

# State Farmers Must Meet Foreign Leaf Competition

By E. D. BAVER

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of two articles on the North Carolina tobacco research program by the dean of the school of agriculture at State College and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Every North Carolinian should be fully aware of the economic importance of the tobacco crop to the welfare of the State. A crop that is responsible for over 50 per cent of the total farm income of the State, in addition to a sizeable portion of the industrial income, merits special consideration. If we add the income from cotton and peanuts to that of tobacco, we account for nearly three-fourths of the farm income of the State.

However, there are at least two dark clouds to which we must give our undivided attention if the North Carolina farmer is to enjoy a prosperous agriculture in the future. The first cloud has been with us a long time. It is the cloud of poor land use, with its associated problems of high costs of production and a lack of supplementary enterprises that should go along with the main cash crop.

The second cloud is more recent in origin. It is a thunderous cloud that threatens the very roots of the cash income of the tobacco farmer. It is the cloud of foreign competition that is threatening our export markets. The cotton farmer already has felt the economic impact of the storm. With about 40 per cent of the flue-cured tobacco now entering export channels, the tobacco farmer is in great danger. The answers to the problems facing us cannot be obtained by any about cut methods. The solutions will not be found in any one simple formula. Reduced to their simplest form, it means that we must produce the highest quality tobacco possible at the lowest possible cost and thus make the world want North Carolina tobacco.

That statement may sound relatively simple of achievement. However, at best it is quite complex. It does not mean that we can achieve this objective by turning all our resources and energies on tobacco alone. It does not mean that research alone will do it. It does mean an extensive research, educational and promotional program for tobacco. It means more facts and more education to achieve a better use of land and labor resources on tobacco farms.

The tobacco farmer has always needed numerous production and marketing problems. Some of them he has faced seriously. Others he has passed over without much attention. Tobacco diseases. First, he has been and is confronted with the control of tobacco diseases which mean the difference between getting a good crop and not having one at all. Thousands of North Carolina farmers can testify from actual experience what the complete loss of crops due to blackshank, Granville wilt or other diseases has meant to them. Oxford 26 has meant the dawn of a new day to many farmers whose land had become so infested with Granville wilt that they no longer could grow tobacco. Strains of blackshank resistant tobacco have developed new hopes for the farmers in the Forsyth-Rockingham County area. The battle against disease is a never-ending one. The success of the battle will depend upon the hard work and shrewdness of the plant breeder and the soil management practices of the tobacco grower.

Secondly, the tobacco farmer should be interested in good yields of high quality tobacco at lowest costs. The war years, with its high prices and small differences between the average and best grades of tobacco, have resulted in the definite tendency for the farmer to aim at high yields per acre without too much emphasis on quality of production. This situation must rapidly change. The farmer who produces quality tobacco will be the successful grower of the future. Also, the high returns per acre have not made it necessary for the farmer to worry too much about costs of production. In a market where world competition is keen, quality and cost of production will play the major roles. The cotton farmer did not worry too much about production costs until foreign competition and synthetic fibers forced him to. Now, one of the major research problems in cotton production is that of lowering production costs. For the tobacco farmer, this will not only mean savings in handling the tobacco crop itself, but also a distribution of land and labor costs between tobacco and supplementary enterprises.

Third, the tobacco farmer on rolling lands must be eternally vigilant to maintain his soil resources while he is producing tobacco. Loss of valuable tobacco land through soil erosion may often lead to loss of the farm. The history of tobacco production on the rolling lands of the Old Belt is full of examples of the destructive effects of soil erosion on the farms of that area. The soil is the basic resource of the farmer. Once it is gone there can be no profitable agriculture.

Fourth, we must think of tobacco production in a more balanced system of farming. Any program that just looks at tobacco alone for the solution of the problems of the tobacco farmer would be completely lacking in vision. We

would simply be hiding our heads in the sand to avoid facing the inevitable results that would follow. The objective of a strong research program in tobacco production must be to find out the facts that are necessary for the farmer to produce the best tobacco possible at the lowest cost on his farm and the information that will make possible his growing this tobacco in an efficient system of farming. We must have the vision and courage of the Vance County farmer who was forced to reduce his acreage of tobacco by about 250 acres when tobacco allotments were put into effect and who ended up with a program of land use and efficient farming system that was turned out to be more profitable than his original all-tobacco enterprise.

What has just been said would be important to North Carolina tobacco growers if there were no foreign competition. However, flue-cured tobacco is being grown in large acreages in a number of foreign countries. Labor costs are low. True, the quality at present is not high. However, the research programs of these countries are increasing by leaps and bounds. Quality will be increased. This increase in quality can only be met by raising the ceiling on the quality of North Carolina tobacco. Along with his increase in quality must go a rather marked decrease in the cost of production. If our tobacco cannot compete successfully on the world market with respect to both quality and costs, our export markets will decrease.

**Basic of Program**  
The problem of organizing a strong research program in tobacco in North Carolina must recognize several rather important factors. First, flue-cured tobacco is grown from the rolling clay soils of Surry County to the poorly drained soils of the Lower Coastal Plains. This fact poses many different problems of soil management as we go from one area to another. Even within the same area there are rather large differences.

In the second place, there is a wide variety of tobacco diseases throughout the State. Blackshank is somewhat centered in Forsyth County, but is rapidly spreading to other areas. Granville wilt is centered in Granville, but is spreading east and south. Fusarium wilt is in the Robeson-Columbus area. Rootknot is prevalent throughout the Coastal Plain.

In the third place, the centers of tobacco production have been changing with time. In 1909, the center of tobacco production was the northern tier of counties from Surry County to Granville County. No county at that time was producing more than 15,000 acres of tobacco. By 1935, there was a great shift in production to the south and east. Pitt and Johnston Counties were producing in excess of 40,000 acres each, Wake, Robeson and Nash Counties were producing in excess of 20,000 acres each, and Columbus, Harnett, Sampson, Duplin, Lenoir, Wayne, Wilson, Franklin, Granville and Rockingham Counties were producing in excess of 20,000 acres each. The big 10 counties that had a total cash income from tobacco in 1944 of over 10 million each, ranked in order were as follows: Pitt, Johnston, Robeson, Nash, Wilson, Wake, Columbus, Wayne, Lenoir and Harnett.

In the fourth place, there is a serious shortage of well-trained personnel in the field of tobacco production and marketing. This fact appears to be the major bottleneck in the building up of a strong tobacco program. This personnel shortage arises from at least two causes. First, the agricultural institutions in the flue-cured tobacco producing states have not been training men, largely because of the fact that they have not had research men in tobacco located at the college who could train promising young men from tobacco farms who came to college. There has been little training in graduate research and only incidental courses for undergraduates. Changing this situation is vital to the entire research and educational program in tobacco. The second cause for a lack of personnel has been the war. Personnel in all lines now.

**Needs in Program**  
After taking these factors into consideration, the four largest needs in a strong research program appear to be:  
1. The initiation of a strong training program in both the technical and applied aspects of tobacco production and marketing that will forever break the present bottleneck of a lack of personnel.  
2. The initiation of field work in the major producing areas on problems of soils and of plant diseases related to those areas.  
3. The expansion of existing facilities for an enlarged attack on the applied aspects of tobacco production.  
4. The initiation of a research program that will be discussed in detail in a later article on the proposed plan of action for the tobacco research program.

**SEEK NEGRO STATE GUARDSMEN FOR SOUTH CAROLINA**  
GREENVILLE, S. C. (ANP) — Veterans of World Wars I and II have launched a drive for inclusion of Negroes in the South Carolina National Guard.  
E. D. Neeley, spokesman for the group, himself a veteran of World War I and whose two sons are World War II veterans, said petitions had been submitted to organizations and leaders, asking a concerted drive in the state.  
"If a Negro can carry a gun in time of war," Mr. Neeley said, "he can carry one during peace."

## Senior Instructors Appointed For Organized Reserve Corps

Initial assignments of senior instructors for the Organized Reserve Corps in five of the six Army Areas have been announced by General Jacob L. Devers, Commanding General, Army Ground Forces.

The senior instructors for each state or military district, is a Regular Army officer, but assistant senior instructors may be from any component. Instructors named thus far, with their assignments and stations, are as follows:  
**First Army**  
Colonel Willis McDonald Chapin, CAC, Senior Instructor, Maine, with headquarters at Fort Preble; Lieutenant Colonel Bernard A. Torney, FA, Assistant Senior Instructor, Maine, Fort Preble; Colonel Arthur L. Lavery, CAC, Senior Instructor, New Hampshire, Manchester; Colonel James T. Loomis, FA, Senior Instructor, Massachusetts, Boston; Colonel Ira W. Black, Infantry, Senior Instructor, Connecticut, Hartford; Colonel Pleas B. Rogers, Infantry, Senior Instructor, New York, New York City; Lieutenant Colonel Clarence M. Olsen, Infantry, Assistant Senior Instructor, New York, New York City; Lieutenant Colonel Luis F. Cianchini, Infantry, Senior Instructor, New Jersey, Camden.

**Seventh Army**  
Colonel Jay T. Wynn, CAC, Senior Instructor, Tennessee, Nashville.

**Fourth Army**  
Colonel Hurley Fuller, Infantry, Senior Instructor, Texas, Austin.

**Fifth Army**  
Lieutenant Colonel Howard W. Brimmer, FA, Assistant Senior Instructor, Wyoming, Cheyenne; Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. McClintock, Infantry, Assistant Senior Instructor, North Dakota, Bismarck.

**Sixth Army**  
Colonel Robert C. Yates, FA, Senior Instructor, Nevada, Reno; Colonel Roger R. Hillman, Infantry, Senior Instructor, California, San Francisco; Colonel George B. McReynolds, FA, Senior Instructor, Montana, Helena.

## NAACP TO RAISE \$1,000 PEOPLE'S HOSPITAL

CHARLOTTE, N. C. — The Charlotte Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People decided unanimously in a recent meeting to raise \$1,000 for the People's Hospital, Inc. It was announced by officials of the organization that the N. A. A. C. P. considers adequate hospital facilities for all people a necessity. Charlotte is without adequate hospital facilities for approximately 45,000 Negroes. Negroes in Mecklenburg County are in need of an institution to which they can go next receive proper medical care.

## LAST RITES FOR MRS. ANNIE JONES HELD

RALEIGH — Final rites for Mrs. Annie Jones of 715 East Martin Street were conducted from the Jupiter Level Baptist Church Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Jones died at 6:30 Sunday afternoon at the St. Agnes hospital.



Rev. Robert Moten Williams was the only Negro writer at the Paris Peace Conference. Serving as correspondent for ANP he reported the brilliant speech of Aklou Abte Wolde, head of the Ethiopian delegation to the conference.

## Industrial and Commercial Firms Show Increase In '46

Raleigh, August — North Carolina had a net gain of 1,460 industrial and commercial firms and 14,746 workers during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1946, roughly, the first reconversion year, as measured by the net increase of firms covered by the Unemployment Compensation Law, it is revealed by Henry E. Kendall, chairman of the State Unemployment Compensation Commission.

During that year 1,218 firms with 53,090 covered workers retired from UC law coverage, while 2,676 new firms with 87,336 covered workers were brought under coverage. S. F. Campbell, director of Research and Statistics, reminds that retirement may mean that firms consolidated, and that new coverage may be old or consolidated firms, or firms with fewer than eight workers which may have come under coverage, voluntarily or involuntarily, due to relationship with other firms.

These figures, however, bear out the known condition that many small firms have started business or industry in the State since the war ended and those covered by the UC law as a rule have eight or more workers. The one-year development, Chairman Kendall points out, is in contrast to activities in the three principal war years, fiscal 1942-45. During those years the State had a net loss of 114 covered firms, but a net gain of 18,811 protected workers. The record shows that 2,989 firms with 101,566 workers retired from coverage and that 2,875 firms with 120,377 workers were brought under UC law coverage.

## Merchants Of East Nash Street Extend Welcome To Visiting Farmers

WILSON — The merchants of the thriving East Nash street section of Wilson extend a hearty welcome to the farmers of Eastern North Carolina to sell their tobacco in Wilson and to visit them for any advice and cooperation they may be able to extend. In this busy segment of the great tobacco belt, their polls may be found by the 4,000 delegates to the 28th annual American Legion State convention before the close of its four-day session here last Saturday, was one which branded the Ku Klux Klan as "a cowardly blot" and called for its outlawing by federal legislation. A resolution adopted on the veterans' housing situation, termed housing conditions as a national scandal, blaming the current material shortages on the "inefficiency, stupidity or worse" of responsible officials.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (ANP) — Among the many resolutions adopted by the 4,000 delegates to the 28th annual American Legion State convention before the close of its four-day session here last Saturday, was one which branded the Ku Klux Klan as "a cowardly blot" and called for its outlawing by federal legislation. A resolution adopted on the veterans' housing situation, termed housing conditions as a national scandal, blaming the current material shortages on the "inefficiency, stupidity or worse" of responsible officials.

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