

Food Crop Expansion Is Likely

North Carolina fresh market fruit and vegetable growers may be tempted to increase acreage sharply in 1973 as a result of unusually good markets last year.

Many of the growers may profit more by increasing acreage moderately and sharply increasing efficiency of production, suggest North Carolina State University extension economists.

Reducing labor requirements at the farm and processing stages and contracting for marketing services at the distribution stage are some of the suggestions for increasing efficiency.

The NCSU economists believe increasing numbers of producers will see profits decrease unless they make provisions for assembly, processing and distribution services "which can effectively compete in the world trade channels."

On the planting side, with normal weather and market conditions, only slight increases in production of late summer tomatoes, fall cabbage, sweet potatoes and apples; no change in white potatoes and blueberries; and a sharp increase in pickle cucumbers will probably provide the most profitable results in 1973.

The emphasis should be on efficiency of production and marketing, high yields and high quality.

CURING HAMS

Every winter, thousands of hams are cured on North Carolina farms to sell or to eat. Many of these hams are straight salt cured, while others are sugar cured. The mix for sugar cure is 8 pounds of salt, 3 pounds sugar and 3 ounces saltpeter, according to North Carolina State University food science specialists. The sugar gives the ham a more desirable color and helps keep it from becoming quite so hard during the aging period.

Mexico clamping down on sales of narcotics.

White House plans \$9.5-billion cut in budget.

North Carolina Youth Earns 4-H Agribusiness Award

A 20-year-old North Carolina youth has been named one of four finalists in the 4-H agribusiness careers program supervised by the Cooperative Extension Service.

John T. Brake, of Rt. 2, Rocky Mount, and the other three winners from across the nation will visit the headquarters of DeKalb AgResearch, Inc., sponsor of the program, at DeKalb, Ill., Dec. 28-29.

The four winners will study agribusiness techniques used by the host company, meet officials and explore opportunities for careers in the agribusiness field. Each received an expense-paid trip to DeKalb and will compete for a \$1,000 scholarship to be announced during the two-day event. It is also expected that the scholarship winner will be given consideration for an internship program with the company.

Brake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Brake, is a junior at North Carolina State University at Raleigh. And presently he is enrolled in a double major of animal science and poultry science. The youth also plans to attend graduate school.

Valedictorian of his high school graduating class, Brake was the only 4-H'er ever to win two North Carolina tobacco judging championships. He also was named to the state alternate horticulture judging team.

The youth took second place in individual competition at the state preliminary livestock judging contest and top place in Edgemont County junior and senior 4-H public speaking programs.

Brake was a 4-H'er for seven years in Edgemont County and took beef, swine, health and wildlife projects. He was recipient of the 4-H Key Award and was a group leader at 4-H camp. And he helped train 4-H judging teams and served as a member of the county 4-H executive committee.



The Edgemont County youth attended Boys State, played varsity basketball in high school, served on the high school Student Council and was president of his class his senior year.

In college, Brake is a member of Alpha Zeta, agricultural honorary fraternity; the Poultry Science Club; Agri-Life Council and serves as a university dormitory floor assistant. He also has earned several scholastic awards at NCSU.

COMMENTARY

By John Smiley

IMPOLITE SUBJECTS trampled into the family room as "All in the Family," "Maude," and "Sanford and Son" began saying right out loud words and ideas which usually keep company with dust swept under the parlor rug.

ALTHOUGH these shows are likened to picking one's nose in public, they do liberate the viewer from a diet of twitchy-nosed witches, Martians, and plastic situation comedies. The honorable vulgarity over Ethel's menopause, Archie's diarrhea, Mike's impotence, and the rage over a cousin's death in an upstairs bedroom were accepted with a behind-the-barn giggle.

Agriculture Has Hard Act to Follow in '73

The next farming year may not measure up to the one just completed, but 1973 could still be a good year for farmers.

This is the general tone of the annual agricultural outlook summary prepared by North Carolina State University extension economists.

They describe 1972 as an exceptionally good year and one that will be hard to duplicate. But they emphasize that this doesn't mean economic disaster in '73 by any means.

In fact, there is expected to be a good bit of spillover effects from 1972 during the first half of the year. Prices are expected to remain strong for grains, soybeans, hogs and beef.

Farmer's response to the bullish marketing conditions in 1972 will largely determine the course markets take in the last half of the year. If production of any commodity jumps sharply, there is a reasonable chance that prices for 1973 production may be down somewhat.

This is likely for North Carolina's No. 1 farm crop, tobacco. With a 10 percent quota increase, supplies should be well above 1972 levels. This, coupled with the fact that '72 prices were unusually high, could mean a slightly lower average price for flue-cured next season.

Generally, however, the signs look good, the economists say. They cite rising wage rates, growing employment and increased social security benefits as indications that consumer income will be up. Therefore, the demand for food commodities should remain strong in 1973.

On the minus side, farmers will likely see

LOUISA'S LETTER

Dear Louisa,
I read an article a few days ago in which the author accused the media for being responsible for the way young people of this day think and behave. He said that they publicized the action of a wild minority of adolescents and accepted the ways that they now behave as the new morality. Other young people read this drivel and come to think that they themselves are not normal if they are people who believe in traditional ideas of what is right and what is wrong or in what is decent or what is filthy.

Do you think that the magazines and movies of today are responsible for this? Worried Mother—Tenn. Answer:

Yes, I do believe that the media is responsible, in great part, for the degradation we see among young people and in the older ones of today.

Magazines that I once welcomed into my home are filled with articles condoning and approving immorality

CROSSWORD ~ ~ ~ By A. C. Gordon

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56

- ACROSS**
- 1 - Male nickname
 - 3 - Simulate
 - 7 - Musical note
 - 9 - Antimony
 - 11 - Sea ducks
 - 13 - Requisition
 - 14 - Proxy
 - 16 - Pronoun
 - 17 - Bonnet
 - 19 - Poker snake
 - 21 - ...angle
 - 22 - Fugitives
 - 25 - Excele
 - 27 - Withered
 - 28 - Pause
 - 29 - Health springs
 - 30 - Those opposed
 - 33 - Sturdy
 - 35 - Christmas camp
 - 36 - "...Miserables"
 - 38 - Terminate
 - 39 - One who chooses
 - 42 - Slith
 - 44 - Cf a grain
 - 45 - Pronoun
- DOWN**
- 1 - Area unit
 - 2 - Underlying
 - 3 - Equine baby
 - 4 - Cerebral disease
 - 5 - Spritz
 - 6 - Loose eggs
 - 7 - Coagula
 - 8 - Like
 - 10 - Never!
 - 12 - What's that?
 - 15 - Wander
 - 17 - Prolific
 - 18 - The drama
 - 19 - Member of the Orient
 - 20 - To sample
 - 23 - Melituous configuration
 - 24 - Revises
 - 26 - Distress
 - 27 - Signal
 - 28 - Specialties (abbr.)
 - 31 - Immanunity
 - 32 - Denomination
 - 34 - Memmory glands
 - 36 - Rent
 - 37 - Vapor
 - 40 - Master
 - 41 - Upon
 - 43 - ...ominous
 - 45 - Musical note
 - 46 - Printer's unit
 - 48 - Erbium (chem.)

Garden Time Squash, Two Flowers On All-America

By M. E. Gardner, N. C. State University

There are three All-America Flower and Vegetable winners for 1973 -- a hybrid Zucchini squash, a zinnia and a marigold.

The squash has been named Aristocrat Hybrid Zucchini. This new variety won a bronze medal for extra earliness, prolific yields, and the quality of its handsome, dark green glossy fruits, which don't fatten-up and spoil as fast as other varieties of Zucchini. First fruits can usually be harvested 48 days after planting seed in the garden. The fruits are straight with rounded ends and of high quality for table use.

I remind you about some of the 1972 All-America Vegetable winners which you should try in your garden -- Ruby Ball cabbage, Red Head cabbage and Victory cucumber.

Peter Pan Scarlet Zinnia, the 1973 All-America winner, combines attractive large flower size with dwarf plant habit -- a combination which appeals to many gardeners. Individual flowers are well-doubled and measure 3 to 4 inches across. Seldom growing more than a foot

high, they remain neat and compact, tolerate rough weather and cover themselves with bloom. This new variety is well adapted for both landscape and border planting where they will remain neat and showy all summer.

The 1973 marigold selection has been named Happy Face. It belongs to a class of hybrid marigolds popularly known as "hedging" marigolds due to their neat, uniform habit of growth. Happy Face (a catchy name) has deep golden yellow fully-double flowers measuring up to 4 inches across. The plants reach a height of about 26 inches. Earlier than the Jubilees, more double than either Apollo or Moonshot, it

stays colorful from the latter part of July until frost, branching and re-branching with fresh blooms. At its best in a border, Happy Face is also useful as a container plant and as a patio accent.

In addition to the 1973 All-America winners, the 1972 and 1971 selections have proven their popularity by all who have grown them. Selections for 1972 were: Carved Ivory zinnia, very large; Gold Galore marigold, a semi-dwarf golden yellow hybrid; Circus petunia, a salmon and white grandiflora double; and Summer Carnival hollyhock, a vigorous large-flowered double variety in a mixture of beautiful colors.

Grain, Bean Picture For 1973 Uncertain

Extraordinary market conditions and uncertainties of world crop production are among the factors making 1973 grain and soybean forecasting virtually impossible.

Among the developments that appear most likely at this time include larger planted acreages of soybeans, wheat and possibly all grain crops; higher farmer prices during the first half of the year than for the first half of 1972; and a stronger foreign demand for some of the crops, particularly soybeans.

North Carolina State University extension economists point out that there is a high degree of uncertainty about how high soybean prices will have to go in order to ration the worldwide short supply of protein. Soybean meal prices were at record levels recently in the U. S. and Europe, due to a late bean harvest and a short supply of fish meal.

The NCSU specialists believe farmers will run a risk in holding beans while prices are unusually high. However, they point out that prospects are good for relatively high prices even into late spring.

Because of the short crop and strong export demand, wheat prices in North Carolina for the first six months of 1973 likely will average well above the \$1.46 per bushel price of the first half of last year.

Similarly, farmers may look forward to corn prices well above those of the same period a year ago. Supplies are expected to be large.

Adjustments in the feed grain program probably will result in larger national plantings of corn and soybeans. If this occurs, and if projected exports fall to materialize, corn and bean prices after the first half of the year may average only slightly higher than a year ago.

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