

Martin County Ranks Near Top In Average Income Per Farm

All Crops Valued At \$4,260,996 In 1939

Income From Farm Operations Double Average For State

Output Per Farm Is Placed At \$1,771 For the Year of 1939

With its ideal climate, adequate rainfall, geographic location and productive soils, Martin has been and still is recognized as one of the best balanced counties in North Carolina and even in the United States. No small number refer to it as the best county or political subdivision in all the world. That is taking in a lot of territory, to be sure, but the facts, based on the official United States census for 1940, substantiate the claims and give credence to the far-reaching boasts.

While the county has its manufacturing and varied industries that are closely related to agriculture and natural resources, its leadership in plain old farming ranks right at the top. In 1939, Martin County had an income of \$4,260,996 from its agricultural pursuits, or \$1,771 per farm. Only two counties, New Hanover and Greene, made a better showing in their farming operations as far as income per farm was concerned. The total income, however, in Martin County was far greater than it was in New Hanover and exceeded that of Greene by nearly \$100,000.

Pitt County, with all its tobacco, had a per farm income of only \$1,638, but its total income was slightly more than twice as great as that for Martin. Despite its vast area, Bertie had a total farm income of nearly one million dollars less than Martin's, and Beaufort had a total farm income hardly \$200,000 greater than that for Martin. The income in Edgecombe was about a million greater, and Halifax had hardly \$200,000 more than received in this county. Farm income in Martin was nearly four times greater than it was in Washington County. There were only seventeen counties in all of North Carolina with a greater total income.

There are 278,276 farms in North Carolina according to the 1940 census. Of this total 274,236 reported the amount of farm products either sold, traded, or used by the farm household. The census shows that the leading source of income on the vast majority of North Carolina farms was field crops, such as tobacco, cotton and the like. For instance, the field crops constituted the major output on 169,710 farms, and the value of crops produced by these particular farms was slightly in excess of \$201,000,000. Livestock was the major source of income on only 2,251 farms; poultry and poultry products on 2,486 farms; and other livestock products on 150 farms. Vegetables harvested for sale were the main source of income on 1,516 farms; fruits and nuts on 1,115 farms; horticultural specialties on 224 farms; and forest products on 1,094. There were 93,465 farms where farm products used by the farm household were the major source of income. In other words, on approximately one-third of the farms of the State, the farm products raised and consumed on the farm were the major item produced. These 93,000 farms produced approximately thirty-seven and a half million dollars' worth of products and they consumed in the household twenty-five and a half million dollars' worth of the total value.

As stated above, livestock was the main source of income on 2,251 farms. The total value of all production on these farms was \$3,048,000. Livestock sold or traded accounted for 58.5 per cent of all values produced on these farms.

Dairy products were the major source of income on only 2,225 farms. The value of all farm products on these farms was slightly in excess of \$9,000,000. Dairy products sold or traded accounted for three-fourths of the income on these dairy farms.

Poultry and poultry products were the main source of income on 2,486 farms with a total output of all products of \$3,879,000. Poultry and poultry products sold or traded accounted for two-thirds of the value of production on these farms.

Field crops were the major source of income on 169,710 farms with an output of \$201,584,000. Field crops sold or traded by these farms accounted for more than three-fourths of the total production. Thus sixty per cent of all North Carolina farms are definitely cash-crop farms.

Vegetables were the main source of income on 1,516 farms, whose total production was \$1,974,000. Vegetables sold accounted for approximately sixty per cent of values produced by these farms. In other words vegetable specialty farms are of minor importance in this state.

Fruits and nuts constituted the major sources of income on 1,115 farms, and the sale of these products constituted 71.5 per cent of their total production.

Horticultural specialties were the main source of income on 224 farms with a total output of \$1,138,000. These farms sold 93.2 per cent of their total production. These are the most completely commercial farms in the state.

SAVE BALING WIRE

Each year farmers throw away enough used baling wire to build three mighty battleships or 3,000 medium tanks. In other words, much of the 100,000 tons of 14- and 15-gauge wire used on the Nation's farms each year for baling straw and forage crops is allowed to rust away in a scrap heap after removal from the bales.

A great majority of North Carolina farms have forests of some sort, but forest products were the main source of income on only 1,094 farms. Approximately two-thirds of the farm income of these farms was accounted for by forest products sold. However, farmers consume far more forest products than they sell. It may come as a surprise that farm products used by the farm household constituted the major source of income on more than 93,000 farms, or approximately one-third of all farms in the state. These farms had a total output of thirty-seven and a half million dollars, or about 400 dollars per farm, and they consumed in the farm households more than two-thirds of the entire production. On these particular farms field crops sold accounted for seventeen per cent of the income, while all other farm products sold or traded accounted for only fifteen per cent of the farm production. Most of these farms are in the western part of the state. A large per cent of mountain farms, especially, fall into the category of more or less self-sufficing farms.

Another interesting section in the farm census shows the number of farms with various ranges of total farm production. There are approximately 39,000 farms whose output was less than \$250.00 each during the year 1939. There were 35,000 farms with an output of from \$250 to \$399. Some 44,000 farms had an output of from \$600 to \$999. There were over 45,000 farms with an output of from \$1,000 to \$1,499. The farms with an output of from \$1,500 to \$2,499 numbered 32,416, and the total output of these farms was approximately \$61,000,000, the largest total of any class. The farms with an output of from \$2,500 to \$3,999 totaled 9,859. There were 2,459 farms with an output of from \$4,000 to \$5,999. There were 938 farms with an output of from \$6,000 to \$10,000, and only 497 farms in the state with an output of more than \$10,000 each. These were mainly dairy farms and farms specializing on field crops, mainly large tobacco and cotton farms. For instance, Mecklenburg reports twenty dairy farms, each of which produced more than \$10,000 worth of products. The value of dairy products sold by these twenty farms was \$281,000. Pamlico reports seven farms which sold field crops amounting to \$114,000. The total output of these seven farms was \$123,000. Edgecombe reports twenty-seven farms in the \$10,000 class. Twenty-five of these sold field crops amounting to \$286,000. Surry County reports four dairy farms whose total sale of dairy products alone for the year 1939 amounted to nearly \$75,000.

As indicated above, most of the large income was from either dairy outfits or large cash-crop units under one management. There are a good many counties in the state without a single farmer in the \$10,000 output class. Also there are several instances in the state where an individual or corporation directs or manages a large number of tenants. Each tenant is classed as a separate farm, but the total income of the management may be far in excess of ten thousand dollars each. The operators of these tenant units may not even be classed as farmers.

With victory gardens springing up in new places and with production approaching a new high, the value of crops this year will possibly set a new record.

This State Grows 29 Forage Crops

Farmers of North Carolina have their choice of 29 different forage crops, says E. C. Blair, agronomist of the State College Extension Service, although some of them are better adapted to certain soil types and conditions than others. "We are extremely fortunate in this respect," Blair stated, "but we are not taking full advantage of our opportunities."

Summer legumes include soybeans, cowpeas, annual lespedeza, peanuts, velvet beans and kudzu. Perennial legumes are alfalfa, red clover, sweet clover, alsike clover and lespedeza sericea. Winter legumes include crimson clover, vetch, Austrian winter peas, and bur clover. Small grains are oats, barley, wheat and rye. Perennial grasses are timothy, orchard grass, reedtop and tall oat grass. Annual grasses include sorghums, foxtail millet, Japanese millet, Johnson grass, sudan grass and crabgrass.

Seven of these—soybeans, velvet beans, annual lespedeza, barley, sweet clover, Austrian winter peas, and lespedeza sericea—have been introduced into the State during the present century, Blair said.

Farm Research Pays Dividends

Springfield, Mass.—Nestled on the south side of a low range of wooded hills in south-central Massachusetts is an intensive center of agricultural research and development to which, before the war, came visitors from all over the world. It is the vegetable trial grounds and plant industry project operated near the small village of Feeding Hills by Eastern States Farmers' Exchange, which serves as the cooperative supply purchasing agency for tens of thousands of farmers in nine northeastern states. There, the Farmers' Exchange owns 16 acres, equipped with a greenhouse, hotbeds, cold frames, artificial dryer, and other farm buildings. Twenty-one acres

in five other outlying plots are also used in the project, and all of these facilities are supplemented by final trials in widely scattered areas on farms of the cooperative's members.

Principal work involves the testing and improvement of vegetable varieties and strains, but in addition an extensive study of field corn hybrids is conducted, as well as such cultural practices as spacing, fertilization, spraying and dusting and the use of green manures are tested and checked.

Dr. Oscar H. Pearson, a nationally known plant breeder, is in direct charge of the project and is assisted by nine year-round helpers and, during the busy summer season by numerous other employees, some of them

Home-Made 'Torpedo' Boat



An ingenious member of the United States Coast Guard is shown propelling his home-made version of the "PT" torpedo boats somewhere on the east coast. The tin cans on the stern of the tiny craft simulate depth charges. The details even include elaborate camouflage.

college students who are seeking intensive field training during vacation periods.

Such a project saves farmers thousands of dollars every year for "test tube" sized plantings, the duds among strains and varieties are located before farmers have invested thousands of dollars in labor and supplies. Valuable, too, is the isolation of strains and varieties which

have superior merit. The plant breeding work also pays handsome dividends in the more productive crops which result on farms of the cooperative's members.

Farmers and agricultural specialists from the entire northeast come year after year to observe the work being carried on. They are always welcome and can usually spend as much time as they want.

Rules of the Road . . .

STOP AT THROUGH HIGHWAYS

Section 120, Motor Vehicle Laws of North Carolina—"(a) The State Highway Commission with reference to state highways and local authorities with reference to highways under their jurisdictions are hereby authorized to designate main traveled or through highways by erecting at the entrance thereto from intersecting highways signs notifying drivers of vehicles to come to a full stop before entering or crossing such designated highway, and wherever any such signs have been so erected it shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to fail to stop in obedience thereof. That no failure so to stop, however, shall be considered contributory negligence per se in any action at law for injury to person or property; but the facts relating to such failure to stop may be considered with the other facts in the case in determining whether the plaintiff in such action was guilty of contributory negligence.

"(b) No person operating any motor vehicle upon any path, private or public road shall cross or attempt to cross, enter upon or attempt to enter upon any hard surface or improved highway intersection the said path or road without first coming to a full stop; Provided, that this shall not apply to any road entering upon

One Revolutionary Pensioner In 1840

Martin County was well represented in the armed forces during the revolution, but as far as the records show few of its fighting men ever received pensions. While a few may have been remembered in their old age, what records are available show that there was only one pensioner of the revolution in the county in 1840. No amount was mentioned, and it is believed that the pension was limited to a few dollars.

Since that time the names of many Civil War veterans were added to the pension list but they have disappeared.

or crossing such hard-surfaced or improved highway unless the road governing authority (whether state or county) controlling such highway shall erect on such road at a point one hundred or more feet from the point of entrance into said highway a signboard not less than four feet from ground on the right side of the road, twenty-four inches by twenty-four inches outside measurements, which shall be painted on yellow background with word "STOP" in black letters eight inches high, to insure warning of the proximity of the crossing and notice to stop said motor vehicle."

In plain language, the state law requires that you bring your car to a full stop at any highway junction or intersection marked by a black-and-yellow STOP sign.

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