

Today's Dynamic Agribusiness

By R. M. THOMPSON
County Agent

Agriculture has changed rapidly during the last 25 years and it continues to change rapidly. Not long ago, farmers produced virtually all of the supplies used in farming. The modern farmer buys his seeds, fertilizer, equipment, and much of his feed and other supplies. Many of these supplies are now produced by specialists who can produce them more efficiently than farmers can. A large number of industries have been developed, therefore, which depend upon farmers to buy their products and on which farmers depend for supplies.

Not long ago farmers also did much of the processing of farm products and often took them to market and sold them directly to consumers. Today, the food industry is the second largest industry in the United States. It employs more people than any industry except the transportation industry. Again, industries have developed which specialize in the processing and marketing of farm products. These industries depend upon farmers for supplies, and farmers, in turn, depend upon them for markets for farm products.

The welfare of firms engaged in producing farm supplies of farmers, and if firms engaged in processing and marketing farm products all depend heavily upon conditions of agriculture. These three groups of businesses, therefore, are referred to as "agribusiness."

Agribusiness in the United States provides employment for 6 million persons producing farm supplies, 8 million farm workers, and 10 million persons working in processing and marketing farm products. The agribusiness sector, therefore, employs 37 per cent of the employed persons in the United States, and it produces \$93 million of products. In North Carolina, agribusiness is a combination of 894,000 workers, 267,000 farms, more than 5,000 plants processing agricultural products, more than 1,100 wholesalers, and 18,000 retail stores and eating establishments. Agribusiness firms pay about \$1 billion a year in wages and salaries to employees.

Each year North Carolina farmers purchase about \$360 million of supplies from industry. The major categories of purchases are \$81 million of feed, \$77 million of fertilizer and lime, and \$62 million of new vehicles and machinery. Farmers also use extensive amounts of credit. Today there is al-

most \$300 million of credit outstanding to North Carolina farmers. Commercial banks supply a large proportion of this credit.

Farmers combine the supplies they purchase with their own resources to produce \$1,140 million worth of farm products, \$1 billion of which are sold largely to the nonfarm sectors of the economy for further processing and distribution to consumers. Approximately \$760 million of crop and \$240 million of livestock and livestock products are sold from North Carolina farms annually. In addition, approximately \$138 million of farm products are consumed on the farms where they are produced.

Industry processes and sells products derived from agriculture. The value of North Carolina farm products, after manufacturing and passing through wholesale and retail trade channels, is estimated to be about \$3.5 billion annually.

Taken as a whole, the agribusiness system provides an efficient and progressive means of supplying our 45 million North Carolina population with its needs for food and fiber. In addition, the agribusiness sector ships a large proportion of some of our farm products to consumers in other states and brings products from those states back to North Carolina.

Agribusiness is dynamic in North Carolina. Each year progress is being made in processing farm products, more food processing plants are being developed and more services are being provided for consumers. More effective means of controlling insects and diseases are being developed, and new machinery is being developed to make farm labor more productive. Production per acre, per animal unit and per hour of labor used in agriculture have increased sharply since 1940. Fewer people, on less farm land, are breaking farm production records in the state. Production of crops, livestock, poultry, eggs and dairy products are at the highest levels ever known. Food and fiber abundance has become the symbol of agricultural progress.

The rate of increase in agricultural production has exceeded the rate of increase in demand. Each year farm families in North Carolina give up about 50,000 family members to non-farm sectors of the economy. Approximately one-half of these migrants go to states other than North Carolina, and the other are absorbed in industrial employment in North Carolina. Farm and non-farm sectors of our economy are partners in progress. They are highly interrelated and dependent upon each other. When progress is made in one sector, it makes possible progress in the other sector. Progress in agribusiness

is made by moving forward on all fronts.

CLUB DINNER

Mrs. Mark Gregory welcomed the 46 club members, husbands and special guests at the annual Helen Gaitner Home Demonstration covered dish supper meeting Thursday, February 18, at the Agricultural Building. Dan Berry responded to the welcome in behalf of the husbands and guests. Mrs. T. E. Madre, club president, recognized Cecil Edward Winslow, who gave the invocation.

The auditorium was arranged and decorated by the supper committee consisting of Mrs. Alfred Lane, Mrs. Harry Winslow, Mrs. T. E. Madre, Mrs. Vera Batten, Mrs. Maude Jones and Mrs. Mattie Matthews. Spring flowers, magnolia leaves and candles were used effectively for the decorations.

Following the supper, Gill Underwood gave the devotional, using the challenge "Where Do You Stand With God?"

Pete Thompson, County Agent and Mrs. Paige Underwood, Home Agent, gave the demonstration on "Adequate Wiring For the Home." Miss Ila McIlwain assisted with the demonstration.

Mrs. C. E. Pritchard led the group in a George Washington quiz.

Door prizes were won by Miss Lenna Umphlette and Harry Walton Winslow, Jr., guests of club members.

"O Master Let Me Walk With Thee" was sung at the close of the meeting. Dick Brewer dismissed the group with a benediction.

BURGESS CLUB MEETS

Burgess Home Demonstration Club held its joint meeting Wednesday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Proctor. A buffet supper was served to the members and their husbands. Mrs. Underwood and Pete Thompson gave an interesting skit on "Adequate Electrical Wiring and Home Mindings".

Mrs. J. B. Perry had charge of the recreation which was enjoyed by all.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Copeland, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Walton Lane, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Basnight, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ayseue, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Proctor, Pete Thompson, Mrs. Paige Underwood and Miss Margie Coprew.

Cherokee News

Vernon Ward from Moyock was here on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Cary P. Quincy, Jr., and family of Bayside, Va., visited here Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Parrish of New Hope were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Elliott on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Elliott and



Rev. David H. Howell, pastor of Memorial Methodist Church, Norfolk, Va., will be guest preacher in Revival Services at First Methodist Church, March 6-11. Services begin each night at 7:30 o'clock with group and chorus singing beginning at 7:30 o'clock when Miss Caroline Wright, minister of music, will be in charge of preliminary singing. Local Revival Services are part of a simultaneous program of evangelistic mission in the North Carolina Conference, with Elizabeth City District being part of the first phase of this mission along with the Wilmington and New Bern districts. Rev. James A. Auman, host pastor, and Mrs. Edward C. Barber, chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism, today issued an invitation to everyone to join them in their special services next week.

children of South Mills were here on Saturday.

J. H. Symons is sick at his home now.

There is a little improvement in Mrs. John Bright's condition. She was taken to Albemarle Hospital several weeks ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Ownley of Elizabeth City were guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Ownley on Sunday.

Mrs. Johnnie Bundy of near Hertford and Mrs. Tommy Mann of Elizabeth City were guests of Mrs. Irma Dorsey on Saturday.

4-H CLUB NEWS

The Winfall 5th Grade 4-H Club held its monthly meeting February 16, 1960. The meeting was called to order by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge. Linda Owens read a story. Lee Tunnell led in prayer. The group sang "Come, Thou Almighty King."

The minutes were read and approved. Vera Harrell reported on County Council. The meeting was then turned over to the program chairman, Carl Lewis. Brenda Lane, David Williams, Joyce Twine and Wallace Morgan were on the program. The meeting was adjourned for a demonstration by the agents.

The Winfall 7th Grade 4-H

Club was called to order February 16, 1960, by the president, Ann Nowell. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the 4-H Pledge were repeated. The devotion was led by Phyllis Williams who read the Bible and Myrtle Winslow led in prayer.

The minutes were read and approved. Ellen Wood gave a report on the County Council meeting. For the program, Mrs. Graham Wood's room gave a play entitled "The Big Three."

Those taking part were Ann Nowell, Brenda Byrum, Jimmy Riddick, Wayne Winslow, Joyce Banks, Marcia Copeland and Billy Heath.

The meeting was turned over to Richard Bryant and Miss Ila Grey McIlwain. Miss McIlwain talked to the girls on planning and serving party refreshments. Mr. Bryant talked to the boys about electricity.

Winfall Sixth Grade 4-H Clubs held their regular monthly meeting February 16, at the Central Grammar School. The president presided over the meeting. The program chairman, Carl Lewis, read the flag and 4-H pledge. The devotion was given by Nancy Matthews of Mrs. Julian Stokes' sixth grade. A group of girls sang a song. The minutes were then read and approved. A delightful Valentine's Day program

was given by Mrs. Stokes's sixth grade. The departure for demonstrations by Extension Agents was then made.

The Eighth Grade 4-H Club met February 22. The meeting was called to order by the president. The club stood and said the 4-H Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Linda Sutton had the devotional. The minutes were read and approved.

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Obedience is not truly perceived by the body, if the heart is unmoved. —Saadi.

In Belvidere Mrs. L. Jay Winslow and Mrs. R. M. White of Norfolk visited with relatives and friends in Belvidere last Saturday.

The great use of a life is to spend it for something that outlasts it. —William James.

NOTICE!

MEETING OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

The Board of County Commissioners of Perquimans County will meet as the Board of Equalization and Review in the Court House on Monday, March 14, 1960, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of hearing complaints and the equalization of property values, and said Board will adjourn from day to day until this work is completed.

Julian C. Powell

Clerk To The Board of Perquimans County

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