

Decision Of Cotton Farmers On Dec. 15 Will Affect Prices

Outcome of Referendum Will Determine Price Support

The decision cotton farmers make when they vote in the special marketing quota referendum December 15 may mean the difference between 34-cent and 17-cent cotton next year, according to M. G. Mann, general manager of the N. C. Cotton Growers Association.

The outcome of the balloting will determine the level of price support for cotton produced in 1954, he explained. If two-thirds or more of those voting in the referendum favor marketing quotas, supports will remain at 90 per cent of parity next year.

If more than one-third of those voting cast ballots against quotas, the support price will drop to 50 per cent of parity for those who plant within their acreage allotments and no support for those who overplant.

"The Secretary of Agriculture has already proclaimed acreage allotments on the 1954 crop," Mann explained. "Therefore, regardless of the outcome of the referendum, acreage allotments will be in effect.

"This means," the farm leader continued, "that the choice before cotton growers on December 15 essentially is whether they want a reduced acreage and 90 per cent of parity or only 50 per cent of parity for those who cooperate.

"As I see it," Mann went on, "the decision farmers of North Carolina and other cotton-growing States make that day will have a far-reaching effect on our economy. I hope that every cotton producer will see the great importance of the question and cast a ballot in favor of marketing quotas on December 15."

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