

FARM FORECASTER

CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

JUNE, 1937

RALEIGH

NUMBER 71

NORTH CAROLINA CROP REPORT

JUNE 1, 1937

North Carolina was extremely dry during the month of May, so much so that by June 1st some sections of the state were experiencing conditions very close to a drought while other spotted areas had fairly good rainfall.

The condition of small grain crops is reported by the growers as being considerably above the average, due to the more favorable weather conditions prior to May. On June 1st the condition of WHEAT was reported as 85 percent of normal as compared with 66 percent on this date a year ago. This estimate indicates a production of 6,648,000 bushels as compared with an average crop of about 3,790,000 bushels. The very mild winter permitted a maximum growth and good root development and the crop was able to withstand both the cold April weather and the dry conditions since. Rather general complaints of rust, root lice and other damaging factors are not regarded as being serious except in spotted areas.

The June 1st condition for OATS, at 81 percent of normal, is 27 percent better than on this date a year ago and is 4 percent better than the past ten-year average crop. RYE was reported at 85 percent of normal compared with 66 percent a year ago. The indicated production of rye at 525,000 bushels compares with 390,000 harvested last year and a five-year average crop of 486,000 bushels.

The development of all small grains by June 1st was very much in contrast with conditions a year ago. The drought conditions in 1936 resulted in small plants difficult to harvest whereas this year the plants are of normal size with heavy heads. The principal small grain producing counties are located in the western Piedmont and Mountain counties where the heaviest rainfalls have occurred.

Due to the smaller production of small grains in 1936, farmers are reporting much smaller stocks of last year's crop on hand than usual. On June 1st only 3 percent of the 1936 BARLEY crop was still in the hands of farmers as compared with 6.5 percent a year ago. The stocks of RYE were reported at 5.5 percent as compared with 12 percent a year ago. The percentage of stocks reported for the national crops was about in the same proportion.

All TAME HAY CROPS on June 1st were definitely better than on this date a year ago. The condition of TAME HAY at 80 percent of normal was the same as the past ten-year average and showed 1 percent improvement over conditions a month ago. Due to plenty of winter rainfall, there is still an abundance of subsoil moisture in spite of the dry top soil conditions which developed during May. ALFALFA HAY at 82 percent of normal compared with 46 percent a year ago. CLOVER AND TIMOTHY reported at 84 percent of normal compares with 53 percent a year ago. WILD HAY at 78 percent of normal compares with 53 percent a year ago, and the condition of PASTURES reported at 82 percent of normal is 36 percent better than on June 1st last year.

A study of the rainfall map on page 4 shows that the conditions in the commercial EARLY IRISH POTATO section have been unusually dry. There were exceptions to this in some areas, however. Harvesting has begun and while some improvement is noted since June 1st, rain was badly needed in most of these areas on that date. The condition of the EARLY IRISH POTATO crop was reported at 77 percent of normal on June 1st as compared with 81 percent a month ago and the past ten-year average condition of 79 percent.

On June 1st, 1936 the condition of this crop was 47 percent of normal, this being 30 percent below the condition at present. Altogether, it is indicated that in view of the continued dry weather, the yield will be shorter than was earlier expected. It must be remembered, however, that with the low conditions a year ago very good yields of IRISH POTATOES were harvested.

Fruit growers' reports indicate rather spotted conditions for most fruit crops in this state. The mild winter resulted in the APPLE crop having a considerably better setting of fruit on the trees than usual and the crop is better than was expected earlier in the season. The condition on June 1st averaged 72 percent of normal crop as compared with 35 percent on June 1st a year ago and a past ten-year average of 56 percent.

The condition of PEACHES at 53 percent of normal on June 1st is 5 percent better than a month ago and compares with 45 percent on June 1st last year. This estimate, however, is 5 percent below the average for the past ten years and indicates a probable production for the state of 1,767,000 bushels. Last year the state harvested about 1,558,000 bushels. Conditions in the Sandhill peach area are probably better than had been anticipated earlier in the spring, although it is very definitely a short crop there. The quality of the fruit is reported as being extra good and will probably make up to some extent in size and quality for the shortage in the crop.

The condition of PEARS at 39 percent of normal is only 3 percent better than a year ago and is 8 percent below the ten-year average. The crop indicated at 194,000 bushels is considerably short of the 240,000 bushels harvested last year.



THE NATIONAL FARMING SITUATION

Last year's drought conditions seriously affected not only the crops harvested in the fall, but the small grains sown then. As a result, a heavy abandonment of fall sown small grains has occurred and the prospects are poor for yield in these drought areas. Most crop acreages will be less than usual. In general, the eastern half of the United States is warmer and wetter, while colder and drier conditions prevail in the West.

With the increase in the consumers' income, continued strength in the demand of farm products is in prospect during the next few months. Labor disputes will, of course, have their influence. Industrial activity and prosperity have their reaction on the demand for and the resulting price of farm commodities. The farmer's income showed an increase, in spite of some decrease in their marketings during the early spring months. A contributing factor was due to last year's drought conditions. One of the largest crops of wheat on record is in prospect, in spite of heavy abandonment and fair yield prospects as of May 1st. Such a production would cause the United States to become an exporter of this crop. Little wheat has been exported during recent years.

The supply of cotton—or the stocks on hand—is probably one of the smallest in recent years. Such a prospect was influential in the February-March notable rise in the price of this crop. The release of about one million bales of the government's "crop" was encouraged by the prospective shortage in supply.

Tobacco growers report an increase of 15 percent for this year in comparison with last year's harvested acreage. Stocks of most types are low. An increase of 10 percent in the acreage of flue-cured tobacco is indicated. The stocks of this type will be about the same as last year by the harvest time.

A very distinct increase in the acreage of Irish potatoes is in prospect, particularly in the early commercial sections. In contrast to this, the sweet potato acreage is expected to be smaller. The peanut acreage is expected to be the largest on record. The increased demand for crushing purposes has helped the price.

NORTH CAROLINA TRUCK CROPS

GREEN PEAS: Practically all sections of the state growing this crop show a decrease in plantings this year. The greatest reduction occurred in the Wayne-Duplin County section. About half of the state's acreage of green peas is planted in the Elizabeth City section, this being the largest area for this crop in the state. Cool, wet weather during the spring proved beneficial to the pea crop and normal yields are expected. A few early peas are now moving from the Wilmington section and the Mt. Olive section is about ready to ship. Shipping will start in the Elizabeth City section about May 20th.

CANTALOUPE: The Scotland County area which grows most of the cantaloupes in North Carolina had from 10 to 15 percent increase plantings this year while most other sections have about the same acreage as was planted in 1936. Heavy rains have damaged the stands and some replanting was done early in May.

WATERMELONS: The coastal counties and the Wayne-Duplin area have about

the same acreage as last year. Plantings in Scotland, Hoke, Roberson and Cumberland Counties are from 15 to 20 per cent less than in 1936. Growers did not realize much from this crop last year and are inclined to turn to other crops such as cotton and tobacco. Melons were up in the coastal counties by the first week in May.

EARLY IRISH POTATOES: In the area including Aurora, Pantego and Washington there are about 10,500 acres of early potatoes compared with 7,700 last year. Stands are generally good in these sections and the crop was about normal as to growth and time of movement. The Elizabeth City section including Camden, Currituck and Pasquotank, has about 10,000 acres of early potatoes with the heaviest increases in Camden County. Last year there were about 6800 acres in this area. Stands and crop conditions are generally good. In the Carteret County section the 1500 acres planted this year compared with 800 last year. Stands average from poor to fair. The Mt. Olive section including Duplin and Wayne Counties have about 4800 acres this year compared with 4000 last year.

NORTH CAROLINA TRUCK CROPS

CROPS	Units	REVISED ESTIMATES 1936—PRELIMINARY		ESTIMATES 1937	
		Acreage	Yield per Acre	Production	
GREEN PEAS	Bushels	1936	1937	1936	1937
CANTALOUPE		3,800	3,200	50	70
WATERMELONS		4,200	4,500	—	—
EARLY IRISH POTATOES		12,800	11,600	—	—
CABBAGE (Spring)	Tons	31,000	43,000	—	—
STRAWBERRIES	Crates*	1,600	1,800	4	4
		8,800	9,200	59	70
				519,000	644,000

* 24-Quart crates.

PRICE TRENDS

The prices received by growers last month showed continued improvement over the prices received for April of recent years. Seasonal prices of many farm products start downward at this season of the year. The reason is partially due to the usage of pastures, and new hays, which reduce the winter feed requirements or usage. That means it reduces the demand and of course the prices.

The figures herewith show the most recent (April) prices. This information enables the grower to better anticipate plans for buying and selling. Thus he may be prepared to know price trends. Comparisons with last year and with March are also presented. The publication, *Agricultural Situation*, which is sent to many reporters,

offers helpful interpretations and trend facts on prices and other agricultural economic information of importance at this season. This information represents the most concentrated judgments of thousands of farm leaders in all parts of the United States. It is new and news.

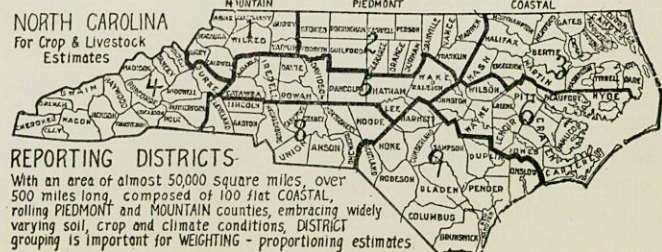
Farmers should be familiar with the supply and demand or the production and consumption facts of everything that they must sell or buy. This means that the present and comparable previous prices must be available and understandable to them. Such producers will have every advantage. Price reporters thus gain quite distinct advantages, for they also understand the source of this information. Farming requires planning or thinking ahead, based on official facts available to them.

THE COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
W. F. Callander, *Chairman*, Crop Reporting Board
Frank Parker, *Agricultural Statistician*

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
W. Kerr Scott, *Commissioner of Agriculture*
W. H. Rhodes, *Associate Agri. Statistician*

NORTH CAROLINA
For Crop & Livestock
Estimates



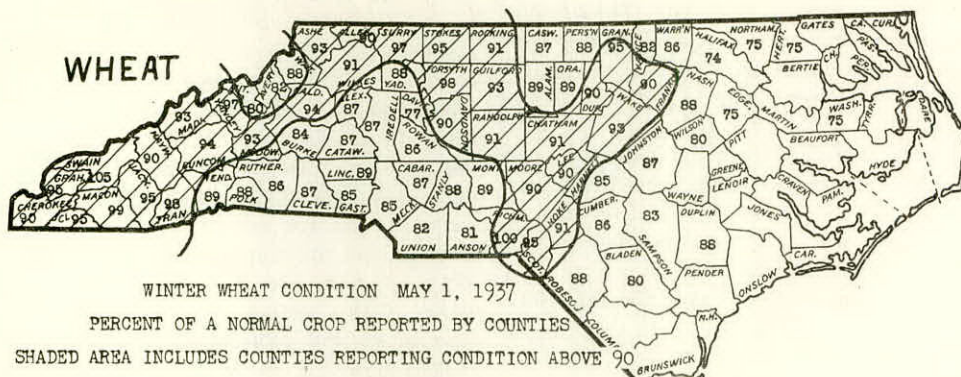
REPORTING DISTRICTS

With an area of almost 50,000 square miles, over 500 miles long, composed of 100 flat COASTAL, rolling PIEDMONT and MOUNTAIN counties, embracing widely varying soil, crop and climate conditions, DISTRICT grouping is important for WEIGHTING - proportioning estimates

CONDITION OF CROPS

Reported May 1, 1937

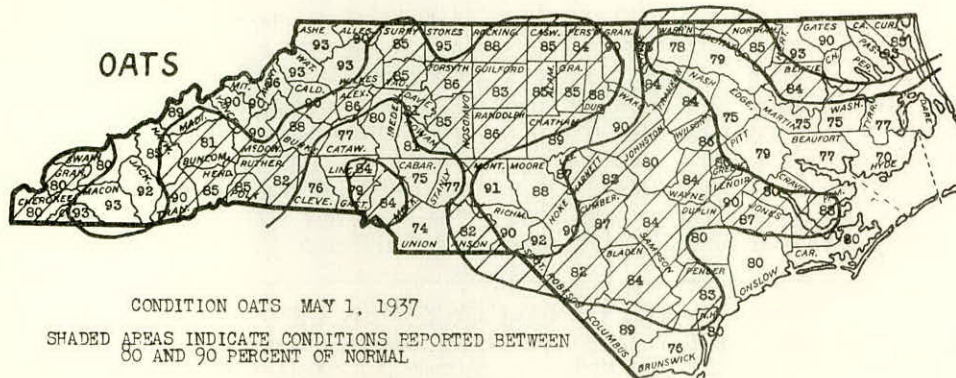
WHEAT



Winter Wheat

The shaded area on this map is that portion of the state reporting an average condition of winter wheat above 90 percent of normal. This area includes the western and northern mountain counties, with a narrow strip through the central Piedmont and widespread good conditions in the eastern Piedmont counties. The lower Piedmont counties range from 70 to 90 percent, while the lowest average conditions are found in the northern Central counties. About 76 percent of the winter wheat acreage is planted in the Piedmont or Central counties.

OATS



Oats

The shaded area on this map locates the area reporting average conditions between 80 and 90 percent of normal growth. The lower condition areas are found in the southern and coastal counties. However, the counties north of the Albemarle Sound report conditions above 90 percent as do the extreme western mountain counties. It will be noted that the average condition for the state, at 83 percent of normal, is 5 percent better than last year and 4 percent better than the past ten year average. The eastern Piedmont counties reported uniformly good conditions on May 1st. About 57 percent of the oats harvested for grain are located in the Piedmont counties of the state.

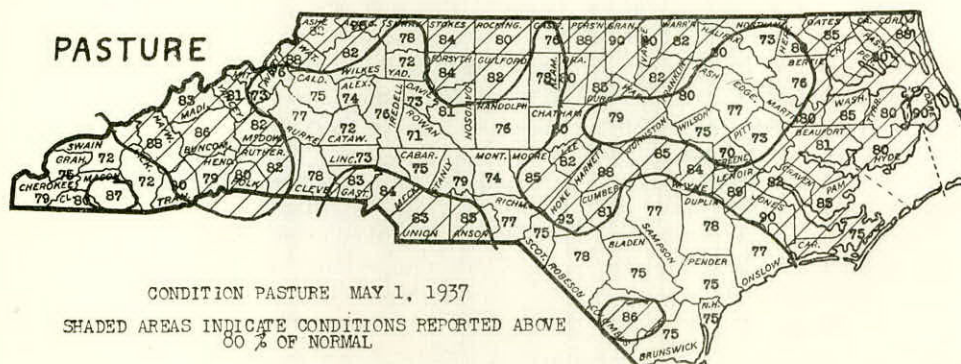
PEACHES



Peaches

Shaded areas on this map locate the counties reporting the highest percent of a normal peach crop. These areas are almost entirely in the Piedmont counties, with the Sandhill section averaging about 57 percent of normal. The counties outside of the shaded portion reported conditions from 10 to 50 percent and averaging about 40 percent. The lowest condition areas are in the western mountain counties and extreme eastern coastal counties. The estimate of 1,364,000 bushels forecast for the 1937 crop is 12 percent less than was harvested in 1936 and is 27 percent below the past five-year average crop. This estimate is the production for the whole state including small farm orchards.

PASTURE



Pastures

The map showing the average county conditions of pastures indicate that in general the western, northern and northeastern counties show the highest condition of pastures on May 1st. However, a low condition area extends from Greene County north to Northampton and includes about eight eastern counties, while the southern Piedmont counties from Gaston to Anson report conditions above 80 percent. The mountain areas have uniformly good conditions of both hay and pastures.

These maps offer the best means for studying conditions for all parts of North Carolina. Adjacent counties are readily compared. The zones above and below near-average conditions are easily recognized. Pasture condition is really better than rainfall for interpreting soil moisture conditions. Wheat conditions reflect winter and spring weather. Peaches usually reflect early spring temperatures, however a warm winter and cold March weather resulted in some damages to early blooming fruits. It is anticipated that these maps will be better understood than tables for the same information.

NORTH CAROLINA CROP REPORT, MAY 1, 1937

	MOUNTAIN COUNTIES				PIEDMONT COUNTIES						COASTAL COUNTIES									
	Northern Dist. 1		Western Dist. 4		Northern Dist. 2		Central Dist. 5		Southern Dist. 8		Northern Dist. 3		Central Dist. 6		Southern Dist. 9		State			
	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937		
WINTER WHEAT—																				
Condition %	80	91	78	91	82	89	84	89	82	85	80	81	86	86	82	89	82	88		
% Not to be harvested	3.6	.9	4.7	2.3	3.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	4.9	2.9	0	3.6	1.0	.7	2.6	1.1	5.4	1.0		
OATS—																				
Condition %	78	90	78	88	80	85	84	84	77	81	73	83	83	81	72	84	78	83		
% Spring sown	89	90	73	78	53	50	41	37	34	23	78	69	69	75	62	59	59	48		
% Fall sown	11	10	27	22	47	50	59	63	66	77	22	31	31	25	38	41	41	52		
RYE—																				
Condition %	78	88	76	86	83	85	81	85	80	82	74	77	83	73	80	81	79	86		
POTATOES (Early)—																				
Condition %	81	81	73	83	75	83	73	81	69	77	70	81	68	82	66	81	69	81		
HAY (Tame)—																				
Condition %	80	82	76	87	76	82	73	77	74	79	68	79	66	75	75	75	73	79		
% Last year's crop on farms May 1st.....	11.6	8.7	14.3	12	18.3	16.9	17.6	18.3	20.3	17.1	35.5	35.5	29.5	31.1	33	26.1	24.6	22.6		
PASTURE—																				
Condition %	76	80	70	81	77	83	75	76	72	80	69	78	76	82	72	77	74	80		
PEACHES—																				
Condition %	35	44	29	33	35	50	23	44	42	57	61	43	63	41	58	33	42	48		

NORTH CAROLINA CROPS

CROPS	Thousands(000) Condition May 1					Production (000)		
	1936	1937	Ave. 1923 to '32	1936	1937	Ave. 1923 to '32	1936	1937
WINTER WHEAT—								
Acreage for harvest	530	554	85	82	88	3,790	5,194	6,094
RYE—								
Acreage sown	155	166	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acreage for harvest	60	65	86	79	86	486	390	520
HAY (All)—								
Stocks on farms May 1 (tons)	185	154	—	—	—	—	—	—
HAY (Tame)	—	—	82	73	79	—	—	—
PASTURE	—	—	80	74	80	—	—	—
OATS	—	—	79	78	83	—	—	—
PEACHES *	—	—	69	42	48	1,877	1,558	1,364
EARLY POTATOES	—	—	81	69	81	—	—	—

UNITED STATES CROPS

WINTER WHEAT—								
Acreage for harvest	37,608	47,410	81.2	67.0	77.4	623,220	519,013	654,295
Per cent abandoned	24.3	17.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
RYE—								
Acreage sown	6,547	7,673	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acreage for harvest	2,757	4,092	84.4	74.3	78.4	38,212	25,554	42,913
HAY (All)—								
Stock on farms (tons)	13,724	6,011	—	—	—	—	—	—
HAY (Tame)	—	—	83.2	78.5	73.0	—	—	—
PASTURE	—	—	79.4	68.6	69.3	—	—	—
OATS	—	—	72.3	48.5	72.8	—	—	—
% Acres spring sown	58.4	52.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
% Acres fall sown	41.6	47.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
PEACHES	—	—	59.8	49.1	40.5	14,581	13,711	9,963
EARLY POTATOES	—	—	75.8	70.3	76.9	—	—	—

* Peaches, condition average crop 1928-32.

Average Prices Received by North Carolina Farmers for Farm Products
as of the Fifteenth of the Month

COMMODITY	April 15 1936	Mar. 15 1937	April 15 1937	COMMODITY	April 15 1936	Mar. 15 1937	April 15 1937
Corn, per bu.	\$.66	\$.93	\$ 1.03	Chickens, per lb.	\$.17	\$.15	\$.16
Wheat, per bu.	1.05	1.39	1.43	Turkeys, per lb.	.19	.18	.19
Oats, per bu.	.51	.73	.73	Eggs, per doz.	.17	.19	.18
Barley, per bu.	.72	.95	.93	Butter, per lb.	.24	.25	.24
Rye, per bu.	.90	1.17	1.19	Butterfat, per b.	.26	.29	.29
Buckwheat, per bu.	.85	.88	.88	Milk, retail, per qt.	11.7	11.9	11.9
Cotton Lint, per lb.	11.6	14.0	14.5	Milk, Wholesale, per 100 lbs.	2.50	2.90	2.90
Cottonseed per ton	32.00	38.00	37.00	Wool, (unwashed) per lb.	.26	.30	.31
Potatoes, per bu.	.85	1.50	1.40	Apples, per bu.	1.10	1.45	1.65
Potatoes, per 100 lbs.	2.00	2.90	2.60	Hay (loose) per ton	13.80	16.50	15.90
Sweet potatoes, per bu.	.75	.80	.85	Hay, all, (baled) per ton	15.50	18.60	19.10
Peanuts, per lb.	3.0	4.5	4.8	Alfalfa hay (loose) per "	18.50	21.00	21.50
Soybeans, per bu.	.90	1.55	1.65	Clover hay, (loose) per "	14.90	—	—
Cowpeas, per bu.	1.40	1.90	2.10	Mixed Clover & Timothy "	15.90	19.40	18.50
Hogs, per 100 lbs.	9.10	9.30	9.10	Prairie hay, (loose) per ton	9.00	12.00	11.00
Beef Cattle, per "	4.80	5.50	5.70	Soybean, Cowpea, & peanut	—	—	—
Veal Calves, per "	6.30	7.30	7.60	Vine, per ton	—	16.30	16.30
Sheep, per "	4.50	5.50	4.70	Grains cut green for	—	—	—
Lambs, per "	7.20	7.40	5.30	Hay, per ton	—	16.40	15.50
Milk Cows, per head	39.00	43.00	43.00	Lespedeza Hay, (loose) per t.	—	18.00	18.70
Horses, per head	126.00	141.00	135.00	Lespedeza seed, per bu.	2.25	3.30	4.00
Mules, per head	170.00	180.00	180.00	Lespedeza seed, per 100 lbs.	6.60	13.60	14.50

COMMENTS

The tabulation at the top of page 2 lists the condition of crops by Crop Reporting districts. The location of the districts will be found on the small map at bottom of page 4. The condition estimates shown are the average condition reported by growers in the areas as a per cent of a normal or full crop condition on May 1, of this year, and on this date a year ago.

On May 1, the Department of Agriculture estimates the production of only three crops—Winter Wheat, Rye, and Peaches, based on the condition reported by growers on that date. These are the major field crops sufficiently advanced to permit of an estimate at this time. The first two columns under North Carolina and United States Crops show acreages for harvest and hay stocks in thousands, and small grain abandonment in percent of total acres seeded in the fall. The 10-year average condition 1923-1932 is shown in the third column for comparison with the two 1936 and 1937 condition estimates.

The crop condition maps at the right show the areas of high and low condition reported by North Carolina growers on May 1st. Figures in the counties are the averages of reports for that county, and show the condition of the crops compared with a normal.

Price comments are given on page 4. Comparisons with last month and a year ago are offered. These reports are based on the judgments of hundreds of voluntary reporters who were carefully selected as reliable and well informed. These represent the average prices paid to growers.