

Cotton Now No Longer King Of The Cash Crops

Tobacco Has Usurped The Throne As Crop Leader Both In Point Of Production And In Value

PRODUCTION IS NOW INCREASING

Last Year's Crop Was The Second Largest In History Of United States And Was Largest For This State

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King Cotton was considered the leading farm crop in North Carolina for many years, but now tobacco is king. Tobacco has prominently taken its place in North Carolina as the leading crop in both production and value.

There were 670,000 acres of tobacco grown in 1937 yielding 593,745,000 pounds with an average yield per acre of 886 pounds. These figures include all the flue-cured types and burley.

North Carolina's tobacco crop in 1937 meant \$154,800,000 for the Tar Heel farmers, which is \$50,550,000 more than they received in 1936.

For the United States as a whole, the second largest crop was produced in 1937 the largest being in 1930. In North Carolina, the 1937 crop exceeded the 1930 crop by 7,145,000 pounds.

The production of tobacco is increasing faster than the consumption. The demand for cigar-

ettes is gradually increasing, while the demand for chewing tobacco, snuff, and pipe smoking tobacco is remaining about the same. This being the case the total consumption is not increasing at a very fast rate. The large crop of last year means that there will be a large supply on hand July 1, 1938. It will be necessary for the 1938 crop to be reduced 10 per cent. of the 1937 crop or 20 per cent. of the base under the agricultural conservation program in order to keep production in line with consumption.

Change In Demand

Grandfather and grandmother used to chew tobacco and dip snuff, but now grandson and granddaughter smoke cigarettes. This being the case, it seems that the logical thing to do is to produce the type of tobacco that is in the greatest demand. The demand for cigarettes is gradually increasing thus making the demand greater.

County agents and specialists of the State College Extension Service have been working toward the type greatest in demand for several years and has been able to accomplish a great deal by using variety tests, better methods cultivation, and fertilization which have a tendency to grow a lighter-bodied leaf. Heavier-bodied tobacco is used for the manufacture of chewing tobacco, snuff, and some pipe smoking tobacco. The demand for this is not so great as it was, and the following practices given will have a tendency to help produce high quality cigarette tobacco.

Varieties

Certain varieties have proved to give satisfaction throughout the state as a whole. Jamica Wrapper, Gold Dollar Bonanza, and Yellow Mammoth produce a cigarette type better on heavier soils. White Stem Oroonco and Virginia Bright Leaf produce better on lighter soils. However, any of these varieties will be profitable on any good tobacco soil with average prices of recent years.

It is a decided advantage to any farmer to use certified seed. When a grower uses certified seed he has something that he knows is absolutely all right. Before seed are certified, the crop is field inspected for type, freedom from disease, and trueness to variety by experienced agronomists. The seed has to be cleaned and treated and a germination test run to determine what percentage of the seed will germinate before the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association will certify it. The minimum germination for tobacco seed is

80 per cent.

Plant Beds

Practices that are used with best results toward producing stronger plants on tobacco plant beds should be taken into consideration very carefully. In order to produce a good crop of tobacco, there must be a good foundation for producing such a crop and the best foundation is good, healthy, vigorous plants.

These plants can be produced by using some of the better practices which include getting a new site, where a farmer has plant bed land sufficient to do so, each year. It is advisable to sterilize the old bed by means of steaming when that can be done a practical way, or by burning as has been the custom for many years in some sections. It is also a good practice where there is a shortage of plant bed land, to cover the old beds each year after the crop has been planted with pine straw or wheat straw. This will prevent any foreign weed or grass seed from growing and taking plant food that the plants need.

When selecting a site so arrange it, whether it is in the woods or field, that it will have a southern or southwestern exposure. Tobacco plants need plenty of sunshine and warmth. During the growing season they will get more sunshine if the plant bed has this southern exposure than they would otherwise. In connection with locating the plant beds, it is advisable when possible, to locate them near a good supply of water. Doing this will eliminate a lot of work and time in watering the plant bed during a dry season that might come in the spring.

A good, loamy type of soil has proven to be the best type of plant bed soil that can be obtained. On soil of this type, the use of two pounds of 4-8-3 fertilizer to the square yard usually gives satisfactory results, as far as fertilizer is concerned. Any good brand of plant bed fertilizer of the 4-8-3 analysis is all right to use.

It is the practice of many farmers throughout the state to put their tobacco scrap in the stables where livestock is kept, then apply the manure on their plant beds. This practice should be avoided because it often causes diseases to be carried from the old crop to the new plant beds and from there into the field and as a result the quality of the tobacco will not be as good as it might have been.

Fertilization In The Field
Tobacco farmers of North Carolina are becoming more "fertilizer-minded" than ever before.

They have learned that by the use of higher analysis of the proper fertilizer, that they can produce a quality of tobacco which is in greatest demand.

The North Carolina Experiment Station and tobacco specialists have been doing quite a bit of experimental and field demonstration work with fertilizer and have obtained some good results, which have helped toward producing a cigarette type of tobacco. This work has revealed a higher analysis of fertilizer is profitable to use. The percentage of potash has also increased. The additional potash seems to produce a more uniform growth with less disease and better quality. This year we are recommending for general use a 3-10-6 fertilizer and this analysis is especially recommended for sandy loam soils.

However, on some of our heavier soils it is possible that higher percentage of potash is profitable and for these types of soil a 3-10-8 is recommended. In these formulas two-thirds of the nitrogen is derived from water-soluble materials and one-third from insoluble materials, phosphate all coming from superphosphate and the potash being derived from muriate of potash, sulphate of potash. In the 3-10-6 formula, 1.4 per cent. of the potash, 1.6 per cent. sulphate of potash magnesia, and 3 per cent. from sulphate of potash.

In the 3-10-8 formula the source of nitrogen and phosphate is the same as it is in the preceding formula. The potash is derived 1.4 per cent. from muriate of potash, 3 per cent. from sulphate of potash magnesia, and 3.6 per cent. from sulphate of potash. These formulas are recommended to be used at the rate of 800 to 1,000 pounds per acre, depending upon the fertility of the soil. Formulas for the fertilizer mentioned above may be obtained by consulting the county agent, and the farmer should insist upon these formulas.

In some cases, and especially on lighter soils, the use of sulphate of potash is recommended as a side dresser at the rate of 60 to 100 pounds per acre. This depends upon the percentage of potash used in the fertilizer when planting the tobacco. The use of a side dresser gives tobacco a more rapid growth and a better uniformity and development during the stage it is maturing.

Reparation And Cultivation
It is well to prepare the land a few weeks before planting the tobacco, especially the disking and breaking. As a general thing, it is advisable to apply the fertilizer around a week to ten days before planting on heavier soils. On some of the lighter soils where leaching more likely to take place during the heavy rainfall, it is not advisable to apply the fertilizer that far in advance of plantings; just a few days before planting is sufficient.

Tobacco should be kept on a bed or ridge at all times during the growing period. In order to do this, it is necessary to put it on a good ridge when planting. The process that has proven most satisfactory in preparing and keeping tobacco on a good ridge is to lay off the row with a Stonewall plow using large fronts on it and then apply the fertilizer in this furrow. After applying the fertilizer take the same plow and go back and open the row, throwing the fertilizer well up on the shoulders of the furrow. Then take a turning plow with a medium or large wing, depending on the type of plow, and make a good size ridge.

At each cultivation, work the soil toward the tobacco. By doing this the tobacco can be kept on a good bed during the entire growing season. This is advisable for the following reasons: First, it gives the plant more growing space; second, it is an advantage to have the tobacco plant on a bed in adverse weather conditions, whether it be wet or dry; and third, working soil to the tobacco plant at each cultivation causing new roots to come out from the stalk, which will help to take the plant food from the soil, thus producing a better quality and type of tobacco.

Three types of plows are necessary to follow this ridge method of cultivation as it should be done. For the first cultivation, a three-hoe cultivator should be used. The cultivator does not push much soil but it does loosen up the soil around the plant and gives it a thorough working, which enables the plant to grow more rapidly than it would if the soil were allowed to remain compact. By the time the second cultivation is necessary the tobacco should be large enough to use a Stonewall plow with small attachments, pushing the soil toward the tobacco. At the third cultivation the Stonewall should be used again with larger attachments.

Usually with normal weather condition four cultivations is all that is necessary and the fourth cultivation should be done with a turning plow with a middle-sized wing and a 14-inch sweep attached to the back of the wing on the plow. This will enable a reasonable amount of soil to be pushed around the tobacco plant and will not cover leaves to the extent that any considerable damage will be done. After each of these cultivations the middles

deep and if the soil is of a compact nature, it is advisable to do this with a turning plow with a very small wing. This will enable the surplus moisture to have some place to drain out of the bed during wet spells that often have during the growing season and having the tobacco on a bed will preserve more moisture around the base of the root system than if it were on a small shallow bed.

Topping And Suckering

Top the tobacco just as soon as it has reached the height which will give a number of leaves that will normally mature. A person must have experience in observing tobacco growth, a knowledge of the amount of fertilizer used and the seasonal conditions, to know how to top tobacco.

Generally speaking, on the average tobacco soils of the state, tobacco will mature when fifteen to eighteen leaves are left on the stalk. On the poorer soils, it should be topped lower; on the richer soils, it should be topped higher. Tobacco develops best if not allowed to bloom and the stalk to get hard. Just as soon as the seed parts of the plant begin to show, topping should be given. About every three days the tobacco will run up enough to top. If tobacco is topped as uniformly as possible, it will mature more evenly.

Insects

The worst tobacco insect pests are the flea beetle, the bud worm, and horn worm. The entomologists make the following recommendations about these: The best known method to control flea beetles on the plant beds is the use of Paris Green and arsenic of lead. The formula for this mix-

ture is one pound of Paris Green to five pounds of arsenate of lead. Apply at the rate of one-half pound to 100 square yards. This mixture should not be applied when the tobacco plants are moist due to the burning effect that might come from the Paris Green.

For the control of bud worms, use two pounds of arsenate of lead to fifty pounds of corn meal and apply in the buds of the plant early in the morning at the rate of one peck to the acre. If necessary a second application should be made about ten to fifteen days later.

For horn worm, arsenate can be applied as a dust at the rate of about four or five pounds per acre. The same mixture used for the flea beetle can be used in the field, killing both the horn and bud worms and flea beetle. In using this mixture precaution should be used not to apply when the plants are damp with dew or rain.

For further information concerning disease, curing, grading, and marketing farmers may consult their county agent or write to the tobacco specialist at State College.

Secure Position Of Farm Tenants

Thirty million dollars will be spent by the Farm Security Administration in order to help farm tenants who are unable to make a living from their farms, the government announced.

Plans for the exact means of helping and the methods of spending the money, have not been completed but are now being worked out.

Hog Production Shows Up-Swing

Increase Of 13 Percent Noted In Annual Spring Crop Of Pigs Farrowed In United States

A rather sharp upswing in hog production this year as compared with last is indicated in a report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The spring pig crop is estimated as 13 per cent larger than in 1937 and the number of sows to farrow in the fall season of 1938 is indicated as 9 per cent larger than the number farrowed in the fall of 1937.

Total farrowings, spring and fall, in 1938 are indicated as 10 per cent larger than in 1937. The number of hogs six months old on June 1, however, was little different from the number last year.

This pig crop report is based upon information obtained from a large number of farmers in cooperation with the Post Office Department through the rural mail carries.

American Tobacco Exports Up

In the first five months of 1938 America's exports of tobacco and tobacco products amounted to \$52,578,641, of which manufactured products accounted for \$6,311,246 and leaf tobacco for \$46,267,395. Total exports for the corresponding period of 1937 amounted to \$37,253,255.

NOTICE TO FARMER FRIENDS:

Our Restaurant that operated last year next to Hutchfield's Warehouse has been moved directly back of our store—



Across From Thompson-Dyson, Inc. We Invite You To Pay Us A Visit!

We serve the same delicious Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Lunches!

WELCOME!

Cut Rate Market

(In Old Tide Water Power Co. Building) WHITEVILLE, N. C.

— SELL TOBACCO WITH —

Brooks Warehouse, Inc.

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Sales Managers:

CHARLIE MASON

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WELCOME TOBACCO FARMERS AND TOBACCO BUYERS... TO THE 1938 WHITEVILLE MARKET

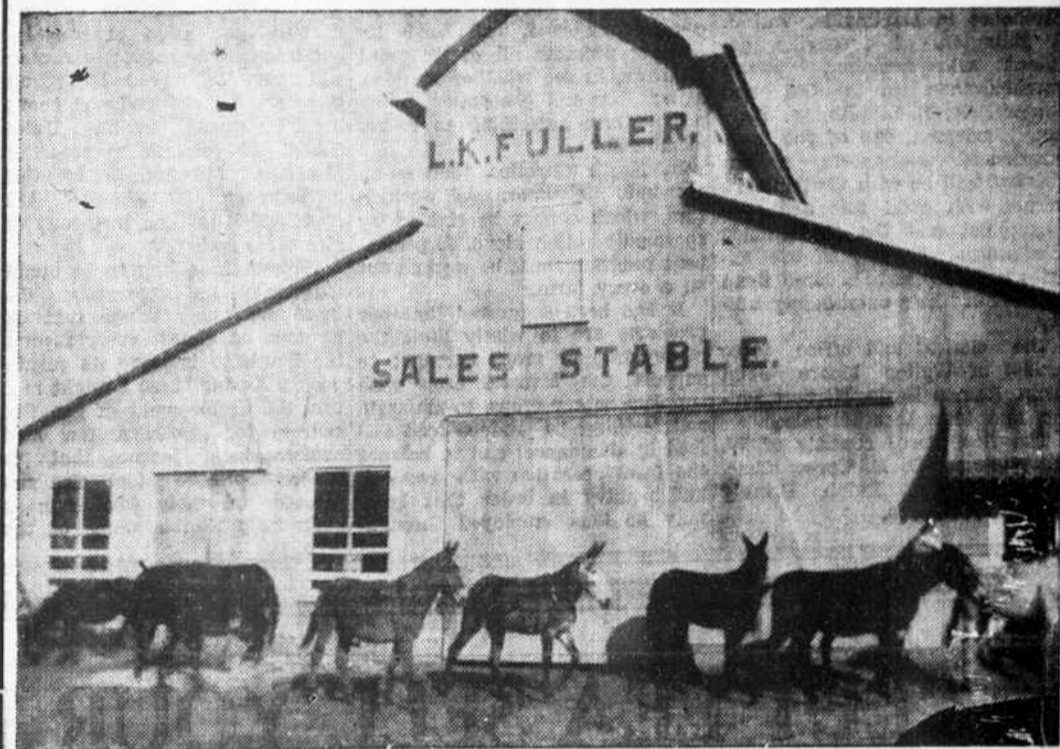
1938 Sales Card

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Thurs., Aug. 4—2nd Sale | Mon., Aug. 22—2nd Sale |
| Fri., Aug. 5—1st Sale | Tues., Aug. 23—1st Sale |
| | Wed., Aug. 24—2nd Sale |
| | Thurs., Aug. 25—1st Sale |
| | Fri., Aug. 26—2nd Sale |
| Mon., Aug. 8—2nd Sale | Mon., Aug. 29—1st Sale |
| Tues., Aug. 9—1st Sale | Tues., Aug. 30—2nd Sale |
| Wed., Aug. 10—2nd Sale | Wed., Aug. 31—1st Sale |
| Thurs., Aug. 11—1st Sale | Thurs., Sept. 1—2nd Sale |
| Fri., Aug. 12—2nd Sale | Fri., Sept. 2—1st Sale |
| Mon., Aug. 15—1st Sale | Mon., Sept. 5—2nd Sale |
| Tues., Aug. 16—2nd Sale | Tues., Sept. 6—1st Sale |
| Wed., Aug. 17—1st Sale | Wed., Sept. 7—2nd Sale |
| Thurs., Aug. 18—2nd Sale | Thurs., Sept. 8—1st Sale |
| Fri., Aug. 19—1st Sale | Fri., Sept. 9—2nd Sale |

NEW CARD WILL BE ISSUED FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON

Sell With BROOKS This Year

We have great confidence in the future of the Whiteville Tobacco Market. That is why we decided to purchase a warehouse here in preference to any other town in the Border Belt. We believe in the farmers of this territory and in their ability to raise flue cured tobacco of the finest quality. It is our desire to be of service to them this year and in the years to come in obtaining the highest market price for their product.



Isn't This True?

A farmer likes to sell his TOBACCO WHERE HE CAN GET THE MOST MONEY AND THE FAIREST DEALINGS.

A Farmer Also Likes to BUY HIS MULE WHERE HE CAN GET THE BEST ANIMAL AT THE LOWEST PRICE—Whether for CASH OR CREDIT. . . That is the reason S. L. FULLER has built up the most satisfactory Mule and Wagon Business in this entire farming section. Farmers in Columbus and adjoining counties know they can depend on S. L. FULLER & BROTHER for the FAIREST KIND OF BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE 1938 IMPROVED WAGON? You can buy a Guaranteed, Improved Wagon from FULLER at the same price as you would pay for a wagon without these additional improvements elsewhere. Come in and look over the Slidder-bar, Deeper Rim and Heavier Axle at the same old price.

PIEDMONT-HICKORY and THORNHILL WAGONS—both one and two horse—wagons with a reputation—wagons that are guaranteed both by the manufacturer and S. L. FULLER!

I CARRY AT ALL TIMES THE LARGEST STOCK OF HARNESS, COLLARS, BRIDLES, TRACES, HAMES, LINES AND PARTS OF ANY FIRM IN COLUMBUS COUNTY!

★ ★ ★
TERMS: . . . CASH OR TIME!

★ ★ ★
S. L. Fuller
WHITEVILLE, N. C.

"Welcome Farmers to the Whiteville Tobacco Market Where You Get More DOLLARS for Your Tobacco"