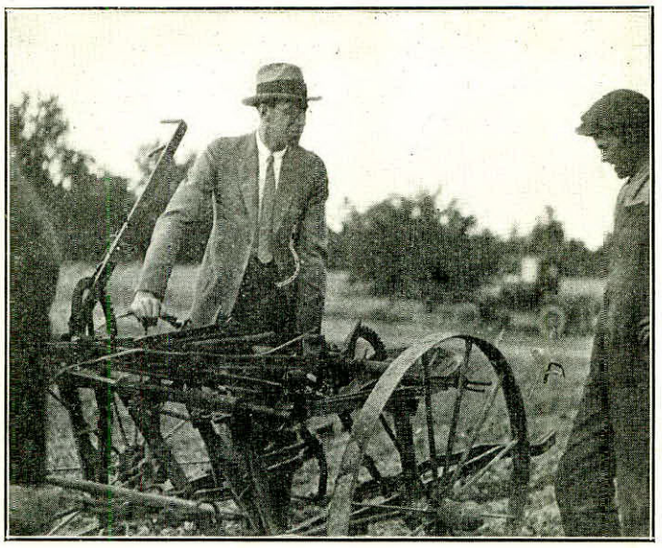
It was surprising to observe the great change in the small grain acreage. The fall oats were largely plowed up and the ground planted to spring oats or to some other crop. Rye is distinctly on the increase and a good crop is resulting. The wheat acreage is evidently considerably less than a year ago. Much interest is evident in the lower Piedmont and Coastal counties concerning truck and fruits. Young orchards and truck fields were frequently seen.

These statements are made to explain why the general State ratio of crops does not apply to any one section, but only in an aggregate sense. For instance, from Goldsboro south for thirty miles the truck acreage amounts to more than 60 per cent of the total cultivated area, while from Star southeastward to Raeford, peaches make up a large proportion. From Rocky Mount to Washington and back southwestward to Goldsboro, the cotton acreage averages 17 per cent of the total land acreage, or about 35 per cent of the total cultivated area.

A trip through the State in May and another in August shows a vast change in the crops growing on the same farms. The small grain are usually followed by legume hay crops or idle stubble fields. Truck patches in the east are usually followed by mixed hays, while the grain crops are followed with corn, soybeans or a hay crop. In fact, it is quite evident that the hay acreage is increasing at a rapid rate.

In the trip of 908 miles measurements to the extent of 4,089,300 feet were recorded. Of this the largest percentage was in woodland, amounting to 20 per cent. The town areas amounted to 15 per cent. The land that was plowed but crops not yet planted or in the condition to tell the kind of crops planted, amounted to 8 per cent. Cotton occupied about 13 per cent of the area; idle or land lying out, 8 per cent; corn, 5 per cent; tobacco, 4 per cent; oats almost 3 per cent; wheat, 2 per cent; hays and truck almost 2 per cent each. The remaining 18 per cent was composed of "other" areas, like cut-over land, waste, homesteads, rivers, etc.

The practice of using the crop meter causes the statistician to keep his eyes on the fields, resulting in many mental pictures of all parts of the State traveled through. For instance, on May 26, when returning from a trip with his Ford, Mr. Parker and Mr. Rhodes estimated the cotton crop to have a condition of 71 per cent. When all of the cotton reports were tabulated and summarized three days later, the average arrived at was 71.1 per cent.



MR. EMMETT B. MORROW, OF IREDELL COUNTY

Mr. Morrow is the son of Mr. Tom Morrow, a large planter in Iredell County near Mt. Ulla. He worked on his home farm until his graduation at State College in 1921. For two and one-half years he has been pursuing horticultural study in the University of California until he secured his Master of Science degree this year. During his vacation in California he worked on fruit farms in line with his special work.

The greatest weakness in North Carolina's agricultural statistics is that in relation to fruits and vegetables. It will be Mr. Morrow's principal duty to improve the information of this type. He entered the Crop Reporting Service this month. The picture above shows Mr. Morrow in Johnston County while he was enjoying a day back on the farm.

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This Farm Forecaster is issued monthly for North Carolina by the

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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