

Farm Review & Forecast



MINTON BEACH, JR.

Beach Urges Large Vote

By MINTON BEACH, JR.
President, N. C. Peanut Growers Association

As president of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association and as a producer of peanuts for many years, I urge every peanut grower to go to the polls on November 23 and cast their vote for a continuation of the peanut marketing quota program for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968.

I know of nothing that a peanut farmer can do that is more important to his personal economy and the economy of the peanut producing counties of North Carolina than for him to do all within his power, not only to vote himself, but to see that all of his tenants, or anyone else who is eligible to vote in the peanut referendum on November 23rd to vote.

I am confident that with the exceptionally fine crop, both from the standpoint of quality and production, that we have produced this year that without a support program the price of peanuts in the market place would have been close to one-half the price which we are receiving today which would be about 6 1/2 cents a pound.

I am sure that under the present operating and farming conditions that the peanut farmer receiving such prices would be thrown into bankruptcy. We do not have surplus peanuts produced in the Virginia - Carolina area in very many of the years in which the support program has been in operation; however, in those years in which surplus peanuts were produced, it has been strongly evident that without the price support program disastrously low prices would have occurred.

I have heard it said by some farmers, "the vote will carry, why should I go vote?" A man who makes this statement is really not being much thinking. It takes two-thirds of those voting to vote favorably in order that the vote will carry and a person intending to vote yes who stays home could well be classified as a vote against the program. Furthermore, our farm programs have to be supported by the legislators in Congress in Washington and one of the great yardsticks which they use in measuring farmer interest in commodity programs is the number of eligible voters who come out and vote as well as the number who vote for the program.

I urge and plead with every peanut grower who enjoys receiving 11 cents to 14 cents per pound for their peanuts to not only go to the ASCS polling places on Nov. 23 and vote for the program but to make sure that he carries someone else with him to the polls who can also vote. Better still, use his car and haul people to the polls as long as there is a single eligible voter within the community that he knows of who has not voted.

Many Forest Fires Caused By Hunters

JACKSON - County Forest Ranger Leroy Wheeler noted this week that there has been a sharp increase in the number of hunter-caused forest fires.

These fires are apparently being caused by both hunters smoking cigarettes and hunters trying to "smoke" game from hollow trees, he stated.

A new influx of hunters is expected as additional seasons for most game animals and birds open within the next few weeks.

Because of the dry, hazardous conditions of the woods, Wheeler requests that hunters be particularly careful that all cigarettes and matches are dead before they are thrown away. He also asks that no warning fires be started in the woods until a general rain falls in the county.

Proposed Cotton Program Will Run Next Four Years

RALEIGH - Roanoke-Chowan area farmers will vote on November 23 for a new cotton program which will run for four years. A two-thirds majority vote will be required in order to put the new cotton program into effect next year. If growers fail to approve the marketing quota for cotton in 1966, federal price and income support will only be available to those who plant within the allotment and only at a level of 50 per cent of parity. If quotas are approved, the cotton program as provided in the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 will go into effect.

Choiceless A wide range of choices will be available to cotton producers under the 1965 act if quotas are approved. There are several choices related to planting or not planting cotton allotments. A farmer may sell his allotment without having to sell any cotton. He may lease his allotment for a period not to exceed four years. He may release it under the annual release and reapportionment provisions of earlier legislation. He may replace it in a cropland adjustment program for five to 10 years, providing this opportunity is available in his county. He may want to plant all or a portion of his allotment.

General Provisions
1. The 16 - million acre minimum national allotment remains in effect.
2. Annual release and reapportionment remains in effect. If a farmer releases his allotment next year, he will receive diversion payments on 12 1/2 per cent of the released acreage. The remaining 87 1/2 per cent of the released acreage would be available for reapportionment.

3. The support price next year has been set at 21 cents per pound at average location. In North Carolina the support price on Middling one-inch cotton will be approximately 21 1/2 cents.

4. For the first time farmers will be able to sell their allotments within their county or make lease contracts for periods not to exceed four years. If the cross-county lease or sale referendum is approved on November 23, producers will then be able to lease or sell their allotment to farmers in other counties within the state. If this aspect of the referendum is disapproved in any county, then a similar referendum will be conducted again the following year.

5. The cropland adjustment program allows farmers to make five to 10 year contracts with the government to take out of production all the acreage of at least one surplus commodity. Cotton may be excluded from the cropland adjustment program in 1966 provided such request is made by the ASCS county committee.

6. For purposes of participating in the program, farms are divided into large and small farms. Small farms are those with 10 acres or less of effective allotment (after release and reapportionment) and other farms where the projected yield from the effective allotment is 3600 pounds or less. All other farms are classified as large farms.

Large Farms At least 12 1/2 per cent reduction from the farm acreage allotment as established after release and reapportionment is required in 1966. Price support or other program benefits are desired. Under the minimum diversion situation producers would receive price supports on cotton produced, price support payments on domestic allotment (which is 65 per cent of their effective allotment), and diversion payments on the 12 1/2 per cent of allotment diverted. The price support payment is computed at the rate of 9.42 cents per pound times the projected farm yield times 65 per cent of their effective allotment. Diversion payments are computed at the rate of 10 1/2 cents per pound times the projected yield times the acreage diverted, which in this case is 12 1/2 per cent of the effective allotment. Diverted acreage must be used for conservation purposes and not planted to other income-producing commodities.

Additional diversions above the 12 1/2 per cent minimum will be permitted up to a level where total diversion will not exceed 35 per cent of the effective allotment. In this case, price support payments will be available on 65 per cent of the effective allotment and diversion payments on acreage diverted.

Small Farms Small farms will not be required to reduce plantings below their effective allotment in order to qualify for price support payments and diversion payments. Small farmers planting all of their allotment will receive price support payments on 65 per cent of their allotment and diversion payments on 35 per cent of their allotment, even though no acreage is actually diverted. If small farmers elect to reduce their plantings, they

will receive additional diversion payments on acreage actually diverted not to exceed 35 per cent of their effective allotment.

Northampton County

Soil Conservation Notes

By JOHN B. LITCHFIELD
Soil Conservation Service

Mitchell E. Lewis, of Roanoke Rapids, has applied to the Northampton Soil and Water Conservation District for help in working out a conservation farm plan. He says control of erosion is one of the problems he wants to tackle first. He plans to build parallel terraces to break the slopes into short sections and set a pattern for contour farming.

Soil Conservation Technicians H. R. Bryant and J. F. Britton, of the Soil Conservation Service, staked 6000 feet of parallel terraces and two grassed waterways for J. R. Vaughan last week. Mr. Vaughan built terraces on the field several years ago as part of his conservation farm plan. The new parallel terraces will replace the old ones, which are now out of date. They will permit a better row arrangement and use of larger equipment.

Mrs. Mary L. Joyner, of Lew-

That Nov. 23 Referendum Needs Vote Of Everyone

Much has been said and much could be said about the need for the peanut and cotton farmers to show up at the polls in large numbers on November 23rd to vote. It has been carrying out her conservation farm plan by stages over a period of several years. This has included several practices fitted to the needs of the land. Last week, fifteen hundred feet of parallel terraces were laid out. These will be built with farm equipment. Terraces that were built last year have paid off well in protecting the land in conventional field arrangement.

Something to think about - one bush of topsoil off of one acre weighs 162 tons.

Eugene W. Brown, of Rich Square, is revising his conservation farm plan. The revision covers additional land he has bought along with some changes in the original plan. He says the Cutawhiskie Creek Watershed project has made it possible for him to apply conservation practices more effectively than he could before. Until this project was completed he had no outlet at all for drainage.

more than two-thirds of those eligible and voting do not vote for the program, it will be discontinued as we now know it; (2) a small vote indicates to the law makers in Washington a lack of interest on the part of the farmers in their programs and dangerously affects farm leaders to get legislative support in Washington on general farm programs. As a matter of fact, it actually gives the opponents to farm programs a good arguing point, indicating that farmers are not interested in legislative programs.

Timber Owners Can Get Assist

JACKSON - The N. C. Forest Service again offers assistance with timber problems to Northampton County timber owners. This year, assistance includes help with insects and diseases of timber, sales, advice, timber management, and pulpwood and sawtimber marking.

The Forest Management specialist for this area is Robert L. Tyson located in Rocky Mount. Tyson is a graduate of N. C. State University in Forest Management.

Anyone desiring any forest management service can contact Leroy Wheeler, Northampton County Ranger at phone LE-4-3131 or can write Mr. Tyson, direct at P. O. Box 89, Rocky Mount.

ment would receive no support. If we can't get mad enough to vote, then let us reverse the situation and be happy about the price support program - get all of our eligible voter neighbors and joyfully go to the polls and cast all the possible ballots in favor of continuing the program for 1966, 1967 and 1968 and thus show our joyful appreciation of the program to the Congress in Washington who has made it possible. It is much easier to retain the program with full support at the polls than it is to try to get the program restored if, through our own negligence, we let it get defeated.

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- Plan Ahead -**
(1) Select your peanut fields carefully.
(2) Omit unproductive areas.
(3) Avoid fields that were in soybeans last year.
(4) Make sure that you plant your full allotment.
- Soil Samples -**
(1) Now is the time to select peanut fields for next year's crop.
(2) Take soil samples as soon as possible and submit to soil testing laboratory.
(3) Bring laboratory report by the office for review and discussion.
(4) Broadcast lime and fertilizer according to recommendations.
(5) Cut and disc cotton and corn stalks as soon as crop is harvested.
(6) Break land as soon as possible.

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- Seed Peanuts -**
Check your peanut seed now to avoid extra expense and stand problem next Spring.
(1) Have TZ test run soon to determine germination and energy value.
(2) Quality seed should have germination 90% or better; 80% or better energy.
(3) Collect germination sample when seed are taken out of the curing house or from the hopper when picked by stationary picker. Collect a handful from each bag or 100 pounds to make sample. Mix sample thoroughly and shell one pint to be used for test. Each lot of seed should be tested separately. Remember the test is no better than the sample.
(4) Seed peanuts should never be stored at more than 10% moisture or less than 8% moisture. Excessive moisture causes seed to deteriorate in storage. On the other hand, a low moisture content (below 7%) will cause skin slippage and splits when shelled.
(5) Store seed in a cool, dry rodent free storage place.
(6) If your peanuts are not suitable for seed purposes, make arrangements now for purchasing good seed.
(7) Place your order now for Foundation NC-2's, NC-5's, and Florigiant's.

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- Know Your Varieties -**
Florigiant—runner—early maturing (skin color pale)
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Va. 61-R—runner—medium early variety
NC-1—bunch—intermediate variety
NC-4X—bunch—intermediate variety
NC-2—semi-bunch—intermediate variety
Ga. 119-20—bunch—late variety
NC-5—semi-runner—late variety (skin color blond)

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