

# Border Belt Weed Growers Anticipating 87,480,000 Pound Crop For Season

Represent An Increase Of About 25,500,000 Pounds Over The Crop

TO STATE IS EXPECTING INCREASE

Predicts That The Yield For The Belt Has Been 952 Pounds Per Acre

E. Mann, Extension Economist, North Carolina

North Carolina tobacco growers in the border belt anticipate the 1939 crop of 87,480,000 pounds or an increase of 25,500,000 pounds over the 1938 crop, according to the July report of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington. This large increase is due to more acreage planted to flue-cured tobacco, and to a sizeable increase

Last year North Carolina growers in the border belt planted 64,500 acres of tobacco; this year they planted 81,000 acres. In 1938 the average yield per acre was 960 pounds; this year it is expected to be about 1,080 pounds, the largest yield per acre of any section of the country. The production last year was 61,920,000 pounds.

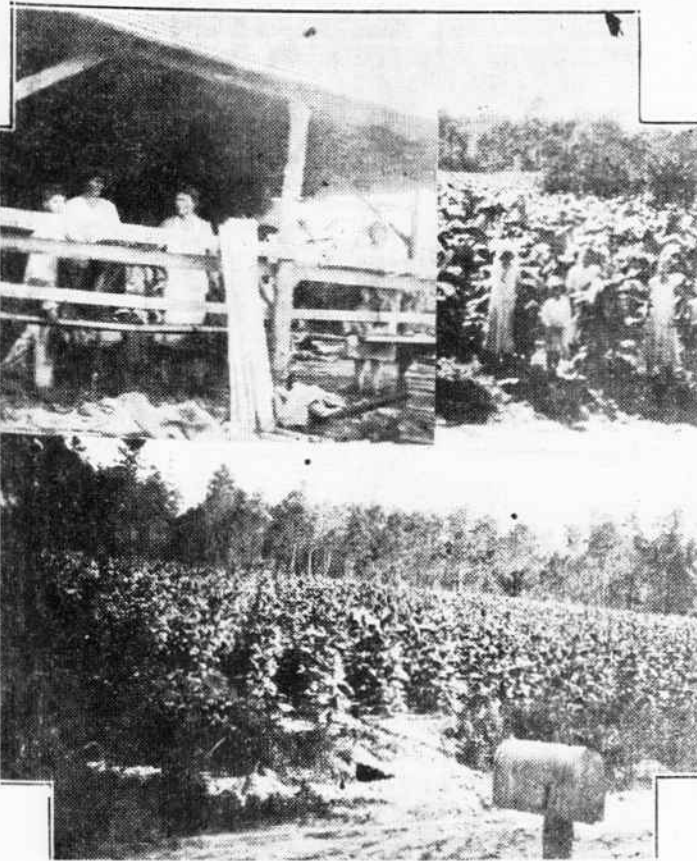
South Carolina expects a production of 121,875,000 pounds, as compared with 98,900,000 pounds last year. In that part of the border belt, 125,000 acres were planted to tobacco this year; last year 104,000 acres were harvested. The South Carolina yield in 1938 was 950 pounds per acre and this year it is expected to be 975 pounds per acre.

The 1928-37 average of production in North Carolina's border belt was 47,813,000 pounds of tobacco per year. The 1928-37 yield per acre averaged 842 pounds.

**AVERAGE YIELD 779 POUNDS**

South Carolina's average annual production from 1928

## TOBACCO—THE GOLDEN WEED



These views depict tobacco crops in Columbus county in the field and being prepared for the curing barn.

flue-cured tobacco last year, and the anticipated production this year is 240,550,000 pounds. They planted 246,000 acres in 1938 and 283,000 acres in 1939. The average yield in 1938 was 795 pounds per acre; this year they expect 850 pounds per acre.

### RESEARCH HELPS TOBACCO FARMER

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the average tobacco farm.

Perhaps John Smith feels that his tobacco yield could be stepped up if he were to change his fertilizer. Or perhaps he would like to try a rotation, or a new rotation. Without research conducted by trained workers, he would have to enter blindly upon the work, and trust to luck that he would hit his mark.

Maybe, if he were lucky, he would get definite improvement the first year. Chances are, however, that it would require years to achieve the goal he was seeking.

Such fumbling and groping have been eliminated largely through test plots set up in various tobacco-producing sections of the State. At these places, plant insects and diseases are studied closely; rotations are scattered about to determine which crops alternate best with tobacco; fertilizers and fertilizer placements are probed; cultivation practices are experimented with; and dozens of other details concerned with the growing of a crop which brought North Carolina farmers nearly \$120,000,000 last year are studied.

The work is carried on by specialists of N. C. State College, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Department, all of whom are thoroughly trained in the production of tobacco.

Any number of crops are rotated with the golden leaf in two and three-year rotations to determine their adaptability to the task of making or maintaining good tobacco soil. Corn, cotton, peanuts, wheat, and oats, all crops that rob the soil of valuable plant food, are employed in the testing. Then, the soil-building legume crops, such as soybeans, crotalaria, vetch, cowpeas, and lespedeza, are alternated with the tobacco to show their effect on yield and quality.

On another part of the test farm, fertilizer experiments are conducted. Here the scientists have watched the effect of time of application and the amount used. Maybe a rate equivalent to 500 pounds of a 3-8-6 fertilizer was applied at transplanting time, and the same amount applied 10 days later. Perhaps the last application was made 26 days later in the form of a side-dressing.

All of these things the research men watch closely. Results are not always the same, so the same test is tried several times in other sections of the field. Then the experiments are repeated year after year to make sure conclusions reached are correct.

Finally, results that have been found feasible are passed along to the thousands of Tar Heel tobacco farmers.

The vastness of the work is clearly reflected in the improved quality and better yields of North Carolina tobacco.

### TOBACCO CULTURE EMERGES INTO THE FIELD OF SCIENCE

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ly knows his business knows how to cope with these problems—when it's too dry, he knows how to stir up what little moisture the earth may contain for the benefit of his tobacco plants.

The wise farmer knows that suckered tobacco seldom burns up in the field, and that only when the suckers have been allowed to sap the strength from a stalk of tobacco and there is no more for the leaves do they burn up, in most instances.

It would be hard for a layman to define the difference between a good farmer and one not so good, but even a layman can see a vast barrier between the farmer who continuously makes money from his crop, and the unsuccessful farmer who quite as often reaps a failure from his efforts—and that barrier can be but one thing, a knowledge of the science to tobacco culture.

### Whiteville Is In Reality "The Town Tobacco Built"

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good farming land—of course, though, we don't have any such farming lands as you have down in Columbus".

Columbus tobacco farmers are blessed with rich, fertile soil easily adaptable to any crop, almost. Agriculture is not the only principal industry, but comes very near being the only industry in this vicinity.

Whiteville prides itself that it's one of the fastest growing towns in North Carolina—44 dwelling houses were erected here during the year 1938 along, to say nothing of the business houses.

Such progress as that would not have been possible except through the tobacco market, which puts money into the pockets of the people of Columbus county.

Every person in Columbus county and in Whiteville, no matter whether he is a farmer, merchant, lawyer, doctor, preacher, dentist, newspaperman, barber, or those in other walks of life, he looks forward to the sale of tobacco for his principal business.

The tobacco crop furnishes about 4-5ths of the total income of the county, which gives an insight to the general reader of the tremendous amount of importance which is attached to the tobacco crop.

Business from year to year anticipates the tobacco season with a sense of expectancy which marks the difference between success and failure. Tobacco is king in Columbus county, and everybody is ready, willing and anxious to concede that honor to the Golden Weed.

What Columbus county would be without tobacco is unpredictable, but one and all can be sure of one thing—that it's a sight better off by reason of the flourishing tobacco markets and the tobacco crops than it would be without them.

### Whiteville Tobacco Market Is Anticipating Record Breaking Season In 1939

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are located in the business section, one mile south of the courthouse, within a radius of three

blocks, ample parking space provided for cars and trucks. Growers wishing to spend the night will find conveniences at reasonable prices. Those wishing to spend a pleasant days vacation, will find Lake Waccamaw, 12 miles from Whiteville, an ideal place for fishing, boating and swimming.

### Georgia Resident Was First To Grow Weed In County

(Continued From Page 1)

er was given a copy. Mr. Emerson also had the press give tobacco growing wide publicity and asked the Southern Tobacco Journal to send experienced tobacco growers into that territory.

The result was that within three years 30,000,000 pounds of tobacco was grown in the Coastal Plain section over a territory extending from Weldon, N. C., to Sumter, S. C. It was at the time when cotton was selling at about 5 cents, when the turpentine business was about played out. I happened to be one out of the hundreds of young men who went into the Eastern part of North Carolina to instruct the tobacco growers. I was located at Whiteville and was the first to grow tobacco in that section. There are now four tobacco markets in that county (Columbus), and Whiteville is now an important tobacco market. At that time the court house was the only brick building in the county. There was not a bank in the county and there was not a farmer in the county who had a two horse

wagon. Flour was cheap but we did not get any biscuits except on Sunday mornings when the preacher happened to visit us.

I can remember distinctly when it was thought that tobacco could not be grown profitably east of Raleigh."

The combined production of bright leaf tobacco last year in the territory served by the Atlantic Coast Line was approximately 422,000,000 pounds.

Has this crop been a blessing or a curse? On the whole, I would say it has been a decided blessing to the Carolinas and to the nation. Of course, we still have some unwise farmers who plunge in planting tobacco just as they may have plunged in planting cotton. These one crop farmers are hopeless optimists and there seems to be no cure for them. They always expect to make a "killing". On the other hand, the farmer who supports his tobacco crop with supplementary crops and livestock has a small gold mine in his main money crop under normal conditions.

If you will permit me to do so I desire to call to the attention of your readers a series of tobacco articles prepared by an authority on tobacco, E. G. Moss, Tobacco Experiment Station, Oxford, N. C., published in the Progressive Farmer, commencing in the January, 1939, issue and still running. These articles by Mr. Moss contain a wealth of valuable information for Carolina tobacco growers.

## IN TOBACCO SEASON TIME IS MONEY DON'T DO THIS . . .



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W. BLACKMAN:—Second Chair. Starting his 12th season.

W. W. WHEATHAN:—From Longwood. Has the sharpest razor in town.

W. W. WHEATHAN:—The youngest barber. From Cerro Gordo. The equal of any barber.

W. W. WHEATHAN:—Shine boy extraordinary. He's good!

**COLUMBUS BARBER SHOP**  
WHITEVILLE, N. C.

through 1937 was 79,624,000 pounds, and its average yield per acre during that period was 779 pounds.

The market opens in the Border Belt on August 3. Other opening dates are: New Bright Belt, August 22; Middle Belt, September 7; and Old Belt, September 14.

A billion-pound flue-cured tobacco crop was forecast in the Nation by the Federal Crop Reporting Board. All belts show a marked increase in acreage and anticipated yields. The board reported 1,103,000 acres planted to flue-cured tobacco, and an anticipated production of 1,022,995,000 pounds.

In 1938 the 912,100 acres planted to flue-cured tobacco in the United States yielded an average of 816 pounds. The estimated acreage yield for the 1939 crop is 927 pounds, as compared to the 1928-37 average of 760 pounds.

The 1939 flue-cured crop is expected to exceed consumption by around a quarter of a billion pounds. The present indicated consumption is between 740 and 750 million pounds. The quotas fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture, which failed to receive the necessary two-thirds support of growers in the referendum last Fall, called for a crop of 754,000,000 pounds. This would have lined production with consumption, as is the purpose of the Triple-A

The April 1 report on tobacco stocks showed 909,718,000 pounds of flue-cured in the warehouses. This is more than a year's supply at present consumption levels.

Another factor which clouded the flue-cured tobacco picture recently was the report from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations in London stating that American exporters of tobacco may expect to find market prospects in European countries for flue-cured tobacco "somewhat less favorable" than during the last two seasons. This was attributed to the larger stock now on hand in Europe.

The Eastern North Carolina, or New Bright Belt, will contribute most of the increase in 1939 flue-cured production, according to the Crop Reporting Board's report, which places the indicated yield in that section at 366,000,000 pounds. This compares with a production in the New Bright Belt of 251,980,000 pounds last year, and the 1928-37 average of 262,540,000 pounds. In 1939 the growers in the New Bright Belt planted 293,000 acres and this year increased to 366,000 acres. Last year the average yield in that belt was 860 pounds; this year it is expected to be 1,000 pounds per acre.

North Carolina growers in the Old and Middle Belts combined produced 195,570,000 pounds of

# To The Tobacco Farmer

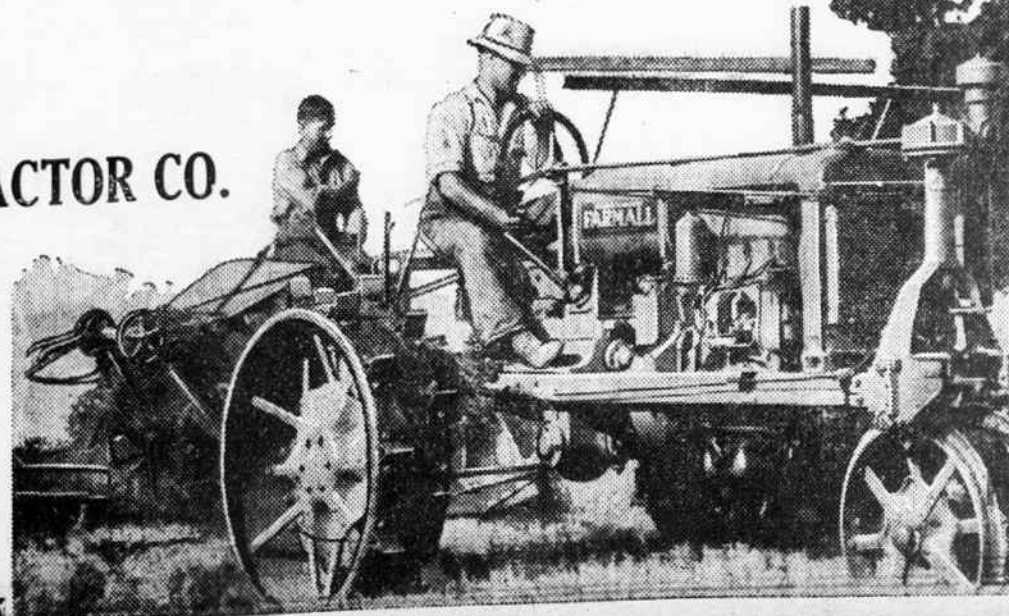
. . . goes credit for building a Great TOBACCO MARKET IN WHITEVILLE.

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**WHITEVILLE, N. C.**