

Farm Expert Discusses Fertilizer Outlook for Fall and Next Spring

By D. S. Coltrane

Raleigh. — Since fertilizer plays such an important part in crop production in North Carolina, our farmers are interested in knowing what the outlook for supplies will be this fall and next spring. To this end I am giving this information to Record readers.

From a national standpoint, the outlook is not much different from that of the past year (1946-47). It is estimated there will be a five to 10 per cent increase in nitrogen, eight to 10 per cent increase in phosphate, and two to four per cent increase in potash supplies—an overall increase of seven to 10 per cent.

W. A. Minor, assistant Secretary of Agriculture, estimates that we will have something over 3,440,000 tons of plant food, as compared with something over 3,000,000 tons this past year.

The clearest point in the outlook is that we don't have enough fertilizer, and it does not look as if we will have enough in the next 12 months. Every year we

have a little more nitrogen, a little more phosphate and a little more potash; and every year we seem to have a bigger gap between supply and demand. At least, the gap stays just as big.

From the standpoint of the North Carolina farmer, it appears at this time that tobacco farmers will get all the 3-9-6 they want. Those who used 3-9-9 this past year should get a similar tonnage. Tobacco farmers should get as much or more top-dresser, 5-5-20 as during the past year.

Farmers should get this fall and next spring ample quantities of 3-12-6; 4-10-6; 5-10-5; and 4-12-4. High potash grades such as 2-12-12 and 3-9-12 and 0-12-12 will be short of demand. Those farmers who used these grades during the past year should get a similar tonnage in the ensuing year.

IRBY D. GILL

Attorney and Counselor at Law

PHONE 2281

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