

# Farm Leader Takes Optimistic Outlook For This Year

By L. Y. BALLENTINE  
Commissioner of Agriculture

North Carolina farmers, having through 1953 in generally better shape than they had expected last summer's drought, have reason to be cautiously optimistic over 1954 prospects. While exceptions are those largely dependent on cotton, a livelihood; but even here there is some encouragement in the likelihood that reductions in the allotments will not be as first announced. Drought, coupled with the price squeeze and a severe cattle prices, worked hard on many individual farms and on some large farms such as the upper Piedmont. The overall results, however, were not as bad as anticipated. Preliminary estimates indicate that cash receipts from the North Carolina farm probably were not greatly different from the previous year's record total of \$942,169,000. Sales of dairy products, and livestock went a long way in making up for declines in receipts.

Cotton, the big item in this agricultural sales, usually bring for about 50 per cent total, brought an estimated \$400,000 for the 1953 crop as compared with \$458,400,000 for the record. In view of an eight per cent decline in production, with a reduction in acreage, this was encouraging news for those farmers who are fortunate enough to receive allotments. It was an excellent year for some tobacco farmers, especially those in the Border and the Belts; but quality, prices and yields were disappointing for growers in the Middle and West.

Yield acreage is expected to be about the same this year, as allotments remain unchanged for individual producers. With a favorable growing season next year, which is reasonable in most areas, yields and prices should be somewhat better than that event, prices may be expected to approach or exceed those of the past season. Both yields and prices in 1953 was a rough year for the cotton growers. The yield of their crop, both lint and seed, was estimated at only \$30,000,000, down nearly \$35,000,000 from the previous year. The allotments announced in December referendum on a loss in 1954 of about a million acres. For North Carolina this, cotton growers are anxiously for controls on price supports, now pending in the state may get \$100,000 acres for cotton.

With more of a buyer's market in prospect, farmers with cash available may be able to make appreciable savings on equipment and supplies by shopping around for their needs. Some farmers may be tempted to cut down on their orders of fertilizer, insecticides and other essential supplies; but this kind of economy does not mean savings in production costs. Indeed, the best way to trim production costs usually found in reducing unit expenses through increased yields. The wise use of more fertilizer and insecticides offers many farmers their best opportunity for increasing their profits. Others may find the purchase of labor-saving equipment and machinery advantageous. All should carefully figure their possibilities.

## BRINGS CANINE CARGO IN TRUNK



MRS. JANE THOMPSON, of Detroit, Mich., checks the condition of the dogs she carried in the trunk of her car to Pinehurst, N. C., for the second annual trials of the Old Dominion Brittany Field Trial Club. Dogs from twelve states have been entered. (International Soundphoto)

truck vegetables will be increased and that fruit production also will show gains. Prices for both fruits and vegetables may be somewhat lower.

With acreage reductions in prospect for cotton and peanuts, it is reasonable to expect a continued expansion of improved pastures and, possibly, still further gains in livestock production.

Milk production probably will continue to rise in line with the trend of recent years. Feed and pasture should be more plentiful and this could mean lower production costs and, in turn, may be reflected in slightly lower prices. The operations of the new North Carolina Milk Commission, however, should tend to stabilize marketing conditions and protect the rights of producers.

Some owners of beef herds have been forced to reduce their holdings at sacrifices during the past year; but most have managed to hold on to their better breeding stock. There will probably be few new producers going into beef this year; but existing herds should show some slight gains in production, provided hopes materialize for more favorable pasture and feed production.

The upward trend in broiler production is expected to continue, but producers may have to content themselves with smaller margins of profit.

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## Gladiolus Among Best Of The Garden Flowers

By ROBERT SCHMIDT

### Wet Weather Delays Tobacco Bed Seeding

For the past three weeks it has been tobacco plant bed seeding time in Pender County, but the weather has delayed this all-important Tar Heel farm operation. V. T. Maulsby, Pender County farm agent, says that with the advent of dry weather many farmers will hurry to finish a task started three weeks ago. Many farmers started sowing the tiny seed that will produce the plant to start the major crop on their farms only to be halted by continuous rain. The determined farmers who tried to buck the stiff wet soil in the plant beds were forced finally to take their tools back to the shed and look for a wet weather job.

ment, and other capital investments.

QUESTION: What minerals do my dairy cows need?

ANSWER: There are 13 mineral elements recognized as being required by animals. They are sodium, chlorine, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, iron, copper, iodine, manganese, zinc and cobalt. Fortunately, many of these are present in any good rations likely to be fed to dairy cattle. The ones that may be short in good rations and possibly need to be added are sodium, chlorine, calcium, phosphorus, copper, iodine and cobalt. However, learn the sources of the needed minerals and don't waste money on those that are not needed. But only those that are not supplied in the feed.

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In sandy soil the corms should be planted about five inches deep and six inches apart in the row—in clay soils four inches deep and six inches apart in the row. Fertilization should be moderate with any good grade garden fertilizer and care should be taken that none of the fertilizer comes into contact with the bulbs. Select nice plump bulbs—free from any disease spots. Most of the bulbs offered for sale are of the large sizes but with our long seasons the medium and small sizes will also give nice blooms.

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Fortunately, there is only one pest that gives us much trouble on the gladiolus in the garden and that is the gladiolus thrip, a small sucking insect. It causes light streaks on the foliage and a de-

## Stirs Coffee Probe



EDWARD F. HOWREY, chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, is shown as he told Washington reporters that the commission had adopted a resolution to initiate a legal and economic investigation of rising coffee prices. He said a preliminary study suggests the increase may be due in part to speculative activity. (International)

## Nuns Avoid Fire

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Nuns of the Order of Daughters of our Lady of Mercy were forced to move when their convent was condemned as a fire hazard. Their new quarters? A renovated fire station.

forming of the blooms. If noticed in time, thrips can be controlled with a dust or spray of 5 per cent DDT.

## Poultry Manure Valuable As A Fertilizer Ingredient

Poultry manure is widely recognized as a valuable fertilizer with a high nitrogen content, according to R. S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at N. C. State College.

One hundred laying birds will yield 3½ or four tons of fresh manure a year. About one-half of this is voided at night on dropping boards or roosting pits. Poultry droppings contain about 1 per cent nitrogen, 0.8 per cent phosphoric acid and 0.5 per cent potash. It averages about 78 per cent moisture. If properly treated with superphosphate and stored under shelter, the value improves to make a fertilizer corresponding closely to a 2-2-1.

If left in a pile so it cannot dry, the nitrogen breaks down into ammonia and heavy losses occur, says Dearstyne. Treatment with superphosphate reduces this nitrogen loss. Treat the manure either on the dropping boards, roosting pits, the litter or storage piles after it has been removed from the house. Always store poultry man-

ure under cover. Superphosphate increased the phosphorus content of the manure. Apply 100 pounds of 20 per cent granular grade per ton of fresh manure. If scattered on dropping boards or pits, use three to five pounds per week per 100 birds.

Last May 1 there were 7,963,000 layers on North Carolina farms according to the USDA's Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The droppings from these birds would amount to more than 23,000 tons of manure. How many of our poultrymen are capitalizing on this valuable by-product of their industry?, asks Dearstyne.

## Drink Is On House

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—William Kimura caters to fancy parties. One night a guest found him in the kitchen, frowning and thumping a drink recipe book. "I thought I knew them all, but I'm stuck," Kimura said. "How do you make a rain-check?"

## State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: If I use more fertilizer on my corn this year how will it effect other costs of growing corn?

ANSWER: Adding more fertilizer has little effect on other costs. The costs per acre of preparing the land, planting and cultivating will be about the same, whether you use no fertilizer or 160 pounds of nitrogen. You'll need more labor to harvest the increased yield. Total costs, except fertilizer, increase very little when more fertilizer is used. Even the additional fertilizer becomes cheaper to use, because net returns increase as fertilizer is increased. Net returns increase more than costs up to about 160 pounds per acre of nitrogen on corn.

QUESTION: What are the things North Carolina farmers should be doing right now marketwise?

ANSWER: Cull low quality cattle now. The present price ratios are not favorable for feeding low quality cattle either for breeding herd or butcher. Use large amounts of feed to get those spring pigs on market early. The fall price drop this year will likely be greater than last year. Learn varieties and grades of vegetables preferred by consumers then give them what they want. Plan now to grow, grade, pack and sell to meat consumer wants. Irish and sweet potatoes offer profits this year for efficient producers, with the emphasis on "efficient". Study seasonal price patterns for eggs and arrange program to be in production during higher prices in fall and winter months. Learn the marketing channels for products you have to sell. This will help you determine the best practices to return the greatest profit in the long run. Plan for year after year stable market rather than year to year scramble to sell.

QUESTION: When are farm income taxes due?

ANSWER: You have only one choice left: to file your return and pay the tax on or before March 15. Prior to January 31 you could have filed the return and paid the tax at anytime.

QUESTION: Should the value of farm products produced on the farm and consumed in the home be reported as income?

ANSWER: NO. And the cost of producing these products must not be included in the farm expenses.

QUESTION: If an insurance company pays a farmer for losses on a crop, must this sum be reported as income?

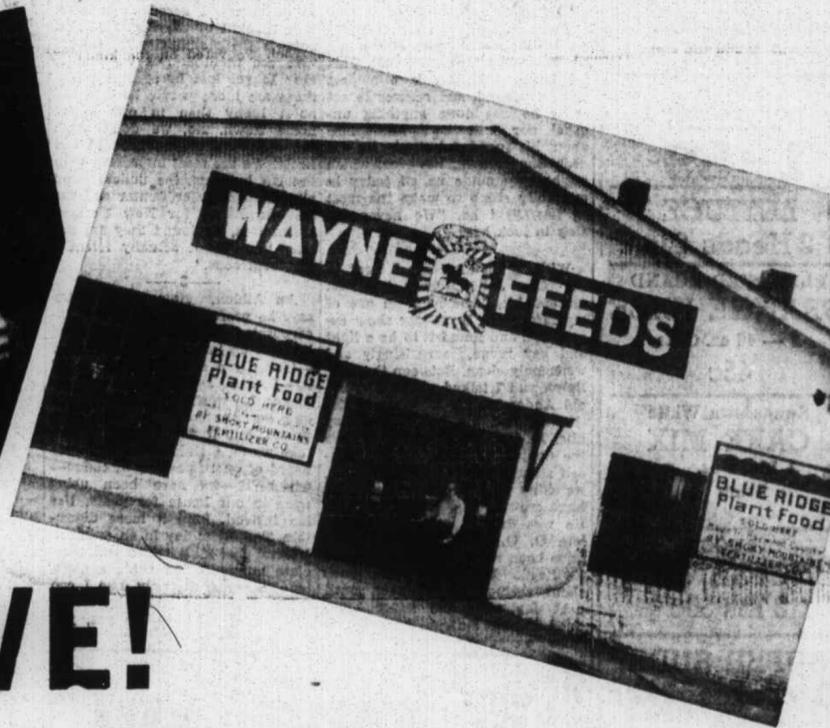
ANSWER: Yes. Hail and fire insurance receipts for crops or animals destroyed should be included in the gross income whether the amount received was cash or cash equivalent.

QUESTION: What farm expenses are allowable as deductions in arriving at the net farm profit?

ANSWER: A farmer operating a farm for a profit is allowed to deduct all necessary expenses of operating the business in arriving at the net farm income. This includes expenses for the cost of fertilizer, lime, feed, seed, hired labor, gas and oil, taxes and insurance paid, and many other similar expenses. Expenses are also allowed for depreciation on farm buildings, machinery and equip-

ment before going into debt. More and more, successful farming calls for good management.

## --- AND HERE'S THE PLACE



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