

FARM FORECASTER

CROP AND LIVE STOCK REPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

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JULY, 1937

RALEIGH

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NORTH CAROLINA CROP REPORT

JULY 1, 1937

WEATHER CONDITIONS

While complaints of continued dry weather during June were reported from all sections of the state, the situation is much improved over that of a month ago. The rainfall according to the weather bureau, which fell in spotted areas, averaged 4.20 inches and was 1.64 inches below the past five year average for July. This has resulted in spotted conditions, irregular stands and growth. For the state as a whole, however, crops are growing nicely, cultivation is good and favorable seasons prevail.

CORN

The corn crop is generally good in almost all sections. The 2,326,000 acres in cultivation this year is 1 percent less than was harvested last year, but with the conditions reported at 84 percent, the production is indicated at 44,194,000, and with the exception of 1931 and 1935 is about equal to any crop on record.

SMALL GRAINS

WHEAT The 6,228,000 bushel wheat crop indicated on July 1, is the 5th largest this state ever produced and is the largest since 1900. The acreage for harvest reported at 519,000 is 2 percent less than in 1936, but the average yield per acre at 12 bushels is the heaviest average on record. Even with this record, the grain is not threshing out as heavy as earlier expected. Heavy damage from rust, aphid, root lice, and other pests was reported in the main Piedmont wheat counties. Threshermen report lighter weights per bushel than usual.

OATS While the 233,000 acres of oats for harvest is one of the smallest oat crops since 1900, farmers generally claim that the grain yield this year is one of the best they ever had. The 20 bushel per acre average compares with 14 last year and a ten year average of 17.6, indicating a total of 4,660,000 bushels for harvest. The fall planted crop came through the mild winter in good shape and is showing better yields than the spring sown acreage.

TOBACCO

The North Carolina tobacco crop passed

through an unfavorable planting season. The delays occasioned by the blue mold epidemic occurring during planting resulted in irregular stages of growth and broken stands, but due to the good rain during the latter part of June, the prospects on July 1 were generally good.

OLD BRIGHT BELT The lowest conditions in the state were reported from this type 11 area, averaging 60 percent of normal. These low conditions were due in part to a severe attack of insects in the northwestern section of the belt which in some counties is reported to have locally destroyed 50 percent of the crop. The eastern section of the area reported better conditions but the crop there is generally late with the poorest stands. The 261,000 acres in cultivation in this belt represents an increase of 10 percent over last year and the 182,700,000 pounds indicated for harvest is about 2.8 percent more than was produced in 1936.

NEW BRIGHT BELT Good conditions of growth prevail in this belt, type 12. Spotted stands and varying stages of growth are general but the condition averaging 70 percent of normal compares with 59 percent on this date last year and a crop of 283,720,000 pounds is indicated for harvest compared with 222,680,000 last year. This is about 11.4 percent more than the 1928-1932 average.

SOUTH CAROLINA BELT Farmers have begun curing in this area, type 13. The condition of the crop averaging 76 percent of normal compares with 60 percent on July 1 last year, and the 72,000 acres in cultivation is an increase of 18 percent over the 1936 crop and the 68,400,000 pound crop indicated is 33 percent more than last year's harvest and 74 percent more than the five year average crop of 1928 to 1932.

STATE AVERAGE For the state as a whole the 669,000 acres in cultivation on July 1 represents an increase over 1936 of 12.1 percent. The condition of the crop reported at 67 percent is 8 percent above conditions last year on July 1, and indicates a production of 541,620,000 pounds or 18.4

percent more than the 457,375,000 pounds harvested in 1936.

The total flue-cured belt including five southern states reports an increase of 111 percent in acreage, there being 958,000 acres in cultivation and the condition at 68 percent of normal indicates a total production of 767,215,000 pounds or an increase of 12 percent over the 682,850,000 pounds harvested last year.

HAY CROPS

With the exception of the dry weather of late April and May weather conditions affecting hay crops have been rather favorable. The first alfalfa cutting early in May was exceptionally good. This is probably the result of the mild winter which permitted good growth during the usually cold months. Clover crops with conditions averaging 84 percent of normal are the best in many years. Small grains cut for hay were also extra good. On July 1, there were 937,000 acres of Hay in cultivation in the state compared with 890,000 harvested last year. The condition at 79 percent of normal compares with 58 percent last July 1, and indicates a total production of 750,000 tons or an increase of 11 percent over the 1936 crop.

IRISH POTATOES

The total Irish potato crop including the early and late crops shows a 12 percent increase in acreage this year, there being 92,000 acres for harvest compared with 82,000 in 1936. However, the 78 percent condition reported for late potatoes on July 1 compares with 42 percent last year when conditions in the late mountain counties were suffering from record dry seasons. The total production of Irish potatoes is estimated at 9,200,000 bushels, or an increase of 54 percent over the 5,986,000 bushel crop harvested last year.

SWEET POTATOES

Sweet potatoes show the smallest increase of any crop this year there being 85,000 acres in cultivation compared with 84,000 a year ago. The indicated production at (Continued on Page Four)



Gang of plows operating on Caledonia Prison Farm, Halifax County, June 1937.

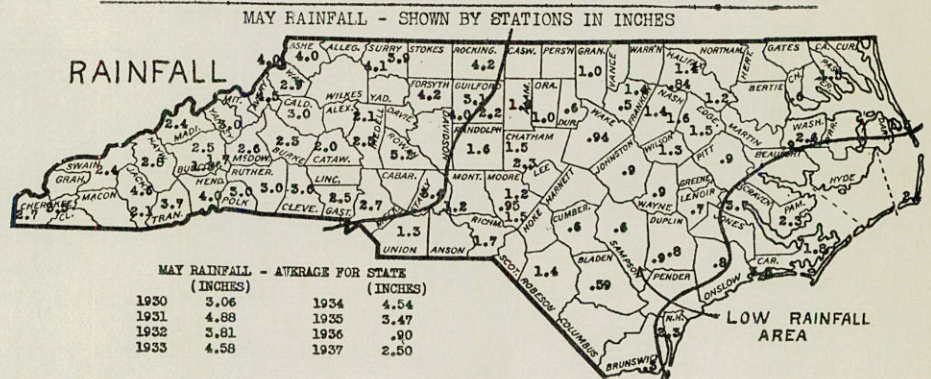
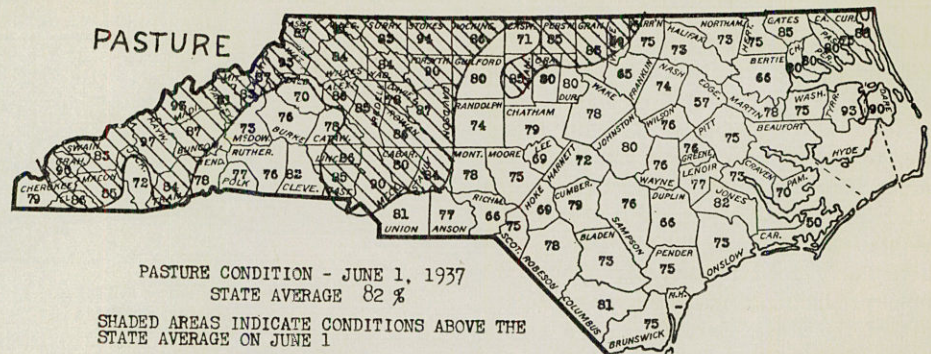
RAINFALL IS THE KEY TO CROP CONDITIONS

PASTURE

As will be seen by the map on the right, the most favorable pasture and rainfall conditions are in the western portion of the state. Pasture condition really reflects the best indication of favorable soil moisture conditions or rainfall. Of course, spotted areas of good pasture condition and rainfall are to be found in several eastern counties. Fortunately, most of the pastures are located in the favorable area. Probably the chief crop in the mountain counties is grazing supplied by pastures.

RAINFALL

The figures shown on this map are those reported by the Weather Bureau for the month of May. Each decimal point approximates the location of the station reporting the record. Below the map are shown the May rainfall records for North Carolina since 1930. The area west of the line drawn through the state has had more favorable rainfall, which corresponds fairly closely with the better pasture condition. The eastern Piedmont and most of the Coastal Plain counties have had less than two inches of rainfall during May.



UNITED STATES FARM CONDITIONS

The decline in the exports of farm products is largely due to the shortage in this country brought about by previous drought conditions and to unfavorable economic conditions abroad. While the shipment of agricultural products abroad has declined about 3 per cent in recent years, the non-agricultural items have increased 25 per cent for the past two years. Economic information covering agriculture in the United States was much less important a few years ago when our economic life was much less complicated. Farmers were less dependent on prices because they sold little and bought little but these conditions are gone forever. Now our farming is closely interwoven with the economic affairs of the country as a whole, especially with industrial production, employment and market demand. The result is that more information and a wider distribution of economic information is needed than ever before. That is

one purpose of this publication.

The early spring was unusually cold and wet. Pasturage was generally held back requiring a longer winter feeding period. This, of course, increased the feed shortage in the drought states. Although, farm real estate values have continued to rise for the past four years the average value in March was only 16 per cent above the low point of March 1, 1933. In view of the industrial activity the demand for farm products through the next few months is expected to continue. Most manufacturers have heavy, unfilled orders on hand. The large government payments made to farmers during the past year have resulted in a favorable farm income. For example, in March, 1937 over \$100,000,000.00 was paid for government benefit while the income from farm marketing was almost \$600,000,000.00. The total of \$707,000,000.00 received by farmers was almost \$200,000,000.00 more than in March 1936.

Prices of farm products have continued higher in March than earlier but about

the same level as in January. At the same time prices paid by farmers have increased during the past two months. The ratio between prices farmers received and those paid hold steady at 97 per cent, the pre-war level. This means they are only 3 points below parity. Thus, the purchasing price of farm products is almost 100 per cent in comparison with about 50 per cent in 1931.

Corn prices rose sharply in March and April. Prices are now the highest in fifteen years. Oats made only slight advances. The farm supplies of corn and oats were about the same as two years ago which followed the 1934 drought. At that time, however, the supplies were only about half as large as the average for the preceding five years.

The livestock situation is affected appreciably by the high cost of feed. While butter prices have declined over the country at large, milk production has also declined to a point where it is the smallest since 1929 excepting for the year 1935. This is partly due to the high cost of feed.

THE COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

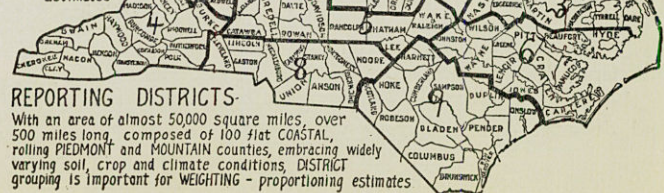
W. F. Callander, *Chairman, Crop Reporting Board*

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

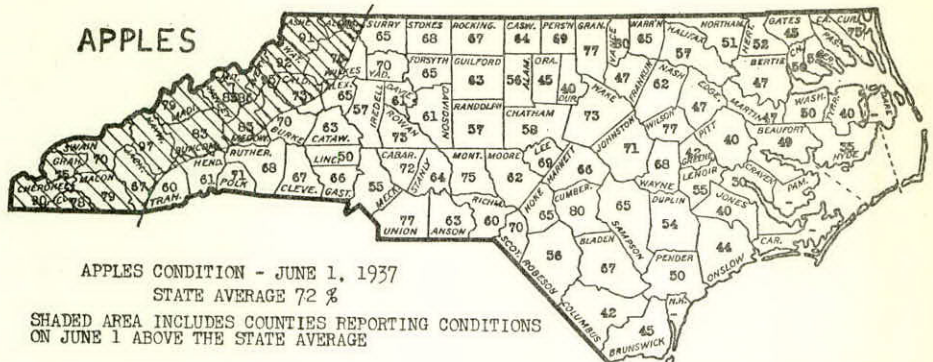
COUNTY CROP CONDITIONS, JUNE 1, 1937

County figures indicate the percent of a normal, or full crop prospect on this date.

APPLES

As might be expected, there is a wide variation in the condition of apples even on adjacent farms. It is difficult, therefore, to get a true figure for an entire county. That the apple prospects are much better than usual is noticeable throughout the state as of June 1st. Conditions are particularly good in the more important apple producing counties in the western part of the state. Farmers should anticipate a plentiful supply this year.

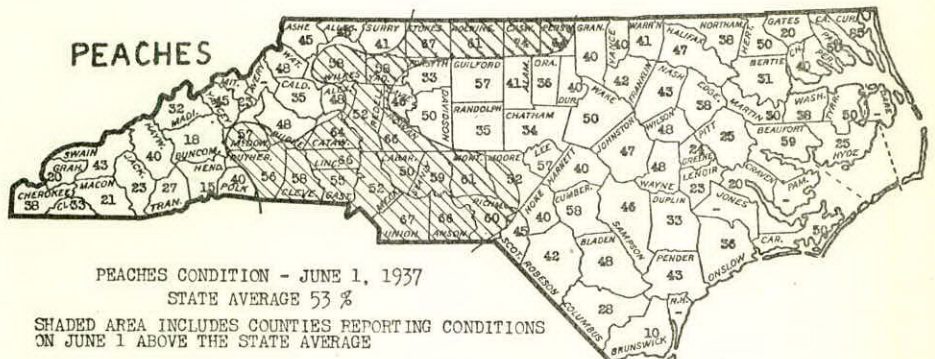
APPLES



PEACHES

The prospects for a crop of peaches vary much more widely than for apples. The better condition area is in the western Piedmont, although fairly favorable prospects are to be found in the commercial Sandhill area. Peaches in the mountain areas range from 15 to 50 percent of a full crop prospect. In the eastern portion of the state, where little care is given to orchards, the prospects are from 10 to 60 percent. The principal commercial orchards are in more favored areas.

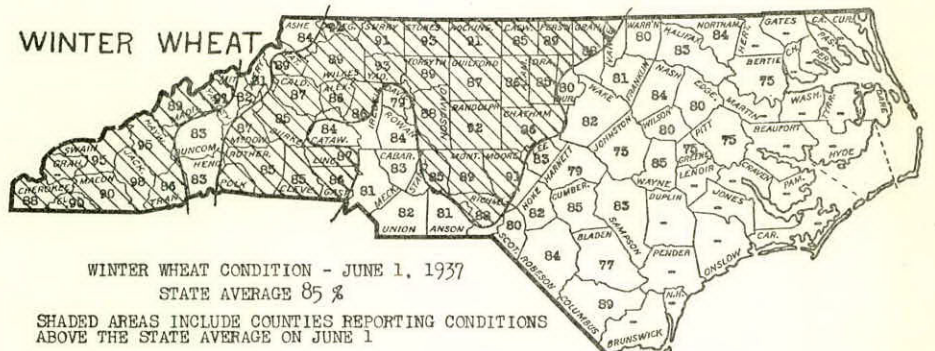
PEACHES



WINTER WHEAT

While the better condition of wheat is to be found in the more favorable rainfall areas of the state, the wheat crop was largely made from the earlier rainfall. Since the important wheat area of the state is in the higher condition counties, one may readily understand why the condition and probable yield is better than usual. See page 2 for the June 1st crop report.

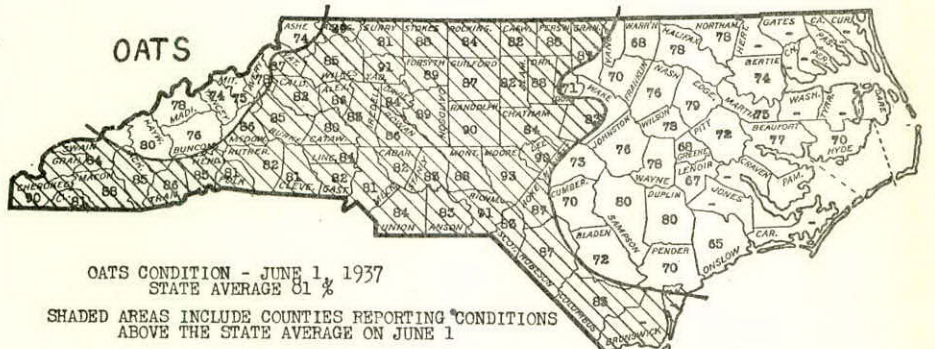
WINTER WHEAT



OATS

As shown by the shaded area on the map at the right, the more favorable oat conditions are to be found throughout the central portion of the state. This immediately reflects the better rainfall conditions of April and May in this area. Conditions in the coastal counties are still dry, but not nearly as much so as were experienced a year ago in these counties. In spite of the dry conditions, good prospects are evident almost everywhere.

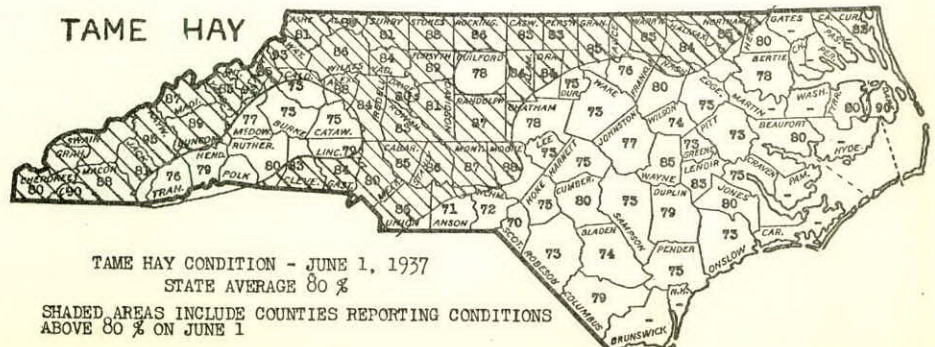
OATS



TAME HAY

That the rainfall is the real key to crop conditions is evidenced by a study of any of the field crop maps shown in relation to the rainfall. This is particularly true if the April rainfall is considered. Tame hay, as with pasture, certainly depends upon soil moisture conditions which mean rainfall. Good hay prospects are evident even in the eastern counties, which mean that real drought conditions are not existing.

TAME HAY



NORTH CAROLINA CROP REPORT JUNE 1, 1937

	NORTH CAROLINA CROPS						UNITED STATES CROPS					
	CONDITION			PRODUCTION			CONDITION			PRODUCTION		
	Average 1923-32	1936	1937	Average 1923-32	1936	Indicated 1937	Average 1923-32	1936	1937	Average 1923-32	1936	Indicated 1937
Winter Wheat	82	66	85	3,790,000	5,194,000	6,648,000	73.9	66.7	71.5	623,220,000	519,013,000	648,597,000
Oats	77	54	81	-	-	-	81.4	74.5	82.3	-	-	-
Barley	82	69	82	-	-	-	82.6	75.3	79.7	-	-	-
Rye	88	66	85	466,000	390,000	520,000	79.6	63.2	75.3	38,212,000	25,554,000	45,974,000
HAY AND PASTURE												
Tame Hay	80	51	80	-	-	-	80.6	75.7	84.8	-	-	-
Wild Hay	79	53	78	-	-	-	79.0	72.3	67.6	-	-	-
Clover and Timothy	-	53	84	-	-	-	79.4	79.3	79.3	-	-	-
Alfalfa	81	46	82	-	-	-	84.8	82.4	79.2	-	-	-
Pasture	80	46	82	-	-	-	81.3	74.5	75.7	-	-	-
FRUIT												
Apples	56	35	72	-	-	-	67.8	46.7	76.6	-	-	-
Peaches	58	45	53	1,877,000	1,558,000	1,767,000	64.7	51.3	65.7	57,298,000	47,650,000	56,102,000
Pears	47	36	39	220,000	240,000	194,000	65.1	57.8	68.3	24,334,000	26,956,000	31,484,000
OTHER CROPS												
Potatoes (Early Irish)	79	47	77	-	-	-	73.9	62.1	71.6	-	-	-

CROP CONDITIONS BY REPORTING DISTRICTS
(See District Map, bottom Page 4)

CROPS	MOUNTAIN COUNTIES				PIEDMONT COUNTIES				COASTAL COUNTIES			
	Northern		Southern		Northern		Southern		Northern		Southern	
	District 1	District 4	District 2	District 5	District 3	District 6	District 8	District 9	District 7	District 10	District 11	District 12
Winter wheat	1036	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
Oats	67	89	64	87	65	87	69	84	68	85	65	78
Barley	61	83	48	81	59	85	56	82	55	83	50	73
Rye	68	87	65	85	71	85	61	81	66	83	67	81
Potatoes (early Irish)	54	85	46	82	38	83	39	79	52	77	46	77
Tobacco	65	71	61	68	50	74	53	66	45	75	49	64
HAY CROPS												
Alfalfa	53	83	49	81	42	86	45	80	39	84	62	78
All clover and timothy	-	85	-	84	-	85	-	84	-	83	-	76
All tame hay	55	84	52	83	46	85	45	80	47	82	54	79
Wild hay	52	79	56	82	61	83	52	80	50	81	46	53
Pasture	51	87	46	82	43	82	39	78	38	81	52	75
FRUIT CROPS												
Apples	30	83	29	76	34	63	30	61	34	64	43	54
Peaches	29	47	17	40	27	49	21	47	30	59	47	44
Pears	25	45	15	42	34	47	21	32	29	44	34	53

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS
(Reported as of 15th of the month)

FARM COMMODITY	May 1936	April 1937	May 1937	FARM COMMODITY	May 1936	April 1937	May 1937
Corn, per bushel	\$.71	\$ 1.03	\$ 1.11	Mules, per head	\$ 175.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00
Wheat, per bushel	1.05	1.43	1.41	Chickens, per pound	.167	.157	.157
Oats, per bushel	.53	.73	.74	Turkeys, per pound	.180	.190	.180
Barley, per bushel	.71	.93	.93	Eggs, per dozen	.184	.183	.191
Rye, per bushel	.90	1.19	1.20	Butter, per pound	.240	.240	.240
Buckwheat, per bushel	.78	.88	.95	Butterfat, per pound	.250	.290	.280
Cotton lint, per pound	.117	.145	.138	Milk, retail, per quart	.116	.119	.119
Cottonseed, per ton	31.00	37.00	39.00	Milk, wholesale, per 100 pounds	2.45	2.90	2.90
Potatoes, per bushel	.95	1.40	1.45	Wool (unwashed) per pound	.270	.310	.310
Potatoes, per 100 pounds	2.00	2.60	2.70	Apples, per bushel	1.20	1.65	1.65
Sweet potatoes, per bushel	.85	.85	.90	Hay (loose), per ton	14.90	15.90	16.50
Peanuts, per pound	.032	.048	.048	Hay, all (baled), per ton	17.90	19.10	20.00
Soy beans, per bushel	1.10	1.65	1.70	Alfalfa hay (loose), per ton	19.60	21.50	22.20
Compeas, per bushel	1.65	2.10	2.15	Clover hay (loose), per ton	15.70	-	-
Hogs, per 100 pounds	6.90	9.10	9.30	Mixed Clover & Timothy, per ton	14.60	16.50	16.10
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds	5.20	5.70	5.60	Prairie hay (loose), per ton	9.00	11.00	10.20
Veal calves, per 100 pounds	7.10	7.60	7.90	Legume hay, per ton	-	16.30	17.00
Sheep, per 100 pounds	4.00	4.70	4.45	Grain hay, per ton	-	15.50	15.70
Lambs, per 100 pounds	8.10	8.30	7.50	Lespedeza hay (loose), per ton	-	18.70	18.00
Milk cows, per head	39.00	45.00	42.00	Lespedeza seed, per bushel	2.00	4.00	3.75
Horses, per head	124.00	136.00	133.00	Lespedeza seed, per 100 pounds	6.90	14.50	13.50

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Growers are always interested in the prices which they may receive for their products. The best way to determine this is to know the prospects of crops and to study the present and past price relationships. Accordingly, at the left is being offered the May 1937 price averages for the state, as well as those for April. Also for comparison, the prices received by growers a year earlier are shown. Since these prices were reported by a large number of merchants and farmers, they are considered quite dependable. Of course, considerable variation from these will be found in certain localities. The important thing is to study the trend, not the individual price.

For example the potato or the hog farmer should prepare and keep up to date tables of monthly prices of the products which they sell or buy. Thus the grower is informed and prepared to anticipate the market price trends to be expected. Profits or losses occur in the marketing. The market informed grower holds the advantage.

THE FARM SITUATION IN
NORTH CAROLINA

May farm conditions were indeed very dry as evidenced by the 2.5 per cent inches of rainfall average for the state. In fact, in Raleigh the rainfall was the next to the lowest in the fifty years' record for this station, it being less than one inch here. Complaint was general over the state that soils were too dry for the germination of seed and for the satisfactory growth of the crops on land. The bright side of the situation, however, is that rain has come in many of these dry sections since that time. Also, we must remember that a year ago conditions were far worse on June 1 than this year and yet we made fairly good crops in this state, and a review of this report will show that crop conditions were not really very bad as of June 1. We must remember that a dry June usually indicates a good crop year. Last year proved that good crops may be produced after a dry May. Farmers are not entirely dissatisfied with the conditions at this time. A review of the crop report herewith and the County Condition maps shown inside indicate that crops are fairly good throughout the state. This is particularly true of small grains and fruit.

The early truck crops have met with varying conditions mostly not entirely satisfactory. The potato crop is still in doubt. Some of the other crops have made short yields because of the dry weather. May peas, for instance, made about half yield and in spite of this the price was quite low. With an apparently short potato yield, the price here is expected to be low on account of the great increase in acreage this year and the better conditions of the crop in southern states. The May prices may be reviewed on Page 2. The early June rains are expected to materially change crop conditions and the farmers' attitude before June ends. In traveling over North Carolina statisticians have found that the small grain crop is generally good and especially so in comparison with the conditions a year ago.