

FARM FORECASTER

CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

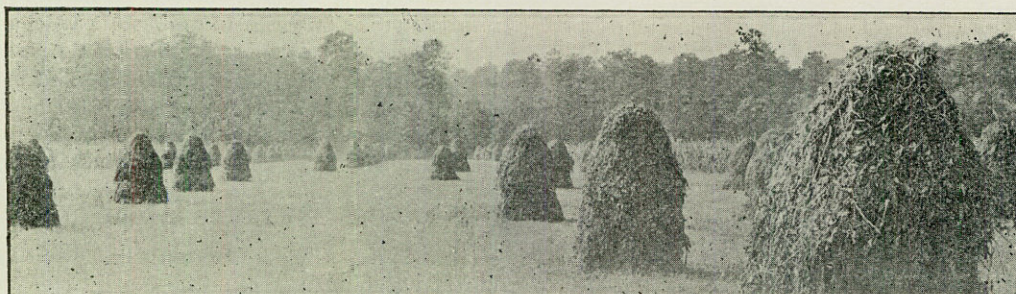


SEPTEMBER, 1927

RALEIGH

NUMBER 48

Two
crops
each
year



First
oats
then
beans

NORTH CAROLINA SEPTEMBER CROPS DESCRIBED

COTTON

The cotton crop is commanding special public interest just now. While the prospective production of 12,692,000 bales is about two-thirds of last year's crop, the market price is about twice as much. What is still better, the present short crop will allow the muchly quoted surplus stocks on hand to be reduced by consumption.

North Carolina's crop prospect of 911,000 bales appears to be about three-fourths of the 1926 crop—which in turn was the State's record production. The acreage is reduced from 10 to 15 per cent this year. The condition reported by 549 farmers the first of the month was 64 per cent, while that a year ago was 69 per cent. Thus, it may be seen that the farmers last year saw the crop through blue glasses, and may be optimistic this year, or else pessimism is overripe. With an average yield per acre of 292 pounds of lint last year, it hardly appears now that we may make 244 pounds this year.

The cotton report shows clearly that the poorest condition was below 50 per cent. This area extends south of a line from Scotland through Pender counties, and reaches up to include Cumberland and Duplin counties. The zone of 50 to 60 per cent runs from Anson northeasterly to Bertie County. Then, 70 to 80 per cent areas are from Mecklenburg to Gates counties, passing through Moore, Wake, Wilson and lower Halifax counties. This condition is also found from Lenoir to Carteret and from upper Pitt to Tyrrell counties. An area of above 80 per cent condition is shown from Rowan to Alamance counties.

The Weather Bureau shows heavy rainfall during August. An area of over 8 inches of rain includes eastern Halifax and Edgecombe, and extends to Pasquotank. Complaint of too much rain is general. Red spider damage is frequent but spotted. Belated growth of plants and danger of rotting in bolls is important. The final crop is very problematical now.

The boll weevil map on the inside page offers a clear idea of the zones of boll weevil infestation. The shading increases with the intensity of infestation. The area from Scotland northeastward to Beaufort counties appear to be the worst infested.

TOBACCO

In spite of the dry planting season and wet conditions since early June, North Carolina has made an unusually good tobacco crop. The bright leaf flue-cured tobacco belt shows the only increase in tobacco acreage and production in the United States. Kentucky has reduced her crop about one-third. Prices of tobacco in North Carolina did not start out satisfactorily in the New Belt, but it is claimed that much poor quality tobacco was first put on these markets.

The August sales of tobacco in the South Carolina belt, including, Columbus, Robeson and Bladen counties, amounted to 21,886,060 of farmers' leaf, auctioned through twenty-two warehouses, at an average price of \$22.36 per hundredweight. This was more than twice as much as was sold to the same date last year, with the price averaging \$24.78 per hundredweight then.

The present outlook for the tobacco crop in North Carolina shows an average condition of 83 per cent of a full crop promise, compared with 79 per cent a year ago. This forecasts a crop of 425,431,000 pounds which is 10 per cent more than was produced last year when 685 pounds per acre was the average yield.

The crop for the country at large indicates 1,198,000,000 pounds or 8 per cent less than was produced last year, the average condition being 76.5 per cent of a normal growth. This is 5 per cent less than the crop condition at the same time last year, when 787 pounds per acre resulted.

As a whole the crop has good color and body this year, although the leaves are probably smaller than usual. The acreage was considerably increased throughout the State. The September 1st condition reports show the Piedmont belt averaging highest, with 78 per cent the lowest in the northern Coastal area.

Each year finds tobacco growers hauling their crop greater distances to markets. There is evidence that from the products marketed, that farmers are becoming better able to grade tobaccos and to judge values.

A letter was recently received from a representative in China, accompanied by samples of native tobacco. These show clearly that they are beginning to successfully grow bright leaf flue-cured tobacco in China, by securing fresh seeds annually from the Carolinas. The present war conditions there also hurts our export trade.

THE CROPS IN THIS STATE HAVE HAD VERY FAVORABLE GROWING CONDITIONS

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

North Carolina is now entering into her fall harvest season. Since the first of June, conditions have been favorable for crop growth. Seasons have been fairly well distributed, with excesses in some sections, resulting in grassy crops. With the exception of cotton, the fall harvested crops should make good yields this year. The wheat harvest was disappointing. Oats were better than last year.

For the country at large, the two greatest cash crops show opposite results. The wheat harvest was good, while cotton is being reduced heavily by the boll weevil. The two leading feed crops show hay with unusually good yields, while corn is poor. Corn is so late that much damage by early frosts is anticipated in the West. Fall Irish Potatoes are promising good yields. Apples are short, with the best crop in the far western States.

The most striking recent development in crop prospects has been in cotton. The weevil menace has been expected for three months, with the damage gradually increasing. The apparent prospect will not meet the consumption. This is expected to not only give a greater income from this year's crop than was received last year, but will aid in keeping up the price of the 1928 crop.

Land is being prepared for the sowing of wheat and other fall sown grains. Farmers are active in harvesting tobacco, hay and corn fodder. The tobacco harvest is largely over in the eastern counties of North Carolina.

NATIONAL CROP PRODUCTION TREND

The outlook for all wheat production this year shows 2 per cent more than was produced last year and about 7 per cent more than the five-year production and 11 per cent more than was produced in 1913. The corn outlook is appreciably less than for either of these periods. The peanut production is estimated at about 25 per cent more than last year's crop and is considerably more than the five-year average. Irish Potatoes show about 16 per cent more than last year, about 5 per cent more than the five-year average and 21 per cent more than in 1913. Sweet Potatoes show 4 per cent more than last year and appreciably more than either the five-year average or 1913. Tobacco production is quite short of last year, and the five-year average. The hay outlook is for almost 20 per cent more than last year and about 12 per cent more than the five-year average. Fruit is from a half to two-thirds of the usual.

FARM PRICES

With cotton averaging 14.8 cents per pound in June, we saw a rapid rise to well over 20 cents in two months' time. Corn prices are now ranging about \$1.00 per bushel, or considerably more than a year ago. Hog prices are considerably off from last year and are approaching the pre-war level. Beef cattle appear to be slightly above the usual in value.

The price indexes show a lower price for wheat, while almost all other farm crops are rising. Food prices on markets are slowly going downward. Clothing is inclined upward, with building materials selling cheaper.

The relative purchasing power shows that Potatoes will buy more of other commodities than most other crops, the value basis being pre-war prices. As a whole, farm prices as indicated by the 88 per cent level, have not reached the pre-war normal purchasing price, while manufactured products are distinctly higher than then. The purchasing power of farm products is 2 points higher than a year ago and 1 point higher than in July.

Farm bankruptcies during the past three years have been very heavy in Western States, Georgia and Maine. From North Carolina northward, the distress in this regard has not been nearly as heavy as elsewhere.

NORTH CAROLINA CROP OPPORTUNITIES

The summary of the 1926 crops produced in this State showed twenty-six products, each having a value of over one million dollars. Sixteen of these crops had over one hundred thousand acres each harvested last year. Thirteen crops had a value of over ten million dollars each, and two crops averaged almost one hundred million dollars each.

Farmers in almost any part of the State have a choice of more than thirty crops from which to select. Several may be selected for each season of the year and for each type of soil or climatic conditions. The farming industries that are fairly well developed include, distant and local market trucking; dairying; fruit growing; poultry; hogs; tobacco; cotton and peanuts as cash crops; and general farming.

With this opportunity, there is no necessity for any farmer to continue year after year to grow any particular unprofitable crop. Then, again, if the average farmer would practice a farm budgeting system like one now being inaugurated in the county government of North Carolina, he would be enabled to hold his cotton and other crops when the prices were unreasonably low; to buy cheaper for cash and to better plan for safe farming in the future.

DOUBLE CROPPING

On the front cover is shown a hay harvesting scene. The stacks are of soy bean and pea vine hay. These were second cropped after late spring oats. At each side of this field is shown corn growing with soy beans interplanted between the rows. One field followed early Irish Potatoes.

There are trucking areas north of the Albemarle Sound and extending periodically southward, where two to four crops are frequently grown on the same acreage in one year. They usually include an early truck crop like potatoes, peas or beans, between the rows of which are planted corn or cotton and then soy beans where the truck crop grew. It might be preferred to plant sweet potatoes or some other truck crop following the early harvest. It is not at all uncommon to have two hay crops on the same land. The practice of double cropping is the custom in many counties of North Carolina. In the case of corn with soy beans, each crop yields practically as much as if planted alone on separate acreages. The corn and beans that might be lost from shattering when harvested are picked up by the hogs, which should constitute a third or fourth crop.

Not uncommonly, cowpeas are planted in truck crops (like melons) at the last cultivation, and are later mowed and harvested for hay. Cowpeas, soy beans and clovers broadcasted in corn frequently are used as a soiling and winter cover crop. Thus we find a great variety in the choice and usage of companion and follow (second) crops.

INDUSTRY

Quite frequently we hear from would-be philosophers that farmers do not work half the year. While this is not strictly true, too many farmers do not make full use of their opportunities and time. The fellow who will plan his work ahead and apply himself just as he would in any other industry, will find that there are golden opportunities in farming every month of the year. There are many choices for winter crops; spring truck is well known; the wide variety of summer and fall crops are ever before us, and with a fair degree of intelligence and industry, one's time can be fully and profitably occupied throughout the year, with something coming into tide over instead of the usual practice of waiting for the fall sale of crops. Livestock can very profitably be incorporated into such plans.

Says Jinx: "This here cotton price drop talk reminds me of the farmer's fix: No one knows his work or troubles, but they're always ready to criticize and offer ideas without knowing his ways or intentions."

UNITED STATES CROPS

As evidenced by the condition of 69.7 per cent of a normal or full crop, the corn crop is particularly short this year. Last year's crop of 2,647,000,000 bushels was about 8 per cent more than is expected this year. The five-year average is about 3 per cent more than last year's crop. The yield per acre averaged 27.2 bushels for the past five years, with the present crop indicated at 25.2 bushels.

The wheat crop, on the other hand, is unusually good, with about 4 per cent more yield than was made last year and 8 per cent more than the five-year average. The per acre yield of 14.7 bushels is about the same as last year but slightly more than the usual. The increase in the acreage was 3.4 per cent. Oats show an opposite trend, with 27.7 bushels per acre as compared with 31.7 for the five-year average. The production prospect for this year is 1,191,000,000 bushels or about 12 per cent less than the five-year average.

The sweet potato crop of the country is forecasted at 89,300,000 bushels. This is appreciably more than last year and 10 per cent more than the five-year average. The average yield is 97.1 bushels per acre. This is 4 per cent less than last year and 5 per cent more than the five-year average. Irish potatoes, with a yield of 114.3 bushels, are more than last year and 3 per cent more than the five-year average. The production of 400,000,000 bushels shows a decline from last month and is 44,000,000 more than last year. Both crops were increased about ten per cent in acreage.

In the case of tobacco, the 732 pounds average yield per acre is considerably less than both last year and the five-year average. With an acreage decrease of 3.5 per cent and a condition of 76.5 per cent of a full crop, the forecasted production is 1,168,000,000 pounds which is 10 per cent less than last year and 13 per cent less than the usual. The greatest decline occurred in the Burley section. The crops of Tennessee and Kentucky show a decline of 176,000,000 pounds, leaving the crops in those states two-thirds of the size they were last year, and even less than the usual crops. The bright leaf tobacco is more in favor and shows an appreciable increase in acreage.

Peanuts are forecasted at the same acre yield as last year, but at about 7 per cent more than the usual yield per acre. With the acreage showing an increase of 37 per cent, the crop of 860,000,000 pounds also shows the same increase. Thus this crop shows an average condition.

Hay has found a most favorable year, with conditions averaging 91 per cent as compared with 79.4 per cent of a full crop for the past ten years. With a production of 101,000,000 tons, we find an 18 per cent increase over last year's crop.

The fruit prospects show the agricultural apple crop with 40.7 per cent and the commercial prospect 43.6 per cent of a full crop. Thus, the outlook is for a small crop. Peaches average 47.9 per cent condition or only two-thirds of last year's crop. Grapes appear to be good. Pecans averaged 42 per cent as compared with 65 a year ago.

The tables on page 4 offer further studies.

ANOTHER ADVANTAGE NORTH CAROLINA HOLDS

This State has several advantages over other Southern States. One is known to only a few, although 200,000 farmers directly contribute to it each year. It serves as an annual inventory. Business interests consider the inventory an essential in all productive enterprises. It is the FARM CENSUS, as secured by the tax listers. It is secured, edited, tabulated, printed and re-distributed back to the counties from which it comes, within a few months.

A series of articles will appear in this space each month pertaining to the need and value of farm statistics. As statistics represent results, which in turn are called facts (usually expressed as data) we should recognize and analyze this information as well worth studying. This leaves the guess out.

If all manufacturers find it essential, first of all, to get the facts on stocks, production, costs, markets, etc., why should this not also apply to the farming industry? It does. Our agricultural leaders are rapidly realizing the inventorial value of the county annual farm census. Specific cases will appear later.

Succeeding articles will include brief discussions pertaining to farm statistics, entitled:

NEED AND VALUE OF FARM STATISTICS

1. History of Agricultural Statistical Reports.
2. Modern Statistical Economics discussed.
3. The Crop Reporting Service in North Carolina.
4. WHO is the Government? Who are the crop reporters?
5. What of the Crop Reports? Speculative? Reliable?
6. Ten years of the Farm Census. For what?
7. Practical possibilities of the Farm Census.
8. Realizing on the Farm Census investments. How?
9. The future usage of farm statistics by farmers.

Mr. Farmer, listen for a moment. Are you one of those open-minded fellows who want to get out of the mire of unprofitable farming? Then read these articles and profit thereby. As you know, many farmers are like the younger generation of today—they are wise in their own conceit. They think they know many secrets that you envy them of, and are not receptive to any of your older and proven ideas.

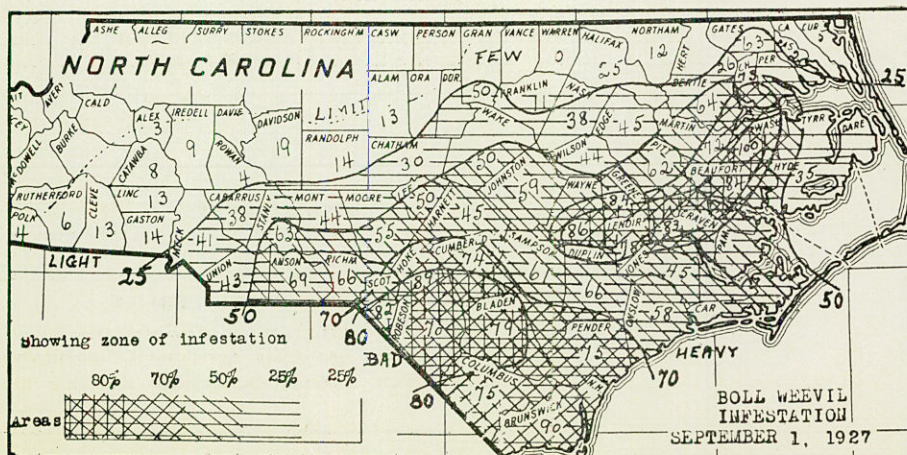
The man, no matter his age or education, who no longer strives to study, learn, listen and to improve his methods and ideas, is surely on the down grade. There are minutes every day, and there will be hours this winter, when each farmer should be thinking industriously and planning his next year's work. He should do much reading and STUDYING. Why learn from costly experience when the experience of *bettors* can be bought cheaply in papers and books?



IT'S ABOUT TIME

Isn't it time for the farmers to do their own thinking rather than believing every Tom, Dick and Harry? Too often we listen to *any* criticism, but pay no heed to *wise* counsel.

Until individual farmers use economic statistical information, just as other producers do with their statistical results of previous performance, we may expect to be up against impassable barriers. How many farmers even know how much it costs to produce any one crop?



SEPTEMBER 1, 1927, CROP REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

		MOUNTAIN AREA		PIEDMONT AREA			COASTAL AREA			N. C. State Average	U. S. Average	N. C. State Average Sept. 1, 1926	U. S. Average Sept. 1, 1926
		Northern	Western	Northern	Central	Southern	Northern	Central	Southern				
		1	4	2	5	8	3	6	9				
Condition:													
Corn.....	Per cent	80	89	85	84	80	89	88	94	87	69.7	83	73.8
Potatoes, Irish (late crop).....	Per cent	92	87	85	78	70	75	71	69	83	77.8	64	77.5
Potatoes, sweet.....	Per cent	84	89	87	88	85	84	86	88	86	80.0	78	78.5
Tobacco.....	Per cent	81	83	87	91	84	78	80	85	83	76.5	79	81.0
Hay (all tame).....	Per cent	90	90	86	87	81	84	86	81	86	91.0	77	75.5
Alfalfa hay.....	Per cent	88	85	88	92	82	76	90	100	87		75	
Pasture.....	Per cent	91	91	91	90	83	84	88	87	89	84.1	82	78.2
Peanuts.....	Per cent	75	89	64	82	79	77	92	78	78	78.6	73	74.9
Soy beans.....	Per cent	88	92	87	92	84	87	87	87	87	82.2	80	83.9
Cowpeas.....	Per cent	79	87	82	87	83	84	80	80	83	78.7	82	79.5
Velvet beans.....	Per cent	67	78	75	84	79	83	83	80	80	78.0	78	73.9
Sorghum cane for sirup.....	Per cent	84	84	82	84	80	79	78	79	82		83	
Apples.....	Per cent	15	14	51	51	40	40	63	68	32	40.7	79	77.4
Pears.....	Per cent	14	15	37	29	26	42	40	51	33	53.7	67	78.6
Grapes.....	Per cent	52	39	70	68	67	74	71	71	70	80.8	85	78.1
Pecans.....	Per cent	40	47	47	56	73	69	64	67	66	42.1	78	65.4
Hay, Wild:													
Average yield per acre.....	Pounds	1,920	2,227	1,633	1,757	1,957	1,350	1,833	1,657	2,000		1,800	
Quality.....	Per cent	88	85	73	85	79	76	79	84	82		84	
Peaches:													
Total Production.....	Per cent	16	10	48	33	32	53	53	51	37	47.9	67	77.9
Quality.....	Per cent	64	43	71	63	73	69	74	75	72		83	
Farm Labor:													
Supply.....	Per cent	88	92	85	88	87	86	88	87	88		89	
Demand.....	Per cent	90	88	89	84	83	91	87	90	88		90	
COTTON—SEPTEMBER 1, 1927													
Condition, compared normal.....	Per cent		78	73	74	68	67	61	53	64	56.1	69	59.6
Per cent acreage abandoned.....	Per cent		2.2	.6	.9	1.5	1.8	1.3	2.8	1.5	4.8	1.0	3.5
Bolls, per plant, safe to date.....	Number		5.0	6.0	6.1	5.6	6.4	5.2	5.0	5.2		5.6	
Size of bolls compared usual.....	Per cent		91	86	91	92	90	91	89	102			
Average date picking begins.....	Sept.		20	23	20	15	20	14	9	16		16	
Per cent boll weevil infestation.....	Per cent		6	16	22	40	39	64	67	41			
Per cent cotton acreage poisoned.....	Per cent		0	0	.2	.8	1.6	.8	1.4	1.0			

SEPTEMBER 1, 1927, CROP FORECASTS

		NORTH CAROLINA CROPS								UNITED STATES CROPS							
		Condition Sept. 1		Yield per Acre		Production		Market Price August 15		Condition Sept. 1		Yield per Acre		Production		Market Price August 15	
		Per cent		Ex-pected	Made	Prospective	Produced					Ex-pected	Made	Prospective	Produced		
		1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926
Corn.....	Bushels	87	83	22.4	22.0	52,254,000	52,272,000	\$1.04	\$1.08	69.7	73.8	25.2	26.6	2,457,000,000	2,647,000,000	.98	.80
Oats.....	Bushels			21.0	22.0	5,985,000	6,820,000	.69	.65	70.3	67.9	27.7	28.2	1,191,000,000	1,250,000,000	.44	.38
Cotton*.....	Bales	64	69	244.0	292.0	911,000	1,212,819	.174	.169	56.1		149.3	182.6	12,692,000	17,977,374	.17	.16
Tobacco.....	Pounds	83	79	672.3	685.0	425,431,000	386,440,000	.22	.25	76.5	81.0	732.0	787.0	1,198,000,000	1,301,000,000		
Peanuts.....	Pounds	78	73	1,006.2	980.0	234,444,600	190,120,000	.07	.04	78.6	74.9	735.0	736.0	860,000,000	627,000,000		
Potatoes, Irish.....	Bushels	83	64	94.6	100.0	7,571,000	7,400,000	1.40	1.50	77.8	77.5	114.3	113.1	400,000,000	356,000,000	1.46	1.41
Potatoes, Sweet.....	Bushels	86	78	107.5	90.0	9,245,000	7,560,000	1.40	1.70	80.0	78.5	97.1	100.8	89,300,000	83,700,000	1.47	1.89
Hay, Tame.....	Tons	86	77	1.1	.9	955,000	886,000	18.00	20.00	91.0	75.5	1.68	1.45	101,000,000	86,200,000	9.97	13.04
Apples:																	
Agricultural.....	Bushels	32	79			2,294,000	5,986,000	1.10	.70	40.7	77.4			124,000,000	246,000,000	1.36	1.04
Commercial.....	Barrels	32	79			115,000	345,000	3.20	3.00	43.6	78.1			24,200,000	39,400,000	3.73	3.05
Peaches.....	Bushels	37	67			1,184,000	2,100,000			47.9	77.9			44,800,000	69,700,000		
Grapes.....	Bushels	70	85			5,320,000	6,840,000			80.8	78.1			2,530,000	2,350,000		
Pears.....										53.7	78.6			18,000,000	25,600,000		

Note—*Cotton yield per acre given in pounds.

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This Farm Forecaster is issued occasionally for North Carolina by the
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