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Progress Report

CROP PROCESSING

Extension's educational efforts in crop processing have been of immeasurable value in the "rush to mechanize" North Carolina's number one cash crop. Extension's recommendations on cultural practices, machine management, and curing operations are widely quoted by machinery manufacturers and sales people and are widely accepted by farmers. As a consequence of the cooperation between Extension, manufacturers, and farmers the product of mechanization is well received at the market place. Reflecting this wholesome acceptance of change, equipment sales for '75 have increased dramatically. Sales of bulk barns in North Carolina have increased from 6,000 in '74 to an estimated 10,000 in '75. Mechanical harvesters have enjoyed a similar increase in popularity. Extension has provided engineering specifications and technical advice to three new equipment manufacturers who are selling their wares in '75.

Extensions on farm testing and applied research have been directly or indirectly responsible for the field testing of a solar barn by one manufacturer in '75, for the introduction of the "least labor cost" bulk curing box by another manufacturer in '75, and for the use of a "least investment cost" bulk box barn by several farmers in '75. On farm tests of energy conserving curing equipment and practices are being expanded in '75.