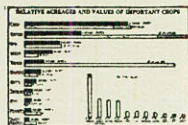


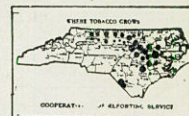
FARM FORECASTER

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
Agricultural Statistics
Crop Reporting Service



BULLETIN 43

RALEIGH

AUGUST, 1926

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

This season, while not a record breaking one in North Carolina in any way, is much more favorable to the farmer from the standpoint of production than was the case last year or for several seasons past. Unfortunately, the most ideal conditions might exist on the farms in this state and still the sale of the North Carolina farmers' products may be most unsatisfactory, since prices and market conditions are settled and controlled by the supplies and demands of 47 other states and are so heavily influenced by foreign market conditions. It is a sad truth that the farmer may see the situation clearly and yet be absolutely helpless since the disposition of his crops is so entirely out of his hands.

The farmer's purse in North Carolina is dependent on one or more of the four crops: Cotton, tobacco, truck or fruit.

The market for fruit has been most unsatisfactory to the growers. The prices received have scarcely paid for the cost of the crop and have certainly not allowed a margin of profit. Truck crops have experienced a more satisfactory season. Potato growers received prices up to expectations and the market for truck shipments is considered good. Prospects for good cotton and tobacco prices are fair, but most problematical. A 15,621,000 bale National cotton crop is indicated, with a possibility of decline to 14,425,000, or an improvement to 17,510,000 bales depending on the weather conditions during the next six weeks. Foreign cotton crops are reported in most favorable conditions. The cotton on hand March 1st, 1926, in consuming establishments and public storage and compresses was over 14 per cent greater than the carry over on that date in 1925. The prospective prices for the 1926 crop is dependent therefore on the ability of the mills to absorb this year's crop. Should the latest forecasts of the crop materialize, the consumption of supplies may be most difficult.

Prices being paid on tobacco markets just opened are considered satisfactory by the growers. The national crop indications are 12.5

per cent below the 1925 production and are 6.5 per cent below the average for the past five years. The North Carolina prospect is 14 per cent below last year, but about 3 per cent above the five-year average.

The outstanding feature of interest relative to the National crop is the fact that the supplies of food and feed crops are more nearly commensurate with the demands. The indications are for a corn crop somewhat below last year and below average. The same is true of hay and oats. The total wheat crop is below the average. Even potatoes, contrary to all the predictions of over-production, were increased only 2 per cent in acreage this season and must do very well to make an average crop.

AUGUST, 1926, CROP REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh, N. C., August --, 1926: The average crop conditions in North Carolina, August 1st, were 4 per cent higher than on July 1st. All crops, excepting corn and Irish potatoes showed a distinct improvement during the latter part of July, due to the good rains. The weather during July averaged favorable excepting in limited areas where rains were too heavy at one time. The heat was intensive during the first of the month and damaged corn, fruit and truck in counties along the South Carolina border.

CORN

While in some sections of the state corn may have improved during the latter part of July, the majority of the crop had suffered from the hot, dry weather to such an extent that it was impossible for it fully to recover from the damage. The plants had assumed a rather spindling growth, with blasted leaves and poor development of ears.

Continued on Page 2



COMMISSIONER GRAHAM INSPECTS CROPS

This is the way that Wm. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture of North Carolina, found the Soy Bean crop in Craven County on August 10th. This crop is especially popular this year.

It is human to criticise and easy to find faults with something that looks easy but concerning which one really knows very little. This is true of estimating crops. We underestimated the early Irish potato crop, in the face of many criticisms that our figures were entirely too high. It does not occur to the average person that our information is the result of thousands of carefully compiled opinions of the growers and those interested in the basic crops over the State.

AUGUST 1, 1926, CROP REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

CROPS	Unit	REPORTING DISTRICTS								State	United States
		Northern Mountain	Western Mountain	Northern Piedmont	Central Piedmont	Southern Piedmont	Northern Coastal	Central Coastal	Southern Coastal		
		* 1	* 4	* 2	* 5	* 8	* 3	* 6	* 9		
Condition (full crop prospect)—											
Corn.....	%	76	80	88	84	80	83	85	74	81	72.5
Potatoes (white).....	%	74	70	62	57	64	61	60	57	64	78.8
Potatoes (sweet).....	%	72	71	81	74	70	78	81	71	76	76.1
Tobacco.....	%	71	74	76	71	73	66	70	66	71	75.0
Hay, all tame.....	%	63	70	71	66	68	76	79	71	70	73.6
Hay, wild.....	%	67	81	68	71	69	79	75	82	72	-----
Clover hay.....	%	57	64	65	59	65	77	88	80	63	-----
Alfalfa.....	%	62	59	68	69	59	77	70	85	67	-----
Pasture.....	%	59	60	73	71	66	71	78	65	63	69.9
Peanuts.....	%	56	49	80	71	75	79	79	72	79	76.7
Soy beans.....	%	73	73	76	79	74	80	87	79	81	-----
Cowpeas.....	%	71	67	80	81	75	80	78	81	77	-----
Velvet beans.....	%	49	57	65	84	71	58	75	68	70	-----
Apples.....	%	71	68	67	61	71	84	75	65	69	73.2
Peaches.....	%	64	48	60	55	66	58	49	33	55	74.4
Pears.....	%	56	54	62	53	65	66	50	49	55	74.8
Grapes.....	%	84	87	79	83	84	85	80	82	83	-----
Pecans.....	%	53	56	65	66	62	76	78	70	77	-----
Sugar cane.....	%	57	49	82	75	83	75	85	67	67	-----
Sorghum for sirup.....	%	72	74	77	72	71	72	77	73	73	75.2
Clover Hay—											
Average yield per acre, first cutting.....	lbs.	1,720	1,430	1,650	1,415	1,700	1,750	2,375	1,367	1,550	2,420
Rye—											
Average yield per acre.....	bu.	12	14	14	13	12	11	13	19	12	-----
Quality.....	%	95	95	93	94	90	92	90	89	94	-----
Farm Labor, Supply and Demand—											
Supply compared with normal.....	%	87	85	87	86	96	91	90	87	89	-----
Demand compared with normal.....	%	88	84	88	86	87	95	93	88	89	-----
COTTON											
Condition, August 1, 1926, compared normal.....	%	-----	59	69	69	67	73	73	74	70	69.8
Number bolls safe, per plant, August 1.....	No.	-----	0	.2	.6	.8	.6	1.3	2.4	1	-----
Per cent of full or perfect stand, August 1.....	%	-----	66	75	77	75	78	76	76	78	-----
Average date made first grown bolls.....		-----	August 14	August 15	August 14	August 12	August 10	August 5	July 31	August 9	-----
Average date first bolls will open.....		-----	Sept. 13	Sept. 6	Sept. 6	Sept. 2	Sept. 6	August 27	August 23	Sept. 1	-----

*NOTE—The reporting districts represent the group of counties situated as indicated.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Continued from Page 1

The condition August 1st of 81 per cent was 2 points below that of July 1st and indicates a crop of 44,967,000 bushels. This condition is 2 points below the past ten-year average on August 1st and although the present condition of the crop is poorer than a month ago, the crop indicated is slightly more than the July 1st indication, due to the fact that the chances of damages from all causes lessen as the season advances and the indications are more certain of fulfillment.

TOBACCO

The North Carolina tobacco crop looked unusually good until the hot period in late July and early August struck it. This, together with the general rainfall, seemed to make it lose some of its body and caused it to make a more spindling growth. There has been considerable improvement made since the July 1st report and on August 1st farmers' estimates of condition showed 71 per cent compared with 60 on July 1st, and a past ten-year average condition on August 1st of 78 per cent.

The acres under cultivation in the state this year is 563,000. This is an increase of 3 per cent over that of last year.

The present condition of the crop indicates a prospective yield per acre of 575 pounds as compared with 660 harvested in 1925 and 560 in 1924. The total crop prospect is for 323,781,000 pounds. This is about 85 per cent of last year's crop, but is 3 per cent more than the average crop during the five years from 1921 to 1925.

POTATOES

This state has lost its rank this year as the first sweet potato state to Texas and Georgia. There was an acreage increase in all of the

principal producing states. The August condition in North Carolina was 76 per cent, an improvement of 5 per cent during July and indicates a crop of 7,541,000 bushels. This is 21 per cent below the past five-year average crop, but over 7 per cent larger than the crop produced last year.

Practically all of the crop was planted after the general season which occurred late in June. In the eastern part of the state, large acreages were planted after Irish potatoes in early July. Some are even yet being set out. The crop is looking well, the stands are generally fairly good and the growth about all that could be expected under present conditions.

The condition of the late Irish potato crop was 64 per cent of normal August 1st. No production estimate has been made on this crop to date. Weather conditions were relatively dry and unfavorable through the mountain counties, where most of the crop is grown, until June 20th. Since that time, they have been more favorable and the crop in the mountains, being much later than in other sections, shows a better condition than any other part of the state.

HAY CROPS

The growth of hay crops has greatly improved since July 1st. Conditions have been good excepting in the lower central Piedmont Counties. Tame hays were 70 per cent of normal August 1st and wild, or meadow, hays about 72. The first cutting of clover hays were light, due to the unprecedented dry period. It averaged about 1,550 pounds per acre. The dry weather delayed the growth of alfalfa considerably, but it is now coming out in fairly good shape. The condition of pastures has shown very little change since July 1st.

AUGUST 1, 1926, CROP FORECAST

CROPS	ACREAGE, 1926		CONDITION, AUGUST 1		PRODUCTION		
	Per cent of 1925	Acres	1926	10 year average Per cent	Indicated by August 1 Condition	Harvested, 1925	Five year average 1921-1925
Corn—							
North Carolina	101	3,200,000	81	83	44,967,000 bu.	42,014,000 bu.	48,616,000 bu.
United States	99.4	101,074,000	72.5	80.5	2,577,000,000 bu.	2,905,000,000 bu.	2,849,000,000 bu.
Wheat (all)—							
North Carolina		467,000		84	5,604,000 bu.	4,466,000 bu.	5,074,000 bu.
United States	111.1	37,584,000	77.4	77.5	839,000,000 bu.	666,000,000 bu.	802,000,000 bu.
Oats—							
North Carolina		297,000			* 6,207,300 bu.	4,902,000 bu.	
United States	101.0	45,945,000	71.4	80.4	1,311,000,000 bu.	1,512,000,000 bu.	1,327,000,000 bu.
Rye—							
North Carolina		78,000	87	93	936,000 bu.	816,000 bu.	598,000 bu.
United States	88.2	3,601,000			41,900,000 bu.	48,600,000 bu.	68,200,000 bu.
Sweet potatoes—							
North Carolina	103	82,000	76	84	7,541,000 bu.	7,040,000 bu.	9,526,000 bu.
United States	106.9	832,000	76.1	81.7	73,100,000 bu.	62,500,000 bu.	84,500,000 bu.
Tobacco—							
North Carolina	103	563,000	71	78	323,781,000 lbs.	378,490,000 lbs.	314,252,000 lbs.
United States	94.4	1,658,000	75.0	79.2	1,203,000,000 lbs.	1,374,000,000 lbs.	1,290,000,000 lbs.
Peanuts—							
North Carolina	110	220,000	79		213,774,000 lbs.	223,400,000 lbs.	165,645,800 lbs.
United States	95.6	939,000	76.7	81.4	652,000,000 lbs.	604,000,000 lbs.	711,000,000 lbs.
Sorghum sirup—							
North Carolina	105	29,000	73		2,328,700 gal.	1,904,000 gal.	
United States	103.2	389,000	75.2	79.5	30,000,000 gal.	25,500,000 gal.	33,200,000 gal.
Apples—							
North Carolina			69	56	4,767,000 bu.	3,192,000 bu.	3,767,000 bu.
United States			73.2	57.4	219,000,000 bu.	172,000,000 bu.	170,000,000 bu.
Peaches—							
North Carolina			55	55	1,596,000 bu.	1,500,000 bu.	1,183,000 bu.
United States			74.4	57.8	63,600,000 bu.	46,600,000 bu.	46,900,000 bu.
Pears—							
North Carolina			55				
United States			74.8	60.7	25,100,000 bu.	19,800,000 bu.	17,700,000 bu.
Cotton—							
North Carolina	101	2,057,000	70				
United States	101.7	48,898,000	69.8		15,621,000 bales	16,103,679 bales	11,517,399 bales

*July report.

FRUIT

APPLES—North Carolina with a government indicated crop of 4,767,000 bushels ranks 11th this season with other states in the Union in apple production. Washington takes the lead with prospects for 35,323,000 bushels. The state this year will produce 2.1 per cent of the total crop which is estimated at 218,920,000 for 17 of the principal producing states. Of the 4,767,000 bushels total crop, 238,000 barrels or 654,500 bushels are grown in commercial orchards. These Federal Board's estimates are based upon condition percentages of August 1st. Only seven other states had better yield prospects than North Carolina, which had a condition of 69 per cent as compared with a five-year average of 56 per cent. This year's crop is estimated to exceed 1925 by 1,575,000 bushels, but is 1,583,000 bushels less than the 1924 crop. This last is doubtful, in view of the commercial orchards averaging at least 80 per cent of a full crop this year instead of 69 per cent.

PEACHES—The total peach production for the state this year will be 1,596,000 bushels based upon a 56 per cent condition of August 1st. Last year there were 1,500,000 bushels harvested. The state ranks 11th in peach production, or produces 2.5 per cent of the peaches in 17 of the principal producing states which have prospects for 63,619,000 bushels this year. According to a peach survey of commercial orchards made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1925, North Carolina ranks 5th with other states in the number of peach trees. As to quality, North Carolina peaches are excellent. Domestic trade is rapidly increasing which will in the future help to solve the marketing problem. Our estimates after the heavy spring freeze was for as many as shipped last year. On August 12th there were shipped 2,040 cars which surpassed the total of 2,024 cars shipped last year. The sales to trucks, "unknown" parties and otherwise disposed of—not sold, far exceeded last year.

COTTON

Of course, the cotton stand has not improved in the past month, but the growth has been such that the irregular stand is not noticed much by the middle of August. The healthfulness of the plants is good; blooming is general to the tops of the plants. While the plants are late and the fruiting later than usual, the bolls and squares on the plants are particularly abundant. Cultivation has been quite good and the plants have used a maximum of plant food supplied in commercial fertilizers. Altogether the crop looks good for a heavy yield. At the present time there does not seem to be much chance of appreciable damage by boll weevils. The cotton flea or hopper does not appear to be a serious menace. The acreage is about the same as last year and, with a condition of 70 per cent, we have a prospect of 244 pounds. This is dependent, of course, on whether we have favorable seasons after this date or not. It is evident from all parts of the state that the cotton crop has improved amazingly since the drought was ended late in June.

SOY BEANS

While North Carolina held the lead in soy bean acreage and production until three years ago, several states are now ahead. The Mississippi Valley States have been growing immense acreages of beans for hay for some time, buying the seed from us. Now they are growing their own seed, leaving a large surplus here. That is why there was a period of low prices.

This year there is abundant evidence of a large increase in both the soy bean and cowpeas acreage. This is especially true of these as companion crops. The August 1st report shows 17 per cent of all corn acreage with soy beans and 8 per cent with cowpeas. The acreage of solid planted for seed soy beans in rows is quite large as is that broadcasted for hay.

BUSINESS METHODS IN FARMING

(Important points taken from an address by the State Statistician before the Association of County Commissioners at Morehead City, August 12.)

It is well known that per dollar invested, farming makes the poorest net income. It is also true that per dollar income, the farmer pays the most taxes of any class of people in North Carolina. This being true, the County Commissioners, who are essentially interested in the agricultural and rural welfare of the county, should give considerable attention towards taxes and to appropriations that are really good investments for the agricultural welfare.

At the present time the investments that are particularly valuable to the farmers are roads, schools, farm demonstration work and the Farm Census. (1) The rural schools are not nearly as good as those in towns. (2) Urban people have per capita far more usage of the roads in spite of the rural population being about three-fourths of that of the state. (3) County Agent work is not provided for in all counties. (4) The Farm Census, costing on an average of less than \$200 per county, is very important from an educational and inventorial point of view. It really represents a very small factor in the counties' taxes. According to these, while the farmer pays heavy taxes, he is really getting a small return for his investment.

Any well thinking person realizes that our most prosperous agricultural counties have the most active business trends. The farmer is essentially a spender and as soon as he gets his money, he turns it into the legitimate business channels. It then behooves all business men, and those even indirectly dependent upon the farmers' welfare, to encourage every agency that will aid in his success and profits.

From the vote that was taken, it was found that the greatest difficulty now confronting the Farm Census work is that of educating the officers and farmers into an appreciation of its usefulness.

Any merchant, manufacturer or business man realizes that an annual inventory is absolutely essential to the comprehensive analysis of his business and for safe-guarding future intentions. The farmer has been the last to adopt this essential factor in his business. He cannot hope for real success until he uses (1) the annual inventory; (2) profit and loss accounting; (3) supply and demand, including market trends and salesmanship. The inventory is basically first. When secured through the tax listers, it gives the best opportunity for questioning each farm owner about his basic acreages. Acreages are essentially non-taxable when no value is given. These are not available to the speculators for the simple reason that they are not completed until the crops are grown. It is useless to argue that they are secured for the speculators' use and to the harm of the agricultural industry. It is also the height

of folly to imagine that the Department of Agriculture would sanction this Farm Census if it was to the farmers' disadvantage.

It is strange and most distressing that farmers will listen to a stranger or trader who raises objection to a factor like the Farm Census and yet will not even heed to a real friend who is interested in his welfare. Of course, the speculators want the farmer to continue in ignorance so that the crop growers will continue to be the foot-stool of those to whom he sells his products.

The Department of Agriculture is primarily trying to educate the farmers towards understanding what they are doing which, when done, will be followed by steps for determining profits and losses. Farming is undoubtedly the most complicated of all business, consequently business methods are more important in this work than in most other kinds. Those present who employed business methods, including bookkeeping, in their farm work, stated that it would be impossible for them to continue their work without the aid of these methods. They also stated that the time required was insignificant compared with the enlightenment and cash returns derived thereby.

It is evident that the educational work in connection with the Farm Census must be carried further and we want our reporters and others to aid in assembling information which will help towards a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of the Farm Census. The tax listers and County Tax Supervisors are having difficulty in getting best returns and they are using as excuses for their seemingly slack work the ignorance of farmers regarding this.

THE FOLLY OF UNDERESTIMATES

About the middle of August several newspapers carried the headlines "Insufficient cars to handle the peach shipments." There is usually a bias on the average farmer's estimate which has to be anticipated or else the resulting judgment will usually be wrong. The commercial trades know this and make due allowance as a rule. This leads to a reputation that the farmer's word cannot be depended upon.

It certainly is true that it would be far better for the farmer and his business if he would use careful judgment and report his honest opinions about his crops. The truckers and fruit growers generally lose by underestimating their crops hoping that this will cause the prices to be better. Instead of that, it frequently happens that there are not only not enough cars to handle the shipments, but in addition the crate and basket factories under-produce their products, while the markets are frequently unable to handle the quantities shipped. This results in a "Glutted" market with prices "shot to pieces." It would have been far better had the truth been known.



SAND HILL ORCHARD

This is an August peach scene in Moore County. The commercial crop was over 1,100,000 bushels this year, with over 2700 equivalent cars sold.

TO OUR READERS

We would indeed welcome any suggestions that you might offer regarding matters that should appear in this publication. This might include explanations, clarifications or timely topics that we have not heretofore mentioned. We prefer to make this a service sheet as well as one carrying statistical information. Your cooperation will help greatly in this respect.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
The Agricultural Situation.....	1
August 1, 1926 Crop Report for North Carolina.....	2
August 1, 1926 Crop Forecasts.....	3
Business Methods in Farming.....	4

W. A. GRAHAM, Commissioner of Agriculture. THOS. C. COOPER, Chief U. S. Bureau Agri. Economics.

This Farm Forecaster is issued monthly for North Carolina by the

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