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STARTLING FACTS AND FIGURES OF INTEREST TO RUTHERFORD FARMERS

What They Are Raising and What They are Buying—Diversified Crops Will Mean Prosperity

In a recent address before the Kiwanis Club at Forest City, County Agent F. E. Patton gave some most interesting figures relative to farming and farmers of Rutherford county. These statistical figures were gathered for the year 1924, and show:

Taxed acres, 330,617.
Acres in farms, 306,123.
Acres cultivated by owners 40,808.
Acres cultivated by tenants, 144,962.

Number of farmers, 3,576.
Acres lying out, cleared but not farmed, 17,074.

Acres in cotton, 35,082, valued at \$1,754,000.

Corn, 37,682 acres, valued at \$565,230.

Wheat, 4,825 acres, valued at \$72,370.

Oats, 3,109, valued at \$62,186.

Peas 919 acres, valued at \$9,190.

Beans 266 acres, valued at \$2,660.

Clover hay, 177 acres, valued at \$2,540.

Other grasses, 738 acres, valued at \$14,760.

Sweet potatoes, 1,809 acres valued at \$90,450.

Irish potatoes, 303 acres valued at \$12,120.

Melons and truck, 726 acres, valued at \$36,300.

Fruit trees 133,974.

Sows 340, Hens 71,486.

The total value of the above crops live stock, etc., is \$2,932,846.

Farmers of Rutherford county paid out in 1924 the enormous sum of \$1,462,070, distributed as follows:

Fertilizers, \$308,000.

Wheat \$156,257.

Corn \$397,390.

Meats \$270,063.

Canned goods \$50,000.

Hay \$224,160.

Oats \$56,200.

A glance at the figures easily shows that the farmers are paying out too much money for the things they should raise themselves. A di-

versification of crops will make for the prosperity of our farmers.

Along this line, The Shelby Star says editorially:

This is a critical year with Cleveland county farmers and what they plant and sow will largely determine whether agriculture will move forward or backward. If weather history repeats itself, it will be a good crop year. That is the yield will be large but if everything is planted to cotton, and food and food crops are neglected as they have been in the past, the county will be in worse condition financially than ever before. Alvin Hardin, farm demonstrator, finds that there is a total live stock population of 16,945 and that the farmers are planting just one-seventh enough forage crops to feed them. A million and a quarter dollars going out of the county last year for feed that should be grown here raises a question that should be given serious thought. If it happens again, it means further loss from the operation of farms, it means heard times and more farm loan mortgages.

Let's don't fall down again this year. Let's grow plenty of hay, oats, corn and other feed stuffs so it won't be necessary to send a million and a quarter dollars away for feeds grown in other states. Take the one item of cow peas. There was a time when they were considered legal tender at a store. A farmer could exchange them for merchandise like he does chickens, eggs, and butter, but now peas are scarce and high. The family cow can't be fed profitably on Western hay bought from cotton money. Mules and horses eat their heads off on imported corn and hay.

This is a clarion call to save the county. The banks are helping to the extent of their ability. No one denies the fact that all cotton and no feeds is a foolish and fatal policy so it behooves every farmer to help save the situation for himself and the county. The planting season is on and the time to begin raising more feeds is now—not tomorrow.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

A Rutherfordton correspondent sends us the following: Oh, for the good old days when Zeb Vance, Suttle, the Kitchens and York used to cross swords, when the Hamiltonians plead for protecting home industries by giving employment to our own labor, and the Jeffersonians would plead for equal rights to all and wave their wool hats and tell us how much they cost in North Carolina and how much less in London Town; and when we would fight and make up, and when a few dozen eggs would pay your taxes; and when we did not have much, want much or need much but a pair of jeans breeches and a few nickels.

When you could get two gallons of honest corn licker for a bushel of corn—

When the ladies stayed at home, made cookies and minded the children; and when you thought it a treat to get a peep at their pretty little ankles—

When you mashed your fellow man's nose if he thought evil of them—

When you were spanked if you looked cross-eyed on Sunday—

When you did not live in dread of turning back to a monkey—

When you could climb a rail fence and answer to the calls of nature without first having to call Raleigh on long distance—

And when the final summons came, you were not turned over to an undertaker, but laid away by your enemies as well as your friends, and a pine top was thrown on your resting place as a reminder that you had gone to your happy hunting ground in peace.

OLD TIMER.

Up until the first of May, the Board of Agriculture in Nash county, had bought and sold for its members \$56,000 worth of fertilizers, seeds, corn and other materials.

TOMATO and pepper plants.
Spring bedding plants. Green Hill Greenhouse, Green Hill, N. C.

BETTER KITCHENS RESULT FROM SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS

Raleigh, May 10.—Farm women of North Carolina are converting their kitchens into better and more convenient workshops as a result of county-wide campaigns held by the home demonstration agents.

"These kitchen campaigns are held as part of our home management work," says Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon, in charge of home demonstration work for State College. "Last year eleven such campaigns were conducted in which 326 kitchens were carried to completion. Three other counties were holding campaigns at the close of the year with 194 kitchens being improved. Beaufort county held probably the largest and most successful campaign ever put on in the state. In this movement, 102 kitchens were entered and 62 were completed."

Mrs. McKimmon states that it is interesting to hear the women tell of the improvements made in their home workshops. Some of the contestants thought they could never have a pretty, well lighted and conveniently arranged kitchen when they considered the old room as it was at the start of the campaign. But the valuable prizes offered by business men and club organizations stimulated many housewives to make an extra effort to win first place with the result that a transformed workshop was secured.

Some of the women did 100 things to improve their kitchens. Many of them painted the walls and ceiling, put linoleum on the floor, had windows cut to add light and air, built shelves and tables, put in sinks, bought new curtains, kitchen cabinets, stoves, and cooking utensils and re-arranged the objects in the kitchen for greater convenience of operation. In a number of instances, the women were so pleased with their new kitchens, that they immediately began work on other parts of the home to make the entire structure conform to the renovated work shop.



PIEDMONT COUNCIL FIELD HEADQUARTERS ESTABLISHED

The new field headquarters of the Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America, were established in Forest City on Tuesday of last week. Scout Commissioner G. R. Gillespie and Dr. A. Duncan, chairman of the Forest City committee, have secured as the offices of the field headquarters, rooms in the Kiwanis hall. Field Executive Marion is now located here giving supervision to all troops in Rutherford and adjoining counties in the Piedmont Council. Plans are being completed for one of the best and finest Boy Scout camps in the South. Every troop is given an opportunity to spend at least ten days during the summer on camp and it is expected that Rutherford county will be represented one hundred per cent. The Piedmont Council camp is located on Lake Lanier, and is one of the best camp sites that is to be found anywhere. Plans are being made for the construction of eight huts which, when completed, will house sixty-four boys, giving them comfortable sleeping quarters, plenty of fresh air and protection from all inclement weather. A handicraft lodge will be built on the camp site which will provide an educational and amusing program for the older and younger boys on camp.

The handicraft lodge will be built with forges, carpenters tools, leatherworking tools, woodcarving tools, and all other necessary equipment to give the boys an interesting craftsmanship program. Several big war canoes have been donated the Piedmont Council by the Civic Clubs of Gastonia. The war canoe is a large canoe which will take care of eight to twelve boys under leadership. These canoes eliminate all possibilities of water accidents. The swimming program is an important part in the camp routine. The swimming program includes the motto, "Every Scout a Swimmer."

COURT OF HONOR MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Rutherford county court of honor will be held in Cliffside, on May 14, at 7 p. m. All troops in Rutherford county are expected to be represented.

BOY SCOUT TROOP AT CLIFFSIDE ACTIVE

The Boy Scout troop at Cliffside under the leadership of Scoutmaster B. E. Roach has been making wonderful progress. A number of new scouts were recently taken in as members of his troop where vacancies existed. Scoutmaster Roach says that he is expecting a great summer for his troop. A plot of ground has been secured near the Cliffside troop headquarters and the twenty-one boys in his troop are cultivating this ground and hope to realize quite a substantial sum to pay for their camping expenses at Lake Lanier this summer.

BOY SCOUT TROOP AT ALEXANDER MILL

Thursday night, May 6, at 7 o'clock p. m., Field Executive Marion Harman met with Mr. T. A. Moore, of the Alexander Mill and a group of 15 boys to organize a troop of Boy Scouts. Field Executive Harman spoke to the boys on the possibilities in the scouting program and on the proposed projects for the coming summer and fall for Rutherford county and the Piedmont Council. The summer camp was discussed and under the organization of the troop every scout will be given an opportunity to spend a period in camp. Mr. T. A. Moore will serve as the scoutmaster of the troop. The greater number of the boys who were present at this meeting were former members of a troop at Alexander. These boys promise to give the other Rutherford county troops a real demonstration of scouting activities.

Mr. A. L. Morris, of Rutherfordton, is having vapor heat installed in his beautiful home in Rutherfordton, by the Farmer's Hardware Co.

Sorghum will make as good silage as corn and will give better returns during a dry year, state agronomists at State College.

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