

*Tarheel.*  
**FARMING**

## IN NORTH CAROLINA

# *A Land of Many Farmers . . .*

North Carolina is a rural state. In 1950 about two-thirds of the people of the State lived in homes in the countryside. Of these rural dwellers census figures show that about half of them were farmers and about half were classified as rural non-farm.

Since 1950 the rural farm population has dropped to about 28 per cent of the total population; leaving about 1,235,000 people on farms in 1955.

The number of farms in the State has likewise dropped from 288,000 to 266,000.

Agriculturewise, the State ranks Number 1 in the

nation in the number of people on farms, and Number 2 in the number of farms. In 1955 North Carolina ranked 11th among the states in total cash receipts from farm marketings, third in receipts from crops, and 22nd in receipts from livestock and livestock products.

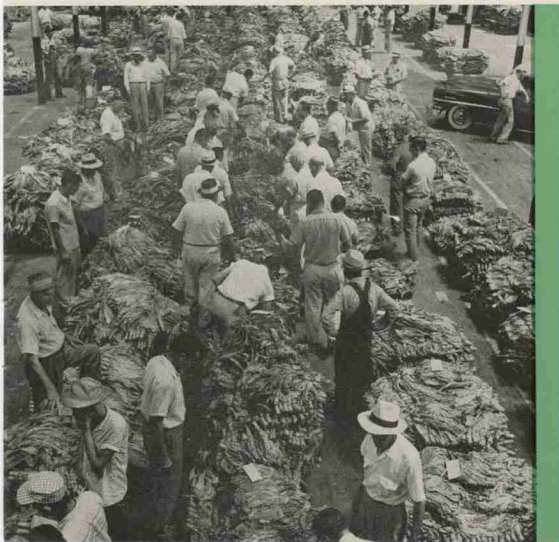
Regarding organizations, cooperative membership is almost 400,000, and both the Farm Bureau and the Grange are active in the State. As for youth organizations, some 150,000 Tarheel youngsters are enrolled in 4-H Club work, and F.F.A. membership totals some 25,000.

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# Where Tobacco is King . . .



Tobacco is king of the crops in North Carolina. In 1955 it brought growers \$541,445,000, or more than 57 per cent of the State's gross farm income.

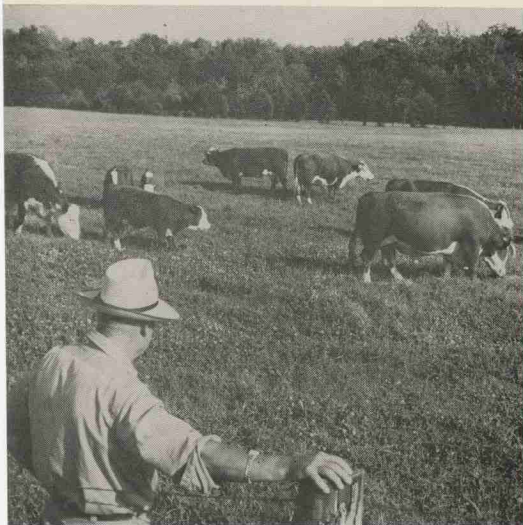
Three types of tobacco are grown in the State (see map on page 5). Flue-cured tobacco is produced in almost half of the State's 100 counties. The other types are burley and Turkish or aromatic. Tobacco has a high dollar value per acre but requires a great deal of careful attention and hand labor.

Corn is the Number 2 crop on the basis of value of production. The 1955 crop was valued at \$88,000,000.

One-time "King Cotton" now rates Number 3. This crop returned \$56,000,000 to Tarheel farmers in 1955. Acreage figures show the story of cotton's decline: 475,000 acres in 1955 compared to 1,732,000 acres in 1924—a 73 per cent decline in 32 years.

Other important crops in the State include peanuts, wheat, oats, barley, grain sorghum, soybeans, fruits, truck crops, and pasture and hay crops.

# *Livestock is Increasing . . .*



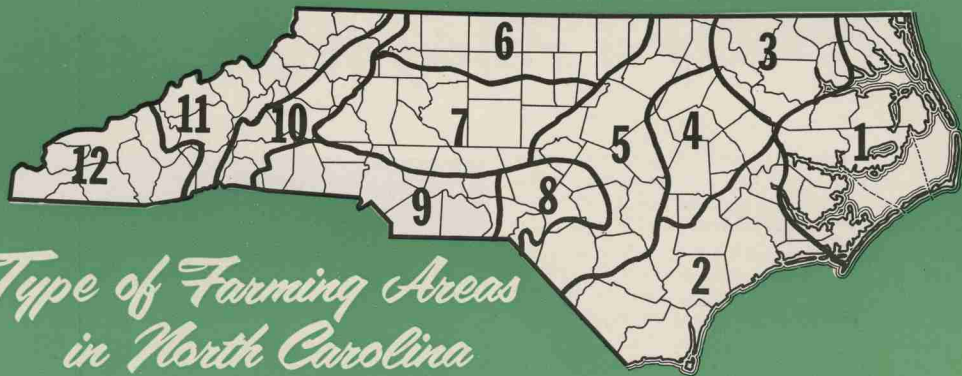
Fence posts and green pastures are fast becoming a familiar sight along North Carolina highways. Livestock production has had steady growth for several decades, and particularly since the end of World War II. In 1955 receipts from livestock were \$219,880,000.

In 1935 there were 374,000 milk cows on North Carolina farms producing 3,450 pounds of milk per cow. In 1955 there were 383,000 cows producing 4,700 pounds. The number of Grade A dairies increased from 700 to 4,974 during the same 20-year period.

Beef animals increased from 250,000 in 1940 to 392,000 on January 1, 1956.

Hog numbers have remained fairly steady over the past 20 years at around 1¼ million head.

On the decreasing side, the number of horses and mules dropped from 380,000 in 1940 to 236,000 in 1955. Even so, because of tobacco North Carolina still carries the dubious distinction of being the state with the greatest number of horses and mules on farms.



## *Type of Farming Areas in North Carolina*

1. Northern Tidewater—Corn, soybeans, Irish potatoes, hay, small grains, truck, hogs
2. Southern Tidewater—Corn, tobacco, hay, small grains, peanuts, truck, hogs
3. North-Central Plain—Peanuts, hay, corn, cotton, tobacco, soybeans, hogs
4. Central Coastal Plain—Corn, tobacco, hay, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, hogs
5. Upper Coastal Plain and Eastern Piedmont—Corn, tobacco, cotton, hay, small grains, hogs
6. Northern Piedmont—Corn, hay, tobacco, small grains
7. Central Piedmont—Small grains, corn, hay, seeds, cotton, tobacco, dairying
8. Sandhills—Corn, cotton, small grains, hay, tobacco, peaches, soybeans
9. Southern Piedmont—Small grains, cotton, corn, hay, seeds
10. Foothills—Corn, hay, small grains, apples, seeds, tobacco, poultry, dairying
11. Northern Mountain—General farming including hay, corn, apples, truck, small grains, tobacco, dairying, beef cattle
12. Southern Mountain—General farming including corn, hay, truck, apples, small grains, poultry, dairying, beef cattle

# *Poultry is Flying High . . .*

Poultry is the State's fastest growing farm enterprise. Back in 1940 there were 6,627,000 laying hens on Tarheel farms averaging 116 eggs per year. In 1955 there were 11,100,000 laying hens averaging 181 eggs.

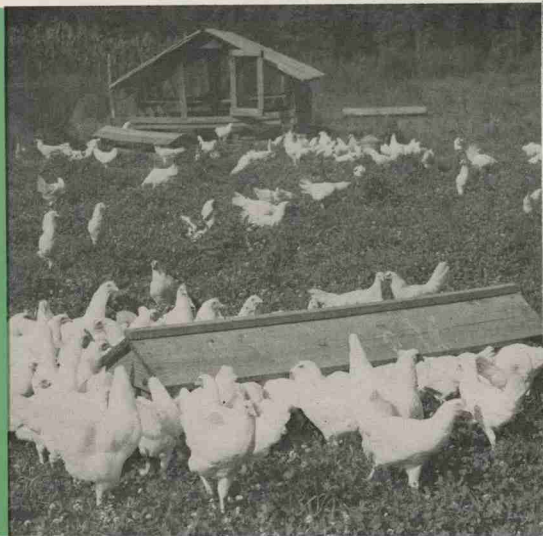
There were just over 4,000,000 broilers being produced on North Carolina farms in 1940. By 1950 the number had passed the 25 million mark. In 1955 Tarheel poultry raisers sent more than 69,000,000 broilers to market.

Turkey farming has also shown a big increase—from 239,000 birds in 1940 to 1,124,000 birds in 1955.

Poultry processing plants have grown from practically none in 1940 to 175 in 1955.

Cash receipts from North Carolina poultry and poultry products increased almost 10 times from 1940 through 1955. Cash receipts to North Carolina farmers from poultry in 1955 were \$97,370,000.

A continued increase in poultry production in the State is predicted.



# *Pine Trees Grow Tall . . .*

To the naturalist, North Carolina is a paradise. Over 185 different kinds of trees are native here. Commercially the most important are loblolly pine, shortleaf pine (both southern yellow pines), white and red oaks, sweet gum, tupelo, black gum, and yellow poplar.

Over 60 per cent of the State's land area is in forest growth. Three-fourths of this is in the hands of private, non-industry owners. Farmers, as a group, own 72 per cent of the commercial forest land from which they receive about \$27,000,000 in cash sales and products cut for home use each year.

North Carolina is a major forest products-producing state, ranking first in wood furniture, hardwood veneer, and hardwood plywood manufacturing; first in the number of sawmills; and consistently fourth or fifth in lumber output. In spite of this heavy demand, yearly timber growth now exceeds drain due to naturally rapid growing conditions and steady improvement in forest protection, planting and management.



## *and Cooperatives are Active*

North Carolina has a long history of cooperative effort. Early events in that history showed the consequences of not working together. On August 17, 1585, a colony of 108 men—the first in North America—landed on Roanoke Island. Instead of working together to build houses and cultivate the soil, they scattered to look for gold. They upset the Indians, found no gold, became discouraged, and returned to England. In April, 1587 another colony was established. This colony produced Virginia Dare, the first English white child born in America. It set the pattern of working together, although it founded a mystery which still lives: What happened to the Lost Colony?

The cooperation which enabled us to establish colonies in a new, unknown territory still exists in North Carolina. We have over 350 individual cooperative corporations. They range in size from small artificial breeding associations to large farm supply and marketing organizations. Total membership was estimated to be 382,000 in 1953-54, sixth largest in the nation. These cooperatives have formed a strong organization, The Farmer Cooperative Council of North Carolina, which has provided leadership through the years.

Important cooperatives exist in all areas of the State. Over the years, cooperatives have developed in answer to recognized needs of farmers. Breeding associations, R.E.A. cooperatives, tobacco warehouse associations, dairy bargaining and marketing associations, general farm supply and marketing associations and others have entered the picture as they were needed.

Area-wide farm supply and marketing associations such as The Farmers Federation Cooperative in Asheville, Davidson Farmers Cooperative in Lexington, Central Carolina Farmers Exchange in Durham, and Wake Farmers Cooperative in Raleigh have shown the concrete advantage of group effort. Larger associations such as the Farmers Cooperative Exchange and the N. C. Cotton Growers Cooperative cover two states. The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Cooperative, with headquarters in Raleigh, has 540,834 members in five states. Our newest dairy marketing association, Coble Dairy Products Cooperative, Lexington, N. C., has members in four states. It is the third largest dairy cooperative in the U. S. and distributes milk all the way from New York to Miami.

Indeed, cooperatives are active in North Carolina.