

FARM ITEMS

By W. C. Williford  
County Farm Agent

A few weeks ago, in this column, we mentioned the fine work the Hoke County gins were doing in the preparation of cotton. There is another chapter to be added to this story.

All of our ginner's have bonded samplers under the Smith-Doxey Classing Service. For the 1954 crop, they sent samples of 92% of all cotton ginned in Hoke County to Raleigh to be classified for grade, staple length, etc. These samples are graded and the farmer receives a card telling him exactly what kind of cotton he has. This gives you a much better chance to bargain when you sell your cotton.

There was only one county in North Carolina that sent a greater percentage of samples for classification. Hoke County dropped from 96% sampled in 1953 to 92% in 1954 which is a 4% drop. The State's average dropped from 43% to 35%. Several factors caused this drop, and it is encouraging to know that Hoke County's average didn't drop as much as the State's. This is a fine tribute to Hoke County's ginner's. For the 1955 crop, we are going to shoot at 100%.

You are hearing a lot about chemical weed control now. It is one of the changes we are experiencing. The tendency is to change to chemicals instead of labor to control weeds.

The best weed control for corn up to the present time is clean cultivation in the early stages of growth and supplemental 2,4-R spray in the later stages. We are less hesitant to recommend the use of these chemicals since more has been learned about them.

There are one or two things that might be well to remember if you plan to spray your corn for

broadleaf weed control. The best time to spray it is when the corn is between 6 and 36 inches tall or either wait until after the silks dry. It is best not to spray during the silking stage; especially if you are planning to use the corn for seed.

In some instances, damage has been noticed when 2,4-D was applied during very hot days. It is best to do the spraying when the temperature is below 90 degrees. Most of the damage that you will do to corn will be temporary and will not hurt the yield during good growing seasons, but it is best to follow some simple precautions since the growing seasons have been so unfavorable lately.

There is a good supply of information available concerning chemical weed control in the County Agent's office. It is also a good idea to read the directions on the chemical container very carefully before you use any kind of herbicides.

J. T. Rogers, County Agent at Florence, South Carolina, has just informed me that his county has an abundant supply of 139 tobacco plants available for immediate sale. If you need tobacco plants, you can contact him. He says that the beds were treated with Methyl Bromide gas and have had very little blue mold. His phone number is Florence 8731.

The 1955 crop of flue cured tobacco will be supported at a minimum level of 48.3 cents per pound. This compares with the 1954 loan level of 47.9 cents. This is based on the parity price of March 15, 1955. If the parity at the beginning of the marketing year, July 1, is higher than the announced minimum, parity will be increased.

Since the tobacco curing season is approaching and a lot of work needs to be done on the curing barns, the bulletin featured in the County Agent's office this week is Extension Circular No. 316—"Flue Cured Tobacco Barn Construction".

SENATOR  
SAM ERVIN  
SAYS

Washington — The world obtained an injection of hope on Friday of last week when it received the message that Chou En-lai declared at Bandung that Red China was desirous of living in peace with the United States. When this column was written, we had not learned the details of any proposal made by Chou En-lai as to how peace could be restored to the Far East.

Undoubtedly the heart of mankind hungers above all things for a peaceful world.

Careful  
Past experience ought to teach us that we should examine carefully any proposal made by any Communist Nation before we give acceptance to it.

It ought to be remembered by Americans that the Red Chinese sent hundreds of thousands of their soldiers into Korea to deprive the Korean people of their liberty and that in so doing, they saturated their hands with the blood of the youth of America.

At the same time the Red Chinese indulged in the hypocrisy that the Chinese soldiers in Korea were mere volunteers and were not acting under the orders of the Red Chinese Government.

Moreover, it would be well for us to remember that although the armistice requires them to do so, the Red Chinese and their puppets, the North Koreans, have failed down to this good hour to give any accounting for about 581 American soldiers, Marines and sailors who presumably fell into their hands as prisoners of war and that the Red Chinese admittedly detain in their prisons at this time fifteen American flyers on trumped up charges.

The ancient Arabs had a proverb which Americans might well

heed. It was in substance as follows:

"If you fool me once, it is your fault; but if you fool me twice, it is mine."

We should bear in mind our attempt to appraise at its true value any proposal made by Chou En-lai.

Consider Proposal  
Despite these considerations, we should receive and consider any proposal which the Red Chinese may make. In so doing, however, we must not permit our love for peace to "mouse-trap" us into any agreement which lessens our capacity to defend ourselves in this hazardous world. If history offers us any lesson, it is that peace loving people often suffer the tragic fate depicted in these words of the great English poet, Rudyard Kipling:

"When the Cambrian measures were forming, they promised perpetual peace;

"They swore if we gave them our weapons that the wars of the tribes would cease;

"But when we disarmed, they sold us and delivered us bound to the foe.

"And the Gods of the Copy-book Headings said stick to the Devil you know!"

As I see it, there is more than a modicum of wisdom in the advice which Oliver Cromwell gave his soldiers as they were preparing to ford a river near Edgehill, England:

"Trust in the Lord, my boys, and keep your powder dry!"

ASC Is Scheduling  
Grower Referenda

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation county committees from Murphy to Manteo will conduct referendums on allotment crops this year.

H. D. Godfrey, administration officer of the State ASC, asserts that growers of flue-cured and

burley tobacco, wheat and cotton will be called on to make some vital decisions concerning their crops.

The first of these referendums will be held on burley tobacco April 28. Because of the alarming supply situation that now exists on burley and a similar situation that is indicated on flue-cured tobacco, Congress directed the secretary of agriculture to re-determine this year's burley allotment, providing cuts up to 25 per cent of preliminary allotments established this year.

"Because of this last minute re-

determination of burley allotments, growers will be asked to express themselves in a referendum either for 90 per cent price support or for doing away with all support on their 1955 crop," Godfrey said. "Growers will also be voting on whether or not they want acreage allotments to apply in 1955 and whether or not they want to be assessed a 75 per cent penalty for overplanting." This 75 per cent is that per cent of the average price per pound for tobacco sold last year. Public Law 21 increased this penalty rate on both types of tobacco from 50 per

cent. Godfrey said that because of these elections and because of other developments affecting agriculture, "1955 will really be a year of decision for farmers."

Since 1945, farmers have received from 44 to 52 cents of the dollar consumers spend for food in retail stores, as marketing charges have risen steadily.

U. S. per capita consumption of wheat and rye may decline slightly, but rice will be in higher demand.

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