

# Farm Review & Forecast

## Cotton Marketing Report

The volume of producer offerings increased during the week as harvesting operations became more widespread. At some locations a considerable proportion of current offerings was sold at prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$2 per bale above CCC loan. Producers were generally selling or placing under loan with very little cotton being held by producers. Cottonseed prices paid to producers were mostly \$44 to \$46 per ton.

Samples representing 10,300 bales were closed by the Consumer and Marketing Service, USDA, during the week ending September 24. Strict Low Middling was the predominant grade, accounting for 27 per cent of the samples, followed by Middling with 24 per cent. More than 90 per cent of the samples were in the white color group.

## Jackson 4-H'er Talks On Wildlife Conservation

By DAVID ELEY  
Jackson Jr., 4-H Club

The wildlife in our country was once in great abundance, but due to ill and misused practices of conservation, the precious balance of certain wildlife has been upset.

There are some who believe that conservation is strictly a "hands off" policy - don't touch, don't use. Actually, conservation is hard to define. It is a state of mind. An insight into nature and the recognition that man is a part of nature with responsibility for its welfare.

In practice, conservation may be defined as wisely managing our resources to the greatest benefit for the most people for the longest possible time. It can also be considered as leaving our earth richer and more productive than we found it.

By using three examples of wildlife, I wish to point out that through education, practicing good sportsmanship laws, and providing an abundance of food and cover for wildlife, we can continue to enjoy better hunting and still maintain the balance of wildlife.

The Extinct Passenger Pigeon. In the days of our great-great-grandfathers there were no automobiles, radios, telephones, airplanes, etc. etc. etc., but they saw something that you will never see. They probably saw huge flocks of passenger pigeons.

One hundred fifty years ago there were billions of passenger pigeons. Seventy-five years ago there were still millions of them. Now there are none at all. The last passenger pigeon anyone knows about died September 1, 1914. This pigeon was in a zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio. It had lived all its life in a zoo.

Passenger pigeons were beautiful birds and resembled the mourning dove, but they were larger. They grew to be about 1 1/2 feet long.

Passenger pigeons lived in flocks. They flew south in the fall. Sometimes so many of them roosted in a tree that big branches of the tree were broken off. The great flocks were one of the wonders of the bird world.

Passenger pigeons ate acorns and other seeds. They ate berries and insects. They were big eaters. Often they made a nuisance of themselves by flying down to a farmer's field and eating the wheat and corn which he had planted.

What happened to the passenger pigeon? Passenger pigeons were good to eat and the guns and nets killed enormous numbers of passenger pigeons, sometimes just for fun. There were so many that people did not think it would make any difference how many they killed. There were so easily killed or caught. By coming to a nesting place, hunters could catch hundreds of dollars worth of young pigeons in a few days. Also, cutting many trees in the forest left fewer nesting places for the pigeons. After awhile there were thousands. Finally, only a few. Then one in a zoo in Ohio!

When people saw that the passenger pigeon was disappearing, they passed laws to keep hunters from killing them, but the law came too late. The passenger pigeon was soon gone. There is no way of getting it back again!

The Beaver That Refused to Become Extinct. Probably no wild animal contributed more to the successful development and exploration of early America than the beaver.

In 1584 when the first settlers landed on Roanoke Island, beavers and dams of these energetic animals were found in every section of the state. Our colonial forefathers used its pelts for clothing and shelter during the cold winter months. Beavers were trapped heavily until about 1840, reducing populations to zero in many parts of the state.

In our county of Northampton, the last beavers were trapped

low last season. The staple length continued to hold above that for the same period last season. Approximately 80 per cent of the samples had staple length of 1 1/16 inches and 14 per cent had 1 3/32 inches. Micronaire readings for fiber fineness indicate that 92 per cent of the cotton fell in the 3.6 through 4.8 range.

Fiber strength for the current crop is averaging higher than last year, according to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Thus far, the zero gauge Pressley measurement has averaged 79,300 pounds per square inch. This means that much of the cotton is running above 80,000 pounds, the minimum level specified by some textile mills.

It has been reported that some mills are using small lots of local cotton to determine spinning characteristics of the current crop. The results of these tests show market patterns in this area when the harvest season becomes more advanced.

## What 4-H Means To Me

By PAULA JEAN DAVIS  
County Center Jr., 4-H

Fun, adventure, opportunity, experience, learning, and enjoyment can all be found in a 4-H club. In 4-H you are among friends who are willing to help you. You are given a chance to do things for yourself.

Some of the things we do in our meetings are sing, give demonstrations, carry on business in our own way and then at home work on our projects.

To me 4-H means a great deal. It gives me a feeling of responsibility. This sense of responsibility makes a person feel he is a more grown-up and mature person. This truly shows that 4-H is an advantage for America's young people.

## Projects Are Part Of 4-H

MY PROJECTS  
By ANNA HEALE BURGESS  
PENDLETON - This past year in club work has been a busy one indeed. I completed and turned in with a story 13 project books. Each was something I



HOME OF WEEK - In the final week of judging homes and yards in a home beautification project sponsored by the Rich Square Jaycees, the home and yard of Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Taylor on Bryantown Road were judged in first place. Second place honors went to the home and yard on South Main St. of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip

Pittman (who recently left for an extended stay in Greece). Eight homes captured first place honors in the project which started August 12. The Jaycees plan as a future project to judge the best decorated houses and business places at Christmas, according to Jaycee Billy Ivey

needed to learn how to do any way, and just filled out the record book for credit. In filling out with each other. For example, these project books, I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping a record of the things done in order to have an accurate project book.

Many of my projects tied in with each other. For example, "Soil Sampling" told me what type of fertilizer I needed to improve the soil. "Science of Plants and Soils" gave me an idea

of when to plant my "4-H Crop" of peanuts. Another good example of this type of unity is "Small Fruits." I took "Gardening" to go along with my blueberry project. I also took "Teen Ways With Food" in

## Soil Samples Necessary Now Before Fall Planting

JACKSON - "Most people that have grown plants, whether in the field or around the home, know that our soils, when first cultivated, do not contain sufficient lime and fertilizer for the satisfactory growth of plants," states County Extension Chairman B. H. Harrell. "Even more important is the fact that our soils need to be limed periodically and fertilized every year for satisfactory results. Plants remove nutrient elements from the soil and leaching losses from rains takes its toll. Consequently we find ourselves in a position of really not knowing whether or not our soils need lime or plant nutrients or the amounts needed for the best growth of crops or plants," Harrell stated.

Harrell said that the best soil which I served my family several delicious blueberry dishes and "Frozen Foods" which included several pints of blueberries.

The rest of my projects included: "Livestock" in which I learned more about animals, "Health" which showed me the importance of not only personal health, but also family and community health; "Clothing" in which I learned a necessity of womanhood - how to sew; "Pull Your Room Together" during which I made many needed improvements to my room; "Money Management" taught me the importance of budgeting my money; and "Communications" showed me the importance of the "4-W's and H's" in reporting.

lution to such uncertainty is to have the soils tested. A soil test is a process whereby chemical procedures are used to determine the lime level of a soil, and the level of calcium, phosphorus, potash, and organic matter. From this information and knowledge of what plants require for their best growth, a lime and fertilization program is made. Results of tests, and lime and fertilizer suggestions are reported for each soil sample.

"Now is an excellent time to send samples to your soil testing laboratory," according to Harrell. "They can analyze them promptly and also if time is needed it can be applied this fall." Harrell states that he has soil sampling supplies and instructions for sampling soils in his office. These are also available from vocational agricultural teachers, Soil Conservation Service, ASCS and fertilizer dealers.

## FLOWER PROJECT By JO ANN NANCE

I have enjoyed working in flowers and shrubs and I have learned very much about them. I think the flowers and shrubs I have planted have improved the looks of our house. We took up all the old shrubbery in front of the house. Mother and I went and got a lot of azaleas and I planted them in front of our house and put straw around them. I watered them every day when it was hot and dry and didn't rain.

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## 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 75-80% 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.
  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.

## HARVESTING AND CURING

- WINDROW PEANUT HARVESTING**
1. Check digger setting often to avoid cutting peanuts off vines.
  2. Follow digger after vines wither without 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 85 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.

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