

GOVERNOR SAYS NEW DAY DAWNING FOR AGRICULTURE

J. Melville Broughton, Governor of State Says Farmer's Opportuni- ties Great.

Raleigh, Aug. 21. — Undoubtedly agriculture in America is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis, precipitated by world conditions. With almost equal certainty it may be stated that agriculture in this country is on the threshold of its greatest opportunity in all history.

The foreign market situation as respecting agriculture is without a parallel in modern times. Markets hitherto available for American agricultural products have either been closed by war or strategic circumstances, made inaccessible by shipping conditions or in many cases almost wholly destroyed. Even as to these foreign markets still accessible the conditions are made adverse by a vanishing buying power.

While these conditions gravely concern the American farmer and affect the whole economy of our nation, there is nevertheless much ground for hope. This hope is tremendously increased by the now reasonable prospect that in due time the Hitler plan for world domination will be demolished. It is of course vitally important to democracy and decency that this ruthless career of aggression be terminated and destroyed. Such result is equally important to agriculture. If Hitler should succeed in his now well-known ambition for world domination, nothing could prevent a tragic lowering of the standard of living for the American farmer. Under such circumstances the American farmer would not only have no foreign market, but he would be confronted with a cruel and unscrupulous competition even in the home market. Fortunately, the farmer is well aware of these possibilities. On this account his instinctive loyalty to this country has been intensified. There are few Fifth Columnists, disloyalists or appeasers in the ranks of the American Farmers.

During the present emergency the American farmer has the burden of feeding and furnishing a substantial part of the resources for clothing a considerable part of the world's population. On account of the very nature of the emergency the farmer is called upon to do this without adequate compensation for his labors. He may be confronted, however, by the prospect that when victory comes the American farmer, on terms commensurate with the worth and dignity of his labor, will have the greatest market ever known to man. The unprecedented severity and extent of the present world market have broken down or retarded the very processes of agriculture in a large part of the agricultural area of the world. The accumulations of more than a half century of modern farming as respects seed selection, soil improvement, agricultural experiments, stock breeding, developments in farm implements have been virtually destroyed in that part of the world during the last twelve or eighteen months. The task of agricultural rehabilitation in Europe when peace and victory come will surpass anything in all recorded history. This work of rehabilitation cannot be accomplished without the aid and ingenuity of the American farmer. This will give to him his greatest opportunity.

It is none too early to give earnest consideration to the cause of the American farmer in the framing of

ultimate peace terms and conditions. He has borne and will bear a tremendous part of the sacrifice involved in this emergency. In no unselfish sense but in the interest of justice he should reap a great reward in the program of peace and rehabilitation. As our great Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard recently said in speaking of the farmers' part in the present emergency: "Food will win the war and write the peace."

The North Carolina farmers, occupying a large and strategic place in American agriculture, should keep these potent facts well in mind. While they gird themselves for emergency tasks they should through their leadership and planning assure for themselves a large part in the new day that is to come.

Never before in our history has North Carolina agriculture been better equipped to meet the immediate problems and to measure up to future opportunities. The remarkably adequate legislations enacted by the 1941 General Assembly laid the groundwork for an advanced program of agriculture in this state. By far the largest appropriations on record were made by that session to agricultural causes. The experiment department so vital at this time was for the first time given adequate funds for its needs; a marketing program that has attracted widespread attention furnished the machinery for marketing in an orderly and intelligent way the products of our farms; provision was made for giving North Carolina products a distinct North Carolina standard and label; the agricultural division of State College was implemented by new buildings and equipment in a completely adequate way; the Department of Agriculture was given the funds and authority to carry on in an even greater way its varied program of service to the farmer.

Supplementing these legislative achievements, there are other factors of note in the recent program of agriculture in this state. For example, there exists at the present time a spirit of harmony and cooperation never before witnessed on the part of the various agricultural agencies in this state. Where misunderstanding and sometimes friction retarded the work of these useful agencies in the past there is now a remarkable and wholesome spirit of unity and accord. These are factors which will produce marvelous results. The experiment station of State College and its agricultural department, the extension service, the Department of Agriculture, and the State's own farming operations are working together in superb cooperation.

Without legislation but through cooperation the State Department of Agriculture and the State Prison Department have worked out a plan whereby livestock products in North Carolina will be tremendously improved. Using a revolving fund of \$25,000 allotted by the Governor and through the means of this cooperation, livestock purchased principally in Western North Carolina will be brought to Caledonia Farm, where ample food exists for finishing and developing these cattle, which will all be of good breed. These cattle, purchased in large quantities and at low prices, will be made available to farmers of middle and Eastern Carolina at cost, including in the item of cost the purchase price and the actual cost of handling these transfers and sales. Thus the farmers of the eastern and middle section will be able to purchase purbred stock at

favorable prices and under federal and banking financing methods available to them will be able to make such purchases on reasonable terms. This program bids fair to increase enormously the distribution and ownership of livestock in this state.

By cooperative methods arrangements have been made and construction already started on a great coliseum and exposition building at State College. This building will not only furnish under roof a place for livestock and agricultural exhibitions but will furnish an assembly place accommodating over ten thousand people.

By cooperative methods with every farm agency in the state working together a voluntary food and feed campaign was inaugurated this spring in which there have been enlisted approximately 100,000 North Carolina farm families, pledging themselves to raise food and feed essential for home purposes. Those who carry out the pledge will receive a certificate from the State evidencing their accomplishments in these lines.

The Rural Electrification program in North Carolina has been extended tremendously in recent months, and the time is not far distant when every farmer in North Carolina who will cooperate with his neighbors can have the benefits of electricity at moderate cost.

The plan and purpose of this program is to improve the standard and enlarge the opportunities of the small and frequently handicapped farmer. Only thus can we place agriculture in North Carolina on a permanent prosperous basis.

NEED YOUR SOIL TESTED?

"Soil testing and plant growth" is the title of the following discussion by Dr. I. E. Miles, director of the soil testing division of the State Department of Agriculture:

Growing a plant such as tobacco, cotton, or corn is very similar in many respects to building a house. In building a house such materials as sills, weatherboarding, rafters, and roofing are essential. If the supply of sills is exhausted before the foundation is complete, building of necessity is stopped because none of the other materials can be substituted for the sills.

In growing or building a corn plant the essential materials are nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, and lime (calcium and magnesium), etc. Each of these materials has a very definite part to play in the building of the plant. Nitrogen, for instance, promotes growth of the plant, gives a dark green color, and adds crispness and tenderness to leaf crops; phosphorus stimulates early root formation, hastens maturity, and aids in seed formation; potash improves quality of the crop, promotes strong, stiff stalk formation, and aids the plant in resisting disease; and lime (calcium and magnesium) corrects the acidity of the soil, increases the stiffness of the straw, improves plant vigor, and regulates the uptake of other plant foods. No one of these materials can substitute for the others in the building of the plant and, consequently, the absence of any one of them limits the building or growth and production of the entire plant, regardless of the abundance of all other essential materials. For this reason it is very important in growing a crop to be certain that all needed materials are provided either naturally from the soil or supplied as lime fertilizers, and manures.

Soil Testing
Present-day methods of soil testing have been designed to determine the presence and quantity of available plant food in the soil. In this work, however, it is very important that the soil samples of about a pound is used to represent several million pounds. The sample is collected from a number of places in the field representing all of the variations in fertility in that field. If the entire sample were collected at one place it might be the place where an old lime or manure pile has been or where some fertilizer has been spilled in filling the distributor. Should such be the case, it is obvious that it would not truly represent the fertilizer needs of that soil for the crop concerned. Taking small samples from all parts of the field largely overcomes this problem and permits the collecting of the sample from all fertility levels.

Why Test the Soil?
1. To determine whether any specific soil is adapted to the specific crop concerned;
2. To determine the approximate amounts of available plant food in the soil;
3. To determine the amount of acidity (or alkalinity) of the soil;
4. To determine the amount of organic matter, or humus, in the soil;
5. To serve as an aid in determining the poisonous or toxic materials in the reason why a crop will not grow upon a specific field;
6. To supply information to serve together with a knowledge of the particular soil and crop concerned, and all other information secured from the farmer and the experimenter as a basis for making the most intelligent recommendations.

Department of Agriculture, Raleigh.

It is important to follow instructions in collecting samples, sending in top soil and subsoil from the same field. It is also important to answer all questions on the form sheet, giving the cropping and fertilizer history and the crop to be grown.

The soil testing service and sample cartons are free.

Ruffner Suggests Turnips as Winter Feed For Cows

The immediate planting of turnips to help supply feed for North Carolina cows is being urged by R. H. Ruffner, head of the Animal Industry Department of N. C. State College.

Actually, he pointed out, the seed should be sown before the end of this week if the farmer is to get highest yields. Sown after September 1, turnips fail to make nearly as good yields.

The successful production of this vegetable requires good land in the best of condition. If possible, all barnyard manure available should be scraped up and spread on the land before the seed are sown.

In supplying the State College dairy herd with turnips, Ruffner said more than 400 bushels were harvested from one acre of land. Seed were purchased for 40 cents a pound and sowed broadcast over the land. Three pounds to the acre were used.

Experiments have shown that the Purple Top variety produces best yields. The State College man also said that 15 pounds of crimson clover seed per acre have been sown with the turnips.

However, he went on, the grower may choose any kind of grass or clover he desires to sow with the turnips. He stressed likewise that turnips will not interfere with the stand of clover or grass.

In feeding the turnips, Ruffner suggested that they be put in a box and cut up. This may be done easily through the use of a shovel, he pointed out.

"It is of utmost importance that the turnips be seeded at once," the dairyman re-emphasized, "or good yields will not be forthcoming."

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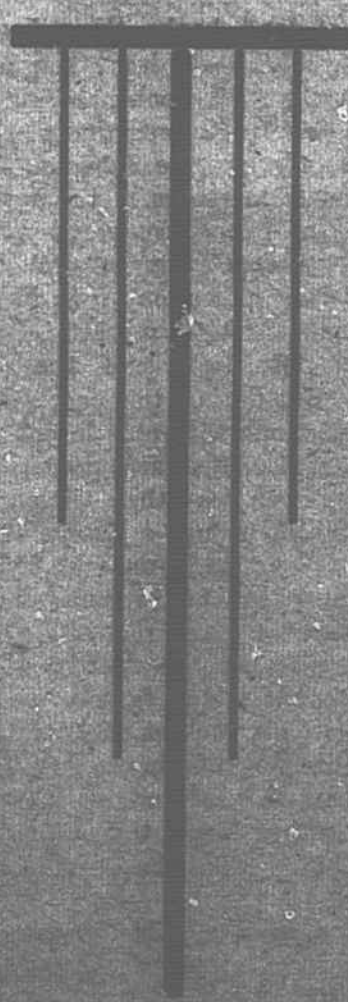


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