

Cash Crops Are Now Record Part Of Total Agricultural Income

A significant indication of the changes that have occurred in the social and economic fabric of American agriculture in recent years is the extent that cash receipts from money crops, as distinct from all other farm and non-farm income, have grown to dominate the agricultural income picture.

Figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that 78 cents of every dollar of total agricultural income from all sources in 1951 came from cash receipts from crops and livestock. This is the highest such ratio on record. At the end of World War II, in 1945, the proportion was 73 cents, while in 1939 it was only 62 cents.

Behind this development is the fact that cash receipts from farm marketings have quadrupled over the 1939-51 period, rising from less than \$8 billions in 1939 to nearly \$33 billions last year. This was three times the rate of growth in the period for all other income received or credited to the agricultural segment of the population, consisting of off-the-farm earnings and other non-farm income, Government payments, value of products raised and consumed by the farm household, and the gross rental value of farm dwellings. Changes in inventories are excluded.

Rise In Output And Prices
A substantial part of the rise in cash receipts from marketings over the past decade can be attributed to a markedly greater volume of agricultural production, now estimated at a third or more above pre-World War II. A greater factor, however, has been the rise in farm prices, in which Government support operations have played a big role. Prices received by farmers are currently about three times what they were in 1940.

The changed composition of agricultural income is suggestive of what has well been happening in farm living as well as in agricultural production methods. Farming in all its branches has become a highly mechanized operation. Modern farms are increasingly dependent on machinery, motor fuel, fertilizer and other non-farm goods, and these are costly both in terms of initial investment and upkeep. Thus today every farmer must have a cash income to get along, and money crops are the answer.

Then there is the matter of taxes, which hit the farmer as well as everyone else. Federal income taxes paid by farmers in 1951 are estimated at \$750 millions, or 50 times the \$15 millions paid in 1941. And real estate taxes have nearly doubled at the same time, increasing from \$406 millions in 1941 to \$775 millions in 1951.

The element of subsistence in food raised and consumed at home has shown a decided decline in importance in recent years. This is an inevitable outgrowth of the fact that,

as farms become more and more specialized the value of home consumption tends to become a relatively less important part of farmers' total gross income.

Trend of Home Consumption
Back before the First World War, the annual value of home consumption was equal to about a fifth of the cash receipts from farm marketings. This proportion showed no major changes for about three decades, and then declined rapidly. In 1950 and 1951 the value of home consumption was equal to only 7 per cent of cash receipts from marketings for those years, the lowest such ratio on record.

The value of home consumption last year was placed at \$2.2 billions, figured at farm prices. This sum was a billion dollars above the 1940 level; but since prices received by farmers have tripled in this period, the volume of home consumption last year was obviously considerably smaller than at the beginning of World War II.

Off-the-farm income received by farmers, largely wages and salaries from a non-farm job or occupation, more than doubled in the last decade, rising from \$2.3 billions in 1940 to an estimated \$5 billions for 1951. Such income is important to a great many farmers, especially those at the lower end of the income scale and the ones to whom farming is a strictly part-time operation.

TWO MASSES NEXT SUNDAY IN EDENTON CATHOLIC CHURCH
The Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 8:30 and 11 A. M., each including sermon on "The Angelus History," Holy Communion, followed by Rosary for Our Dead, Sunday School, with confessions for all hour before services, in St. Ann's

Catholic Church, Edenton, stated Father F. J. McCourt, pastor, who invites everybody to all services. (Week-days Mass at 7 A. M. Thursday, November 13, 7:30 P. M., to 8:15, North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association, Study and Discussion Club meet in rectory library, 8:15 P. M., to 9, choir practice in church.

Our Neighbors

By MISS REBECCA COLWELL
Chowan County Home Agent

The second "County Sing" will be held on Monday night, November 17 at 7:30 in the Chowan Community Building (Cross Roads). This is for men and women, and older boys and girls who are interested in singing. We had a good time singing at the meeting about a month ago and want everybody to attend this time. Come and bring your neighbors.

Since this is the season that many people get interested in Camellias, I'm giving a few suggestions that might be helpful. The plants you have need attention and perhaps you want to add other varieties. Some of the fall blooming camellias are the Sanguas, Daikagura, George B. Barrett, Pink Perfection, and sometime the Debutante. Among the winter or spring blooming varieties are Herme (variegated or pink), Flame, Galety, Latifolia, Professor Sargent, Elegans, Rev. John C. Drayton and Sarah Frost. There are many other early, mid-winter and late blooming varieties. Write your nurseryman for his descriptive list.

Locations for Camellias and Azaleas:
Both camellias and azaleas will grow in full sun, but semi-shade is desirable. Too much shade makes the plants spindling and open and they will develop few flowers. Plants on northern exposures, or otherwise protected from too much winter sun, especially early morning sun, will generally stand more cold than those on southern exposures. Northern exposures provide more constant temperature conditions. Too, on northern exposures plants enter the dormant

period earlier in the fall and remain dormant later in the spring. Protection from winter winds also helps. Always place these plants on well-drained locations. This is highly important.

Soil Preparation and Planting:
If you can't or won't go to the trouble of planting camellias and azaleas on the right kind of soil, then don't try to grow them. Without the right kind of soil, you are doomed to failure.

On poorly drained soils, the best method is to remove all the soil from the hole, or bed, to a depth of 1 to 1 1/2 feet. Place the topsoil in one pile and the subsoil in another. In case of individual holes, make them 3 to 4 feet wide. The roots will soon outgrow holes narrower than this. If the soil needs drainage, apply tile, cinders or gravel in the bottom of the bed, and extend this drainage away from the bed in order that the surplus water can drain off quickly. Mix with the topsoil an equal volume of organic matter; Sawdust (at least one year old); woods mold or peat moss. Use this mixture to fill in the hole or bed.

Place azaleas and camellias in the soil slightly more shallow than when dug for transplanting. If planted even slightly too deep, they won't

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grow satisfactorily. Water them thoroughly after planting and mulch with 2 to 3 inches of pine straw or 1/2 to 1 inch of sawdust. If the plants are in a bed, mulch the entire bed. Fine needles or similar material of a coarse nature seem superior to peat moss or other materials if organic matter has been added to the soil as suggested. If sawdust is used as a mulch mix 1/2-pound of Nitrate of Soda to each bushel to prevent a Nitrogen deficiency. Roses and other

plants should be mulched also. Azaleas and camellias, like other plants, can be transplanted any time provided adequate roots and soil are taken with the plants. However, the dormant season, October through February, is the best time to move these plants.

Questions and Answers

Teacher—What is the difference between a cow and a calf?
Wilke—A big feed bill, mum.

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