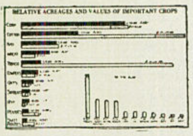
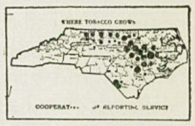
FARM FORECASTER

CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

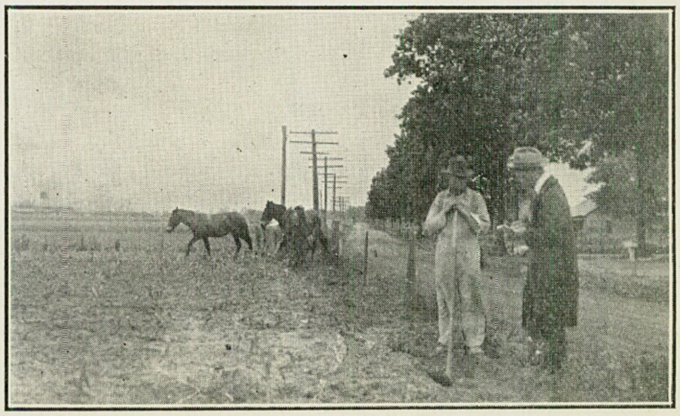


UNITED STATES
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Division of Crops and Livestock Estimates

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



BULLETIN 26 RALEIGH JULY, 1924



THE NATIONAL FARM FORECASTS

The wheat situation shows an acreage reduction of about 7 per cent. The July condition was 3 per cent better at 79 per cent of a full crop than the June 1st condition, the ten-year average being 4 per cent higher. The production is forecasted at 740,000,000 bushels, the average price being 99 cents on the farm. Oats are slightly increased in acreage; the 87 per cent condition is appreciably better than usual. The forecasted production of 1,356,000,000 bushels will perhaps result in a lower price than the 47 cents per bushel reported for June. Rye is reduced 16 per cent in acreage, but the condition is about as usual, the National price being 62 cents.

The truck outlook is fair to good. Irish potatoes have brought fair prices, especially where the yields per acre were high, as in this State. The National acreage was slightly reduced, but greatly increased in this State. The average condition is about the usual for this season. The June 15th bushel price is one dollar, or 25 per cent higher than a year ago. Sweet potatoes have about the usual acreage, with a condition of 81 per cent, which is about 5 per cent below the average. The average yield is estimated at 92 bushels, and the June price is $1.39 per bushel.

Fruit averages well, there being two-thirds of a full apple crop and 70 per cent for peaches. The commercial apple crop is estimated at 32,000,000 bushels, and peaches almost 54,000,000, both productions being much above the usual.

Cotton outlook is for a 4 per cent increase in acreage, 71 per cent condition, and 12,000,000 bales. The forecasted yield is 144 pounds per acre, with the June farm price being close to 28 cents per pound. The visible stocks are quite low, but consumption by mills is rather inactive. The North Carolina prospects are poor at this date.

Tobacco has about an 8 per cent decrease in acreage, with a condition of 78 per cent of a full crop, which is low. The production outlook is for 1,294,000,000 pounds. This is about 15 per cent below last year's outlook at this season.

WHAT FARMERS MUST DO

The greater the hazard in any business, the greater the need for careful analysis and study of production and marketing conditions. There is perhaps no industry that has a greater hazard than agriculture. The weather, through rain, hail, storms, freezes and excessive heat, may destroy a crop without any recourse to prevent it. Then there are plant diseases, insect pests and lack of organization in production and marketing that are against the farmers' interests.

The farmers must follow the examples of other business men by giving more attention to safe-guarding, to the best of his ability, against these factors. Criticisms of the government's efforts to help aid the farmers will not get them anywhere. It should be recognized that unless the methods and information advocated by the government specialists were approved they would not be tolerated. All industrial business organizations have their reports on trends of supply and demand, production and marketing costs. In fact, every business except agriculture has been worked out to such a definite statistical basis that almost any one could learn the last detail by a little investigation. This must become true in agriculture.

We must not only secure information on the farmers' intentions, but we must learn to analyze these for the purpose of correcting the chances of over- or under-production prior to the time of actual planting. Intentions reports are not collected for the purpose of making estimates, but rather that the farmers may know the trends and be in a position to correct their plantings before it is too late.

The farmers must mix business thought with their hard work. They must take time to think out their plans before beginning to execute them. Those familiar with farm work know that the farmer's reputation for being idle for one-half of the year is not true; but it is true that they have ample time to more carefully plan their year's work during periods when outside work is not permitted. The idea that specu-

(Continued on page 7)

STATE AND NATIONAL CROP REPORTS

(Cotton, Tobacco, Soybeans and Peanuts comments on p. 6)

While the United States corn crop shows the lowest July condition in its history, conditions in North Carolina are also becoming distressing. The weather conditions in this State have been unusually unfavorable for several weeks. This has resulted in poor cultivation, grassiness and uneven stands and growth of many types of crops. It has been very difficult to harvest small grains and hay without serious damages. While the farmers had poor spring conditions to start their farm work, yet their good spirits have lasted until the recent continued wet weather has made them very much disheartened. The hand labor required for keeping cotton and tobacco clean has been very expensive and, considering the shortage of the supply, is a serious problem.

There are some favorable aspects, such as good fruit crops, good pastures, good corn, and the most favored areas are in the heart of the cotton, tobacco and small grain belts of the State.

CORN

The North Carolina corn crop shows a condition of 84 per cent, which is about the ten-year average. The acreage is reduced 2 per cent from last year, partly on account of unfavorable spring conditions for planting. The present outlook of the crop is 13 per cent less than last year. The average price of $1.10 per bushel is some less than a year ago, but is the third highest of any State in the Union, Georgia and Alabama leading. Last year's crop was unusually good all over the country.

The United States condition is 13 per cent below the ten-year average and the lowest in the history for this season. The acreage is reported to be slightly increased, resulting in a forecasted production of two and one-half billion bushels, or 16 per cent below last year's harvest. The average price of the country is 81 cents as compared with 86 cents a year ago.

WHEAT

The wheat outlook in North Carolina is unusually good for this year, the average reported yield being 11½ bushels per acre and the quality unusually good. Only 4 per cent of last year's crop is reported as remaining on farms at this date. The acreage is considerably reduced, being 10 or more per cent below last year's. The forecasted production for this State is 5,300,000 bushels. The average price per bushel is about $1.20, which is much less than a year ago. This price, as with corn, is one of the highest quoted for any State.

The United States condition average 78 per cent, this being 3 per cent below the ten-year average and forecasts a production of 542,551,000 bushels of winter wheat, while the condition of 82 per cent forecasts 197,461,000 bushels of spring wheat.

OATS

The oat crop for North Carolina promises a yield of about 21 bushels per acre. The quality is very good. The acreage is slightly reduced. The winter conditions were unusually damaging to the oat crop, resulting in a very poor stand and much abandonment of the winter crop, while the spring crop was considerably increased, due to the losses of the fall planted crop. The growth of the winter oat plants was unusually good and many farmers left even poor stands to be harvested. This is particularly true in the central and western counties. Spring oats are very low or dwarfed, while the heads are unusually heavy. This crop has one of the best stands recorded for many years. The production outlook is forecasted at 4,700,000 bushels. Of the North Carolina crop 60 per cent is planted in spring oats.

The National outlook is for 1,356,338,000 bushels, based on a condition of 86.9 per cent. This forecast is 4 per cent better than last year. The average farm price was 47 cents, as compared with 44 cents a year ago. The yield this year is estimated at 32.6 bushels per acre.

IRISH POTATOES

The early Irish potato crop in North Carolina is perhaps the largest in the State's recent history. There have been 5,655 cars of early commercial potatoes shipped from North Carolina to July 10th. The shipments this season are expected to pass 6,000 cars. The prices received have been generally satisfactory, due to the large yields per acre. Many reports of 30 to 1 yields, equivalent to 200 bushels per acre, have been known. The average yield of probably over 120 bushels per acre is estimated for this crop. The quality is unusually good. The acreage was increased perhaps more than 20 per cent over last year's crop. The average person does not know that cotton is frequently planted between the rows of the early potatoes, so that a few days after the potatoes are harvested the cotton is sufficiently high and well cultivated that all evidences of the potato crop are gone. This is intensive farming whereby two valuable cash crops are grown on the same land in the same year. Double or companion crop farming is very common in the trucking regions. The late crop of potatoes, of course, will be determined at a later date. It is expected, however, that this year's Irish potato production will be around 5,000,000 bushels, or 21 per cent above last year's reported production.

The National Irish potato crop has a forecasted yield of 99.4 bushels per acre, which is almost 9 per cent below last year's crop. The acreage is reduced 10 per cent from last year's. The average farm price per bushel is about $1.00, or more than 20 per cent better than prices a year ago.

SWEET POTATOES

The sweet potato outlook in North Carolina is very problematical at the present time, due to adverse weather conditions. While a condition of 82 per cent of a full crop is reported, the wet weather conditions existing since the time the reports were made may have appreciably lowered that condition. The acreage is reported to be 4 per cent greater than last year's. North Carolina has consistently ranked high in its sweet potato production. It also has been a consistent heavy loser through faulty methods of harvesting and storing. Last year would have netted the farmers a big sum had they properly housed their potato crop. It is generally true that the potato crops, which sell for low prices early in the season, are likely to bring good prices for storage potatoes simply because few are stored.

The United States sweet potato outlook is for a 7 per cent reduction in acreage and a condition of 79 per cent of a normal crop. This forecasts a production of about 91,000,000 bushels, which is 6 per cent below last year's production and 8 per cent below the five-year average. The forecasted yield per acre is 92.2 bushels, while last year the average yield was 98 bushels per acre. The present National price for sweet potatoes is $1.38 per bushel, which is 30 per cent more than they sold for a year ago.

PRESENT CROP FORECASTS

Crops	North Carolina		United States	
	1924 Production	1924 Compared 1923	1924 Production	1924 Compared 1923
Cotton, bales	720,000	70	11,934,000	118
Tobacco, pounds	315,468,000	82%	1,294,000,000	88%
Corn, bushels	51,428,000	88	2,515,000,000	82
Wheat, bushels	5,567,840	92	543,000,000	95
Oats, bushels	4,753,980	94	1,563,000,000	120
Rye, bushels	621,100	103	64,800,000	103
Irish potatoes, bushels	5,715,960	144	373,000,000	90
Sweet potatoes, bushels	10,233,600	103	91,200,000	94
Peanuts, pounds	156,817,248	96	676,079,000	106
Soy beans, bushels	3,111,000	111		
Hay (all), tons	1,137,500	109	90,100,000	85
Apples—				
Agricultural, bushels	6,000,000	222	196,388,000	100
Commercial, barrels	300,000	300	32,263,000	94
Peaches, bushels	1,900,000	731	53,700,000	118

FRUIT OUTLOOK

Judging from a special peach and apple inquiry sent out recently, indications are for rather promising prospects for these two principal fruits. In terms of percentages of a full crop promise the State average for apples is reported as 77 per cent and peaches as 80 per cent.

Reports from counties in the eastern mountain belt show a quite favorable outlook in both apples and peaches. Averages, in terms of per cent of a full crop, promise for Alexander, Caldwell, Surry and Wilkes counties show 73 per cent for apples and 87 per cent for peaches. Blight in this section is reported as relatively light and a light to medium drop has occurred.

In the western mountain belt reports are slightly less favorable, but the outlook is reported as generally good. Averages from Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Polk counties indicate 69 per cent of a full crop promise for apples. Blight is reported as light, and the drop is given as medium to heavy.

In the Sandhills peach district reports indicate a very favorable outlook. The averages for Montgomery, Moore and Richmond counties show 87 per cent of a full crop promise for peaches. A light to medium drop is reported. Prospects in this section are generally considered as unusually good, and it is quite probable that a large crop of fine quality fruit is being produced.

Reports for the State as a whole show that blight has been quite serious in spots, but is generally given as light. A light to medium drop is reported, and some local frost and hail damage has occurred. In general, the State outlook is quite promising.

TRUCK

Conditions this year have apparently been rather good for the production of early truck. The early Irish potato crop is unusually large, with more than 5,800 cars already shipped. The quality is reported good and the yield heavy. Irish Cobblers make up most of the shippers' crop. The production of early cucumbers has also been heavy, totaling to date about 1,540 cars. The color and size was good. In the Mount Olive section the Early Fortune variety is favored and both the black and white spine types are grown. Snap bean shipments are reported at 600 cars for the season to date. Canadian or May peas were shipped in large quantities from eastern trucking counties. An unusually large acreage was harvested.

The following table gives the approximate carlot shipments to date from North Carolina and the Nation, and the percentage that North Carolina's production is of the total for the country. Early strawberries are included as a matter of general information as shipments were completed some time ago.

Approximate Carlot Shipments to July 12th of Fruits and Vegetables

Products	*Carlots from North Carolina*	*Carlots United States*	*Per Cent North Carolina of National*
Irish Potatoes	5,800	35,000	16.5%
Strawberries	2,007	17,700	11.3%
Cucumbers	1,540	4,800	32.0%
Snap Beans	600	3,300	18.2%

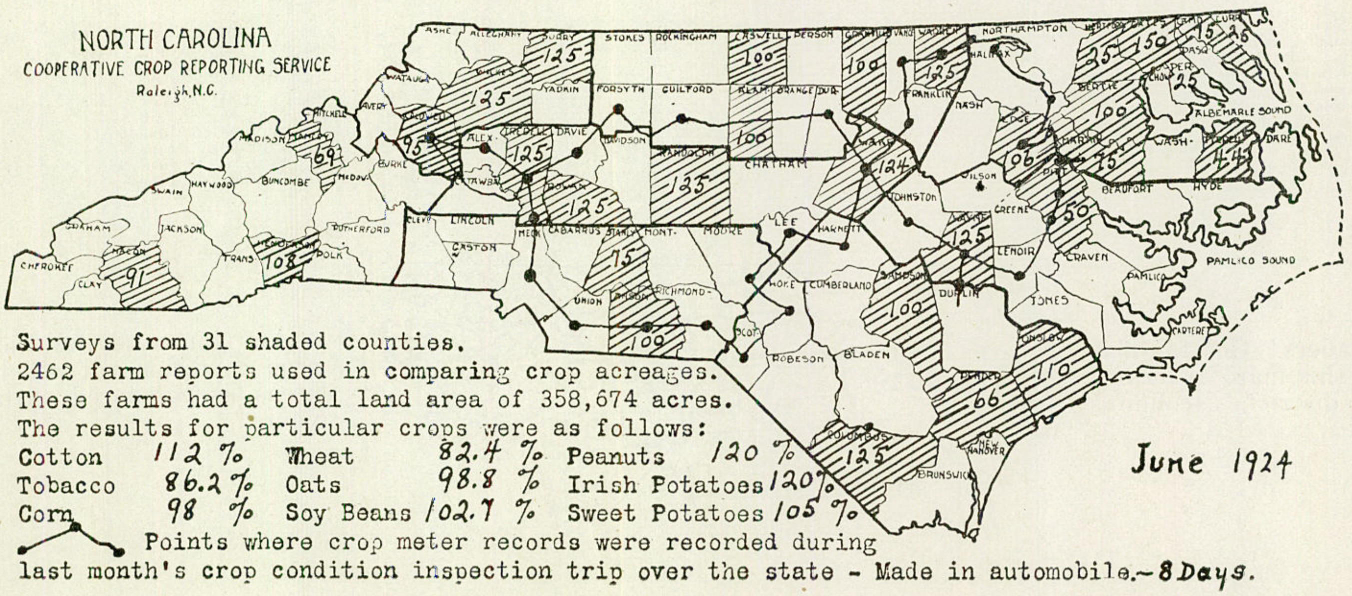
That North Carolina is coming back as a trucking State is evident. The boll weevil ravages will probably encourage this further. Sweet potatoes are grown to a great extent, but few are shipped. We are behind in this crop from a commercial standpoint. The principal drawback is in our method and degree of curing, grading and marketing. A surprising large percentage of North Carolina sweet potatoes decay each year.

We have at least one large kraut factory. Many of the mountain counties grow large quantities of cabbage.

A SIMPLE, TEDIOUS TASK

The average person thinks it is a simple matter to determine the monthly conditions of the crops; for instance, cotton being 73 per cent on the last report. As a matter of fact, it is a tedious, long process to arrive at this figure. For instance, in July a field trip of over 1,000 miles was made in a Ford, during the entire trip of which two members of the Crop Reporting Service were carefully watching, literally, every field passed. During this time crop meter and field counts were made. Interviews at county-seats were held concerning important crops. More than 10,000 schedules were sent to cotton farmers. The returns to the Raleigh office alone numbered more than 1,000 used. Comparisons of about 3,500 cotton farmers' cotton acreages were made with last year's acreages. These various data were assembled into county tabulations, carefully edited for reasonableness, county averages were determined, district figures were worked out and valued according to their importance of production, and State figures finally determined. Checking to prevent errors was, of course, necessary all the way through. This detailed procedure is not only given to cotton, but also in relation to all other crops.

A SURVEY OF 1924 CROP ACREAGE COMPARISONS WITH LAST YEAR



JULY 1 CROP REPORT

(See map below for district divisions)

Crops and Features Reported	Unit	Mountain Counties: Northern Mountain 1	Mountain Counties: Western Mountain 4	Piedmont Counties: Northern Piedmont 2	Piedmont Counties: Central Piedmont 5	Piedmont Counties: Southern Piedmont 8	Coastal Counties: Northern Coastal 3	Coastal Counties: Central Coastal 6	Coastal Counties: Southern Coastal 9	State Average: July 1, 1924	State Average: July 1, 1923	U. S. Average, July 1, 1924
Corn—Acreage planted this year:												
(a) Compared last year	%	98	95	95	95	94	97	98	98	98	100	101.4
(b) Compared usual	%	98	95	95	109	94	96	98	99	-----	100	-----
(c) Condition	%	90	90	83	83	85	80	84	79	84	85	72
Wheat—(a) Average yield per acre	Bu.	10	14	11	14	15	14	18	15	11.5	-----	14.7
(b) Quality	%	96	94	88	95	96	82	66	86	93	-----	-----
(c) Per cent 1923 crop remaining on farms	%	7.9	6.7	5.9	4.0	3.0	5.0	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	-----
Oats—*Per cent of total acreage in:												
(a) Spring oats	%	78	72	43	37	29	75	78	74	60	-----	-----
(b) Fall oats	%	22	28	57	63	71	25	22	26	40	-----	-----
Average yield per acre—(c) Spring oats	Bu.	21	26	17	21	20	20	32	23	22	-----	-----
(d) Fall oats	Bu.	22	22	19	23	21	21	36	25	20	-----	-----
(e) Quality of all oats	%	91	88	88	89	80	82	87	79	86	-----	-----
Potatoes, Irish—Average yield per acre	Bu.	95	88	82	93	89	116	86	114	114	-----	99.4
Sweet Potatoes—Acreage planted this year:												
(a) Compared last year	%	93	85	82	90	90	91	95	96	104	91	99.7
(b) Compared usual	%	95	83	82	91	90	93	94	98	98	92	-----
(c) Condition	%	88	87	78	85	85	83	88	75	82	80	81.3
Tobacco—Acreage planted this year:												
(a) Compared last year	%	93	93	87	84	91	92	95	88	90	99	92.4
(b) Compared usual	%	90	87	87	85	92	103	97	91	92	99	-----
(c) Condition	%	73	97	74	82	87	75	81	68	77	78	78.8
Apples—Condition	%	81	82	85	87	93	87	88	80	82	42	66.5
Hay—Acreage expected tame this year:												
(a) Compared acreage harvested last year	%	98	92	96	95	98	94	95	95	99	-----	101.4
(b) Compared usual acreage	%	99	93	97	97	99	98	96	97	100	-----	-----
(c) Condition (tame hay)	%	89	87	91	90	94	89	88	85	89	81	83.4
Acreage expected, wild, this year—												
(d) Compared acreage harvested last year	%	88	87	96	92	97	97	100	100	101	-----	-----
(e) Compared usual	%	86	85	95	92	97	97	100	100	98	-----	-----
(f) Condition (wild hay)	%	90	84	94	83	89	91	100	90	89	81	-----
Wool—(a) Average weight per fleece	Lbs.	6	4	5	5	5	5	3	5	5.2	4.9	-----
(b) Number per 100 shorn this spring	No.	80	77	52	78	73	77	40	-----	89	-----	-----
Clover (For hay)—Condition	%	88	88	81	90	86	83	90	-----	86	84	-----
Alfalfa—(a) Average yield per acre	Tons	3.0	1.5	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.65	-----	-----
(b) Condition of growing crop	%	80	91	84	89	93	94	102	-----	93	83	-----
Pasture—Condition	%	94	90	91	96	95	91	95	97	94	85	-----
Grapes—Condition	%	95	93	94	92	91	92	87	91	90	80	-----
Pears—Condition	%	65	80	77	78	72	71	64	48	70	23	-----
Blackberries—Total production	%	96	95	91	95	89	91	91	88	93	-----	-----
Melons—Condition	%	81	84	73	82	89	72	82	61	77	77	75.4
Soybeans—Acreage this year:												
(a) Compared last year	%	106	95	100	102	98	98	101	102	102	102	120.6
(b) Compared usual	%	121	98	101	107	101	99	103	97	110	103	-----
(c) Condition	%	87	94	88	91	89	83	90	80	87	86	85.1
Cowpeas—Acreage this year:												
(a) Compared last year	%	93	89	93	92	91	89	85	84	93	92	95.2
(b) Compared usual	%	93	86	92	92	92	89	86	86	75	93	-----
(c) Condition	%	88	93	88	89	87	83	79	73	84	84	82.8
Sorghum Cane (For sirup)—Acreage this year:												
(a) Compared acreage last year	%	91	96	89	85	90	92	91	84	96	92	101.6
(b) Compared usual	%	90	93	86	84	90	89	88	82	95	93	-----
(c) Condition	%	87	92	86	89	89	89	85	78	88	85	83.2
Peanuts—Acreage planted this year:												
(a) Compared last year	%	100	94	98	89	93	100	97	89	106	105	107.5
(b) Compared usual	%	100	98	94	91	99	94	98	90	98	103	-----
(c) Condition (per cent of normal)	%	87	98	89	82	92	82	85	74	84	86	82.6
Pecans—Condition	%	110	80	92	93	95	89	89	102	92	-----	-----
Velvet Beans—Total acreage:												
(a) Compared last year	%	98	100	82	96	73	96	101	89	97	-----	97
(b) Compared usual	%	90	105	80	96	93	90	102	90	100	-----	-----
(c) Condition	%	97	100	88	78	88	93	88	72	80	-----	85.6
Home Gardens—Condition	%	95	92	89	92	91	86	91	81	90	-----	-----
Farm Wages—(a) By month with board	$	32	37	31	30	27	29	29	27	30	-----	-----
(b) By month without board	$	45	48	41	41	39	45	38	39	41	-----	-----
(c) By day with board	$	1.63	1.83	1.71	1.60	1.35	1.44	1.45	1.40	1.65	-----	-----
(d) By day without board	$	2.06	2.24	2.20	2.06	1.80	1.92	1.93	1.72	2.00	-----	-----
Farm Labor—(a) Supply compared normal	%	82	84	83	83	90	75	91	81	83	-----	-----
(b) Demand compared normal	%	92	98	96	94	99	99	105	104	99	-----	-----
JULY 1 COTTON REPORT												
Present Acreage—(a) Compared last year	%	-----	102	107	102	104	102	99	105	108	103	104.4
(b) Compared usual	%	-----	100	105	100	102	102	95	99	102	100	-----
Condition—July 16 compared normal	%	-----	74	54	66	67	50	50	43	56	80	68.5
Per cent full stand this year June 25 report	%	-----	86	79	86	86	77	78	77	79	-----	-----
Boll Weevils Present—(a) Compared last year	%	-----	73	51	73	89	54	104	81	75	-----	-----
(b) Compared usual	%	-----	79	44	79	93	65	100	86	84	-----	-----
First Squares Formed—(a) This year	Date	-----	June 18	June 18	June 18	June 15	June 17	June 11	June 12	June 16	-----	-----
(b) Usual	Date	-----	June 10	June 15	June 10	June 8	June 11	June 6	June 7	June 9	-----	-----
First Bloom—(a) This year	Date	-----	July 10	July 10	July 10	July 7	July 10	July 4	July 1	July 6	-----	-----
(b) Usual	Date	-----	July 3	July 2	July 4	June 29	June 30	June 27	June 23	June 27	-----	-----

Readers! Get familiar with this map. It locates the districts' columns above.

Are you studying the crop conditions of other areas as compared with yours?

JULY 1 CROP REPORT—COUNTY AVERAGES

County	Present Acreage Compared Last Year, Per Cent	Condition June 25, 1924, Compared Normal, Per Cent	Per Cent of Full Stand This Season	Boll Weevils Present This Date Compared Last Year, Per Cent	Corn: Acreage Planted Compared Last Year, Per Cent	Corn: Condition, Per Cent	Winter Wheat, Average Yield Per Acre, Bushels	Sweet Potatoes: Acreage Planted Compared Last Year, Per Cent	Sweet Potatoes: Condition, Per Cent	Tobacco: Acreage Planted Compared Last Year, Per Cent	Tobacco: Condition, Per Cent	Tame Hay, Acreage Compared Last Year, Per Cent	Soy Beans, Acreage Compared Last Year, Per Cent
Alamance	122	75	87		99	80	9.4	96	81	88	71	97	103
Alexander	112	77	77	39	89	89	10	89	88	86	79	95	95
Alleghany					100	88	11	97	88	110		100	
Anson	100	74	86	86	102	79	15	100	85			105	
Ashe					97	87		100	90			95	
Avery					99	90	10			110	80	95	
Beaufort	102	68	75	135	97	87		100	82	97	80	90	90
Bertie	98	68	79	80	100	79		94	72	82	76	75	93
Bladen	104	72	74	71	100	65		80	77	95	37	100	95
Brunswick	250	81	83		No report								
Buncombe					91	90	14	73	83		100	80	106
Burke					96	86	10.7	82	94	94	100	96	83
Cabarrus	103	81	91	88	94	84	12	87	82			95	90
Caldwell					100	95	9	100	90	100		95	80
Camden	103	65	73		No report								
Carteret	117	50	75	90	90	90		110	100	95	85	80	95
Caswell					91	89	10	77	80	89	79	95	100
Catawba	108	82	80	54	96	89	14	95	85	110	90	91	93
Chatham	107	78	84	66	93	73	9	85	81	57	70	89	118
Cherokee					100	90	10	75	90			100	100
Chowan	98	64	71	75	100	85		100	63		73	100	118
Clay					107	90	8	70	80			95	88
Cleveland	104	74	84	94	88	84	16	86	85	100		99	105
Columbus	114	70	75	101	100	77		100	75	97	72	88	100
Craven	84	72	77	65	100	91		100	95	84	90	100	105
Cumberland	107	68	73	84	100	78	12	75	55	100	70	110	75
Currituck	105	75	65		100	83		95	85			90	98
Dare					105	93		90	90				105
Davidson	147	70	67		97	92	14	92	90	87	93	105	100
Davie	135	83	81	40	90	90	10	85	80	87	82	78	60
Duplin	102	74	89	83	99	77		108	88	94	78	94	100
Durham	150	83	87		100	86	8	77	62	72	71	95	88
Edgecombe	102	85	85	96	101	92	10	99	88	98	77	99	98
Forsyth					95	91	14	90	83	98	73	97	100
Franklin	105	73	79	41	95	90	10	60	80	80	60	90	80
Gaston	104	78	86	89	83	73	10	90	83			92	75
Gates	101	59	74	14	98	84		89	78	85	88	102	99
Granville	110	60	90		92	72	8	70	80	55	57	90	110
Greene	101	88	82	102	98	78		92	90	103	82	87	99
Guilford					95	92	12	91	90	93	85	96	105
Halifax	101	60	75	19	92	71	8	87	88	80	67	102	93
Harnett	104	81	86	111	99	95	11	97	93	95	73	100	95
Henderson					98	88	9.5	86	88			95	105
Hertford	99	68	72	75	99	79	20	98	83	94	81	95	93
Hoke	100	67	75	91	90	80	15	100	45	105	80	100	90
Hyde		63	58		No report								
Iredell	107	75	76	39	97	72	11	87	76	73	76	89	100
Jackson					100	90	8	100	100			100	
Johnston	103	71	80	111	99	71	15	99	86	85	77	95	100
Jones	105	77	77	87	100	60		85	63	93	63	90	105
Lee	107	76	83	69	94	78	10	90	92	80	85	90	113
Lenoir	102	78	83	85	98	90		100	93	94	74	100	100
Lincoln	102	78	83	87	98	97	19	92	86			99	98
McDowell					91	92	12	92	87			88	93
Macon					100	90	8	100	87			100	112
Martin	102	78	84	52	99	90		87	87	99	83	97	98
Mecklenburg	102	70	84	81	101	83	13	95	88			103	106
Mitchell					100			100				100	
Montgomery	106	80	88	97	100	91	13	85	100	100	90	98	105
Moore	110	78	85	98	100	91		100	88	86	86	100	100
Nash	109	79	80	78	98	85	20	100	89	72	69	90	108
New Hanover					100	100		70	75			75	75
Northampton	100	66	73		94	66		78	72			93	93
Onslow	99	67	75	77	100	76	20	94	63	71	62	95	103
Orange	107	75	76	100	96	82	10	100	77	85	87	102	105
Pamlico	78	81	81	85	80	90		60	90			75	90
Pasquotank					75	80		75	50			75	75
Pender	108	72	78	67	100	65		100	88	80	63	95	100
Perquimans	88	69	72		101	85							
Person					95	84	10	82	79	93	72	98	96
Pitt	99	80	81	102	97	92		91	86	100	86	100	107
Polk	108	98	97	48	96	98	15	87	90			95	93
Randolph	118	83	82	81	97	85	14	95	91	88	89	104	114
Richmond	103	79	82	89		No report							
Robeson	100	65	74	55	95	71	12	103	67	94	71	95	77
Rockingham					80	90				100			
Rowan	112	94	85	59	96	81	16	95	85	100	90	96	97
Rutherford	101	83	85	76	88	88	10	77	81	100		83	58
Sampson	102	76	77	92	98	81	25	117	87	80	65	95	95
Scotland	105	74	80	77	95	89	12	85	80	73	72	97	100
Stanly	108	81	87	85	92	87	9	100	95			100	100
Stokes					96	85	8	80	80	98	80	93	
Surry					99	88	11	91	76	94	63	95	103
Tyrrell		85	85	120		No report							
Union	101	81	88	92	93	81	11	85	80			96	95
Vance	106	74	79	40	84	65	12	70	67	81	68	95	95
Wake	112	75	79	59	95	86	9	87	84	89	77	99	105
Warren	103	66	76	77	97	82	14	65	75	81	69	97	97
Washington	97	64	78	118	100	75		85	75			95	
Watauga					101	87						100	
Wayne	101	76	86	86	99	88	20	94	88	100	85	100	101
Wilkes					98	95	11	90	96	85	92	98	111
Wilson	99	75	81	98	99	92	20	96	88	99	76	103	102
Yadkin					95	88	9	95	88	92	77	107	103
Yancey					90	88	10	90	90	88	90	83	100
State	108	73	79	75	98	84	11.5	104	82	90	77	99	102

FOR DISTRICT-SECTIONAL INFORMATION, SEE OPPOSITE PAGE

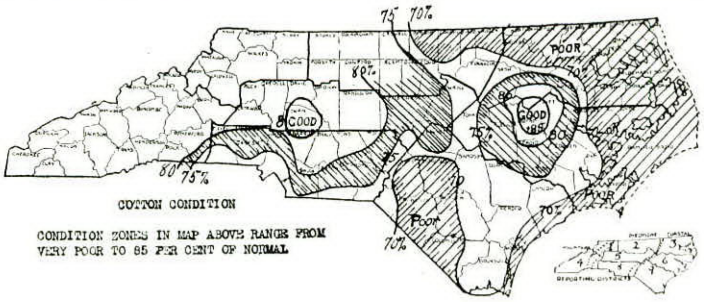
COTTON

North Carolina made an enviable reputation as a cotton growing State last year when 1,020,000 bales were grown, at an average of practically 300 pounds of lint to the acre. Last year's crops put money into almost every cotton farmer's pocket. Debts were settled and far more than the usual amount of goods were paid for by the farmers in cash last winter. It was that crop which convinced many farmers in North Carolina that they could grow cotton in spite of the boll weevil, the simple reason being that they had actually done this. Most farmers overlooked the fact that June of last year was an ideal month for cotton. The setting of bolls during July was sufficient to make an unusually large crop. Plants were closer together in the rows than usual, which helped in hastening the maturity of the boll. In late September and October the cotton leaf worm came along and stripped the leaves off, hastening the opening of bolls and cleaner picking.

Last year's conditions will perhaps never be repeated again. In contrast to that, we have had a cold, wet and late spring. Warm, sunshiny days came in late May and early June over part of the State. A large increase in the acreage was contemplated, but it was impossible to carry out the full intention. On a basis of June 1 of this and last year, about 3,500 cotton farms were surveyed, showing 58,538 acres this year, which was 11 per cent more than last year's acreage on these same farms.

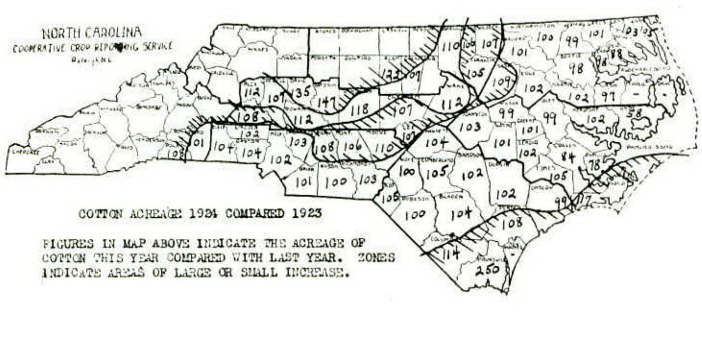
On a basis of 1,054 reports used, the cotton report for North Carolina showed an acreage of 108 per cent as compared with last year, 73 per cent of a full crop condition prospect, 79 per cent of a perfect stand, 75 per cent of the boll weevils as compared with the same time last year, the first squares appearing on an average date of June 16th, while the usual date the squares first appear is June 9th. The first blooms appeared on an average date of July 6th this year as compared with the usual first appearance of June 27th. The most conspicuously bad features of cotton this year are small plants, irregular stands and grassy conditions.

The southern cotton belt shows a June 25th condition of 71 per cent, or slightly better than a year ago. This condition is based on prospects which were practically devoid of boll weevil effects. The chances of a decline are very strong in view of the continued wet weather conditions and expected boll weevil ravages. The natural crop acreage is expected to be increased about 4 per cent. This will give a prospective production of over twelve million bales, or an average yield of 144 pounds per acre. Last year's production was some over ten million bales and the two previous crops much less than that.



COTTON CONDITION

CONDITION ZONES IN MAP ABOVE RANGE FROM VERY POOR TO 85 PER CENT OF NORMAL



COTTON ACREAGE 1924 COMPARED 1923

FIGURES IN MAP ABOVE INDICATE THE ACREAGE OF COTTON THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR. ZONES INDICATE AREAS OF LARGE OR SMALL INCREASE.

TOBACCO

The tobacco sales for the past season in North Carolina totaled about 310,000,000 pounds. The Cooperative Association reported sales for the Bright Leaf Belt, including Virginia and South Carolina, of over 145,000,000 pounds. Last year's production in this State was estimated at 386,400,000 pounds at an average of 21 cents value, giving $147 per acre.

The acreage this year is considerably reduced; in fact, surveys of over 2,500 farms in North Carolina showed an acreage reduction of almost 14 per cent. The July 1st condition of 77 per cent indicates a production of about 320,000,000 pounds, or 635 pounds per acre. Conditions since the time of the reports have been detrimental to the tobacco crop, due to too frequent rains. This year's outlook is discouraging at the present time. The best conditions, fortunately, are to be found in the main producing belt from Lenoir northwestward to Nash, thence westward to Forsyth.

The unsatisfactory prices received by farmers last year are largely responsible for the large decrease in acreage. Of course, high-priced cotton had its influence also. Much complaint has been made concerning the leachage of fertilizers from the soil, due to the large amount of rain experienced during the last month.

PEANUTS

North Carolina is one of the principal peanut producing States of the Union. Her production last year was estimated at 163,000,000 pounds. The commercial producing area is confined almost entirely to the northeastern part of the State, the Virginia line just about halving the belt extending up into that State.

According to our survey of over 600 farms in this area, the farmers had 20 per cent more acreage planted than last year. The official figures, as estimated by reporters, were a 6 per cent increase. Last year's report showed that 90 per cent was planted alone—that is, solid acreage; that 22 per cent was in small or Spanish peanuts and 43 per cent in large or Virginia types of nuts. Those familiar with the State express the opinion that perhaps fully 95 per cent of the acreage is planted alone, and that over 50 per cent is planted to Virginia peanuts, including Jumbos.

The 84 per cent condition indicates 1,000 pounds per acre, and 157,000,000 pounds for the State.

SOYBEANS

The main soybean reports will be made in August. However, in July a year ago our reports indicated that of the soybean acreage 47 per cent was planted for harvesting the beans, 31 per cent for hay, and 22 per cent for grazing and soil improvement by turning under. It was also estimated that 43 per cent of the acreage was planted alone—that is, nothing but soybeans—while 57 per cent was planted with corn or other crops.

This year's report indicates a slight increase in the acreage over last year and a condition of 87 per cent of a full crop. It is generally recognized that soybeans are rapidly replacing cowpeas. This is due to the lower cost of seed and the larger production, as well as ease of harvesting soybeans over cowpeas. The central and western counties are particularly taking more interest in soybeans as a crop. The expected total acreage of soybeans this year is slightly more than 190,000 acres. Last year's yield was 17 bushels per acre, with a seed production of 2,482,000 bushels, the average value being given at $2.00 per bushel, making the seed worth $34.00 per acre. It should be recognized that many seed were not picked, but fed with the plants. Others were grazed down, as harvesting methods were not satisfactory. The hay yield was estimated to average 1.5 tons per acre.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

This crop season begun late in the spring under adverse weather conditions. Crops are from ten to twenty days late not only in North Carolina, but in many parts of the country. While the spring weather usually finds the farmers in fine spirits, this year has been one of discouragement. Nature, however, is a remarkably recuperative agency. Right when conditions are blackest, the bright sunshine and a few days of good weather makes a wonderful difference. An old saying is that "sunshine follows the darkest night."

Over the country at large the corn crop is extremely irregular, due to poor seed and bad weather. Wheat is generally good west of the Mississippi and is also unusually good in North Carolina. In view of the recent improvement in the wheat market, this is fortunate for this State. The hog situation is due to follow after a period of discouragement.

Towns-people are beginning to realize the effects of over-production capacity. Most industries are in the position recently experienced by wheat and livestock producers who were all loaded up and no place to go. Money is almost as cheap in New York as hogs are in Iowa. Most prices continue downward, while farm prices are being maintained. The index of the purchasing power of farm products is gradually growing closer to that of other commodities. The 77 per cent purchasing power of farm products is the highest for forty-four months. The growing inactivity of industrial work has not yet apparently affected agriculture, but there is quite a speculation as to the outcome. For two years farmers have had remarkably good domestic markets for their products. Fall conditions may change this. Agriculture is now like a ship stripped for action, for farmers are better informed than usual. Those best informed claim that for the immediate future the farmers stand a chance of gaining more from cheaper labor and materials than they do of losing by a closer market for semi-luxury products.

In the Southern States crops were growing rapidly until some time in June. Cultivation was rapidly being caught up with. Cotton was growing nicely and coming into bloom. There were plenty of weevils in the Southern States, but very little damage observed. The outlook was particularly good. Since that time, however, the continued rains have seriously damaged the crops in the Atlantic Coastal States more than elsewhere. On July 12th the outlook in North Carolina was particularly blue, as the rains have come daily for a long time.

FARM PRICES

North Carolina farmers are particularly interested in the outlook for cotton, tobacco and peanuts, as these are the chief cash crops on which the farmers depend for their money income. As will be observed from the map on page 6, the best conditions of cotton are to be found in the central eastern and the central Piedmont counties. The Coastal Belt, particularly in the northern counties, may experience a very disastrous cotton year. The price, therefore, should appeal to growers.

In May, 1913, cotton averaged 11.6 cents. May a year ago the price was 26.2 cents as compared with 28.1 cents this past May. Favorable weather conditions in the western cotton belt have resulted in a slight decline in the price. The shortage of the world's supply is bound to hold the prices up to a fairly good level.

Corn shows a price one-third greater than in 1913, while wheat and hay are one-fourth higher than before the war period. Hogs are still below the pre-war level. Wool is bringing the best price, which is more than twice the 1913 basis.

Early truck Irish potatoes have brought fairly good returns to the growers in the Carolina district, especially in consideration of the large yields and the quality made. The monthly trend of almost all prices is downward. Food is staying about the same, as are building materials.

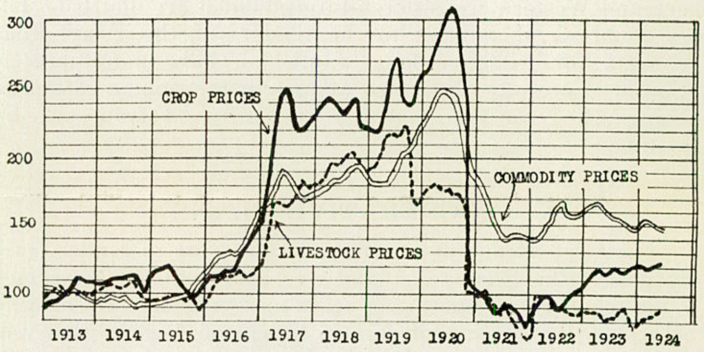
RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER

The relative purchasing power of all commodities show that cotton will buy one-half more of other commodities than it would in 1913. On the other hand, corn, wheat and hay will purchase from 10 to 15 per cent less than they would before the war. In terms of clothing, corn, wheat and potatoes will buy only about two-thirds of what they would in 1913. When we come to livestock, we find that the purchasing power ranks around one-half the value it had in 1913.

The farm wage level shows that the National trend is more than one-half again as high as it was ten years ago, while the general wage level is more than twice what it was in 1913. The retail price of food has gradually declined from 1920, when it was twice the pre-war level, until it is now only 40 per cent higher than the basic 1913 price. The wholesale price of food is 37 per cent higher. The wholesale price of all commodities is almost 50 per cent higher than ten years ago.

The general trend of prices for farm crops shows that they are 39 per cent higher in value than they were in 1913, while the purchasing power of farm products for other commodities is only 77 per cent. The low point in the purchasing power of farm products was reached in 1921 at 64 per cent.

TREND OF PRICES



The curve of "commodity prices" represents the Department of Labor wholesale index of all commodities exclusive of farm products and food. The livestock and crop price curves represent prices received by farmers. For about two years prices of non-agricultural commodities have been slowly falling. The farm product group has been depressed by low-priced meat animals, a natural result of the grain surplus of 1920-21, which lead to expanded livestock operations. These livestock surpluses are gradually being worked off.

NORMAL OR FULL CROP CONDITIONS

The North Carolina crop reporters are generally aware that these terms are synonymous. The normal relates to more than an average crop and less than a bumper crop. The average farmer's idea of a full crop is the same, it being the crop he expects to harvest if conditions are reasonably good throughout the season.

WHAT FARMERS MUST DO

(Continued from page 1)

lators would not know farm conditions unless the farmers reported the conditions is not according to facts. Even while traveling on trains crop conditions can be fairly well determined. It is easy and a common practice to get acreage changes from year to year from bankers, supply merchants and other business men with whom the farmers talk. Forecasting of crops must be done in order to stabilize production and marketing trends. The farmer must know the competition he is up against in order to market to the best advantage.

AUGUST 1st CROP REPORT

The schedule for the August crop report will be mailed from headquarters about July 23d. This should reach all reporters by the 28th. They should be returned, mailed by reporters, BEFORE July 31st. The schedule covers the condition of corn, sweet potatoes, tobacco, peanuts, apples, cultivated hays, pasture, cowpeas, soybeans, velvet beans, small fruits, melons, sorghum cane, pecans and home gardens. Companion cropping, as with soybeans and cowpeas planted with corn or other crops, is asked for in connection with these crops, as well as peanuts and velvet beans. The per cent of corn having companion crops is also asked for. The per cent of the peanut crop—that is, of small, medium size and large nuts—is asked for. The average yield of clover hay, alfalfa and the total production of blackberries is included.

The cotton report is due to be mailed immediately after August 1st. It includes inquiries on the condition for the reporter's immediate locality, the number of weevils as compared with the same date a year previous, as well as the usual number at that date, the usual date of the first grown boll and the usual date that the first boll opened, are mentioned. Remarks are especially desired. Cotton reports will hereafter be made semi-monthly, the mid-month report being released with the ginning figures.

It will be noticed that this year's crop report schedule includes mostly Southern crops, and that many of our Northern and Western crops heretofore included are omitted. This is doubtless of interest to the readers of the FARM FORECASTER, for we have long wanted to have more data on Southern crops. Important factors in relation to cotton are being asked for this year that are different from previous years.

COOPERATIVE PLANS

The Crop Reporting Service, in an effort to render better service, rather than to expand its work, is undertaking more comprehensive cooperative relations with the Division of Markets, the State College and Extension Service this year. It is generally known that the National Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the County Commissioners are cooperating with the State Department of Agriculture in the State's agricultural statistical work. The Horticultural work in relation to fruits and vegetables will be largely done by Mr. E. B. Morrow, who replaced Mr. T. W. Hancock, Jr., July 1st. The first months results are shown on page 3, concerning fruit crops.

THE CROP REPORTER'S REPORTING AREA

Perhaps no reporter is consistently well informed on the entire county's crop conditions. For this reason it is expected that the reporter will let his estimates apply to the *largest* area with which he is familiar, regardless of where other reporters are located. No reporter should report for just two or three farms, or especially his own, unless that is specifically asked for. The average of poor and good crops are needed.

LATEST NEWS, JULY 21

At last the long, drawn-out rainy period has seemingly passed and a week of favorable conditions for farm work has enabled the farmers to do considerable field work. This has resulted in the killing of a large part of the grass in the fields, which condition has been one of the worst in the State's history. Most all crops have made rapid improvement for ten days. The weather conditions have turned almost certain disaster into fair prospects.

Cotton is the worst hit of all of the crops. Many farmers have a fair weed growth, but very little fruit. The wet weather conditions resulted in either the lack of the formation of squares or their dropping off, leaving the stalks fairly bare of fruit. The crop is about ten days late. The boll weevil infection is not nearly as great as it was this time a year ago. The condition of the crop at 56 per cent for North Carolina is 17 per cent less than the report indicated three weeks earlier. The National Crop Report for July 16th shows a difference of only 2.3 per cent less than on June 25th with the outlook for 11,934,000 bales.

The tobacco crop is ripening entirely too fast, the result being that farmers are scarcely able to house and cure it as rapidly as is needed. The plants have a thin body and fair size growth. The color is curing out good, the weight being light.

Perhaps no crops have been helped more by the recent favorable weather than truck and fruit. The shipping and eating qualities were rapidly becoming bad. The flavor of melons and peaches were becoming insipid. The heavy peach crop has resulted in a flooding of the northern markets and a consequent loss of profit to the growers. An enormous quantity of peaches are going to waste at the orchards.

AUGUST OFFICE CROP REPORT PROGRAM

Aug. 2. Close and tabulate REGULAR report. (43 items.)
5. REGULAR report goes to Washington.
5. Close and tabulate COTTON report. (8 items.)
6. Work up FRUIT and TRUCK crop report.
7. REGULAR report released in Washington. Released at Raleigh to press.
7. COTTON report goes to Washington.
8. COTTON report released in Washington. Released at Raleigh to press.
8. Release REGULAR crop report to all correspondents.
8. Semi-monthly CROP NOTES schedules go to reporters.
11. Close FARM FORECASTER copy for printing.
13. Special report on intentions to plant WHEAT and RYE to Washington.
15. Special report on intentions to plant WHEAT and RYE released.
16. Send SEMI-MONTHLY CROP NOTES to press and correspondents.
16. Mid-month COTTON schedules go to reporters.
21. Close mid-month COTTON report.
22. Mid-month COTTON report goes to Washington.
23. Mid-month COTTON report released for press.
23. SEMI-MONTHLY CROP NOTES schedules go to reporters.
27. FRUIT and TRUCK CROP schedules go to reporters.
Sept. 1. SEMI-MONTHLY CROP NOTES to press and correspondents.

(Other SPECIAL reports for August not yet determined July 12th)

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This Farm Forecaster is issued monthly for North Carolina by the

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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