

Farmers Using Combines More

Raleigh.—Information furnished by voluntary reporters to the Department of Agriculture shows that there has been a sharp change since 1938 in the methods of harvesting small grains in North Carolina, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service reported. In 1938, only 11 percent of the 480,000 acres of wheat harvested was cut with combines. In 1945, information from voluntary crop reporters shows that of the 403,000 acres harvested, 69 percent was combined as standing grain, while the balance, or 31 percent, was threshed with stationary threshers, or cut and fed unthreshed. In 1938, 67 percent of the acreage was harvested with "binders," while 22 percent was harvested by all other methods. The shift in percentage of the oat acreage harvested by combines was less sharp than that shown for wheat, due mainly to

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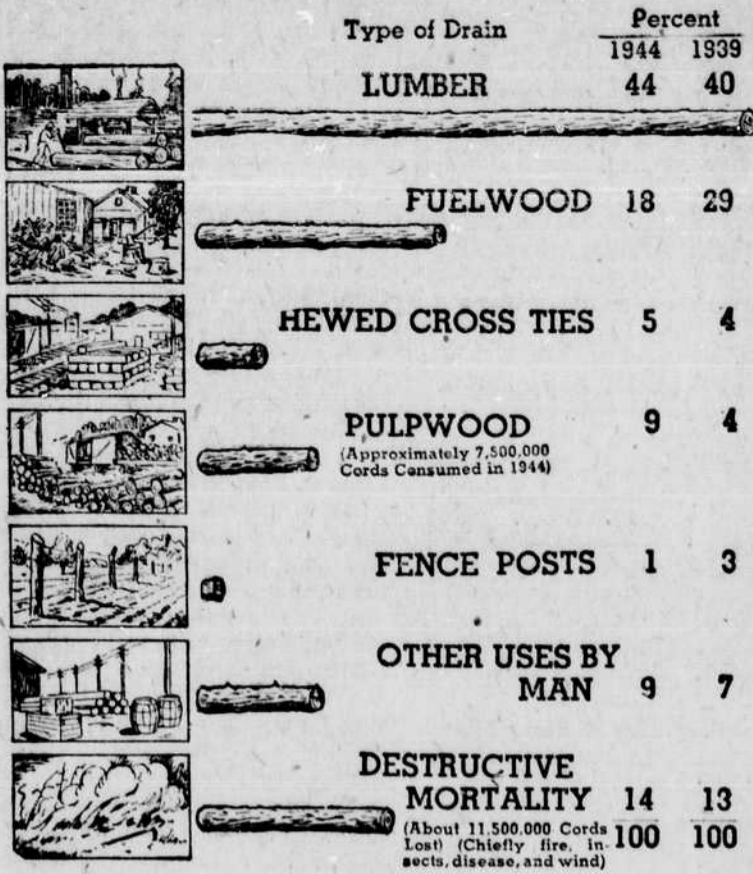
the fact that a large proportion of acreage still is cut and unthreshed. In 1938, North Carolina oat producers combined 12 percent of their acreage, harvested 44 percent with binders and 44 percent by all other methods. In 1945, 44 percent of the oat acreage was combined as standing grain and 56 percent threshed with stationary threshers or cut and fed unthreshed.

No harvest data was obtained for barley and rye in 1938. However, in 1945, 71 percent of the barley crop was combined as standing grain, with 53 percent of the rye crop harvested by the same method.

The remaining portion of the acreage of these crops was threshed with stationary threshers or cut and fed unthreshed.

Custom rates for combining wheat in North Carolina averaged \$3.90 per acre in 1945, compared with \$2.90 in 1938. The rate per acre for combining oats increased from \$2.60 in 1938 to \$4.00 in 1945. Custom rates per bushel for threshing wheat in 1938 averaged 6.1 cents per bushel. No information is available on the average rate for 1945 or any recent year. The custom rate per bushel for threshing oats advanced from 4.1 cents per bushel in 1938 to 7.3 cents per bushel in 1945—an increase of 3.2 cents per

WHERE DOES OUR TIMBER GO?



bushel. Wheat straw constitutes the major proportion of the small grain crop produced in North Carolina. It is estimated that 400,000 tons of wheat straw was produced in

1945. A little more than half of this straw was recoverable for use on farm or for sale. Of this recoverable straw, 34 percent was used on farms or sold as bale straw, while 16 percent was used on farms or sold as loose straw, and 50 percent was left in the fields or otherwise not used. Straw produced from the 1945 oat crop amounted to 268,000 tons. Around 170,000 tons, or better than 50 percent of this production was recoverable for use on farms or for sale. Only 21 percent of the recoverable straw was baled, compared with 34 percent of the wheat straw, but about 77 percent of the total recoverable oat straw was utilized on the farm or sold either as baled or loose straw.

Tobacco Uses Lot Of Farm Labor

Raleigh.—Tobacco requires more than half of North Carolina farm labor's total crop hours although it is exceeded in acreage by several crops, it was revealed in a survey reported by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The report explained that tobacco requires more work per acre than any other crop. Farmers in North Carolina harvest about 23 percent of the oat straw was left in the field or otherwise not used.

most twice as many acres and pounds of tobacco than those of any other State. Almost three-fourths of all farm work done in North Carolina is devoted to crops, the report stated. Slightly more labor is devoted to farm maintenance than to livestock. Labor requirements for wheat and cotton have increased since 1939 because of greater yields on additional acres, but labor for

spite a higher yield, because of sharply decreased acreage. Labor requirements for all farm work in North Carolina decreased slightly from 1939 to 1944. Requirements for crops dropped five per cent, while those for livestock increased almost a fifth because of the higher livestock populations. Vikings established the first parliament in Iceland in 930.

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