

Farmers Adhere To Regulations

43 Of 590 Cases Show Regularity In Living Up To Agreement

By F. H. JETER

A survey of typical cotton counties in different sections of North Carolina indicate there have been few violations of the cotton adjustment act in the replacement of tenants or in the reduction of rental units on the farms so the tenant was affected. It is interpreted literally, and appears also, that in most cases the landlords have had reasons for making changes. Mr. Workman began his survey on April 16, using college graduates, reared on farms, familiar with rural conditions and farm management, economic and sociology. Anson, Edgecombe, Northampton, Robeson and Rutherford counties were selected as the counties furnishing a fair sample of varying conditions as could be found. A total relief load of 4,500 cases Mr. Workman and his field men secured the names of 773 persons who had been on relief since 1932. However, it was found that 183 of these persons were on farms covered by adjustment contracts. This 183 cases which were studied and tabulated. Of these 590 cases, 43, or 7.3 per cent, show irregularity or apparent

violation of the tenant clause of the cotton adjustment contract. These cases have been reported to the various county control committees for further investigation.

To determine if violations were made, the investigators ascertained whether the tenant's status was lowered by the landlord, whether the landlord reduced the number of productive units or farms on his place.

The Counties Studied

But first it would be well to examine into the counties where the studies were made.

Anson county is typically a cotton county. It has a population of 29,343 persons with 52 per cent being Negro and 48 per cent being white. The county has 3,172 farms in operation and cotton is grown on 94.1 per cent of these. Of the total number of farms, 2,100 or 66.2 per cent are operated by tenants. Of these 65.3 per cent are Negro and 34.7 per cent are white.

Cleveland county is the largest cotton producing county in the state and has a population of 51,914 persons. Of this number 76.8 per cent are white and 23.2 per cent are Negro. There are 5,181 farms operated in the county and 96.9 per cent of these grow cotton. There are 3,263 or 63 per cent of all the farms operated by tenants and of these tenant-operated farms, 61.6 per cent are by white persons and 38.4 per cent by Negro persons.

Edgecombe county has a population of 47,894 persons with 56.9 per cent being Negro and 43.1 per cent white. There are 4,000 farms operated and 82.9 per cent of these grow cotton. Out of the 4,000 farms, 3,363 or 84.2 per cent are operated by tenants. This, by the way, is the largest percentage of any county in the State. Of the tenant-operated farms, 63.9 per cent are operated by Negro and 36.1 per cent by

white tenants.

Northampton county has a population of 27,161 persons with 62.7 being negro and 37.3 being white. There are 3,870 farms operated in the county and 96.2 per cent of them grow cotton. Of the total number of farms operated, 2,791 or 70 per cent are operated by tenants and 73.5 per cent of these tenants are Negro and 26.5 per cent are white.

Robeson county has a population of 66,512 persons of which 47.1 are white and 34.3 per cent are Negroes and 18.6 per cent are Indians. There are 7,666 farms operated in the county and 87.5 per cent grow cotton. Of these, 5,413 or 63.3 per cent are operated by tenants of which 43.6 per cent are Negro; 34.4 per cent are white and 21.9 per cent Indians.

Rutherford County has a population of 40,452 persons of which 86.7 per cent are white and 13.3 per cent are Negro. There are 3,791 operated farms and 1,900 or 50.1 per cent are operated by tenants. Of these 84 per cent are white and 16 per cent are Negro. Cotton is grown principally as a cash crop in the county though the county is one the western edge of the belt.

In making their investigations of contract violations insofar as tenants on relief were concerned, Mr. Workman instructed his field men in the six counties to obtain actual and accurate facts about the cases and disregard opinions and personal feelings. It was found that 2,397 tenants were on relief in the six counties during the period from January 1, 1934 to March 1, 1935. The field workers secured 773 card cases, as they were called, but of these 183 were on farms not covered by contracts so were not studied. This left 590 cases which were studied.

It was first found that 278 of the cases studied had retained the

same status that they had before the cotton adjustment contracts went into effect. Some of these had been given an improved condition and 74 had been moved to Rural Rehabilitation farms.

On the average there were 6.6 persons per family in the cases under investigation. A number of the families took advantage of the rented acres to grow their own food and feed. The study shows that 36.6 per cent did this while 63.4 per cent did not use the rented acres for anything.

The studies also showed there was considerable shifting about as is the case with most tenants, but on the whole, the shifting was within the local civil district or township. Mr. Workman says only 58 families moved out of the township and only 13 moved out of the county but 171 families moved about within the local township leaving an average of 419 families that stayed where they were.

The survey also shows that there was an increase in the higher class of tenancy during the period under observation. More cash tenants who farmed on their own resources were noted. At the same time there was an increase in the number of laborers, indicating that the middle group or share croppers decreased.

Four Reasons for Relief

The investigators found four principal reasons for the 590 cases on relief. The tenants said their trouble was due to financial difficulties, sickness, unemployment or insufficient working force. Out of the 590 cases, 322 claimed they were on relief because of financial loss. Some claimed loss of crop, small crop, insufficient income, stock died or that they failed to get the full amount coming to them under the AAA contract. There were 141 cases who gave sickness as their reason for seeking relief and 120 who claimed that they were not employed for a sufficient length of time to support a family. Seven cases claimed that they did not have sufficient working force of the right age to produce enough income to support the family.

Mr. Workman made a full report of each individual case of apparent violation to the chairman of the county cotton adjustment committee that it might be further studied and some remedial measures be taken. He said that he secured the finest cooperation from the district relief administrators and from the county farm agents and case workers in the six counties.

"While we found an average of only 7.3 per cent of violations of the AAA cotton contract in the number of cases studied, this was one in each 13.7 cases," Mr. Workman reported. "However, there was enough information evidenced in the study to conclude that many violations have occurred on farms where the tenant was not on the relief rolls.

"We studied all active and

closed relief cases from cotton farms in the six counties with the exception of two counties, which were studied from active cases only. The results show that the per cent of violations are much greater among the active cases on relief rolls."

Mr. Workman and his field men found some interesting things in studying the violations. Sometime the landlord decided his farm would not yield enough for his own family and that of the tenants too, so he reduced the tenants to day laborers. In other cases there was not enough workstock on the farm to support the tenant families and in other cases there were disagreements in settling after the crops were harvested and sold. In many instances the landlords ran shiftless tenants off the place and sometimes forgot to secure new ones as the contract specified.

All of these and many others were patiently studied by the field workers and the results have been turned in to W. J. Green, director of the landlord-tenant relationship survey of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration at Washington. Dr. C. Horace Hamilton, associate professor of rural sociology at State College and supervisor of the research for this state also has a copy of the findings and will give it careful study for the State College authorities who have charge of the AAA program in this State. Dr. Hamilton said North Carolina farmers are reported to be liv-

ing up to their contracts in a much fairer way than is the case in some of the other states.

Weed Production Highest In 1930

From Farm Forecaster.

The peak of production was reached in 1930 with disappointing prices. In spite of a drop in production the next year, the stocks or carryover increased, which further lowered prices paid to growers. So in 1932 the production made a real drop, equal to the 1921 year when women were total abstainers. This affected the manufacturers' stocks, and boosted prices some. The expected big crop followed. The stocks were thus pushed up in 1934, but the 1933-34 AAA tobacco reduction program assured the promised reduction, thus affecting an immediate improvement in prices. The increases in consumption greatly reduced the stocks, so shot the price up to an average of 27.7 cents for the 1934 season. Parity conditions were unbalanced in favor of the growers. For continued good total tobacco farm income, a return to parity by increased production is necessary. In other words 28 cent tobacco is economically to high for stability.

A grocer advertized apples and nuts for early. He put up the sign. "Shop Early! The Early Bird Gets the Worm."




Farmer Friends

Make Our Store Your Headquarters For

McCORMICK-DEERING FARM MACHINERY

General Hardware and a Good Line of Paints

Modernize Your Farm with

McCORMICK-DEERING Farm Machinery

SEE OUR DISPLAY OF

:: INTERNATIONAL ::

PICK-UPS and TRUCKS

Wilson Implement Co.

Your McCormick-Deering Dealer

WHITEVILLE, N. C.




BUY Genuine

1935 U.S. TIRES

Grasp this Opportunity


at these

ROCK BOTTOM PRICES

Not unknown tires. Not just ordinary tires. But genuine nationally-advertised U. S. Tires! They give you all the extra mileage of the toughest, longest-lasting rubber... the extra safety of the strongest cords and safer anchor beads... plus the surest non-skid yet developed. Drive around now and see for yourself!

AMAZING VALUES

U. S. TIRES (GUARD TYPE)	U. S. TIRES (PEERLESS TYPE)	U. S. ROYALS
4.40x21 \$4.95	4.75x19 \$6.97 5.00x19 \$7.47 5.25x18 \$8.32	4.17x19 \$8.19 5.00x19 \$8.77 5.25x18 \$9.76




Anything For The Automobile And Radio

✦ **SOLD ON TIME** ✦

Credit and Terms to Suit Your Needs

Columbus Motor Co.

Whiteville, North Carolina



PRODUCT OF **US** United States Rubber Company