

AGRICULTURAL FEATURE OF

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THE TIMES COVERS DUPLIN LIKE A ROOF

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No Funds For Enforcement Of Potato Act

Comptroller-General Rules That Relief Money Is Not Available

The famed potato control act which became effective Dec. 1, will not be enforced until Congress can appropriate funds, it has been decided definitely.

This decision was in effect, made by the big boss of Federal funds, John R. McCarl, comptroller-general, who ruled that emergency relief funds could not be used for that purpose.

McCarl also ruled that administrative funds could be used to set up the enforcing organizations by utilizing early tax collections under provisions of the act.

Agricultural Administration Division officials believe that funds from the potato control act won't exceed \$25,000 which is a fraction of the amount desired.

The late Sen. Huey P. Long killed in Alibuster a \$5,000,000 congressional appropriation for enforcement of the act. The AAA asked McCarl to advance \$5,000,000 in emergency relief funds to begin enforcement Dec. 1, which he refused.

All Funds Being Used The comptroller-general stated that any funds appropriated to the Department of Agriculture not specifically allocated to a particular activity might be used to administer the law.

Commenting on this decision, Secretary Henry A. Wallace asserted "due to the great pressure upon the department, every branch is using all available funds."

It is definitely known that agricultural officials didn't want to enforce the present law and it is said that they were slated over McCarl's decision. Amendments to the act will be sought at the next congressional session.

With prospects of only \$25,000 in rights to administer the potato control law, John B. Hutson, director of the AAA division in charge of potato control said:

Hutson Comments "We anticipate that only a small amount of potatoes will be taxed under the act, probably less than one per cent of the entire crop. Less than one per cent of the crop will be sold during the period covered by the estimate to be made on or about Dec. 1.

This money would enable the printing, engraving and distribution of enough tax-exemption stamps to cover the part of the crop sold prior to the opening of the next congressional session. The work that can be done under the AAA will include that connected with the 1935 program and such work as can be done in connection with the investigation being undertaken under section 9 of the AAA."

Tax Of 48 Cents The potato control act provides for a tax of 48 cents a bushel to be paid only by farmers who exceed their quotas or who do not sign potato contracts. Tax-exemptions will be provided all growers who participate in the program. Because of the virtually prohibitive tax, all producers are expected to take part in the program to secure tax-exempt certificates.

Growers who sell potatoes without securing tax-exempt certificates or without paying the tax will be subject to a fine up to \$1,000.

Coast Tar Heels Enjoy Mountain Outing

Young Tar Heel Farmers of Newport, N. C. High School, down on the coast, rest on top of Pisgah Mountain—5745 feet elevation, on a recent outing trip. The tour was made in a truck, under the supervision of C. S. Long, teacher of vocational agriculture in the Newport school. The party made their camp at Frying Pan Gap, near Pisgah Mountain, in the Pisgah National Forest, and enjoyed the surrounding mountain country to the full. Details of the trip are told by Claude Garner of the Newport chapter. See his story on page 12.



Hold Surplus Cotton Stock Off Markets

Will Not Be Offered Until Price Will Liquidate Cotton Loans

(By Our Raleigh Correspondent) The announcement by Chester C. Davis, AAA administrator, that the approximately five million bales of cotton which the government now holds will be held off the market until the price is high enough to liquidate the loans, storage and carrying charges against this cotton is generally considered by Carolina farm leaders as another indication that cotton may rise in price.

Mr. Davis also announced that loans expiring February 1 will be extended.

This means that none of this government cotton will be sold until the market reaches the 13 cent level. The government has loaned 12 cent on four and one-half million bales which came out of the 1933 and 1934 crops. It is estimated that the storage and interest charges amount to a round one cent a pound. Another half million bales is being held by the government for farmers who joined in the "plow-up" campaign of 1933. Talking 15 Cent Cotton



Commenting on the Davis announcement, M. G. Mann, general manager of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Co-Operative Association, said:

"Many are talking fourteen or fifteen cent cotton before another crop is planted. The reason is that the government's November report of a possible crop of 11,144,000 bales was a surprise, and since this announcement there has been a serious freeze in Texas and other southwestern states and it is now predicted that the next estimate will be between ten and a half and eleven million bales.

"Exports are increasing every week and mill demands are surpassing all expectations. All these facts do promise strongly that before another crop is planted cotton will be bringing much higher prices."

Mr. Mann also pointed out that the North Carolina cotton crop is the smallest in 26 years and said that this year more than ever it is important that farmers sell their crop in such a way that they will get every possible dollar for it.

'B' Men To Meet In February

About 100 members of the North Carolina State Bee Keeper's Association are expected to attend the convention in Charlotte February 21, 1936.

Among the speakers at the convention will be H. H. Root, of Medina, Ohio, and C. L. Sams, apiarist for the North Carolina State College.

season, or 91,000,000 bushels compared with 98,000,000 last year. These states may have a small surplus for Eastern shipment but they are at a disadvantage in freight rates as compared with the Carolinas and hence they cannot send many potatoes east unless prices are high.

U. S. Pecan Crop Of 95,000,000 Pounds More Than Doubled

This season's pecan crop will be one of the largest ever produced and is more than double that of last year. Total production for the country is estimated at 95,000,000 pounds compared with 40,000,000 pounds last year and a five year average of 60,000,000 pounds.

Most of the increase in production is in Texas and Oklahoma and consists of seedling nuts that are sold mostly shelled. The crop of paper shells and other cultivated varieties is somewhat heavier than last season but is not excessive.

North Carolina has 900,000 pounds compared with 800,000 last year while South Carolina is estimated at 875,000 pounds against 970,000 a year ago. Georgia is a big state for the cultivated varieties and has 6,700,000 pounds against 6,100,000 pounds last year.

Prices in New York range from 9 to 18 cents per pound, depending on quality, size and variety.

Generally speaking the Schley is the preferred variety and brings a good premium over the Stuart although the latter is fairly popular.

IMPORTS OF BUTTER Imports of butter into the United States during the first nine months of 1935 amounted to 31,826,000 pounds, or about one per cent of the total consumption. Imports for the same period in 1934 were 496,000 pounds.

Growers Are Signing Pact For Tobacco

More than 90 per cent of North Carolina's tobacco growers had signed agreements up to the middle of November to cooperate in the government's tobacco control program for 1936. E. J. Shaw, assistant in tobacco control work in North Carolina, told the State Farmer in an exclusive interview.

Mr. Shaw expressed the opinion that the sign-up will not be fully completed until after the first of the year. This is due to the fact that a number of insurance companies and land banks operating farms have not yet made arrangements for operators for the coming year. Mr. Shaw said however that the Land Banks and the insurance companies have expressed their intention of going "down the line" with the government.

To Anson goes the honor of being the first North Carolina county to sign 100 per cent. The following counties, through November 8, had signed better than 90 per cent, however: Alamance, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Caldwell, Columbus, Cumberland, Davis, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gates, Green, Hertford, Hoke, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Martin, Montgomery, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, Surry, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson.

Potato Prices Take Spectacular Upward Move; Crop Is Short

Prices of potatoes have doubled since the fall digging season closed, and the market is now firmly established at levels which show at least a little profit to producers. The upturn has been one of the most spectacular in years as it is seldom indeed that potato prices advance from Labor Day to Thanksgiving.

This season's late crop has been much shorter than anticipated and the shortage is where it will do Carolina producers the most good; namely, in the Northeastern states. This should mean that old potatoes will clean up well ahead of the new season and leave the way clear for new stock. Last year it was the hangover of Maine potatoes that pushed down the market on Carolina Cobblers.

Most of the surplus potatoes that interfere with the Carolina deals are produced in Maine, New York and Pennsylvania. If these states have a big carryover the market is almost certain to open low for Carolina and with short deals there is little chance for a recovery.

Northeastern States These three states have only 81,000,000 bushels this season compared with 122,000,000 bushels last year. In other words, there are only two bushels this season where there were three last year. Given a moderate demand the supply should run short at a fairly early date.

The Middle Western states also have slightly smaller crops than last

Thousands Of Farmers Attend Schools Of Vocational Agriculture In Winter Months

By ROY THOMAS (State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture)

Ten thousand North Carolina farmers attending school this winter. Yes, during the months from November through March over 10,000 farmers ranging in age from 25 to 70 will attend short courses or "evening classes" to get information that will enable them to improve their methods of farming.

In 278 communities in 14 counties where vocational agriculture is taught in the high school, groups of farmers ranging from 15 to 100 will assemble in the agriculture classroom, store, lodge hall or some other convenient place to get the latest and best information on farming.

The information will be given to these groups by the local teacher of vocational agriculture—256 in number. This teacher is a graduate of a standard agriculture college where special attention was given to methods of imparting farming information to farmers and farm boys. This teacher is well fitted for his job because by surveys, visitation and practical experiences he knows the problems of the farmers of his community.

The Evening Classes Any farmer in the community who wants to improve his methods of farming may attend the evening class which is held once or twice a week and the length of each session is about one hour and a half. After the group assembles the procedure is largely on a discussion basis with the teacher of agriculture guiding the development of the discussion in order to bring out the information the farmers need or want.

What do these farmers study? For example, a group of twenty-five farmers in a certain community agree that their methods of growing the tobacco crop need improving. Then

they will meet for ten or more nights on this subject or the need may be studying the benefits of the AAA, home beautification, cotton, corn, managing the farm and the like. And where their conclusions are reached you can be sure they represent a combination of the best practices of the farmers, the best technical information available from the State Experiment Station and State College of Agriculture and the expert knowledge of the teachers of agriculture.

Applying The Lessons In the spring these farmers will put into practice on their home farms the instruction and information they received. Then the teacher of agriculture will visit each farmer from time to time to help the farmer apply in the most practical way the improved methods. An example of the benefits of one evening class: For several years the farmers of a certain eastern community had evening class instruction on the grading and sorting of tobacco. It is reliably stated that now when tobacco from that community is placed on the warehouse floor a premium is the result of proper grading.