

Record Production Levels In Soybeans, Peanuts, Corn Seen

RALEIGH — Record levels of production are forecast by the North Carolina Crop Reporting Service for soybeans, peanuts and corn. A small increase is also expected in the North Carolina flue-cured tobacco crop.

Tar Heel peanut production is estimated at a record 387,200,000 pounds, an increase of 10 per cent from the 351,190,000 pounds produced last year.

This year's yield is estimated at 2,200 pounds per acre which

is 170 pounds above that of 1964 and is 140 pounds above the previous record set in 1963.

Growers expect to harvest 176,000 acres this year; 3,000 acres more than in 1964 when some acreage went unharvested due to excessive rains last fall.

Weather conditions have been generally favorable during the past month for peanut development and good quality is expected. Some harvesting operations have already begun in the Roanoke-Chowan area.

Yield per acre estimated at 25 bushels equals the record of 1964 and is 2.1 bushels above average for soybeans. Expectations are for 19,150,000 bushels, 20 per cent above the previous record of 15,950,000 bushels produced last year.

These figures are based on reports from growers as of September 1. This year's crop will be harvested from 766,000 acres as compared to 638,000 acres harvested last year. Seedlings of soybeans have been on a general upward trend for several years and this year's acreage for beans is the largest on record.

Predicted corn production is 87,636,000 bushels, up six per cent from 1964 and four per cent above the previous record 1960 production.

Weather conditions during July and August were favorable in all areas of the state and almost all counties are producing relatively good yields.

Yield per acre from the 1965 crop is estimated at 87 bushels which is eight bushels above last year and 17 bushels above the 1959-63 average.

Total flue-cured tobacco production is now forecast at 779 million pounds or 18 per cent below the 949 million pounds produced last year.

The present estimate is 2.2 per cent above that of August 1 but even if the estimate materializes, the crop would still be the smallest since 1959 when production was 703 million pounds.

Outlook as of September 1 was for an increase of 50 pounds in the yields of tobacco in the Eastern Belt. In 1964 a production of 479,750,000 pounds was harvested from 202,000 acres with a yield of 2,375 pounds. Estimates now are 377,200,000 pounds from 184,000 acres with a yield of 2,050 pounds.



HOME OF WEEK — The Jaycee sponsored Home of the Week award goes this week to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown, whose house and yard on East Jackson St. captured the judges

attention. Second place honors went to Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bolton, Jr., whose house is located on South Main St.

Cotton Marketing Report

Cotton harvesting operations have become more widespread after getting off to a later start this season. The volume of ginnings thus far have been too small to reflect any definite marketing pattern. Buyers are beginning to show increased interest in the crop and some have indicated that they need local cotton to fill sales contracts made with textile mills.

E. C. Hanson of the Raleigh Classing Office reports that 3,500 samples had been classed through September 17 under the Smith-Doxey program. The grade so far has averaged slightly above the same period last season. Thirty-seven per cent of the samples were middling, 28 per cent were graded strict low middling, and 13 per cent were strict middling. Over 90 per cent of the samples were in the white category.

The staple length averaged 1 1/16 inches during the period. Seventy per cent of the samples were 1 1/16 inches and 18 per cent were longer than 1 1/16 inches.

Eighty-six per cent of the micronaire readings were in the 3.6 through 4.8 range. This quality factor indicates the fineness and maturity of cotton fibers.

Another important quality factor is fiber strength. Due to the small volume thus far and the time required to make this test, measures of fiber strength will not be available for the next several days.

Growers are reminded to use care in harvesting to prevent grade reductions because of grass. Grassy cotton can reduce

income approximately 10-12 dollars per bale. Six per cent of the samples have been reduced in grade because of grass.



TROPHY WINNER — Reuben Turner of Northampton County was one of eight leadership award winners at the 13th annual Peanut Field Day. Another Northampton winner, who was not present, was Bill Turner.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY Soil Conservation Notes

Grady S. Lassiter, of Conway, worked out a conservation plan for his farm last week in cooperation with the Northampton Soil and Water Conservation District.

Technical assistance was provided by the Soil Conservation Service. This included a soils and land capability map in addition to direct help in deciding on use and treatment of the land.

He plans to use terraces and contour cultivation to help control erosion on sloping fields. Grassed waterways will be used where needed to provide protected outlets for the terraces. A start toward using fescue in the crop rotation will be made by seeding badly eroded and steep areas. The grass will be allowed to grow on these places one or more years before turning under.

A start was made last spring on a program of drainage improvement. An open ditch was dug with a dragline to provide outlets for drain tile. Tile drains were installed in such a way that they can be added to for a more complete system. The conservation plan includes a schedule for installing drain tile over a period of several years.

Grass field borders will be maintained around the edges of all his fields. This, he says, will help prevent a lot of erosion. It will also provide neat, protected turn rows.

J. C. Collier, of Garysburg, says drain tile has made a big improvement in one of his fields. Spots that stayed so wet they had to be cut out can now be worked along with the rest of the field. Several other things were tried first, he says, but they didn't work. He found the tile less expensive to install than he expected, also.

Last week he worked out a conservation plan for the farm in cooperation with the district. A program for erosion control was set up in this plan. It includes terraces, contour farming and grassed waterways.

C. H. Jordan, of Gaston, plans to tear down the old terraces on his farm and build new ones as soon as his peanuts are harvested. He says the old terraces served their purpose for a while, but they are out of date now. He plans to build parallel terraces fitted to modern farming methods. Sufficient land shaping will be done to make the parallel terrace system work.

In November, 1964, after the peanuts were harvested, Paul Grant built 3000 feet of parallel terraces and a 1000 foot diversion on one of his fields. This was his first experience with parallel terraces. He says he has not had any trouble working this field this year. He says, "That field sure doesn't have water running over it since those terraces and diversions were built." He plans to build terraces on another field this fall as soon as his crops are harvested and plans to terrace another field next spring before crops are planted.

Time To Test Soil Samples And Determine Lime Needs

JACKSON — "Now is the best time to take soil samples to determine lime and fertilizer needs for next year's crops," reminds B. H. Harrell, county extension chairman. Taking soil samples in late summer and early fall offers several advantages.

First, results can be received in a minimum amount of time by sending in your samples before the rush period starts in late fall. Also, lime needs can be determined early and any needed lime can be applied this fall giving it ample time to react before next year's crop.

"This last point is an important one," says Harrell. "Lime, to be most effective, should be applied several months in advance of planting and should be well mixed with the soil. Many farmers like to break their land in the fall soon after harvest in

order to help control certain soil borne insects and diseases. If any lime is needed it is best to apply it before breaking the ground since this offers a good means of mixing it with the topsoil."

Recent figures compiled by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture show that more than half of the soil samples sent in from the Coastal Plain counties show a need for lime. Testing your soil is the only way to accurately determine whether or not lime is needed.

Take your soil samples now and avoid the rush, Harrell urges. Soil sampling supplies are available at your county agricultural agent's office.

"Make use of this service early; you'll be glad you did," he concluded.

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Let's Keep the Chain Strong

NOW IS THE TIME TO CHECK YOUR FIELDS
Four Possible Methods To Be Considered In Determining When To Dig Peanuts

These four methods with their limitations are as follows.

1. Dig when 75-90% of the sound kernels have reached maximum size. To make this determination, 5 or more representative plants should be carefully dug, the pods removed, and the maturity of each kernel determined. The kernels should be grouped into 4 maturity classifications as follows:
 - Class I—Undersize, sappy
 - Class II—Kernels almost mature but still with white seed coat
 - Class III—Kernels pink, inside of hull turning brown or black
 - Class IV—Pods overmature—kernels with brown seed coat, etc.

All diseased kernels should be classified in a separate category. When the total of Class II and III is between 75-80% of the total kernels maximum maturity has been achieved.

2. Ratio of total pegs to pegs that have matured pods (Class II and III above). When the pegs with mature pods comprise 55-60% of the total pegs, maximum maturity has been achieved.
3. Age of plants. These studies and others have indicated that maximum maturity occurs from 140-170 days after planting. Early planted peanuts (April 20-May 5) require 165-170 days while late planted peanuts require 140-145 days.
4. Effective heat units—1500 to 1600 units required for maximum maturity
5. Early varieties such as Florigiant require 140-145 days while late varieties such as NC-5 require 160-170 days.

WINDROW PEANUT HARVESTING

1. Check digger setting often to avoid cutting peanuts off vines.
2. Follow digger after vines wither with windrow attachment. Make sure all dirt is removed and peanuts are put in tight windrows.
3. Leave peanuts in windrow approximately 5 days or until moisture is about 25 per cent before combining. Turn vines on 4th day before combining.
4. Bulk peanuts should be placed in bins not more than 4 feet deep. Under no circumstances should the temperature of the air moving through the peanuts be more than 95 degrees. (Temperature exceeding 95 degrees will cause skin slippage and off flavor.) Use from 7 to 10 cubic feet of air per cubic foot of peanuts. Do not pass oil fumes through the peanuts.
5. Do not cure peanuts in bottom of bin below 9 per cent moisture. Cut the heat off when the upper layer of peanuts in the bin is about 12 per cent. Be sure and check moisture with accurate moisture tester.
6. Handle peanuts carefully to avoid excessive shelling and cracking.

THE STACK POLE METHOD

1. Place stack poles close together to insure proper curing.
2. If leaves are on the vines allow peanuts to wither before the stacking operation.
3. Make sure all the dirt is shaken from the peanuts and the peanuts are placed to the center of the stack.
4. Nail two cross slats about 24 inches from the ground to insure proper ventilation.
5. Make sure that stacks are capped off to prevent moisture from entering the center of the stack.