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# Farm Review and Forecast

Egg production in North Carolina during December 1955 was estimated at 106 million—one million below the record high December production for 1954.

## Overplanting Is Costly, Inconvenient

Every year, some farmers in North Carolina are greatly inconvenienced because they overplanted their allotment of a basic crop. Tilman R. Walker, chairman of the State ASC committee, has reminded Tar Heel farmers that it is definitely their responsibility to plant within their acreage allotment.

Every year a few farmers over the state, on having their acreage measured by ASC personnel, find that they have overplanted. Many of these farmers, according to Walker, pay additional money out of their pockets to have a representative of the ASC county committee witness disposition of the excess acreage. Other farmers make a deposit with the ASC Office to have officials revisit the farm and remeasure the acreage. In just about every case, this is an unnecessary drain on the farmer's pocketbook, and in every case, the time lost by these revisits to the farm is a great inconvenience to the farmer, he says.

"That's just one of the reasons the farmer should remember that it is his responsibility to plant within his acreage allotment," Walker adds. Another reason is that every time a farmer plants over his allotment, he is wasting seed or plants, fertilizer and labor.

As a service to farmers, ASC will send trained reporters to the farm to lay off a farmer's allotment before any planting. For this service, the farmer pays only the actual cost of the visit to the farm. Only through premeasurement, Walker cautioned, can farmers be certain that they are not overplanting and bringing on themselves a considerable amount of increased expense, as well as quite a bit of inconvenience and delay.

## Farmer Doesn't Take Chances On Vegetable Garden

Johnnie Parker of Elm City, Route 3, doesn't take any chances on getting caught short of vegetables.

Wilson County Agent W. G. Pierce explains that Parker always has two vegetable gardens, one near the house and one back of the field.

Parker says the garden site near the house isn't the best for vegetable production but he says he has a reason for using it. Some folks say he uses it as a decoy so that his neighbors won't be calling on him just when vegetables are right for eating.

Whatever his reasons, he has a nice home freezer filled to the top with vegetables, says Pierce.



THE HAYWOOD COUNTY CDP organization recently planned its 1956 program in the courthouse and voted to stress rural fire protection, safety, better health, and improved garbage disposal. Pictured here are county officers and directors and chairmen of the individual communities, discussing plans for a county-wide tour-plenic to replace the separate tours held the last several years.

County Agent's Photo.

## Forester Is A Friend To Tar Heel Farmers

### State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: What type of soil is best for a home garden?

ANSWER: Horticulturists say that the ideal soil for a good home garden is deep-well-drained and loamy. That's fine when you can order just the type of soil you want.

QUESTION: Why has farm land gone up in the face of declining farm income?

ANSWER: Here are some of the reasons advanced: (1) farmers themselves are strong bidders for additional land to enlarge their farms, in an attempt to increase production efficiency by using more machinery; (2) credit to finance farm purchases has become more readily available; and (3) a booming non-farm economy has encouraged investment in farm land by urban people.

QUESTION: Is it worthwhile to feed gin trash to cattle?

ANSWER: Gin trash has proved of little value in wintering cattle unless supplemented by other feeds.

Because of lower feed prices this winter, dairy and poultry product-price ratios are higher than a year earlier.

What can a forester do for you, "Mr. Landowner?"

Jim Andersen, State College extension forestry specialist, says that forester can be a "buddy" to the landowner in many ways. "Just as an example, he can show you how to grow two or three times as much wood per acre as you are now doing if you are an average forest owner.

"He can guide you when you plan to sell timber. He can show you the way to a sustained production of valuable products from your woods from now on. He can mark trees for cutting so that only those which should come out will be cut."

In addition, Andersen points out that the forester can help the farmer determine how much timber he has to sell, how to market his forest products to get the most out of it, how to grow valuable timber species on his land rather than brush.

Most anyone would admit that sounds like a pretty good "friend".

From April until January 1 of this year, butter purchases by householders gained 6 per cent over the same period in 1954.

In 1900, it took about 100 hours of work to produce 100 bushels of wheat; today, it takes only about 25 hours of work to produce this amount.

The total net farm income to North Carolina farmers in 1954 has been estimated at 577 million dollars, representing 51.2 per cent of the gross farm income.

## Broiler Feeding Efficiency Tops, Libeau Asserts

Broiler feeding efficiency is moving ahead of other livestock, according to Clayton P. Libeau, poultry and egg marketing specialist at N. C. State College.

Libeau says that broilers take a smaller quantity of feed per pound of edible meat produced than any other meat producing animal. Hogs require the smallest quantity of feed per calorie of food energy product, but much of this food energy is fat, he explains.

Turkeys use more feed per pound of gain than hogs, but produce cheaper protein. Beef cattle consume more feed units per pound output than any other class of meat animal, however, if pasture is excluded, cattle take a little less feed per pound of protein than hogs.

What does all this talk of feed efficiency mean to you? Libeau says that for one thing improved feeding efficiency increases specialization, means larger farms, bigger incomes, and makes price competition tough on the small producer.

Libeau concludes that in order to make \$100 worth of production, the average farmer has to spend 40 more man-hours in dairying than he does in broilers for the same value of production; 26 more hours in producing eggs; nine more for \$100 worth of beef; and five more for \$100 worth of hogs.

Two new edible soybean varieties, named Kim and Kanrich, have been supplied to commercial seed and canning companies for testing during 1956, according to USDA.

## Ballentine Warns Situation Of U. S. Farmers Is 'Urgent'

"A broad, comprehensive farm program must be developed promptly if agriculture is to be spared the economic collapse it experienced in the 'thirties," Agriculture Commissioner L. Y. Ballentine told the Farm Hands Club at its January meeting in Raleigh.

Emphasizing the urgency of the situation, he said economists estimate that a farmer can now go broke in 20 months as compared with nine years in the horse-and-buggy days of 1875.

Ballentine said he had no objection to President Eisenhower's soil bank proposal in principle, but warned that "this is only a single tool, not a program that will solve the whole problem."

"Before seeking a remedy we need to diagnose the disease," the Commissioner said. "About the only thing that we hear from those who profess to have the diagnosis but who have failed completely to produce the remedy is that high, rigid price supports have caused the storing up of unmanageable surpluses which have driven prices down and that we can expect little improvement until we have disposed of those surpluses."

"In fact, some of those who peddle this defeatist philosophy go further and suggest by action and word that the way to get rid of the surpluses is to reduce prices by flexible supports low enough to bankrupt the less efficient farmer. This policy, if followed long and far enough, would eliminate a large percentage of our family-size farms, the owners and operators of which have been the bulwark of our American society."

Ballentine defended price supports at 90 per cent of parity as sound for many farm commodities.

"The fact that surpluses of some crops have built up under supports at 90 per cent of parity should not serve to indict the principle," he continued. "In such cases it is rather the fault of the administration, and that is said without regard to political parties."

"If you have doubts about this position, I ask you to examine the price of other farm crops which have been on flexible supports or without any support at all. Con-

Under the U. S. Forest Service, State and Private cooperative program the North Carolina Forest Service receives financial assistance for forest fire control, tree nurseries and service to private woodland owners and the North Carolina Extension Service to promote better woodland practices.

sider, for instance, the price of hogs."

He said surpluses of most farm products would vanish if American housewives would stock up their pantries as their mothers before them used to do.

"Once our lines of production and consumption merge, Ballentine added, "we will be facing America's darkest day, for the next day we will not have enough to meet our needs."

Ballentine declared that "a pro-

perous agriculture in a prosperous economy is a nationally sound objective."

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