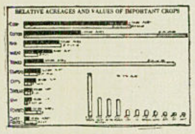
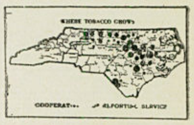
FARM FORECASTER

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 32 | RALEIGH | APRIL, 1925

FALLOW GROUND

By Mr. E. B. Crow, Vice-President, Commercial National Bank, Raleigh

In the United States there are 878 million acres of farm land with 478 million acres improved. That is 54% of the farm land in the United States is improved, while in North Carolina with 22½ million acres, we have 40% improved leaving 60% unimproved tilled land, or in other words, out of every 100 acres only 40 acres are used to advantage.

Anyone passing through North Carolina from east to west or north to south, will be impressed with the vastness of uncultivated land, and he at once asks himself why so much fallow ground, so much untended and neglected land while that that is properly cultivated seems to yield such abundance of variety of good things which the towns, cities and the world need: cotton, corn, and tobacco, fruits and vegetables of every kind.

There are just three things that answer the queries, as the call comes ringing down through the ages—"Break up your fallow ground, sow not among the thorns." These three are—labor, capital, vision. Without this perfect trio working together we will still see many waste places, many empty farm houses, many deserted plantations.

Truly in many sections the laborers are few, and in as many those who have no outlook beyond the present hour. We need labor, more labor, more efficient labor on the farms of North Carolina and we welcome to our great State those honest and upright men and women of this class, with the full assurance that they need not go away empty-handed. But without capital, labor cannot be expected to come; neither can the young man see anything very attractive in the words "Back to the farm."

Capital, money and credit are (as some one has said) to the farmer what the sunshine and showers are to the crops.

The farm needs capital, cash on hand and in the bank, and credit, as much as the merchant men, the manufacturers, even if not in so large an amount. But we may have both labor and capital, and yet see neglected lands. Why? A lack of vision of the possibility of the land before us. "When there is no vision, the people perish"; and when we cannot see the unseen, we stop short of our golden opportunity. The farmer who can see the field of cotton, corn and tobacco where today is only a lot of strips from which has been cut the trees of the forest for the city man to build with, or who can see the beautiful fruit growing where is only the sandhills and blackjacks—this man will find capital, and capital plus vision will find labor. Therefore, "plow up your neglected land and sow not among the thorns." We invite men and women of vision, capital and labor. "Come with us; it will do you good."

Catch the Vision

It is a fact that one will sit intensely absorbed in reading the wonderful thoughts written by his neighbor. He will profit by the things he reads because they are put before him in an attractive and useful way. It is possible that this neighbor secured the basis for his thoughts from watching you. They may have been inspired by the same thing that you discarded with a casual glance. Crop Reports are like that. The basis for thought, for successful planning, and a library of Agricultural facts are to be found in them. Study them. Catch the vision that your neighbor had.

Your attention is called to the articles appearing in this publication by men who see the facts. The first, "Why Farmers Should Study Crop Reports," by Dr. Carl C. Taylor of the North Carolina State College, appeared in the March Forecaster. The second, "Fallow Ground," by Mr. Ed Crow, Vice-President of the Commercial National Bank, at Raleigh, appears in this issue.

The third, by a prominent business man of Raleigh, will appear in the May Forecaster.

FACTS FROM FIGURES

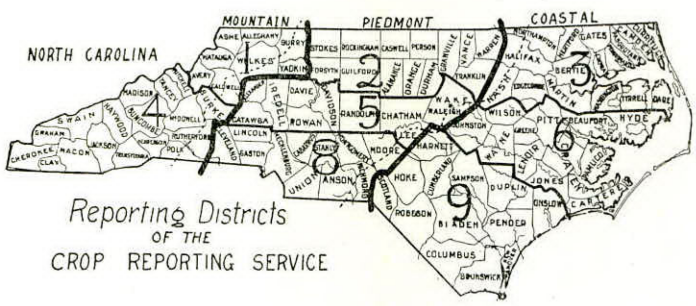
The Statistics in the above article were in accordance with the 1920 Government Census. In 1924 (4 years later) the State Farm Census enumerated by the State Department of Agriculture showed the following: From a total taxed acreage in the State of 29,644,713 acres, 25,226,498 acres, or about 85 per cent was in Farm Land. Of this amount of Farm Land, about 18,000,000 acres or 72 per cent was either in woodland, waste land, or lying out idle. This leaves about 7,000,000 acres or about 28 per cent of the farm land actually in cultivation during 1924. Of this 7,000,000 acres actually in cultivation, 4,416,064 or 63 per cent was devoted to corn and cotton alone leaving 2,583,936 acres that were devoted to other crops. The land actually lying out idle, which had been cultivated but was either resting or discarded in 1924, amounted to 1,749,290 acres. This leaves about 16,000,000 acres of farm land in woods and waste in North Carolina that is available for

(Continued on page 3)

APRIL FIRST CROP REPORT—DISTRICT SUMMARY

	Unit	Mountain Counties		Piedmont Counties			Coastal Counties			State Average 1925	State Average 1924
		Northern 1	Western 4	Northern 2	Central 5	Southern 8	Northern 3	Central 6	Southern 9		
Winter wheat, condition	%	92	91	90	95	89	82	90	90	90	81
Oats, acreage this year:											
Compared acreage last year	%	94	94	94	96	102	99	101	100	107*	93
Compared with usual acreage	%	92	94	90	95	99	98	100	101	107*	90
Condition	%	91	93	86	91	91	91	93	91	90	63
Rye, condition	%	90	95	91	92	90	87	94	90	92	83
White potatoes, acreage this year:											
Compared acreage last year	%	96	91	96	98	98	92	89	88	80	109
Compared with usual acreage	%	97	94	95	100	100	94	88	91	105*	98
Condition	%	95	97	91	94	90	91	93	92	92	85
Apples, condition, per cent of a full crop	%	85	89	85	86	86	85	85	86	84	96
Peaches, condition, per cent of a full crop	%	76	79	79	86	90	83	89	90	90	95
Pasture, condition	%	84	93	88	87	87	87	89	90	88	82
Home gardens, condition	%	91	92	86	92	85	85	88	88	88	74
Farm wages:											
By the month with board	$	30.00	33.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	29.00	27.00	25.00	28.00	27.00
By the month without board	$	41.00	47.00	39.00	42.00	42.00	40.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	38.00
By the day with board	$	1.50	1.69	1.83	1.51	1.37	1.42	1.36	1.23	1.50	1.45
By the day without board	$	1.92	2.12	2.15	1.91	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.58	1.90	1.88
Farm labor:											
Supply compared with normal	%	89	83	88	88	90	88	89	91	88	83
Demand compared with normal	%	92	95	95	95	94	95	97	94	94	97

*Note: Averages for State released by Crop Reporting Board—Washington.



CONCERNING CROPS

Weather conditions have been unusually fine in North Carolina this spring. Preparation for planting is farther advanced than usual. Seed Beds are in good shape. Pasture condition ranges from fair to good. Grain crops are reported in splendid shape and farmers are anticipating a prosperous year.

"Less cotton and tobacco and more food and feed" is the suggestion given to farmers by those who are studying farm affairs. An over production of our money crops might prove disastrous this year, though the Boll Weevil is expected to cut down the cotton production if he follows his usual course. This is supposed to be his year. Considerable of the damage blamed on the weevil last year was caused by the weather and according to experts who know his habits, he will be more numerous this season.

Fruit crops appear to be safe and generally satisfactory east of the mountains. Apples are safe in the mountain counties, but peaches and plums seem to have been hurt extensivly. Truck crops in eastern counties seem to be in good shape and growing nicely where planted. The opportunity for increased acreages for cash crops is available more than during the average year. Short crops last year may encourage farmers to take advantage of this situation.

It is still not too late for severe frosts and consequent damage to fruit and truck.

FARM PRICE OF IMPORTANT PRODUCTS

		March 15, 1925		March 15, 1924	
		N. C.	U. S.	N. C.	U. S.
Wheat, per bu.	cts.	2.10	1.64		.99
Corn, per bu.	cts.	1.49	1.12		.77
Oats, per bu.	cts.	.85	.497		.46
Barley, per bu.	cts.		.815		.60
Rye, per bu.	cts.	1.51	1.25		.63
Buckwheat, per bu.	cts.	1.27	1.12		.95
Potatoes, per bu.	cts.	1.21	.71		.88
Sweet potatoes, per bu.	cts.	1.45	1.81		1.29
Hay, (loose) per ton	dols.	19.20	12.39	21.00	13.63
Cotton, per pound	cts.	.246	.245		.277
Butter, per pound	cts.	.35	.395	.45	.43
Eggs, per dozen	cts.	.23	.239		.20
Chickens, per pound	cts.	.195	.200		.19
Hogs, per 100 pounds	dols.	11.40	11.83		6.63
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds	dols.	5.30	6.18		5.63
Veal calves, per 100 pounds	dols.	8.40	9.21		8.43
Sheep, per 100 pounds	dols.	7.30	8.20		7.22
Lambs, per 100 pounds	dols.	11.30	13.48		11.22
Wool, (unwashed) per pound	cts.	.39	.43		.38
Milk cows, per head	dols.	45.10	56.19		55.88
Horses, per head	dols.	96.00	81.49		75.46
Apples, per bushel	dols.	1.29	1.55		1.29
Apples, per bbl.	dols.	4.50	4.74		3.96
Beans, (dry) per bushel	dols.	4.30	3.91	4.35	3.47
Cotton seed, per ton	dols.	39.90	38.21	45.50	41.31
Hay, per ton:					
Timothy	dols.	22.30	13.31	23.00	17.53
Clover	dols.	16.00	12.52	23.00	16.31
Alfalfa	dols.	20.00	14.44		13.98
Prairie	dols.		9.05	16.00	8.66
Clover seed, per bushel	dols.	21.30	21.09	15.70	15.36
Timothy seed, per bushel	dols.	5.20	3.95	5.70	4.44
Bran, per ton	dols.	39.90	35.73	41.50	34.02
Cotton seed meal, per ton	dols.	44.30	47.01	45.00	50.26

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

This is the first spring in five years with any evidence of general stimulation in agriculture. For the country as a whole, the farmers are intending to increase most all of the crops that North Carolina farmers are interested in except Irish Potatoes. Our last month's Forecaster carried the data indicating the farmers' intentions in detail by National districts. For four successive spring seasons, farmers have made their plans with the evidence of distressing surpluses in the rural sections, while prosperity was reigning in the cities.

This spring finds things different. Surpluses in crops and agricultural commodities are not appreciable. The great city industries, expanded by good times, are already bracing themselves against a reaction or aftermath wherein security markets, profits, property values and finally wages have no other recourse but downward. This opens a new chapter to the farmer.

Farmers might be worried about the city purchasing power if the producers were still burdened with unwanted products. The table appears to be turned. So much so that, judging from the lessened population movement, more farmers apparently think it safe to stay on the farms and put in their usual crops this year. Livestock prices have changed to an upward tendency. Except for the cattle industry, agriculture has obviously emptied its surpluses of the major crops and animals. Over the country at large, it is evident that farmers are now more hopeful than for several years.

The Southern farmers are busy with cotton planting. While Congress forbids the publication of the intended cotton acreages, there is a feeling that, with the unusually favorable spring season and unusually satisfactory cotton seasons through the South last year, an additional increase in acreage this year is expected. This will be an unwise move on the part of farmers. In North Carolina last year was a disastrous cotton season. According to entomological records, this is due to be our worst year by Boll Weevil infestation. The bad weather last year was responsible for much of the damage which was attributed to the boll weevil.

The grain and truck crops are generally growing well in the Southern States except west of the Mississippi river where conditions have been too dry. Fruit appears to be satisfactory. General reports indicate good financial conditions among farmers with moderate optimism.

FARM PRICES

According to reports of actual prices received at the farm by producers, the following are given as averages for 1913, last and this year:

	Feb. 1913	Feb. 1924	Jan. 1925	Feb. 1925	Mar. 1925
Cotton, per lb. (cents)	11.8	31.4	22.7	23.0	24.5
Corn, per bu. (cents)	51.4	76.5	112.0	114.5	112.1
Wheat per bu. (cents)	80.2	98.0	162.1	169.8	164.0
Hay, per ton (dollars)	10.74	13.60	12.70	12.83	12.39
Potatoes, per bu. (cents)	52.6	88.1	70.2	72.3	71.4
Oats, per bu. (cents)	32.8	45.4	54.0	53.4	49.7
Apples, per bu. (cents)	78.4	125.0	144.9	150.7	155.4
Beef cattle, per 100 lbs. (dollars)	5.55	5.47	5.63	5.69	6.18
Hogs, per 100 lbs. (dollars)	7.17	6.54	9.31	9.62	11.83
Eggs, per doz. (cents)	21.1	33.6	48.6	35.7	23.9
Butter, per lb. (cents)	27.6	44.4	41.3	38.7	39.5
Wool, per lb. (cents)	18.7	37.5	42.8	43.2	43.0
Veal calves, per 100 lbs. (dollars)	7.23	8.51	8.50	8.87	9.21
Lambs, per 100 lbs. (dollars)	6.34	10.53	12.69	13.13	13.48

This table gives a fair idea of the trend of prices for the United States as a whole. Some advance occurred in February. Eggs held their price better than normally. March showed a decline in all crops except in cotton, and apples. Hogs advanced 20 percent while other livestock showed some increase in prices. These prices are generally higher than a year ago which are reflected in the farmers intentions to increase the acreage of important crops. Irish potatoes are showing decreased acreage almost everywhere.

PURCHASING POWER

In 1921 the farmer's product reached its lowest purchasing power; that is, a bushel of his products would buy in exchange less of non-agricultural commodities than at any other recent period. The farmer's dollar reached its lowest purchasing power in 1923 when it was worth only 58c on the dollar of non-agricultural commodities. At the present time, the farmer's product has reached 88 percent of its 1913 purchasing power, while the farmer's dollar still hangs at about 60 percent in value as compared with the pre-war period.

It is interesting to note that our grain crops show 72 percent higher values or farm prices than they did for the 1909-1914 period. Meat animals for this period show a 45 percent increase, dairy and poultry products 34 percent more, cotton and cottonseed, almost twice as much or all farm commodities (30 items) show half again the prices now that they did during the five-year period before the War.

FOREIGN COTTON OUTLOOK

Russia is making considerable increase in her cotton acreage which totals 1,515,000 acres. Argentina is increasing her acreage of 259,000 acres to the extent of 67 percent. Alexandria, Egypt, reports 1,424,000 bales received from August 1st to March 25th. This is equivalent to about a 13 percent increase over the previous year.

OIL PRODUCTION

Peanuts.—The United States used 308,100 tons peanuts for oil last year. China used about 685,000 tons, while India manufactured 1,207,360 tons of peanuts into oil. These are the principal peanut oil producing countries.

Soy Beans.—Manchuria, China, used 2,534,000 tons of soy beans for producing oil last year. Chosen, Korea made oil from 544,407 tons, while the United States consumed 287,010 tons of soy beans for oil purposes.

Cottonseed.—The United States consumed over one-half of all of the cottonseed used for making oil last year, amounting to 6,045,000 tons. India was second with 2,395,000 tons. China third with 1,041,500 tons. Seven other countries consumed from 57,000 to 700,000 tons each, making a total of 11,041,700 short tons consumed for oil in the eighteen countries reported.

FACTS FROM FIGURES

(Continued from page 1)

improvement. If North Carolina can rank so high as an agricultural State with so little of her available farm land actually used, what may be the goal of our advancement?

It is interesting to note that this uncultivated land is rather well distributed throughout the State, the majority of course being located in the western mountain and eastern coastal counties. However, 5,914,000 acres of this uncultivated land is to be found in the Piedmont counties, scattered through our richest farming section. The man with VISION, CAPITAL, and LABOR will find a rich field for advancement in North Carolina where so much opportunity for improvement exists.

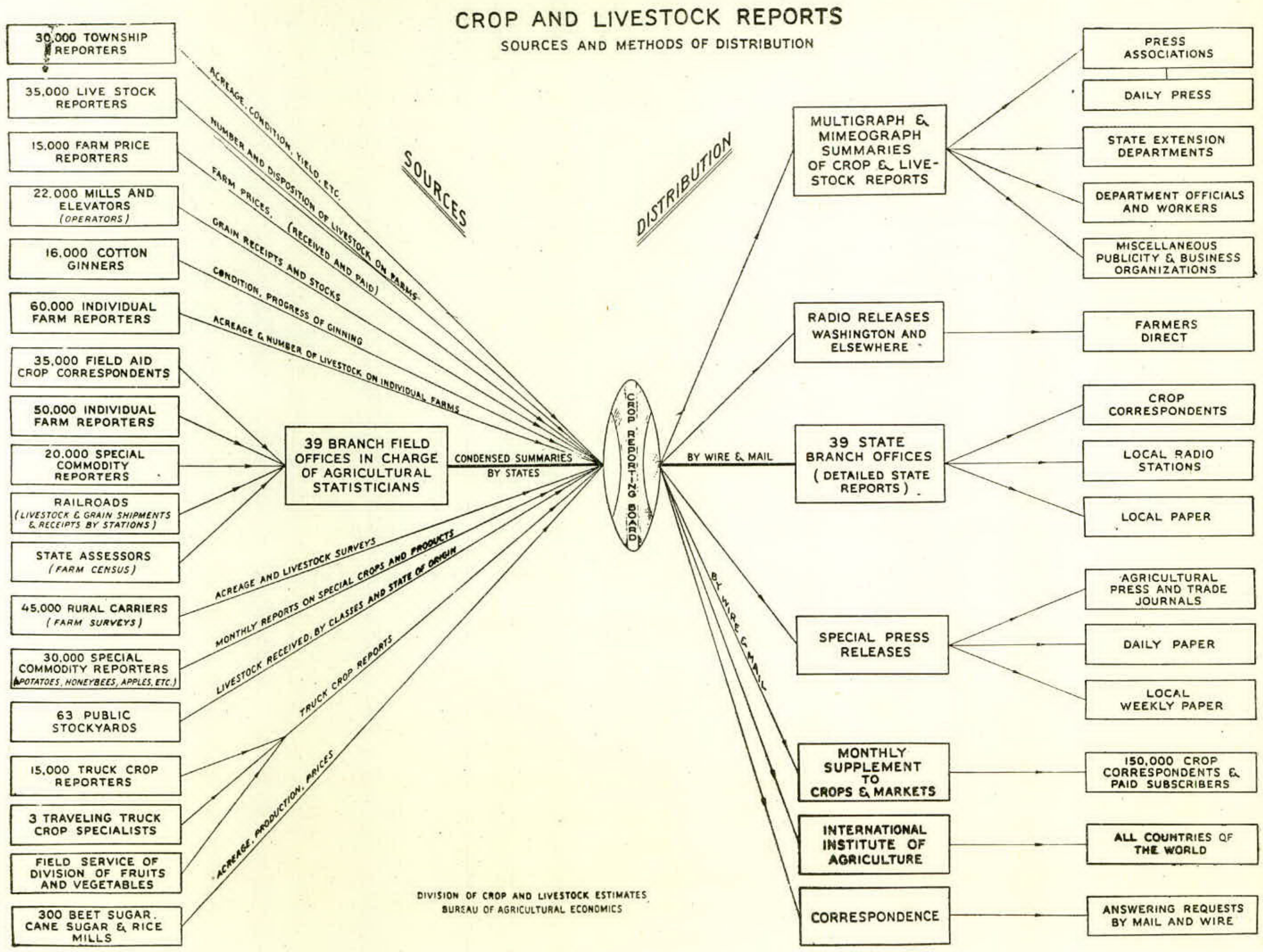
—W. H. Rhodes, Jr.

April 7, 1925.

Thank you for the Farm Census, 1924, sent me in accordance with my request.

This is certainly a complete job in every way. Although a native of North Carolina, every time I look at this chart I get some new and valuable information about my home state.

C. C. Lowrey, Advertising Manager,
F. S. Royster Guano Company,
Norfolk, Va.



DISTRIBUTION OF CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTS

The cut above shows a graphic illustration of the sources and distribution of Government Crop Reports. These reports, received from the numerous reporters shown on the left are combined by the CROP REPORTING BOARD of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington and summaries are released to the various branches shown on the right. This service is supplied by the Government primarily to safe-guard the farmer in his operations, and attention is called to the last item at the right which is furnished free of charge.

Make use of these reports; study them; and prepare to meet your problems intelligently.

April 13, 1925.

The Farm Forecaster for March, 1925, is brimful of facts which are necessary for the understanding of the agriculture of North Carolina. I wish to congratulate you on this issue.

David D. Long, Director,
International Agricultural Corporation,
Atlanta, Ga.

INFORMATION TO APPEAR IN THE MAY CROP REPORT

On May 8th, the Department of Agriculture will release the May Crop Report showing the following: Acreage, Condition, and Abandonment of Winter Wheat; Oats condition and per cent that is spring and fall sowing; Barley condition, Rye condition and probable yield; Hay condition and per cent of crop still on farms; condition of Potatoes, Apples, Peaches, Pasture, Home Gardens, Livestock; Percentage of spring plowing for spring planting and sowing done by May 1st; Milk production; Egg production; Mortality of all classes of livestock; and farm Labor Supply and Demand.

This office will be glad to answer inquiries regarding this report. Figures for sections, State, and United States only will be released but the county averages for these items are available for use to those calling at the office for them.

We are making vigorous efforts to increase our list of reporters and we feel that the farmers of the State should feel anxious to render themselves the service of making these reports available for their own use.

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This Farm Forecaster is issued monthly for North Carolina by the

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