

J. Con Lanier Points To Controlled Production As The Road To Prosperity!

Wonderful changes have occurred in the tobacco-growing business during the past twelve months.

A year ago sceptics were saying that farmers would never agree to reduce production. You growers answered that statement almost unanimously.

It was also said that tobacco growers would not keep an agreement after one had been entered into. You have confounded your critics, and in so doing you have wrought wonderfully for your own good.

The present price level of flue-cured tobacco is a glowing tribute to your courage, your honesty and your resolution.

It is now said that the tobacco program will bog down, that the high prices now being paid for tobacco will cause the tobacco farmers to abandon the program of controlled production in the hope of reaping next year abnormal profits at the expense of their neighbors who stick by the program.

The cross roads will be reached, and the parting of the ways will come, next spring when the time comes to plant the 1935 crop. The new road to prosperity and economic independence is labeled, "Controlled Production". The old road to ruin, to poverty, and to hopelessness is marked, "Uncontrolled Production".

You have traveled the old road through the weary years in days gone by, and to me it is unthinkable that you will again turn your footsteps down this path, pot-marked with years of drudgery and misery and meagre returns.

I have steadfastly maintained that you tobacco growers will stand by the program. Up to this time you have abundantly justified this faith. And in the same faith I now predict that the fruits of your tobacco program which you are now enjoying will solidify your support of that program in future years.

Every tobacco grower worthy of respect ought to, and in my judgment will, stand united with his neighbors in support of the present program.

With such support and under intelligent leadership the program will not fail.

J. C. LANIER



J. CON LANIER

J. Con Lanier, of Greenville, tobacco specialist in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, since the beginning of that organization last year, was unanimously selected by the code authority of the loose leaf auction tobacco warehouse authority as the code administrator for that industry.

The position has been much more important to North Carolina and to the entire flue cured tobacco area, composed of the States of North

It so happens that Mr. Lanier has been the only person in the tobacco section with first hand information of the problems of the flue cured tobacco area, and although J. B. Hutson, section chief, A. C. Jones, and others in the section have been sympathetic with the growers, they have not had first hand information of the situation in the flue cured belt. He had much to do with the marketing agreements with the large manufacturers last year by which the price of tobacco was greatly raised and with the drafting and passage of the Kerr-Smith tobacco control bill at the recent session of Congress.

At the beginning of the new administration the farmer was receiving only 50 per cent as much as he received in the pre-war period 1909 to 1914,

because, "the farmers will make it work."

"This is an American plan," he declared, "fitted to the American society and in harmony with the genius of American institutions. It is not dictatorship or regimentation from above. It is not communism, and it is not Fascism. The American people will not stand for either one of these systems of foreign growth.

The total farm indebtedness amounted to 12 billions of dollars. Interest and taxes were delinquent, and ruinous surpluses overhung the market when Franklin D. Roosevelt went into office.

MARKETING AND ALLOTMENT CARDS

You should note the following points in connection with your Marketing and Allotment Cards:

The Marketing Card:

(1) All renters, share-tenants and share-croppers (if any) should sign their own name under "Designation of Trustees" on page 3.

(2) If there is a trustee other than the producer, such trustee should sign on page 3, accepting the trust.

(3) The Marketing Card should be returned without the signature of the producer, to the County office as quickly as the designation of trustee can be completed. The Card will be held by the county office until the crop is sold.

(4) The producer will sign the Marketing Card after the entire crop is sold and at the time he surrenders Allotment Card(s) (see below).

Allotment Cards:

Your attention is called to the following Statement in Section 111 of your Marketing Card:

"The producer hereby requests that Allotment Card(s) be issued to him in accordance with the list shown in Table 1 below. The producer understands and agrees that if any Allotment Card should be lost he will not be entitled to receive a duplicate Allotment Card nor to receive tax payment warrants covering the tobacco allotment included on such lost Allotment Card."

(1) The Allotment Card must be presented by the producer or the person making the sale to the Agent of the Secretary of Agriculture at the warehouse office to obtain a tax payment warrant.

(2) The tax payment warrant must be surrendered in payment of the tax to the warehouse clerk, before the check covering the sale of tobacco is obtained.

(3) The following entries will be made on the Allotment Card by the agent of the Secretary when each sale of tobacco is made.

(A) Under column (2), Quantity sold, the number of pounds sold as shown on the warehouse bill.

(B) Under column (1), Unsold allotment, the number of pounds which may be sold on the basis of the particular Allotment Card after the quantity sold is deducted.

(C) Under column (3), the number of the tax payment warrant covering the sale of tobacco.

(4) When nearly all of the production allotment has been used you should determine, before making another sale of tobacco, that the quantity of tobacco to be sold is not more than the unsold allotment.

(5) After the crop is sold all Allotment Cards must be surrendered at the County office before the adjustment payments can be approved. All entries on Allotment Cards will be checked against copies of tax payment warrants.

PLAN NO CHANGE IN FARM PROGRAM

Washington, July 29.—Secretary Wallace and his farm administration leaders declared today that, despite agitation against crop adjustments bred by the drought, the program for 1935 would go through.

Controlled production, it was maintained officially, has shown its value to farmers this year and a return to unplanned output of farm commodities would inevitably bring agriculture back to chaos. The AAA chiefs thus have set to work with the expectation of having next year's program ready for presentation to farmers by October 1.

Its paramount feature will be simplicity. Officials have recognized since the AAA came into being that the system was complex, bulky, and unwieldy. Much of the delay in making benefit payments to farmers has been credited to the natural inertia which had to be overcome.

The 1935 plan in its rough form as handed to chiefs of the commodities section for study after being outlined by the planning division aims at three objectives:

1. A "unified" farm contract, or a modification for principal crops, with one county production control association administering its provisions instead of several as at present.

2. Stimulation of production of forage crops and planting of pastures so there will be no idle acres. This would be designed as a guarantee against shortages of forage in future droughts.

3. Payment of rentals and benefits on the basis of the amount of land in production or amount of crops produced. These payments now are made for percentage reductions from some "basic" years.

The unified contract would be expected to simplify the machinery. Preliminary discussions aimed at a "blanket" contract for all crops, but this was discarded in favor of one which would control a few principal crops.

Attention is centered on including wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley and possibly hogs. A difference exists on whether it would be possible to control live stock through adjustment of feed supplies.

Among the questions involved in a group contract is whether the administration has the right to lump receipts from all processing taxes to pay group benefits. The legal section holds this can be done.

Officials declined to discuss what adjustments in acreage will be asked of farmers until definite estimates of drought damage are available in the crop report.

Crop-production loans have been made available for farmers who, because of conditions prevailing during the past three years, have been unable to obtain credit elsewhere. This assistance is temporary but it has helped to save many farmers from a desperate situation.

Farmers Are Praised For Business Methods!

Chicago, Aug. 13.—American farmers were congratulated today by AAA Administrator Chester C. Davis for having quit "playing Santa Claus to the rest of the country" and adopting business methods pointing to "startling" gains in the future.

Opening farmers' week at the Century of Progress exposition, he warned them against those who say the drought is "God's punishment" for controlling production.

Davis termed the organization of 3,000,000 farmers in production control committees to supervise the federal program "a monumental triumph for the farmers and the farm leadership of this nation," which will work