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N. C. Cash Farm Receipts Set New High But Net Income Has Declined

By JAMES A. GRAHAM
N. C. Commissioner
Of Agriculture
North Carolina's cash receipts from farm marketings reached an all-time high in 1963—the fourth consecutive year—topping all previous records. Our farmers are to be congratulated on this, especially since it was achieved despite drought and sagging prices. Farm prices for commodities under support were gen-

erally more nearly down to the support levels than in previous years. This certainly emphasizes the importance to North Carolina of the price support programs. Without the floors which these programs provide, our cash farm receipts might well have dropped down into the cellar. It is true that the state's total 1963 net farm income dropped 5½ per cent from 1962 and was the lowest since 1960. This drop reflects another increase in farm production expenses which have climbed in each of the past 15 years.

Cost-Price Squeeze

The continuing cost-price squeeze as it relates to the individual farmer is certainly to be deplored. But an analysis of these higher expenses shows that even they reflect the state's agricultural progress and provide a note of optimism for the future. For instance, the total expenditures for feed, more than double that of ten years ago, largely indicate the state's sharp and gratifying expansion in livestock and poultry production—rather than a comparable increase in the cost of feed per unit of production. The expense item for repairs and operation of capital items, nearly double that of 10 years earlier, is a direct indication of our increase in farm mechanization.

Moving Fast

North Carolina agriculture has, perhaps, come farther in a shorter period of time than any other state in the nation. In common with most of the south-eastern states, North Carolina entered the post-war era lagging in mechanization, application of technology, and full utilization of all our agricultural resources. But from a one-crop state we have been moving out into more and more lines of production, producing more efficiently, and generally broadening the base of our agriculture.

This, of course, has cost money. It has meant increases not only in expenditures for production materials and equipment but in depreciation of farm capital, higher taxes on farm property,

Contest Open To N. C., S. C. Artists

Competition in the Springs Art Contest and Show is open to amateur and professional artists of any age who are legal residents of North and South Carolina. Students who attend schools in other states but maintain their legal residences in North or South Carolina are eligible to enter. Deadline for entries is October 27.

The contest and show, sponsored by The Springs Cotton Mills, will be held in the National Guard Armory in Lancaster, S. C., October 31-November 8.

Henry Geldzahler, associate curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, will be the contest judge.

A brochure, explaining contest rules, may be obtained by writing the Springs Art Contest and Show, Fort Mill, S. C.

Special Issue Of Farm Census Now Available

A special issue of the 1964 Farm Census Summary has just been released by the Cooperative Crop Reporting Service.

The State-Federal service report is available now and shows that North Carolina farm acreage is totaled at 19,413,235 acres, counting only five acre tracts and larger units.

County by county, except for three not contributing, the crops harvested, land use and other information, are listed for 1963. A livestock inventory by counties is given for 1964.

Copies of the publication can be had by writing the Crop Reporting Service, N. C. Department of Agriculture.

Foundations

more interest paid on farm mortgage debts. But if we bear in mind that North Carolina agriculture has been going through a period of sharp transition, we can see that it has made tremendous progress and that we have been laying the foundations for still more progress in the future.

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Harold E. Hassenfelt
will serve the Southern Pines area from Charlotte. The address is 110 South Tryon Street and the telephone number is 333-5492. Mr. Hassenfelt will also be available for consultation in Southern Pines on the weekend. He may be reached at Oxford 2-3261.
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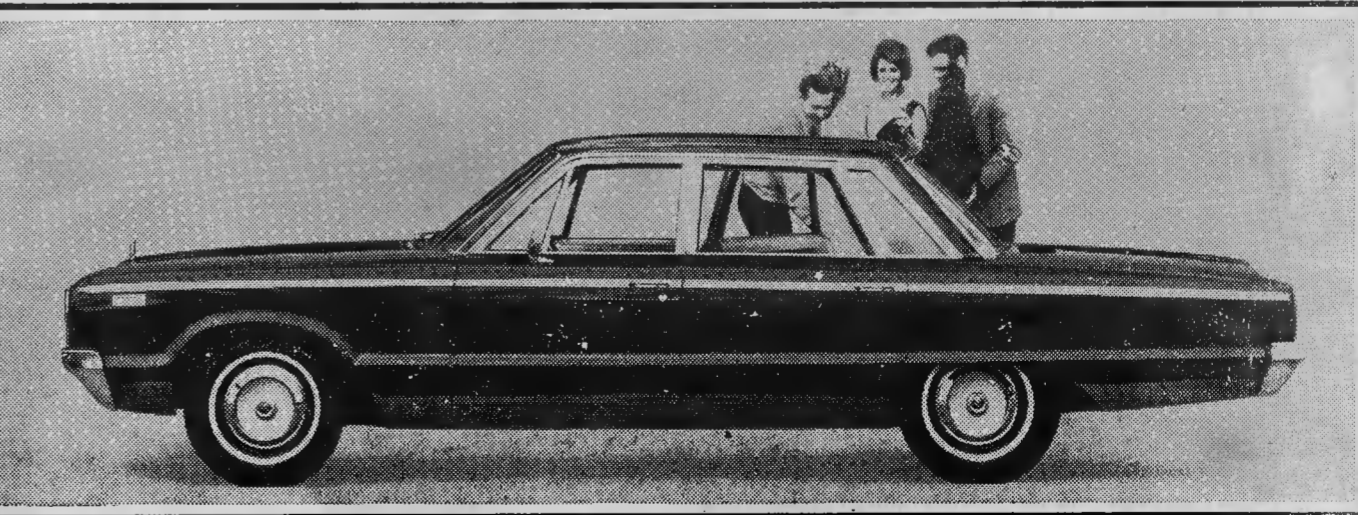
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