

Will We Keep Our Feet On the Ground?

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The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, issued the following statement on March 10th:

Farm Products and Prices Strengthen
Continued strong demand and slightly higher prices for a number of farm products during the near future were forecast today by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Prices of grains and cattle are a little higher than a month ago, hog prices are about the same and cotton prices have advanced. A few commodities are priced lower.

During the next thirty days the Bureau expects prices of feed grains, hogs, wool, butter and eggs to fluctuate around levels, and prices of cattle, lambs, poultry, fruits and potatoes to advance.

Continued strong demand for farm products is indicated by the good outlook for industrial production and consumer incomes, the Bureau pointed out. Barring extended labor disputes, a further improvement in industrial activity during the next few months was forecast.

Some highlights in the agricultural situation are the greatly reduced supplies of meat in surplus-producing countries, relatively rapid disappearance of small feed grain supplies, increased exports of American cotton, an increase in slaughter supplies of hogs in late April and May, higher prices for the better grades of slaughter cattle, and somewhat higher prices for spring lambs.

The Bureau said that relatively small increases in numbers of milk cows are in prospect this year and next, that the seasonal decline in egg prices seems to be about over, that prices of all fruits except strawberries are likely to advance more than usual during the spring months, and that present indications point to increased supplies and generally lower prices of most truck crops.

What will be the reaction of the Southern farmer to this report of conditions and the forecast of early future conditions? Will he be wise

and go ahead with his plans to build a well balanced farming system while he is in financial condition to do this, or will he let his desire for cotton money influence him to expand his cotton acreage and abandon other crop and livestock plans?

While traveling over some of the cucumber growing sections in South Carolina recently I heard on all sides that the cucumber acreage would probably be curtailed, because of advancing cotton prices.

Cucumber growers have had hard sledding for several years due to adverse weather; but this may be the year for a good yield of good quality cucumbers, and a reasonably strong demand. Since years ago cucumbers were one of our best paying truck crops, and I believe they still have a place in the scheme of things.

Cotton is fine if supported by other crops, but cotton alone or any other one crop is too hazardous to contemplate with an easy state of mind.

RUDDY DUCK FOILS ENEMIES BY SUBMARINE MANEUVER

Workers of the Bureau of Biological Survey are not roving naturalists, free to follow their own inclinations. They are assigned to specific tasks of research, administration, and regulation. But many of the staff are keen nature students and trained observers, and they report many new and interesting facts only incidentally connected with the tasks in hand. For example, Dr. Clarence Cottam, specialist on the preservation and improvement of feeding areas for wild fowl, tells of the peculiar behavior of ruddy ducks he has observed on two recent inspections of the South Carolina coast.

Instead of attempting to escape by flight when Dr. Cottam approached in a boat, these ducks submerged. They did not dive, as many ducks do, but seemed rather to sink themselves by deflating, going down with scarcely a ripple to mark their disappearance then emerging some distance away.

Because the ruddy duck is a little

slow and heavy in rising from the water, Dr. Cottam believes it employs the submarine maneuver rather than flying as protection against natural enemies. The pied-billed grebe has a similar habit from which it gets the colloquial name of "Sinking Peter," but the sinking tactics of the ruddy duck do not seem to have been recorded in printed bird lore.

FERTILIZER MAY DO AS WELL AS MANURE FOR EVERGREENS

Most nurserymen have shunned commercial fertilizers for evergreens. They preferred manure even at a higher price. P. C. Marth and F. E. Gardner, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, investigated the grounds for this prejudice and found that well-balanced chemical mixtures are just as satisfactory and cheaper. But they also found some basis for the prejudice because of the tendency to apply too much concentrated food. Applications of chemical fertilizer high in nitrogen were as effective as manure, but heavy doses stunted the plants—caused something similar to indigestion from overeating of food too rich. Nurserymen frequently have failed with commercial fertilizers for evergreens because they gave the plants too much of a good thing.

Uncle Jim Says



Staple farm production year after year helps keep food prices at an even level, fair to the farmer and the consumer. Fat and lean years hurt both farmers and consumers in the long run.

Blue Mold Spreading Over North Carolina

Blue mold is spreading over eastern North Carolina and creeping up into the piedmont counties, according to extension specialists at State College.

In Robeson and Columbus Counties the infection has been found in approximately 90 per cent of the tobacco seed beds, said Will Rogers, assistant in tobacco extension work. Some farmers are setting out diseased plants, Rogers said in warning against this practice. All diseased plants should be left in the seed beds.

On sunny days, the canvas covers on the beds should be rolled back to give the sunshine a chance to dry the beds and kill the fungi causing the disease, Rogers stated.

"Sunshine will do more than anything else to control this disease," he declared.

Even after beds have become infected, he added, applications of nitrate of soda to stimulate growth will aid the young plants to overcome the infection.

For each 100 square yards of bed, he suggested that three to five pounds of nitrate of soda be dissolved in 50 gallons of water and sprinkled over the plants.

Too strong a solution is liable to injure the seedlings, he cautioned.

Nation-Wide Audiences To Hear Achievements N. C. State Institution

Microphones of the National Broadcasting Company will be set up in Raleigh April 21 as N. C. State College joins the parade of Land Grant Colleges in bringing to listeners a story of how the institution has aided in meeting changing conditions.

The program, to be heard on the National Farm and Home Hour from 12:30 to 1:30 P. M., will feature State College musical organizations, agricultural specialists, and students, according to John W. Harrelson, dean of administration.

The program will be the 14th in a series of broadcasts from the campuses of Land Grant institutions. The broadcasts are a monthly feature of the Farm and Home Hour.

Dean Harrelson will present to the nation-wide audience a brief account of the history and purposes of State College.

Dean I. O. Schaub, director of the Extension Service, is also featured on the hook-up of 60 stations. He will summarize agriculture as it exists in North Carolina at present.

Skits depicting changing conditions in horticulture, cotton, tobacco, home demonstration work, and the dairy industry are also scheduled. Specialists and students will take the character parts in these skits.

The broadcast from N. C. State College will go out over the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company through the facilities of Station WPTF, Raleigh.

Control Disease To Succeed In Farming

Controlling plant diseases, when possible, is much cheaper than suffering heavy losses at harvest time.

Some of the things North Carolina farmers can do to protect their crops from disease are listed by Dr. R. F. Poole, extension plant pathologist, at State College.

USING BEEF FAT

Four of the fat from the pan in which the roast of beef has been cooked. Put it in a bowl and let cool until it starts to harden. Then beat well with a fork. Afterwards it may be used in place of lard.

Do not plan corn that shows pink or black diseased areas, or corn coming from moldy cobs. Good stands are obtained only by planting healthy corn.

Where practical, rake up old apple leaves under the trees that were attacked by scab diseases last year. The fungi causing the disease live in the leaves, which should be burned.

Sulphur sprays are effective in controlling scab, but they must be applied timely and thoroughly in pink and petal-fall stages.

Serious asenical burra can be prevented where sprays containing lead arsenate are used on peaches if zinc sulphate is mixed with the spray material.

Spray dewberries with Bordeaux mixture to control anthracnose.

Do not plant the same crops on lands where heavy losses from disease occurred last year.

Remember that sunshine kills the fungi that cause blue mold in tobacco plant beds.

LIVES SAVED IN MAINE

A net saving of 24 lives in 1936 is credited a well rounded highway safety campaign in the State of Maine carried on by the State Safety Department under Walter J. Brennan, director.

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