

## Along The Way

By Emily Killete



The tobacco program has been under a great deal of criticism because on one is satisfied with its set-up.

Trouble reaching a fair and profitable arrangement for growers and buyers within a tobacco program has not just begun within the past few years. Controversy over the golden leaf dates back to early in this century.

Reprinted below is an article printed in the February 27, 1936 issue of the DUPLIN TIMES. The article was written by E.Y. Floyd, a North Carolina State University Extension Department tobacco specialist.

### Ten Cent Tobacco Foreseen This Fall Without Control

E.Y. Floyd, extension tobacco specialist at State College, foresees an abrupt about-face and a retreat to conditions of 1931 and 1932 unless a rump is put in tobacco production this year.

A 900,000,000 pound crop is possible under average seasonal conditions, he says, and this is the amount which may be produced by tobacco farmers in 1936 unless cooperative control measures are put into effect. According to experts, the market demand will not exceed 640,000,000 pounds. The immense surplus possible will drag prices down to 10 or 12 cents, Mr. Floyd estimates.

"I am being optimistic when I say 10 or 12 cents," he declared. "There are a great many who are positive the price will not get above 10 cents."

However, if the manufacturers knew that a control program would be continued, the specialist said, prices would probably range from 18 to 20 cents, much as they were in 1935.

In case no restrictions are placed on tobacco raising this year, about 25 to 30 percent of the weed growers would plant all of the tobacco possible. The other 70 to 75 percent, Mr. Floyd stated, would be willing to hold their crop down to the limits set under the AAA.

The weed specialist is certain that the soil conservation program will help to reduce the production of tobacco in 1936. But, he said, really to control production to the point where it will bring a satisfactory price, it will be necessary to have supplementary legislation.

"It may be," Mr. Floyd continued, "that the state compact plan which is being considered by the Congress, State Legislatures, and the United States Department of Agriculture will do the job."

"The effect of 10 cents tobacco on the economic conditions of North Carolina can be seen quite readily when you consider that flue-cured tobacco constitutes about 52 percent of the income from all cash crops in this State," Mr. Floyd declared. "Up to November 8, 1935, we had 88,326 contracts in effect with a base acreage of 737,595 acres and a base production of 558,052,093 pounds.

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tobacco planted by contracting signers and those who were not contracting signers was only 79.8 percent of the base that could have been planted by contracting signers.

"On November 8, 1935," Mr. Floyd went on, "the number of growers signing the 1936-39 contracts were 73,027 which was 82.6 percent. At the close of the sign-up, in order to make up the summaries, 90 percent of the growers signed the contract up to January 1, and we had assurance that all the Land Banks and big land holding companies intended to sign as soon as they

rented their farms after the first of the year. We feel reasonably sure that we would have gotten a 95 percent sign-up under the 1936-39 contract."

In looking back now that the Supreme Court has handed down its decision invalidating the Triple A, Mr. Floyd declared, the benefits derived from a control program are easily seen. The value of the flue-cured crop for the state in 1932 was \$32,428,000. In 1933, the first year the tobacco program influenced the price of the weed, the total value received by growers was

\$86,444,000. In 1934 the growers received \$119,155,000.

"We have no better way to judge the future than to study the past and to improve, where possible, the mistakes we have made in the past. There is no question in my mind, even though the Supreme Court ruled the AAA unconstitutional, but that it will be necessary for the growers to cooperate in some form of production control which will interest a large majority of the tobacco growers before we can hope to receive satisfactory returns for tobacco in the future."

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