

Cash Farm Income Down Six Per Cent

Last Year's Total Cash Receipts \$58,000,000 Below 1952

North Carolina's cash farm income dropped six per cent in 1953, according to a report released early in March by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The state's total cash receipts from farm marketings amounted to \$884,070,000 last year, a decline of \$58 million from the 1952 total, and \$70 million less than the record high total in 1951.

Drought and falling prices combined to lower the income from crops alone from \$737,163,000 in 1952 to \$672,434,000 last year, a decrease of almost nine per cent.

Livestock and livestock products, on the other hand, brought the state's farmers three per cent more cash income in 1953 than the year before. Cash receipts from this source rose from \$206,000 in 1952 to \$211,636,000 in 1953.

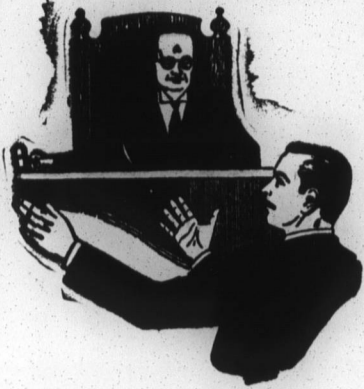
Despite its lower crop income, North Carolina moved up from 13th to 12th place in rank among the states in terms of total cash receipts from farm marketings, while maintaining fourth place in receipts from crops and 23rd in terms of livestock income.

For the nation as a whole, cash farm income declined four per cent last year, with income from livestock off about six per cent and crop receipts down two per cent. Total cash receipts from farm marketings were \$31 billion, of which \$17.2 billion came from livestock and \$13.8 billion from crops.

Net farm income for the nation at \$12.8 billion is five per cent less than in 1952 and 13 per cent lower than in 1951, but four per cent above the post-war low of 1950.

"With cash costs taking a larger proportion of farm income as a result of the growth in mechanization of farm operations," the report states, "farmers retained as net income in 1953 only 36.5 per cent of their realized gross farm income, the smallest percentage for any year since 1932."

This is the Law



BY CHARLES W. DANIEL
(For N. C. Bar Association)

Editor's Note: Following is the first of a series of articles written by Attorney Charles W. Daniel, executive secretary of the North Carolina Bar Association. The series treats broad general legal topics with a North Carolina slant and is designed to better acquaint newspaper readers with basic laws and courts.

WILLS

A will is a writing or expression by which a person makes disposition of his property—both real and personal—after his death. The right to make a will is not a natural one, but is accorded the individual by law.

A will, of course, has no effect until the death of the person making it. Thus, it may be changed, or even destroyed, by the maker in any manner he desires before death.

A person under 21 can not make a valid will in N. C. So, if an individual say 18 years old, signed a paper which he intended to be his will, it would have no effect at all in the eyes of the law. His property would be distributed according to the North Carolina laws which come into play when one dies without a will.

Three Kinds

The law recognizes three kinds of wills in N. C. They are called (in order of frequency of use):

1. Attested (witnessed) will; it must be signed by the person making it, or someone in his presence and by his direction for him, and by AT LEAST two persons as witnesses, in the presence of the will-maker (at his request) and in the presence of each other. It would be smart to have more than two witnesses and to ask persons younger than the will-maker to serve as witnesses.

2. Holographic will; must be entirely in the handwriting of the will-maker and signed by him and found among his "valuable papers" after his death, or given to someone to keep for him. Such a will, written on cheap, lined paper and found in the overalls pocket of a farmer after his death along with certain receipts and a pocketknife, was held by the N. C. Supreme Court to be a valid holographic will.

3. Nuncupative will; a death-bed oral statement which is good to pass personal property only. This kind of will is rare. A person on his death bed and actually about to die, could not use this kind of will to give his house or farm to a loved one. He could, however, use it to indicate his wishes for distribution of his auto, electric razor, horses, pigs, plows and other personal belongings.

Should Be Carefully Drawn

Any written will should be very carefully prepared for a number of reasons. Not the least of these is the fact that unless it meets minimum legal requirements, the law will strike it down as no will at all. Then the writer's property would be distributed



HOT ON THE TRAIL—Army scout dog "Storm of Sultan" strains at his leash as he picks up the scent of a decoy on a training patrol mission in Korea.

according to law and not according to his own wishes. Because the amount of tax upon the estate and the surviving beneficiaries of a will may be determined by the manner in which the will is drawn, in most cases it is better to consult an attorney. A person can draw his own will, of course, if he believes himself sufficiently familiar with legal requirements.

All wills in North Carolina must be "probated" before the Clerk of Superior Court after the death of the property owner. Only after probate can the property be distributed as directed by the will.

Of course, a person can destroy his will or change it before his death. If he wishes to change or add to it, he must either destroy the old will and start over again, or make what the law calls a "codicil," or addition to the original writing. This "codicil," however, in order to be effective, must be signed and witnessed according to the same rules that apply to making the will itself.

Ma Can, Pa Can't

A married woman can make a will in N. C. disposing of all her property

(to the exclusion of her husband), if she likes. Her husband, while she lives as his wife, can not do the same to her. This odd fact in the law is true because a husband, in North Carolina, can do nothing to defeat his widow's right to "dower," or a certain portion of his property during her lifetime. While the husband, who survives a woman who died without a will, has a lifetime right (known as "courtesy") in all the separate property of his departed wife, the wife can defeat her husband's right by will or other disposal of her property.

The wife's "dower" right can be stopped by her own misconduct or abandonment of her mate.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH SERVICES

Services at the First Christian Church have been announced as follows by the pastor, the Rev. E. C. Alexander:

Bible School, Sunday morning at 10 o'clock; morning service at 11 o'clock, young people's meeting at 6:30 P. M., evening service at 7:30 o'clock. Wednesday Evening Bible Class meets at

NOTICE!

Beginning March 29, 1954, our Parts Department will be open from 7 A. M., to 5:30 P. M., Monday through Friday and from 7 A. M., to 1 P. M., on Saturdays.

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GARDEN TIME

ROBERT SCHMIDT
N. C. STATE COLLEGE

Now that fresh asparagus is appearing in the grocery stores, we are beginning to receive inquiries about growing this crop. Can asparagus be grown successfully in North Carolina? Yes, it can. When should it be planted? In the eastern part of the state it is best to plant in November or December, but may be planted in February or March. In the western part of the state it is probably best to plant in March or April.

Although asparagus is originally started from seed, the gardener or small grower usually buys one year old crowns for setting. These may be obtained from any large seed store or asparagus grower. Fifty crowns should provide plenty of fresh asparagus for the average family. The Mary Washington variety is recommended.

Asparagus is a perennial crop and should be productive for more than ten years if given good care. Because it is a perennial crop, grass and weeds may be a problem—especially if you have Bermuda grass in the garden. Therefore, thorough preparation is necessary before planting. The crowns

are set about 18 inches apart in a broad furrow or trench 6 to 8 inches deep. The fleshy roots are spread out at the bottom of the trench with the buds up and covered with soil to a depth of 3 to 4 inches. When the spears come through this soil the rest of the trench may be filled. If the soil is sandy, the entire trench may be filled at planting time. If fertilizer is used it should be thoroughly mixed with the soil at the bottom of trench at least a week before planting. Well rotted stable manure would also be desirable as a fertilizer.

Asparagus should not be cut at all until a year after planting and then only lightly. The second year the harvest may be unlimited. The cutting season will extend about 8 weeks. The bed or row should be thoroughly worked each spring before the spears appear.

Housework Easy Without Nagging Backache

When kidney function slows down, many folks complain of nagging backache, loss of pep and energy, headaches and dizziness. Don't suffer longer with these discomforts if reduced kidney function is getting you down—due to such common causes as stress and strain, over-exertion or exposure to cold. Minor bladder irritations due to cold, dampness or wrong diet may cause getting up nights or frequent passages. Don't neglect your kidneys if these conditions bother you. Try Doan's Pills—a mild diuretic. Used successfully by millions for over 50 years. While often otherwise caused, it's amazing how many times Doan's give happy relief from these discomforts—help the 15 miles of kidney tubes and filters flush out waste. Get Doan's Pills today!

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