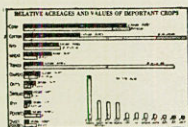


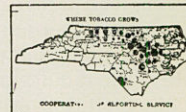
FARM FORECASTER

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 34

RALEIGH

JUNE, 1925

THE RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER SWING

The pendulum index illustration shown below should be of considerable interest to farmers and business men. Further information in this line is given on page 2. No industry in the United States has offered nearly as much free information as is offered in our agricultural industry. Both the State and Federal governments are diligently trying to help the farmers in solving their economic problems.

As shown elsewhere in this issue, an explanation of price forecasting is given. Contrary to popular opinion, it is not the speculators and exchangers that determine average prices, but rather, primarily, the forces of supply and demand. For this reason, production and prices can, to a large extent, be anticipated through mathematical processes. Other industries have been doing this successfully for several years.

The illustration below shows at the left the lowest point reached (1921) in the purchasing power of farm products. This was just following the war decline, while the highest purchasing power point was reached in 1918. At the present time the average \$1.00 value of farm products will buy only 90 per cent of as much of other commodities as it would buy in the period from 1910 to 1914, when conditions were fairly stabilized. Actually the lowest point reached was in 1920 (about August), when the farmer's dollar would purchase less than two-thirds of what it would have purchased before the war. That the purchasing power may be illustrated as a pendulum movement, the illustration shows the lowest point reached in the summer of 1920, with the lowest yearly average in 1921. The annual stages of improvement since that time are indicated. The probabilities are very strong that the farmer's dollar will be worth more in purchasing other products next year.

HOW CROP REPORTS MAY BE USED BY FARMERS

C. L. NEWMAN

Associate Editor, *Progressive Farmer*, Raleigh

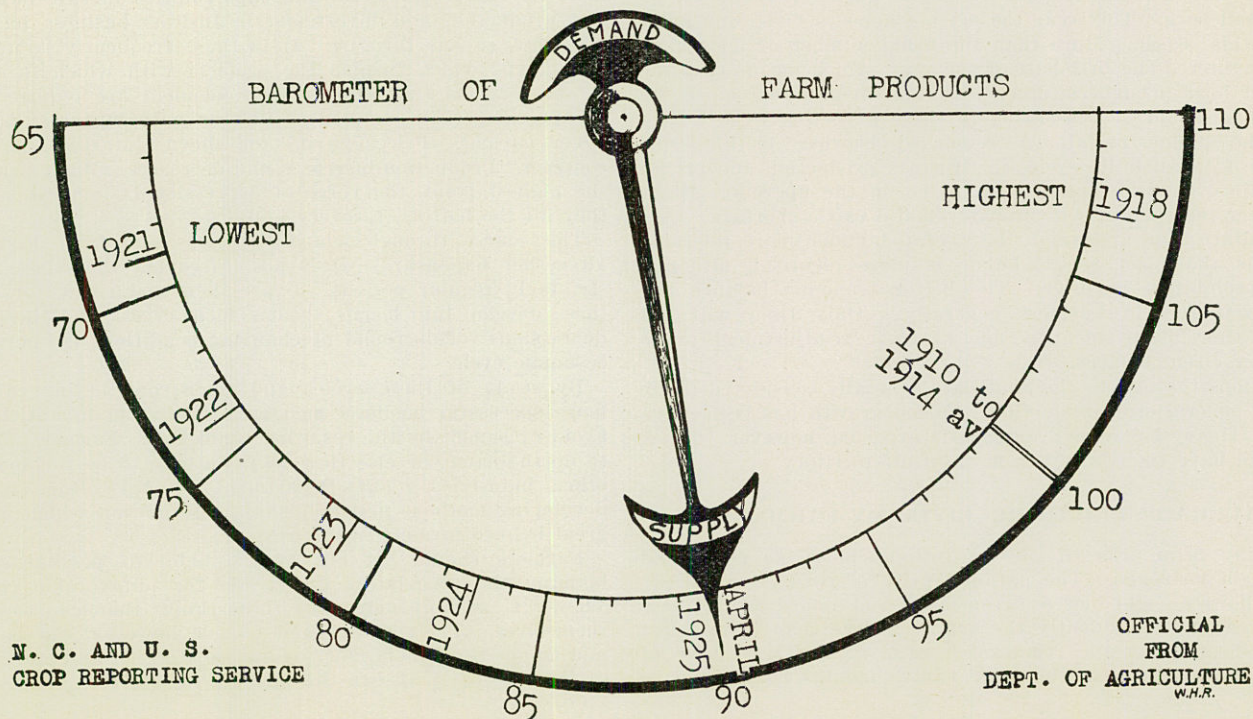
Agriculture is the biggest business in North Carolina and in the United States, and is about the only big or little business that is not inventoried. The grocery, drygoods, hardware, lumber, textile, and every other business is controlled by estimates forecasted from statistics and inventories. If we do not know the approximate demand for and supply of our crops when harvested, then we are not in position to dispose of them intelligently. The more accurate the knowledge we have of crop acreage and condition, the more intelligently can the farmer plan, work, buy and sell. Intelligence in the Army, Navy, Congress, business, anywhere, and especially on the farm, is the power behind every effort that makes for success.

Supplies on hand, acreage planted and probable yield, control, crop prices, and knowledge of such things is as much needed by the consuming public as by the producing farmer. Work of the United States Department of Agriculture and State Department has been hampered, and law-makers, influenced by a few middlemen who, by making the consumer pay more and the producer receive less than a fair price for necessities, become rich by "appropriating" the consumers' money while it is on the way to the producer. *Accurate intelligence, statistics of farm crops made public, is the spotlight that curbs dark dealings better than a thousand National and State laws.*

"I see from the Government report that hay and corn prices will be high, and I am writing to ask what I can do now (June) to mend my short supply of these two necessities." This is what

(Continued on Page 7)

RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER OF FARM PRODUCTS



THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Doubtless, cotton is the crop attracting most interest in North Carolina. It being so highly speculative, the probabilities of growth and yield are of interest to every cotton farmer.

The boll weevil and weather conditions are the two outstanding agencies affecting cotton growth. With an unusually early spring, preparation and planting was done sooner than usual. During May the plant growth stood fairly still, due to cool weather. This condition stimulated the root growth, while the top growth made little change. Such conditions stimulate early fruitfulness at the expense of plant growth. This is exactly what it needed under boll weevil conditions.

Perhaps for the first time the boll weevil threatens to seriously ravage the crop in North Carolina this year. The emergence of the weevil from winter hibernation has been early and heavy, enough so to insure heavy damage. According to State Entomologist Franklin Sherman, there is more damage resulting from the destruction of squares by weevils than there is by boll punctures. Heretofore, North Carolina has suffered little from the attack on squares, the only serious damage being to the bolls. He anticipates serious damage, and greatly regrets that farmers are taking the situation so lightly. This is one year that dusting is going to be needed. He says that, "Even though dry weather is highly advantageous to the cotton crop by being unfavorable to the boll weevils with dry July and August conditions, yet perhaps the greatest damage will be done in June and early July by attack on the squares."

To a large extent the early appearance of weevil is general throughout the South.

THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK

June is the month of radical changes in the farm program. In the South harvesting is beginning, while planting is under way in the North. The wheat and hay harvests have begun in Texas. Corn planting is still under way in Michigan. Although the spring opened up early, the cool May conditions held crop growth much at a standstill. Insufficient rainfall has been general. These counterbalancing conditions leave the farm work about on a usual basis. It now appears that last year's favorable wheat situation may be reversed this year. Due to the world shortage, this is going to send the wheat up in price. This is fortunate for the North Carolina wheat growers who have grain to sell. It is estimated that almost one-fourth of the nation's wheat acreage was abandoned. The condition of the crop was very poor last month. The spring-planted wheat, of course, is yet to be made.

Fewer hogs usually go to the market in June than in May. This trend continues until October. Naturally, prices rise during this same period. Thus it appears that September is the desirable time to sell pork. This year the market appears to be unusually good at this season. More than the usual number of hogs have been slaughtered the first half of the year, which means that the supply of hogs in sight is much less than in any year since the war. This should be reassuring to those expecting to sell pork during the summer or fall. As remarked elsewhere in this issue, there are fairly definite cycles in livestock production and prices. The cattle cycle is expected soon to be on the upgrade. Eight years later the country will probably find a cattle shortage.

Agriculture now appears to be operated under more tolerable conditions than last year. Labor is more plentiful, although almost prohibitive in price. The better economic balance has made itself felt in business generally. Only time will tell whether this improvement is due to basic readjustment or to temporary circumstances.

Conditions throughout the South are generally considered fairly good for general crop production. Cotton growth has been satisfactory. Heavy boll weevil damage is expected, however. Truck shipments have been heavy from the Gulf territory.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

The May farm price of 23c for cotton showed 5c per pound less than a year ago. The national price of corn, at \$1.08 per bushel, shows a slight increase from April and almost 30c increase over a year ago. Evidently the supply is less than it was last year. Wheat has made remarkable gain, as the May price of \$1.50 is 52c higher than the price twelve months before and 9c

higher than the price one month earlier. The general shortage in prospect this year will doubtless run the price still higher. General hay prices, showing an average of \$12.17 per ton, seem ridiculously low to North Carolina farmers, who have to add almost as much for transportation charges when purchased locally. Oats, at 45c per bushel, are about the same price as last year, and, differing from other crops, show only about the same price as pre-war quotations.

Livestock prices are rather variable, with hogs showing the greatest change from a year ago. The present national average of \$10.78 per hundred pounds is naturally less than in April, but represents 50 per cent better prices than were paid to farmers a year ago. Last year's prices were considerably less. Eggs show an average of 5c a dozen more than last year's average, which was 20c in May. Butter has made a slight advance also.

GENERAL TREND OF WAGES AND PRICES

In comparison with the five-year pre-war average, the general farm wages show two-thirds as much more wages being paid than before the war. For every dollar paid then, \$1.63 was paid in April for the same work.

The retail price of food shows a 55 per cent higher level than the pre-war basis. There has been a gradual decline since January. The wholesale price of food has shown a still greater decline during this period.

PURCHASING POWER OF FARM PRODUCTS

On the front is illustrated in barometer style the present purchasing power of farmer's products, indicating the present situation to be 90 per cent of the pre-war level. As shown on the same illustration, the lowest point was reached in 1921 for the annual period, while the monthly periods showed the lowest point in the summer of 1920, when the farmers' products would buy only 60 per cent of the non-agricultural products which a dollar would buy before the war. The highest purchasing power was reached in 1918-19, when the farmers' dollar was worth more than that of most other industries.

Hay, potatoes, beef cattle, and eggs show relatively poor purchasing power at the present time. Wool and cotton are bringing the highest returns. A slight decline of possibly 1 or 2 per cent in the relative purchasing power of the thirty farm products was probably realized in May.

THE FARM ECONOMIC CYCLE

No part of business surmounts in importance the economic phases. Statistical economics have cleared the way, more than most any other thing, for the opportunities in safe buying, selling, production and investments. Just as business has its ebb and flow, so has farming. It is these frequently recurring ups and downs which furnish the problem with which farmers and those on whom the farmers are dependent are required to deal in our competitive methods. Just as with business, farming is never normal. Prices go up and down. Markets expand and contract. Production increases and decreases. When prices reach the highest point, the verge of depression is reached, and when they hit the bottom, recovery is due.

The course through which the rises and falls occur is not altogether haphazard. It is not infrequent that these occur in strikingly regular periods. Depressions make way for revivals; these develop into booms; booms form crises, and these go into depressions. This round of changing conditions is known as the economic cycle.

By study of these cycles and their contributing causes, the more successful business men have been able to anticipate and avoid or benefit by the resulting conditions. Farmers must learn to do the same, or else they will continue to be the footstool of other industries. The Department of Agriculture is rapidly developing methods and publishing information which will be of great help to farmers in this respect.

Farmers should get out of the habit of pessimism and of blaming the speculators and trade for unfavorable conditions. They can no more determine these things than can the farmers themselves. Their causes and effects, however, can be studied, and no one can benefit more by a close study of and understanding of these forces than can the farmers themselves.

JUNE 1 CROP REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA**GENERAL CROPS**

The prospects for crops in North Carolina are good this year. A cool, dry May was very unfavorable to plant growth, and many crops attained stands rather below the normal, with plants irregular in size. Since June 1 warm weather and scattered rains have greatly improved the appearance of the fields. Farmers who were complaining of poor cotton stands are reporting "improving" crops. Much seed that was held in the ground by the cold and drought have started germination. Cultivation has been well advanced throughout the planting season, and for the past two weeks the State has been having real "cotton" weather.

WHEAT

According to the June Crop Report, released June 9 by the United States Department of Agriculture, wheat in North Carolina showed a condition of 84 per cent of normal, as compared with 86 on June 1 last year. This indicated a yield per acre of 9.9 bushels, and from 455,000 acres, a crop of 4,504,000 bushels. This condition is about an average for the principal wheat counties of the State. The crop will be over 1,000,000 bushels short of last year's production, due in part to retarded growth by unfavorable weather; also to poor stands and poorly filled heads.

OATS

With a condition of 78 per cent of normal, a yield of 18.9 bushels is indicated, compared with a 16-bushel expectation last year on June 1. The actual 1924 yield harvested was 18 bushels, or 2 bushels better than the June indications. The best condition of the crop is located in the northern mountain and southern Piedmont counties. In most sections the plant has shown a low growth, and is apparently weak in vitality. According to inquiries concerning the method of harvesting oats in this State, it was found that about 45 per cent was cut ripe for grain, 32 per cent cut unripe for combined grain and forage, and the balance either cut green for hay, used for pasturage or turned under. The mountain and Piedmont counties average over 60 per cent of the acreage for grain, while the coastal counties showed a large percentage used for forage and hay crops.

OTHER GRAINS

Barley, with an indicated yield of 20 bushels this year, has had a condition the same as wheat. Rye was considerably better, averaging 90 per cent, or normal, which indicated a probable yield of 11.3 bushels per acre, with a prospective production of 771,000 bushels for the State. The quality of the grain is about 90 per cent of normal. The highest yields of rye are expected from the acreage in the coastal counties.

GRAIN HAYS

The total acreage of grain hays this year is about 82,000 acres. According to the farmers' estimates, this is 4 per cent less than last year's acreage and 5 per cent less than the usual acreage. The present condition of the crop indicates an average yield per acre of 2,100 pounds.

EARLY IRISH POTATOES

While it is possible that the final yield of potatoes may be larger than now expected, reports indicate 94 bushels as a probable average. The central coastal counties reported 107 bushels as a probable yield, and the northern and southern coastal counties were 92 and 96, respectively. The condition of the crop was lowest in the southern Piedmont and northern coastal counties. However, conditions in the principal commercial areas were slightly above the State average. The shipping season is fully two weeks earlier than last year, as is indicated by a shipment to June 9 of 1,759 cars, as compared with 631 cars to the same date last year.

NORTH CAROLINA FRUIT CROPS

The apple crop is considerably short from last year, due to the heavy drop during blooming, and has a condition of 60 per cent, as compared with 84 per cent June 1 last year and a ten-year

JUNE CROP REPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES

The June crop report, released in Washington on the 9th of June by the Crop Reporting Board, consisted principally of estimates on grain crops and fruit.

OATS

From an oat acreage of 44,467,000, the condition of 79.6 per cent indicated a 1,295,456,000-bushel crop. The acreage represented an increase of 4.7 per cent over last year, due in part to a large abandonment in winter wheat acreage which was sown to oats, but the condition of the crop indicates a production over 200,000,000 bushels less than was produced last year and 32,000,000 bushels less than the past five-year average crop. The farm price of oats per bushel on May 15 was 45.4 cents, compared with 46.3 cents last year. Acreage increases were not large in the main oat States as a rule, but the percentages were heavy in many other States.

WHEAT

The winter wheat acreage is 32,813,000 this year, which is a decrease of 9.9 per cent over last year. The 21,181,000 acres of spring wheat is an increase of 19.2 per cent over last year. The total production in all wheat is expected to be 661,000,000 bushels. This is 212,000,000 bushels less than was harvested last year. The May 15 farm price averaged \$1.49 per bushel.

Winter wheat fared badly throughout most of the winter wheat belt. The average May temperature was below normal in the eastern half of the United States. During the same time the rainfall was deficient throughout most of the country, certainly so from Indiana to eastern Nebraska. The vitality of the plants had already been weakened by an adverse winter, so that it could not make the usual resistance to frosts and freezes and to low rainfall and deficient moisture in soil and subsoil. In a large portion of the belt winter wheat has short straw and short heads, and the heads are often not well filled. Reports of thin stands are common.

FRUIT

The condition of apples June 1 was 63.4 per cent of normal, as compared with a ten-year average of 70.1 per cent on June 1 and with 74.0 per cent on June 1 last year. The causes of this unfavorable comparison are reduced formation of fruit buds in 1924 for the 1925 crop on account of drought on the Pacific Coast, a poor set of fruit this year in other parts of the country because of frosts and freezes, and a heavy drop.

A peach crop of 47,055,000 bushels is forecasted, compared with a five-year average crop of 46,519,000 bushels and with a crop of 53,137,000 bushels last year. Although the forecast is lower than the crop of last year in nearly every state, it is much higher in California, where a quarter of the crop of last year was produced, and a third of the crop of this year will be produced, according to the forecast.

average condition of 59 per cent. This indicates a probable production of 4,195,200 bushels for the State's crop and production in the commercial area of 210,000 bushels, compared with 307,000 bushels in 1924.

The forecast of the total peach crop from the June 1 condition of 69 per cent is 1,485,000 bushels. The average crop for the five-year period 1920-1924 was 1,105,000 bushels. This year's total crop is considerably less than last year, although the commercial areas of the State are expecting a larger crop than was produced in 1924. The Sand Hill crop is expected to be 2,200 cars.

Pears, with a condition of only 50 per cent of normal, indicate a total crop of 186,000 bushels, as compared with 273,000 in 1924 and a five-year average crop of 151,000 bushels. The past ten-year average condition of pears at this date was 49 per cent, or 1 per cent less than the present condition of the crop.

The central and southern Piedmont counties and the southern coastal counties are reporting better conditions of fruit than other sections of the State even in apples. The commercial apple area averaged about 63 per cent of a normal crop.

June Crop Report—County Summary

COUNTY	Winter wheat		Oats			Rye	Irish potatoes	Tame hay	Wild hay	Clover hay	Apples	Peaches	Fertilizer		Cotton
	Condition at harvest	Probable yield per acre	Condition at harvest	Probable yield per acre of grain	Per cent total acreage cut ripe for grain	Average yield per acre	Condition at harvest	Condition	Condition	Condition	Condition	Condition	Amount used on all crops compared last year	Per cent of total amount used was on cotton	Condition May 25, 1925
	Per cent	Bushels	Per cent	Bushels	Per cent	Bushels	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Alamance	78	11	70	15	68	8	90	72	75	60	60	50	125	30	95
Alexander	91	11	91	23	65	8	95	82	100	75	56	61	101	49	89
Alleghany	89	12	85	22	97	10	84	83	97	85	53	39	103	0	
Anson	84	9	76	14	73	9	85	70	68	72	78	82	102	70	62
Ashe	100	10	100	15	100	15		90		95	70	70	100	0	
Avery	87	10	90	22	100	13	50	91	75	89	83	88	99	0	
Beaufort			72		0		87	88			70	52	100	70	72
Bertie	100		83		4		83	80		81	61	59	101	51	72
Bladen					25		100	90			63	77	90	75	70
Brunswick					0			100					100	25	92
Buncombe			75		93	15	90	87	87	83	83	78	107	0	
Burke	92	12	93	26	63	9	85	74	63	73	62	66	100	20	
Cabarrus	67	8	87	18	75	11	65	69	65	59	70	73	104	75	78
Caldwell	100	11				11	100	80		100	60		110	0	
Camden					0		80	75					100		80
Carteret					0		55				70	70	93	20	81
Caswell	85	11	87	17	65	12	90	85	90	75	52	48	96	7	
Catawba	85	10	80	20	75	6	80	60	70	55	63	35	100	43	81
Chatham	75	8	98	19	87	13	100	82	88	87	58	81	104	39	80
Cherokee	77	15	70	21	70	16	85	73	86		55	40	35		
Chowan	95	20					87	80	75	80	30	40	100	50	77
Clay	99	9	100	18	24	12	92	95	95	96	54	25	89	0	
Cleveland	85	14	81	23	40	8	80	75	50	65	67	68	101	69	79
Columbus			75	20	13	15	92	97			78	74	97	8	95
Craven					0		88				50	55	120	23	70
Cumberland	90	15	87	21	28	42	85	68			62	82	99	79	70
Currituck							65	75			25	37	102	25	70
Dare							87	100	100		90	90	110	10	
Davidson	70		75		100		90	95		95	50	60	95	67	78
Davie	70	16		14	75	6	60	78	86	77	50	60	95	47	77
Duplin			50	17	0	10	77	84			65	61	98		86
Durham*			80	15	24	10	82	87	73	87	52	60	103	62	73
Edgecombe			87	20	68	11	93	73	82	69	41	58	100	9	
Forsyth	78	10	87	16	17	6	95	76	85	105	55	80	108	49	68
Franklin	95	8	90	16	38	8	70	86	82	77	48	66	100	75	92
Gaston	90	12	89	16	0				50		22	32	105	45	56
Gates															
Graham*					20	12	89	92	92	70	78	88	105	8	65
Granville	92	9	77	30	0		75	80			85	72	102	35	64
Greene			80		40	8	85	85	82	73	80	70	94	1	70
Guilford	82	10	88	18	3	8	67	87	95	79	41	69	87	74	79
Halifax	80	7	85	13	2		90	80	93		75	100	89	87	75
Harnett			85		92	11	82	88		93	77	55	100	0	
Haywood	100	16	85	39	85	9	87	75	80		61	62	64	0	
Henderson	92	11	88	20	0	38	85	92		80	60	64	102	75	70
Hertford	85	14	75	29	55	19	60	75			57	85	98	70	77
Hoke	80	16	78		80	20	90		100		80	50	87	53	89
Hyde					83	10	98	86	95	82	62	72	98	69	87
Iredell	76	9	81	18			75	80	75	90	50	50			
Jackson	75	18			13	13	91	89	75	93	66	72	99	63	71
Johnston	90	19	92	25	0		90	90			40	30	100	30	87
Jones					51	10	100	83	85	80	71	79	99	69	72
Lee	69	9	81	20	14		84	88			63	72	102	31	81
Lenoir					67	15	80	83		79	50	55	105	82	81
Lincoln	85	15	92	23	50	12	77	71	87	77	45	56	98	15	
McDowell	94	12	71	16	45	10	80	66	87	74	85	57	94	17	
Macon	67	15	65	30	0		73	77			82	63	40	90	10
Madison	100	9	100	11	90	12	100	82			80	55	102	29	70
Martin			87		24	10	58	79	67	62	82	87	104	73	76
Mecklenburg	84	11	85	17	58	15	86	82	100	90	79	61	95	0	
Mitchell	85	18	88	30	79	11		86	79	93	63	91	93	56	74
Montgomery	85	12	95	23	22	7					77	91	105	42	81
Moore	92	6	90	10	3		86	91	95	79	54	66	99	54	80
Nash					0		95	90				90	83	0	
New Hanover					5		75	85	80	80	27	37	95	77	71
Northampton					16		85	85	70		56	63	94	40	85
Onslow			80		95		80	60	65	65	56	70	100	15	73
Orange	75	10	75	15	0		70				55	55	115	15	92
Pamlico			80		5			70			50	50	85		70
Pasquotank					0		75				60	50	100	30	91
Pender															78
Perquimans*					36	12	90	90	65	68	75	80	105	10	
Person	93	13	87	15	9		65	92		60	25	50	102	39	73
Pitt			70	22	68	11	71	92	95	70	63	60	116	56	83
Polk	90	15	75	21	90	14	90	97	95	90	61	68	93	53	83
Randolph	78	11	86	24	10	15	95					100	100	80	74
Richmond	75	8	75	20	25	9	77	80			67	82	99	76	77
Robeson			80		46	18	90	87	86	73	51	67	95	8	
Rockingham	86	10	80	14	78	7	90	74	77	67	79	81	102	65	81
Rowan	79	13	78	21	40			60		50	50	67	105	72	84
Rutherford	87	10	57	10	25		70	80	85		53	83	100	59	79
Sampson			70		48	6	75	60			75	93	90	78	78
Scotland	55	8	60	20	92	10	79	81	80	86	61	75	102	60	78
Stanly	83	10	91	16	52	13	95	90	87	84	47	57	100	0	
Stokes	93	12	93	16	74	12	82	85	78	84	53	55	96	3	
Surry	91	12	83	18											
Swain*															
Transylvania*															80
Tyrrell*					72									68	69
Union	82	12	88	23	50			90	85	82	65	62	88	50	83
Vance	90	12	80	15	17	10	97	95		78	62	67	100	71	66
Wake	90	14	89	16	52		93	83	83	82	65	69	100	70	85
Warren	95	10	87	8			80	87			75	65	80	57	80
Washington					90	17	70	95	100	95	71	61	108	0	
Watauga	100	14	100	18	7		90	73		100	47	71	105	59	79
Wayne			75		79	10	84	84	79	79	62	64	99	2	
Wilkes	89	10	82	25	5		76	80		80	48	73	98	58	71
Wilson			90	28	89	10	85	81	77	75	45	65	98	12	
Yadkin	86	8	87	21	100	13	67	88	90	70	66	35	84	0	
Yancey	83	13													
State	84	9.9	78	20	45	11.3	82	81	83	79	60	65	99	44	74

*No report.

TRUCK CROP NOTES

The year 1924 was tremendous in North Carolina as a truck crop year. The early Irish potato shipments were well over six thousand cars. Other vegetables were shipped out in great quantities, but show decided reductions in carlot shipments this year. The melon situation in Scotland County area was very poor last year on account of unfavorable weather conditions. The chances are for increased shipments from that area this year.

EARLY IRISH POTATOES

The prices of potatoes have been good thus far; in fact, much better than last year. Both the acreage and the yield per acre have not nearly equaled those of last year over the State at large. Aurora has about the largest acreage of any shipping point in North Carolina. The acreage in this area was reduced about 25 per cent and the yield per acre to about two-thirds of last year's yield. The stands were irregular and the soil dry. The crop was pretty well shipped from that area by June 16. This is somewhat representative of the rest of the State.

GARDEN PEAS

The acreage of peas has been cut in two since last year. The dry weather has also cut the yield per acre. As a rule, the stands were fairly good. The prices have been quite good. This crop is all shipped.

CUCUMBERS

This crop is growing rapidly—with cucumbers showing good size around Mt. Olive and Wilmington. The prospects are for a good crop, provided rainfall is satisfactory. The first shipments have already begun—June 15. The quality is fairly good.

SNAP BEANS

The bean shipments promise to be heavy and were begun the last of May with heavy shipments early in June. The quality and prices have been excellent, and the growers are feeling good over the outlook. The yield is light on account of lack of sufficient rain.

DEWBERRIES

The dewberry movement is already fairly well under way, with quality good. The prices are stimulating the growers to maximum shipments.

PEACHES

The Mayflower crop of peaches has been shipped from the central and eastern counties of the State, with other varieties coming in. The quality and color were good on account of plentiful sunshine and fairly dry conditions. The size of the fruit was smaller than usual. Prices have been excellent.

ESTIMATED PRICE OF FARM PRODUCTS

May 15, in North Carolina and United States, 1925 and 1924

PRODUCTS	Per Unit	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
		1925	1924	1925	1924
Wheat.....	bu.	\$ 1.88	\$ 1.35	\$ 1.49	\$.97
Corn.....	bu.	1.42	1.11	1.08	.79
Oats.....	bu.	.77	.78	.45	.46
Rye.....	bu.	1.61	1.36	1.04	.60
Potatoes, Irish.....	bu.	1.43	1.40	.71	.91
Potatoes, sweet.....	bu.	1.48	1.35	1.89	1.39
Hay, all loose.....	ton	22.50	21.00	12.17	13.65
Cotton.....	lb.	.23	.29	.23	.28
Butter.....	lb.	.34	.40	.40	.38
Eggs.....	doz.	.25	.23	.248	.20
Chickens.....	lb.	.22	.22	.22	.20
Hogs.....	100 lbs.	10.10	9.30	10.78	6.68
Beef Cattle.....	100 lbs.	5.40	5.30	6.48	5.94
Sheep.....	100 lbs.	7.50	7.00	7.53	7.33
Lambs.....	100 lbs.	10.60	8.60	11.99	11.43
Milk cows.....	head	46.50	44.50	57.88	56.37
Horses.....	head	89.00	105.00	82.15	77.55
Apples.....	bu.	-----	1.90	1.79	1.31
Apples.....	bbl.	-----	5.50	5.30	3.90
Cotton seed.....	ton	35.00	40.00	38.71	40.53
Hay:					
Timothy.....	ton	23.50	-----	13.38	17.48
Clover.....	ton	-----	-----	12.67	15.92
Alfalfa.....	ton	-----	-----	14.34	13.96
Prairie.....	ton	-----	-----	9.27	8.74
Bran, as bought.....	ton	41.90	38.00	35.45	32.82
Cotton seed meal, as bought.....	ton	44.20	45.00	46.98	49.09

SEASONAL FARM SUGGESTIONS

A prominent banker recently remarked, "You will have to get into the trade business if you expect to make much headway in life. The salary basis permits of slow progress only." In the same way, we pass on to farmers these suggestions that the farmer who does not think more than he works is going to be slow in winning success. The future prosperous farmer will not be the one who puts in the most hours of hard, sweaty labor, but the one who keeps his mind busy in anticipating opportunities and in avoiding unnecessary expenses and crops which will offer poor returns.

There is much for the average farmer to learn, but the first of all is that he must plan his work just as carefully as any manufacturer does. It is generally considered that the best executive is the one who has his work so well organized that it will proceed smoothly and satisfactorily during his absence as well as when he is on the job. Careful forethought and planning is responsible for this. It is impossible for any one person to suggest what all farmers should give attention to at this season. Suggestions for the eastern part of the State entirely are inappropriate to western conditions. The following, however, may be of interest to most farmers:

1. Keep the crop clean by frequent and shallow cultivation. This is cheaper than using the hoe, letting the grass use up the plant food and needed moisture. It will help as much as anything else toward keeping down boll weevils in cotton.

2. As soon as the harvesting machinery and other tools, like turn plows, have been finished with for the time being, they should be carefully oiled and put under cover. By painting the points and mow boards of plows, easier work will be available with them when needed later, as this prevents rusting. Paint is the cheapest insurance, any way, when used liberally on all farm machinery, wagons, etc.

3. Whenever opportunity is available, clean up around the house and barn. Many broken and loose parts will be found that should be taken care of for later needs. Much filth and unnecessary trash can be removed. By keeping the place neat and clean, the farmer and his neighbors will take more pride in the place, and when something is needed it will be easier to find. Much new space for later need can be arranged for. Many needed repairs will become apparent.

4. As often as the farm work lightens up a bit, the family should go off on a group picnic. It helps as much as any other part of the farm work to get away for a little while and mix with some good neighbors in this way. The women folks need it more than the men.

5. Use every available opportunity in reading agricultural papers and in talking with bankers, supply merchants, and others regarding crop conditions and the agricultural outlook. Crop reporters will do well to frequently refer to the agricultural literature and statistical reports sent them. The man who stops studying for improvement begins to go backward instead of progressing.

JUNE CROP FORECASTS

		1925 Acreage	June Condition Per Cent of Normal	Yield per Acre (Prospective)	Production (Prospective)
Winter wheat.....	N. C.	455,000	84.0	9.9 bu.	4,504,000 bu.
	U. S.	32,813,000	66.5	12.4 bu.	407,000,000 bu.
Spring wheat.....	U. S.	21,181,000	87.1	12.0 bu.	254,000,000 bu.
Barley.....	N. C.	8,400	84.0	23.0 bu.	193,200 bu.
	U. S.	8,826,000	83.1	23.2 bu.	205,000,000 bu.
Rye.....	N. C.	70,000	-----	11.3 bu.	791,000 bu.
	U. S.	4,184,000	78.6	12.7 bu.	53,300,000 bu.
Hay (tame).....	N. C.	716,000	81.0	1.03 tons	737,480 tons
	U. S.	60,745,000	78.6	1.36 tons	82,500,000 tons
Hay (wild).....	N. C.	98,000	83.0	.91 tons	89,180 tons
	U. S.	15,151,000	75.4	.88 tons	13,400,000 tons
Early potatoes (Irish)....	N. C.	22,100	82.0	94.0 bu.	2,077,400 bu.
	U. S.	186,470	-----	-----	-----
Grain hay.....	N. C.	82,000	-----	2,100.0 lbs.	86,100 tons
	N. C.	-----	60.0	-----	4,195,000 bu.
Apples.....	N. C.	-----	69.0	-----	1,485,000 bu.
Peaches.....	N. C.	-----	62.3	-----	47,100,000 bu.
	U. S.	-----	50.0	-----	186,000 bu.
Pears.....	N. C.	-----	63.8	-----	17,500,000 bu.
	U. S.	-----	-----	-----	-----

NOTE: The above Production estimates were computed from the June 1st Condition figure as reported by the Farmers.

FIRST AIRPLANE FIELD TRIP

The State Statistician, in co-operation with the Army Air Service at Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville, N. C., made a flight over Cumberland, Harnett, Johnston, Wake, Lee, Moore, and Hoke counties. Instead of making this a crop observation test, it was used for a photographic flight. Photographs from three to four thousand feet elevations were made of the farming territory in the counties named.

The illustration below was taken over Captain Christian's farm near Manchester, Cumberland County, at an elevation of one thousand feet. While detailed shadows are not clear, much may be seen in this picture—enough to impress one that wonderfully good observations are available from an airplane flying at 100 miles or more per hour. For crop growth and careful farming observation, a slow airplane at an elevation from 500 to 1,000 feet is advisable. The greater the elevation, the broader the scope of observation. At low elevations the opportunity for details increases, but as the minimum speed is seventy miles per hour below 500 feet elevations, it does not give one time enough to grasp the details.

There is no doubt that the airplane offers wonderful opportunities for improving and certainly for better understanding many of the reports as now developed by the Crop Reporting Service. The advantages of speed and the wide scope of observation are greater than the uninitiated can imagine.

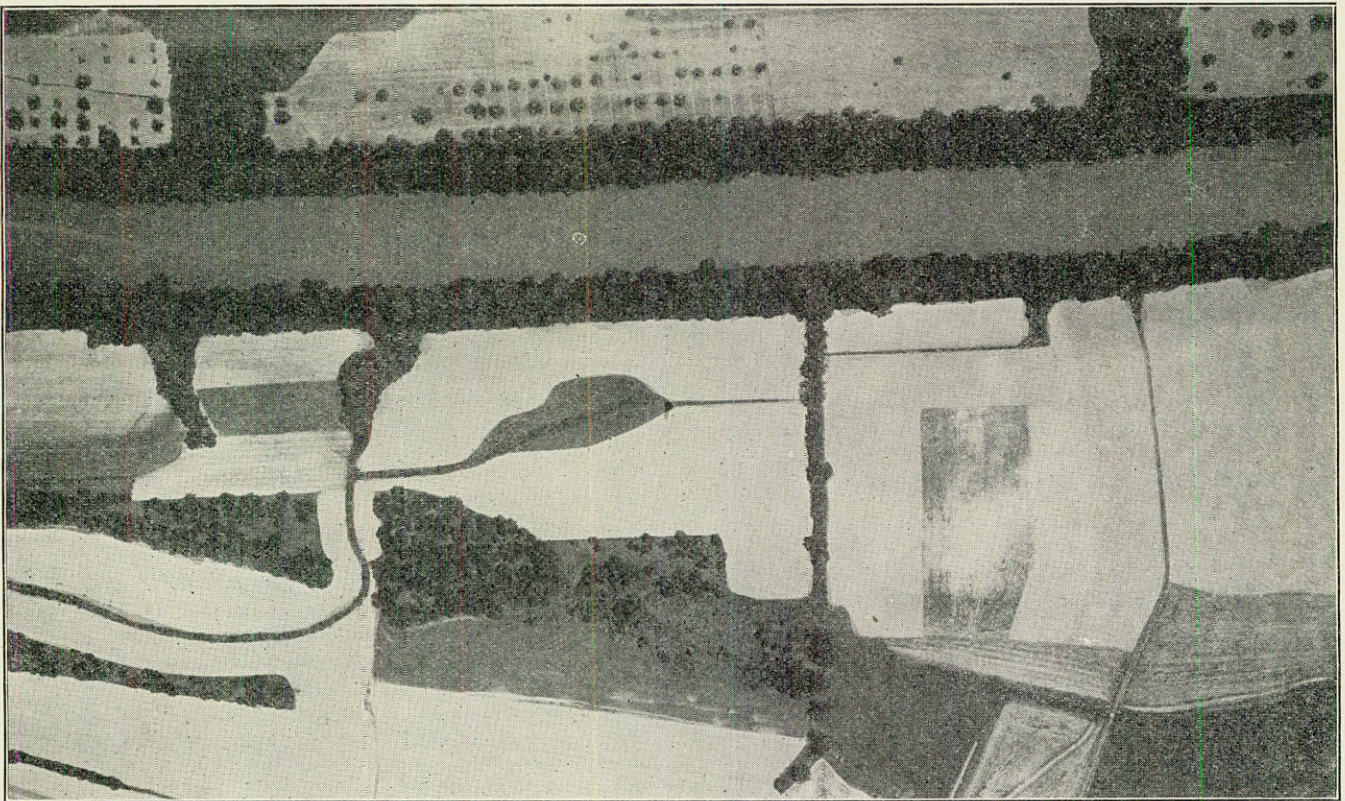
Steps are being taken for further flights which it is hoped will bring out new points of advantages.

FARM PICTURE BY AIRPLANE JUNE 5, 1925

The picture below was taken over the Cape Fear River near Moncure, N. C. Crop growth was so small that it is not apparent from the 4,000-foot elevation from which this picture was taken. The study of farm distribution was the objective rather than strict crop growth observation. The freshly plowed land is quite clearly noticed. A scattering orchard is seen on one side of the river. Spring-plowed, but as yet unplanted, land is seen in the lower right-hand corner. The dark portion, without evidence of trees, indicates idle land growing up in grass. For strict crop observation an elevation of from 500 to 800 feet is preferable.

At a 500-foot level crop observation may be readily kept under observation over a one-mile-width strip. Thus, in four hours flight one could comprehensively summarize the cotton situation over an area of 300 square miles. Of course, no sensible person would expect one to determine the degree of bollage, weevil infestation, or even blooming of the plants. These can best be determined by visiting fields on foot. The stands, general nature of growth, the kind of cultivation given, recentness of plowing and cultivation, soil types, moisture conditions, progressiveness of farmers' methods, degree of idle land on farms, diversification of crops, and many other features are the features easily and quickly noted on a large scale.

LEE-CHATHAM COUNTY LINE, THE CAPE FEAR RIVER



Field Crops and Rows Do Not Show in This Cut, Due to Glare of Noon-day Sand Reflection. Cotton Averaged Only 2 to 4 Leaves. The Flight Was 4,000 Feet—Almost a Mile Above.

How Crop Reports May Be Used by Farmers

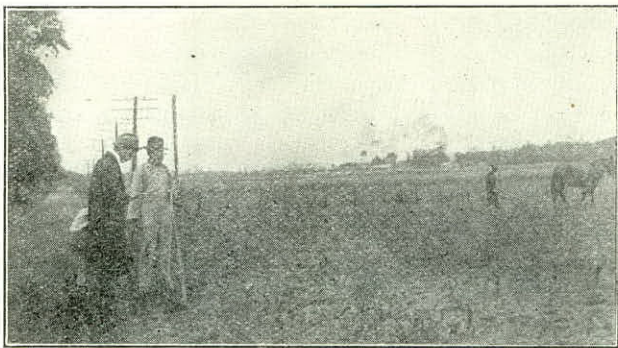
(Continued from Page 1)

a farmer wrote the *Progressive Farmer* recently. He had neglected to provide a supply of grain and hay. Learning that prices would go higher, he became alarmed, and late in June realized that he had neglected in the fall and in the early spring to provide for his farm needs. As it was, though, the intelligence conveyed by the forecast of the crop reporter led him to plant corn and sow soy beans and Sudan grass on an acreage that will insure an ample home supply for another year and a surplus for unfortunate neighbors.

Another farmer learned through the crop reports that more brood sows than usual had been kept. The natural influence was that the hog market would be low, and he sold close and lost but little. Before the end of the year conditions were reversed. He not only bred all of his sows, but bought more. His hogs were a profitable crop.

It is unfortunate that more farmers do not take advantage of the intelligence conveyed by crop reports. It is certainly as important that the farmer should have the information necessary for the conduct of his business as it is that the man who speculates in futures should be regularly supplied with the reports of fluctuation in the prices of cotton, grain, and wheat.

PUTTING A FARMER TO THINKING



One of Our Field Specialists Going Into Details with a Johnston County Farmer Regarding Cost of Cotton Production.

A SUGGESTION TOWARD NEXT WINTER'S HAY



Soy Bean Hay in Pitt County After Oat Hay, Two Tons Per Acre. Value, \$35.00. Machine Labor.

FORECASTING OF CROP PRICES EXPECTED

In the July issue of THE FARM FORECASTER we plan to give the 1925 forecasted price of the sweet potato crop. This estimate will be derived by correlating the following factors: (1) Price, (2) production and (3) index of all commodities. By the use of scientific statistical methods, the average price of commodities may be predicted with an amazing degree of accuracy when compared with the final results.

The sweet potato crop is very important in North Carolina, but in the past has been too speculative or has resulted in too great a risk for profit. To anticipate fairly reliable average prices will be a great boon to our potato growers.

Various reports of crop and livestock markets, production and distribution are published in bulletins which are sent free to those requesting same. *Weather, Crops and Markets*, a weekly publication of the United States Department of Agriculture, includes much valuable information to farmers. This is sent free to reporters and may be obtained by others at the subscription price of \$1.00 a year from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

D. R. PALMER (Newly Annexed).

LIST OF COUNTIES FROM WHICH ALL FARM CENSUS BOOKS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE

County	Number Books	Date Received
Avery	8	6-23-'25
Catawba	8	6-19-'25
Chatham	13	6-19-'25
Cherokee	6	6-23-'25
Lee	7	6-13-'25
Madison	21	6-20-'25
Mitchell	10	6-8-'25
New Hanover	5	6-22-'25
Onslow	6	6-23-'25
Pitt	13	6-17-'25
Tyrrell	5	6-17-'25
Washington	4	6-9-'25

North Carolina Mid-Month Farm Notes

(Continued from Page 4)

chance, and considerable improvement is noted during the past two weeks. The best conditions are to be found in the northern cotton counties, where the season is later and the replanted areas had a better start than the first planting. Farmers expect considerable boll weevil damage. In general, the crop is in good shape and growing nicely.

Corn Excellent. The corn crop shows the best condition throughout the State of any crop. Some complain of poor stands on red lands and considerable damage from cut-worms is also general. Damage from freezes and cold is noted in the mountain counties, but the general condition ranges from good to excellent.

Fruit—Apples Fair; Peaches Poor to Fair. The commercial areas report an apple crop not over half of last year. The condition is good and growers expect good prices. The Sand Hills peach crop is expected to be larger than last year, due in part to new trees coming into bearing and to improvement in quality.

Truck Condition Fair. Shipments of truck this year, as compared with previous years, indicate that the season is much ahead of usual. Increase in truck acreages is general. The dry weather has considerably lowered the quality of the produce, and complaints of poor prices are resulting. Early potatoes are moving rapidly.

Farm Work Ahead of the Usual. Statements from farmers indicate that the most favorable season for farm work in years has continued from the early spring season to the present time.

Outstanding Facts of Interest. The following are quoted as outstanding facts in farm conditions at present and reflect the situations on the farms: "Drought"; "Crops clean"; "Good prospects"; "Increasing interest in poultry"; "Cotton improving"; "Prices improving"; "Small grain harvesting beginning"; "Much interest in roadbuilding, marketing, lumbering, fishing and loafing."

The active farmer is optimistic this year. Prospects are good for crops and hopes are high for good prices. Especially concerning cotton, the farmers' most effective friend this season is the "Blessed Sunshine."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Relative Purchasing Power of Farm Products—	
How Crop Reports May be Used by Farmers.....	1
The Agricultural Situation.....	2
June 1st Crop Report (Comments).....	3
June 1st Crop Report (District Summary)—	
Mid-Month Farm Notes.....	4
June 1st Crop Report (County Summary).....	5
Truck Crop Notes—Seasonal Farm Suggestions—Price of	
Farm Products—June Crop Forecasts.....	6
Crop Observation by Airplane.....	7
Forecasting of Crop Prices Expected.....	8

W. A. GRAHAM, Commissioner of Agriculture. H. C. TAYLOR, Chief U. S. Bureau Agri. Economics.

GEORGE R. ROSS, Division of Markets. W. F. CALLANDER, Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates.

This Farm Forecaster is issued monthly for North Carolina by the

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

FRANK PARKER, State Agricultural Statistician. WILLIAM H. RHODES, JR., Assistant Statistician.