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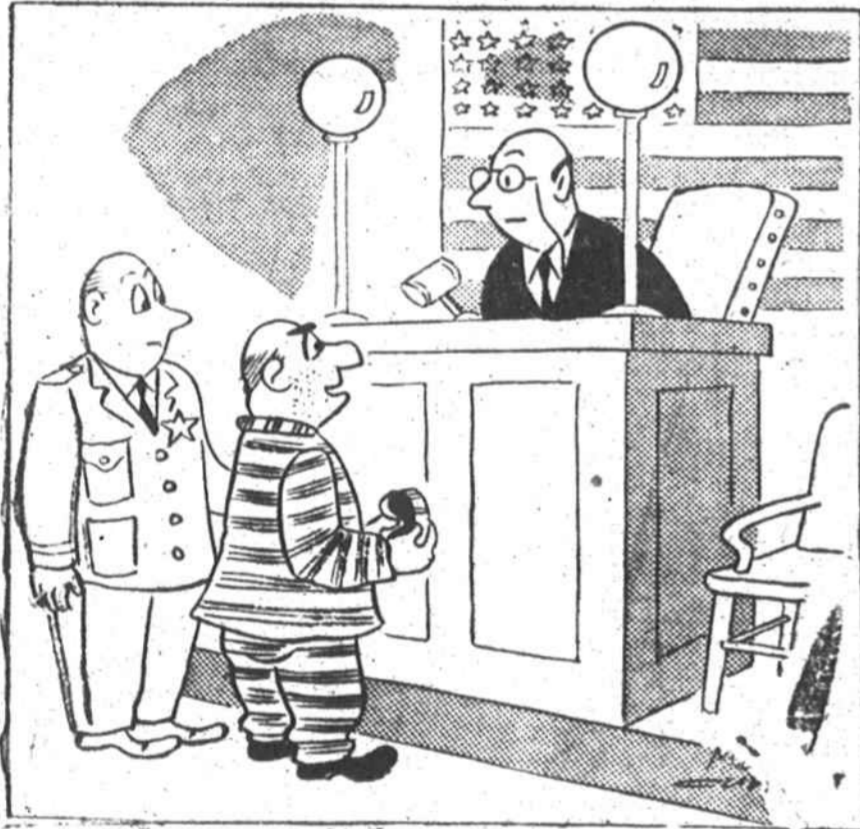
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**South's Cotton Acres Decrease Sharply**

The South's cotton farmers, through better management and higher yields, have been able to reduce their cotton sharply during the past 10 years, says C. Brice Ratchford, in charge of farm management for the State College Extension Service. The sharpest reduction, he said, has occurred in Oklahoma, where the crop has decreased from an average of 2,197,000 acres during 1935-38 to 1,074,000 acres in 1946. This is a 51.1 per cent reduction.

Using the same base years (1935-39), there has been a 45.77 per cent decrease in Georgia and a 39.3 per cent decrease in North Carolina. The decrease in Texas has been 22.3 per cent, and in Mississippi it has been 19.0 per cent. In North Carolina, Mr. Ratchford pointed out, all counties have shown a reduction in cotton acreage, with some counties noting very sharp decreases. Counties showing the greatest reduction are Martin, down 81 per cent; Pitt, down 78 per cent; Beaufort, down 77 per cent; Lenoir, down 67 per cent; and Wake, down 64 per cent. Through better use of land and better cultural practices, growers have been able to increase their yields per acre. Therefore, Mr. Ratchford asserted, total production of cotton has not decreased nearly so much as total acreage.

**Eggs Getting Larger Says Poultry Expert**

North Carolina laying hens are not only producing more eggs now than in past years, but they are also producing larger eggs, according to T. T. Brown, poultry specialist for the State College Extension Service.

A few years ago, Mr. Brown said, that most of the eggs exhibited at egg shows throughout the State were too small—below standard weight of 24 ounces per dozen in many cases. At the shows this year however, most of the eggs were too large, ranging from 28 to 32 ounces per dozen.

Some producers said their eggs were so large that it was difficult to select eggs small enough to be classed as medium-sized, Mr. Brown stated.

The increase in size, the poultry specialist said, have been achieved as the result of a careful breeding program.

**Martin County Group Organized Pig Chain**

George T. Hyman, principal of the Hassell School in Martin County will supervise a purebred pig chain recently organized by adults in that section to promote interest in livestock production among young Negro boys. R. M. Edwards, Negro county agent for the State College Extension Service, is cooperating in operation of the chain.

Marvin Cherry, member of the Hassell 4-H Club, received the first gilt, a 200-pound animal purchased from Move Duroc Farm for \$65. From the first litter of pigs Marvin will return two good gilts to the club. These, in turn will be given to two other boys who will be selected by the supervisory committee.

J. H. Best, James Chance, and Mack Cherry will assist in supervising the pig chain.

"Changing", times the 1947 annual report of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, has just been published. Copies are obtainable free from the Agricultural Editor, State College, Raleigh.

Hay crops are reported in fair to good condition in the Coastal and Piedmont areas of the State.



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**Start Dusting Peanuts Now, Says Specialist**

Farmers who don't have their peanut crops dusted for leafspot control are literally throwing money away, says Howard R. Garriss, plant disease specialist for the State College Extension Service. Mr. Garriss is suggesting that peanut growers begin now to get their dusting equipment in condition.

Commenting on the dusting problem, Garriss said:

"Evidence of increased interest among growers is shown by the fact that in 1942 only 2,000 acres of peanuts were dusted in the State while 81,000 acres were dusted in 1947."

"The average dusted in 1947, figured at 11 cents per pound for peanuts and at an average increase of 300 pounds of nuts per acre, meant over \$2,500,000 in added profits from dusting."

Garriss said, that the recommended dusts for peanut leafspot control are either copper-sulphur dust mixtures containing four to six per cent of metallic copper or straight 325-mesh dusting sulphur. The copper sulphur mixtures handle better in equipment and give better results than straight dusting sulphur, he reported.

He pointed out, however, that either dust will give practical results.

The specialist made the following recommendation on the dust application: "Apply 15 to 20 pounds of the dust per acre for each application. Start dusting during the first week in July and continue application at two-week intervals for a total of three to four applications. Any application washed off by rain within 24 hours should be repeated as soon as the weather is settled."

Eighteen foreign students attended the National 4-H Club Camp held in Washington, D. C., in June.

Some 16,000 birds from 25 States were entered in the National "Chicken of Tomorrow" contest.

Harvest of cantaloups is expected to reach its peak in Scotland County area during the first week in July.

Spring harvest of North Carolina's cabbage crop ended June 5.

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