

FARM FORECASTER

CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

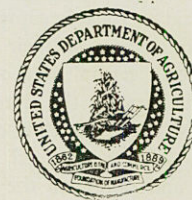


COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA



MAY, 1928

ANNUAL GRAPHIC ISSUE

NUMBER 50

TRUCK FARM SCENE IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY. LETTUCE CROP.



THE MAY OUTLOOK IN NORTH CAROLINA

The latter part of April and early May experienced an unusually prolonged cool period which, together with the cold rains, adversely affected certain truck crops and cotton. Thus the outlook on May 15th may be somewhat blue to those depending on commercial crops of beans, strawberries, cucumbers, cantaloupes and other crops affected by such weather. Cotton planted prior to May 1st more than likely suffered from this weather. The result was both the rotting of seed in the soil and the dying of young plants already germinated before May 1st. As a result of the wide-spread effort to secure cotton seed, prices of these advanced to a high mark. Many farmers bought oil mill seed without regard to variety. As a result it is probable that there will be a big demand for improved seed for the 1929 crop. The wise farmer will bear this in mind.

On the bright side of the outlook we find a fair to good fruit crop, with the exception of peaches in the mountain counties, where they are affected to a variable degree. The growers in the Sand Hills commercial peach territory are optimistic of the final price returns. In spite of the adverse weather, the shipments of strawberries and lettuce have been heavy. The final outcome of the 1927 crop year was such as to start the farmers off in an optimistic frame of mind for this year's operations.

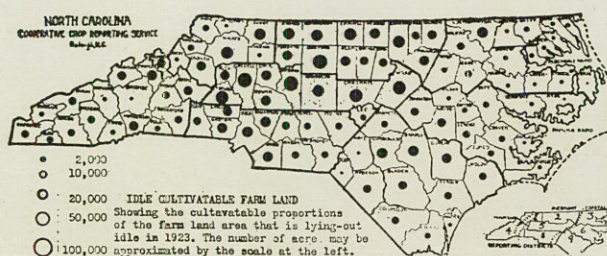
The past winter was unusually favorable for field preparations which resulted in the farmers having their lands ready for planting earlier than usual. In spite of the backwardness of the spring seasons, much planting was done at an early date.

The tobacco plants were late but plentiful. In view of the large number of new tobacco curing barns, together with the availability of plants and the earliness of field preparations, it is anticipated that the acreage may be considerable increased. After the cold and rainy periods of May, it is likely that the farmers will take advantage of this by rushing their plant settings. This is particularly true where settings had not been made previously or are unsatisfactory. Altogether the outlook is good, in spite of an unfavorable start.

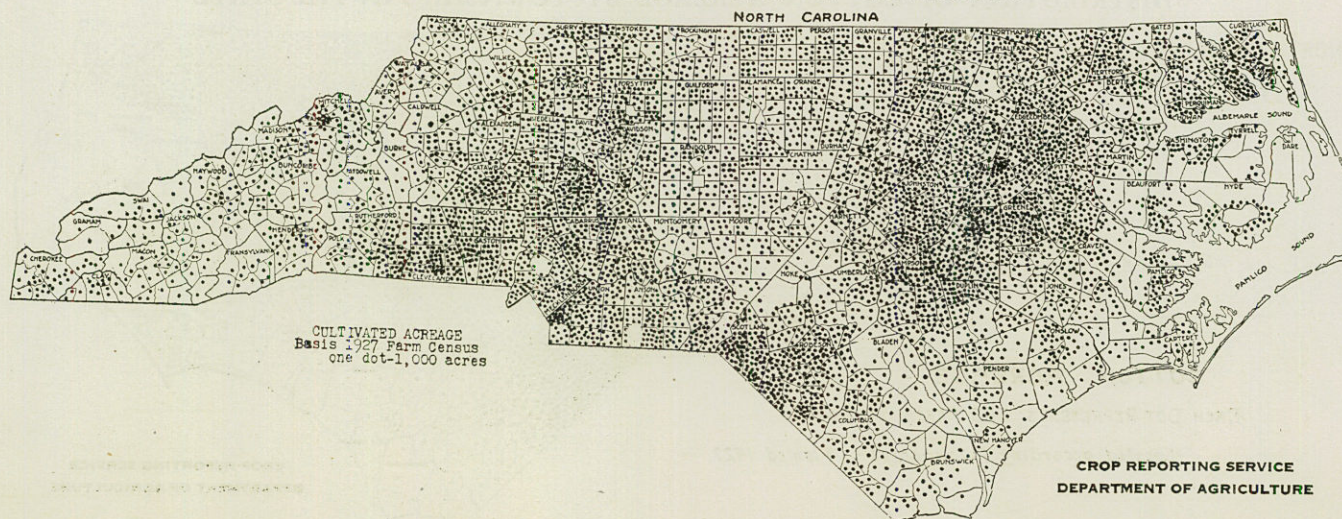
WHY THIS GRAPHIC ISSUE

Realizing that the average person, and particularly farmers, will rarely take the time to dig into a table of figures sufficiently to picture their meaning, we have prepared in this issue a pictorialization of the basic information contained in our March annual "Forecaster" issue of crops and livestock statistics. Figures have purposely been left off as graphics are intended to visualize information rather than to give absolute facts. Of course, this issue should supplement the annual one just mentioned. (Cont'd Page 12)

IDLE AVAILABLE FARM LAND



CULTIVATED ACREAGE IN 1927 BY TOWNSHIPS



CROP REPORTING SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE ARICULTURAL SITUATION

The rains, together with the warm weather of May 18th to 21st, extending over the State, have been favorable on crops. This will be a great aid to tobacco growers in the affected areas who have not completed the setting of their plants. It will also be beneficial to areas that were in general need of rain.

Reports through the third week of May indicate that the fruit crop outside of the Sand Hills commercial peach area does not seem to be as good as was expected early in the month. Heavy dropping of peaches, and failure in the development of apples, appear to be widespread, with the prospects of a short crop.

According to the United States outlook of May 1st, the Southern States show the season to be generally backward in every way, including field work, germination and growth of crops caused by the cold, wet weather. Cotton stands were bad.

The small grain crops in North Carolina have improved wonderfully during this month. This is especially characteristic of wheat and spring oats. The fall oat crop, due to the bad stands, cannot be made good even with good "stooling."

The index numbers of farm prices for the United States show that small grains are on an upward trend, the same applying to truck crops and cotton. As a whole, the price index number, covering thirty items, stands about 138 per cent as compared with pre-war prices, indicating a present purchasing power of 92 per cent of the pre-war value. In North Carolina the index number is about 138, with about 91 per cent purchasing power. The rise in the value of cotton is largely responsible for the recent upward trend.

RELIABILITY OF REPORTS

The revised cotton report given in the accompanying table, released May 17th gives the latest official data on this crop for last year. The December 1st estimates showed 12,789,000 bales indicated, as compared with the 12,950,000 bales ginned, which indicates that the last fall's cotton estimate was approximately 99 per cent of the final ginnings. For North Carolina, the December 1st estimate of last year was within three-tenths of one per cent of the final ginnings, while for the six-year average the December 1st estimates have been one per cent below the ginnings. For four years, the average September forecasts have been only four-tenths of one per cent in error of the final March ginnings of cotton.

In relation to tobacco, the December 1st estimates over a period of six years have averaged within

OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF 1927 COTTON, REVISED MAY 17, 1928

STATE	Estimated acreage July 1, 1927	Area picked 1927	Yield of lint picked per acre Pounds	Production 1927 crop 500 lb Bales	Ginnings reported to Mar. 20, '28 500 lb Bales
	Acres	Acres			
Virginia	65,000	64,000	230	31,000	30,432
North Carolina	1,749,000	1,728,000	238	861,000	860,876
South Carolina	2,454,000	2,356,000	148	730,000	729,942
Georgia	3,501,000	3,413,000	154	1,100,000	1,099,568
Florida	67,000	64,000	126	17,000	16,496
Missouri	305,000	291,000	188	115,000	114,125
Tennessee	985,000	965,000	178	359,000	358,755
Alabama	3,214,000	3,166,000	180	1,191,000	1,192,262
Mississippi	3,408,000	3,340,000	194	1,355,000	1,355,098
Louisiana	1,585,000	1,542,000	170	548,000	547,437
Texas	16,850,000	16,176,000	129	4,352,000	4,354,621
Oklahoma	4,187,000	3,601,000	138	1,037,000	1,036,606
Arkansas	3,142,000	3,048,000	157	1,000,000	999,657
New Mexico	100,000	95,000	352	70,000	65,249
Arizona	140,000	139,000	315	91,000	91,589
California	130,000	128,000	340	91,000	91,177
All other	23,000	22,000	160	7,000	6,583
U. S. TOTAL	41,905,000	40,138,000	154.5	12,955,000	12,950,473

one-tenth of one per cent of the final sales records in North Carolina. On page 11 the map of the voluntary crop reporters, together with its explanation, gives an idea of why the government reports are not guesses but are genuine mathematical estimates.

TRUCK CROP NEWS

According to Mr. R. B. Etheridge, marketing specialist, the potato outlook is very indefinite. The crop is late and farmers fear that the loss of fertilizers and damaged stands will affect the yield adversely. As a rule, the weather has been unfavorable on the late spring truck like cucumbers, cantaloupes, beans, etc.

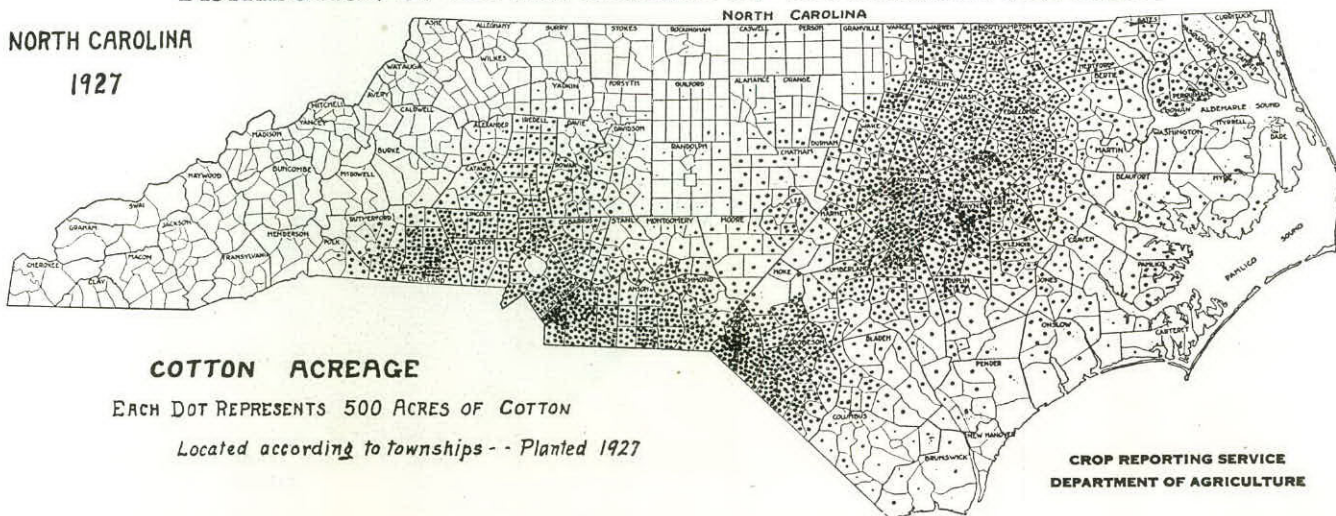
This issue of the FARM FORECASTER clearly illustrates that North Carolina is not only capable of producing but is actually growing a large variety of crops and livestock. This is made possible by the variable conditions existing in relation to soils, climate and topography. There is good grounds for Commissioner William A. Graham's slogan, "Diversification of crops." This is not only an economic but a practical procedure. With the late May seasons, the outlook for crops is good.

EDGECOMBE TEST FARM
COTTON—PEANUTS—CORN



DISTRIBUTION OF COTTON ACREAGE BY TOWNSHIPS IN THE STATE

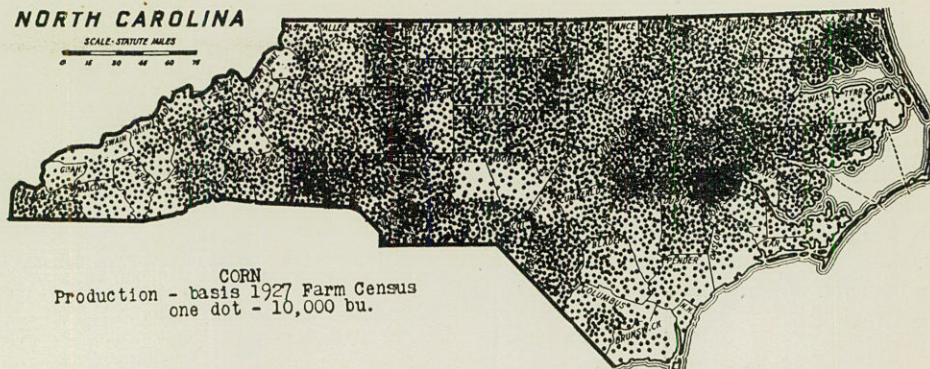
NORTH CAROLINA
1927



CORN

With almost two and one-half million acres, this crop distinctly leads all others in North Carolina. It is the most generally planted of all crops, as practically every farmer tries to plant enough for his needs. While some counties grow a larger proportion of their land to corn, very few of them grow enough surplus for sale. The yield per acre last year was slightly higher than usual, while the average price of 91 cents was more than that for the previous year's good crop.

NORTH CAROLINA

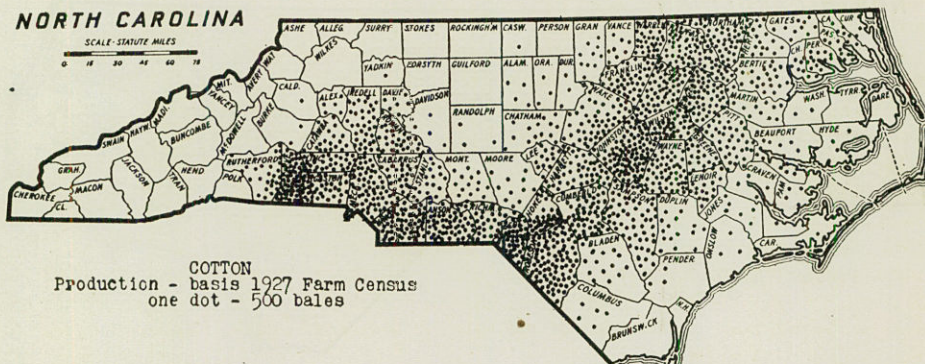
SCALE - STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

CORN
Production - basis 1927 Farm Census
one dot - 10,000 bu.

COTTON

There is a distinct cotton belt extending along the southern Piedmont area and up the inner Coastal region, forming somewhat of a right angle leaving the eastern Piedmont section out of the main cotton belt. Cleveland is the concentrated western county, ranking third in the production of cotton in the State. Her proportion of cultivated acreage planted to cotton also ranks third, with Scotland and Hoke coming first and second.

NORTH CAROLINA

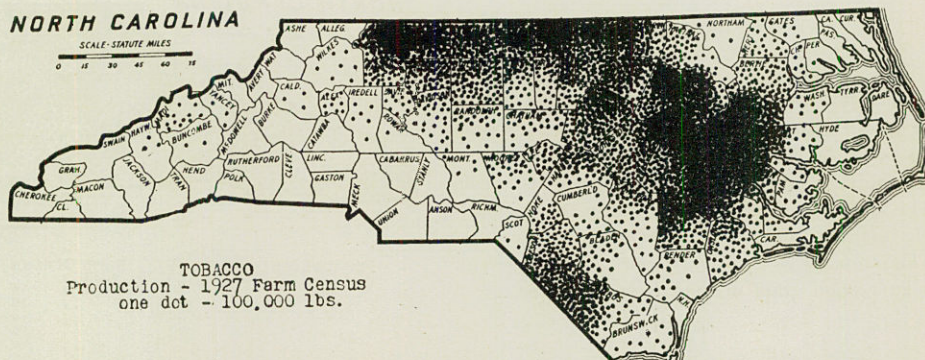
SCALE - STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

COTTON
Production - basis 1927 Farm Census
one dot - 500 bales

TOBACCO

A very definite smoke screen is formed over the northern Piedmont and central Coastal belts, with a smaller cloud near the South Carolina line. Pitt and Wilson counties locate the center of the eastern concentrated producing area, and likewise sell the most as may be observed on the markets map on page 10. The few dots in the mountain counties indicate where the Burley crop is grown. The burley crop is sold into Tennessee markets.

NORTH CAROLINA

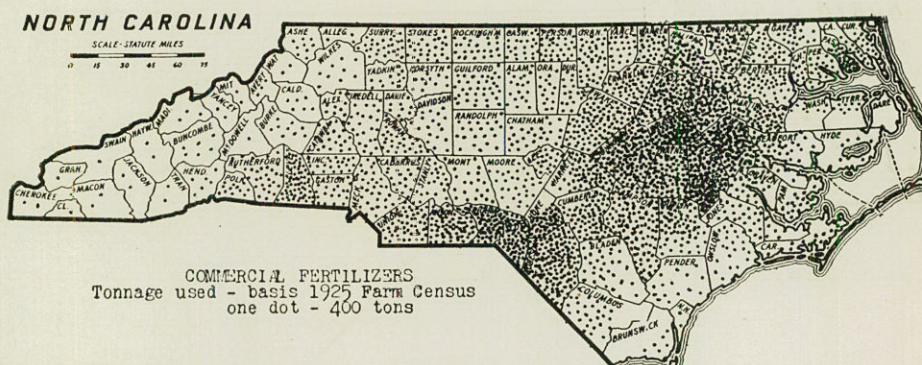
SCALE - STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

TOBACCO
Production - 1927 Farm Census
one dot - 100,000 lbs.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS

The cloudiest area is naturally to be found where both cotton and tobacco overlap. This area is in the eastern part of the State. A few exceptions to this are, Pasquotank which is a concentrated trucking county; Northampton, Cleveland and Richmond which are concentrated cotton counties. The further west you go, the less fertilized is used. The Central Piedmont area depends on livestock and soil improving crops instead of excessive fertilizers.

NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE - STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS
Tonnage used - basis 1925 Farm Census
one dot - 400 tons

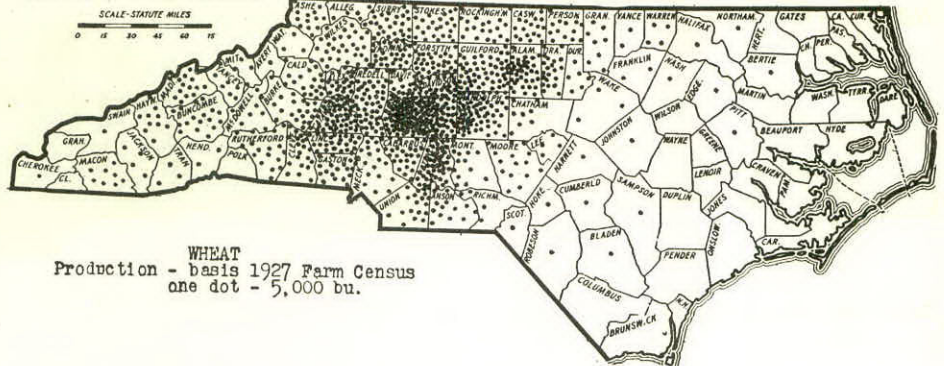
A DIVERSIFIED TRUCK FARM NEAR MOREHEAD CITY, MAY 1ST GROWTH



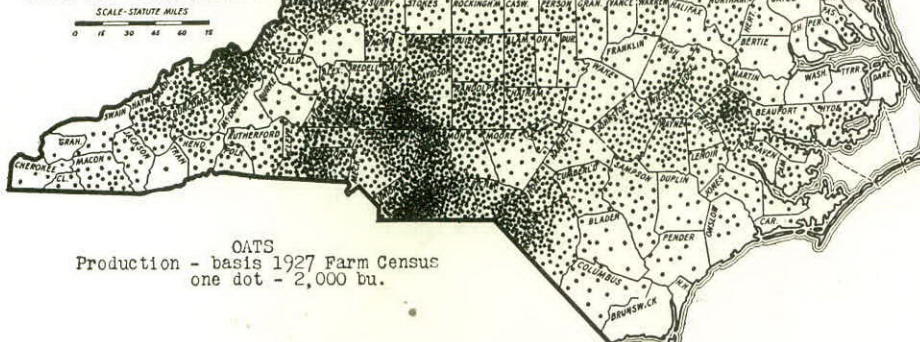
WHEAT

From Catawba to Randolph county forms the commercial wheat belt of North Carolina. It is the most important crop grown there. While this map may not appear to be as heavily dotted as the other small grains, yet each dot here represents 5,000 bushels while the others are much less. It is in this central wheat belt that we find probably our most ideal agricultural conditions. The Coastal Plains Belt thinks more in the terms of "cash" than they do of food and feed crops.

NORTH CAROLINA



NORTH CAROLINA



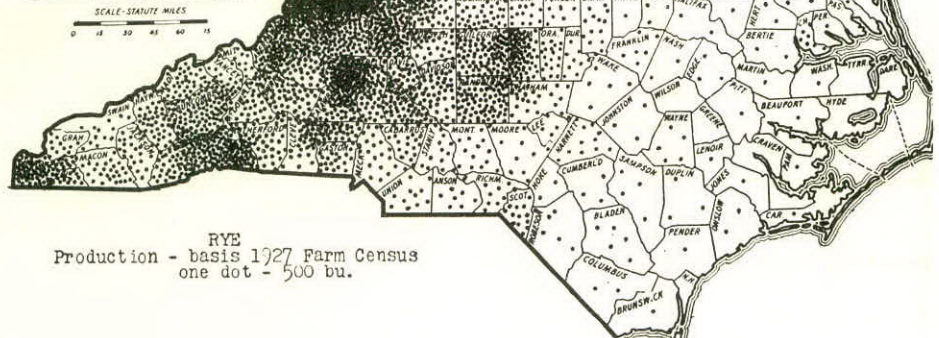
OATS

In the most unexpected counties we find interest in the production of oats to be evident. The eastern area plants spring oats, while the Piedmont usually tries the fall planting, to be made up with the spring planting, according to the results. Union and Rowan counties are the heaviest producers. With the advantages that this crop offers, it is surprising that more farmers do not produce it for feed purposes.

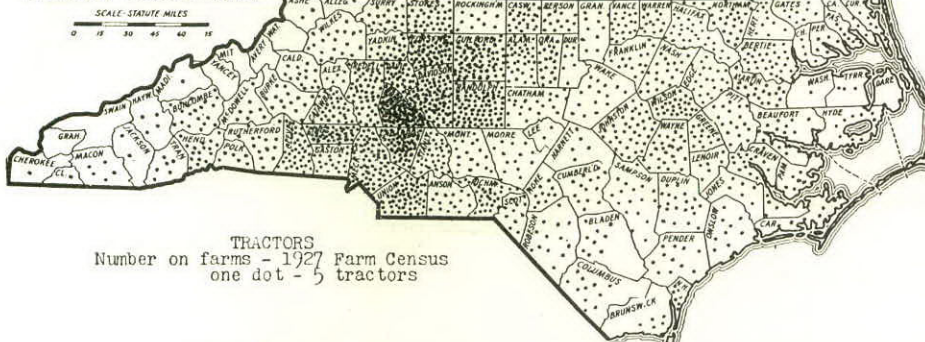
RYE

Rye is distinctly a western Carolina crop; in fact, from the shaded area shown it is trying to crowd into southwestern Virginia. It should be borne in mind that each dot here represents 500 bushels, while wheat is ten times as much. The diversification program is largely responsible for the Randolph to Alamance dark area. This crop offers good early spring grazing, with a later good grain or feed crop for harvest.

NORTH CAROLINA



NORTH CAROLINA



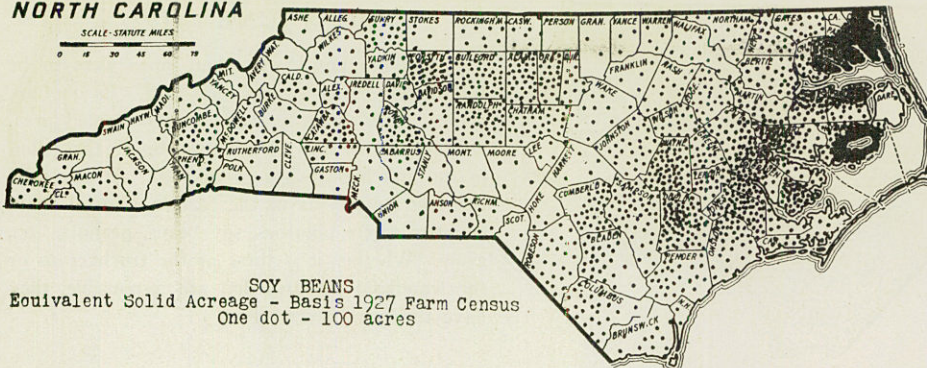
TRACTORS

This is where a surprise will be found for many who think that tractors are to be found in eastern counties. With Rowan leading, having 560 active tractors last year, we find the central Piedmont area taking advantage of tractors in connection with their farm work. The sand in eastern counties has a serious wearing effect which the clay counties have an advantage in. A tractor, like good blooded stock, must be given good treatment.

WHEAT FARM SCENE IN RANDOLPH COUNTY. YET UNCUT ON HILL TOP



NORTH CAROLINA



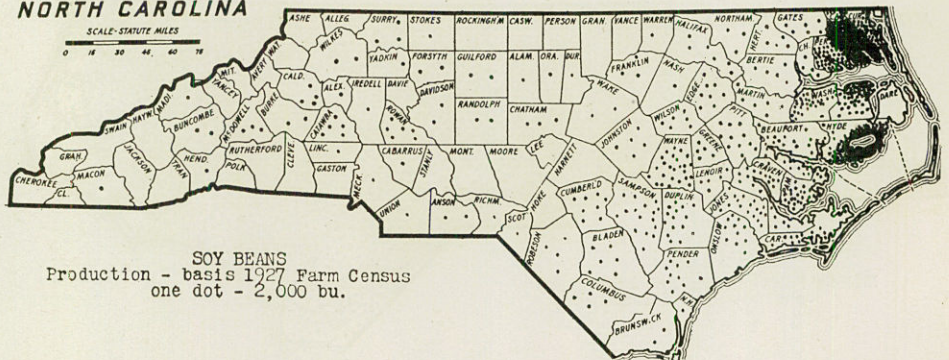
SOY BEAN ACREAGE

Due to the method of planting in rows, broadcasting and planting as a companion crop, it is difficult to arrive at a definite equivalent solid acreage. The 1927 information is probably the best thus far obtained. The eastern Coastal counties have long been our chief soy bean country. A few years ago the interest spread to central counties for hay and soil improvement purposes, rather than for seed production.

SOY BEAN PRODUCTION

This gives a clear idea of where soy bean seed are most likely to be found. Hyde county leads, with Tyrrell, Perquimans, Pasquotank and Camden counties very close seconds. While this State was the home of the soy bean, the upper Mississippi Valley states have already outstripped us and are finding it an ideal stock feed. Many farmers are overlooking a good thing by not using it more.

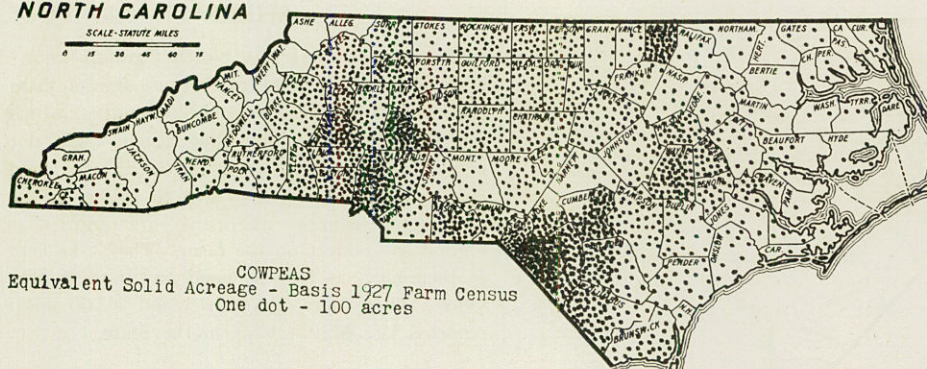
NORTH CAROLINA



COWPEA ACREAGE

Two years ago it looked as if cowpeas would be supplanted by soy beans, but last year found almost three times as many acres as in 1925. They are not replacing the soy bean so much as the fact that they are proving to be more productive of seed and hay than they did a few years ago. Mecklenburg, Robeson and Rowan counties have the lead in acreage. The expense of seed and the difficulty of harvesting are against this crop.

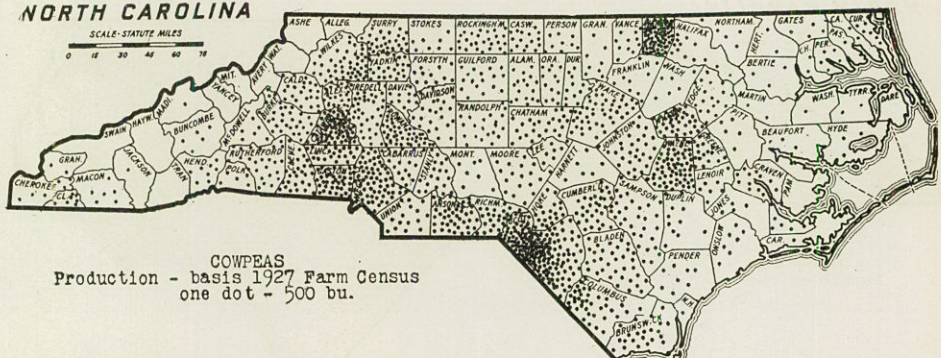
NORTH CAROLINA



COWPEA PRODUCTION

While Warren county reported cowpeas consistently for each township, there appears to be doubt in their figures. This gives a good idea of where one could most likely procure seed from farmers. Due to the method of interplanting with corn, it is difficult to harvest cowpeas by machinery. This makes harvesting too expensive for an average production of 11 bushels per acre. The hay crop is also difficult to save without molding.

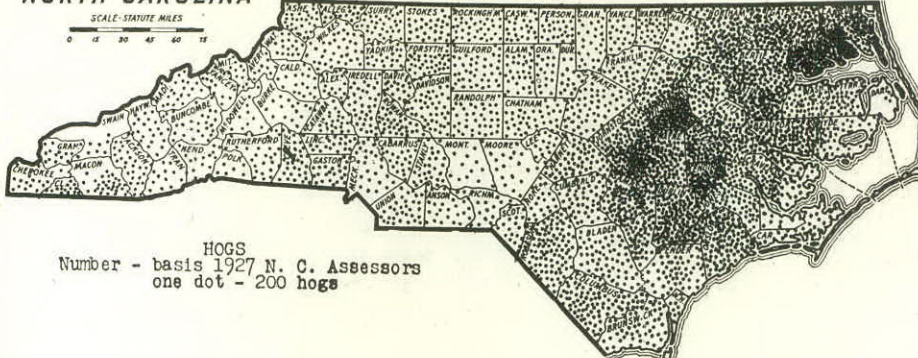
NORTH CAROLINA



PASQUOTANK'S SOY BEAN COUNTRY WHERE FOUR DIFFERENT CROPS ARE GROWN ON THE SAME ACREAGE DURING ONE YEAR



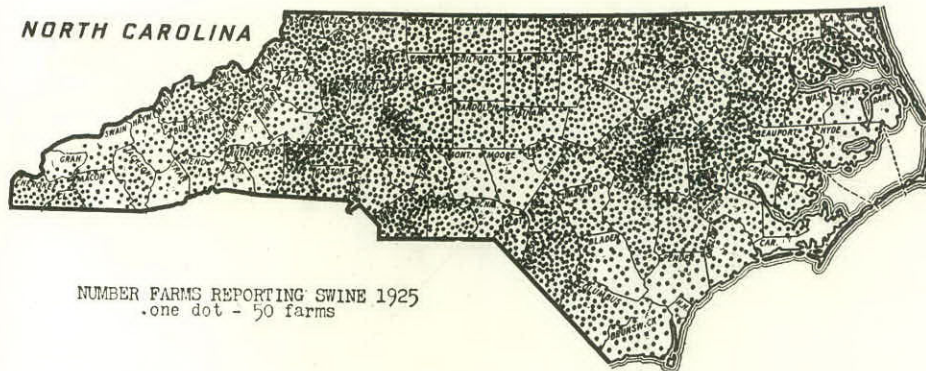
NORTH CAROLINA



HOGS JUNE 1, 1927

If you did not know where hogs were to be found, this shows clearly their area. Pasquotank county leads in proportion to her farmed area. In fact, all of the counties north of the Albemarle rank high in hog production. At any rate, the hog country is in the eastern Coastal Plain counties where potatoes, soy beans, peanuts, etc., grow. Whether it is these or the truck crops or the woodland pastures that are responsible, they have the hogs nevertheless.

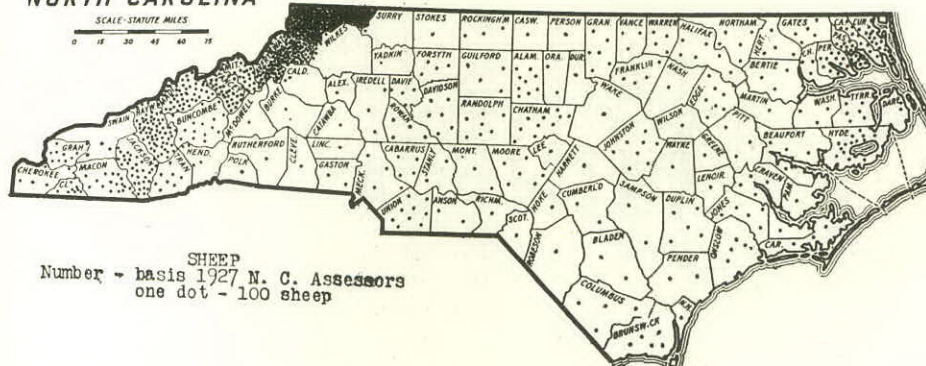
NORTH CAROLINA



NUMBER FARMS REPORTING SWINE 1925

There is quite a contrast between the uniformity of farms having one or more hogs and the total number of hogs over the State. In contrast to the number of hogs on farms shown above, this map illustrates that most farms do have at least one hog. It does seem that while the farmers in the Piedmont and Mountain counties are looking after their "swine" that it would be little additional trouble to have more in number per farm.

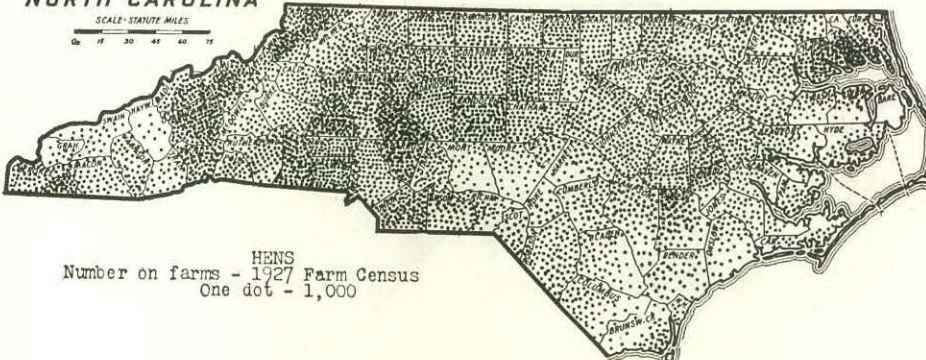
NORTH CAROLINA



SHEEP

The average farmer in North Carolina knows little of the sheep industry, because few of them have visited our important sheep counties, which are located beyond the Blue Ridge. We not only find many sheep there but they are of good quality. The nearest approach to this is in the northeastern counties where they are regarded as a good by-product on the farm. They take care of themselves as long as good pasturage is provided. There were 63,000 ewes and 96,000 sheep reported last May (1927) in the State.

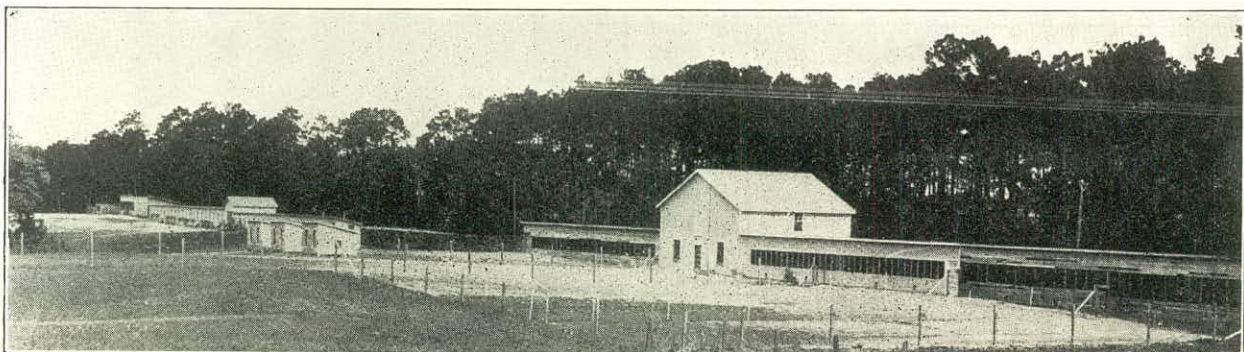
NORTH CAROLINA



HENS

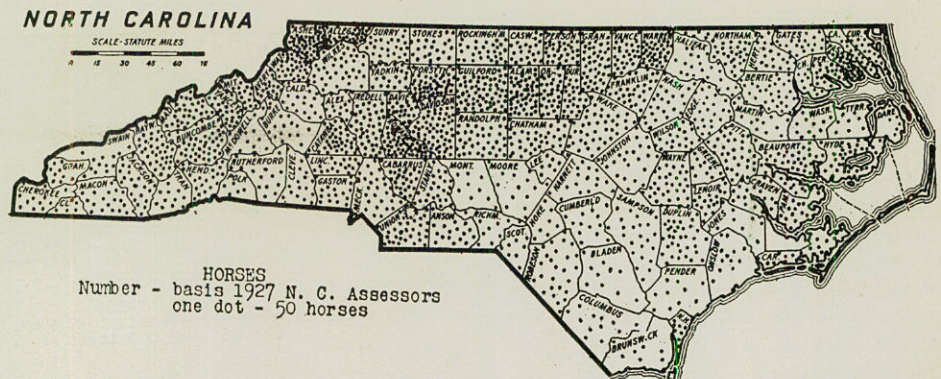
With 5,600,000 hens reported on farms a year ago, we find the Randolph, Guilford and Rowan area leading. This is our balanced farming area. As the map shows there are other areas where there is equally as much interest. Like the corn crop, chickens are grown on practically every farm. More interest is shown in growing poultry and eggs for sale. Carlot shipments are becoming numerous from several counties.

A POULTRY FARM IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY



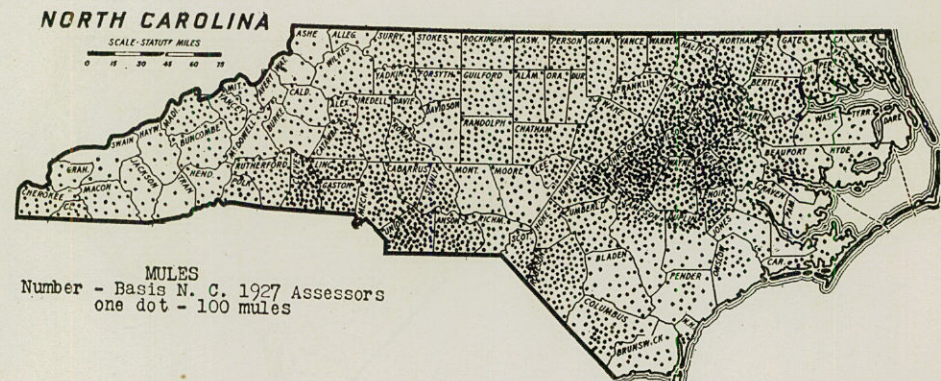
HORSES

With the advent of the automobile, horses are giving way to mules, particularly so on farms where negro labor is depended on. Thus it will be noticed that white labor predominates beyond the Blue Ridge mountains and in the upper central Piedmont areas. Ashe, Guilford and Davidson each have over 3,000 horses, while in total workstock, Johnston and Robeson each have over 10,000 head according to the farm census reports.



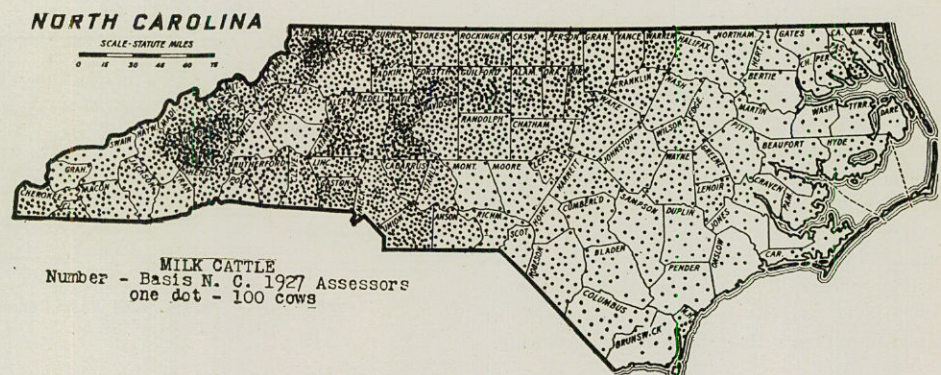
MULES

The number of mules taxed was reported to be over 14,000 in Johnston county last year. The dense mule population appears to follow more with the cotton belt. The mule as a hybrid is capable of standing more abuse, endurance and careless feeding than horses. This is why they are better suited to the average tenant farming.



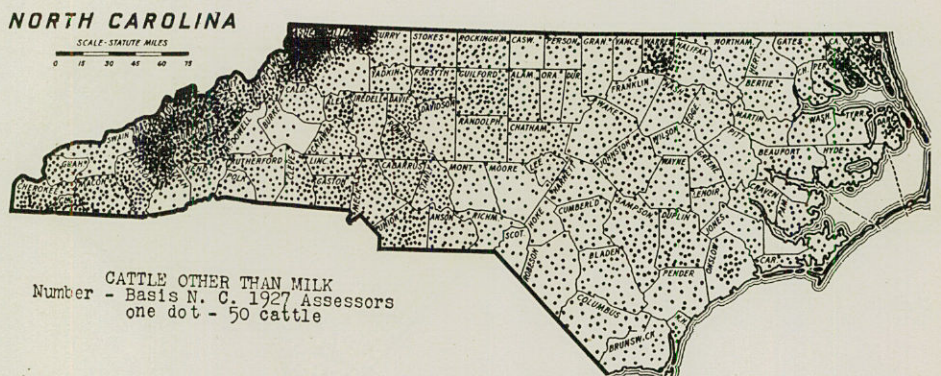
MILK CATTLE

With the State reporting over 290,000 taxed milk cattle, we find Buncombe county leading with over 10,000 head, with Guilford and Mecklenburg each having over 8,000. Ashe county, however, has more in proportion to its farming area. Our dairy interests are distinctly in the western half of the State where drainage, natural grasses and pure water is abundant.



OTHER THAN MILK CATTLE

Ashe county has a distinct lead, with over 8,000 head of feeder cattle, while Haywood and Madison come next. This type of cattle is found primarily beyond the Blue Ridge mountain range. The eastern or Coastal belt area is here shown to have few cattle of either type, yet improved pastures can be developed with ease in that area.



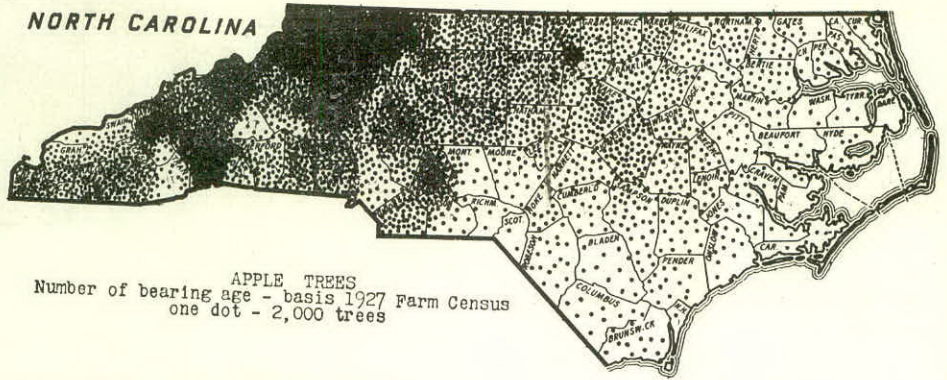
SMALL GRAIN HARVEST IN BURKE COUNTY



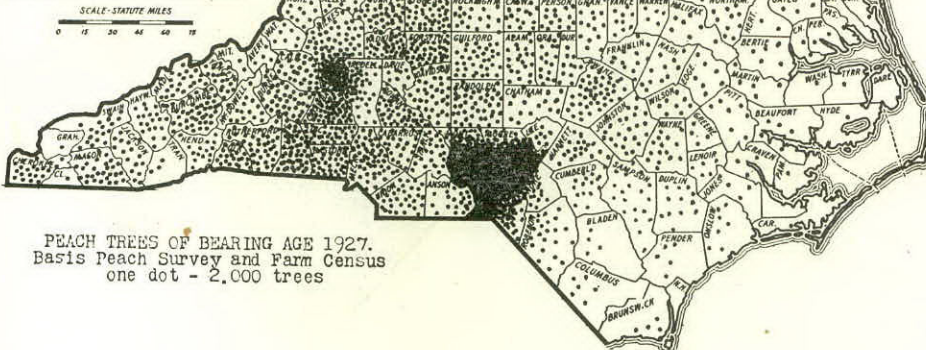
APPLE TREES OF BEARING AGE

Our commercial apple orchards are confined to the mountain and foothill counties. Wilkes county leads with 250,000 trees with Henderson second and Buncombe third. For its area, Alexander has the most trees, numbering 147,193 reported in 1926. Most farms, particularly in the Piedmont area, have a few trees for home consumption. It is being realized that with the proper care apples may be grown well in most parts of the State.

NORTH CAROLINA



NORTH CAROLINA



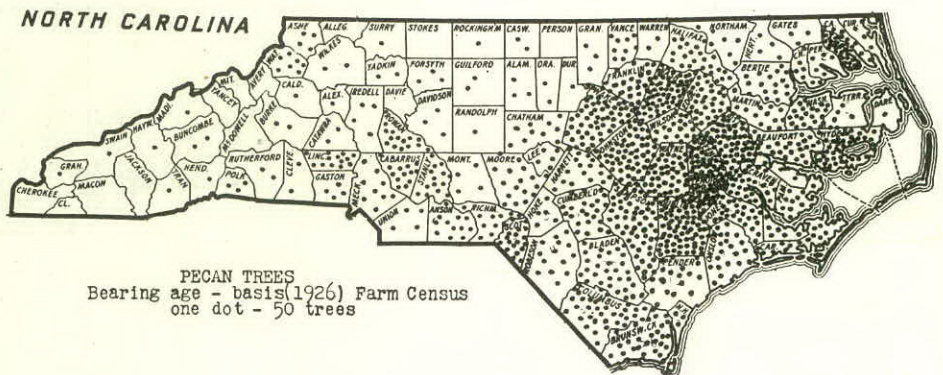
PEACH TREES OF BEARING AGE

With each dot representing 2,000 trees we get a direct comparison with the number of apple trees on farms. The distinct commercial peach belt is in the "Sand Hills" area embracing Montgomery, Moore and Richmond counties primarily. The sales from this area this year may reach near 4,000 cars. Fruit growing in general is confined largely to the western half of North Carolina.

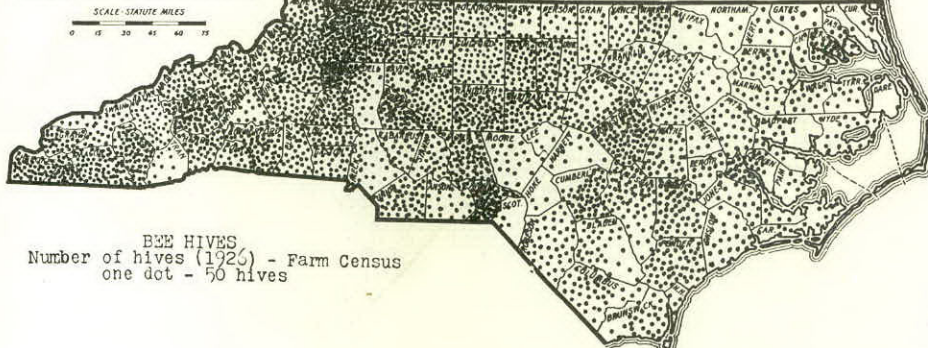
PECAN TREES OF BEARING AGE

It is very difficult to secure reports from farmers on the number of pecan trees, as these are usually limited to a few trees on a farm. This information is not conclusive but only indicative of the principal producing areas of the State. Eastern Carolina is the natural pecan country, although they will grow satisfactorily in the Piedmont area. It is very probable that Beaufort, Craven and Robeson counties have appreciably more trees than their reports indicate.

NORTH CAROLINA



NORTH CAROLINA



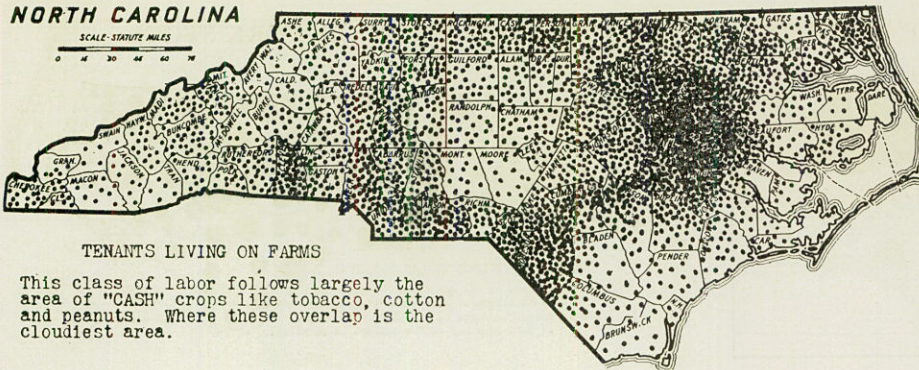
NUMBER OF BEE COLONIES

There are probably many more bees in this State than reports can be secured for. Either the tax-listers do not ask each farmer or else many farmers do not report their one or two colony apiaries. For instance, several of the eastern counties are known to have many more colonies than this report indicates, but no better information is available. As reported, Wilkes county leads with 7,500 colonies.

AN APIARY IN COLUMBUS COUNTY MAY 1, 1928



NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE-STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

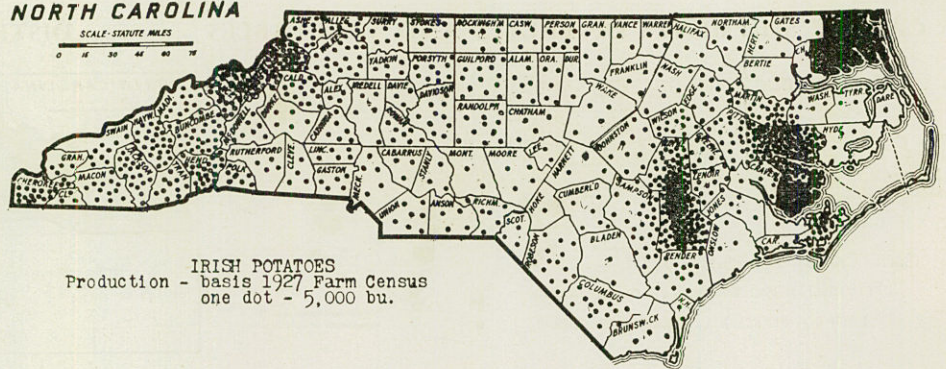
NUMBER TENANTS LIVING ON FARMS

The nice bright spot in the center of this map locates in its upper part an area of diversified farming that is not dependent on cash crops and therefore has few tenants, each farm family depending on its own labor. The dark area in the east shows where the cotton and tobacco crops overlap. The southern dark area locates the principal cotton belt. The Coastal counties are light, due primarily to the small area in cultivation. The mountain counties have few tenants and also a small proportion of land cultivated.

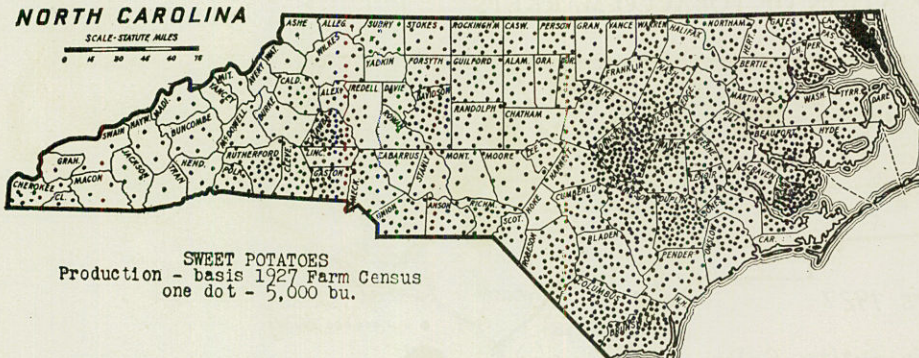
IRISH POTATOES

With the equivalent carlot shipments of commercial potatoes reaching last year to about 8,000 cars, the dark regions near the Coast are fast becoming important producing centers of early potatoes. The acreage is increased some for 1928 and the May condition indicates a good crop. Pamlico leads, with Pasquotank a near second in acreage, although the Duplin-Wayne area around Mount Olive is equal to these. The largest shipping area is the Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck territory.

NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE-STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE-STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

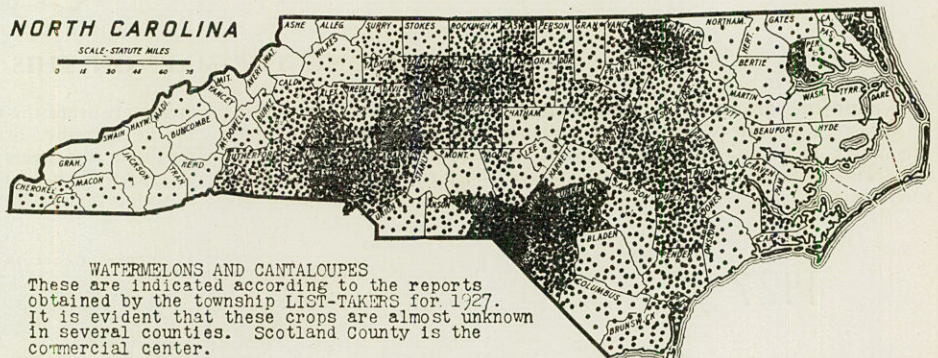
SWEET POTATOES

This is one of our most neglected cash crops. Probably not over half of the potatoes produced are utilized to advantage. Neither the planting nor the housing is usually done properly. While Johnston county leads in the production with 448,000 bushels, Currituck county is the most important commercial center, with 421,000. Most of these are grown down on the peninsular. Pamlico and Carteret counties are important commercial producers also.

WATERMELONS-CANTALOUPE

Scotland county is the leading center of the melon area. This particularly applies to commercial production. They reported last year 2,697 acres, with her neighbor, Robeson, reporting barely more than half as much. The area in the Piedmont belt is grown more for local consumption than for marketing. The Warren county figure is probably an error. It is difficult to get the farmers to report their minor crops, especially truck.

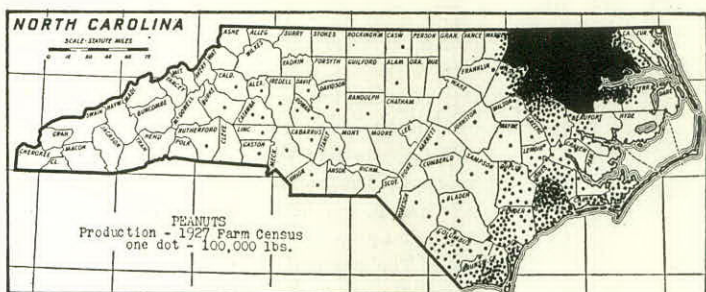
NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE-STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50

AS THEY BANK SWEET POTATOES IN CARTERET COUNTY



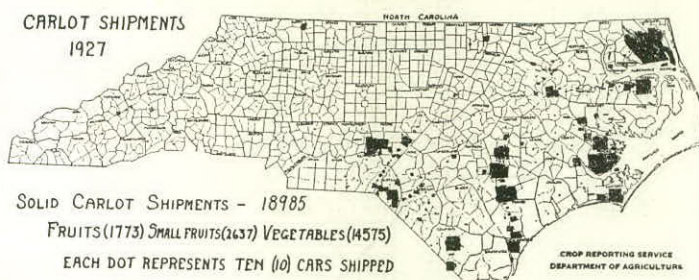
DISTRIBUTION IN PRODUCTION OF PEANUTS



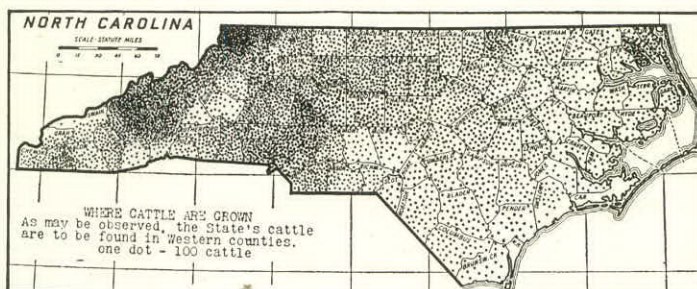
DISTRIBUTION OF WORK STOCK



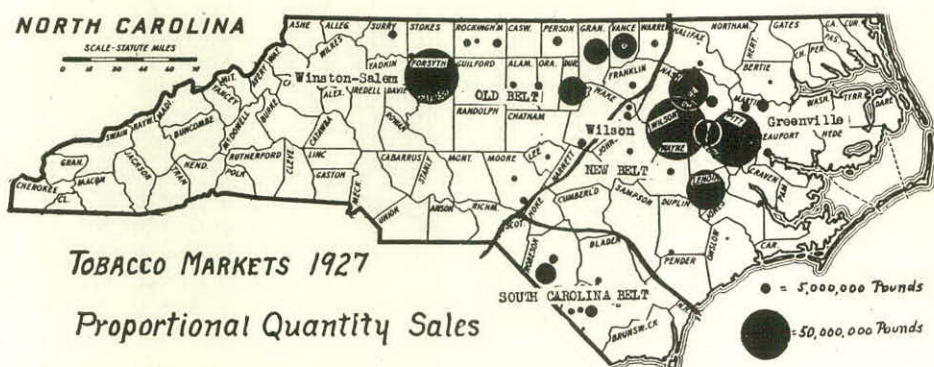
CARLOT SHIPMENTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



DISTRIBUTION OF ALL CATTLE



LOCATION OF TOBACCO MARKETS

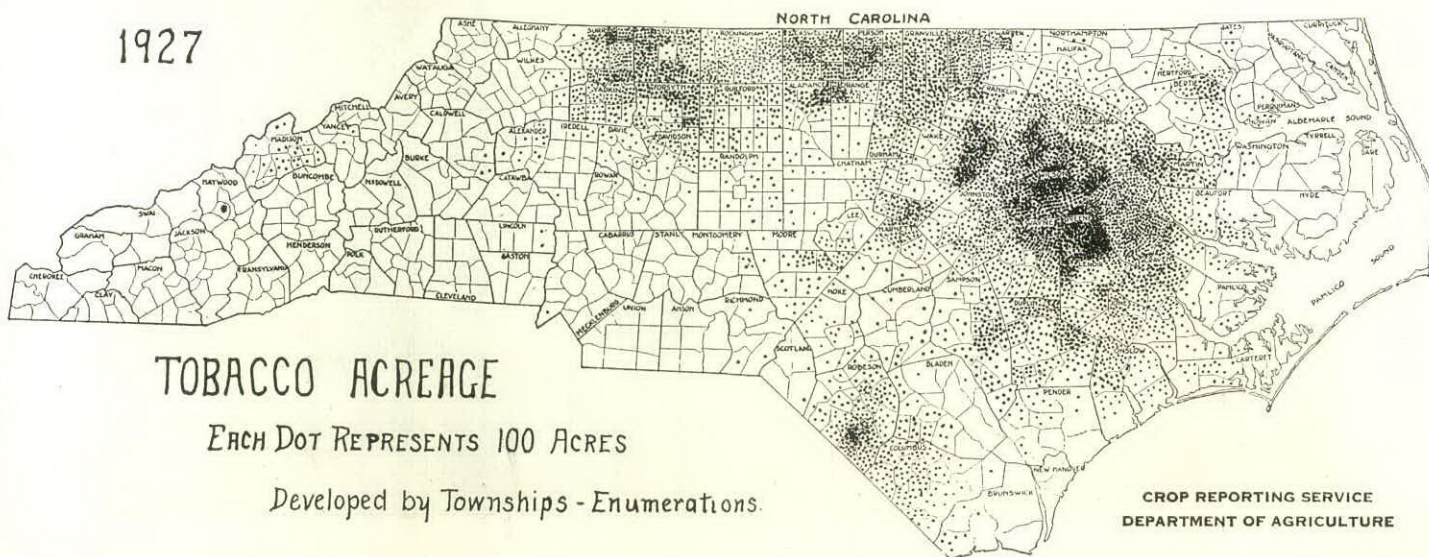


CONCERNING THE MAPS ON THIS PAGE

Peanuts are grown in a concentrated commercial area in several northeastern counties. The carlot shipments of fruits and vegetables are shown to be near the Coast except for peaches and melons in the Sand Hills counties. As might be expected the farm teams are distributed much in proportion to the cultivated land. Cattle are found in-

creasingly from the eastern to the western portion, while sows are found in the opposite direction. The tobacco acreage speaks for itself, the northern part being the old belt, the east, the new belt, and the lower is a part of the South Carolina belt. The markets are shown (circled) in proportion to the sales reported by them for the past season.

1927



CROP REPORTING SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE STATE-FEDERAL CROP REPORTING SERVICE

The classes of reports and reporters contributing the information of this service aggregate several thousands, including farmers, supply merchants, tax-listers, agricultural specialists, grain mills, rural mail carriers, railroad agents and shippers. As over 95 per cent of the regular crop reporters are actual farmers, we know of no better interpretation of these results.

The official reports are released monthly on all crops or farm items about the tenth of the month, with the exception of cotton which is released one or two days earlier during the growing season. Special reports on farm prices, truck crops, tobacco sales and several other agricultural items are issued.

The State Farm Census collected through the tax list-takers is secured during May and early June of each year, and includes about thirty items of information. At the same time the livestock on farms is reported for taxation to the counties, the productive animals are listed in the Farm Census for the State Department of Agriculture.

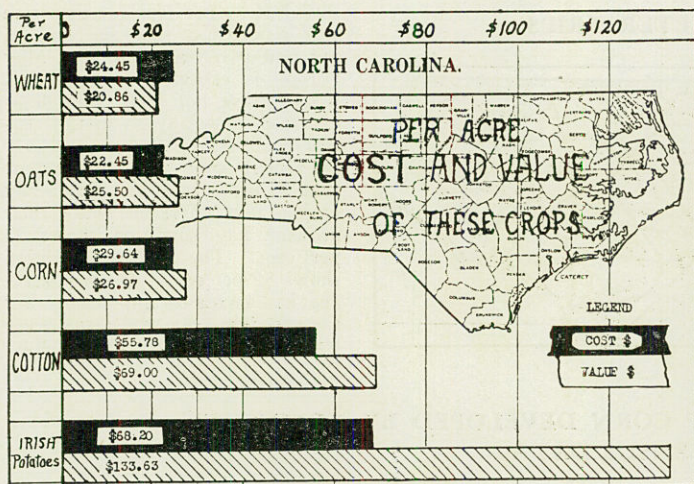
Crop meter trips are made over approximately 5,500 miles of road in the State during the year. These include the June and early July and the September and early October measurements of crops to be found on the right hand side of the road throughout these trips.

The infrequency of the issuance of this publication is necessitated by requirements of economy; the increased duties of the Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh, and to other matters beyond our control.

We regret exceedingly the lack of appreciation of the crop reports and agricultural statistics pertaining to agricultural affairs that is still indicated by occasional criticisms which are usually premature and not based on facts. No estimated information can be accurate, although the final checks of the government crop reports prove to be amazingly close to the cotton ginnings and the tobacco sales.

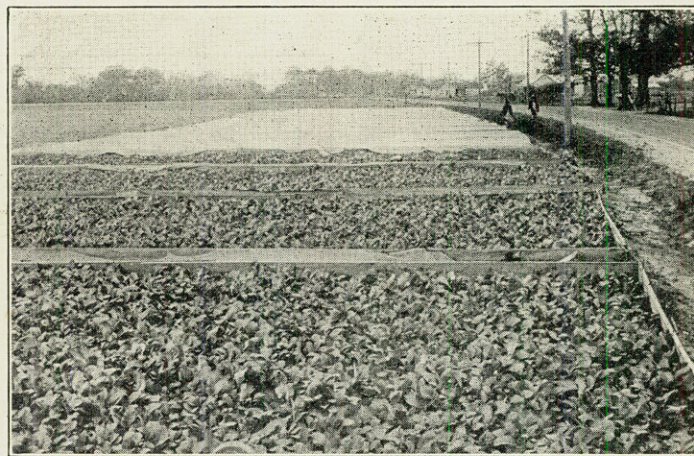
Economists all agree that the agricultural industry is no exception to the rule wherein business practices are essential to the profitable conduct of its operation.

PER ACRE COST AND VALUE OF FIVE CROPS



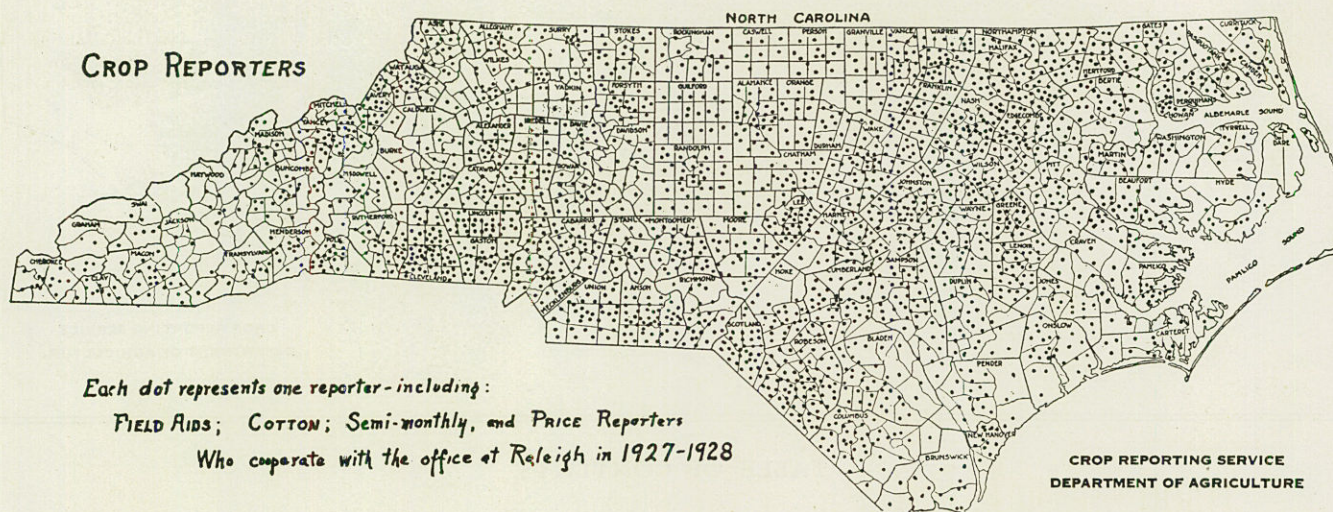
The cost per acre of crops includes the items recognized in business cost determinations.

THIS YEAR'S TOBACCO BED IN LENOIR COUNTY



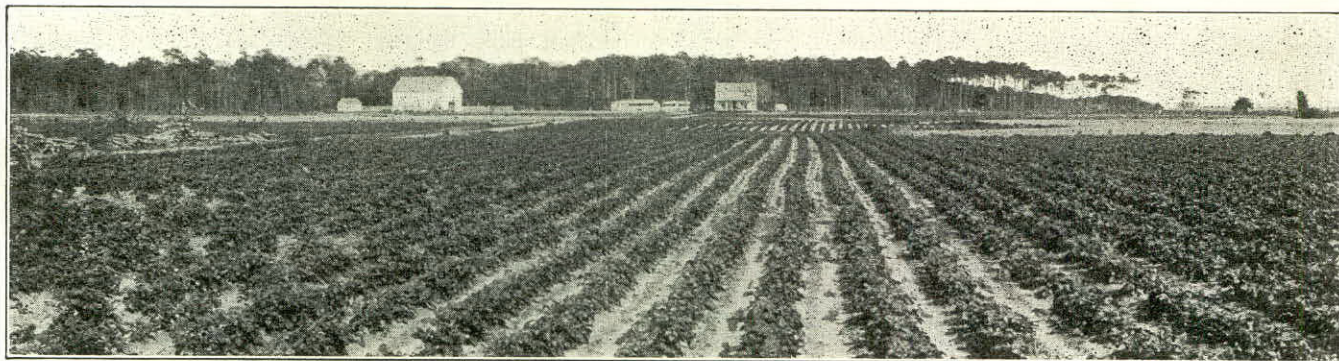
This tobacco plant bed was photographed about May 1st and shows the size of plants at that time.

NORTH CAROLINA'S VOLUNTARY CROP REPORTERS



The dotted map above includes correspondents numbering: Regular monthly aids 1,374; Cotton Specials 795; Price 404 and Semi-monthly 279 or a total of 2,868 voluntary reporters. Of the special co-operators, the following are not included in this map: County officers and tax-listers 1,400; Ginners 910; Truck and Fruit crop reporters 227; County and State Vocational and Agricultural workers 127; County Commissioners, Bankers and Supply Merchants 1,272; Peanuts 2,200; Tobacco warehouses 156; Millers 178; Cotton buyers and weighers 339 and invaluable lists including 200,000 classified (confidential) lists of farm owners. This information should give assurance that our information comes almost entirely from farmers and those directly in touch with the crop growers themselves.

IRISH POTATO FIELD IN CARTERET COUNTY LATE APRIL, 1928



THE MAY OUTLOOK IN NORTH CAROLINA—(Continued from Page 1)

Credit for most of this information is due the County Commissioners and tax list-takers, through the 1927 Farm Census.

The small grains crops in North Carolina have suffered more than usual from the winter weather conditions. There was about the largest abandoned acreage for many years. This particularly applies to fall and winter sown oats. The abandonment of the fall sown wheat was eight per cent. The prospective productions is disappointing after fairly good crops for the past few years.

The winter oats have suffered most from the winter freezing. The condition of this crop is about 40 per cent of a full crop prospects. Spring oats, on the other hand, are in good shape, making the combined condition of the oat crops 66 per cent.

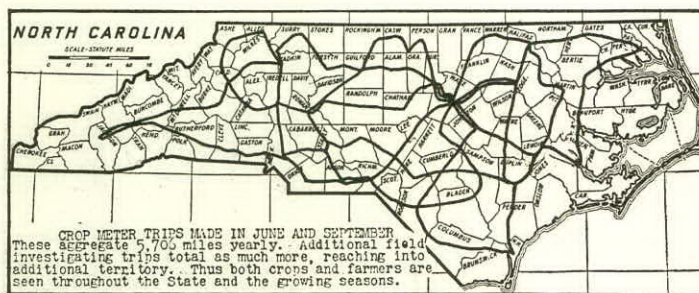
The State's wheat crop with 435,000 acres for harvest shows an eight per cent abandonment from the acreage planted. With a May 1st condition of 78 per cent, the probable harvest is indicated at 4,242,000 bushels, while the harvest a year ago was 5,168,000 and still better in 1926.

With an Irish potato condition of 83 per cent, we have one of the best prospects for this crop for several years. The acreage has been increased appreciably during the past two years. With a condition of 77 per cent last year at this time, there were finally shipped 7,500 cars.

The peach crop shows a condition of 78 per cent for the State at large. In the Sand Hills commercial belt the prospects are unusually good, while in the mountain and foothill counties it varies from "failure" to "two-thirds of a crop." A condition of 39 per cent for the State was reported a year ago and 65 per cent two years ago. The May "drop" is expected to be heavy. Apples have not "set" as well as expected, especially so in the central counties.

Farmers over the State report that 20 per cent of last year's hay crop is now on farms, while their growing hay condition shows 82 per cent. The pasture condition shows 80 per cent. The hay acreage has increased appreciably for the past few years and farmers are tending towards increased production of feed crops.

MAP OF CROP METER TRIPS



DISTRIBUTION IN THE 1927 ACREAGE OF CORN DEVELOPED BY TOWNSHIPS FROM THE FARM CENSUS DATA

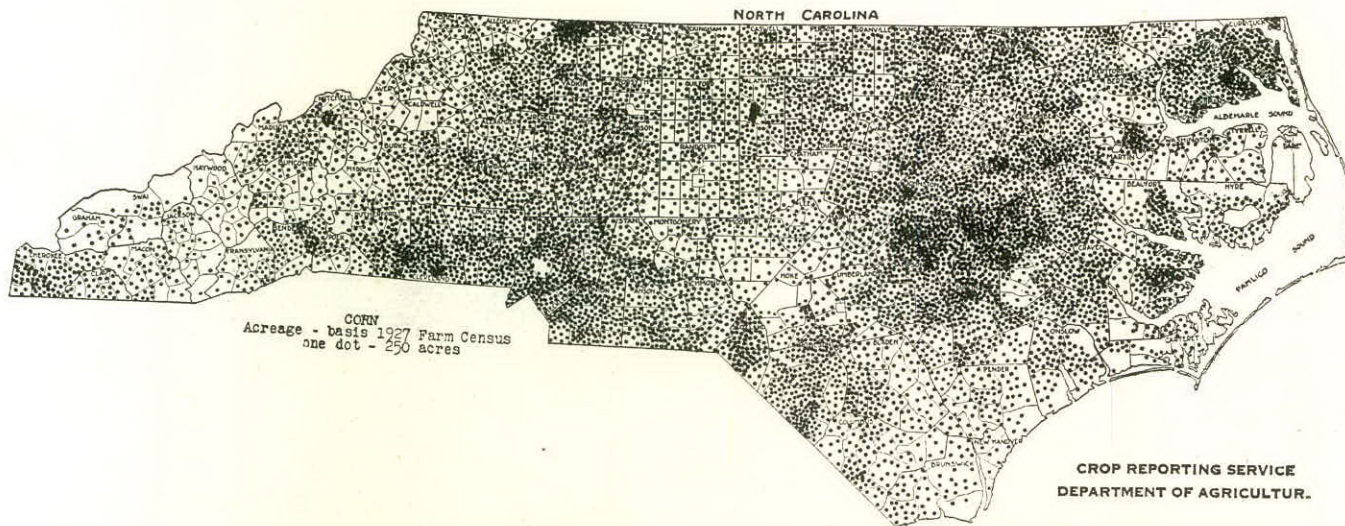


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