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Tobacco Acreage United States Showing Decline

The Government Stopped With Attempt To Regulate Acreages, Steady Decline Has Been Noted In Weed Acreage

BEFORE THEN, IT CLIMBED STEADILY

In 1918 Brought A Total Of \$517,000,000, The Greatest Return U. S. Farmers Yet Received

(BY GORDON LEWIS) Tobacco production in the United States in 1934 the last year for which tabulations were available netted the farmers of this year \$223,179,000, and represented one of the largest cash returns for any crop.

At year more than a billion pounds were produced in the U. S. more specifically 1,045,660,000 pounds, which were grown on 255,000 acres of land.

Production of tobacco in this country has shown definite improvement during the past two decades. In the decade ago, American farmers devoted 1,046,000 acres to the cultivation of tobacco.

That was at the turn of the century, in 1900, when 814,000 pounds netted the growers \$55,661,000.

As far, however, tobacco growers in the United States realize their greatest profits from the production of the Bright Golden Leaf in the year 1918, when 481 pounds sold for \$570,000.

Attention devoted to the growth of tobacco was on a constant basis from the beginning of the century till 1931, after which government stepped in and tried to regulate and control acreages. That year Uncle Sam had 2,112,000 acres planted in tobacco.

At same year, however, the cost of the crop was much less than half that in 1918, bringing only \$211,102,000 for 1,647,000 pounds.

Neal Addresses Farmers' Meeting

Low Income Of Cotton And Tobacco Planters Is Shame Of South

Raleigh—Edward A. O'Neal, chief of the Farm Bureau Extension, in an address here today said, "The low income of the cotton farmer and of many tobacco farmers is the shame of the south", and asserted, "if we can't get equality for agriculture under the constitution, we must amend the constitution."

Neal was speaking before a meeting of delegates to the Farm Home week at N. C. State University. He believes in the soil conservation program, he said, "and we are going to string along with the college and the federal government. We are going to try to get agriculture a place in the sun without running afoul of the supreme court."

If we cannot get our share in that way, then we will and we will change the constitution."

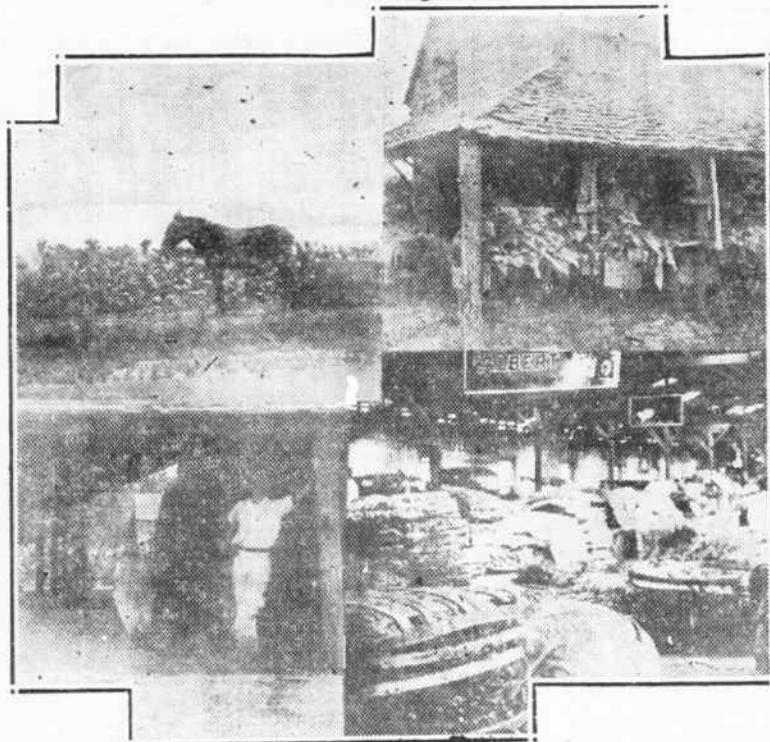
The Farm Bureau Federation, he said, "is solidly against a constitution that hi-jacks everybody's share to the farmer a bit more."

Afternoon the farmers and women heard J. B. Hutson, chief of the east central region of the soil conservation program, explain the workings of the program in detail.

H. Bennett, director of the soil conservation service, pointed out the advantages of the soil erosion and reclamation lands.

NETTE PRODUCTION IN SHOWS BIG INCREASES Washington, D. C., July 23—The department of Commerce, in its biennial census of manufacturers, reported that production in the United States in 1935 at 138,656,000,000, an increase of 23 percent over production in 1933, the preceding census year.

Steps In Culture Of Tobacco



VARIOUS STEPS—The pictures above show the various steps which are necessary in the culture and marketing of tobacco, including the cropping, dreying, curing, and sale on the warehouse floor.

Traces Growth, Culture Of Tobacco At Various Stages

Persons Who Believe That Cultivation and Curing of Tobacco Is Easy Job Just Ignorant of True Facts

REQUIRES MAXIMUM IN LONG HARD WORK

Hardly Are Christmas Holidays Over Before Preparations Begin With Continuation For Ten Months

The author of this interesting and appealing story of the growth, cultivation and harvesting of tobacco, James M. Harper, Jr., is editor of the Southport State Port Pilot. He contributed this article especially for this tobacco edition of The News Reporter, upon special request. Thoroughly familiar with his subject, he learned the story of tobacco first hand on his father's farm, where he himself was for a number of years closely associated with the growth and cultivation of the weed.

By JAMES M. HARPER, JR.

Tobacco markets of the South Carolina Belt, which includes several border towns in North Carolina, will open next week and during the next two months several millions of dollars will be paid farmers of this state for their 1936 crop.

To many who are unfamiliar with the problems of producing the crop, the tobacco grower becomes an object of envy. Payments made to him at the warehouse look to them like easy money. But these ideas are born of ignorance.

It has been stated that it requires thirteen months a year to produce a good tobacco crop. Granting that there is a possible exaggeration, it is a fact that the production of tobacco requires the hardest kind of work at the worst possible hours and with the greatest risk of complete failure.

Hardly are the Christmas holidays over before the tobacco farmer begins to look around for a good place for his tobacco plant bed. He wants to get away from the place he had his plants last year, because the blue mold appeared before he had finished setting out and he was barely able to finish. He also prefers a rough bit of new ground, in a spot protected from the north, well drained, yet with a supply of water near at hand.

Once the spot is located, brush and stumps are piled all over the proposed area so that the bed may be burned off, a process which is supposed to have a sterilizing effect upon the soil and kill all grass seed. Then begins the work of digging out the stumps and roots, so that the plot may be as smooth and even as the dirt in a flower pot. Fertilizer is added in large quantities, and the tobacco seed are sown.

Since it takes only a tablespoonful of seed to sow a hundred yards, they are mixed with dried yards, they are mixed with

(Continued on Page Seven)

Sold 19,123,000 Pounds On Local Mart Last Year

Fell Only A Little Short Of Selling As Much Tobacco As Was Sold During The 1933 Season

TWENTY MILLION HAD BEEN SET AS GOAL

Tobacconists Had Estimated That The Whiteville Mart Would Sell Around Twenty Million Last Year

The Whiteville tobacco market succeeded last year in fulfilling the predictions of veteran tobacconists here that total sales would reach twenty million, selling a total of 19,123,145 pounds, missing the prediction only by a matter of "inches."

Before the season opened last year, veteran warehousemen of Whiteville ventured the prediction that the Whiteville market would sell twenty million pounds of tobacco during the year, and set that as their goal. How far the actual sales missed their predictions can be seen from the figures.

Of the 19,123,145 pound total, some 17,002,730 pounds were producers' sales, and 1,227,063 dealers' resales.

Whiteville's average of \$20.11 per hundred pounds, remained among the highest averages in the South Carolina belt, and compared very favorably with the prices paid throughout the entire tobacco growing area.

The figures last year missed by a hair reaching the total obtained during the 1933 season, and was chalked up as the second biggest season in the market's history.

Figures obtained from the Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh show that during the 1933 season Whiteville sold a total of 19,326,139 pounds, exactly 202,994 pounds more than were sold last year. The total eclipsed entirely, however, the figures for the preceding year, when 12,144,473 pounds were sold.

TOBACCONISTS END COAST CONVENTION

Morehead City—Completing a four-day session at Edgewater Club members of the tobacco industry from three states have departed for their respective homes declaring they had had the best time in summer convention history.

The final day was highlighted by breakfast and goodbye after which the 100 odd visitors turned their faces toward their homes in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

They came here last Tuesday as representatives of Dibrell Brothers, tobacco dealers of Danville, Va.

No business sessions marked the convention, the entire time being given over to boating, fishing, bathing and scores of other forms of recreation offered by the coast.—Twin City Herald.

Hutson Predicts Tobacco Prices

Says They'll Be Half-Way Between Ony Program Level And Those Under AAA

Raleigh.—J. B. Hutson, soil conservation program director for the east-central region, predicted to North Carolina tobacco growers today they would get a price this year "about half-way between what you would get without any program and what you would have gotten under the strict AAA and Kerr-Smith act regulations."

Hutson was head of the tobacco section of the old AAA.

The tobacco growers held their special meeting in connection with farm and home week and were to elect an advisory group to work on future plans to protect their interests.

Hutson said his information indicated the stock of tobacco now held by manufacturing companies was "not quite as much as at this season in previous years". He estimated the stock on hand would provide a supply for 34 months.

E. Y. Floyd, extension specialist of N. C. State college, predicted.

J. E. Ramsey of Marshall, Madison county, says the home-mixed poultry ration prepared after a formula supplied him by his county agent has given equally as good results as feed purchased from commercial mixers.

Afraid Of Hard Work? Then Don't Try Raising Tobacco

If you're afraid of hard work, there's no use trying to raise tobacco. Cultivation of this product entails more work perhaps to the farmer than any other crop, or perhaps all the others combined.

Raising tobacco remains no job for lily fingers. From the time the seed first finds its way into the tobacco bed, until the last pound has been sold on the auction floor, the whole business spells untiring labor for the farmer.

There are weeks of sleepless nights at the tobacco barn, where a constant vigil is necessary in order that the heat on the product remains even—that there are no violent fluctuations in the temperature, because such many times spells disaster for a barn of tobacco.

Work . . . work . . . work, that's the story of tobacco cultivation. When the seeds are planted in the beds during the latter days of December, or the early days of

January, extensive preparations having been made for the preparation of the bed, they are watched carefully through the two to three months period before they are transplanted in the open field.

A watchful vigil must be maintained for the dreaded Blue Mold disease, which this year took a terrible toll among the plant beds of this area. Sunshine has been determined the most effective remedy for this disease, and plants which do not get enough of it, have to suffer the consequences oftentimes.

After the transplanting, there has to be constant plowing of the fields to give the tobacco plants the proper cultivation—the plants themselves have to be sprayed and otherwise protected against worms and insects.

Even following the curing period the most tedious of all the tasks comes—the grading and tying of the tobacco.

Rendered Invaluable Service To Tobacco Growers Of Area

Service Which Columbus County Man Has Rendered To Weed Farmers Of Three Counties Proves Invaluable

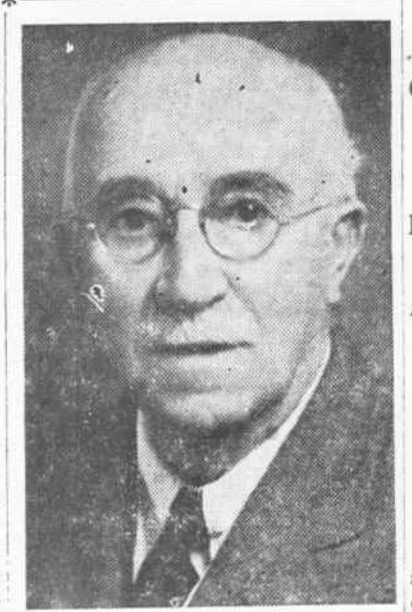
HELPED IN WORKING OUT WEED PROGRAM

Chadborn Man Was On Tobacco Committee Which Helped Administration Arrive At Proper Solution

Hon. J. A. Brown, of Chadborn, has been the steadfast friend of the tobacco farmer. His services on the tobacco committee which rendered invaluable service to the farmers of this area were notable, and in the years which have been the most trying for the weed grower, he has stood by them and done all in his power, and used all his efforts and influence in behalf of the tobacco grower.

Serving on the Tobacco Advisory Committee which included the four principal tobacco growing states of the Union, Mr. Brown's services in this capacity have become generally known throughout the county and state.

It remains a matter of official record that he stood before the leaders of the present administration and presented in an effective manner the cause of the Southern Tobacco Farmer, and



J. A. BROWN

how he was largely active in presenting to the administration the tobacco farmer's side of the question.

The people know now pretty generally this side of Mr. Brown's record, but what they do not know is that he was directly responsible for the farmers of this immediate area getting \$250,000 more for their tobacco recently which they otherwise wouldn't have gotten.

Mr. Brown has long been a friend of the farmer. He senses the need for their group organization.

(Continued on Page 12.)

Constant Climb In Production Of Cigarettes

Constant Increase Seen In The Production Of Cigarettes In Past Twenty-Three Years

DECLINE NOTED IN CIGARS, SNUFF, ETC.

Almost Steady Decline Noted In The Consumption And Production Of Cigars, Chewing Tobacco, Snuff And Smoking Tobacco

(BY GORDON LEWIS)

Few people realize, when they see their Uncle Silas bite off a chew of his favorite brand of tobacco, and settle back to enjoy it, that last year 61,361,000 pounds of plug tobacco, 5,042,000 pounds of fine cut tobacco went into the mouths and was mangled between the teeth of American citizens.

In addition, when they see their Aunt Mirandy drop her lower lip long enough to allow a dash of snuff therein, they perhaps do not realize that 36,098,000 pounds of this fine powdered tobacco was consumed by people who swear their oath of allegiance to Uncle Sam, during the past twelve months.

Figures gleaned by The News Reporter from the World Almanac reveal that there has been considerable decrease in recent years in the U. S. production of cigars, cigarettes, chewing and smoking tobacco.

Last year, the World Almanac reveals, 191,766,000 pounds of granulated tobacco went into the pipes of American citizens, or into home-made cigarettes. These figures show that those who choose to "roll their own" in America are sadly in the minority.

The data compiled by the United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington, shows that the American production of cigars, cigarettes, chewing and smoking tobacco and snuff reached a peak for all-time records in 1917, when 179,413,000 pounds of tobacco went into the manufacture of plug tobacco, 15,998,000 pounds went into twist, 11,286,000 went into the manufacture of fine cut tobacco.

The same year, smoking tobacco was responsible for the use of 243,586,000 pounds, 33,517,000 pounds went into the manufacture of snuff, making the total consumption of all tobaccos for that year 482,977,000 pounds.

Cigars, large and small, coming under the same head as the chewing and smoking tobacco and snuff, had reached a high in 1917 when the production totaled 7,599,188,000 large cigars, and 965,135,000 small cigars.

Cigarette consumption and production, has, however, been on a steady climb since the early days when tobacco culture was in its infancy. In recent years, production pumped from 15,555,693,000 small cigarettes in 1913, to a total of 114,874,217,000 in 1933. In 1935 the figures totaled 138,656,000,000 cigarettes.

Java Native Tobacco Crop Internationally Important

The native tobacco crop of Java is of more local than international importance; however, some of it enters the overseas trade, going to countries where low-grade tobaccos are in demand. The area of native tobacco standing in the fields at the end of the first quarter of 1936 aggregated about 22,000 bouws. At that time, preparation of seedbeds was being made in various tobacco centers, and in some regions transplanting had commenced. Some damage has been done in the Besoeki district by heavy rains, but in most of the others districts the condition was quite favorable.—Consul Joel C. Hudson, Surabaya.

PANAMA TOBACCO IMPORTS TOTAL AMOUNTS TO \$451,311

The value of the tobacco import trade of Panama in 1935 was \$451,311; the value of all tobacco imported from U. S. was \$396,799, approximately 88 percent of the total. In 1935, all tobacco imported into Panama was valued at \$425,186.

Whiteville Market Paid Out Over Three Million In 1935

Tobacco Growers Endorse Control

500 N. C. Planters Approve Compact Method, Name Committees

Raleigh—Five hundred North Carolina tobacco growers unanimously endorsed the state compact method of control of tobacco production here this afternoon and appointed a committee of nine men to work out plans for such a program for the state.

The meeting was held in connection with farm and home week.

The state was divided into five districts, with four of them to have two committeemen and two alternates and the other a single committeeman and alternate.

Members of the committee elected were:

First district, the border belt: Dr. G. M. Pate, of Robeson county, with T. J. Harris, of Cumberland as alternate.

Second district, part of the new belt: F. Brock, of Jones, and G. T. Scott, of Johnston, with Lionel Well, of Wayne, and J. Y. Joyner, of LaGrange, as alternates.

Third district, the rest of the new belt: J. E. Winslow, of Pitt, and W. W. Eagles, of Edgecombe, with B. B. Everett, of Halifax, and C. U. Rogers, of Martin, as alternates.

The fourth district, the middle belt, W. W. White of Vance and D. H. Senter of Harnett with W. A. Turner of Warren and I. M. Wilcox of Lee as alternates. (Continued on page 12)

New Cigarette Stamps In Use

Washington, D. C.—The majority of corporations in the country dealing in tobacco products filed corporation income tax returns showing no net income for 1934, Commissioner Guy T. Heverling of the bureau of internal revenue reveals in a report made public recently.

Of the total 405 such returns filed for 1934, 131 reported an aggregate net income of \$96,296,000, while the 245 operating in the red had an aggregate deficit totaling \$2,086,000. Twenty-nine tobacco products corporations showed no income data, being inactive.

Taxes paid by the firms making a profit totaled \$13,246,000, of which \$13,241,000 represented corporation income tax and \$5,000 excess profits tax.

Patrons Of Whiteville Tobacco Market Last Year Were Paid \$3,419,449 For The Crop

LARGEST AMOUNT IN HISTORY OF MARKET

Steady Climb Made In The Total Money Paid Out In The Local Market During Past Three Years

Tobacco grower patrons of the Whiteville market last year were paid more than three million dollars for their part of the 1935 crop, figures just obtained from the Crop Reporting Service of the N. C. Department of Agriculture in Raleigh reveals.

The statistics show that the farmers who sold their tobacco over three million in 1935 locally last year, during the 1935

(Continued on page 12)

Announces New Parking Rules



Chief of Police W. B. Coleman, of this city, in an effort to afford the farmers who sell their tobacco on the Whiteville market every facility in getting their cars parked, has announced that effective next Thursday, August 13th, with the opening of the tobacco market, that all merchants and townspeople will be asked to park their cars on side lots and streets in order that the farmers may have no difficulty in getting their vehicles parked on front street.

The plaza along the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad tracks has been designated as a 10-minute