

State's Agriculture Leader Urges Big Referendum Vote

North Carolina farmers have more at stake in December referendums than just an affirmative vote by the required majority, Agriculture Commissioner L. Y. Ballentine said in a statement released this week.

December 15 is the date set for referendums on cotton and peanut marketing quotas, and on continuing an assessment of 10 cents a bale on North Carolina cotton for

promoting the use and sale of that crop.

"A large turnout at the polls is as important as carrying the referendums," Ballentine said. "Only in this way can it be evidenced to the world that North Carolina farmers as a whole continue to endorse acreage-control-with-price-support programs, as well as their own self-help assessment programs."

"Attacks on the federal farm programs continue to be unrelenting, and casting a ballot as an expression of interest in them is just as essential as a big majority in their favor. Voter apathy will be taken as evidence of declining interest on the part of farmers themselves, and used as ammunition to further weaken the support programs."

"North Carolina's somewhat unique self-assessment programs are not only making a substantial contribution to the state's agricultural economy, but are attracting nationwide attention and admiration. They are admired both for what they accomplish and for the principle of cooperative self-help which they embody."

"Already the re-vitalized program of the North Carolina Cotton Promotion Association, made possible by the assessment on cotton in effect since 1957, has brought major benefits to cotton growers in this state. With the gains already made, and the projects under way on every phase of cotton problems from the farm to the consumer, continuation of the assessment will mean that cotton can

move more rapidly toward the high place it should hold in this state's agricultural economy.

"Every farmer eligible to vote in any or all of the three referendums on December 15 owes it to himself and his fellow farmers to do so."

Weight Loss Of Cotton Is Natural Thing

By FREDERICK J. RIVERS

A number of farmers have been complaining because of the loss in weight that they have been getting when they have their cotton ginned.

This is to be expected after a season like that of the 1959 season. Part of your first weight loss is from moist cotton.

Cotton with a high moisture content not only results in loss of weight but also in a damaged fiber. Another weight loss is from the extreme amount of burrs, grass and other trash that is being picked

along with the cotton.

This, perhaps, accounts for the greatest loss in weight. The last weight loss is a minor one but a significant one. It is from immature locks that are hard and knotty.

These are the reasons that many farmers get an extreme weight loss in their cotton. It is not necessarily due to the type of ginning equipment, but it is because of the poor quality of cotton itself.

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