

Plan Survey Of All Croplands In County

Survey Predicated On Likely Change In Farm Program

Ask Acreages for 1941, '42 And from 1945 Through The Current Year

With a change in the farm program anticipated in due time, an extensive survey of all crop lands is scheduled to get under way in this county within the next few days. Mr. Geo. C. Griffin, chairman of the Agricultural Conservation Association announces. Handling the survey in this county, the community committeemen will contact as far as possible the farmers and plan to complete the task by the middle of May.

Few details have been announced, but it is fairly apparent that more crops will be brought under the quota system next year, one report indicating that cotton and wheat will be subject to acreage control at that time with the possibility that others will be included after. While very little wheat is grown in this county, the few farmers planting any acreage to the crop will likely have an opportunity to vote on quotas on or about July 25. A referendum on cotton will likely be called in late November or early December of this year. Farm leaders are fair- certain corn and possibly other field crops will be included in the quota system later.

Records for tobacco and peanuts are already available, but the survey will determine the acreage planted to wheat and cotton in 1941 and 1942 and from 1945 through 1949. Farmers will also be asked to state acreages planted to corn, grain sorghums, soybeans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, oats, green manure crops, cover crops, temporary pasture, rotation pasture, orchards, vineyards and list idle crop land and other non-cropland in 1941, 1945, on through 1949. The farmers will also be asked to give acreages of land cleared since 1941.

Farm leaders point out that it is important for farmers to study the questions and offer an accurate and detailed acreage report. "I am fully aware that this survey comes at a time when our farmers are very busy," Mr. Griffin said, "and I realize that it is a real sacrifice for them to stop work at this season even for a little while. However, the information which farmers are asked to provide is of vital importance to assure them a fair and equitable acreage when wheat and cotton allotments go into effect. Insofar as they are able, community committeemen will attempt to inconvenience farmers as little as possible and gather the required information quickly. I sincerely urge farmers to assist the County Committee and themselves by giving replies as accurately as possible to the questions which will be asked them."

Livestock Producers Meet In Rocky Mount

Herman C. Aaberg, director of the Livestock Department of the American Farm Bureau Federation of Chicago, will address a meeting of eastern North Carolina livestock producers in the Rocky Mount High School auditorium on Saturday of this week at 10:00 o'clock a. m.

He will discuss current legislation, regulations and proposed laws governing the livestock industry. Martin County producers are invited to attend the meeting.

Nearing Cancer Fund Drive Goal In Griffins

B. R. Manning, chairman of the cancer fund drive in Griffins Township, said that his district was nearing its goal and that the canvassers, Mesdames James Harrington, Urbin Lilley, Mack Roberson, Leslie Griffin and Bruce Peel and Miss Bessie Griffin would complete the drive the latter part of the week. "We'll reach and pass our quota," the chairman added.

Beer License And Sales Under The State ABC Board

Local Governing Authorities Have Little To Do With The Business

Handled under a subterfuge for years, beer licensing and sales are now under the control of the State Alcoholic Beverages Control Board with fifteen inspectors added to the public payroll.

Under the new control act, the ABC Board is strengthened by the creation of a Malt Beverage Division, with at least fifteen field inspectors, exercising authority similar to other police officers in enforcing the law. Cost of the enlarged program of the Board is to be borne by using not more than five percent of the beer taxes collected by the state.

The new law gives the ABC Board sole power to determine the fitness and qualifications of applicants for beer permits. Before issuing a license, the Board is required to investigate the fitness of the applicant and the location, general appearance and type of business operated by the individual. All applications for permits to sell beer must be filed in writing with the Board, with all statements made under oath.

Permits may not be given applicants convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, or who were adjudged guilty of violating the prohibition laws within the two years preceding application for a permit. Licenses are to be denied those applicants whose licenses to sell alcohol beverages of any kind were revoked within five years preceding the date of application. If any applicant receives a beer license, and it is found that he knowingly made a false statement in his application, his permit is to be revoked, and upon conviction, he shall be subject to the penalty provided by law for misdemeanors.

All individuals intending to apply for a permit to sell beer must notify county and municipal authorities, and the public. Any objections to the issuance of such a permit are to be filed with the State ABC Board, and a hearing held before action is taken on the application for a license.

The Board may suspend or revoke any beer license if it decides the licensee is not a suitable person to hold the permit, or that the premises he occupies are objectionable. Licensees against whom action is pending, are to be entitled to a hearing before the Board, if the licensees request it.

Municipal and county authorities are to retain their power to revoke licenses, with revocation of one beer license calling for revocation of all issued to the person involved. The act does not require any county or municipality to issue licenses for any territory where the sale of local beer has been prohibited by legislative action or by a local-option election.

The new law specifies that no beer is to be sold between the hours of 11 p. m. and 7:30 a. m., anywhere in the state.

The beer license year begins May 1. Persons now having beer licenses may have them renewed at that time, but by June 30 all beer licensees must make application for permit under provisions of the new law, otherwise such license held by the retailer shall be void.

Disloyalty Found In Few Instances

A report issued by the Federal Loyalty Review Board in Washington says that sixty-seven government employees had been discharged for "loyalty reasons" last October, 1947. In a report on its activities up to February 28, the board said that more than 2,300,000 federal workers had been cleared of any suspicion of disloyalty. It added, however, that sixty-seven were dismissed and another 107 suspected of disloyalty still were under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Civil Service Commission.

Perfect Permanent Booster Organization At Meeting

Meeting in the employment of local business and professional men perfected a permanent organization of the Williamston Boosters Association, Incorporated, and plans for future activities were formulated.

C. B. Clark, Jr., temporary chairman, was elected permanent president, and Kelly Gay was named vice president. Temporary directors, including C. B. Clark, Jr., Kelly Gay, Robert Cowen, Frank Margolis, B. A. Critcher, Jr., Jas. E. Griffin, Leman Barnhill, Urbin Rogers and Ernest Mears, were given a permanent standing, and K. P. Lindsley, A. J. Manning, James Bailey Peel and R. Edwin Peele were added to the list as new directors. The directors were instructed to proceed with the incorporation of the club and to formulate a budget and ways and means for financing the organization. A. L. Sweatt, newly elected secretary, is to report for active duty on May 2, and plans are being made to have the organization functioning by that time.

Last year approximately eighty business firms and professional men were affiliated with the club, and the foundation was laid at that time for a more extensive schedule of activities in the future.

Justices Of Peace Handle Ten Cases In Court Recently

Justices R. T. Johnson and John L. Hassell handled ten cases in their courts during the past few days. Several of the defendants were bound over to the county court where they'll be tried in May.

After appealing to motorists to dim their lights, patrolmen recently started checking on those who intentionally or unintentionally failed to extend the courtesy to approaching motorists and help eliminate a night traffic hazard. Two of the five defendants bound over to the county court stand charged with violating the liquor laws. Two others are booked for speeding and one is up for allegedly operating a motor vehicle while his driver's license was revoked. Most of the cases sent to the higher court are tentatively set for trial on May 2. The superior court has the continued right-of-way next Monday.

Cases handled by Justice Johnson in his court: John Lee James, charged with assault, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the road term upon guaranteed good behavior for twelve months and the payment of a \$15 fine and \$6.35 costs.

When the prosecuting witness tried to withdraw the warrant in the case charging Samuel Scott with an assault, Justice Johnson taxed the witness with the cost.

Fishing without a license, L. F. Curry was fined \$5 and taxed with \$5.85 costs.

Charged with failing to dim the lights on his motor vehicle when meeting another vehicle, Andrew Purvis was fined \$5 and required to pay \$5.85 costs.

In his court, Justice Hassell adjudged Luther Respass of being drunk and disorderly and fined him \$5 plus \$9.50 costs.

Firemen Called To Grass Fire Off Church Street

Firemen were called out here yesterday afternoon at 2:10 o'clock when a grass fire went out of control just off West Church Street and threatened outbuildings.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

For the third time this year, motorists on Martin County highways traveled around an entire week without a reportable accident. Patrolmen said that traffic, including the heavy movement at the weekend, moved without accident during the 15th week, but the current week was reported to be off to a bad start.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend; first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

15th Week			
Year	Accidents	Inj'd	Killed
1949	0	0	0
1948	2	0	0
Comparisons To Date			
1949	31	15	1
1948	40	17	1

Pushing Plans To Extend Route 64 To Cape Hatteras

Will Discuss Bridging River And Croatan Sound At Meeting Friday

Buxton on Cape Hatteras, April 20.—Officials of the Southern Albemarle Association came with their visions of a new and complete trans-continental highway to its eastern anchor-point on the most easterly bit of land in continental United States over the week-end and here they found enthusiasm for the project already ripening and the inhabitants of the Seven Villages of the North Carolina Outer Banks much more than hospitable to the notion that U. S. Highway 64 should begin here.

As pictured to them by Victor Meekins, president of the Association and Melvin Daniels, secretary, the road ought naturally to begin down here and proceed northward, across Oregon Inlet, now within sight of rehabilitation and re-birth of a dwindled fishing industry. And thence across Roanoke Island, across Croatan Sound, where the road will fork into Route 264 before continuing beyond Alligator River, Columbia, Plymouth and Williamston, the length of North Carolina and the width of the nation, its western anchor at San Diego, California.

More detailed plans for the launching of the project will be discussed in Columbia Friday afternoon of this week when the entire executive board of the Association meets to project the developing campaign a step nearer its full-fledged. From here President Meekins and Secretary Daniels will take a story that may sound a little incredible to uplanders, since it has to do with some scores of orange and grapefruit trees now in full bloom. Even they were surprised that Dare County has provided North Carolina with as fine a lot of orange trees as the road will find at its terminus in California.

Practical-minded villagers along the Outer Banks, after study of the map, suggested to Messrs. Meekins and Daniels that since they had been so long without a road that it surely would not appear amiss if they asked to have Route 64 down on the map as starting actually on the Point of Cape Hatteras, which is probably the most storied piece of real estate in the United States, the site of Cape Hatteras State Park and one of the U. S. Coast Guard's most important modern installations.

Nor were the Villagers slow to appraise the value of the road projected south of Oregon Inlet not only to themselves but to all the territory westward — plumb to California. Re-opening of Oregon Inlet, in prospect for next year, will bring back to the Pamlico Sound Country a re-possession of its ancient pre-eminence as a fish-ground, and on a modern basis.

"We can still catch the fish here, freeze them, and along that road, they'll be eating them in Raleigh by supper and in Hendersonville for breakfast. Sure, this is where the road ought to start—both of them." Melvin Daniels promised to get the message to the executive committee of the Association at its Friday meeting.

Lumber Company To Build Plant

The Critcher Lumber Company plans to start construction on a new plant estimated to cost \$35,000 here next week, Mr. R. A. Critcher, senior member of the firm, announced this morning. The plant is to be located just off Slade Street near the railroad to the rear of the Dixie Peanut Company.

Machinery, including a new 150-horsepower boiler and engine, is to be moved to the site Monday or Tuesday of next week. The company plans to have the plant ready for operation in about ninety days.

The company is composed of Messrs. R. A. Critcher, senior and junior, T. S. Critcher and son, Jim Critcher.

Plans Going Forward On Drainage Project

Survey Financed By Small Group At Recent Meet

It will be "Martin County On the Air" on the weekly 4-H Program over WPTF in Raleigh Saturday, April 23 at 12:45 p. m. Those 4-H members participating are: Mary Jane Rogers of Williamston, Billy Bailey of Everetts, Corrone Bryant and Reg Coltraine of Williamston. The topic of the program will be the 6th Annual Martin County Fat Stock Show.

An extensive drainage project, slated to improve an estimated 13,000 acres of land and estimated to cost \$42,000, is tentatively scheduled to get under way in this county within a short time, according to a report coming from a meeting of a special committee held in Williamston recently.

Meeting with Attorneys Frank Wooten, Jr., and Clarence Griffin and Engineers George Refrew and Tom Rivers, the committee posted \$300 to finance an initial survey, and it is believed that there'll be no hitch in the project.

Centered mainly in Bear Grass, but serving portions of Cross Roads Township, the project has the pledged support of owners of approximately ninety percent of the land affected. As far as it can be learned there is no strong opposition among those owning the remaining ten percent.

Petitions, advanced at a meeting of the committee including Messrs. J. Rossel and Urbin Rogers, W. R. Cratt and son, Noah Rogerson, Gormer Harrison, Toba Bowen, Marvin S. Cowin, E. C. Harrison and Delmus Rogerson, are to be submitted to the clerk of the Martin County Superior Court this week for final inspection.

One report stated that an aerial map survey would be made within a matter of a few days, that it is possible to start work on the project in a matter of a few weeks.

Starting at a point in Tranter's Creek near the John Bill Leggett farm or Eli Rogers' farm, the drainage system will center in Bear Grass and Turkey Swamps and cover a course of about ten miles, reaching a point near the farm of the late Henry D. Peel in Cross Roads Township.

The cost to the individual land owners will be determined by the survey. There'll be five classifications, A, B, C, D and E. Those receiving the maximum benefit from the project will be grouped in Class A, unofficial estimates placing the cost for that group at about \$3 an acre and on down.

"The drainage system will mean just about as much to the value of the land as fertilizer," a member of the committee said this week. Damage to tracts of timber where the streams have choked up has been estimated as high as \$3,000 by one individual owner.

It is declared that the project is years late, that unless something is done without further delay many acres will have to be abandoned, one farmer declaring that the water is actually backing up on his lands.

Another member of the committee pointed out that the project is quite an undertaking, that even though the cost will approximate and even possibly exceed \$42,000, it will be well worth every penny spent on it.

Other projects are being considered in the county, but developments are being delayed pending the completion and announced results of the one now being advanced, one report stated.

Marriages And Divorces Decline

The Public Health Service in Washington reports that there has been a sharp decrease in both marriages and divorces in the United States during the past two years. The service estimates that there were 415,000 divorces last year, compared with some 474,000 in 1947 and 610,000 in the peak year of 1946. The marriage rate for the past three years went like this: 1,815,000 in 1948; 1,991,878 in 1947, and more than 2,000,000 in 1946.

Legislature Nears End of Long Term

Mired down deep in confusion and resentment for months, the North Carolina Legislature is now believed nearing an end. Much muddled legislation has been placed on the statute books, some out of spite and many bills have been lost for the same reason. Conferees are working today in an effort to straighten out the "if" surrounding a bonus for teachers. The bonus is offered willingly, but on certain conditions, mainly if there is a surplus and the money can be made available.