

**Livestock Farmers Faced With Severe Feed Shortage**

Many North Carolina livestock

farmers are currently faced with a severe feed shortage and the only thing left between them and bankruptcy is their dwindling supply of hay and silage. Cattlemen should begin this

week to make the necessary adjustments in their feeding programs in order to meet the emergency, according to Dr. E. T. York, head of the department of agronomy at N. C. State College.

The driest July on record in the state has caused farmers to use much of the stored feed, and pastures to dry up.

York and other agronomists and members of the department of animal industry at the college surveyed the state-wide feed situation last week and declared that the poor condition of feed crops creates a real emergency. York said that the situation in some areas is so critical that they could easily be designated "disaster areas."

In at least two counties, Yancey and Madison, the drought has done more damage than last summer's prolonged dry period. So far as large areas of the state are concerned, the upper Piedmont is suffering most. But in scattered, smaller areas throughout the state farmers face equally severe feed crop shortages, York said.

A three-point program for emergency feed crops has been outlined for Tar Heel farmers in these areas, York said. The program involves feeding, seeding and fertilization.

Farmers should remove cattle and other livestock from permanent pastures where they are already short. They can easily be ruined by close grazing and the amount of feed animals get from them when in their present condition won't help much.

Any supplementary grazing such as Kudzu, Sudan grass, millet, Bermuda grass, lespedeza, or alfalfa, should be used to stretch inadequate pastures.

Farmers with hay or grass silage available should start feeding these, but York warned that the hay and silage should be replenished. Some farmers are already cutting drought-parched corn that will never mature. This can be fed green or put up as silage for use during the next few weeks.

Piedmont and Coastal Plain farmers should seed Sudan grass, millet, or soybeans this week if these crops are to make sufficient growth to be worthwhile. The agronomists recommend 10-15 pounds of tift or sweet Sudan ed per acre, and fertilized with grass in rows, or 30 pounds drill-400 pounds of 8-8-8. Nitrogen top-dressing should be applied as needed.

Small grains, which will furnish emergency fall and winter grazing, should be seeded with crimson clover in the upper Pied-

mont and Mountains. Use two and a half to three bushels of barley, plus 15 pounds of crimson clover per acre. Rye is good to plant in sandy soils. Use one and a half bushels of Abruzzi rye, or a 50-50 rye barley mixture, with 15 pounds of crimson clover per acre.

Rye grass and barley should be ready for grazing in six to eight weeks after seeding. In the Coastal Plain small grains should be seeded two or three weeks later than recommended for the Piedmont.

If Ladino clover-tall fescue pastures are not completely gone,

some grazing may be obtained by putting nitrogen on a portion of the acreage. An application of 50 pounds of elemental nitrogen in August and again in October is recommended, but only if the Ladino is gone. If a fair stand of clover is still present, it may thrive. Nitrogen will retard its recovery. If the Ladino is not gone, use 400 to 500 pounds of 0-10-20, 0-9-27, or 0-14-14 to stimulate its growth.

Prices received by North Carolina farmers in mid-June were lower than at any time since July 15, 1951.

**FACTS ABOUT PEDESTRIANS**

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