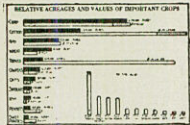


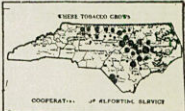
FARM FORECASTER

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



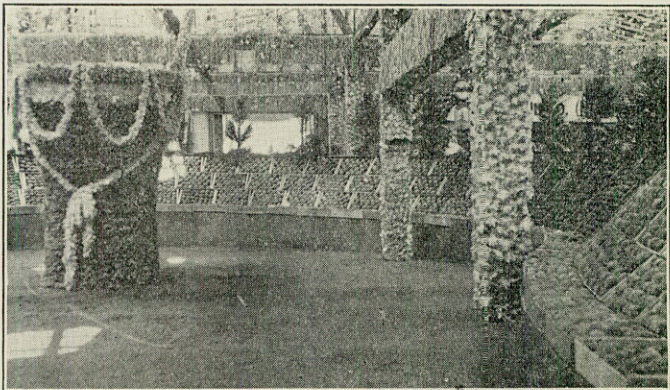
BULLETIN 27

RALEIGH

AUGUST, 1924



Principal Crops in North Carolina, Tobacco, Cotton, Corn, Soybeans.



Sandhills Peach Show Held in Hamlet, N. C., Recently.

AUGUST 1 CROP FORECASTS

		PRODUCTION—NORTH CAROLINA			PRODUCTION—UNITED STATES		
		1924		1923	1924		1923
		Condition Aug. 1st, Per Cent	August Forecast	Harvested Crop	Condition Aug. 1st, Per Cent	August Forecast	Harvested Crop
Corn.....	bu.	75	45,918,000	58,568,000	70.7	2,576,000,000	3,046,000,000
Cotton.....	bales	58	753,956	1,020,000	67.4	12,251,000	10,128,478
Tobacco.....	lbs.	68	270,000,000	386,000,000	71.7	1,202,000,000	1,491,000,000
Sweet potatoes.....	bu.	75	9,516,000	10,500,000	70.2	80,800,000	97,200,000
Potatoes, white.....	bu.	86	4,532,000	3,956,000	85.4	399,000,000	412,000,000
Winter wheat.....	bu.	—	5,830,000	6,038,000	—	589,000,000	572,000,000
Oats.....	bu.	84	4,515,000	5,082,000	88.2	1,439,000,000	1,300,000,000
Rye.....	bu.	—	574,000	603,000	93	65,000,000	63,000,000
Buckwheat.....	bu.	88	157,000	176,000	87.7	15,100,000	13,900,000
Sorghum syrup.....	gals.	81	2,787,000	2,944,000	75.5	—	32,001,000
Peanuts.....	lbs.	70	130,830,000	153,000,000	75.6	636,000,000	636,000,000
Hay (tame).....	tons	87	783,000	941,000	84.4	89,000,000	89,100,000
Apples (commercial crop).....	bbls.	88	324,000	100,000	57.8	29,400,000	34,300,000
Apples (agricultural crop).....	bu.	88	6,482,000	2,700,000	57.8	184,000,000	197,000,000
Peaches.....	bu.	88	2,060,000	260,000	66.9	52,200,000	45,700,000

NORTH CAROLINA: A FRUIT AND TRUCK STATE

Thirty years ago North Carolina was quite a trucking State. Because many crops became unprofitable, due to competition with Virginia and South Carolina production, former trucking territory lost its importance. For the past few years trucking has been on the increase in North Carolina; the Sand Hills and mountain counties have also shown considerable increase in fruit activities.

The peach industry in North Carolina has grown rapidly during the past ten years. This year's production outlook in the Sandhill area alone was for 2,500 cars. Due to the unfavorable marketing conditions, perhaps less than 2,000 cars will be shipped out. This same area, extending up to Sanford, has a large acreage of dewberries, the expected production being 300 cars this year. In the lower Sandhill region, extending to Robeson County, the watermelon and canteloupe industry is quite important. Except for the unfavorable weather conditions, 700 cars of melons would

have been shipped this year. Thousands of cars of lettuce, cucumbers, beets, early Canadian peas, beans, and other truck were shipped, strawberries over 2,000 cars and Irish potatoes over 6,000.

In the mountain counties the interest in truck, including potatoes and cabbage especially, is assuming large proportions. A large kraut factory is active in Boone. Certified seed Irish potatoes are being grown and shipped out of Avery and Buncombe counties. For many years large shipments of potatoes and cabbage have been going out of Jackson, Haywood, Buncombe, Caldwell, Wilkes, Surry, and other counties. The coastal and mountain areas form almost entirely the trucking territory of the State. The principal intensive areas are Moore, Scotland, Columbus, Duplin, Wayne, New Hanover, Beaufort, Craven, Pamlico, Carteret, Pasquotank, and Currituck counties in the east. The principal fruit counties are Sandhills surrounding Moore County, Surry, Wilkes, Alexander, Caldwell, Buncombe and Haywood in the west.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

A summary of the agricultural situation in the United States, according to the report issued August 1st by the United States Department of Agriculture, may be found in the short and terse statement, "Bad weather, higher prices."

For four years, the major food crops have been so bountiful that the market has been all a buyers' market. Now we are up against a season so backward and unfavorable as to change the basic production and price situation.

Wheat harvest has worked up into the north. This is undoubtedly a better year for the wheat growers, except in the Pacific northwest. Over much of the world, and especially in Canada, bread grains are shorter than last year, while our own yields are rather better. Assuming that growers will sell something over half a billion bushels of wheat, they apparently stand to get from one to two hundred million dollars more for it than last year. That means some paying of debts and easing of the strain. It is a question whether it will induce so cheerfully expansive an attitude on the part of the Wheat Belt, either financially or mentally, as some city spokesmen now prophesy.

The corn situation is by no means good. Stands are extremely spotted, many fields are full of weeds, and much of the crop is so far behind that it will need something approaching a frostless fall to mature. Corn is a feed crop; high prices mainly add to the cost of live stock production. Corn scarcity is as unprofitable to agriculture as a coal famine would be to urban industry.

The main significance of the corn situation lies in its effect on livestock production and prices of the coming year. Expensive corn this fall will presumably further the liquidation of breeding stock which is now in process. Unless history is a faithless guide, hogs and high grade cattle will be good property before this time in 1925. Of dairy cows, there are 6 per cent more in the country than last year, the increase being greatest in the west.

The south is going through critical days now, but cotton bids fair to produce a larger and more evenly distributed income than last year.

All in all, this season is apparently going to give agriculture some increased economic leverage. The index of purchasing power of farm products is slowly rising; it moved up to 79 in June (relative to the year 1913 taken as 100), or 10 per cent higher than any other June in four years.

Comparing crop productions at the present time with the crops raised ten years ago, the figures show that the country is raising a great deal more than at that time, and in many of the principal crops, this year's production amounts to more than the average crop during the ten-year period. The trend in prices during the month of July in farm products was lower. Cotton, beef cattle, hogs, butter, and wool showed a price level during July slightly lower than the previous month, while corn, wheat, hay, potatoes, and eggs were running a little higher. These trends are in prices received at the farm by producers.

In line with farm products, the following commodities likewise showed a lower price trend during the month: Food, etc., fuel and lighting, metal and metal products, building materials, and the average trend of all commodities was towards a lower level.

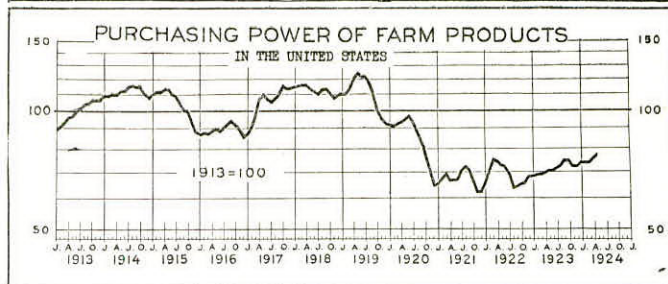
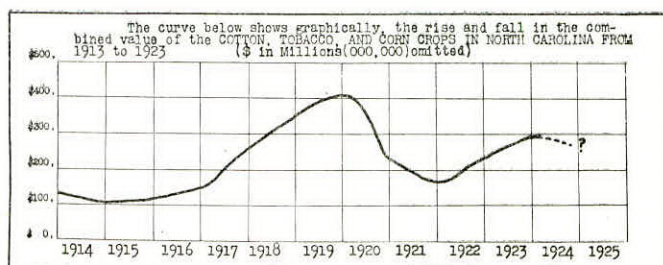
Observing the cold storage situation, we find that the general storage situation reflects the return of more normal balance between production and demand. It still tends

to strengthen the position of lamb and beef producers, while the opposite is true of dairy products.

"Business is quiet, especially that involving future commitments. The general trend of production and trade appears still on the down-grade.

"The stock market has advanced lately, affording hope that this may foreshadow a revival in business later on. So far as the day-to-day needs of the country go, they may presumably be counted on to sustain fair general trade activity and to increase it in the fall. But that great vacuum of war-time shortages in automobiles, textiles, and railway equipment has been filled and the building and construction shortage is rapidly being caught up. A slump was logical and we are getting it.

"Farm products will, perhaps, not find so active an urban market this fall as last. However, as things look now, this may be largely offset by shorter supplies of some of the major foodstuffs."



This curve represents the relationship between prices, at the farm, of farm products and prices, at wholesale, of non-agricultural products, unit quantities being considered in each case.

For more than three years the exchange value of farm products has been at the lowest level in a generation. Considering the year 1913 as 100, the purchasing power index averaged 67 in 1921, 69 in 1922, 72 in 1923. It is now rising; in June it stood at 79.

The graph above shows the aggregate value of cotton, corn, and tobacco in North Carolina for a series of years. It does not show a true comparison between the upper and lower graphs, as the top refers to North Carolina only, while the Purchasing Power illustration relates to the United States as a whole. The high point reached in 1920 shows a corresponding high purchasing power, which illustrates that the condition was rather general over the country.

Cotton still holds the lead in its purchasing power, with wool a close second. Swine are low, with hay and wheat also low. At the present time farm products will purchase almost 80 per cent of the non-agricultural commodities that they would in 1913. There has been a steady rise since 1921.

In North Carolina the situation is much improved from that of one month ago. Weather conditions are vastly different. Crops have recuperated wonderfully. Boll weevils are not as menacing as was expected. Crops are fairly clean. Small grains are unusually good. Peanuts are good. Tobacco is better than was expected. It should be remembered, however, that the long rainy spell washed out much of the plant food, especially in sandy soils. This is telling on many crops.

WHY DO FARMERS NEED CROP REPORT INFORMATION?

The following was prepared in reply to a request from one of our crop reporters: "Please explain to me what good there is in these reports?"

It is generally known that merchandising and industrial work held an even greater risk than farming, before the cooperative exchange of RESULT statistics enabled progressive manufacturers to foresee trends and avoid the probable over-selling or over-buying. Banking became safe when auditing and exchange of credit and general trends of business information was established. Every productive industry now collects and publishes statistical reports of its own production and that of its basic raw products. They all publish reports of their business operation annually. Most states require this. By these methods they have obtained data which enables them to largely meet depressions and to stabilize their output in selling prices.

Farming is the last business of an industrial nature to take advantage of the proven methods of other businesses. The wisest heads of both bankers and farmers realize that farming is bound to be the footstool of traders until the farmers provide and STUDY the RESULTS of farm production, which will enable them to forecast the probabilities of supply and demand ahead of their spring planting and fall marketing.

The only way to meet the needs of the situation is for the farmers to do as the manufacturers, bankers, and others have done by making and studying reports of their own and the general farming operations. This has been accomplished in North Carolina with crop acreage only. The advantage to this State is already evident to outsiders who see the contrast with Virginia and South Carolina, where this information is not collected. During the past six years that this work has been done in this State, the realization of these statements has rapidly been appreciated. Unfortunately, several counties have steadily refused to cooperate in this work.

It is admittedly better for the farmers to report this information to an unbiased agency, as the Department of Agriculture, than for the required reports to be based on mere estimates. Truth and information nearest to the real conditions are always better than distortions and lies. Without this the speculators would probably return to their old practices of taking a maximum advantage of their privately collected information, for which they pay a large price. If having crop report information was to the disadvantage of the farmers, it would, of course, not be permitted to be collected. Farm-raised and farm-interested men are solely in charge of the crop reporting work. The State Statistician is a farm owner, and largely operates it himself. He has never known any other type of business, and has no other interests.

The speculator could take a maximum advantage of their own findings if the Government did not provide estimates to stabilize conditions. If the estimates should become biased (wrong), the public and trade would soon discredit them and they would be of no value. This is why we have to use care in developing the reports. Perhaps you think, as most others do, of cotton only in dealing with the crop report disadvantages. You must remember that there are thirty-five other crops in North Carolina that have no speculative nature. We regard this information of far more importance than that on cotton. Strange to say, practically all of the criticism which has been made concerning the crop report work has come primarily from large cotton counties.

Where ignorance exists, failure lurks. We listen to the scheming soothsaying local trader, whose main purpose is

THE OFFICIAL CROP REPORTING BOARD

The North Carolina Agricultural Statistician was called to Washington to appear on the official crop reporting board in relation to the August 1st crop report. This board has a special room where the consideration of various reports and data are available for determining the latest crop conditions and forecasts. Their work is done entirely behind guarded and locked doors, with the windows completely shaded and sealed to prevent any chance of communicating with the outside. Three field representatives of the Crop Reporting Service are required to be members of this board. There is doubtless no less biased or more broadminded analytical board of this kind anywhere in the world.

It is surprising to observe the degree with which they go into detailed analysis and study of the periodic weather conditions all over the United States, as well as the various kinds and sources of reports sent to the Secretary of Agriculture, who keeps these under lock and key until the board officially calls for them on the morning they convene. The time for the release of the crop reports is decided by Congress in January for the remainder of the year. Upon the completion of the determinations and at a set hour, copies of the results are given to newspaper reporters, the Associated Press and other news agencies, who have instruments awaiting them about the walls of the large room provided for this purpose. In this way the information is distributed all over the world within a few minutes after the board room doors are unlocked. This means that any person can get the information if they so desire as soon as it is released. It also insures that the trade and speculators cannot take undue advantage of their own privately secured information before the stabilizing Government reports are known.

THE FARMERS' GREATEST NEEDS

The average farmer thinks that if he can cultivate a few more acres to make a little more production, that he can see his way to be clear of the unprofitable work he is now doing

According to the observations of many experts familiar with and interested in the farmers' welfare, the farmers' greatest needs are: (1) More intensive cultural methods; (2) Familiarity with local, county, State, and National trends of production and marketing; (3) Appreciation of and practice of better grading, packing, and shipping methods; (4) To spend at least one hour a day in reading and studying as other industries have found it essential to do.

Although last, the perhaps most important of these needs is for more reading and contact with the commercial public than is now being done. The farmer must learn more of what is required after his products leave his hands in order for him to meet the competition and requirements. The farmers have been entirely too much at the commission man's mercy without knowing how to help himself. A little time given each day or week should enable any farmer to avoid many of the pitfalls that are at present handicapping the agricultural industry, which is now conducted under haphazard methods.

to undermine the good work being done by the Department of Agriculture. At the same time he is daily buying and selling locally at the expense of the farmer. It is far better for the farmers to study and learn conditions from the Government's reports, than to take interpretations from local buyers, who are admittedly trading with the farmers' products.

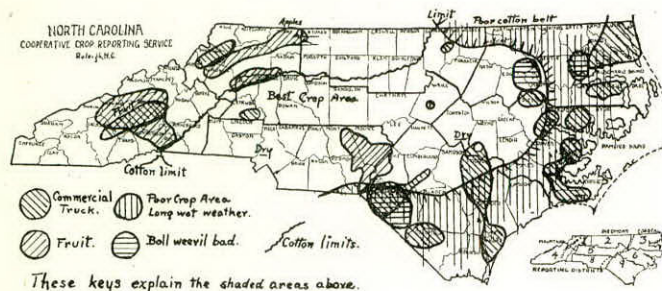
AUGUST CROP REPORT (By Districts)

(See District Map Below for District Division)

CROPS AND FEATURES REPORTED	Unit	MOUNTAIN COUNTIES		PIEDMONT COUNTIES			COASTAL COUNTIES			STATE AVERAGE		U. S. Average,
		Northern Mountain 1	Western Mountain 4	Northern Piedmont 2	Central Piedmont 5	Southern Piedmont 8	Northern Coastal 3	Central Coastal 6	Southern Coastal 9	August, 1924	August, 1923	
CORN—Condition.....	%	83.6	85	81	76	78	69	70	55	75	85	70.7
SWEET POTATOES—Condition.....	%	89	79	79	81	82	75	74	66	75	81	70.2
TOBACCO—Condition.....	%	76	86	71	73	71	65	66	57	68	86	71.7
PEANUTS—Condition.....	%	86	78	68	89	85	70	69	64	70	86	75.6
Per cent of crop planted alone.....	%	97	98	97	94	87	93	72	85	98		
Per cent of crop planted with other crops.....	%	3	2	3	6	13	7	28	15	2		
Per cent of crop that are Spanish.....	%	47	75	63	63	43	27	23	16	10		
Per cent of crop that are North Carolina.....	%	48		2	25	45	41	63	58	6		
Per cent of crop that are Virginia (Jumbo).....	%	5	25	35	12	12	32	13	26	84		
APPLES—Condition.....	%	86	83	90	93	96	88	92	88	88	33	59.6
HAY—CONDITION.....	%											83.8
All tame hays.....	%	92	87	92	92	89	82	83	75	87	80	
Wild hays.....	%	92	88	92	91	88	81	85	87	87	84	
COMPANION CROPS IN CORN:												
Per cent planted alone.....	%	88	88	88	86	79	65	45	51	74		
With two or more crops.....	%	3	2	2	1	1	5	3	5	1		
With peanuts only.....	%						2	2	1	10		
With soybeans only.....	%	3	4	4	4	5	18	33	20	12		
With peas only.....	%	4	6	6	8	13	8	15	16	11		
With velvet beans only.....	%	2			1	2	2	2	7	2		
CLOVER HAY—Condition.....	%	90	87	89	91	88	78	92	90	87	81	87.5
Average yield per acre.....	Lbs.	2262	2371	1785	1932	2441	1666		1000	2050		
ALFALFA—Condition.....	%	82	89	93	94	96	76	90	67	90	77	81.3
Average yield per acre.....	Lbs.	2614	2500	2067	2442	2312	2500	2000	2750	2380		
PASTURE—Condition.....	%	96	93	97	97	97	89	89	91	93	83	84
COWPEAS—Condition.....	%	87	83	89	87	88	76	74	63	78	80	
Acreage planted alone.....	%	75	73	77	78	77	43	16	28	50		
Acreage planted with other crops.....	%	25	27	23	22	23	57	84	72	50		
SOYBEANS—Condition.....	%	87	90	91	94	90	79	83	75	85	86	
Per cent of total acreage planted alone.....	%	73	82	86	78	76	50	25	32	45		
Per cent of total acreage with corn or other crops.....	%	27	18	14	22	24	50	75	68	55		
VELVET BEANS—Condition.....	%	74	74	84	89	88	80	87	70	79		
Acreage planted alone.....	%	69	74	48	18	32	31	5	15	16		
Acreage planted with corn.....	%	31	26	52	82	68	69	95	85	84		
CONDITION (Compared normal):												
Grapes.....	%	85	92	91	93	91	88	88	90	88	80	72.7
Pears.....	%	71	76	83	83	79	67	67	61	72	22	62.1
Blackberries.....	%	90	91	91	92	92	85	88	79	88	82	84.8
Melons.....	%	71	72	65	69	74	51	48	39	57	72	72.6
Sorghum cane for syrup.....	%	80	87	85	86	85	72	76	61	81	80	75.5
Pecans.....	%	73	59	86	83	93	84	73	71	77		
Home gardens.....	%	90	87	87	87	87	69	68	59	80		
FARM LABOR:												
Supply compared with normal.....	%	89	80	85	86	91	82	83	87	86		
Demand compared with normal.....	%	83	94	94	97	98	103	101	92	97		
AUGUST COTTON REPORT												
Condition cotton August 1st.....	%		77	63	69.9	72	57	55	49	58	82	67.4
Number weevils present August 1st—												
Compared number present August 1st last year.....	%		71	59	62	71	118	76	71			
Compared usual number August 1st.....	%		76	53	68	76	131	87	75			
Average date cotton made first grown boll.....	Date		Aug. 2	Aug. 4	Aug. 4	July 28	July 29	July 27	July 24			
Usual date of first grown boll.....	Date		Aug. 3	Aug. 2	Aug. 1	July 28	July 28	July 21	July 19			
Average date first boll opened this year.....	Date		Sept. 3	Aug. 27	Aug. 22	Aug. 27	Sept. 1	Aug. 20	Aug. 18			
Usual date first boll opens.....	Date		Aug. 20	Aug. 20	Aug. 20	Aug. 19	Aug. 19	Aug. 15	Aug. 12			
Average number bolls safe August 1st.....	No.		1	5	5	3	4	4	4			

THIS MAP SHOWS THE
REPORTING DISTRICTS.

FIX THEM IN YOUR
MIND



TO UNDERSTAND OR
TO LOCATE THE ABOVE
DATA, STUDY THIS
MAP

THE AUGUST 16th COTTON REPORT

According to reports released August 16th, the condition of the cotton crop in North Carolina improved only 1 per cent since the first of the month, showing a condition 59 per cent of normal. This indicates a prospective production of 795,000 bales, which is an increase of 41,000 bales since August 1st report. The normal refers to the yield per acre and not what some call a normal production. A normal or 100 per cent yield at this date would be 354 pounds of lint, but at a condition of 59 per cent, the prospective yield is only 208.8 pounds.

The Nation's crop, according to the report released on the 16th, will be 12,956,000 bales. Of this amount, North

Carolina's crop amounts to 6.1 per cent. Last year we produced 10 per cent of the 10,128,000-bale crop.

Up until the first of August cotton suffered greatly from cool nights and excessive moisture, but from all present indications the crop is badly in need of rain, especially in the coastal and lower Piedmont counties. This unfavorable weather condition has caused the plants to yellow and shed their bolls to a great extent. It remains to be seen just to what extent the boll weevil will damage the crop. It is reported in the most intensive area that the pests are on the increase. It cannot be said, however, that farmers are not on the job, for they report a very small percentage of abandonment to this date. One man says: "Much of the cotton that has been carefully cultivated in this locality is an absolute failure although it has not been abandoned."

AUGUST 1 CROP REPORT (County Averages)

COUNTY	PERCENTAGE CONDITION OF CROP (Compared with Normal)													CLOVER HAY	
	Cotton	Corn	Sweet Potatoes	Tobacco	Peanuts	Apples, Per Cent of a Full Crop Promise	Hay, All Tame	Hay, Wild	Pasture	Cowpeas	Soybeans	Sorghum Cane for Syrup	Alfalfa	Average Yield Per Acre, First Cutting Pounds	Condition Per Cent
Alamance	80	88	87	84		89	91	95	94	95	96	93		2175	87
Alexander	62.6	74	83	71	85	100	98	98	100	95	95	88	98	2460	97
Alleghany		88	94			82	97	103	95			92		2200	96
Anson	60.1	68	70	50		132	92	100	98	73	90	80	100	2000	100
Ashe		88	82			59	89		92			65	75	2400	85
Avery		88	100			88	92	55	94	20	60	85		1875	82
Beaufort	41	59	65	61	70	84	79	100	80	75	74	40			
Bertie	56	73	80	71	68	80	87	85	92	71	73	85			
Bladen	47	40	58	63	75	75	60	60	94	60	60	75			
Brunswick	62	52	65	60	53	100	70	60	100	62	65	90			
Buncombe		92	82			79	80	85	95	95	100	91		2667	51
Burke		85	86		90	87	95	89	96	89	98	92	95	2500	92
Cabarrus	78	87	97		100	100	100	100	95	91	100	100	100		100
Caldwell		80	90	75		100	90	85	95	85	80	80			
Camden	55	75	75			64	90		93	95	88				
Carteret	63														
Caswell		87	84	79		92	90	80	94	90	97	85	100	1600	84
Catawba	74	71	82	75	83	85	86	90	85	92	97	90	90	1567	89
Chatham	65.7	60	75	71	100	102	83	81	104	65	90	70	98	2167	95
Cherokee		90	80			100	100		90			100			
Chowan	65	87	82	75	90	75	90	85	85	90	85	90	80	2500	80
Clay		82	95	99		77	100	95	90	83	92	97			87
Cleveland	71.6	73	78		74	87	85	82	94	81	86	76	94	2000	95
Columbus	49	41	54	49	80	84	57	70	82	57	61	43			
Craven	47	70	72	62	50	87	92	100	100		95				
Cumberland	45	64	83	63		85	77	110	92	76	78	60			
Currituck	55	67	72			93	92	90	93	80	88				
Dare		100	100			80	100	100	100	100	100				
Davidson	72.5	93	60	78	100	93	100	93	95	93	110	90		1750	100
Davie	81	85	85	89		94	78	88	94	87	93	90	80	1550	88
Duplin	42	52	54	57	70	71	65		85	66	80	65			
Durham	70	75	75	68	85	96	93	95	98	64	83				
Edgecombe	55	66	66	67	62	97	75	95	89	69	77	65	68	2000	50
Forsyth		100	75	85		90	90	100	100	100	100	95			85
Franklin	62	60	80	65	70	80	70	75	80	95	75	85		1100	90
Gaston	67.5	93	90	65	100	98	93	96	98	90	87	92	100	2500	95
Gates	56	72	76	50	63	80	78		75		75	40			
Graham															
Granville		77	81	74	85	89	95	92	96	91	93	76	90	1250	89
Greene	65	66	66	71	60	83	70	50	92	64	74	90			
Guilford	83	91	84	80		89	94	105	101	100	94	90	97	2050	94
Halifax	50	58	75	61	70	75	82	100	92	73	67	100	100	1500	100
Harnett	71	83	86	75	100	101	100	105	100	74	95	40		1000	90
Haywood		87	82	80		90	80	90	100	90	100	95	100	3250	95
Henderson		88	81	100		81	91	98	96	95	94	89		2575	93
Hertford	59	75	77	69	77	96	70	55	95	80	86	78	50		80
Hoke	53	55	60			85	100		100	70	70	40	60		
Hyde	41	45	83			93	100		110	80	87				
Iredell	69	83	84	84		89	92	93	98	88	94	91	90	2125	91
Jackson		95	87	80		90	95	90	90	100	100	100		2000	85
Johnston	55	80	80	59		96	86	95	97	67	87	90	80		100
Jones	28	33	75	58	65		70		90	60	52				
Lee	57	72	88	73		95	97	103	96	69	90	78	90	2000	80
Lenoir	57	78	74	69	70	88	69	65	77	65	91	50			
Lincoln	78.5	72.5	74			105	89	76	104	92	90	92	110	2875	86
McDowell		73	73		85	97	81	95	88	80	87	87		2422	88
Macon		87	85			62	90		90		75	87		1750	82
Madison		90	70			80	80		100					1000	90
Martin	53	73	71	60	63	96	77	63	94	71	81	55	90	1500	80
Mecklenburg	71.8	78.5	82	60		80	85	92	98	92	92	75	91	1650	81
Mitchell		97	87			82	89		97			75		2000	90
Montgomery	75	75.5	76	72		88	77	70	89	85	83	82		1500	76
Moore	72	95	97	84		99	100		105	102	110	85			
Nash	68	67	74	67	70	94	85	70	79	81	78	73		1000	
New Hanover		40	75				80		80	100	100				
Northampton	60	35	60	60	67	83	87	80	87	70	73	73	80		
Onslow	33	56	53	44	52	88	82		95	55	73	65			
Orange	63	74	74	63		97	96		101	86	78	100		2222	105
Pamlico	51	80	75	80			60				75				
Pasquotank	55	85	75			80	85		75	70	85	70			
Pender	41	33	55	37	60	60	100	100	100	60	50	65			
Perquimans	55		100								100				
Person		95	95	74		80	90	100	97	100				1750	80
Pitt	56	67	72	53	50	97	89	93	95	74	88	50	100		75
Polk	87	55	90			97	80		90	55	80	75	80		85
Randolph	85	78	88	76	93	86	94	97	99	96	97	84	105	1680	93
Richmond	63.3	66.6	83	62			75		100	87	82	75			
Robeson	40	48	59	68		93	79		85	57	78	60			
Rockingham		88	80	74		77	87	81	91	87	85	83	82	1500	83
Rowan	81.5	89	92	95	85	83	90	86	93	90	82	92	90	1750	72
Rutherford	76	67	68		40	82	70	75	89	61	72	71	83		
Sampson		61	75	35	15	98	82		82	58	76	66			
Scotland	50	57	70	65		100	45		100	45	90	60	75		
Stanly	72.8	81	99			97	100	100	100	90	97	91		2875	96
Stokes		87	91	74	50	101	92	89	97	86	100	79	95	1657	87
Surry		87	82	68		90	91	81	98	83	89	77		2083	89
Swain		95	60			70	65		60	90	100	85		2000	80
Transylvania		91	77			88	85	70	90		80	85		2000	89
Tyrrell	37														
Union	70.6	74	72			91	90	93	87	75	83	81		4000	90
Vance	64	70	60	58		79	90		94	75		75			
Wake	61.5	72	71	59		95	91		97	83	80	70	90	1000	82
Warren	56	52	57	46	50	85	91	97	99	86	85		100	2000	100
Washington	62	85	85		75	93	83		75	70	65				
Watauga		84	77			65	96	99	102		75	87	90	2550	98
Wayne	65	83	73	76	83	97	95		85	90	90	80			
Wilkes		79	88	81	92	98	93	95	97	90	90	81	80	2409	93
Wilson	63	75	80	68	80	90	82	80	92	73	77				100
Yadkin		83	88	69	77	76	87	89	91	82	85	74		2000	81
Yancey		99	89	85		72	96	75	99	100	100	98		2622	96
State	58	75	75	68	70	88	87	87	93	78	85	81	90	2050	87

CORN

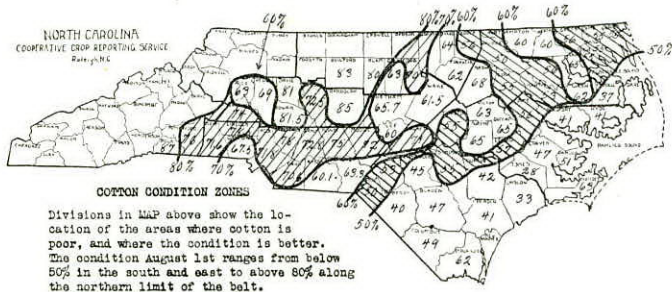
The condition of corn, which was reported July 1st as 84 per cent of normal, dropped to 75 per cent during the past month. This condition is 10 points below the past ten-year average and indicates a 45,918,000-bushel crop for this State. This expectation is 5,510,000 bushels less than the crop expected July 1st; 12,650,000 bushels less than the crop harvested last year, and 9,148,100 bushels less than the average crop for the past ten years. The reduction in the condition of corn in North Carolina has been due principally to the continued and severe rains throughout the State during the first of July and the crop has had little chance to improve since that time. Fields are reported as being very grassy and the plants are small and earing poorly. The best conditions of the crop at present are to be found in the mountain counties and in the northern Piedmont. The heaviest decline in the crop was through the coastal counties, especially in the southeast.

The August forecast for the United States crop, at a condition of 70.7 per cent, is 2,576,440,000 bushels. The deterioration of 1.3 per cent during July was less than usual, although the condition has seldom been poorer.

Farmers throughout the corn belt are busy with late haying and cultivation. The corn crop is about two weeks behind. There is a continued reduction of hogs reported, due to prospects of higher priced feed, and hog prices are rising. The region has been heartened by the higher priced grain crop and is hoping for a rise in the prices of live-stock.

COTTON

North Carolina cotton is poor. The condition August 1st was 58 per cent of a normal crop, which was an improvement of only 2 per cent over that reported July 16th. A normal crop at this time would be a yield per acre of 341 pounds of lint, but the 58 per cent condition indicates a prospective yield of only 197.8 pounds, and the present expectation for the crop is 753,956 bales. Although the condition has improved some during the last three weeks, it is still in a very poor way for making a very large crop. The change between June 25th and August 1st (37 days) was a 15 per cent decline. The State's crop is still very late with conditions poorest in the northeastern and southeastern counties. Boll weevils are doing considerable damage, especially in southern counties. However, they are reported as not numerous as last year, and due to the fact that the crop is considerably later than usual, the damage from them is not expected to be as great.



While the condition of the entire cotton belt in the United States is 67.4 or 1 per cent less than on July 16th, the forecasted production of 12,251,000 bales is 3 per cent more than was estimated then. The reason for this is due to the fact that the par, or full-crop basis, increases as the season approaches harvest or the period of absolute safety for the crop. Only 21,924 bales of this year's crop had been ginned prior to August 1st.

The entire crop is rather backward but is making fair growth. It has been too wet in the east and too dry in Texas. Some damage by grasshoppers is reported in the west, but very little weevil damage as yet. Cotton has been laid by west of the Mississippi. The market sentiment is reacting sensitively to crop conditions. The South generally is looking forward to bigger and better distributed incomes than last year.

TOBACCO

The tobacco markets are opening in North Carolina about September 2d. The expected crop that will be for sale is about 270,000,000 pounds and is 116,000,000 pounds less than the crop harvested last year. While this year's acreage was reduced about 10 per cent, the small production is not due exclusively to this. The 68 per cent condition of the crop indicates a yield per acre of 537 pounds. Last year the yield was about 700 pounds. The leaves are reported as light and thin. Much of the crop ripened before the plants fully matured, which is resulting in light yields. The plants were damaged considerably by the continued rain, and during the past two weeks the excessively hot and dry days have continued the decline in the crop. As to the prices that will be paid this season for the leaf, expectations are, as usual, at this time very uncertain. Conditions similar to the present have usually been followed by comparatively good prices, but this is far from an infallible rule.

The United States crop declined during July from 78.8 to 71.7, which caused the forecast of production to fall to 1,202,350,000 pounds. Weather conditions have been unfavorable to tobacco, especially along the Atlantic Coast.

PEANUTS

In line with the change in most other crops in North Carolina, peanuts declined 14 per cent from the 84 per cent condition of July 1st, and this condition of 70 per cent indicates a yield of 875 pounds per acre and the total production for the State of 130,830,000 pounds. This is 32,170,000 pounds less than was produced last year. There was an increase in the acreage of peanuts of about 6 per cent compared with last year. According to a summary of reports August 1st, it was found that about 98 per cent of the peanut crop was planted alone as solid acreage, and that the remaining 2 per cent was interplanted with other crops. It was also found that about 10 per cent of the crop was planted to Spanish or small peanuts, about 6 per cent to the North Carolina or medium-size type, and 84 per cent to the Virginia (Jumbo) or other large sizes. North Carolina produces about 21 per cent of the Nation's crop.

The total crop forecast for the United States is 636,000,000 pounds, which is the same as the harvested crop last year. The average farm price per pound was reported July 15th as 6.4 cents.

FRUIT

Fruit showed an improvement in condition between July 1st and August 1st. The condition of apples changed from 82 to 88 per cent, pears from 70 to 88 per cent, and the condition of peaches August 1st was 88 per cent of normal. The improvement was general all over the State, especially so in the northern Piedmont counties, according to numerous reports from Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, and Alexander.

There has been a substantial improvement in apples. The orchards in the western mountain counties report a condition of apples about 87 per cent compared to a full crop prospect.

Commercial shipments of peaches to date have amounted to 1,283 cars with expectations of about 350 more. Prices are good at present, ranging from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per bushel and \$2.25 to \$2.50 for the six-basket carriers. These prices are much better than at the beginning of the season when the price was ranging around \$1.00. This latter was due

to competition from the Georgia market. The quality of the shipments is said to be unusually good. The color and size of the fruit is splendid. Very few reports are received from the principal fruit areas of any serious damage to the crop.

The condition of the United States crop showed a marked decline since July 1st. Compared with a month ago, the forecast of the commercial apple crop shows a decrease of 3,100,000 barrels and peach prospects decreased 1,500,000 bushels.

SEMI-MONTHLY FARM NOTES, AUGUST 1-15, 1924

WEATHER

August has been hot and dry in North Carolina since the first of the month and crops are now showing the need of rain in several sections. Welcome rains occurred in many eastern counties on the 13th. The northern central counties report the weather as favorable since the heavy rains early in July. The central or Piedmont territory has been far more favorably weathered this year than the eastern counties.

Crops improved over the State as a whole during August. However, the excessive rains washed out much fertility and left crops grassy on many farms. After the beating rains of July, the soils were left in a condition to be easily affected by the later dry weather. In the main, the condition of the soil is good. However, the dry and hot weather has baked soils in some areas, making them difficult to plow. Fields are generally clean and the majority of crops are well cultivated. The attitude of the farmer seems to be one of optimism. Many reports from the southeastern counties indicate that crops are in poor shape and the prospects discouraging. This is particularly true on light, sandy soils where the plants are generally small and unfruitful.

COTTON

It is evident that the boll weevil is doing little damage at this date except in three general localities. These are Scotland-Robeson counties, Edgecombe-Halifax, and Chowan. While they are present in most areas, they are not as active as was expected. Lower Halifax has over 100 dusting machines in operation and is expecting to counteract most of the boll weevil damage. Cotton has improved over the State as a whole. Plants are showing better color and fruitfulness. The bottom crop is reported as quite short. Many sections have reported heavy shedding, especially where conditions are dry.

TOBACCO

Most of the tobacco crop is harvested in the eastern counties and is under way in the Old Belt. The condition is only fair, with light weight as a rule. The color is generally good. The June and July rains washed out much of the fertilizer, leaving the texture thin. More wax is on the leaves than was at first expected. Much premature ripening has been experienced. Local reports of firing, bad stands and poor color have been received, as usual. The general outlook is for a shorter crop than last year.

SMALL GRAINS

Since the threshing is almost over, wheat and rye yields are much better than were expected. The quality is also good. The wheat acreage was reduced considerably, but rye was greatly increased. Many sections report the largest wheat yields in their history, yields of 40 bushels per acre being not unusual through the main producing counties. The poorest yields seem to have occurred in the mountain counties. Much small grain was left in the shock during the rainy weather, but less damage by dampness occurred than was expected.

CORN

There is perhaps the most variable condition in the corn crop than has existed for many years in North Carolina. Where the heavy rains were experienced in many eastern counties, the corn is very poor on light soils, while it is fair to quite good on stiff lands. Many interior counties have very good corn prospects. The acreage is about as usual.

PEANUTS AND SOYBEANS

The peanut crop has improved considerably during August. The outlook is for a fair to good yield. Plants are generally regular in stands and have good color and size, following an opposite condition in July. They are pegging nicely. The acreage is considerably increased. Deficient plant food by leachage may affect the final yields.

Soybeans are looking unusually good and their growth has continued to spread over new territory.

FRUIT AND TRUCK

The fruit outlook continues good and peach shipments are quite active in the Sandhill territory of Moore and adjacent counties. A good apple production is expected in mountain counties. This has been a record year for truck shipments in the eastern counties and weather conditions are rather favorable for the present growing crops.

FARM LABOR

As expressed at the Tar River and Roanoke Livestock Association meeting at the Edgecombe Test Farm on the 14th, the farmers are coming to the point of depending upon their families for labor as needed hired help cannot be procured. In other words, they are adapting themselves to circumstances and are no longer complaining of the shortage.

WHY SOME CROP REPORTERS FAIL

It frequently happens that the person who readily promises to report will as quickly discontinue. These as well as others, frequently take up with something new readily but are not good stickers. The cause of this may explain why some crop reporters do not last long.

Mr. A. finds in his mail a Government penalty envelope. Because it has no stamp, he considers it worthless and frequently throws it aside unopened. The envelope may be made of cheap paper. He does not realize that this is done as an economical measure. If he opens the envelope, he finds a printed sheet instead of one addressed to him personally, as he would prefer to receive. This is done for the sake of economy. Perhaps he takes the schedule or inquiry out and decides that he will answer it later. Later, frequently, never occurs. "I just forgot" usually spells procrastination. This also means indifference. It is the indifference to crop reporting which usually results in tardy and careless reporting.

If one is careless in making crop reports, he will probably be as indifferent to reading the publications sent and in observing changes in local crop conditions. He dislikes to report simply because he has not found it interesting. Active participation usually develops interest. Interest usually results in finding opportunities and information that spell the difference between mere existence and success.

Many indifferent reporters criticize the Government's crop estimates and cast an unfavorable reflection on an important service with which they are poorly acquainted. Too many of us are prone to criticize another's work simply because we do not appreciate the difficulties and unseen problems that exist.

A CROP REPORTER'S PRIVILEGE

If opportunities offer privileges, the average crop reporter is perhaps neglecting many chances for safeguarding his work and future welfare. We wonder how many reporters analyze the Weather and Crops weekly publication, as well as this monthly bulletin, for the purpose of understanding better the economic situation with which he must deal. He has an opportunity to know better than others the conditions existing in his locality, in the State, Nation, and world. The more he puts into it, the more he will get out of it, as is true of all other opportunities.

The average reporter has the privilege of getting very valuable statistical information which should be of considerable assistance to him. Successful manufacturers have found similar economic information in relation to their work indispensable in planning for their production and marketing operations.

Farmers wonder why other interests are trampling the agricultural industry. It is simply because others are organized and exchange basic information on trends, manufacturing and selling costs. Farmers are too narrow-minded to either inform themselves or let even such agencies as the Department of Agriculture help them adequately. This attitude must change.

THE UNITED STATES FARM CENSUS FOR 1924

For the first time the United States Bureau of the Census is to make an agricultural census five years following the usual decennial enumeration. The work is to be begun December 1st and extends through January. Only farmers will be allowed to do the enumerating, according to Mr. Rogers, Chief of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

Due to the contact the agricultural statisticians have with farm statistics, it has been decided to put the State Statistician in charge of one district located around Wake County and comprising eleven counties and over 41,000 farms. It is anticipated that the work done for our North Carolina annual farm census will aid greatly towards the most complete returns for this work. A smaller number of questions than usual will be asked.

The object in having farmers as listers is to insure the most complete enumerations, as well as interpretations of the data listed. Of course, it should be understood that this information is confidential and has nothing whatsoever to do with taxation. It is solely for the Federal Government's information.

RECENT CROP COMMENTS—AUG. 15-26

The following comments have been received by this office since the 15th of August and will give some idea of the changes in condition since that time.

The weather conditions are reported as having been good with occasional showers. Due to the dry, hard condition of the soil up to this time, fields have been very hard to plow. Fields are considered fairly clean for this time of the year and all sections are reported "fairly clean."

The prospects for cotton, as indicated by reports received since August 15th, show that there has been a slight improvement due to improved weather conditions. Many state that cotton is blooming profusely but shedding badly.

Many farmers are through curing tobacco. Sales begin about the 2d of September. The crop has cured out light in weight but has a very good color. The majority of the crop is reported about the average in quality.

Much of the corn crop in this State shows the effects of bad weather. The stand is thin and spotted. Some farmers are beginning to strip fodder. The majority of the crop was late. Early corn shows better conditions than the late planted crop.

It is interesting to note the fact that the eastern counties reported an increase in truck this year. The crop at present is showing the need of rain. The condition of livestock is good. Farm labor continues scarce. Hay crops are reported as fair to good.

In response to the inquiry as to the condition markets in the State, the following were the replies: "Tobacco is not selling high, outlook bright;" "Good;" "Cotton poor at this time;" "Dull."

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
	PAGE
August 1st Crop Forecasts.....	1
North Carolina, A Fruit and Truck State.....	1
The Agricultural Situation.....	2
Why Farmers Need Crop Reports.....	3
August Crop Report (District Averages).....	4
The August 16th Cotton Report.....	4
August 1st Crop Report (County Averages).....	5
Individual Crops (Corn, Cotton, Tobacco, Peanuts, Fruit).....	6
Semi-monthly Farm Notes, August 1-15.....	7
Crop Reporters' Page:	
Why Some Crop Reporters Fail.....	8
A Crop Reporter's Privilege.....	8
The U. S. Farm Census for 1924.....	8
Recent Crop Comments, August 15-26.....	8

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