

Agriculture

1980 agricultural roundup for N.C. looks bleak

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE, 1980
By **NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE JIM GRAHAM**

Gambling on weather or agriculture presents some pretty long odds. Yet farmers, like meteorologists, bet on the weather every day as the one element vital to agriculture over which farmers have little or no control.

Last summer many of them lost.

Heat, drought and pests struck North Carolina and much of the United States leaving only dust and death. With that came shortages, an ally of inflation. The ancient and natural law of supply and demand came clearly into focus. Consumers suffered from soaring prices and farmers suffered from lack of salable commodities. Too many went under.

The following is an outline of what happened. It should be

kept in mind that most declines in quality and quantity were the direct result of bad weather.

Corn, soybeans and peanuts suffered the worst. N.C. corn yields, for example, were down 16 percent from 1979 or only 62 bushels an acre.

In good years this can be as high as 80 bushels plus. Soybeans produced only 19 bushels per acre, down 18 percent from the previous year. Peanuts took a 19 per-

cent beating with only 1,850 pounds an acre. In recent years farmers have made over 2,800 pounds.

Fortunately, tobacco maintained its golden lining, at least partly, and a fair crop resulted. On the market flue-cured averaged \$1.46 a pound with a reasonable yield of 2,012 pounds per acre. Quality was down but 750 million pounds were sold bringing a whopping \$1.1 billion in gross farm income.

Still, it was better than the \$1.39 a pound average price of 1979 but costs of production also went up. In 1979, only 603 million pounds were sold grossing \$842 million.

Adding to that, burley growers produced 18 million pounds against a poor 8.5 million pounds in 1979, an increase of 111 percent. The 1979 crop was a disaster due to blue mold. At this writing, North Carolina has sold 11 million

pounds averaging nearly \$1.06 a pound. The market will remain open for about two weeks after Christmas.

Cotton quality was excellent though yields were down. Only 30,000 bales were harvested. If weather had cooperated, it is believed, 80,000 bales would have been produced from the 63,000 acres harvested. Cotton is on the upswing in North Carolina due to higher demand, prices, (this year it

brought .85 to .90 cents a pound) the success of the trial boll weevil eradication program and the high cost of synthetic fabrics made from petrochemicals.

Hogs saw a reduction in breeding stock in reaction to lower prices but they improved during the last half of the year. In October of 1979, top hogs sold for \$33.82 a hundredweight. In the same month of 1980, prices had increased to \$66.7 a hundredweight.

apples with 375 million pounds or nine million bushels.

Vegetables were down this year in both quality and quantity as a result of the weather.

Small grains were excellent with 350,000 acres harvested including wheat, oats and barley.

As we look towards the 1981 crop year, the biggest problem I see is the hardship farmers will face in borrowing the money needed to carry this crop.

With the prime interest rate now going to 21 percent with the prospect of going higher, credit is a great problem. When this burden is added to the risk of putting out a crop, the result could be disastrous.

There are not many farmers who can shoulder all of the expenses necessary without the use of borrowed capital. Paying these exorbitant interest rates may be more of a burden than many farmers can bear.

In spite of the concern this causes, I do have faith in the farmer's ability to turn a minus into a plus and I think this will happen this time. I know I hope so and I also know it must if we are to have the abundant food supply we have come to take for granted.

Hog numbers decline, but wheat acreage up

All hogs and pigs on North Carolina farms Dec. 1, 1980 totaled 2,460,000 head, a decrease of 7 percent from a year earlier, according to the North Carolina Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

This inventory consisted of 360,000 head kept for breeding purposes, 13 percent below last year and 2,100,000 market hogs, down 6 percent. North Carolina ranks 7th in the nation in the total number of hogs and pigs.

North Carolina producers intend to farrow 125,000 sows during the next 3 months.

December 1980 - February 1981, 17 percent below the same period a year ago. March - May 1981 farrowings are expected to total 125,000, down 14 percent from March through May 1980.

During the past three-month period, September - November, North Carolina producers farrowed 130,000 sows, down 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Litters averaged 7.3 pigs - up from an average 7.0 a year ago. The pig crop totaled 948,000 head, unchanged from the previous

year.

Hogs and pigs on farms Dec. 1, 1980 in the United States are estimated at 64.5 million head, down 4 percent from a year earlier but 7 percent above Dec. 1, 1978. Hogs and pigs kept for breeding are estimated at 9.2 million and market hogs and pigs are estimated to total 55.4 million head.

Nationally, producers intend to farrow 6.8 million sows during the December 1980 - May 1981 period. If realized, farrowings will be 6 percent below the same period last

year.

The U.S. pig crop September - November 1980 totaled 25.0 million head, down 1 percent from the previous year. The average litter size was 7.26 pigs compared with 7.12 a year earlier.

The 1981 wheat acreage sown this fall is up sharply from a year earlier and the largest since 1961 according to the North Carolina Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Wheat acreage seeded this fall for harvest in 1981 is estimated at 440,000 acres, up

35 percent from the previous year.

Wheat production in North Carolina during the 1980 totaled 10.5 million bushels. This is a 39 percent increase over the previous year's production of 7.6 million bushels. A yield of 35 bushels per acre was harvested from 300,000 acres compared to an average of 36 bushels from 210,000 acres the previous season.

Oats production in 1980 totaled only 3.9 million bushels, a drastic decrease of 28 percent from the previous

year's production of 5.4 million bushels. A yield of 52 bushels per acre was harvested from 75,000 acres compared to a yield of 57 bushels harvested from 95,000 acres in 1979.

Rye seeded this fall for harvest in 1981 is estimated at 145,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from the previous crop.

Rye production in 1980 totaled 400,000 bushels, down 13 percent from 460,000 bushels the previous year. Average yield was at 20 bushels per acre compared to 23 bushels in 1979.

Emergency loan program attracts many applicants

From 20 to 25 percent of Perquimans County's farm owners have applied for emergency loans as a result of losses suffered during the 1980 crop year, according to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service director Tommy Riddick.

Riddick said his office had provided information to the Farmers Home Administration for approximately 150 applicants.

Another 35 farmers have applied for Small Business Administration loans through the ASCS office, he said.

Riddick said there are more farmers who could qualify for the Small Business Administration loans than have actually applied. "I don't know what the drawback is," he said. "A lot more have suffered a loss and could qualify."

Both loans carry a 5 percent

interest rate. The only major difference is that the farmer must show a 20 percent loss to qualify for an FmHA loan. He must only show that he has suffered a loss to qualify for the SBA loan.

Both programs, however, require that the farmer show repayment ability.

Riddick speculated that the FmHA program has been more popular because the organization has a local office.

SBA maintains only one office in North Carolina, in Charlotte.

A stipulation of the SBA loan is that up to 60 percent can be used to pay back debts, but the other 50 percent must be used to finance production expenses for the 1981 crop year, Riddick said.

SBA loan application forms are available at the ASCS office, and ASCS will figure losses for the individual

farmer who wishes to apply, said Riddick.

Another ASCS disaster program paid out some \$85,000 to county farmers to make up for losses suffered in corn crops during 1980.

Compensation was paid for production below 60 percent of established farm yield, and about 85 farmers received payment, Riddick said.

Soybean crops, which also

suffered heavy production losses during 1980, did not qualify for the program.

Perquimans County was declared a disaster county by the federal government in September after a drought that lasted most of the summer cut deeply into farm production.

That declaration made qualifying farmers eligible for several emergency programs.

Farm Bureau names farm family of the year

RALEIGH - Mr. and Mrs. David F. Teague of Route 1, Elon College, were honored here Tuesday as "Young Farmer and Rancher Family of the Year" at the 45th annual convention of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

The young couple was presented with an engraved plaque. As state winners, David and his wife, Peggy, will also receive an expense-paid trip to the American Farm Bureau convention, January 11-15, 1981, in New Orleans, La., where they will compete for national honors.

Teague, 30, farms over 1300 acres in partnership with his father and brother. Their diversified operation includes a 250-head dairy herd, a hog operation and beef cattle operation. Teague's responsibilities include the major portion of farm management, herd health, as well as field work responsibilities. The Teagues raise about 75 percent of their dairy replacement heifers.

Major crops in the operation include corn for grain and silage, barley, red clover, soybeans and wheat. In addition, the Teagues perform

custom work for other farmers.

Teague returned full-time to his father's farm after obtaining an associate degree in dairy husbandry at N.C. State University.

While working to build and improve their farming operation, Teague has also had major responsibility for improving and remodeling of facilities. This has included a modern calf facility, milking parlor, and new silo. In addition to renovating their machine repair shop, Teague converted an old telephone

truck into a mobile shop which carries spare parts, tools, and emergency supplies for the dairy herd.

Teague and his wife have both served on the board of directors of the Guilford County Farm Bureau for several years. They are also members of the county Young Farmer and Rancher Committee and David has served as chairman since 1975.

In 1977, David was chairman of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee and in that capacity served during

the year on the state Farm Bureau board of directors.

David and Peggy hold leadership positions in a

number of agriculturally related organizations and are active in civic, school and church activities.

Farmer's newslines

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Farmer's Newslines reports change each weekday at 4 p.m. Washington, D.C. time, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The toll-free number is 800-424-7964.

Dec. 31, Jan. 1 - Farmers' Prices

Jan. 2, 3, 4 - Farm News Special

Jan. 5 - Farmer's 1980 Telephone Costs

Jan. 6 - Farm News Special
Jan. 7 - Farmers' 1980 Electricity Costs

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF HARRILL AND HARRON
A NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP
Notice is hereby given that the partnership of Harvill and Harron, as partners, conducting the business of land development under the firm name and also under the name of Shady Oak Estates has this day been dissolved. All those who have a claim against said partnership as a creditor, whether secured or unsecured, should mail their claim to C. Everett Thompson, P.O. Box 19, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909.
This 18th day of December, 1980.
L. E. L. L. 164-80205
BY: C. EVERETT THOMPSON
Tellers, Tripp, Thompson & Derrick
P.O. Box 19
Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909
Telephone: 497-28-4151
Dec. 30, Dec. 31, Jan. 8, 15

LEGALS

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Having qualified as co-executors of the estate of V.N. Darden, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at 209 N. Front St., Hertford, N.C., on or before the 26th day of June, 1981, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 19th day of December, 1980.
Sue Porter Darden
Florence D. Christensen
Co-executors of V.N. Darden, Dec'd.
Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 8, 15

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town Council of Hertford will conduct a public hearing on the pre-application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds which are administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 1981, at 7:30 p.m. to explain the features of the CDBG program, proposed activities and to receive citizen comments on the content of a pre-application for grant funds. The Council will also discuss the close-out of the King Street Community Development Program of 1977. The hearing will be held in the Municipal Building on Grubb Street and is open to all interested citizens.
W. D. Cox, Mayor
Hertford, North Carolina
Dec. 18, 24, 31

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Charles Richard Stallings, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at 316 Edenboro Road Street, Hertford, N.C., on or before the 19th day of June, 1981 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 19th day of December, 1980.
Foster Cartwright, executor
Charles Richard Stallings, Dec'd
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8

LEGALS

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Having qualified as Executrix of the estate of Charles Lloyd Brewer, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at 106 Carolina Street, P. O. Box 121, Hertford, N.C., on or before the 19th day of June, 1981 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 12th day of December, 1980.
Dorothy Corey Brewer, Executrix
Charles Lloyd Brewer, Dec'd
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Having qualified as Administrator, CTA of the estate of Belle D. Byrum, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Route 4, Hertford, N.C., on or before the 12th day of June, 1981, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 2nd day of December, 1980
Thomas Preston Byrum
Administrator, CTA, of Belle D. Byrum, Dec'd.
Dec. 11, 18, 24, 31

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Lucille Hardy Trueblood, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Route 1, Box 465, Tyler, N.C., on or before the 19th day of June, 1981, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 18th day of December, 1980.
Hazel T. Byrum
Administratrix of Lucille Hardy Trueblood, Dec'd.
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 7

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76 Chev. C10	\$3,500.00	74 Chev. 4 x 4	\$2,000.00
76 Ford F250	\$3,850.00	74 Ford F250	\$2,000.00