

## Market Has Successful Opening Here Today

### Decrease In Rate Of Benefit Payments to Have Little Effect

### Does Not Apply to Flue-cured Tobacco and There Is Little Cotton

A ten per cent reduction ordered in soil conservation base payments will have very little effect in this county, according to observations unofficially made this week. While the rate for advancing benefit payments is applicable to tobacco and cotton, it does not apply to flue-cured tobacco, and there isn't enough cotton grown in this county to effect any great reduction in the amount of benefit payments.

Martin County farmers and others throughout the Bright Belt planted so much tobacco that it is possible for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to increase the rate of payment to those farmers participating in the program. In those belts where the tobacco farmers recognized the value of the soil conservation program and held their plantings to a minimum, it was found that the appropriations were not sufficient to go around and the rate of payment was necessarily decreased.

The following story was released under a Washington dateline last week-end. More than 4,000,000 farmers who cooperated in the government's crop control program this year received notice that their benefit checks would be ten per cent less than anticipated.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced that the reduction was necessary in order to give all complying farmers a share in the \$500,000,000 provided by Congress for payments in 1939 under the Soil Conservation Act.

The reduction will apply to about 2,000,000 cotton farmers, several thousand rice and tobacco growers and another 2,000,000 or more farmers in ten states designated by the AAA as its north central region.

Because more farmers participated in the programs for those groups than was estimated last November, when tentative payment rates were announced, the AAA said the reduction was mandatory. Shares of the groups in the \$500,000,000 fund were allocated at the time the tentative rates were announced.

The farm act permits officials to increase or decrease payment rates up to ten per cent. Under this provision payments were increased 10 per cent in connection with the 1937 program. Officials explained that the reduced rates of payments under the soil conservation act would not apply to price adjustment checks, which come from a separate \$212,000,000 fund.

Under the reduced schedule complying cotton growers will be paid 1.8 a pound instead of 2 cents; rice growers 9 cents a hundred pounds instead of 10 cents; and growers of flue-cured and dark air-cured tobacco 1.26 cents a pound instead of 1.4 cents.

A 10 per cent reduction in the 1939 Agricultural Conservation payment on cotton was explained by E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer of State College, as follows:

"The program provides for an increase, or decrease, in the rate of payment for any commodity, not to exceed 10 per cent," Floyd stated. "For example, if the rate was established on 80 per cent participation, and it was determined that 90 per cent was participating, then the rate would be decreased 10 per cent. On the other hand, if the rate was based on 80 per cent participation and there was only 70 per cent participation, then the payment would have been increased 10 per cent."

The original payment was to have been 2 cents per pound, based on a farmer's allotted acreage multiplied by his normal yield. The revised payment will be 1.8 cents per pound, multiplied by the farmer's normal yield.

Floyd made the announcement after receiving a telegram from W. G. Finn, director of the East Central region of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, which read as follows: "Estimated payments for 1939 Conservation Program in the case of cotton . . . exceed amount available for crop computed under Section 15 of the Act by more than 10 per cent. Therefore, 1939 payment and reduction rates will be 90 per cent of rates specified in 1939 bulletin."

### Williams Chapel Will Hold Demonstration Field Day

The annual Home Demonstration Field Day will be held Thursday, August 24th, beginning at 2:30 at Williams Chapel.

As a part of the afternoon program a "dress revue" will be held with prizes given by Belk-Tyler Company to be presented to the owners of the best dresses made from material purchased at that store.

### Farmers Urged to Leave Open Heads on Bundles of Tobacco

Without suggesting anything like a penalty, big tobacco buying companies this week issued an appeal through warehouse operators urging farmers not to cover or "cap" bundles of tobacco when preparing the leaf for market. There is a general practice on the part of the growers to take the wrapper and fold it over the head of the stems and seal the bundle, more or less tight. "The practice possibly adds to the attractiveness of a pile of tobacco, but it does the tobacco no good and possibly does it harm," a representative of one of the big companies explained.

It was pointed out that the companies, especially those entering the export market, have experienced substantial losses because the "capped" bundle of tobacco was often damp when placed in the hogheadsmarkets.

for shipment. In the re-drying process, the heat cannot properly penetrate the "capped" bundle and the stems are often damp when packed. In this condition, the stem has a tendency to rot and damage much tobacco.

"The companies are not threatening to effect an immediate penalty upon those growers who continue the practice of covering the bundle head, but they are making it plain that they do not want the tobacco they buy "capped" and if the practice is continued it is reasonable to expect a slight penalty," a representative of one of the companies explained.

While some companies express no opposition to the "capping" method, there is an expressed opposition by several major companies on all the

## Markets in This Belt Flooded With Tobacco

### THRONGS

While no one would venture a guess, it was generally agreed that more people visited Williamston's tobacco market today than on any other opening since it was established thirty-seven years ago. Cars were parked for blocks into the residential sections, and traffic was heavy on all the principal streets.

The market was not without celebrities for the opening sales. Smiley "Frog" Burnette, movie star and a favorite with local film followers, observed the sales for a few minutes. It was apparent that he never learned what it was all about.

### Boy Scouts Push Safety Campaign

By HORACE RAY, Scoutmaster  
The local Scouts hope that you will notice the little cards placed on several auto windshields, which certifies that the driver is a member of their safety club "by reason of his increased interest in safety on our streets and highways" and also helping their budget along at the same time. If you do notice you will see that everyone of our doctors have already had one of the registration cards placed on their cars, for which they have paid twenty-five cents registration fee.

The mayor, who does not drive a car, was the first to register with the boys.

The Scouts are planning to put up a sign on each of the highways leading into town, bearing a safety slogan. In addition to this, they are going to get special training in safety so that they may "carry-on" the school's safety patrol this year with more efficiency.

The boys have adopted several sales-slogans of which their "Every doctor a member" slogan has been completed. They hope that this will be a good starter, and are beginning work immediately on their second one, "Every fireman a member", after which will follow, "Every Lion a member" and so on, until they have made a complete canvas of the city, and get as near as possible to "Every car owner a member".

Please do not hesitate to register with the youngsters when called on.

### More Resignations In School Faculty

Local and county school authorities are having their trials and tribulations these days in the form of faculty member resignations, the office of the county superintendent announcing three positions unfilled as of late Monday.

Louis Enloe, fifth grade teacher in the Williamston school, has gone into the typewriter business down in Birmingham and asked for his release. Several applicants have been interviewed and the position will likely be filled before the end of the week.

The newly appointed home economic teacher in the Oak City school decided almost overnight that she wanted to continue as dietician for the Grove Park Inn and left the position there vacant.

There are two positions vacant in the Jamesville school, one in the second grade and one in the high school. Several applications are now receiving consideration, and the positions will be filled shortly, a report from the office of the county superintendent stated.

Miss Bettie Everett succeeds Foster Ferguson in the local commercial department.

### Well Over Half A Million Pounds on The Local Market

### Glut Is Thought By Some To Have Depressing Effect On Price Trend

The 1939 tobacco crop, described as the largest on record, is fast coming into the open, giving evidence of a bountiful supply of the golden weed in the Bright Belt. As far back as a week, farmers started hauling the crop to market and it is very likely that some damaged leaf will be found before the selling day ends this afternoon at 5 o'clock. Warehousemen were busy late yesterday making careful inspections to separate any damaged tobacco from the open sales.

A glut throughout the belt was reported early yesterday, and in some instances enough weed was on the floors to hold the buyers for several days.

On the Williamston market early today, nearly three of the approximately four acres of floor space were covered and tobacco continues to flow in. Even though the first and even the second sales were filled to capacity, farmers continued to effect deliveries, with an apparent content to await their turn regardless of sale. The first sale was virtually filled here last Friday night, and the second sale was fast approaching with the wall late yesterday afternoon with the assurance that it would be crowded to the wall early this morning. Reports from Supervisor K. B. Crawford stated that the huge New Carolina house was about half filled early today, and that it would be just about chock-a-block when the buyers reached there tomorrow.

The opening here today was described as the largest in history, the offerings, approximating more than half a million pounds, exceeding those of the previous record by more than one hundred thousand pounds. Gluts were general throughout the belt, according to unofficial reports coming from the nine Bright Belt markets. Greenville reported slightly in excess of a million pounds late yesterday. Wilson had the largest opening in its history, and predicted an all-time poundage for the season.

Just when the block in the belt will be cleared is dependent upon reactions to the present price trend. If the prices approximate 18 cents on an average, it is possible that the farmers will continue to rush the crop to market as rapidly as they can. If the price average drops a little, a break in the marketing rush can be expected. But rush or no rush, there's a big crop this season and it isn't likely that it will find its way to market inside of three months.

The regular fall evangelistic meeting of the Bear Grass Presbyterian church began last Sunday and will continue through September 3rd.

### Bear Grass Church Revival Gets Underway Last Sunday

The Rev. Louis C. Lamotte, of Maxton, N. C., is bringing the messages each night at 8 p. m. He is being assisted in this series of services by Rev. John W. Vinson, Jr., a recent graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.

This meeting is the first of the fall program of meetings of the Presbyterian church throughout the county. Others will follow at Roberson's Chapel, Poplar Point, Gold Point, Prison Camp and Robersonville. The meeting in Robersonville will be held in the woman's club building.

### Demonstration Clubs To Hold Field Day Thursday

Martin County home demonstration club members will hold their annual field day program with the Williams Chapel club at 2:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon, the home agent announced today.

Interesting contests have been planned as a part of the program and prizes, donated by various county merchants, will be awarded the winners. Club members Harriet Everett, Susie Revels and Edna Smith and Miss McIver will have parts on the program.

### Organized Thieves Continue Raids In Sections of County

### Officers Again Warn Farmers To Securely Lock Their Packhouses

Thieves, recognized as an organized group out of the amateur class, returned to this county last week-end and cleared 138 chickens weighing about three pounds each from the coop of Farmer Prince Ayers, near Everetts. Breaking two heavy locks on the coop door, the rogues did not leave a single chicken. It was the second raid made in the Ayers barnyard in recent weeks, the thieves carrying away about 50 chickens several weeks ago. Investigating the case, officers state that they are almost certain the two raids were made by the same parties, that the thieves are the ones who raided four smokehouses on the Washington Road, near Williamston, the early part of last week.

According to reports reaching here, the rogues, numbering possibly three, returned to the premises of Farmer Will Taylor some time during last Thursday night, but made no raid on his property. The band is believed to have continued from there to the Ayers farm. While Sheriff C. B. Roebuck was investigating the thieves' return visit to the Taylor farm, he said that more would be heard from the rogues. Upon his return to the courthouse, a call was waiting for him.

"We have worked night and day for a week in an effort to establish a trace in the raids, but we have yet to get the first clue," Sheriff Roebuck said this morning. He added that wholesale thefts have been reported in other counties in this section of the State, but there is some doubt if one group of thieves is making all the raids.

"Gifted in their work, the thieves leave no groundwork to build up a case," Sheriff C. B. Roebuck explains, "and without some clue or reliable information it is impossible to make arrests," he added.

Worried over the series of chicken and meat raids in the county, the officer is even more worried over the possibility of numerous tobacco thefts in the county during the next several weeks. While ready to answer any call at any time, the officer realizes how difficult it will be to run-down the modern thief and appeals to farmers to exercise every possible precaution in protecting their property from the common thief.

Unofficial reports state that the sale of locks has been materially increased during the past few days, and that quite a few farmers have been purchasing gun shells packed with liberal amounts of buckshot.

There are no marketing restrictions on tobacco this season, and it is reasonable to believe that conditions are more inviting to tobacco thieves than they were a year ago.

### Curing Barn Burns In County Sunday

Ill luck, hounding a number of Martin County tobacco farmers during the curing season, reached a climax on W. O. Donald's farm early last Sunday morning when fire destroyed a curing barn and its contents. The barn had been "killed out" a week before, but finding the leaf in high order last Saturday the farmer fired up the oil burners to dry it out. About one o'clock the following morning fire broke out and destroyed the property.

During the season just ended, it is estimated that between 35 and 40 curing barns were destroyed by fire in this county. It is generally believed that the number of barns burned this year constitutes a new high record in the county.

Wood and stick shortages caused farmers much trouble, and to aggravate a troublesome situation the tobacco was harder to cure this year than in several seasons.

A fire was seen burning in possibly less than half a dozen furnaces over the county yesterday, the curing work virtually being at an end today. Farmers are agreed that the harvesting-task this season was the most strenuous and most trying in the history of tobacco culture in this section.

### Underprivileged Tots Enter Camp

Sweeping the streets in the several towns and going into poverty-stricken homes in the rural areas, county welfare authorities bundled up sixty-five dependent and underprivileged colored children and sent them to camp over in Bertie County yesterday for a week's outing.

The Morgan children, who have made themselves prominent in and around the local baseball park accompanied the group, but Sammie's return is anticipated ere another game is played. In fact, several were looking for him back last night, but he did not show up.

Taking the indigent tots off the streets, welfare authorities have virtually conquered the street-begging habit for a week, at least. Directed by Sam Williams, Jr., and Sam Mabry, Jr., the children are receiving the benefits of the camp including meals for the small sum of 50 cents each for an entire week. In-terested colored citizens furnished the children transportation free.

## Official Average Of \$17.60 Paid To Growers For 37,256 Pounds During First Hour Of Sales Today

### Slow To Certify Old WPA Workers In Martin County

### Welfare Office Will Force Former WPAsters To Seek Work

The approximately thirty Works Progress Administration workers released from the organization's rolls in the county last month are likely to experience difficulty in getting their jobs back again, according to information coming from the office of the superintendent of welfare here yesterday.

When the administration decreed a dismissal for all WPA workers who had been on the rolls for more than eighteen months, about thirty men and women were dumped out in this county. The enforced vacation of one month ended yesterday, and a few of the old workers returned to have their cards recertified. Others wandered into private employment, and a few others possibly don't know that their "vacation" period is over and have not asked to be recertified.

Believing that there is ample work to care for most unemployed, the welfare office is slow to certify the WPA old-timers, and it is quite evident that the WPA ranks will not be refilled in this county immediately.

One person who had been on the WPA rolls since 1932 until the lay-off a month ago asked that he be certified and returned to work. "Have you tried to get private employment?" he was asked. "No," was the answer. "What have you been doing during the past thirty days?" was the next question. "I have been sorter vacationing," was the answer.

With a heavy work schedule on the farms of the county, comparatively few people have been certified for work on Works Progress Administration projects in the county during recent months. And there are few indications that the WPA rolls will be increased during the next few months.

Unofficial reports maintain that there is less unemployment in this immediate section at the present time since 1933.

### Two Weeks Reported In Oak City Area Saturday

No one was badly hurt but considerable property damage was done in two automobile accidents near Oak City last Saturday.

The cars of Will Jones and Bill Long sideswiped each other near the Etheridge farm Saturday noon, causing a property damage estimated at \$200. That night the cars of Joe B. Whitfield and Thomas Purvis crashed, causing approximately \$100 damage.

Earlier in the week, two cars crashed on the Tarboro Highway, near Oak City, and caused a damage estimated at nearly \$200.

### Highway Accident Record

Martin County motorists went through at least six automobile accidents last week without any serious injury resulting, but the property damage continued to mount. The number of accidents established a new high record for such a brief period and pushed the total number since the first of the year to 34 in the county. Three of the wrecks were centered in the Oak City section where an old car, valued at hardly more than \$50 was demolished, and five others were damaged. A fourth wreck was reported on Williamston's West Main Street where a car skidded on the wet pavement and turned over and two involved Robersonville people.

The travel hazard on the highways of this section has been aggravated during the past few days with the seasonal introduction of light trailers by tobacco farmers going to market. The farmer has a problem in equipping his trailer with proper lights and positive hitches, and is due every consideration, no doubt, but he should remember that life and limb are worth more than a common load of tobacco.

The season of increased traffic is now underway, and it is fitting for everyone to exercise a greater precaution in the drive to save human life and limb and prevent damage to property.

An unofficial comparison of accident records in the county for the past week and for previous weeks in the year follows:

	Accidents Injured	Killed	Property Damage
Last Week's Record	6	1	\$ 475.00
Prior Record	28	25	7,250.00
TOTALS	34	26	\$7,725.00

### ELECTRIC LINE

Approximately eleven miles were added to the rural electrification system in this county last Saturday when a new line running from Palmyra to Farmer Jack Smith's home in Goose Nest Township was energized. The new line serves approximately thirty families, and is a part of a 225-mile project now being advanced by the Martin-Halifax Rural Electrification Corporation.

Current for the project is manufactured for the lines by the Virginia Electric and Power Company and sold wholesale to a town in the territory for retail distribution.

### Caught Rushing Hunting Season

Isaac Nichols, well-known colored farmer of Williams Township, was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs for allegedly rushing the squirrel season in the county last Saturday. Justice J. L. Hassell who heard the case, first proposed a \$25 fine, but Isaac, the man who lost in the neighborhood of \$1,000 in the old "pocket book game" several years ago, pleaded for a reduction and got it.

Passing through Williams Township last Saturday, Game Warden Bill Abbott heard reports from a gun. Later when he went to the Nichols home, he had a difficult time getting any information from Isaac, but an old chicken came to the aid of the warden when she ran from under the house with a squirrel skin in her mouth. Nichols, admitting possession of squirrel, was quoted as saying, "Boss, you sure have got me." He showed the game warden four squirrels which had been hidden in a bucket under the house.

When the game warden reached the home, Nichols invited him to his apple orchard. The apples were not ripe. Nichols, hopeful of getting the warden away from the house, then invited him to his pear orchard but there were no pears there. Nichols next invited Warden Abbott to "one of the best corn fields in all the county," but the game protector explained he was not interested in corn just then, and went back to the house to successfully prosecute the search for something Isaac had no business having in his possession at the particular season of the year.

The squirrels were turned over to the county home for the inmates there.

### Throngs Attended Church Restoration

Recently restored to a good state of preservation, old Moratock Church in Washington County attracted nearly 2,000 people to its home-coming services there last Sunday. It was a great day in the history of the Primitive Baptist Church in this section of North Carolina, hundreds of followers of the faith and hundreds of their friends gathering at the historic shrine to celebrate the restoration of the old church. Scores of persons attended from this county, including leaders in the faith.

Established in May, 1785, the church building figured in the early religious history of the section. Change came with time, and a shrinking membership allowed the structure to fall into a bad state of repair. Its top rotted down, the church building was restored through the untiring efforts of John W. Darden, and it is now believed the church there will reflect a renewed interest and growth.

High spots in the history of the church were recorded when the Kehukee Association met there in 1804, 1809, 1814, 1849 and again in 1880. Nine ministers and Attorney H. S. Ward participated in the last Sunday program which was held under the direction of Mr. Darden.

### Farmers Expressing No Opposition But Are Not Well Pleased

### Not a Single Tag Is Turned Here During Early Morning Sales

The task of marketing a huge tobacco crop got underway in the Bright Belt this morning when millions of pounds of the golden leaf were dumped on the floors of a dozen markets to await the mercy of the buyers. Crowded conditions were reported general throughout the belt with no definite hour or even a certain day mentioned for clearing what are reported to be record blocks.

Starting his sales promptly at 9 o'clock this morning, the local market sold 37,256 pounds for an average of \$17.60, a decrease of \$7.11 per hundred pounds as compared with the estimated average on opening day here a year ago.

The best break of tobacco in ten years or more greeted the buyers on the warehouse floors here this morning, and while competition was limited for the fancy types of tobacco, it was quite evident from the start that all companies, including independents, were anxious for the offerings. The quality of the offerings was believed to have boosted the price average, the buyers stating that it was by far the best they had seen this year or in several years past.

With all companies buying liberal amounts, the Imperial was said to be buying a record percentage of the lugs. The American and Reynolds were also buying unusually heavy of these grades ranging in price from eighteen to twenty-five cents. The Skinner Company was directing a powerful punch to boost the common and medium grades, reports from the market maintaining that common tobacco was selling good and good tobacco was selling common.

While farmers were not at all jubilant, they expressed no opposition to the prevailing prices during the early morning sales, and in a way, the opening was regarded the most successful in the history of the local market. Not a single tag was turned during the first hour of sales, and scores of farmers stated that the price average was about what they expected.

While the general price average hovered around seventeen cents, prices ranged from ten to twenty-eight cents during the first selling period. One pile commanded as little as three and three-quarters cents, and another pile sold slightly under six cents, but they were the only two piles that were seen to command less than nine cents in the early morning period.

Individual averages ranged as high as twenty-one and twenty-two cents, and in every one of those cases the growers expressed complete satisfaction.

Packed on the market in what was described as a high state of order, some tobacco was slightly damaged, but apparently affected the price very little except in possibly a few cases.

Marketing activities were very orderly even though tens of hundreds of people milled in and out of the

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