

CORN CROP DAMAGE CANNOT BE REALLY KNOWN UNTIL HARVESTING BEGINS, AGENT SAYS

by Jack Rider
"Expert" estimates are claiming that the North Carolina corn crop will be about 25 per cent below the 1969 crop because of the drought in May and June and the attack of corn blight during July and August, but Lenoir County Farm Agent Joe Koonce says there is no real way to do more than guess about the actual damage until harvesting has begun.

Because of the wet weather in August and the lateness of this year's tobacco crop, Koonce says he knows of no corn that has yet been harvested in this immediate area.

Koonce also expresses the cautious hope that the statewide estimates of a 25 per cent

drop may be high for Lenoir County since he feels the local corn crop was more nearly mature when the corn blight struck and it is during the formation of the ear that the worst damage is done by this blight virus.

The biggest corn crop in Lenoir County was in '67 when a combination of perfect weather conditions and much improved cultivation practices combined to give Lenoir County a total corn production of 3,630,000 bushels from 42,700 harvested acres, an average yield of 85 bushels to the acre.

This was sold for \$3,812,000, making it the number two cash crop grown by Lenoir County farmers, a position it has held for most of this century.

That year Lenoir County farmers were paid \$16,925,000 for their tobacco crop, \$1,090 for their cotton crop, \$4,600 for their peanuts crop, \$121,000 for their Irish potato crop, \$101,000 for their sweet potato crop, \$75,100 for their wheat, \$15,000 for oats, and \$1,212,000 for soybeans.

Some Recommendations

Experts at the state level have recommended several possible ways of coping with the corn blight problem. One is to use the corn for silage, but Koonce points out that all corn in Lenoir County is far past the silage state.

A second suggestion from Raleigh is hogging in the corn, which very few Lenoir County farmers

are either equipped or inclined to do, Koonce says.

Koonce did not say, but there is a feeling in some circles that experts are viewing this corn blight with more alarm than the situation really demands.

The combination of weather and possibly a more virulent strain of the corn blight have certainly worked against the perfect corn crop, but it is the view of most practical farmers that the extreme dryness of the early growing season combined with the extreme wetness of the maturing season have had as much to do with the expected drop in corn production that is being predicted.

Sound Advice

It is accepted on all sides, from the desk expert through the practical farmer that every farmer should and undoubtedly the better farmers will exercise far more care this year in the harvesting and marketing of their corn than they previously have.

The possibility of much higher corn prices is going to make those farmers who do have good to fair corn crops more reluctant to sell their corn crop directly from the field.

As with every thing the farmer does, this is just one more gamble; whether to involve one's self with the additional expenses of either private or public

storage or to sell directly from the field.

The expected shortage of corn is reflected further in the hog production picture, which has slowly become a major part of the overall cash farm income in recent years.

And lastly the price of all other grains can be materially affected by any major fluctuations in the corn supply situation, since if corn is not available for poultry and cattle and hog feeding other grains will have to be used.

The consensus seems to be clear that higher grain and higher meat prices are on the way for the next 12 months. But then a fellow may bet his farm mortgage on this consensus and wind up with his hat in hand at the bank next summer.

Three Civil Suits Filed in Courts Of Jones County

Jones County Court Clerk Rogers Pollock reports three suits being filed recently in his office, two for collection of debts and another seeking damages for injuries in an automobile.

Nine year-old Angela Metts, through Anna Quinn Metts, is asking \$5000 for injuries she suffered July 6, 1969 while riding in a car owned by Allen Michael West and Charles Williford and driven by Deborah Metts.

In the other two actions John Gooding of Trenton seeks to collect \$185 allegedly owed him by Robert Thigpen of Trenton route 2 and \$57.50 allegedly owed him by Linster Jenkins, whose address was not listed.

Note of Thanks

I wish to express my appreciation for having been privileged, by way of temporary appointment, the only too brief employment in Judge Larkin's Chambers at Trenton and the association with all present and past members of his Staff. It was a pleasure having had the opportunity to meet the nice people in Trenton and I wish to thank them for their hospitality during my stay there.

— Mrs. Mary B. Safford

Jones County Boys Win Honors With Their Dairy Cows

Jones County 4-H members participated in the 19th annual Kinston District Junior Dairy Cattle Show sponsored by the Kinston Chamber of Commerce August 20th at the Lenoir County livestock arena.

According to Fletcher Barber the animals exhibited in the show were of high quality and were well fitted.

James Dove of Route 2, Trenton, showed the Grand Champion Guernsey. He was awarded in addition to a cash award a model Guernsey Cow.

Joe Kinsey of Route 2, Trenton received third place honors with his Guernsey Heifer. He received a book on the history of the Guernsey breed, along with a cash award.

Ben Fountain Leaving Kinston Jan. 1st To Head State's Community Colleges

Dr. Ben Fountain, President of Lenoir Community College at Kinston, will become Director of Community Colleges on January 1st, succeeding Dr. I. E. Ready, Director since 1963, who is retiring. Announcement of the appointment and Dr. Fountain's acceptance was made yesterday by Dallas Herring, Chairman of the State Board of Education.

"The Community College System and the State are fortunate to have a man of Dr. Fountain's proven ability to assume this important responsibility," Herring said. "The success of his leadership at Kinston, his prior experience as a superintendent of schools and university professor make him an ideal choice."

"He brings to this assignment a full understanding of the community college movement and a deep philosophical commitment to its goals. We are especially glad that at Kinston he has achieved and maintained a sensible balance between occupational and general educational programs with the widest possible opportunities for his students. Under his leadership, high qualitative standards, as well as diversity of programs, have been uppermost in his concern," Herring said.

A native of Rocky Mount, Fountain is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned his baccalaureate and his doctor's degrees. He served as superintendent of Elizabeth City schools and as a professor of education at Chapel Hill.

Herring also paid tribute to Dr. Ready, first Director of the department, "whose vision and dedication contributed very substantially to the phenomenal success of the community college movement in North Carolina." The system is recognized nationally as among the top five in the nation and it holds credit for a number of innovative policies now being copied by other states.

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District Judge Pate has Bad Day in District Court Ignoring State Laws

Last Thursday Judge Lester Pate in Lenoir County District Court ignored the law and found two men not guilty of drunken driving whose blood alcohol content was above that described as too much by state law and put another defendant on probation for a crime under which the law prescribes a minimum punishment of one year in prison.

Norman Floyd Smith of Greenville route 3 was found guilty of his 6th drunken driving offense and his 3rd offense of driving while his license was permanently revoked. He was put on probation for five years and fined \$1000. The law says

one year in prison is the minimum sentence for any person found guilty of driving while their license is permanently revoked. Smith has another pair of similar charges — his 7th drunken driving charge and his 4th offense of driving with license permanently revoked now pending in the Pitt County courts.

Herbert M. Morris Jr. of 2604 Hodges Road and Elwood Eugene Tyndall of Kinston route 6 were both found not guilty of a second drunken driving offense despite the fact that Morris had a blood alcohol content of .13 per cent and Tyndall .15 per cent shortly after their arrest

and the state law presumes a person to be appreciably under the influence if his blood alcohol content is .10 per cent or higher.

Morris was also found not guilty of driving in violation of driving restrictions since he was given permission to drive during working hours, when he was found guilty of drunken driving in November of 1969.

Look, Ma! No Wings

Kinston Police Captain Phil Smith answered a call to the Kinoca Hotel Saturday night and found that Robert Lansey, whose address was not clearly established had "flown" out of a third floor window to land in an awning and then slip to the ground. Casual examination revealed that superman had suffered no serious injury in his brief flight so Captain Smith booked him on a charge of public drunkenness. Nothing was said about his flying without a license.

Land Transfers

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports recording the following land transfers in his office during the past week:

From First Citizens Bank (trustee for A. H. Bargent estate) to Walter C. Jones, D. M. Roberts III and D. G. Hudson 15 acres in Pollocksville Township.

From Oscar and Frances Mueller to Charles and Annie Rowe Dixon a lot in Trenton.

From Norman and Rachel Eubank to Frederick Earl and Mida Jones King a lot in White Oak Township.

From Clayton and Myrtle Morton Humphrey to Hazel and Raymond Kennedy a tract in Trenton Township.

From Jean and Walter Humphlett Jr. to Johnnie Gray Koonce and Carla Lou Gray a portion of the B. C. Gray estate in Chinquapin Township.

From Johnnie and G. T. Koonce to Jean Humphlett part of the B. C. Gray estate in Chinquapin Township.

From Jessie C. Morton to Joe Ed Collins a lot in White Oak.

From J. K. and Lois Avery to Jones County a lot in Trenton.

Tar Heel Travel Industry Booming Despite National Drop in Business

In spite of a nation-wide economic slowdown, North Carolina's travel industry is enjoying a booming summer.

"Nearly all of our travel attractions are enjoying a successful season," said Bill F. Hensley, director of the Travel and Promotion Division of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.

"Attendance is up at points all across the state," Hensley added. "I'm confident that we are going to see another record year for the travel industry despite adverse conditions."

Last year 38 million visitors spent \$752 million in North Carolina making the travel industry the state's third most important source of income.

This summer, the Land of Oz, the state's newest attraction at Beech Mountain, drew almost 95,000 visitors during its first month of operation.

Grandfather Mountain reports an increase of 10 per cent in visitors this summer as compared with the same period last year.

More than one million persons visited the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in June compared with 939,700 for the same month last year.

The number of travelers along the Blue Ridge Parkway is running about 14 per cent ahead of last year's total for the calendar year through June.

Visitations at the state's two

Welcome Centers, located on Interstate Highways 85 and 95 at the Virginia line are up 25 per cent above totals for the first six months last year.

Old Salem, the restored Moravian town at Winston-Salem, reports an increase of nine per cent for June 1970 over June 1969.

Along the North Carolina coast the story is the same.

The Sound and Light drama aboard the Battleship USS North Carolina Memorial, permanently moored at Wilmington, is experiencing its best season ever, running about 14 per cent ahead of last year's crowds. The battleship itself is drawing more visitors this year than it did last season.

More than 200,000 people visited Cape Hatteras National Seashore in June. This was a four-per cent increase over attendance for June 1969. A total of 446,372 people, an increase of six percent, have visited Cape Hatteras during the first six months of this year.

"These preliminary reports are most encouraging," Hensley said, "because they indicate that our State is a major travel destination that is attractive enough to withstand a tight-money situation. Others areas of the country are suffering through a slow season. I'm confident that 1970 will be another banner year for North Carolina."