

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

PROGRESSIVE FARMER—VOL. XX. NO. 15.
THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXII. NO. 14.

RALEIGH, N. C., MAY 23, 1905.

Weekly—\$1 a Year.

THE OUTLOOK FOR NORTH CAROLINA FARMING.

Further Reports Confirm Last Week's Assertion that Cotton Acreage is Decreased at Least 20 Per Cent., With Increased Acreage of Tobacco, Peanuts, and Grain Crops.

We are printing this week further reports as to farming conditions in the several North Carolina counties. These only confirm the review made last week—a decrease of at least 20 per cent in cotton acreage, a slight increase in the tobacco crop, a heavier increase in peanuts, and materially larger crops of corn, wheat and oats. The general financial condition of the farmers is reported good, and more attention to live stock and grass is indicated.

Next week reports from South Carolina counties will be given.

Mecklenburg Farming is Also Backward.

Mecklenburg is dry so far as the very thirsty toper is concerned, but from the view of the farmer it is very wet and still-rainin'. An observing farmer said to-day: "Only one-third of the cotton land for 1905 is yet planted, and much land intended for corn has not been plowed." Cotton planted and up is in a worse condition than has been the case in mid-May for years. Quite a lot of land intended for cotton is not planted, and will not be; other crops will be put on this unplanted acreage.

C. C. MOORE.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Organization Would Help.

In reply to questions, I think conditions of farmers is improving in our county. Slight increase of tobacco, and 30 per cent decrease of cotton. More corn and other crops being planted. If the farmers could be induced to think more, to attend the institutes, Alliances, clubs, etc., their condition would improve rapidly.

H. D. EGERTON.

Franklin Co., N. C.

20 Per Cent. More Peanuts.

The outlook is good up to date for crops. Conditions have been favorable for planting and getting good stands. I don't see any material reduction in acreage planted in cotton. Think there will be at least 20 per cent more peanuts planted than last year.

W. A. FLEETWOOD.

Perquimans Co., N. C.

Fruit Crops Poor.

The condition of farms and farming is good. There is an increase in acreage in wheat and no decrease in any crop. There is no tobacco or cotton raised here. The peach crop is a failure, and there will probably be one-fourth crop of apples.

G. B. WALKER.

Graham Co., N. C.

Cotton Cut 25 Per Cent.

Grass is growing; otherwise crops in good condition. Outlook good; corn increased; cotton decreased 25 per cent. Everything looks bright; if weather is favorable for work, good crops are expected.

ROBT L. ABERNETHY.

Gaston Co., N. C.

Increase in Food Crops.

In reply to your card, will say the farmers are in a good condition. There will be a reduction of acreage in cotton of some 25 per cent and an increase in corn and peanuts and other food crops and small increase in tobacco. The cotton is ten days earlier than last year owing to the good seasons, but the grass is getting bad.

A. C. GREEN.

Wake Co., N. C.

Live Stock in Demand.

The spring early and favorable; grass exceedingly fine. Fruit crop a good one except cherries and peaches. Farmers well up with work. Corn planting three-fourths done. Farm labor scarce, owing to public works, tan bark, lumber, etc. Acreage planted to corn about an average. Potato and cabbage crop greatly reduced on account of low price. Mules scarce and high; the demand is greater than supply; horses very high, but very few colts being raised. Cattle scarce and in big demand; very little interest among farmers in regard to improving stock. The grade of cattle especially is poor.

J. B. FREEMAN.

Henderson Co., N. C.

In Old Sampson.

I would have answered sooner but our Cotton Association did not meet until Saturday, the 13th. After carefully canvassing the different townships, we find that the cotton acreage has been decreased 25 per cent at least and the fertilizer 30 per cent. Cotton is up to good stands, but much of it is badly in the grass. The corn crop has been considerably increased and is looking well. The acreage in tobacco is about the same, and farmers are through setting out. The acreage in small grain is about the same, and looks very favorable. As soon as I get time I will try to get you some subscribers.

S. H. HOBBS.

Sampson Co., N. C.

Bad Seasons Decrease Cotton.

The majority of our people pledged themselves to reduce cotton acreage 25 per cent. Up to this date, I believe there is not more than 60 to 70 per cent of that planted, which was in-

tended to be planted on accounted of rain, and it is still wet; and I think it will be reduced much more than was first expected. There is not more than 10 per cent of the corn crop planted. There is 35 per cent less fertilizers used than last year.

J. B. HAYWOOD.

Montgomery Co., N. C.

10 Per Cent. More Tobacco.

Condition of farmers financially is good. Condition of farming bad, owing to rain. Outlook gloomy at this time. Report for tobacco is for increase of 10 per cent; decrease in acreage of wheat 10 per cent; prospect good, if rainy season closes; corn decrease 10 per cent; farmers late planting owing to two much rain.

W. L. COCKERHAM.

Surry Co., N. C.

More Complaint of Rain.

Farmers in this county, as a rule, are doing well. Too much rain at present, and no serious damage as yet, though should it continue, will seriously affect wheat and interfere with transplanting tobacco and cultivation of corn. The acreage for tobacco may be increased; for all other crops, we regard the acreage as about 100 per cent.

A. C. WHARTON.

Forsyth Co., N. C.

More Grain, Less Tobacco.

Have been too busy and close at home to know much of crop conditions. Sowed more oats than anything, and find others have sowed more than I ever saw; looking well. From what I have seen, suppose tobacco will be about two-thirds of usual acreage. See more wheat, rye and grass than usual; but corn is our main stay here. That planted early is generally looking well. Late planting is much behind on account of raising. Potatoes promise well, and the fruit prospect seems excellent. Stock generally in fair shape and healthy.

H. M. DANIEL.

Madison Co., N. C.

Plenty of Hog and Hominy.

In reply will say condition of farmers and farming is fair. Work scarce. Wheat thin on ground, but looks promising. Oats and grass fine. Corn came up well; all planted. About the usual acreage. Fruit crop light from cold spell and frost. Do not raise cotton, and very little tobacco, but raise plenty of "hog and hominy." Come to see us.

W. N. ALLMAN.

Macon Co., N. C.

One-Third Less Wheat and Tobacco.

Your favor to hand. Wheat and corn crops increased acreage. Cotton and tobacco decreased one-third. Crops look well and farmers are prosperous.

J. N. SMITH.

Alexander Co., N. C.

Afraid of New Moons.

The outlook is for 90 per cent cotton crop and full tobacco crop, but there being thirteen new moons in 1905, is a sure sign that we will do well if we get 50 per cent of cotton and tobacco, for it will be a wet year. At this time everything is very much behind owing to the wet season.

T. N. ALLEN.

Durham Co., N. C.

More Tobacco; Less Cotton.

In answer to request as to crops: Cotton is decreased 25 to 30 per cent; tobacco increased 10 to 15 per cent. Condition of farms, fair only, with poor outlook now. If rains continue, will not make over 60 per cent of a crop, cotton and tobacco especially, as the grass has control so far, and raining daily. The bugs are ruining potatoes and cantaloupes.

J. A. SHINE.

Duplin Co., N. C.

Disastrous Strawberry Season.

Crop conditions fair and favorable so far, with plenty of rain for cotton, corn, tobacco and Irish potatoes. Of all these, there is a large acreage planted, although no material increase except in potatoes. It has been a disastrous season for strawberry growers. So much rain, together with shortage of cars to move crop, has resulted in losses amounting to probably one-half million dollars in this section alone.

ELROY BAILEY.

Columbus Co., N. C.

Quitting Tobacco for Cotton.

I hope you will excuse delay in answering. There has been so much rain the past two weeks that farmers could not do much plowing, consequently it will cause many to lessen their cotton crop. Many had only begun planting, and it is late now for planting cotton. Therefore there cannot be more than one-half a crop. Corn is increased and up, and looks well. This county is quitting tobacco for cotton. The recent rains did much damage.

JAS. D. FROST.

Davie Co., N. C.

Farmers Badly Behind.

The farmers generally are in good financial condition here; but very much discouraged owing to the low price of cotton—their chief money crop. Farmers never so badly behind with their work. Cotton where planted is up to good stands. The grass is also in evidence, and the fields are so wet at this writing that the farmers can't get in them. The acreage to cotton has been reduced 33 1-3 per cent, and about 10 per cent of the contemplated acreage remains unplanted, and if the wet weather continues a few days longer this will not be planted. Labor is very scarce;

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