

Economists See Four Main Traits Of Tar Heel Agriculture In 1975

What will North Carolina agriculture be like in 1975?

This question was recently asked of two extension economists at North Carolina State University at Raleigh, Drs. C. R. Pugh and G. L. Capel.

Their answer contained four concise points:

First, farms and marketing firms in 1975 will be larger and more efficient; yields of crops and livestock will be higher, and labor-saving technology will be more widely adopted.

Second, agriculture will be more closely attuned to the needs of consumers.

Third, individual farms will be more specialized, while marketing firms will become more diversified.

Fourth, the farm population will be older.

Commenting on the first of these points, Pugh and Capel said, "Our economy is characterized by a pursuit of new technology which increases output or lowers costs or both. Farms and marketing firms alike are characterized by this trend.

"The gap between the technology now known and that being used on farms shows that the drive for efficiency will continue. For example, the highest cotton yield recorded in North Carolina by a farmer is 1,562 pounds, yet the state average in 1964 was only 480 pounds."

The two economists pointed out that much of the new technology can be used only by larger farms. This is illustrated by some Coastal Plain cotton farmers who have eliminated croppers by completely mechanizing and obtaining reapportioned farming interests in other areas. In marketing, high-speed cotton gins are beyond the reach of average size ginning firms of today.

"The trend toward larger farms does not imply a take-over by massive corporate farming interests. In fact, on typical North Carolina farms, after the labor force exceeds two full-time men, further gains in efficiency are negligible," Pugh and Capel said.

Commenting on their second point — The market orientation of N. C. agriculture in 1975 — the economists said farmers and marketing firm managers will become more closely attuned to the needs of consumers. Where operating firms fail to adjust to changes in demand, they will find that businesses operating a step closer to consumers will integrate back toward production

in order to meet demand. For example, if dairy processors do not provide milk and milk products in the form desired by consumers, retail firms will become engaged in the milk processing business. Vegetable farmers must be able and willing to coordinate their plans for quality, quantity and delivery dates. If not, they may find vegetable processors relying on contracts on a specification basis or entering production to assure supplies with desired characteristics.

As for the organization of farms, Pugh and Capel said farms will continue to become more specialized to gain economies of size. By contrast, marketing firms will diversify more. An important economic force evident in this trend is the cost-price squeeze.

Low incomes in agriculture relative to other industries mean fewer farms. Under these conditions, who will be involved in farming in the future?, the economists asked.

Owner-operators will continue as a majority among farmers, they said. Yet, with a decline of 25-30 per cent per decade in the number of farms, the absolute reduction will be greatest among owner-operators. Part-time owners and cash renters will increase as a percentage of all farmers. These farmers will operate a farm machinery complex on rented land. Meanwhile, sharecroppers will decline in numbers.

"Finally, we can expect an increasing number of specialists who perform a single farm operation, such as pest control, crop harvesting or farm accounting," they said.

Marketing firms will be looking for profitable new lines to better utilize management talent and to make their product merchandising more efficient. Merger activity will increase as firms seek new product lines.

As marketing firms become larger and more complex, changes in their ownership will also occur. Family ownership — single proprietorship — will decline. With wider spread ownership, professional management will be more extensively used.

Commenting on their last point — The age of the farm population in 1975 — Pugh and Capel said low farm incomes will continue to force adjustments in the farm population. The farm



SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK — Governor Dan Moore signs a proclamation designating May 23-30 as Soil Stewardship Week in North Carolina. On hand for the signing of the proclamation were (left to right) Bryce Younts, administrative officer for the State Soil & Water Conservation Committee; Thomas Bonham, president of the N. C. Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts; James D. Bellamy, chairman of the State Soil & Water Conservation Committee; and James T. Moss, first vice president of the N. C. Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

operator population will advance in age. Older farm people do not readily change occupations within farm and nonfarm earnings change. By 1970, for the first time, 55-64 year olds will be more numerous than any other age group in farming.

At first glance, it might appear easier for young people to enter farming to replace older operators who retire. However, this will not be the case unless there is a slackening in the rate of decline in number of farms.

Farm boys must compete with existing farmers who wish to expand their scale of operations "to make a living" under a cost-price squeeze.

"In both the production and marketing of agricultural products the premium on managerial skills will increase," Pugh and Capel concluded. "Wise decisions on acquiring and organizing resources will be just as important as choosing the right technology. The future of agriculture is not predetermined. There will be ample opportunities to use imagination and foresight to guide its direction."

The helmets worn by British police are made of felt.

Panama was paid \$10 million for the canal concession.

Routine Docket Aired Monday

The following actions were taken in Kings Mountain Recorder's Court session Monday afternoon:

Lewis H. Moore, 25, Route 1, violation of prohibition laws, 30 days suspended upon the payment of the court costs.

Alphild A. Johnson, 49, 623 East King Street, driving while intoxicated, posted jury fee.

Thomas T. Sellers, 21, Charlotte, no chauffeur's license, 30 days suspended upon the payment of the court costs.

John A. Cook, 26, 809 Linwood Drive, assault on a female, 12 months suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and court costs.

Franklin R. Cooper, 22, 400 Walnut Street, improper registration, no operator's license, 30 days suspended upon the payment of the court costs.

James L. Boyd, 26, 400 West Ridge Street, assault on a female, continued.

Thomas H. Reid, 19, and Clarence J. Warren, 19, both of Route 1, were sentenced to 24 months suspended upon the payment of a \$50 fine and the court costs on a charge of assault with a deadly

weapon with the intent to kill. Bernard Smith, 20, Route 1, assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill, 18 months suspended upon the payment of a \$35 fine and the court costs.

Mack Lefevers, 40, trespassing, sentenced to 30 days. Appealed, bond set at \$50.

Submissions included: Joe D. Mintz, 18, Grover, lending operator's license, costs of court.

Jack D. Hudson, 26, 223 Morris Street, worthless check, pay check plus the court costs.

Amy B. Krohn, 45, Asheville, stop light violation, half costs.

Darrell L. Austin, 29, 709 Groves Street, parking meter violation, half costs.

Eddie M. Roebbs, 18, 1710 Shelby Road, improper muffler, half costs.

William C. Bolin, 21, Grover, no operator's license, \$25 fine plus court costs.

Lawrence E. Mayberry, 24, 311 North Gaston Street, improper muffler, half costs.

James O. Williams, 25, Greenville, S. C., improper muffler, half costs.

Walter L. Sisk, 19, Grover, stop light violation, half costs.

Two public drunkenness, costs of court.

The U.S. has no national flower.

There are about 500 volcanoes today.

Gray whales swim 3 to 10 miles an hour.

Married couples may join the Peace Corp, too.

Driver Safety Program Started

The North Carolina Traffic Safety Council announced today that it has all information regarding driver improvement courses available in North Carolina.

The announcement was made by Council president Robert P. Holding, Jr. following Monday night's CBS-TV show, "The National Drivers' Test."

Driver improvement courses are designed for drivers already licensed and teach techniques of defensive driving, and the perception of hazards. They should not be confused with driver training, Mr. Holding said.

The N. C. Traffic Safety Council is offering two driver im-

provement courses to business and civic organizations.

The National Safety Council course is primarily a lecture course which teaches techniques professional drivers use to protect themselves. It consists of four two-hour sessions.

A second course developed by the N. C. Traffic Safety Council stresses half a dozen important concepts in defensive driving and relies primarily on group discussions which follow films and demonstrations. It can be tailored to six or eight hours.

Groups receiving either of the courses would furnish instructors to be trained by the Council's staff. They, in turn, would conduct the course for individuals within their organizations, Mr. Holding said.

The N. C. Traffic Safety Council has already conducted its driver improvement course at American Enka Corporation in Asheville. Pilot International last year won the Governor's Award for Traffic Safety for offering the course to civic groups throughout North Carolina.

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