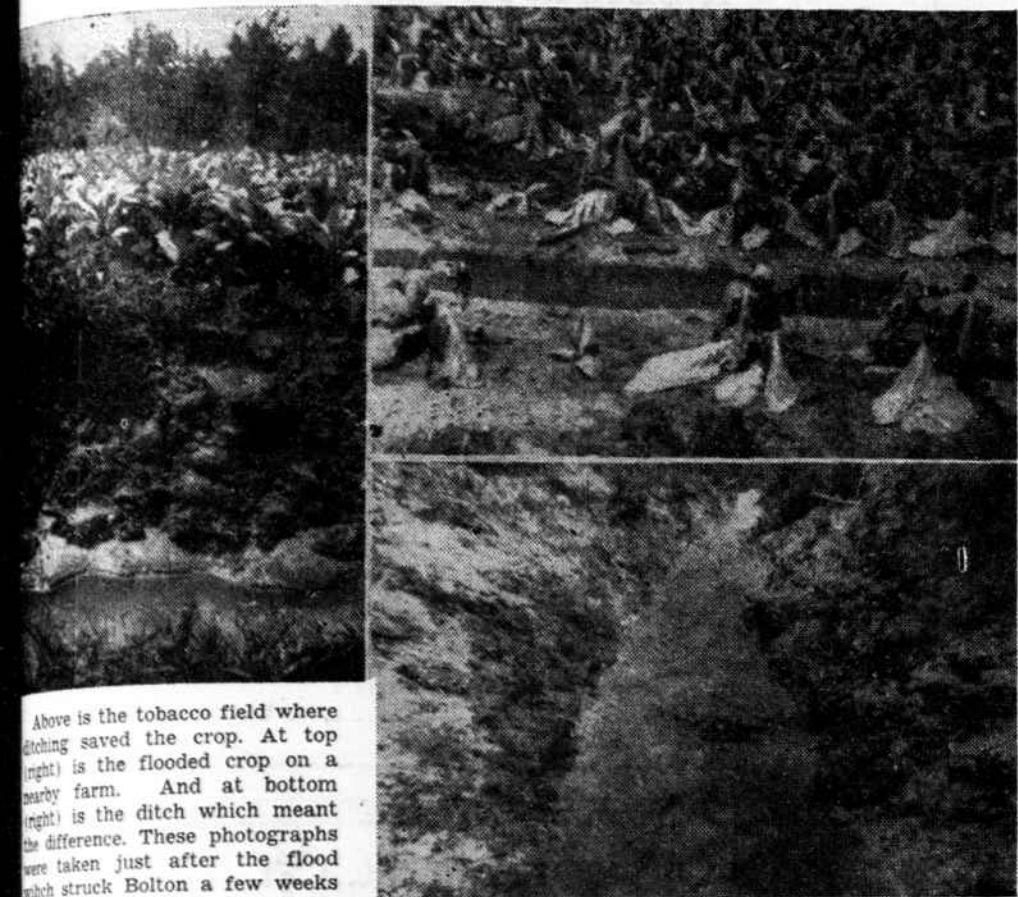


History Of AAA, PMA, And Price Supports

What A Difference A Ditch Made!



Above is the tobacco field where ditching saved the crop. At top (right) is the flooded crop on a nearby farm. And at bottom (right) is the ditch which meant the difference. These photographs were taken just after the flood which struck Bolton a few weeks ago.

Bolton Experience Proves That Drainage Money Is Well-Spent

Tobacco Grown Along Dynamited Canal Is Saved While Crop Is Severely Damaged In Other Areas

In February 1949 Joe Brown, who applied to the County Conservation Committee for assistance in drainage problem on his farm, was checked by Thomas M. Brown, community committeeman in Bolton community, who had a course at State College as technical drainage assistant. A preliminary survey of the farm and the farmer decided a dynamite canal would be suitable for his type of soil. Location of drainage area, canal is 9 feet at the top, to a 3 ft. depth, consisting of 117 linear feet and a total of 10,000 yds. The total cost of this work was \$216.00 of which the farmer will pay \$77.60 through the State's annual conservation pay-

On June 5, ten inches of rain fell in the Bolton section of the county, according to this committee. The tobacco which was grown on the canal was saved while approximately 30 other acres in poorly drained areas in the same locality lost a great deal of tobacco. The tobacco on adjoining farm which is owned by Mr. Brown's brother was damaged one-third loss.

The pictures above illustrate an average size farm with an average drainage problem, which calls for no assistance from other sources nor did it involve other lands.

Pastures Profitable Practice

Years ago C. M. Fisher, of Whiteville, purchased a 100-acre tract of land which he has been calling a "frog pond." He began preparing a plan for the land for a permanent canal. First a canal was dug through the land in order to give necessary drainage for production. Next a rotation of timothy and grasses were seeded on the farm until it was built up. Twenty-five tons of lime and 18 per cent superphosphate were used on eleven acres of this land. After the land was ready for seeding Mr. Fisher planted grass, ladino clover, and timothy for his pasture. Two years ago a rotation of timothy and grasses were applied to the pasture which showed improvements on his farm which PMA practices have aided. In Columbus County through the efforts of all agricultural agencies farmers have made more progress in the pasture program in 1949 than ever before. If pastures are successful, each year through the aid he could receive through the local office.

Need Is Great For More State Forestry Areas

Bladen Lakes State Forest Is Only One Under State Control; Now Operated At Profit

By F. H. CLARIDGE, Assistant Forester. The large acreage of forest land in federal ownership in natural forests mostly in the mountains has unfortunately in North Carolina overshadowed the urgent need for well-distributed State Forests. These State forests could be of much smaller area than the National Forests and well distributed over the State. They not only will provide excellent demonstrations of all types of good forestry practices but will provide a reservoir of raw materials for local industries. At present the State has one State forest known as the Bladen Lakes State Forest of 36,000 acres in Bladen county. This has been under State control for 10 years and was secured under a 95 year lease from the Federal Government. The woodland is typical of that region of the State. Much of the forest area prior to its control by the N. C. Division of Forestry had been overcut, burned and in general misused. Despite these handicaps the management of the area has been an outstanding success. Timber has been cut and sold under good forestry practices and it is one project in the State government which has not cost the State.

Mr. Fisher is a community committeeman in Whiteville township and has expressed his desire to stop his work at any time to show interested farmers some of the improvements on his farm which PMA practices have aided. In Columbus County through the efforts of all agricultural agencies farmers have made more progress in the pasture program in 1949 than ever before. If pastures are successful, each year through the aid he could receive through the local office.

Wives Search For Husband's Fags

A cigarette famine was caused in an English town when a consignment of 200,000 cigarettes sent by rail from Player's Nottingham factory vanished on the way. They were intended to restock wholesale and retail tobacconists. The wives of workers in the town spend hours every day dodging from shop to shop trying to get a few for their husbands.

U. S. Has Few Lady Farmers

Women have title to only a small part of the farm land in the U. S. held by individuals and those who are owners are more likely to be landlords than operators. A nation-wide survey of farm ownership in 1946 showed that only a little more than a tenth of the persons owning land in the U. S. are women. In no region did women average more than 12 per cent or less than 9 per cent of all owners though there was considerable differences among states. For example, 17.1 per cent of the owners of farm land in Nebraska were women, the highest proportion of any State. But only two per cent of the individual owners in Nevada were women. Other states with a high proportion of women owners were: Illinois, Connecticut, South Carolina, Colorado, Georgia and Kansas. Lower percentages of women owners were found in Delaware, New Jersey, Wyoming, Oregon, Wisconsin, Washington, New Mexico, Montana, Florida, and Utah.

The survey, which is based on information from a sample of 49,000 farm land owners, also shows that women's holdings usually were smaller than those of men. Over the country, women owned about 8 per cent of (Continued on page Two)

Not A Sissy

A young mother was having great difficulty with her three-year-old son who had locked himself in the bathroom and either could not or would not unlock the door. Finally, in desperation, she called the fire department. After a brief wait, a burly fire captain ran up the front steps with an axe in one hand, a fire extinguisher in the other. She explained her predicament, but instead of going back for a ladder, he asked her the sex of the child. When she had told him, he climbed the stairs and said in his most authoritative voice, "You come out, little girl!" Aroused at being called a little girl, the boy unlocked the door and marched out to confront the fireman. "It works just about every time," explained the grinning captain.

Worth Of ACP Committeemen Proved Locally

They Are Key Links In Chain Of Agricultural Program Administration In Columbus

FURNISH COMMUNITY FARM LEADERSHIP

"It's Up To Us To Keep It Working" Says PMA Spokesman With Respect To Soil Improvement

The election of community committeemen in PMA each year gives farmers an opportunity to administer their own farm programs. It is truly a democratic method of administration. In Columbus County we have 30 farming communities in PMA. Annually farmers in each community elect three regular committeemen and two alternates to administer their own farm programs. They also elect a delegate to a county convention where the three regular county committeemen and two alternates are elected to coordinate the program from a state and county level to the communities.

Community committeemen provide local leadership in developing and supervising farm programs adapted to the needs of their community. In cooperation with the county committee, they fit programs to local condition and recommend improvements and additions suggested by farmers. They explain the objectives and provisions of the farm programs and actively assist in making effective use of them. They conduct community meetings and elections, assist in conducting referendums and canvass their community for needed information.

Recently W. B. Crawley, assistant PMA administrator, said "The soil of this country is the source of our strength. We've been pushing our land pretty hard the last 6 or 8 years. I think it's time we took a longer view of conservation. We have the Agricultural Conservation Program which is set up to reach every farmer... to control erosion and stop wasting our land. The committeemen are all set up. The program is in operation and (Continued on page four)

It Stumped Him

Trying to rest after an exceedingly hard day, poor father was being bedeviled by an endless stream of unanswerable questions from Little Willie. "Whata you do down at the office?" the youngster finally asked. "Nothing," shouted father. It looked as if the boy had been put off for a while, but not for long. After a thoughtful pause, Willie inquired: "Pop, how do you know when you're through?" -Capper's Weekly.

Outstanding ACA And PMA Clerk



MRS. DOROTHY SPIVEY, chief clerk in the Columbus County Triple A office, who ranks among the best executives in her position in the State. Her official titles are: Chief clerk of PMA and secretary of ACA. (Photo by Baldwin-Gillespie Studios.)

County's Ninety Committeemen



Seated above are Columbus County's 90 community committeemen who form the link between the Triple A and the other men of the soil. This photograph was taken by Baldwin-Gillespie Studios when the committeemen got together to discuss the tobacco quota referendum.

Accomplishments Of 1948 Program In County Cited

3,220 Farmers Carried Out Their Individual Farm Conservation Practices During Year

BY BRUNO MANGUM Under the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program, 3220 farmers in Columbus County carried out on their individual farms conservation practices that were approved by the County ACA Committee.

Some of the practices carried out in lieu of payments through the program in 1948 included:

LIMESTONE:—4,088 tons of limestone were furnished through the 1948 ACP program. Lime permits the growing of better legumes and grasses and is a necessary material in developing a good pasture program.

SUPERPHOSPHATE MATERIALS:—11,539 hundred weight of 20 per cent equivalent superphosphate were furnished to farmers in Columbus County through the program during 1948. The use of this superphosphate was limited to grasses, legumes and permanent pastures.

SEED FURNISHED:—197,492 pounds of winter cover crop seed was furnished to farmers in Columbus County through the Agricultural Conservation Program. These legumes are used for winter cover to prevent leaching and erosion and are used also as a green manure crop to be turned under in the spring as a source of organic matter and nitrogen.

PASTURE GRASSES AND LEGUMES:—A total of 55,144 pounds of pasture grasses and legumes were furnished through the program in lieu of payments in 1948.

In addition to the above practices 443 acres of cropland in Columbus County were terraced, tile drainage was installed on 172 acres and construction of open ditch drainage amounted to 145,063 cu. yds. Aid was given to anyone who requested assistance in laying out a ditch which is one of the most profitable services offered the farmers.

Farmers in Columbus County received \$63,248.55 from the Agricultural Conservation Program. (Continued on page 2)

Three-Man ACA Committee



Clyde Wayne of Wananish, Hubert Norris of Tabor City, and Bill Hooks of Whiteville are shown as they appeared on a busy day as member of the Columbus County Agriculture Conservation Committee. Hooks is chairman of the group. (Photo by Baldwin-Gillespie Studios.)

Down To Earth

A city boy and a country lad were walking down a street. Coming toward them was a product of the beauty parlor—permanent wave, scarlet finger-nails, drugstore complexion and gaudy lipstick. "Now what do you think of that?" asked the city boy. The farm boy looked carefully and observed: "Speaking as a farmer, I should say that it must have been mighty poor soil to require so much topdressing."

Weed Not Luxury But Is Necessity

Tobacco Last To Go When Families Lose Money; Fags After Smoking Measure One And A Half Inches

(Dublin, Ireland, Irish Tobacco Trade Journal) Tobacco in all its forms has become so close an approximation to a necessity that its sales can not be used with confidence as a barometer of any country's prosperity or poverty.

A family may find it necessary to cut down on certain luxuries, but tobacco usually is the last to come under the axe, for which those in the trade are duly thankful. However, an American tobacco man recently worked out something approaching a theory by which the percentage of individual cigarettes left unsmoked, the butts in other words, could be used as an indication of how the average smoker was progressing generally.

Examining the ash trays and other repositories of butts in Lexington, Illinois, U. S. A., Morris Jones found reason for jubilation and he went the length of announcing that things now are as good as in the late Twenties. The butts he found had attained the average length of one and a half inches, a fact which he broadcast to the tobacco world with the greatest jubilation.

Applied to this country and to Britain, this barometer of prosperity gives another picture, one which it is not so easy to interpret. The discarded sections of our cigarettes fall far short of Lexington's inch and a half in length, in fact the average is so short that inspection probably would bring to light a kind of epidemic of burnt fingers among our smokers. In the early days of cigarette- (Continued on Page 2)

Tobacco Helped To Make U. S.

Spaniards Made First Commercial Shipments To Europe In 1531; Weed Brought \$1,000,000,000 To Growers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Tobacco was the earliest profitable export from the Americas. Spaniards first shipped it commercially to Europe from what is now the United States in 1531. The 1946 tobacco crop brought to U. S. growers more than \$1,000,000,000.

These facts are brought out in a new U. S. Department of Agriculture publication by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics which presents a continuous series of tobacco statistics by states on acreage, yield, production and price from 1866 through 1945 and by tobacco types and classes (Continued on page 2)

Several Agricultural Agencies Were Brought Together In PMA

BY BRUNO MANGUM The Production and Marketing Administration was organized in the summer of 1945. It was a consolidation of several agencies within the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This was done to increase operating efficiency, to obtain over-all coordination of production and marketing functions, and to provide for greater reflection of farmer thinking on both production and marketing programs. The consolidation of the various department of agriculture agencies makes it possible for the recommendations of farmers to have a place in the planning and development of marketing programs just as in production programs.

The importance of farmer influence in PMA operations cannot be over-emphasized. Through the farmer-elected community and county committees, he farmers in Columbus County can and do voice a grass roots opinion of what and how things can and should be done. Once a decision is made, these committeemen carry out programs which reach out to each individual farm in the county. The county committee in Columbus County is made up of three fine farmers—Bill Hooks, J. Hubert Norris and Clyde Wayne. There are 90 community committeemen in the county.

Program Emerges Out Of Farmers' Economic Needs

Numerous Methods Of Aiding Agriculture Were Proposed Prior To Passage Of AAA In 1933

PMA CONSOLIDATES SEVERAL AGENCIES

State Administrative Officer Cites Background Of Present Program To Assist Tillers Of Soil

(Prepared By H. A. Patten, Administrative Officer, Production and Marketing Administration) Let us start back 40 years ago, when there was a period when our farm economy did not seem to be in such urgent need of price supports. Those well balanced years of 1909 through 1914 merged into the years of World War I when the demand for American agricultural commodities had caused the prairies and pasture lands to be plowed up to raise more grain and other commodities, and to place more money in the hands of the farmers. The end of the war brought a stop to all this. Foreign countries became self-supporting and domestic consumption fell off due to lower earnings.

Each year from 1921 to 1933 Congress was flooded with legislation designed to aid the farmer. However, very little of it passed. In 1921 an emergency tariff act was passed that placed high duties on imported agricultural commodities. Later the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act completed building the tariff wall against foreign goods. Other nations retaliated by passing tariff laws of their own to kill what was left of our foreign commerce. Stop-gap measures such as loans to farmers to buy seed grain, regulations grain exchanges, and certain types of credit extended to farmers was tried but nothing accomplished the desired effect; namely, a market for American farm products.

One of the most persistent bills placed before the Congress during these years was the McNary-Haugen Bill, presented five times, each year from 1924 through 1928. The aim of the bill was to stabilize the price of ram products by the purchase, through cooperative associations, of surpluses and their storage and resale under favorable conditions. One of the main features was to sell farm commodities abroad for just what they would bring and the losses be met by an equalization fee levied against the products. Three times the bill failed to pass but did pass both in 1927 and 1928 and was vetoed each time by President Coolidge.

By 1929 the farm situation was so desperate that President Hoover called a special session of Congress to consider some remedial measures. The Farm Board bill was passed. Under this bill seven cooperative agencies, back- (Continued on page 2)