



QUESTION: What part of the hog production cycle are we currently in?

ANSWER: The hog production cycle is currently turning downward. The last complete hog cycle started with the spring crop of 1954 and consisted of two years of increase and two years of decrease. The present cycle started with a small increase in the 1958 spring pig crop. We are about two years along in the current hog cycle which will turn downward with the

1960 spring crop. It is estimated that North Carolina farmers plan to farrow about 10 per cent fewer sows this spring than a year ago. The national decrease is expected to be about 12 per cent. The current downward phase of the cycle is expected to last two years.

QUESTION: I have a seven-acre cotton allotment and I do not plan to plant it this year. How can I protect it for next year?

ANSWER: By releasing it at your county ASC office. The week of February 29-March 4 has been set aside for farmers to release their cotton allotment. When you release your unplanted acreage, you protect your allotment history and you give your neighbors an opportunity to grow the cotton.

QUESTION: Are more cattle be-

ing slaughtered now than a year ago?

ANSWER: Yes. Slaughter in recent weeks has averaged 11 per cent more than a year ago. Cattle numbers have been building up in recent years. This upward trend in the cattle population should result in increases in cattle slaughter in the next several years.

QUESTION: How do stocks of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation compare with a year ago?

ANSWER: They are lower. During the calendar year 1959, Stabilization sold 174 million pounds of tobacco from all crop stocks. This compares with 95.8 million pounds during 1958. With an increase in sales, coupled with a drop in receipts during 1959, total stocks on December 31, 1959, amounted to about 561 million pounds. This is a decrease of 118.7 million pounds or 17.5 per cent below last year's record high of 679.9 million pounds.

QUESTION: When is the last day for obtaining price support on most 1959 crop grains and related crops?

ANSWER: February 1, 1960. This is the last day to apply for price support on barley, grain sorghum (milo), oats, rye, soybeans. Corn loans will be available through February 29, 1960.

QUESTION: Will there be a plentiful supply of NC-4X (Atomic Peanut) seed for 1960?

ANSWER: No. The supply will be short. About 160,000 pounds of NC-4X were produced in 1959. With normal seeding rates these seed should plant between 2,000 and 2,500 acres. Growers wanting to plant NC-4X should contact their county agricultural agent for a list of certified seed growers.

HAIR-RAISING ESCAPE

Akron, Ohio — When he was buried by a cave-in in a sewer trench, Joseph Marshall, 11, was literally saved by the hair of his head. The boy's father, hearing Joseph's playmates call for help, ran to the scene, grabbed the boy's hair, and pulled him to safety.

SILENCE TREATMENT FAILS

London—Albert H. Robinson was divorced by his wife, Olive, recently for overdoing that strong, silent stuff. She testified that after the war he formed the habit of never speaking to her on weekends and finally went a whole year without addressing or replying to her.

Changes in Food Industry in 1960

"Just as we can expect numerous changes in automobiles, televisions, house furnishings and other items, so we can expect to see some changes occurring in the food industry," says Mrs. Ruby P. Uzzle, consumer marketing specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Our increasing population, income, grocery sales, and social upgrading will affect the production, packaging, and marketing of food products during the new decade.

It is anticipated that the items carried by a particular store will continue to increase. During the 1960's, it is anticipated that the average supermarket will carry at least 7,000 items.

As with the new look in other areas, so it will appear in the packaging of foods available in our food store. Boil-in-the-bag pouches are expected to increase in importance

and popularity. Aluminum cans are anticipated to become much more important. Aluminum foil boiling pouches for frozen foods should also prove useful. These containers may likely be seen in the packaging of frozen fruits and berries, and for baby foods.

More emphasis will likely be placed on the transparent wrappings, especially in the bread and candy field. Convenience will continue to be a byword in food packaging, particularly in recently developed transparent-type plastics and similar materials. Improvements will be seen in many of the film packagings to make this type material more resistant, sturdy and durable. Watch for the new food items to appear.

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