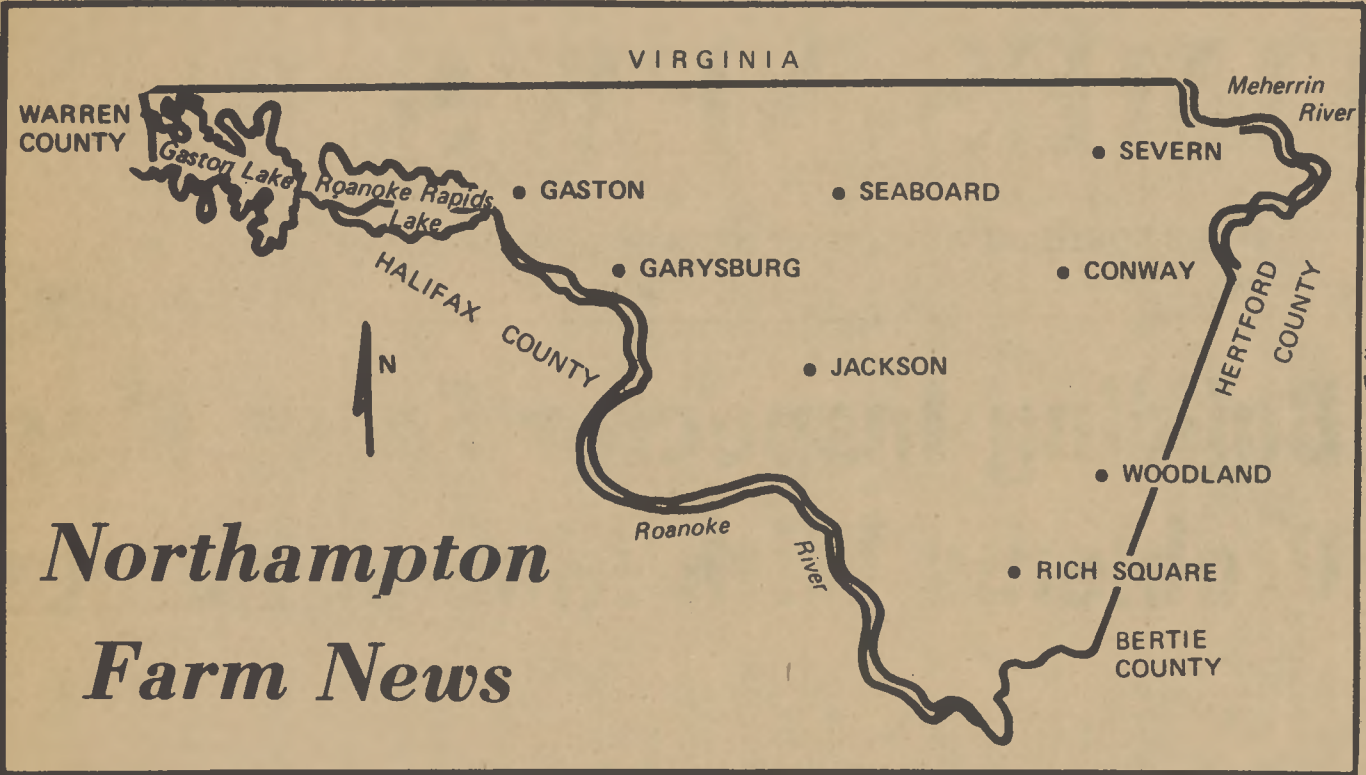


Retail Food Prices May Rise More By Mid Year

Fresh vegetable production is down this spring as larger supplies of tomatoes, cabbage, and carrots only partly offset a drop in onions, celery, lettuce, corn, and cucumbers.

Disposable personal income in first quarter 1973 rose to \$851 billion (seasonally adjusted annual rate), 2.7 percent above the fourth quarter. A steeper 4.2 percent rise for food expenditures to \$133 billion, however, increased the proportion of income spent for food to 15.6 percent from the 15.4 percent at the end of last year.



Northampton Farm News

ASCS News Notes-

By BEN MANN, Office Manager
Northampton County ASC Office

Notice is hereby given that Tobacco Associates, Inc. will hold a referendum July 17 among its North Carolina members (the growers of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina) in which they will vote on the continuance of their support of their self-help plan for promoting the sales of their leaf tobacco. Such referendum will be held in conjunction with the tobacco quota referendum at regular community polling centers and the usual hours will be observed. Such referendum will include the question of the continuance of the authorization of an annual assessment not to exceed \$1.00 per acre (or not to exceed five cents per 1000 pounds of the effective marketing quota of a member, if it becomes necessary to base the assessment on poundage).

Flue-Cured Tobacco Producers May Designate Markets
Flue-cured tobacco growers will be offered opportunity to voluntarily designate a preferred market town in which to sell a portion or all of their tobacco crop, it was announced here today by Julian J. Edwards, chairman of the Northampton County

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASCS) Committee.

All flue-cured tobacco growers will receive letters from the County ASCS Office informing that they can designate a particular market town. The market designated must be within the production belt where the farm is located. Producers may designate up to, but not more than 100 percent of the effective farm quota. The designation should be made by the farm operator at the County ASCS Office by Thursday, June 28, Edwards said.

He indicated the Tobacco Industry Marketing Committee is expected to allocate sales time to the market within each belt in proportion to designations made by growers.

Contaminated Peanuts To Be Discounted For Price Support

Growers offering peanuts for loan with visible aspergillus flavus mold (those classified Segregation 3's) will be subject to a \$50 per ton discount under the 1973 peanut support program, so they will want both to minimize the risk and to provide for separate handling of peanuts with the

mold. Significance of aspergillus flavus mold is that it produces aflatoxin, a cancer-producing substance. Aflatoxin peanuts or meal produced from crushing such peanuts cannot be sold in the United States for consumption by humans, livestock, or poultry. A quality control program has operated in the peanut industry for years to insure that peanuts with aflatoxin are not used for food or feed.

However, until this year the federal price support program for peanuts did not provide a discount for peanuts contaminated by the aflatoxin-producing mold. Now, peanuts offered for loan and found by the Federal-State Inspection Service to have visible aspergillus flavus mold are subject to a \$50 per ton discount.

The aspergillus flavus mold commonly occurs in the soils of the South. Peanuts while still attached to the living plant resist entrance of the mold. After the plant is dug, this resistance is lowered. If the peanut does not dry rapidly but remains at high moisture for a prolonged period, then the mold spreads and increases and can produce aflatoxin in the peanut kernel. This can happen, for example, if a spell of rainy or damp weather comes along while peanuts are still in the windrow.

The mold most often attacks the plant after it has been dug and while still on the vine in the windrow. However, during the past season peanuts in

some areas of the Southeast were found to be contaminated with aflatoxin when dug. This unusual circumstance was associated with rather severe drought which slowed plant growth and apparently lowered resistance of the peanut shell while still in the ground. The instance of aflatoxin during 1972 was abnormally high with 8 per cent of the peanuts infected; however, the average occurrence of the mold in previous years was 2 to 3 per cent. Peanuts in the Virginia-Carolina area normally run less than one per cent.

Generally speaking, peanuts that contain moisture in the range of 9 to 25 per cent and are held at temperatures above 60 degrees Fahrenheit are subject to mold attack by aspergillus flavus and to contamination by aflatoxin. To help avoid such problems and for latest recommendations on harvesting, handling, and storage practices to prevent or minimize aflatoxin losses, growers should get in touch with the Office of Extension Service Agent B. H. Harrell at the Agricultural Building in Jackson.

Young in Mind
"Nobody in his fifties thinks he is old." David M. Blumberg, president, B'nai B'rith.

Spending Surfeit
"This country has enough on its plate in the way of huge new spending programs, social programs, throwing dollars at problems."

National Food Situation

RALEIGH — Retail food prices may rise somewhat further through midyear, but the rate of increase appears to be slowing in the second quarter. Prices may stabilize during the third quarter, and some decline is expected this fall.

Both domestic and export demand will probably continue strong. In some instances, the competitive position of U. S. products abroad has been enhanced by the dollar devaluation. However, recent increases in farm prices along with changes in government programs to increase production and imports are expected to boost food supplies.

Decreased domestic production of farm foods during 1972 and early 1973 along with increased demand at home and abroad, sent retail food prices rising at a sharp clip. First quarter prices for all food averaged eight percent above the same quarter a year ago. Most of the increase in prices at retail was reflected in higher farm prices. The marketing margin was up slightly.

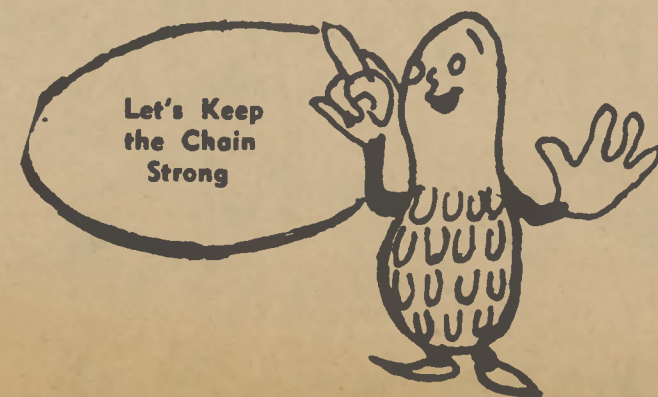
Sharp advances in prices of livestock related products accounted for most of the first quarter increase. As red meat prices surged, consumer demand spread some toward other high protein foods, accelerating price increases for poultry, fish, and dairy products. Egg prices increased the most. Pork was also much higher, followed by beef, poultry, and fish. Dairy prices rose the least. Crop related food prices rose sharply, primarily reflecting higher fresh produce prices.

Retail food prices for 1973 are now expected to average nine percent above 1972. The yearly advance largely reflects price increases experienced during the first quarter of the year, although additional small increases are expected through mid-year. Some decline will likely occur during the latter part of 1973 if present demand and supply expectations are realized.

Retail beef and pork prices are expected to remain above a year earlier through the balance of the year but may weaken a little in months ahead. Poultry prices will probably remain strong this spring and summer but decline from current levels in the fall. Egg prices will average well above 1972, with mainly seasonal increases for the balance of the year. Fish prices will continue higher reflecting strong demand, increased competition for limited world supplies, and expected losses of shell-fish due to recent adverse weather conditions. Retail dairy prices will likely hold fairly steady

Weekly Peanut Report

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA SECTION — The weather was mostly fair and hot the past week. Showers moved into the area on Wednesday of current week and were most prevalent in North Carolina growing areas. The showers were beneficial to crop. Offerings were very light on most grades. Trading was light and the market about steady.



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Broadleaf Weed Control in Peanuts

(1) 2, 4-DB (Butoxone and Butyrac) has been cleared by EPA for use on peanuts. The label states that two applications at the rate of 1 pint per acre each can be used on peanuts during a single growing season. **Note:** For best results the first application should be applied if needed prior to blooming--around the third week in June.

(2) A second application should be applied if needed after the fruit load is set--about the first week in August. Under certain conditions yields may be effected if 2, 4-DB is applied during the peak of blooming.

B. Landplaster

(1) Bag Gypsum (dry plaster) is slow moving to local dealers because orders were late getting to the manufacturer. The lack of storage facilities and transportation problems have complicated the situation. Suggested rate of dry gypsum is 800 lbs. per acre.

(2) Bulk Gypsum (wet plaster) is now being applied by many growers. Suggested rate is from 1200 to 1500 lbs. per acre.

(3) Liquid Calcium - A number of growers are supplementing the peanut calcium needs by applying liquid calcium on the foliage. Suggested rate for most materials is 1 gallon per acre for two to three applications during the pegging season. This treatment may be beneficial for soils low in calcium or if heavy rains occur immediately after landplaster is applied. Dr. Fred Cox, N.C. State University researcher, is doing extensive research on the calcium needs of the peanut plant.

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