

How To Keep Crop Income At High Level

Tar Heel farmers have a listful of opportunities to help them offset the expected drop in 1964 tobacco income according to a group of agricultural extension specialists at North Carolina State.

In fact the specialists believe the N.C. farm economy has enough steam to absorb the tobacco cut without taking a dip in total farm income.

The specialists group had been asked by Extension Director George Hyatt to study 1964 farm income prospects and to recommend steps that could be taken to keep income at the highest possible level.

Here is a crop by crop summary of the specialists' report:

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Flue-cured tobacco--Acreage will be down 10 per cent. Price supports will be up 0.6 cents per pound. Effects of recent publicity on the relation of tobacco to health is still un-

derlain. In view of production trends and previous reaction to acreage cuts some yield increase is likely. Higher yields plus higher price supports could result in only a 5 per cent drop in total tobacco income, despite a 10 per cent cut in allotments.

Farmers can help reduce the income loss by (1) using the best land for their remaining acreage and (2) making use of the lease and transfer program to keep unplanted allotments to a minimum.

Burley tobacco--Allotments for 1964 are 5 per cent below 1963 levels. Here again some yield increase is likely, possibly a 100 pound increase over 1963.

Cotton--The N.C. allotment for '64 is about 5,000 acres, or about 1 per cent less than in '63. The status of new legislation, which could greatly affect the crop in N.C. is still uncertain.

Every possible effort should be made to get farmers to use the release and reapportionment program in 1964. An intensive effort will be needed to keep 1964 yields up to the near record 1963 yield of 482 pounds of lint per acre.

Know how to keep yields up is available, as demonstrated by the All-Practice cotton program and the growing number of two bale per acre producers in the state.

Peanuts prospects for increasing income from peanuts is tied directly to increased yields. An average yield of 2,100 100 pounds per acre is possible in '64. This would boost total production 7 to 8 per cent.

Soybeans--The opportunity for larger soybean acreage in 1964 is very favorable. Prices have been good. Carryover stock prior to the 1963 crop were almost exhausted. With good practices, there is an opportunity to increase yields above the 24 bushel level of 1963, and plant more acreage at the same time.

Corn--Income from corn can be increased in '64 through both larger acreage and higher yields per acre. An additional 56,000 acres is possible. This would be about half the increase from 1962 to 1963.

Recent N.C. prices favor this expansion by persons who choose not to participate in the division program. Unlimited expansion may not be profitable however, because of higher payment available to farmers who divert 40 per cent or more of their base under the Feed Grain Program.

It is also reasonable to expect in light of the long trend on yield improvements, an average per acre yield in '64 of 56 bushels. The '63 average was 54 bushels.

Wheat--Since there is no penalty for over planting allotments in 1964, Tar Heel wheat acreage has jumped from 282,000 acres last year to 357,000 acres this year.

Prices could decline some. But North Carolina wheat-soft red winter wheat is not in surplus. The increase in production is expected to more than offset any drop in price.

Other small grain--Oats production, which was hit by win-

ter freezes in '63 could bounce from a 31 bushel per acre yield last year to 37 bushels this year. Production of other grains barley rye and grain sorghum--is expected to stay at '63 levels.

Sweet Potatoes--Acreage can be profitably increased by those farmers who are willing to follow practices that will give top yields to quality potatoes.

Expanded acreage is possible for both the fresh market and processing. Processing offers the biggest opportunity for increasing acreage, although per acre income is usually more for fresh market production.

Fresh market producers should make arrangements for marketing before they plant. The farmer growing potatoes for processing should seek a contact with one of the established canners.

Pickling cucumbers--North Carolina is the No. 2 state in the production of this crop. Processors are looking for several thousand additional acres to be produced under contract in '64. Pickling cucumber production is best suited to farmers with available family labor.

Ornamentals--The ornamental industry has increased four fold over the last 10 to 12 years. There are still opportunities in this field for the serious career minded person.

Trellis tomatoes--The 1963 trellis crop was worth about \$1.5 million. Unless weather or some unforeseen difficulty presents a problem, '64 income should be about \$2 million. Production of this crop is spreading throughout the Mts. Even farmers in other sections are becoming interested. Success of growers at lower elevations is still questionable.

Strawberries--An early spring freeze and late spring drought reduced '63 strawberry yields at least 30 per cent. If acreage goes up 10 per cent, as expected, and if growers can have a reasonably good season, '64 income could be up sharply. Growers could also double their present yield per acre by using all recommended practices.

Blueberries Yields per acre were down considerably in '63 because of spring frosts and freezes. New plantings coming into production, plus a reasonably good season, should

provide for a substantial increase in blueberry income in '64.

Apples--Barring unfavorable weather conditions, the '64 dollar value should increase over '63. About 250,000 more trees are just beginning to bear.

Peaches--It will take better care and ideal growing conditions for the '64 income to equal or exceed '63 income.

Forestry--Farm sales of forest products should increase nearly 4 per cent in '64. Pulpwood sales should be up

about 2 per cent, and a smaller pine lumber sales should increase very slightly.

The hardwood picture could be of special importance for landowners. Demand for hardwood pulpwood is increasing, and this may offer an opportunity for some landowners to profitably dispose of some of their low-grade hardwoods.

The hardwood-veneer-log market will be particularly strong during 1964, and the demand will be high for good veneer-grade logs.

Rose Hill News

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Hayes, Jr. announce the birth of a daughter, Nancy McCray, March 9, at Dr. Hayes clinic. Mrs. Hayes is the former Malin Barbour of Anglers.

Friends of Rev. T. Fant Steele will be pleased to learn he is recovering nicely after surgery at Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville.

Friends will be sorry to learn Mrs. Marie Chestnut is a patient at James Walker Hospital in Wilmington.

Mrs. Mae Bell Rogers of Wallace visited her brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Knowles Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ermon Garris visited friends in Clinton Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Gene Hall and Kathryn Gay, and Miss Betty Wells Fussell visited Mr. and Mrs. Julian Marshall and Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Henderson in Smithfield Friday.

Mr. Bob Carr student at U.N.C. spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Carr and Candice.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Teachey visited relatives in Greensboro during the weekend. Miss Tanya Johnson student at U.N.C. spent the weekend at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh S. Johnson.

Mrs. Louise Littleton and Mrs. Gracie Hinson and Mr. Drexel Hinson of Whiteville visited their brother and son, Mr. Garland Hinson and family in Georgia during the weekend.

Weekend guests of Mrs. Fant Steele and children were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Moon and sister Mrs. Alton Munn of Rock Hill, S.C. and dinner guest on Sunday included Rev. Clark Cahaw of Durham.

Mr. Willie Fussell and Mrs. Byron Teachey attended the funeral of Mr. Fussell's brother, Mr. D.C. Fussell in Raleigh on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Murray spent the weekend with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Rhodes in Yorktown Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Allen and baby of Raleigh visited Mrs. Allen's parents Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Blanchard during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Edwards attended the funeral of Mr. J.T. Braxton in Winterville Saturday.

Mrs. Nash Johnson, Mrs. P.O. Powell and M's. Marvin Johnson shopped in Raleigh on Thursday.

Mrs. H.W. Farrior, Mrs. S.O. Johnson, Mrs. George Carr and Mrs. C.F. Hayes spent Monday in Wilmington.

Master T. Fant Steele Jr., has returned home after spending last week with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Moon in Rock Hill S.C.

Rev. and Mrs. Luther James Matthews of Washington and Mr. Fitzhugh Fussell of Williamson spent Monday in Rose Hill.

Mrs. Albert Wells visited her sister, Mrs. V.C. Bordeaux in Burgaw Tuesday afternoon.

Miss Marsha Fussell of Greensboro visited her parents Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Fussell during the weekend.

Mrs. Leon Barbour of Angler is spending a few days with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Hawes Jr.

Miss Estelle and Alethin Fussell and Mr. Wilbur Fussell visited Mrs. James Cavenaugh and Miss Margaret Grady in Goldsboro recently.

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