

# Buying Power Of Farmers Reflected In National Trends Of All Business

By WHEELER McMILLEN  
Editor-in-Chief, Farm Journal

Farmers buy roughly one-fourth of the nation's steel and petroleum. In some proportion their purchases affect directly or indirectly the curves of every business chart. The agricultural outlook has to be taken into account in any estimate of the months ahead.

Despite high costs for many of the products farmers must buy, agricultural purchasing power during 1949 may be expected to continue at high levels. Sagging prices for corn, wheat and soybeans may slow up some areas, but less expensive feedstuffs in turn mean lower costs and better profits for the more extensive livestock dairy and poultry sectors of agriculture.

Those who watch for signs of agricultural recession will need to take into account the pattern which followed the first World War cannot well repeat itself. The most striking change stands forth in the relationship of farmers and land to customers. Little, if any, more land is cultivated now than in 1920. The number of farmers has declined. But the number of domestic consumers has risen from 105 million in 1920 to 145,000,000 now. The addition of 40,000,000 customers whose food and fiber must come from about the same number of acres presents a very different picture.

Meanwhile, the efficiency of the farm plant has been dramatically improved. Nearly all of World War I food was produced with horse-power. Tractors, power-driven machinery, trucks and electrification have come almost wholly since that time. The adjustment involved in the decline of horse and mule population from 30,000,000 to fewer than 10,000,000 has been accomplished. This uneasy transition from home-produced power to an almost all-cash farm economy does

not have to be repeated.

**Output Per Man**  
Even taking into account the advances with hybrid corn and the spectacularly favorable crop weather of the 1940's, average yields per acre have not risen notably. The conspicuous increase has been made in the output per man, and correspondingly in his income.

Political signs all point to continuation of support prices at a fairly high level. Whatever the long-range soundness of this policy which has its severe critics even among farmers themselves, the current effect, of course, is to assure against any immediate severe collapse. A great many farmers favor a support-price program while granting that it may not be a sound policy. They point out that such numerous government-maintained rigidities have been introduced into the economic system that either farmers must have corresponding advantages for agriculture or, what seems to them unlikely, the others must be relaxed. They further argue that in periods when the free markets are gripped by psychological panic, major farm products tend to become seriously underpriced with consequent disastrous to them and injurious to the whole national economy.

If the export requirements for farmstuffs recede during 1949, some favorable effects are naturally expected to be left by the producers most concerned. The high level of domestic consumption, however, will be counted upon to prevent such effects from being felt deeply. In fact, this prospect may already have been discounted in the prices offered during the autumn.

The curious phenomena of inflation continues to puzzle many farmers as they do businessmen.

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE, TO INCLUDE THE AREA KNOWN AS ALLENS CREEK SECTION.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Chapter 725 of Sessions Laws of North Carolina for 1947, and other laws of North Carolina, and pursuant to an order and resolution of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Waynesville, a special election will be held on Saturday, July 30, 1949, in the area hereinafter described, known as the Allens Creek Section, on the question of whether or not the corporate limits of the Town of Waynesville shall be extended to include the area hereinafter described.

The territory proposed to be annexed and in which all qualified voters will be entitled to vote, is described and bounded as follows:

**BEGINNING** at a stake in the center of the creek, or Browning Branch, at the corner of the recently added corporate limits of the Town of Waynesville, on the Southeast side of U. S. Highway 19A-23, and runs down said creek in a Northerly direction to a stake in the Northerly margin of the road leading to the property known as the J. C. Welch residence near the Tapestry Mill, and runs thence with margin of said road in a Westerly direction to a stake in the center of the street leading in a Northerly direction by the Prison Camp to a point where said line would strike the present Hazelwood corporate limits; thence with the Hazelwood corporate limits in a Westerly direction by the Lee Winchester property to the center of Richland Creek; thence up Richland Creek in a Southerly direction to the mouth of Brendle Creek; thence up Allens Creek in an Easterly direction to the bridge at the road leading to the J. C. Welch residence; thence with said road in a Northerly direction to a point on the Northerly side of the Southern Railroad tracks; thence along the Westerly side of the railroad to the railroad crossing near the Dayton Rubber Plant at a point on the Southerly side of the highway; thence on the South-easterly margin of the highway in a Southwesterly direction 400 feet to a stake.

Thence S 75° E. to a stake in the center of the railroad; thence S. 75° E. 258 feet to a stake in the fence line; thence S. 66° 30' E. 297 feet to a stake in the corner of the John Francis land (20 feet South of an 18-inch hemlock); thence S 71° E. 318 feet to a stake; thence S. 41° E. 203 feet; thence S. 31° 30' E. 365 feet; thence S. 65° E. 383 feet to a 12-inch locust above a barn; thence S. 79° 30' E. 505 feet to a point in the East margin of the Allens Creek Road; thence with said margin of said road S. 13° E. 921 feet; thence S. 0° 30' W. 165 feet to a stake in the R. O. Allen and James Page line; thence with their line S. 84° 45' E. 179 feet to a point on the West side of Browning Branch; thence with West side of said branch two ends: N. 12° 30' E. 200 feet; N. 11° E. 250 feet; thence crossing the branch N. 66° E. 547 feet to a stake in a fence on a

## Tornado Splinters Home But Everybody Escapes



Here are five of the eight people who escaped injury when a tornado destroyed the home of Nathan Hudson near Newton Grove. They look at the ruins and wonder how all came out unhurt. Left to right, Mrs. Fannie Lee and her son, John Ellis Lee; Mrs. Addie Hudson, Kathleen Hudson and Wilbur Hudson. The tornado demolished houses and barns and uprooted trees over a 10-mile area. Several people were hurt slightly but no serious injuries were reported. (AP Photo)

## 10 Cemeteries Being Set Up Overseas For American War Dead

### Money Reserve Needed In Farming

Maintaining a financial reserve is an essential part of any well-managed farm business, Dr. I. O. Schaub, director of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, said this week in urging Tar Heel farmers to participate in the U. S. savings bond "Opportunity Drive," May 16-June 20.

"Even at its best, farming is a highly speculative business," Dr. Schaub asserted. "To meet unexpected reverses, farmers need to keep a financial reserve in a safe but readily available form. An ideal way of doing this is to invest in U. S. savings bonds."

"Many farmers have surplus funds which they plan to invest in new equipment as soon as prices come down," the Tar Heel agricultural leader continued. "As every good businessman knows, it's better to put such extra money to work rather than let it lie idle. Dollars invested in savings bonds will return good dividends over a period of years."

The confidence of the people in the savings bond program, Dr. Schaub said, is shown by the fact that sales in North Carolina from May, 1941, through December, 1948, reached the amazing total of \$916,000,000.

Probably great numbers in agriculture concluded that for them inflation had come to an end when prices of major commodities slid off during the year. Others were able to perceive that the creation of excessive money supply is entirely unrelated to supply and demand and that their selling prices were being affected by large surpluses on the one hand, while inflation of the materials they were having to buy.

Since few farmers expect their selling prices to rise higher, more intensive effort to reduce costs of production will be made. This effort will be reflected in sales of time-saving equipment, and of yield-increasing materials such as fertilizers, insecticides and chemical weed-killers.

## 10 Cemeteries Being Set Up Overseas For American War Dead

WASHINGTON—The American dead of World War II who will not be reburied in this country will rest permanently overseas in especially-planned cemeteries soon to be established in 14 different areas. The cemeteries—10 in the Mediterranean and one in the Pacific—are being set up by the American Battle Monuments Commission with funds appropriated by the 80th Congress.

In addition, the World War I cemetery at Suresnes, France, overlooking the city of Paris, is being converted as a shrine to the dead of both great wars. Recently 24 World War II "unknown" were buried there beside the 1,541 dead of World War I.

Suresnes, because of its accessibility, is where most official memorial ceremonies are held honoring the American war dead in European theater. Addition of two wings to the devotional chapel are planned.

Plans for the 14 new cemeteries are already well under way. Brig. Gen. Thomas North, Secretary of the Monuments Commission says. Individual architects, employed for each cemetery, have already submitted plans for memorials and chapels. All but three of these have been okayed by the Fine Arts Commission and others involved in the building of the cemeteries.

Each cemetery will have a small non-sectarian chapel. It will have a museum chamber in which the achievements of the men who fought and died in the region are recorded in stone. Upon the walls, or immediately adjacent thereto, will be inscribed also the names of war dead who have no known graves—the missing dead.

Gen. North says the commission is about to start placing orders for headstones for the estimated 115,000 World War II dead whose bodies will not be brought home. These will be exactly the same as those marking graves of dead of World War I—of white stone or marble in the shape of a modified latin cross, three feet three inches high.

Actual work on the cemeteries is expected to get started this summer. The State goal in the current "Opportunity Drive" is \$12,000,000.

### SAYS DON'T BURN GRASS

AMHERST, Mass. (UPI)—Burning grass is just like sending money up in smoke, according to A. B. Beaumont of the Massachusetts soil conservation service. He estimates that \$4 worth of valuable nitrogen is destroyed every time a ton of grass or leaves is burned.

### RIDE, WALK, RIDE

CHESACO PARK, Md. (UPI)—When buses arrive at the Chesaco Avenue bridge here, they stop and the passengers get out and walk across the bridge. Then the buses cross the bridge and pick up the passengers again. The bridge is on a vital artery, but its weight limits has just been cut to three tons.

The ancient Romans often built huge ponds in which they kept decorative fish.

In the meantime, the remains of dead to stay overseas are in temporary cemeteries maintained by the Army. The Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for the construction and maintenance of cemeteries in foreign countries. In addition to the proposed new cemeteries it is charged with eight World War I, American military cemeteries in Europe containing the graves of 30,908 dead of that war.

## Why Not Listen To The Ladies?

By CYNTHIA LOWMY  
AP Newsfeatures Writer

The editor of a Chinese daily paper, one Kung Teho, recently advised—in print—the acting president of China not to listen to his wife, even if she were right.

Editor Kung went on to say that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the late Sun Yat-sen, first president of the Chinese Republic, had been "disastrous failures" because they had fallen into the pitfall of heeding distasteful advice.

When a few crows to announce the dawn it signifies misfortune for the family," Kung editorialized solemnly. "Similarly, when a woman interferes in the government it presages disaster for the nation."

It might be a little presumptuous to suggest that maybe many of China's troubles stem from attitudes like that taken by Editor Kung. In a republic called the United States, it is deemed a sign of virtue for a man to pay attention to the advice of his partner. In fact, he boasts about it openly.

During a recent presidential campaign, a man named Harry Truman appeared on the rear platform of a train many times, and almost invariably brought his wife forward with words like "And now I want you to meet the boss." Then his daughter came forward to his introduction—"Meet the boss' boss." The people loved it, because it was home-spun humor that had more than a grain of truth in it.

At about the same time, Editor Kung, another fellow was bemoaning the country with the idea of becoming president. In press conferences, over the air and on other occasions this man, named Thomas E. Dewey, explained that Mrs. Dewey was his toughest critic and most severe editor. She went over every speech before he gave it, and blue-pencilled things she didn't like. He talked over all his problems with her, he said.

Messrs. Truman and Dewey are merely rather flashy examples of a common practice in this country, Editor Kung, and it seems to have worked out rather well. Sometimes, in fact, women have been able to come up with suggestions—political and domestic—which made some sense.

Just the other day in my neck of the woods, the hot water boiler of a friend's house refused to heat. The head of the house, who knows about gas and pilot lights, spent most of the morning fiddling with little levers and peering into a little black hole at the boiler base. Still the boiler wouldn't

## Rev. Mabry To Conduct Radio Devotions

Morning devotions over Station WHCC will be conducted next week, Monday through Saturday at 9:30, by Rev. L. E. Mabry, pastor of the First Methodist Church in Canton.

The following two weeks broadcasts will be under the direction of Rev. M. L. Lewis, pastor of the Hazelwood Baptist Church, in connection with a two weeks' revival meeting conducted by Dr. J. C. Canipe, director of evangelism for the North Carolina Baptist Convention.

Sunday morning worship service will be broadcast from the First Methodist Church in Waynesville, sermon by Rev. R. L. Young.

### MUCH WORK, SMALL LOOT

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. (UPI)—A hard-working burglar wormed his way through the window of a gas station ladies' room, smashed through the interior wall, tried to crack the safe and rifled coin boxes and vending machines. For his pains, he won: Some cigarette, razor blades and \$1 in change.

### heat water.

His wife came down to the cellar looking for a hand-weeder which had been mislaid earlier. Noting her husband's anguished position on the floor, she remarked in passing: "Why don't you give it a kick? Sometimes that works."

He gave the boiler a kick, and pop, on came the gas, and the family have had hot water ever since. And no gas-man's bill. That just goes to prove that—in the United States, anyway—you should sometimes listen to a woman's advice, no matter how silly it sounds. There doesn't seem to be any reason not to listen to a wife's advice just because she lives in China. It just might be that the wife of the acting president of China might be able to tell her husband to administer a strategic kick which would solve the problems of a government, instead of a hot water heater. Maybe not, of course.

And while we're on the subject, Mr. Kung, I'd love a little explanation of that ancient Chinese axiom about the hen crowing at dawn. It was obviously torn from its frame of reference, and it doesn't seem to have any application here.

The Spanish have an ancient proverb, too, Mr. Kung:

"A woman's advice is not worth much, but he who doesn't heed it is a fool."

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## LAFF-A-DAY

*Perfumes*



"All I had to do for George was to broil a steak."