

# The Mountain Daily News

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## Census Report Reveals Interesting Facts About Surry

### Shows County To Be Far From Self-Supporting in the Production of Food Stuffs—In Letter to W. J. Byerly District Farm Agent E. S. Millsaps Points Out Wherein There is a Virgin Field in Surry County For Farm Demonstration Work

For months now our County Commissioners have had under discussion the question of whether or not it was advisable to employ a farm demonstration agent, the federal government paying one-half the cost of the employment. The matter at the last two meetings of the Commissioners received their most serious consideration and one of the Commissioners, Mr. Alex Chatham, of Elkin, after making a tour of several counties in the state where the farm agent work is going on, was so thoroughly impressed with the work that he came back unqualifiedly advocating the employment of an agent. But the final action of the board in the employment of an agent remains pigeon-holed in the archives of Surry's court house.

At the meeting of the Commissioners the first Monday in September Mr. E. S. Millsaps, who has been district farm agent in this state for a number of years, presented the board a statement of the farming situation in this county as was revealed by the federal census taken in 1920. And it might be said that where the average farm made a poor showing at that time, if the facts were known the situation is even worse today.

The letter of Mr. Millsaps in regard to Surry's farming statistics was addressed to Mr. Byerly, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and is published below as one that will prove of valuable information to the people of the county:

Statesville, N. C., Sept. 4, 1925.  
Mr. W. J. Byerly, Chairman,  
Surry County Commissioners,  
Mt. Airy, N. C.

Dear Sir:  
I am handing you herewith some data taken from the 1920 Census report on the agricultural condition of Surry county. These data may aid you in deciding whether the farmers of Surry county need any agricultural assistance. You will see by reference to these statistics that the total population of Surry county increased 10 per cent during the decade from 1910 to 1920, and that your urban population increased during the same period 23.6 which embraces Mt. Airy town alone. The rural population embraces your villages including the town of Elkin. The population of Elkin increased during that period 34.8 per cent. When the other villages of the county are considered, the real farm population of the county during the decade increased very little.

As shown by the Census report, the number of farms in the county decreased during the period by 122 or 3 per cent. The increase in acreage in farms was a little more than 3 per cent. The decrease in improved land in farms was more than 7 per cent. The value of farm property during the period increased amazingly, more than 157 per cent.

The number of horses and mules, which means only work stock and does not include the young stock, amounted to 5,162, which is a little more than one and one-fourth horses per farm. The beef cattle for the entire county amounts to only 560, which is very low considering the acreage of rough land that should be in pasture in the county. You fare little better in the matter of dairy cattle, 8,312, but that includes young cattle. If the calves and heifers are taken from that number the producing cows would probably not amount to more than 7,000, which would mean not more than one and three-quarter cows per farm. That is scarcely enough to furnish the farm population with milk to say nothing of a few dairymen whose cows are included in the number and who furnish milk to the towns.

The small animals are almost negligible. The census report shows only 128 sheep, when there ought to be that many thousand. The report shows 7,604 hogs which would mean less than two hogs per farm. It would be necessary for the county to produce three or four times that many hogs in order to supply the meat consumed in the county. The only other item in the small animal group shows 100,964 chickens, but when that item is analyzed a little it will be found that it amounts to less than 4 chickens per capita for the county

population, and would be only 25 chickens per farm. The total number of farms in the county should average at least 50 hens per farm, and even then the county would be a rather small producer of poultry or poultry products in comparison to the farms of Iowa or some other of the rich agricultural states.

Your corn acreage looks pretty good, 29,472 acres, but when analyzed it is found that it amounts to only about 7 acres per farm, and as the average yield is 15 bushels it will be found that the corn produced per farm is only about 112 bushels—a mere fraction of the amount necessary to allow the people a small amount of cornbread and mush and feed the livestock. The acreage in oats is small amounting to less than 3 acres per farm. In the matter of wheat it is not much better. The acreage runs less than 4 acres per farm, which would mean a yield of less than 30 bushels per farm, and as the average farm population would be 5 it will be seen that the wheat produced is not enough to feed the farm population alone.

Coming down to legumes, it is found that the entire county had only 25 acres in soybeans in 1920 and only 161 in cowpeas. These two crops are the leading soil improving crops as well as fine hay producing crops for livestock, and yet the acreage and production are so low as to be negligible. The acreage in each of these crops should be increased to the extent that each farm in the county would be growing each year anywhere from 5 to 15 acres each. Your total acreage in hay crops in 1920 amounted to 8,656, and a production of 5,741 tons, that would amount to about one and three-fourths tons, which added to the forage from the corn crop and the wheat straw, includes your roughage for the entire animal population of the county, and this is entirely inadequate to supply even a very poor ration. I am informed that the town of Elkin ships in several hundred car loads of hay each year, and I do not doubt that the same is true of your town of Mt. Airy as well as the smaller shipping points in the county.

Your tobacco crop for 1924 according to the N. C. Farm Census of that year amounted to 18,334 acres, and tobacco was grown on 3,093 farms. The value of the crop is not given, but of course the tobacco crop is the most valuable crop probably produced in the county. However, the money received for tobacco is largely spent for feed and food to supply the farm population and the farm animals, to say nothing of the city of Mount Airy and the other non-producing populations in the county.

The Census report shows some cash receipts such as dairy products, chickens and eggs, honey and wax, and wool. This amounts to less than \$175,000. The report also shows the value of the crops, but as these crops with the exception of tobacco, are consumed on the farms, they do not mean cash receipts. The tobacco crop would be worth on an average about 2 millions of dollars, but this item while it looks rather large, divided among the 4,000 farms, would mean only about \$500 per farm, which is ridiculously low cash income for a farm family of 5 people, three of whom would be farm workers. It would mean only \$250 or perhaps less to be divided among the farm workers, and out of this must be purchased the automobile, clothing, food deficit, to pay taxes, to pay doctor's bills, and to pay the preacher—and of course the preacher does not get much.

Considering all these things, it is not to be wondered at that your young people are leaving the farm and going to the cities where they may earn from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day, and even though they may not save much of the money, they have the pleasure of spending it.

With such a small farm income, every business enterprise in the county languishes to a certain extent, because of the small purchasing power of these farm workers. Every bank in the county has small deposits, comparatively, because of the fact that farmers have such a small amount of money to deposit in the

## BURNS A NEGRO AT STAKE

### Mississippi Mob of 1,000 Takes Prisoner From Sheriff—He Had Confessed Crime

New Albany, Miss., Sept. 20.—L. Q. Ivy, negro timber cutter, was burned at the stake by a mob which had taken him from officers near here this afternoon.

Ivy, according to Sheriff John W. Roberts, confessed that he attacked the daughter of a farmer in the Etah community 18 miles from here Friday. He was returned to the scene of the attack and burned to death.

Over a 1,000 persons were in the mob which took the negro from Sheriff Roberts of Union county and Sheriff Reese of Lee county. While about 400 were lynching him, many of the others were searching for three negroes alleged to have been implicated in the crime by Ivy.

### Negro Confesses

The negro was brought to Aberdeen this afternoon so that the girl could identify him as the attacker. On arriving at a local hospital where the girl is in a serious condition, the negro confessed the crime after his victim identified him. Sheriff Roberts declared. Members of the mob blocked every road leading out of New Albany. The two sheriffs started at a high speed in the direction of Holly Springs, followed by hundreds of automobiles.

About eight miles from New Albany, the sheriff's car ran into a barricade of automobiles stretched across the road. The mob closed in from every direction.

Not a shot was fired by the officers, Sheriff Roberts declaring later that resistance was useless.

### Takes Negro Away

Ivy was one of a crew of timber cutters who were working in New Albany Friday near a corn field in which the girl was attacked. Although she was in a serious physical condition the girl reached her home and the alarm was spread. Hundreds of farmers from the Etah community were in Aberdeen Friday, but Sheriff Roberts escaped with the negro to Aberdeen.

Leaders of the mob learned of the intention of officers to bring the negro back today, and every road was watched. They blocked the roads into the town after the town officers had entered New Albany with their prisoner.

After they had seized the negro the mob started the march back to Etah with cries of "burn him."

Piles of brush were heaped around the stake to which the negro was tied and he screamed as they were ignited. In a few moments his body was enveloped in flames and his outcries stilled.

## Snow and Quake Join To Give Helena Thrill

Helena, Mont., Sept. 19.—Snow and earthquakes were experienced here today. A sharp, short tremor was felt at 3:45 o'clock this morning but did no property damage. It stopped the clock on the Court House tower.

The quake came as a climax to an unusual September storm during which three inches of wet, heavy snow fell. The snow did heavy damage to trees. Street car service was hampered and electric light and power service was halted temporarily.

A heavy snow was reported at Great Falls. Despite the fact that temperatures were above freezing, the snow lay to a depth of several inches early today. Several other Montana points reported snow.

Malnourished children in Cleveland schools are gathered into special classes conducted by the nutrition clinics. They "graduate" when they attain the weight required for their age and height.

banks. If the farm income could be pushed up to three or four times what it now is, and it should be and can, the farmers would have many times the amount of money that would pass through the banking institutions of the county. A prosperous rural population means prosperous business enterprises for the towns and cities.

I have made these few remarks on the census statistics, and I am calling your attention to them, but leaving the matter to you and your associates to decide whether the county as a whole should make any effort to improve the rural condition of your fine county.

Yours truly,

E. S. Millsaps,  
District Agent.

## WAIT ON PRICES IN EASTERN BELT

### Tobacco Growers Waiting Patiently to See What Will Happen

News & Observer, Sept. 19.

Reports from the Eastern North Carolina tobacco belt indicate that the first rush of the weed to market has given way to "watchful waiting." Tobacco is still being sold in large quantities at the big market centers like Wilson, Rocky Mount, Greenville and Kingston, but the congestion of the first of the month has slackened up.

Another two weeks will tell the story as to whether or not the promise of better prices will become a reality. Prices have already improved, it is explained, but this has been due mostly to the fact that better grades of tobacco have been offered. As a general proposition the price level has not been raised much above 15 cents for most of the tobacco.

### Last Year's Slump

While the report of an average of 18 cents for the Fairmont-Lumberton-Whiteville tobacco markets has been hailed as a good omen, it is explained that this is really a low level and that the fact that tobacco sold for 17 cents in that section last year was due to weather conditions, which produced a sorry crop of tobacco. The weather conditions last year were unusually bad, and this is declared to have caused the slump in prices.

It is pointed out that the weather conditions this year while not ideal have generally been favorable to tobacco. The first offerings were said to have been below expectations and sorrier than had been looked for in view of the long dry spell, but the quality generally is said to be good. The tobacco growers have crowded the Eastern markets with their primings because they are difficult to keep in wet weather, and this was one cause of the congestion at the first of the month, and added to the depression.

### Slump Brought Depression

While generally the quality of tobacco higher up the stalk is said to be good, the slump in price brought a great depression because it is conceded that the cotton crop in the Eastern belt will be much shorter than first expected. It did not rain in August, but the boll weevil got in much of his deadly work just the same, and it is said that in many sections there is practically no August crop of cotton.

Until the slump in tobacco prices, Eastern North Carolina considered itself in clover. It looked forward to a bountiful tobacco crop, which is still in prospect, and also to fair tobacco prices. Then, it was thought that there would be a good cotton crop with fair prices. Coincident with the slump in tobacco prices came reports of the cutting off of the cotton crop. This brought discouragement not only to the farmers but also to the business men.

Growing Spirit of Unity  
lina indicate that more thinking is being done in that section than ever before. There is an absence of conversation on meaningless subjects.

The animosity that had grown up in recent years over the co-operative marketing movement is said to have been largely removed with a spirit of give and take and an absence of questioning of motives in evidence. There is said to be a growing spirit of unity among the people of Eastern North Carolina with the realization that after all they have common battles to fight and common causes to support.

It is stated that this evidence of a common interest has been intensified by the realization that a half dozen large tobacco corporations with interests running into millions dominate and control the prices on Eastern Carolina markets. Each corporation uses special kinds of tobacco in the manufacture of its products, and there is said to be little competition between the various sets of buyers.

## Walks Barefoot For 400 Miles On Election Bet

Philadelphia, Sept. 18.—Feet blistered, but spirits high, Robert A. Loar an attorney of Fairmont, W. Va., who last fall made a bet with a friend that if John W. Davis, the Democratic presidential candidate, was not elected, he would walk barefooted from his home to Tammany Hall, New York, arrived here Saturday en route to the latter city.

Loar chose to make the 400 mile walk rather than pay the forfeit which, under the terms of the contract drawn up between the two men, stated he would have to vote the Republican ticket, open ballot before two witnesses in 1925.

## Raising of Hogs Makes Eastern Carolina Farm Pay

### F. P. Latham Making Money By Keeping His Farm Land at Work

(By F. H. Jeter in Raleigh News & Observer)

About the busiest farm acres that I have seen in North Carolina are the some 225 being farmed near Belhaven in Beaufort county by F. P. Latham and his son, Harry Latham, who together are the proprietors of Circle Grove Farm. Those acres never get a rest. They work winter, summer, fall and spring and when they are not growing some money producing crops such as peanuts, Irish potatoes, cotton, and corn, they are covered with soybeans, clovers and pasture grasses. Over their level green acres grass beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, poultry and swine and from them during the present year over \$9,000 worth of hogs have procured a good living and later wended their way to the markets of Richmond.

It is always a pleasure to visit Circle Grove Farm and trudge about over it in the wake of the senior proprietor. One accustomed to riding on the cushions of automobiles or walking the smooth surface of city streets would hardly find much of pleasure after about two hours of steady going. He would have to jump vines of the Virginia Bunch peanuts which seem to grow to fullest capacity on the tile drained soil of this farm; he would become entangled in the wilderness of soybeans growing to his shoulders in the six feet rows of corn and he would become completely bewildered when some 300 or more energetic porkers surrounded him in the pastures provided for these animals. But if he wanted to see good farming and hear just how it was done by a man who is doing it and knows where he is headed, these minor difficulties would only fill his heart with joy. They in themselves, are signs of success.

Mr. Latham is known as a successful grower of hogs. It is with these animals that he has made probably the most money that he and his son obtain from their farming operations but, while the swine probably furnish the most cash, it is the work done with corn that gives Mr. Latham his greatest satisfaction. For over 22 years he had bred Latham's Double Corn. No other variety has been grown on the place during this time and the first selections were made by his father. Because of the painstaking efforts to get a good variety adapted to Eastern Carolina and the careful selections made in the field year after year, Latham's Double has established a reputation for its originator in which he takes more joy than any other feature of the farm work.

This year, he has in over 120 acres to corn. In one field of 14 acres he will secure an average yield of between 70 and 75 bushels per acre and the whole acreage will return an average of at least 45 bushels while at the same time it will produce at least ten bushels per acre of soybeans. This corn has two ears to nearly every stalk. It has a deep grain, a small cob and a well-filled ear. It has been bred to resist grain weevil attacks and it has a high percentage of grain.

### Grows Soybeans

But Mr. Latham is known outside of North Carolina for his success with soybeans. He grows about four varieties including the Mammoth Yellow, Biloxi, Tokio and to a less extent, Virginia. This year, he is trying out for the United States Department of Agriculture a new bean, the Dixie. The Mammoth Yellow is his main crop bean. The Tokio is grown largely in the corn and there are soybeans in each of the 120 acres devoted to corn with an additional 30 acres growing in rows for harvesting the seed. Mr. Latham states that his average yield of seed beans from those grown in rows will run from 20 to 25 bushels per acre.

Nearly every farmer who visits Circle Grove Farm wants to know about how the hogs are raised.

"I begin my hog year on April 1," says Mr. Latham. "At this time I clean up or sell out all the marketable stuff. At this time too, the spring farrow is about over and the crimson clover or oats and rye sowed in the cotton fields of the past fall are ready for grazing. This permits our permanent pasture to get a start without the stock going on it too early. The clovers are turned about

May 15 to June 1 and the hogs are then ready to leave the cover crops to go into the pasture. My pasture is seeded to blue grass, alsike clover, lespedeza and Bermuda. Of course, Dallas grass and carpet grass are also plentiful being native grasses to this section.

Kept on Pasture  
"Adjoining the permanent pasture is a field of oats. I have, as one can see, my permanent pasture in about the center of the farm. The pigs are put on the oats to supplement the pasture about June 1. This will carry them until the first of July when the oats are turned and the land planted to soy beans. Through July and August, we have a bean field ready for use of either the Haberlandt or Virginia variety and this field is ready by not later than August 15. We try to have enough beans then available for grazing until the new corn comes in when we start to feeding some corn to balance the grazing. There are also beans in the corn.

"About September 15 or October 1, the pigs have cleaned up the early crop of beans at which time the field is cut and planted to clover. The hogs then go into the first field of corn ready and are carried through late September and early October. The fall farrow comes from September 15 to October 15.

"If the first corn field is cleaned up by October 20, the field is sowed to clover, if later, the field is sowed to oats. But by this time, our corn is all hard and a field is ready for the pigs as fast as they are ready for it. In these fields, we can get no cover crop because of the hogs grazing, but the great mass of soy bean waste and the residue of the corn crop, together with the droppings from the pigs makes little need of the cover crop. These fields carry the pigs until January. They clean up the fields during the winter and we feed them enough corn to make them come to the barn each night.

"By February first, our pigs go to the feed lot where they are finished for 6 to 8 weeks with corn, fish meal and soy bean meal. We clean up everything by April first and generally sell two or three cars of good, finished hogs. We try to arrange for more if the market justifies such action."

Six Carloads This Year  
This past year Mr. Latham sold three cars on March 9, and later on April 6 sold another car, some of which he purchased from neighbors; but the market remained good and so during August, he sold an additional two cars using some of the animals that he intended to feed during the coming winter. These were pushed however and brought a good price. The pigs sold this year brought in gross about \$9,000 to Circle Grove farm and in addition they grazed crop residues and ate waste material or the grazing crops which flourish on the farm.

Mr. Latham also has some 20 acres to cotton, all of which will produce at least one bale per acre. He has 40 acres to permanent pasture and keeps about 40 head of beef cattle. He has his own milk cows which supply a plentiful flow of milk for the two Latham families and he plants about 30 acres to Irish potatoes for the early market.

In fact one is struck by the fact that every cleared acre of Circle Grove Farm is made to work. About the house, even in the fence corners there are magnificent pecan trees. Here and there is a walnut and to one side, the grape arbor. Mr. Latham has recently set out a good acreage to a young pecan grove and believes that it will in time furnish a good income.

He believes it best to have only a small farm and to so rotate his crops that legumes will go on each acre during the year. Though he makes fine yield of crops, his soil is steadily increasing in fertility. There is not a pound of purchased nitrogen under some of his best corn this year, but he has added the necessary nitrogen to the soil by using legumes in the crop rotation.

Mr. Latham is a thinking farmer. He is well read and studies constantly. Together with his son, a combination of energy and thoughtfulness is secured which in farming is hard to beat. At least one would think so if he would join the increasingly large army of visitors who journey to Circle Grove Farm each season to study the results being secured.