

FARM REVIEW and FORECAST

Effectiveness of FHA, SCS Improved By Cooperation

RALEIGH — A joint memorandum of cooperation designed to improve effectiveness of programs and better serve the public was signed January 18 by James T. Johnson, State Director of Farmers Home Administration, and Jesse L. Hicks, State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

The memorandum between the two U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies spells out areas of mutual interest and provides for joint efforts on both the local and state level.

"Actually, we are reaffirming our support of the close working relationship that FHA and SCS have enjoyed for years," the two agency heads said in a joint statement, "but we believe this formal step will lend impetus to the recognized program."

FHA programs cover rural housing, farming operations, and community services, including water and sewer systems and solid waste disposal. SCS covers soil and water conservation problems, soil surveys and maps, land use, and a wide variety of conservation activities. SCS also had leadership for resource conservation and development projects, a multi-level operation and water shed projects.

Areas of cooperation will be provision of soils data by the Soil Conservation Service, to pick best sites for Farmers Home Administration housing, joint efforts to work with changes in land use, work with regional development

commissions and multi-county planning and development groups.

Each agency will advise people of services available from the cooperating agency; for example, FHA will advise loan applicants of the opportunity and advantage to becoming a cooperator with the local soil and water conservation district, and completing a conservation plan on his land.

SCS will inform individuals and groups of landowners involved in SCS conservation programs of the availability of credit counseling from FHA and the possibility of obtaining financial assistance.

Both the Soil Conservation Service and Farmers Home Administration have been active in assisting citizens and governmental units to develop sanitary landfills, with technical advice on location and construction coming from SCS and financial assistance from FHA.

"We believe this is going to result in a new high mark in joint efforts between our agencies, since we have identified so many areas of interest," said James T. Johnson of FHA. "I fully agree," said Jesse Hicks of SCS, "and main beneficiary will be the people, including groups of people and governmental units, that we serve."

Regular meetings are planned to continue implementation of the joint memorandum of cooperation. This memorandum replaces a previous similar agreement signed in 1966.

NCCPA Meeting Feb. 6

Newsman Explore Farm Issues

RALEIGH — Taxes and environmental problems — major concerns of farmers in 1973 — will be explored at the annual Farm Press, Radio and TV Institute, to be held in Raleigh on February 16.

"Who'll be meddling in farming next?" is the theme selected for the Institute, according to an announcement from Jack Hankins of Kinston, president of the N. C. Farm Writers and Broadcasters Association, and W. L. Carpenter, Head, Department of Agricultural Information, N. C. State University. The two organizations co-sponsor the annual Institute.

Hankins and Carpenter pointed out that farmers are facing a multitude of regulations and pressures from government and environmentalists and other groups. A law passed by the 1972 federal congress can result in fines up to \$1,000 and imprisonment up to 30 days for farmers violating pesticide handling and application rules. One of the touchy issues in the 1973 North Carolina General Assembly is expected to be the question of farm land taxation.

These topics, plus soil and water management and livestock waste disposal, will be discussed at the Institute, to be held in the Faculty Club on the N. C. State University campus.

RALEIGH — Plans for the annual meeting of NCCPA have been completed. Producers and wives are invited to attend. It will be held at Charlie Brown's Lakeside Steak House on Tuesday, February 6. The place is located off Highway 1 at Greshams Lake about five miles north of Raleigh.

The regular meeting will begin with a luncheon at 12 noon.

Ray Wilkinson, WRAL TV and radio farm editor and humorist will be the after luncheon speaker. In addition to regular business of the association Cotton Incorporated will review its research and promotion activities.

Also, comments from the Commissioner of Agriculture concerning serious issues confronting Tarheel growers today and brief remarks from other distinguished guests.

During the break in the afternoon session the women will assemble separately to discuss their views relative to cotton promotion, etc.

The directors will assemble at the same location at 9:30 a.m. prior to the regular meeting.

I saw a drive-in movie the other night that was so sad my car broke down.

Farm Market Summary

Tobacco

ATLANTA — Sales of Burley tobacco are rapidly coming to an end. Forty of the 60 markets in the belt have already closed for the season. During the week ended January 11, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) reports that both quality of offerings and grade prices showed improvement over the previous week.

Gross sales of southeastern tobacco for the season, by belt, follows: Burley — 589.26 million pounds averaged \$79.27 per hundred, compared with 482.23 million pounds at \$80.86 last year; One Sucker — 8.80 million pounds averaged \$51.78, compared with 7.52 million pounds at \$48.15 last year; Green-River — 4.99 million pounds averaged \$47.60, compared with 4.12 million pounds at \$46.80 last year.

Sales of Western District Fire cured tobacco were scheduled to begin January 15, and Eastern District were scheduled for January 16.

Grain

Most cash grain prices were higher during the week ended January 12, USDA's

Agricultural Marketing Service reports. Corn prices trended steady to 2 1/2 cents higher while soybean prices posted gains of 8 3/4 to 16 1/2. Increased demand for U.S. grains from foreign countries was the predominant factor.

Cash bids for corn to farmers at Southeast Virginia points were \$1.55 to \$1.70, and South Carolina farm bids were \$1.70 to \$1.80. In Georgia and Alabama, multiple carlot prices closed the period at \$1.81 1/2 to \$1.82 1/2. Terminal market prices at Norfolk were \$1.78 and \$1.82 1/2 at Memphis.

Bids to producers for soybeans ranged from \$4.15 at Richmond to \$4.37 at Wilson. Terminal markets closed at \$4.53 at Norfolk and \$4.30 1/4 to \$4.38 3/4 at Memphis. Gulf Port prices ranged from \$4.25 to \$4.53.

Peanuts

The shelled peanut market was slightly stronger during the week ended January 9 on Spanish No. 1's and Jumbos, and Jumbo Runners, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service reports.

Sales and quotations per pound, for prompt and February delivery, were: Spanish No. 1, mostly 24 cents; Jumbos, mostly 24 1/4 to 25 cents; Runners No. 1, new screen, mostly 23 3/4 to 24 cents; and Jumbos, mostly 26 cents.

The market held about steady in the Virginia-North Carolina area. Sales and quotations for prompt and February-March delivery were: Cleaned Virginia Jumbos, 25 to 25 1/2 cents; and Fancy, 23 to 23 1/2 cents.

Cotton

Cotton prices advanced sharply in southern markets during the week ended January 11, the Agricultural Marketing Service reports.

Trading was active in most spot cotton markets. Unfavorable weather conditions for harvesting prevailed over most of the southern cotton belt.



AN AGREEMENT for more cooperation between Farmers Home Administration and the Soil Conservation Service is signed by James T. Johnson (left), North Carolina FHA director, and Jesse L. Hicks, state conservationist, who heads SCS in the state. (USDA Photo)

Grain, Bean Picture For 1973 Uncertain

RALEIGH — Extraordinary market conditions and uncertainties of world crop production are among the factors making 1973 grain and soybean forecasting virtually impossible.

Among the developments that appear most likely at this time include larger planted acreages of soybeans, wheat and possibly all grain crops; higher farmer prices during the first half of the year than for the first half of 1972; and a stronger foreign demand for some of the crops,

particularly soybeans. North Carolina State University extension economists point out that there is a high degree of uncertainty about how high soybean prices will have to go in order to ration the worldwide short supply of protein.

Soybean meal prices were at record levels recently in the U.S. and Europe, due to a late bean harvest and a short supply of fish meal.

The NCSU specialists believe farmers will run a risk in holding beans while prices are unusually high. However, they point out that prospects are good for relatively high prices even into late spring.

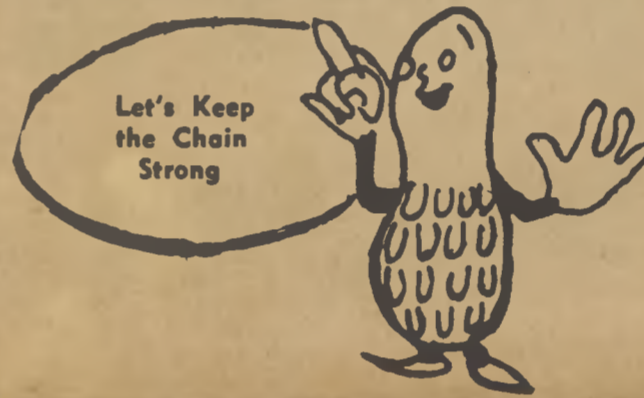
Because of the short crop and strong export demand, wheat prices in North Carolina for the first six months of 1973 likely will average well above the \$1.46 per bushel price of the first half of last year.

Similarly, farmers may look forward to corn prices well above those of the same period a year ago. Supplies are expected to be large.

Adjustments in the feed grain program probably will result in larger national plantings of corn and soybeans. If this occurs, and if projected exports fail to materialize, corn and bean prices after the first half of the year may average only slightly higher than a year ago.

FEED BOXWOODS

The popular boxwood ornamental is a heavy-feeding plant that generally needs fertilizing. When fertilized liberally, it will grow rapidly. Fertilizer can be applied in late fall or as soon as the ground begins to thaw out in early spring.



WANTED

Extra \$1 Million From Peanut Sales In Northampton In 1973

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE SEED ARRANGEMENTS

I. Peanuts

Results of 1972 peanut variety tests average of 7 counties.

Variety	Yield Per Acre	Value Per Acre
NC-17	2690 lbs.	\$397.00
*NC-2	2920 lbs.	\$443.00
NC-5	2850 lbs.	\$382.00
Florigiant	3420 lbs.	\$484.00
Avoco 11	2860 lbs.	\$394.00
**NC-Fla. 14	3340 lbs.	\$457.00
**Shulamith	2580 lbs.	\$383.00

*Northampton County results only.

**New varieties—seed limited.

II. Cotton

High quality seed limited. Varieties best suited for Northampton County growers

Coker 310
McNair 210
Coker 201

III. Soybeans

High quality seed will be very short. North Carolina produced seed appear to be the highest quality. Varieties best suited for Northampton growers:

Ransom — Matures around October 25. Good producer. Lodging resistance excellent.
Davis — Matures around October 20. Lodging resistance fair.
Bragg — Matures around October 25. Lodging fair.

Contact County Agents Office for Additional Information



FARM LABORER ASSISTS WILDLIFE as he prepares a seedbed for wildlife planting along the power line right-of-way on Dr. Charles S. Cook's farm near Rich Square.



ERNEST DAUGHTRY INSPECTS fruit on an autumn olive tree planted on Raymond E. Daughtry farm near Margarettsville in 1965 to provide food for wild turkey and other wildlife.

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