

South Carolina Weed Grovers Association Active In Promoting Interest Of Farmers

BY W. K. JORDAN, Treas. and Manager, South Carolina Tobacco Farmers Association

Since the spring of 1944, the South Carolina Tobacco Farmers Association has been extremely active in many matters of utmost concern to all tobacco growers and all other groups in the tobacco business. Throughout this period, as always, this association has continued its policy of bringing about a better understanding between the tobacco farmers of the various tobacco producing states and between all groups interested in the tobacco industry. We feel sure that the activities of this association, as briefly mentioned below, have borne fruit in this respect that will be of great and lasting good to all tobacco growers, and to everyone whose economy is tied up with that of the tobacco grower.

Among the activities of the South Carolina Tobacco Farmers Association during this period are:

First: In cooperation with other farm organizations of the flue-cured tobacco states, the S. C. Tobacco Farmers Association played a major part in the successful fight for the extension of the quota system on tobacco production. This organization pledges itself to continued support of the quota system because we know from bitter experiences over a period of many years, the inevitable results of unlimited production of leaf tobacco.

Second: The S. C. Tobacco Farmers Association is primarily responsible for establishing a differential of 4 1/2c per pound between the price of loose tobacco and tobacco tied into hands. This problem was worked out in cooperation with farm organizations from each of the flue cured states.

Third: In cooperation with other farm organizations the government investigators absolved the tobacco growers and the quota system of tobacco production of any responsibility for the acute

shortage of cigarettes and other manufactured tobacco products.

Fourth: Helped bring about and participated in a meeting of farm leaders from eleven tobacco producing states in Lexington, Ky., in February 1945, to work out a program to insure the trade of adequate stocks of leaf tobacco.

Fifth: In February 1945, the South Carolina Tobacco Farmers Association, through its president, R. S. Rogers, supported by the Farm Bureau of North Carolina, represented by its executive secretary, Mr. Flake Shaw, succeeded in having the OPA in Washington change its ruling which denied oil for new old burning tobacco curing outfits so that farmers who had installed the oil burning curers could buy oil with which to operate them. The fact that this ruling was obtained is doing much at present to relieve the extreme labor shortage on thousands of farms in the tobacco belt.

Sixth: In April 1945 at a meeting of farm leaders from other flue-cured states, the S. C. Tobacco Farmers Association was instrumental in bringing about unanimous agreement between the various states on the following proposals which were subsequently submitted to the WFA and OPA in Washington.

(1) That a 2c per pound tolerance in the ceiling price of leaf tobacco for the entire belt be established.

(2) That, if the tobacco must be allocated to buying companies, allocations be made on the basis of 110 percent of the crop estimate, and that provision be made for these allocations to change automatically as the crop estimate changes.

(3) That the government take steps to stabilize the price of leaf tobacco at ceiling levels.

(4) That the differential between loose and tied tobacco remain at 4 1/2c per pound.

Seventh: In the early spring

1945, representatives of buying companies and warehousemen of South Carolina made it known to the directors of the South Carolina Tobacco Farmers Association that they did not have any prospects of obtaining sufficient labor to remove tobacco from warehouse floors, and that, unless some immediate steps were taken to provide labor, sales would have to be reduced to three or four days per week and the selling time per sales day reduced still more.

After careful study of this problem, the South Carolina Tobacco Farmers Association applied for five hundred German P. W. laborers to relieve this situation. This number was determined by totaling the minimum number each company estimated they would need on each of the three larger markets in South Carolina.

To date we have assurance that 250 prisoners will be encamped at Florence, S. C., for this purpose on August 1, and prospects are good that this number will be increased by that date.

Upon request of the buying companies and warehousemen, and with the approval of the WMC, the South Carolina Tobacco Farmers Association has agreed to act as a clearing and supervising agency in the handling of these prisoners. This is to be done on an actual cost basis, and the cost prorated among the various buying companies on the basis of the percentage of tobacco purchased by each company.

It is the aim and hope of the S. C. Tobacco Farmers Assoc. that through this effort, warehouse floors on every market in S. C. will be cleared promptly after each sale, and that sales will go on regularly and smoothly with a minimum of congestion. This, we feel sure, will save S. C. tobacco farmers many thousands of dollars, and many more thousands of man hours.

War Demands Fat Salvage

The farm women of North Carolina have made excellent records in the salvaging of waste fats for the war effort, and they will need to continue their patriotic efforts in this direction until the war against Japan is concluded, according to Mrs. Estelle T. Smith, assistant State home demonstration agent of the State College Extension Service.

According to the report for May, 89,950 pounds of fat were salvaged in North Carolina, but there was a drop in collections for June, Mrs. Smith said. She pointed out that V-E day did not end the critical shortages and that housewives should guard against the waste of any fats until the need for such materials ceases.

The index showing that more fat is being salvaged by the rural women than by the town women is not surprising in view of the meat shortage in the towns, Mrs. Smith explained.

Rural women in some areas of the State are collecting the waste fats cooperatively through their community chairman and are disposing of the material accordingly, Mrs. Smith stated. In many instances, these women are using the funds from the sale of the waste fats for community projects which enhance farm life.

Mrs. Smith suggests that women in other communities could render a patriotic service to their government by collecting the fats and could organize their efforts, pool the money made in the sales, and devote the use of the S. C. Tobacco Farmers Association has also rendered real service to all S. C. tobacco farmers by taking steps in time to obtain Government orders which relieved critical shortages of tobacco twine, and poison for insect control on tobacco.

Timber Is Forgotten Crop Of Columbus County Farms

BY H. E. BLANCHARD, Farm Forester

In the everyday rush of life a large number of landowners overlook one of the most important crops grown in Columbus County. This crop is too often forgotten, because it doesn't need planting or cultivation. It requires no fertilizer and can be harvested at any season of the year.

This crop is seldom damaged by storm and grows steadily regardless of how much it rains or how dry it gets. Hail and freezes do not damage it.

The importance of this forgotten crop is shown by the fact that it pays off 18 per cent of all farm mortgages and produces 25 per cent of all the wealth of the South. It furnishes full employment for hundreds of thousands and part-time employment for almost a million people in the southeastern states. The war could not be won without the large use of its products.

Timber is a crop as much as anything else that grows in the

market that is unfavorable to the seller. If the price of timber is low, these trees will keep on gaining value if allowed to grow; but care should be taken never to allow this crop to become too old, because the growing powers of young trees are much greater than those of old trees. Trees, like people, grow rapidly when they are young but do very little except increase around the waist after they become of age.

Question: Is penicillin effective in treating all types of livestock diseases?

Answer: Like sulfa drugs, penicillin is effective against some types of disease-producing germs but wholly useless against others, says Dr. C. D. Grinnells, veterinarian of the State College Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Grinnells pointed out that penicillin is of no value against viral diseases such as hog cholera and sleeping sickness and that many of its other uses are in the experimental stage. He suggested that a veterinarian be consulted before the application of the drug.

The national wheat goal for 1946 has been set at 67 to 70 million acres for harvest, or full production.

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