



TOBACCO NEWS

of the

CAROLINAS



Weather Has Much To Do With Curing Flue Tobacco, Floyd Says

Specialist Contributes Second Of Series Of Articles For Readers State Farmer Section

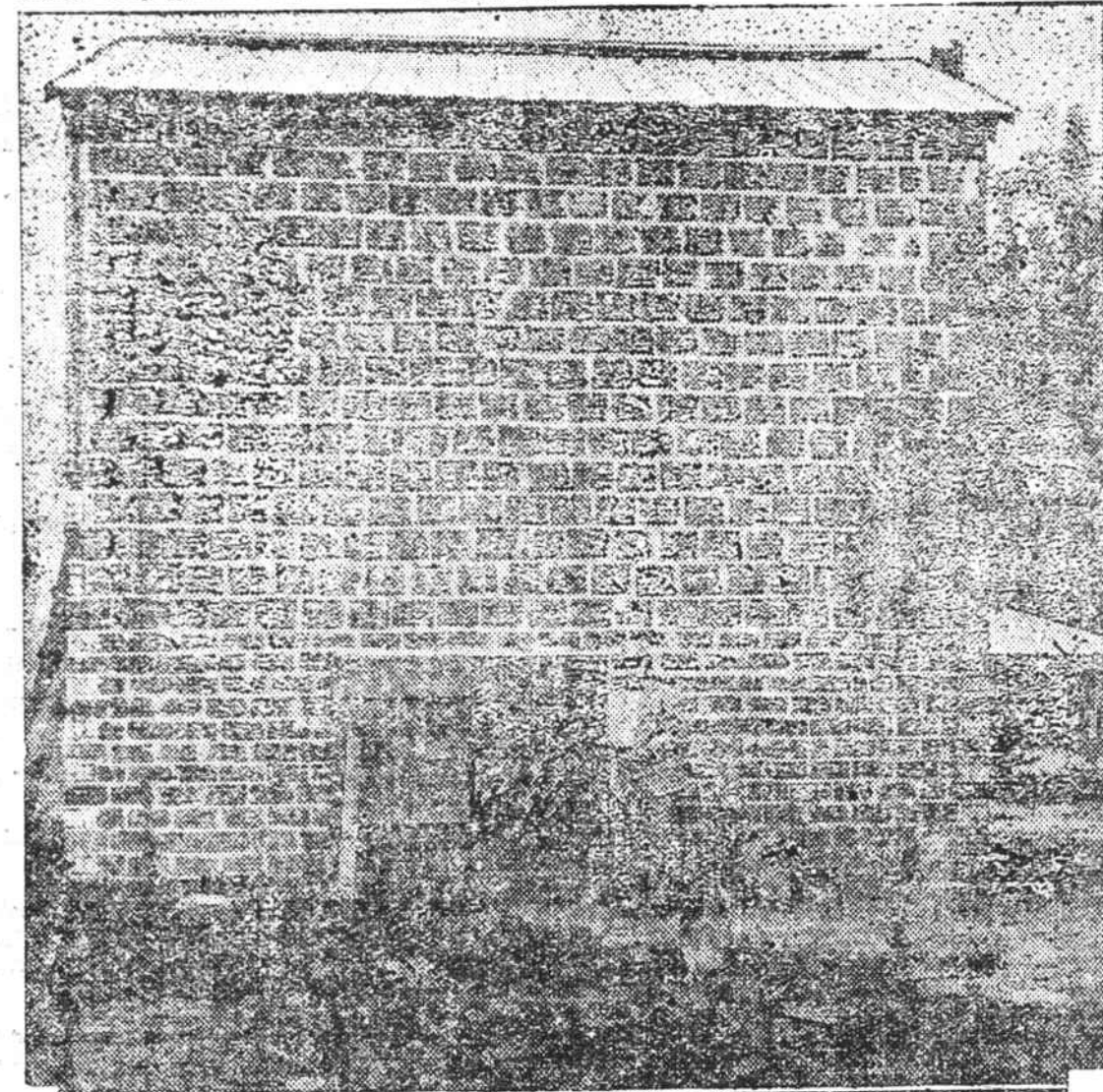
(Editorial Note: This is the second of a series of articles on Tobacco by Mr. Floyd, who is recognized as the outstanding tobacco authority in North Carolina. The third will appear in our next issue.)

By E. Y. FLOYD.

Tobacco Specialist, N. C. State College.
Yellowing is the first of three stages in the curing of flue-cured tobacco. This process starts when the leaf is primed off the stalk. In the second stage, the color is set. A fire is started as soon as the tobacco is hung in the barn, and the temperature is raised five to ten degrees higher than the



E. Y. FLOYD



Terra cotta tobacco curing barn in Lenoir County, N. C. outside temperature, usually from 85 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

This temperature is maintained until the leaf is fairly yellow, requiring from 24 to 36 hours. The temperature should then be raised four to five degrees each hour, depending upon the rapidity with which the green is fading, until 120 of 125 degrees has been reached. By this time the leaves should be a pale yellow.

This last raise will toughen the tobacco so that it will stand higher heat. Hold this temperature until the tips of the leaves begin to dry, then raise the temperature 4 to 6 degrees each hour until 135 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit has been reached. Hold this temperature until the leaf tissue is dry. During this period, the color will be fixed. As soon as the leaf is dry, raise the temperature from 5 to 10 degrees each hour until 180 to 190 degrees Fahrenheit has been reached. This heat may be held until the leaf stem is dry in all parts of the barn. The time required to cure a barn varies from 95 to 96 hours.

Only General Outline.

This outline for curing is general and should be variously modified as good judgment dictates. Weather conditions, the amount of sap in the tobacco, and other factors may necessitate prolonging or shortening any one of the stages. Approximately 4,000 to 5,000 pounds of moisture or sap must be removed during each curing of green tobacco. During the first degree of curing the humidity in the barn is high and ample ventilation must be provided. If humidity gets very high during yellowing stage, the ventilators should be opened enough to let the excess moisture escape. When the leaf drying stage has been reached, the ventilators, both bottom and top, should be open. "Sponging" will result if the moisture is not removed as fast as it is given off. If the temperature is raised too high while the humidity is very high, a greenish brown to greenish black color will develop, known as "scalding" and the leaf tissue adjoining the main stem and the stem becomes a mottled brown to dark brown color. When a temperature of from 165 to 170 degrees Fahrenheit has been reached the humidity should be low and the ventilators closed. Sometimes it may be necessary to raise the temperature above 140 degrees to make the leaf dry as it should.

A condition known as "run" may develop during the latter part of the leaf drying stage if the temperature is allowed to drop several degrees.

After the tobacco is thoroughly cured, the fire is out, and the temperature has gone down, the barn doors are opened in order that the tobacco may come in "order or case", so that the tobacco can be removed from the barn without breaking. Frequently it is necessary to wet the floor of the barn in order to hasten the softening of the cured leaf. The barn is emptied and refilled each week during the rush of the curing season.

When the tobacco is removed from the barn, it is carried to the pack house in long pile or windrow where it is left for a few days. It is then packed in a square coop with all leaves turned inwardly and the butt of the leaves showing on the outside. Tobacco so cooped should have enough moisture in it so that it will straighten out nicely and undergo such changes as are necessary for the improvement in color. On the other hand, if it is in too high order when packed, it may damage. Tobacco packed in this way may then be left until the grower is ready to grade and market it.

Tobacco Markets Opening This Month In Carolina

Georgia tobacco markets opened late in July and purchasing of this season's crop is now in full swing. Both growers and dealers are reported as optimistic over the outlook.

The South Carolina market opened August 8 followed by the Eastern North Carolina market which opens on August 26. The Middle Belt will open September 17 and the old belt October 1. The Dark Virginia belt will not open until November 12.

These dates were fixed at the recent meeting of the Tobacco Association of the United States in White Sulphur Springs.

"Uncontrolled soil erosion leads to general economic and social loss."—A. Carnes, extension engineer, Clemson College, S. C.

USDA Estimates Bigger Tobacco Crop Than 1934

(Continued from page one)

total tobacco crop is produced in North Carolina. This season the outlook is for a substantial increase as the latest Government estimate indicates a crop of 496,000,000 pounds compared with 418,000,000 pounds last year. This season's crop will be well in excess of the five year average of 469,000,000 pounds.

Weather has averaged fairly good for the growth of the crop until recently when there has been too much rain in the Coastal district.

South Carolina will have approximately 85,000,000 pounds this season against 80,000,000 pounds last year. This is below the five year average of 78,000,000 pounds, however. Weather has been quite favorable for the crop recently.

Curing is well under way in Georgia where the crop this season is estimated at 56,000,000 pounds compared with only 32,000,000 pounds last year. Growth has been fairly good and the weather has been good for curing the crop in most areas.

The Florida production shows a good increase this season and a crop of 8,385,000 pounds is forecast. This compares with 5,216,000 pounds last year. Weather has been too wet recently and has hindered the curing of the crop.

Kentucky Increase Small

Acreage was increased only slightly in Kentucky this year and the total production in this second most important of the tobacco states is estimated at 259,195,000 pounds. Last year's crop was 251,000,000 pounds and the five year average is 309,000,000 pounds, so it can be readily noted that production is light this year. The crop might possibly do a little better than the July forecast indicates as weather has been more favorable recently and the crop has made good progress.

Tennessee shows very little increase over last year and the crop is estimated at 94,775,000 pounds compared with 94,145,000 pounds last year. Acreage was increased only slightly. Weather has been good in Tennessee recently and the crop may improve somewhat compared with the July estimate.

There is a somewhat larger production in Connecticut this season and the crop is estimated at 16,105,000 pounds against 14,748,000 pounds last year. Growing conditions have been excellent this season, both in Connecticut and for the smaller acreage located in Massachusetts.

Pennsylvania was estimated at 23,000,000 pounds as of July 1, an increase of 5,000,000 over last year. Since then there have been some floods in the state and these may reduce the crop in certain sections. However the weather has been very favorable in other parts of the state.

Ohio shows a reduction as compared with last year as the conditions have not been quite so favorable for growth. A crop of 22,860,000 pounds is forecasted as against a crop of 24,250,000 pounds last year.

Acreage was increased materially in Wisconsin this year and the crop has made fairly good growth. A crop of 15,462,000 pounds is indicated which compares with 11,798,000 pounds harvested last year.

The Maryland acreage is practically the same as a year ago and the crop is estimated to be practically the same. Growing conditions have been generally good and a crop of 22,750,000 pounds is forecasted in comparison with 23,418,000 pounds last year.

Virginia Shows Increase

Virginia shows a moderate increase in tobacco prospects this season and a crop of 85,118,000 pounds is forecasted. Last year the production was 80,155,000 pounds. However, the crop is below the five year average of 89,000,000 pounds.

Flue-Cured Growers Offered Adjustment Program For 1936-39

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration has announced that growers of flue-cured tobacco will be offered an adjustment program, covering the crop years 1936 to 1939, inclusive, which is in effect a continuation of the program in force for the crop years 1934 and 1935.

As a result of adjustment of acreage and production in 1934 and 1935, surplus stocks which depressed prices have been removed. J. B. Hutson, director of the division of tobacco, sugar, rice and peanuts, said, however, that indications were that without an adjustment program production of flue-cured tobacco in 1936 would be out of balance with consumption to such an extent that prices would decline below parity price or fair exchange value.

Ninety-eight percent of the growers who voted in the flue-cured tobacco referendum

Kinston Market Will Open To Golden Flow Of Tobacco Aug. 26th

Largest Mart In North Carolina Has Plenty of Floor Space and the Buyers Will All Be There

BY A STAFF WRITER

Everything points to the best season the Kinston tobacco market has yet experienced for the coming fall and winter. Nine of the largest warehouses to be found anywhere in North Carolina will be ready to take care of all the weed when the "golden flow" begins on August 26. As a matter of fact Kinston will have this coming season over 100,000 square feet more of floor space than any other market in the State.

With this setup and with plenty of parking space for all the automobiles or trucks or wagons, no matter what the farmer uses to bring his tobacco to market in, there is no reason why the Kinston market should not be the "home market" for all farmers in this section of the State.

Buyers representing the largest companies in the world will be on the floors. In Bennett Hooks, it is believed the Kinston market has the most experienced and most courteous sales supervision to be found anywhere. He is busy now traveling all over this section calling on the farmers, talking with them in the fields, sitting up with them at the barns, forming the right contacts that will result in bringing the tobacco to this city.

Tobacco Board Of Trade

Then the market is guided by a Tobacco Board of Trade that is composed of real, live tobacco men with Richard P. Moes, of the E. V. Webb Company, as president and this board has announced everything is going to be done to take care of the interests of the growers when they come in with their weed.

Many improvements have been made, some of them enlargements, to give the farmers the very best service possible. Floor space on many of the floors has been greatly enlarged. Rest rooms have been arranged to take care of the men and women on all floors, and as fine a group of warehousemen as there is anywhere will be extending a real hearty welcome on August 26 and every other day during the season to the farmers.

Reports coming to the warehouse and other tobacco men here say that the crops are in fine shape; tobacco is curing well and barns are busy thus making for a great season and an urgent appeal is being sent to the farmers to bring all of their tobacco to Kinston, not just the lower grades. It is the desire that Kinston pay as much if not more than any other market in this section and coupled with that is a request of the farmer to bring his best and his all here, that the prices may average higher.

held in June, 1935, voted in favor of a program having the provisions incorporated in the new contract. Approximately 84 percent of all tobacco growers, including landowners, tenants and share-croppers, cast votes in the referendum.

The program for the 1936-1939 period will carry forward acreage and production bases already established with such downward and upward adjustments as will result in more equitable bases; provide for one adjustment payment at the end of each contract year; and set a limit of 35 per cent on the acreage and production reduction which may be required in any one year.

The new contracts will be signed by persons who are operating farms as owners or cash or standing rent tenants. In case a landlord does not supervise operation of his farm and the entire farm is operated by one share-tenant or share-cropper, either the landlord or his tenant or share-cropper may sign the contract.

The contract provides for a payment which will give growers a return "NOT less than the difference between the average farm price and the average parity price for that portion of the crop which is equal to domestic consumption.

In other words, the payment will be of such an amount as will make up any difference between actual farm price received and parity price on the domestic portion of the crop. A little over 40 percent of the flue-cured crop is domestically consumed. The rate of the adjustment payment for each year will be determined after sale of the crop.

In accordance with requests made by tobacco growers, new contract forms are available at county offices in each of the flue-cured belts. Notice of acceptance of contracts signed by growers must be given by the Secretary of Agriculture not later than February 1, 1936, in order to be effective for that year.