

### Farmers Urged to Keep Fire Loss Low in '47 By State Forester

(Continued from Page 1) was available by sewing time, planters should see that adequate help for extinguishing fires is available in case the fire should get out of control. His remarks were made in connection with the fifth annual Forest Fire Prevention Campaign, launched this week in North Carolina and the ten other states of the South.

Key of the campaign are geared to the expectation of greatly increased use of the forests by recreation seekers, and to the urgent nationwide need for homebuilding in the next few years. The first slogan is, "Please, folks, be extra careful this year. Remember only you can prevent forest fires. The second is, "Burned timber burns no homes."

In discussing further the importance of the fire prevention campaign this year, Forester Beichler said:

"We see thousands of half-finished houses in every town and city. Most of them are waiting for the necessary lumber to make them habitable and comfortable homes. We see thousands of acres of productive southern forest which have been cut over and are now burned and blackened by preventable forest fires. Many trees are damaged so badly they do not produce one shingle or one two-by-four to help in the construction of these needed homes."

### Massey's Hatchery Still Worked to Capacity With Other N. C. Units

(Continued from Page 1) Carolina also was a contributing factor: many poultry owners have simply killed and processed all their fryers at one time, and these stored chickens are not included, of course, in the total valuation of sixteen million dollars.

The number of all chickens on North Carolina farms on January 1 was 12,111,000, while on January of 1946 there were 13,223,000 chickens. The 1947 figure is still 8 per cent above the 10-year average of 11,117,000 chickens in North Carolina. This estimate does not include, however, commercial broilers, which have become an important item in this and other densely populated sections. The average value per head in the past twelve months has increased approximately 7 per cent.

The average January price for heavy breeds was \$14.00 per hundred for straight run chicks, with sexed pullets selling for \$19.00 and sexed cockerels for \$12.30. In

### Revolution in Farming Seen for Community If New Machines Work

(Continued from Page 1) began experimenting with this device in 1935, shortly after the Italians used it in their Ethiopian campaign. He discovered that the cotton stalk was tough enough to withstand its heat, while grass and weeds died from the fiery blast. His experiments were interrupted by the war, but farmer friends continued to work with the flamethrower during his tour of active duty.

On his discharge from service, Capt. McElmire patented the unit, and arranged for its commercial sale. Alabama farmers say it works fine for killing grass, and

also destroys many of the boll weevils.

Developments announced this month by the cotton research council at Memphis, Tennessee, are the patenting of a new roofing material made of cotton muslin impregnated with asphalt, the development of a cotton plant that grows almost no lint but tremendous seed (for oil purposes), and the construction of new cottonseed oil extraction plants similar to those used for the extraction of oil from soy beans.

Cotton dusting has been stopped in recent years, and more farmers are expected to use aircraft dusting this year. Fred Hoyle of Enfield, son of Mrs. Pearl Hoyle of Wakefield, is operating a cotton dusting service. The use of aircraft for dusting in this locality is hampered at present because of timber growths, but at the rate timber is being cut air-dusting should be practicable around Zebulon in the next five or six years.

Most local farmers use insecticides, and farmers from other states are learning the wisdom of such action. In Oklahoma last year farmers who used insecticides on their cotton produced an average of 302 pounds per acre, while those who used no poison grew an average of only 177 pounds per acre, for a loss of \$26.21 for each acre cultivated.

### Agriculture Dept. Head Advises Farmers to Save On Labor This Year

(Continued from Page 1) strive this year to use all means available to keep the cost of production as low as possible, so that they will be ready for any price emergencies which may occur.

If we can afford to purchase efficient labor-saving machinery, we should by all means do it. However, we should be sure that what we pay for these implements and the cost of their operation over a period of five years, for instance, will be less than the amount we would pay labor for the work accomplished by these machines. Too, we should consider the availability of labor when we need it. Machines are always ready to work. Frequently, labor is not.

Income taxes may be less in the years that lie just ahead. However, many farmers who have been careless with their records during the past five or six years may be faced at any time with the necessity of settling with Uncle Sam on relatively short notice. They should hold themselves in readiness for any eventuality, for the Treasury Dept. is adding new agents to check on the big farm incomes realized since 1940.

So far as the majority of farmers are concerned, payment of Federal income taxes has been a wartime phenomenon.

Such payments by farmers in 1945 and 1946 are now tentatively estimated at \$600,000,000 per year. During the period between the two wars Federal income tax payments by farmers were negligible. And during the high-income years of World War I—although many farmers paid income taxes—the rates were modest as compared with now. So we can see that a decrease in income taxes would add materially to the net income of the farmer.

In recent years farmers have paid an estimated \$200,000,000 annually in automobile and truck licenses, drivers' permits, Federal and State gasoline taxes, and Federal use taxes.

Moving as we are through this period of price transition, we should be careful of speculation on anything. It is impossible to know what land values will be a

year hence, and we should exercise our best judgment before purchasing land of any kind. And the farmer who holds his commodities for higher prices or who purchases products on the chance of making a profit at a later date is gambling with the little reserve he has garnered through high prices engendered by the war. Most of us remember what happened in 1920 and 1921, so it seems useless to employ that period as an illustration of what could happen during the next three years.

Our Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson, remarked recently that farmers are now confronted with three problems:

- (1) adjusting production away from the wartime needs over peacetime requirements;
- (2) maintaining market outlets on a permanent basis that will make full use of ever-increasing productive capacities; and
- (3) maintaining and restoring soil fertility for the long pull ahead.

The production of cigarettes in the calendar year 1946 again set a new record—as it has each calendar year since 1932. Approximately 350,000,000,000 cigarettes were manufactured in 1946, six per cent more than in 1945 and 88 per cent above the 1937-41 average of 186,000,000,000. Domestic consumption as indicated by taxpaid withdrawals was 321,000,000,000, about three times the 1947-41 average.

Since this State grows 67 per cent of all flue-cured tobacco produced in this country and since our economy follows closely the fortunes of tobacco, we should feel hopeful for North Carolina Agriculture this year.

In this State, we are in an overall position to absorb some price declines in other commodities so long as tobacco holds.

Now, while tobacco is in demand let us employ this period to become diversified in our farming activities, so that our agricultural prosperity need not be dependent on any one commodity. The answer to price fluctuations is a balanced agricultural program.

### Mrs. Garland Godwin Entertains Bridge Club

The Diamond Bridge Club met Friday night in the home of Mrs. Garland Godwin. After several progressions, a dessert course with sandwiches and coffee, was served to Mesdames Douglas Finch, Ruric Gill, R. Vance Brown, Pat Farmer, Ferd Davis, Bernice Bunn, Ralph Talton and Howard Beck. High, low, and floating prizes were awarded to Mesdames Douglas Finch, Ferd Davis, and Howard Beck.

A gift for her new home was presented to Mrs. Godwin by the club.

### DR. G. S. BARBEE

announces the resumption of the active practice of medicine at his office in the Zebulon Drug Company Building as of March 10th.

FOR SALE — One Cash Register. — See Mrs. S. G. Flowers.

FOR SALE — Live or dressed pork — Hogs that will dress from 325 to 250 lbs. Don't be caught without meat and lard. I also have a nice cow that will be fresh next month, for sale or trade. Cheap — one good plug mule. — See J. W. Tarpley, at Tarpley's Mill. ltp

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