

MONDAY PUBLISHED EVERY

The Mountaineer's

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY

# Farm Review and Forecast

## Income Of \$1,000,000 From Poultry Is Part Of Haywood Farm Program

By TOM BRUMMITT, Chairman Poultry Program Planning Committee

At the present time, a large number of Haywood County farm families are giving serious consideration to the addition of other cash income enterprises on their farms. At a recent series of planning meetings, called by our Extension agents, we were brought face-to-face with the fact that the gross farm income in our county at the present time is only \$1.147 per farm. Realizing the need for additional farm income, farm leaders from all sections of the county thoroughly studied the possibilities that we have of increasing this income.

In studying our poultry situation at the present time, we found that we have an annual gross income of \$409,000 from poultry. This includes the income from hatching eggs, commercial eggs, and broilers. Leaders who have given a lot of thought to a long-range agricultural program believe that we have definite possibilities of greatly increasing our income from the poultry enterprise. After studying our present situation and evaluating our possibilities, we have established as a goal a \$1,000,000 income from poultry—and we believe that this goal can be reached within a few years.

Suggestions that we have made that should assist us in further developing our poultry enterprise include (1) the organization of a poultry association in the county, (2) the establishment of a local hatchery, (3) an investigation as to the possibilities of a poultry processing plant in the county, (4) the production of more of our grain used as poultry feed, and (5) a well-planned publicity program advertising our Haywood County poultry products.

We believe that poultry producers in Haywood County have several advantages insofar as hatching egg production is concerned. Due to our climatic conditions, the hatchability of our eggs is well above that in other states. In the past, many large hatcheries have shown a definite preference for Western North Carolina produced hatching eggs, and we should be taking advantage of this opportunity.

According to a recent survey made by the farm agent's office, our commercial egg producers have a long way to go before supplying our local demands. If our farmers would organize and produce high-quality commercial eggs and if our volume were great enough, the markets are certainly available. As our population continues to grow, we also believe that there will be opportunities for additional broiler producers in Haywood County.

In order to make a profit in the poultry enterprise, regardless of whether we are producing commercial eggs, hatching eggs, or broilers, we must all become more efficient producers. Inefficient producers will certainly drop by the wayside within a short period of time. We must take advantage of all the research available and follow a sound program in every detail if we are to meet the competition of the poultry enterprise today.

Yes, we have an opportunity—and many Haywood County farmers who need additional cash income are going to take advantage of this opportunity. We have a wonderful county; however, we need additional income on our poultry income from \$400,000 per year to \$1,000,000 within as short a period of time as possible.



TOM BRUMMITT, and some of his chickens on the Haywood Poultry project for the Agricultural Club here. (Photo by County Agent).

## Down On The Farm County Agent's Column

A projected long-range agricultural program for Haywood County, as developed and planned by the people of the county, calls for increasing the agricultural income of the county from \$3,400,000 to \$7,500,000 within a 10-year period. These leaders, at a series of meetings, decided that the present income of \$3,400,000 was too low and made definite plans for increasing the total income. Plans call for a unified program to increase agricultural income from beef cattle, dairying, poultry, forestry, apples, sheep, tobacco, and vegetables and small fruits.

When we attend a tobacco sale, we generally expect to hear the familiar chant of the auctioneer—but not so at an aromatic tobacco sale held in Waynesville recently. Instead, we heard: "D" tobacco \$1.25 a pound; "E" tobacco \$1.10 a pound; "F" tobacco \$0.95 a pound; "G" tobacco \$0.80 a pound, and so on.

Although the three farmers who produced a crop this year are relatively inexperienced in the production of aromatic tobacco, their tobacco was well cured and sold well. It appears now that when they sell the tobacco that is yet to be sold, the average price per pound will be just under a dollar. These farmers are enthusiastic about the income possibilities from this crop.

Vicky Rogers of Crabtree 4-H Club thinks it takes more than feed and water during the hot summer days to get maximum gain from her 4-H Club steer. Her father installed an electric fan to keep her hot weather from preventing maximum gains. Vicky's steer has made excellent gains and he seems to enjoy the fan. He has a regular routine; eat, drink, and return to his cool, comfortable stall beneath the electric fan.

Like father, like son. That's evident on Jonathan Creek these days. D. J. Boyd, assisted by his son David, operates a 45-cow beef farm on one side of the road, and J. J. Boyd, another son, operates on the other side with the same number of cows. Both farms have concentrated on growing good pastures and silage corn. Even after a recent dry spell, their cows and calves were in grass up to their knees.

Of course, this didn't just happen—it is the result of the use of lime and phosphates and good pasture management. The Boyds say they are in the beef cow business to stay—lean years and good—and they have shown a profit through all these past lean years.

## Artificial Drying Of Hay Advised For Better Feed

Hay is one of the most important of all livestock feeds. But Extension Agricultural Engineering Specialist E. S. Coates at North Carolina State College says good field cured hay is a rarity. Coates says an important step toward the goal of better hay can be taken by artificially curing it, whether long, loose, or baled. For adds Coates, the quality of hay fed dairy or other animals is an important factor affecting profits. According to Coates, among the advantages of artificially drying hay are: leaves are not lost in the field, resulting in higher quality; field exposure time is reduced so that losses due to weathering are reduced; and haymaking labor peaks are reduced and labor demands leveled off.

Coates advises reducing the moisture content of hay in the field to 40 per cent before baling it and placing it on a drier. It will take some experience, adds Coates, to determine the moisture content in the field if you don't have the equipment for measuring this. But the hay should be baled as loosely as possible and still hold its shape. Only the hay to be put on the drier for one curing should be cut, recommends Coates. Usually hay cut in the morning can be raked two to three hours later and baled in the afternoon, four to six hours after cutting.

The platform-type hay drier is a practical way of drying baled hay after it has been field-dried to 40 per cent moisture. Construction details for this type drier may be found in N. C. Agricultural Extension Service Plan No. 1504, Platform Baled Hay Drier.

In early spring, many farmers in Haywood County began to notice an infestation of grubs which were destroying their bluegrass pastures. Upon contacting our entomology department, it was found to be the Asiatic Garden Beetle. Last week George Jones was in the county checking on chlordane control measures and the build-up of the brood that will come off next spring. From the area observed, there is an indication that the Asiatic beetle is going to be a problem in 1957. Farmers in Haywood County need to be concerned about this serious pest. It can be a big problem to the production of Livestock in this area.

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## Crop Review

**APPLES**  
The reported condition of apples showed marked improvement during the week. One-half of the reports indicated the condition of the crop as good at the end of the current week, compared with only 6 per cent indicating good condition as of the week ended September 22.

**PASTURES**  
Rains received during the week revived pastures in some of the mountain counties; however, the condition of pastures in these counties is still reported as mostly poor to fair. Statewide, almost three-fourths of the weathercrops correspondents indicate poor to fair condition.

**HAY CROPS**  
The reported condition of current hay crops showed no material change during the week. Dry weather has retarded growth and maturity of the crop in some of the mountain counties.

**CORN**  
As in the case of cotton, corn harvesting operations were at a standstill during most of the week owing to general rains over the state. Harvesting operations are most advanced in the eastern commercial counties where a sizeable part of the crop is harvested mechanically and delivered to drying plants.

Millets have been found superior to Sudan grass for summer grazing on the sandy soils of the North Carolina Coastal Plain.

One-third ounce of anise in a ton of feed may boost pig growth from 10 to 20 per cent, say Florida Experiment Station workers.

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