

Williams Sees Loss to Farmers

(By S. Clay Williams, of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.)

"Greatly benefited as the producer of flue-cured tobacco has been under the Agricultural Adjustment Act he is now face to face with the proposition that the adoption of proposed amendments to that Act may easily cost him some \$15,000,000.00 of possible return from his 1935 crop.

The most unobserving processor knows that these amendments will pass or not according to the attitude of producers toward them and that Congress now believes producers want the amendments because they know they like the present Act and its results.

The secret of what is about to happen to the flue-cured tobacco grower under the proposed amendments is that flue-cured tobacco—different from practically all other commodities covered by the Act but like its companion product cotton—has to look to the export trade for sale of about sixty per cent of the volume produced. That fact makes the proposed amendments affect the currently good results to the grower more than anybody connected with AAA has been willing to admit, though everybody saw the effect of this difference in the fall of 1933. With flue-cured tobacco then selling at an average of 10 cents, domestic manufacturers entered into a marketing agreement to lift to at least 17 cents the 40 per cent of the crop which they would normally buy. Under this agreement about \$20,000,000.00 of additional money was put into the market, the effect of this was that, with tobacco for domestic consumption and that for export selling side by side on the market, the lifting of the one served to lift the other. Through domestic manufacturers putting \$20,000,000.00 additional into the market, the producers drew out of it \$38,000,000.00 more than they would have gotten had the 10 cent average not been lifted.

If putting additional purchase money into the domestic side of the market thus multiplied the good effect for the growers, it is to be expected that taking money out of the domestic side of the market will likewise multiply the bad effect for the growers. Until two weeks ago the Tobacco Administrator was assuring manufacturers that the processing tax on flue-cured tobacco would be wholly removed at October 1, 1935. Processors have regarded the tax as temporary and therefore there was no reason for them to adjust inventory or buying policies to the continuing burden of such a tax. With the tax removed they would have been able to spend on the market floors this fall all of the money that is available from their cost sheets for purchase of leaf. But if the amendments as passed by the House are passed by the Senate, processors will be forced to set aside from the amount available to pay for leaf tobacco enough to cover the unexpectedly continued tax. That reduces the amount that they can spend on the warehouse floors and, of course, establishes a pressure downward on price of tobacco for domestic consumption. If the tax thus to be made permanent is the present 4.2 cents per pound and it pushes down by 4.2 cents the price which the domestic processor could otherwise pay, the grower will presumably suffer a similar reduction in the price he will get for his tobacco that are bought for export.

True, government would have the 4.2 cents to be collected on the domestic purchase—which on a 600,000,000 pound crop would amount to about \$10,000,000.00—to distribute back to the farmer, but with the export price moving with the domestic price, the farmer would presumably lose in price on the export end of his crop the same 4.2 cents, or about \$15,000,000.00, for which government could make him no reimbursement whatever. That's the simple arithmetic of these amendments as demonstrated by what happened in the fall of 1933. They can hurt the market price \$25,000,000.00 in order that AAA may collect \$10,000,000.00 to give back to the growers months after they could otherwise have had it from the markets. And even then the growers would be \$15,000,000.00 short.

The original Act has proved highly beneficial to flue-cured tobacco growers, the control program is established, has the support of the growers and is not

Drought Days Are Forgotten



DES MOINES, Ia. . . . Generous rains and abundant sunshine throughout America's food belt, Texas to Minnesota, now indicate bumper crops this year with drought weeks and dust storms of last year forgotten. Photo shows June Caldwell, former Iowa 4-H Club queen, waist deep in a heavily filled wheat field near here.

necessarily dependent on these amendments. It is known that Mr. Hutson, Tobacco Administrator, whatever the proper price of tobacco, would be to have only part of this price paid to the growers on the market and the balance paid to them by AAA. That's all right for the grower until parity is attained, but after parity is attained and control established, having these amendments force on him a loss in the price of export tobacco which loss government cannot possibly reimburse him for, presents a different situation.

It is also known that Dr. Tugwell and Dr. Mordecai Ezekiel, Economic Advisor to AAA, want to force curtailment of advertising. Even if these amendments

increase the chance of their accomplishing that purpose the growers know that it was largely through advertising that the market for the high-priced tobaccos sold through cigarettes was developed from 31,500,000 pounds in 1911 to 360,000,000 pounds in 1930, and that liberal advertising is necessary to sustain consumption and market.

Through being included in amendments covering many other commodities that are not so much affected by the special circumstances that affect tobacco, the growers of it are about to have these amendments put on them because the Congress thinks that growers generally want the amendments."

Timely Farm Questions

Answered at State College

Question: How should land be prepared for the first seeding of alfalfa?

Answer: A well prepared seed bed is necessary for best results in growing alfalfa and for this reason the land should be plowed fairly deep and be thoroughly pulverized with a disc and harrow. The land should be allowed to stand at least a month after this preparation in order that it may settle. Frequent harrowings during that period will give good results. As fall seeding is usually more satisfactory in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain sections the land should be prepared the last of July or early August so that it will be ready for seeding from September 1 to 30.

Question: When should cockerels be caponized to be ready for the Easter market?

Answer: Cockerels that are to go to market as capons next Easter should be caponized as early as possible in July. It takes from eight to eleven months to properly develop and finish a capon and those birds caponized in early July should be ready for the mar-

ket if proper development takes place. Care should be taken that only healthy cockerels be selected as unhealthy birds either die from the operation or make poor development.

Question: How often should I dust my cotton to control boll weevil?

Answer: Where there is as much as a ten percent damage the dustings should not be over five days apart as long as this damage remains. However, weather conditions will govern, to a large extent, the actual number of dustings to be made. Frequent showers and cloudy weather increases the damage and the application should be repeated if a heavy rain falls within 24 hours after any dusting. As long as there are ten percent of the squares punctured dustings should be made every five days and in between if a heavy rain occurs.

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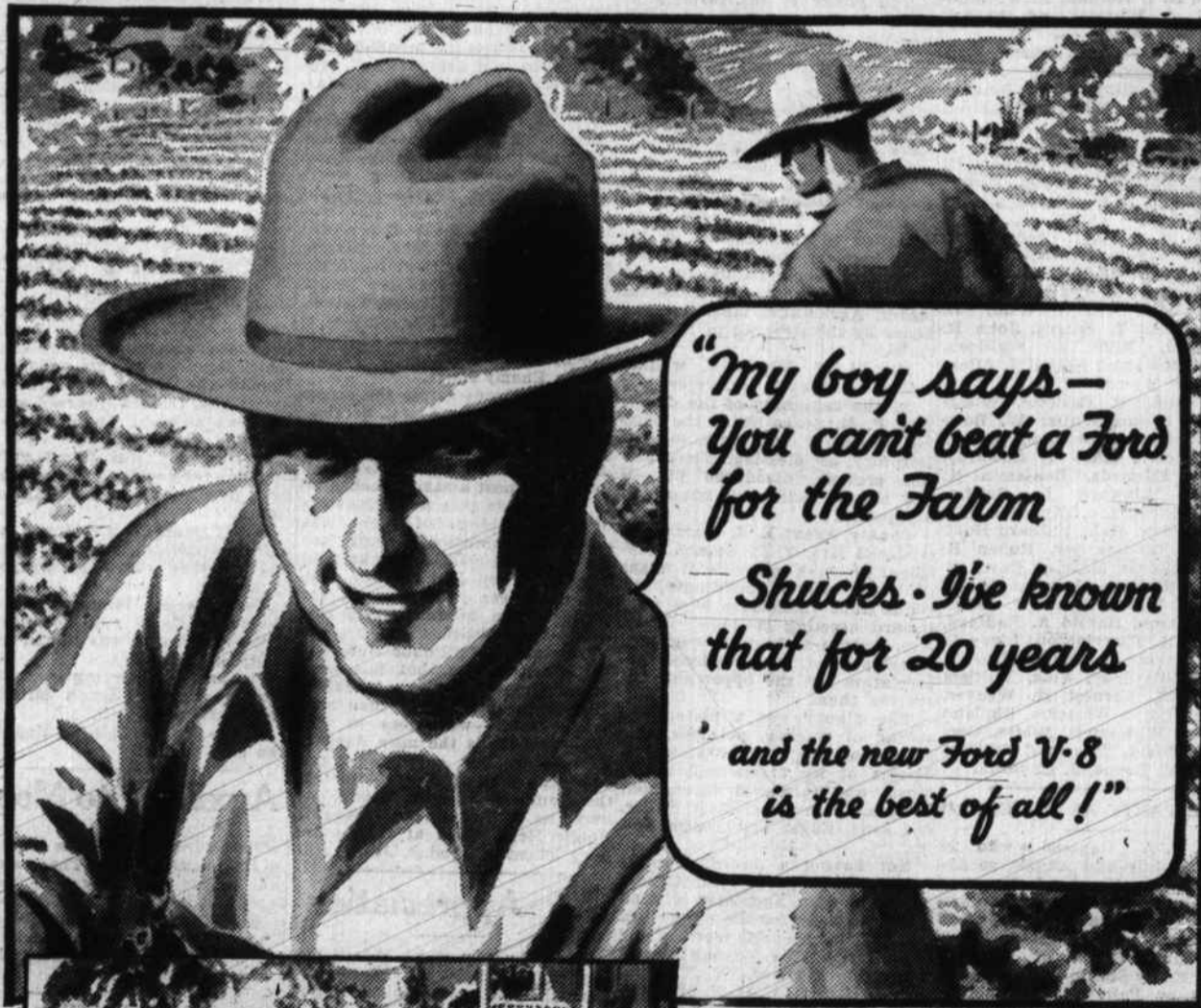
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