

Over Production Serious Menace to Farmer

FARM BOARD'S HARDEST TASK IS KEEPING CROPS DOWN TO DEMAND

Wheat, Tobacco and Cotton Acreage Must be Reduced if Growers are to Make Profits

Through the activities of the Federal Farm Board the warning of the danger of overproduction is being carried forcibly and continuously to the farmers of the United States.

The Farm Board is only nine months old this April, but its contacts with the farmers of the United States are already more direct and widespread than any other contact is through that most other Governmental agency. This is natural, since the Farm Board is a part of the human make-up of the "pocket nerve."

The Farm Board's purpose is to help the farmer to get more money for his products, if not by increasing the cost to the customer, at least by insuring that the grower shall get all of the price which has been heretofore

wasted between grower and consumer, by unnecessary middlemen's tolls and the operations of speculators.

Somewhat as human nature is constituted we pay more attention to the man or organization which promises to make more money for us than we do to the institution which merely tries to teach us how to run our business better. The manufacturer of any commodity is likely to show how much more interest in the report of its salesmen as to what sort he is to the engineer who merely shows him how to improve his product. And the Federal Farm Board, or rather, the national cooperative selling agencies set up under its direction—is in the position of the farmer's salesman.

In the course of time and perhaps a shorter time than some of the critics of the system now believe, an overwhelming majority of all farm products grown in the United States will be handled from grower to consumer through these agencies.

And when these cooperative selling agencies tell their members that they are producing too much of this or not enough of that, and to prove it to them by the prices which they get for the commodities designated, there is certain to be attention from the growers.

So far only eleven commodities have been designated by the Farm Board as requiring special die the exclusively. They are cotton, dairy products, wheat, rice, livestock, wool and mohair, tobacco, poultry and eggs, seeds, potatoes and coarse grains. There are, of course, dozens of other agricultural products which will be organized either singly or in groups. An entirely new kind of administrative machinery cannot be expected to get into full swing instantly. It is going to take three or four growing seasons in all probability before all of the farmers of the United States fully understand how the new system operates and how to take advantage of it.

Control of production, in the interest of more stable prices for the growers, is a definite function of the Farm Board under the law which created it. And already the board has found the situation in some commodities, especially wheat, tobacco and cotton, to be such as to point definitely to lower prices because of overproduction.

Ten per cent decrease in wheat acreage is being advocated today by the Board which points to a surplus of 100,000,000 bushels in 1929 above the total demand of the world's markets in proof of its statement that too much wheat is being grown. Farmers could make more money out of 650,000,000 bushels than they are making now out of 850,000,000 bushels. And when the entire wheat market is in control of the farmers themselves—and that is what the cooperative marketing program is headed for—it will not be so difficult to convince growers that low prices are not always the result of manipulation by speculative interests. They will recognize, as many of them do now, that the remedy is in their hands.

The tobacco situation in the burley districts is so serious that the Farm Board the other day sent a long telegram to state agricultural directors in Tennessee and Kentucky warning them that planting reports for 1930 indicate a 15 per cent increase over 1929, which would 75,000,000 more tobacco than last year, and that last year's crop was 50,000,000 pounds more than the market for burley would absorb.

Cotton is much in the same situation with everything pointing to another large crop, which added to the carry over from last year will force prices down to a lower level than in 1928.

So long as each individual grower is a law unto himself, there is no practical way to prevent over production. But when the only market, or the best market available to the grower is through the cooperatives, and the individual grower who disregards the warning against planting too large an acreage finds himself unable to finance his operations through the channels which are open to his neighbors who do play the game of cooperation, there is hope for every farmer.

What is the grower of any commodity going to do when he is all set to grow one kind of crop and nothing else? There isn't anything for him to do but try something else. In an extremely interesting series of radio talks recently Mr. Samuel R. McKelvie, a member of the Federal Farm Board, illustrated this point. He said:

"There are available actual figures of the cost of production of various agricultural crops in these facts were consolidated in different states and regions. If to one picture I as a wheat farmer in eastern Nebraska, observing what it costs to produce wheat in Dakota, western Nebraska, Kansas, Montana and other regions, might conclude that I had an awful handicap because of the price of my land and my smaller operating unit. Then I would begin to see what else I could do to get out of competition with that wheat growing farmer out West.

"I saw a statement by Mr. Henry Ford recently in which he said that he did not fire a man until he had to. If he found an employee was not adapted to one task he put him at something until he had found a niche in which that man fitted. So it is else and then at something else with us farmers. We must adapt ourselves to the thing we can do best."

There is no subject so important today and for a long time to come, to every farmer and every business man in communities which depend principally upon farmers for their trade than the program of the Federal Farm Board and the way in which that program is being put into effect. The Board has just issued an eight page pamphlet in which the whole system is set forth in the of easily understood questions and answers. No American can regard himself as adequately informed about fundamental industry, farming, without knowing the answers to every one of these questions which can be asked about the Federal Farm Board. A copy of this pamphlet will be sent, I am informed, to anyone who will take the trouble to write for it. A post card will do. Address the Federal Farm Board, 1300 E Street, Washington, D. C., and ask for Circular no. 1. Just give your name and address; you do not need to send postage.

SWAN CREEK NEWS

The farmers are certainly busy these nice days getting ready to plant corn.

There will be a singing at Swan Creek Baptist Church the fourth Sunday evening in April. Let's everybody come and make it a joyful event.

Mr. Harey Couch and Miss Ethel Swalm spent last Saturday in Winston-Salem.

Mrs. Walter Stroud of Jonesville spent Sunday with Mrs. Rome Gregory.

Miss Beulah Gregory spent Sunday in North Wilkesboro, visiting relatives and friends.

Messrs. Glenn Swalm, Charlie Myers, Will Bell and Elmer Dobbins attended the flag raising at Haynes School Sunday afternoon.

Mr. M. A. Swaim of High Point visited his mother, Mrs. Mary Swalm last Sunday.

Miss Ruby Jester of Jonesville is visiting Miss Agness Vestal.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Freeman spent last Sunday with their daughter, Mrs. Guy Myers, in Elkin.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Swaim of Elkin visited Mrs. Manuel Pardue Sunday.

Miss Fannie Mae Cooter spent last Sunday with Mrs. Glenn Swalm.

Miss Opal Pinnix spent Saturday night with Miss Dula Swalm.

Mrs. Luther Gray of Cycle visited her sister, Mrs. Robert Swalm Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Chipman of Houstonsville spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Cook.

Miss Myrtle Myers had as her Sunday guests, Misses Ruby Armstrong, Opal Pinnix and Ester

and Opal Weatherman.

Mr. and Mrs. Dee Cook spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hayes near Harmony.

TO GIVE PLAY

There will be a play given at Pleasant Hill school next Saturday evening, April 19 at 7:30. The title is 'A Manhattan Honey-moon.' There will also be special music. Proceeds will be used for the Macedonia Baptist Church. The public is cordially invited to attend.

INFANT DIES

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon for the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Edworth Harris from the home on West Main street, with Rev. L. B. Abernethy officiating. Interment was in the family plot in Hollywood cemetery.

Surviving are the parents and one brother, Bobby Harris.

Mr. Edgar Spainhour of North Wilkesboro was a business visitor in Elkin Monday.

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CARD OF THANKS

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my friends for the sympathy and kindness shown me during my recent bereavement. Mrs. Blanche Rogers.

Week End Specials

These prices are good only for Friday and Saturday

Below are a few of our specials:

\$2.00 Stationery	\$1.19	Merrells Pure Mineral Oil, Pints 79c
\$1.25 Stationery	89c	25c can talc free with purchase of 35c Tube of shaving cream.
25 and 30c Stationery	19c	Merrells and McKessons Bathing Alcohol Pints 48c 1/2 Pints 24c
50c Stationery	39c	Merrells Antiseptic Solution, pint 48c Cardui 69c
Kotex, 39c, 3 for \$1.00		Several brands of cold and vanishing cream and face powder at 19c, 39c and 79c
Razor free with purchase of 50c package of Durham-Duplex Blades.		Bath Salts 79c
Merrells Milk of Magnesia	Pints 39c 1/2 Pints 23c	Fountain Syringes 79c
Palmolive Soap 5c a cake. 5 to a customer		

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