

# Farmers Urged to Remember Cotton

Farmers throughout North Carolina's cotton belt are taking a second look at cotton, once king of Southern agriculture. And they are finding it a valuable source of almost forgotten farm income.

Farm leaders in many counties have started contests to stimulate interest among farmers, realizing that the total farm income amounts to many millions of dollars.

In Wayne county, for example, Agricultural Agent G. Mark Goforth, Jr., reports a cotton contest under way offering substantial prizes.

"We have tried to make the prizes large enough to really en-

courage farmers to do better than ever with their cotton. If we could make an extra half bale per acre our gross income would go up \$874,525," declares Goforth.

Wayne county has 12,327 acres of cotton this year in 2,221 allotments.

Goal of the contests throughout the cotton belt and the state-wide campaign to revive farmer interest in cotton is simply this: to have every allotted acre planted and then have the farmers do an exceptionally good job growing it.

## Improperly Used Fertilizers Can Hurt Cotton Plant Roots

Now is the time to help prevent those cotton bolls and squares from shedding this summer.

The bolls and squares shed because of a poor root system, says Dr. Emerson Collins, in charge of agronomy extension at N. C. State college. One of the main reasons for a poor root system is the improper placement of fertilizer when the cotton is planted.

When fertilizer is placed directly under the seed, Dr. Collins says the seed, the young seedlings and the tap root of the plant can be damaged. Once the tap root is damaged or destroyed, the cotton plant must depend on the small fibrous

or side roots.

The side roots are often damaged, too, by farmers cultivating too deeply.

"So you see," Dr. Collins added, "it's not surprising that cotton plants shed some of their bolls and squares when the soil gets a little dry. The plants simply do not have enough roots to keep going."

The way to correct the situation, he said, is to place the fertilizer in two bands, two and a half inches to each side and one inch below the seed. If a farmer does not have the equipment for this, he can stir the fertilizer thoroughly with the soil in the row before bedding.

friends to see to their welfare.

A volunteer at the Phoenix, Ariz., VA hospital, for example, has been visiting former patients who have considerable loss of hearing or sight, who are paralyzed, who have mental deterioration, or who because of various diseases have lost the ability to speak or write.

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## News For Veterans

More than 280,000 veterans whose claims for compensation or pension had been previously denied by the Veterans Administration will now have their claims reviewed, according to Sumner G. Whittier, Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

These veterans are those whose claims were disallowed by VA after World War II and prior to 1955 for the reason that their claimed disabilities were not shown at the time of their last examination.

The VA for the past several years has been conducting a review for errors in compensation and pension claims allowed after World War II, and veteran organizations had requested a similar review of disallowed cases.

Consequently, a pilot study was ordered in March, 1958, by Mr. Whittier to determine whether a broadened review of disallowed claims was in order. The pilot study was carried on in seven regional offices in widely-separated sections of the nation.

By far the largest source of the comparatively few errors discovered was the category "disability not shown at time of last examination." A full review is being ordered of the more than 280,000 disallowed claims in this category.

"Although I was most gratified to learn from the pilot study that the overwhelming majority of cases had been properly adjusted," Mr. Whittier said, "I feel that a broadened review is in order as a matter of policy and complete fairness to the veterans involved."

Projecting the finds of the pilot study to the disallowed claims involved in the broadened review indicates as many as 2,000 veteran-claimants might be found eligible

for monetary awards, he explained.

Companionship of volunteers from the community is helping give Veterans Administration medical care for disabled veterans another dimension beyond hospital walls, VA said.

Dr. Roy A. Wolford, VA deputy chief medical director in Washington, D. C., said companionship services by volunteers for patients discharged from the hospital are enabling many chronically disabled veterans to live at home instead of on VA hospital wards.

Combining some of the aspects of social work and of recreation therapy, these followup services are a means of meeting basic needs for love, attention, and security, Dr. Wolford explained.

Neglect of these needs can cause emotional difficulties or aggravate physical illness in disabled and aged persons, he said.

Dr. Wolford said companionship services are used for veterans with a wide range of physical and emotional disorders, and especially for those who have no relatives or close



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