

MATTERS of INTEREST to FARMERS

Farmers Face Feed Shortage

Assistant Agriculture Commissioner D. S. Coltrane estimates that poultry production in North Carolina this year will be cut from 25 to 40 per cent as the result of the scarcity of grain and protein feeds.

"Feed manufacturers are finding it extremely difficult to purchase corn, wheat, oats and barley," said Coltrane, adding that "they consider themselves very fortunate when they can obtain a car of oats."

The Feed Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture informed Coltrane that North Carolina is being allotted 916 tons of protein meal.

"Although we are naturally pleased to receive this meal, it is not more than 25 per cent of the amount we were obtaining at this time last year," said Coltrane.

He reported that tax tag sales from last July 1 to February 1 indicate that only 53,000 tons of cotton seed meal were sold during the 27-month period, as compared with 93,000 tons for the same period a year earlier.

He said that the government has promised to send about 200,000,000 bushels of wheat to Europe, "preferring to help keep alive starving human beings there rather than to feed this wheat to poultry and livestock here in America."

He said that since Canada and Argentina are also aiding Europe to the extent of about 350,000,000 bushels of wheat, there is little need to look to their granaries for assistance.

Decreased Demand For Poultry, Eggs

Marion Dilday, poultry marketing specialist with the State Department of Agriculture, finds that the state poultry industry is suffering from declining prices and decreased demand for fryers, broilers and eggs.

Dilday asserts that prices for fryers and broilers have dropped within the past two weeks 1 1/2 cents per pound, with prices in general running from 19 to 22 cents.

Pointing out that poultry producers are in a quandary as to whether to sell now or gamble on a greater demand and a reduction in the market glut with the next two weeks, Dilday states that there are 200,000 broilers and fryers in Chatham county alone now ready for market.

"However, with poultry feed—when they can get it—costing from \$3.85 to \$4 per 100-pound bag, poultry producers are caught between low prices on one hand and the scarcity and high price of feed on the other," says Dilday. He explains that since broilers and fryers decrease in value with age, they should be sold as soon as possible.

Dilday declares he can offer no encouragement regarding the poultry situation at this time. He believes that the rapid movement of poultry to market, coupled with the feed situation, would in all probability create a scarcity of poultry and eggs within the next 8 to 10 months.

of every modern farm.

"Frequently, equipment repair is left until just before the gear is scheduled to be used. In many cases this means not only that a new machine must be bought in order to meet the seasonal work load, but also that a good piece of used machinery is discarded. The rush season for spare parts is just before planting time. Mailing delays and the congestion of wrong parts make it doubly essential that orders be placed early."

"In regard to painting, polishing and greasing implements, it may be safely said that there is no more important job on the farm. Literally, machines suffer from 'ab-use' rather than use."

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TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS

Answered at State College

Question: How may a strawberry barrel be constructed at home?

Answer: An open-ended 50-gallon wooden barrel may be used. Holes 3 to 4 inches in diameter should be made in the barrel at intervals of about 12 inches. Mix about a half gallon of garden fertilizer with sufficient loamy soil to fill the barrel. Run a perforated pipe long way through the center of the soil to permit watering of plants which will be set in the barrel holes.

Question: Is window glass now available?

Answer: Local hardware dealers now have good window glass—cut to measure—in fairly good quantity. No special tools are required to replace broken panes and a nickel's worth of putty is usually sufficient to do the average mending job. Be sure to measure windows in which panes are to be replaced before attempting a purchase of glass.

Question: When and where will the North Carolina Hereford Breeders Association hold its show and sale this year?

Answer: The association show will begin in the Iredell county fair grounds (Statesville) on March 18 and the sale will be conducted the following day.

Butter Production Is Now at Low Ebb

Production of butter in December was at the lowest ebb since 1920, and the output of creamery butter last month was 25 per cent less than in January a year ago, dairy marketing specialists with the State Department of Agriculture are informed by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Agriculture Department officials said that the "alarming" decline in the production of creamery butter in North Carolina and in other states is due to the fact that butterfat now sells for around 90 cents per pound, while the quantity of butter that can be manufactured from this amount of cream brings the producer only about 45 cents.

Retail prices of butter under ceilings now average about 55 cents a pound, according to reports revealed by the statistics division of the State Department of Agriculture.

W. Kerr Scott, commissioner of agriculture and dairy farmer, expressed the opinion that butter prices would advance from 15 to 20 cents a pound if the OPA ceilings were removed. He said that prices might decline "to some extent" in midsummer, as production of butter increases.

Last Call to Fix Farm Machinery

Declaring that the condition of North Carolina farm machinery to be used in the production of this year's crops is even more vital to farm efficiency than in war years, Agricultural Engineer D. S. Weaver of State College Extension Service has issued the following advisory statement to farmers:

"Now is the time to check over all field equipment which was used during the past season and prepare it for 1946 use. There is more time for repairs during the next month before field work becomes too pressing and the jobs can be done with a great deal more care. Repair work pays tremendous dividends. The old blacksmith shop is gradually fading from the picture and it is necessary for farmers to do more and more of their own repair work. A workshop which can be used day and night, winter and summer, should be a part

of every modern farm.

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Sharp Drop In Chick Output

The output of chicks by North Carolina commercial hatcheries during January was 27 per cent less than the January output of last year and 8 per cent below the five-year (1940-44) average production, according to the statistics division of the State Department of Agriculture.

The January output was estimated at 1,600,000 chicks, compared with 2,186,000 chicks produced in January last year. For the year 1945, the output of chicks in North Carolina totaled approximately 41,827,000, the highest production on record. This record output was 37 per cent above the 1944 production of 30,639,000 and 7 per cent greater than the 1943 production of 39,180,000—

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Curtis Tarleton, poultry statistician, said "the demand for broiler chicks is beginning to drop, due to declines in broiler prices and the uncertainty of the feed situation. However, the demand in most areas for farm flock replacements was still equal or above last year."

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SELF REGULATION

How It's Accomplished

The chief function of the North Carolina Committee of the United States Brewers Foundation is to see to it that beer is sold in strict accord with public sentiment and with the high standards of the brewing industry.

Trained field men employed by the Committee tour the state constantly, observe actual retail outlet operations, report their findings. Where necessary, the Committee makes suggestions for improvement. As most beer retailers believe it sound business policy to operate properly, such suggestions are usually accepted readily. However, if cooperation is not forthcoming, the proper authorities are notified.

Thus strict supervision of beer retailing and close cooperation with law-enforcement authorities assure the maintenance of wholesome conditions wherever beer is sold.

—North Carolina Committee—

UNITED STATES BREWERS FOUNDATION

EDGAR H. BAIN, STATE DIRECTOR

606-607 Insurance Bldg., Raleigh, N.C.

Forests Community's Top Asset, It's Said

"One of the most valuable assets of this community is its timberland. Many other natural resources may be exhausted in time, but properly managed forests and farm woodlots will go on yielding wealth as long as there are men on this earth to garner it."

This statement was made this week by the local Pulpwood Committee, in calling attention to the fact that pulpwood is another cash crop for the farmer and timberland owner.

"Once we thought of forests chiefly in terms of timber," the committee said, "a crop which could be harvested only once in a generation. Today, through the medium of pulpwood, forests and farm woodlots yield paper, shipping containers, plastics, textiles, chemicals, building materials and countless other useful materials."

"Furthermore," the committee pointed out, "pulpwood operations increase the value of remaining timber by thinning stands. Thus, by the proper management—a knowledge which can be gained by consulting the forester or county agent—our forests can yield a cash crop periodically, and every year become more valuable."

"Proper utilization of our forest resources will benefit all the people of the community through providing more income for the farmer and land owner, more jobs and more industry throughout this community, the state and the nation," the committee's statement concluded.

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The nation's ultimate foreign policy will have a definite and material effect upon the agricultural program and its chances of success.

The average farm in North Carolina today is a "one-man, one-mule" unit and the average family subsists on less than 20 acres of farm land.

With North Carolina agriculture scheduled to enter an era of mechanization, now emphasis will be placed upon hay, small grains and pastures, according to Dr. I. O. Schaub of the Extension Service.

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