

# FARMS... AND FOLKS

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## BAD START, GOOD ENDING

"Our pimiento pepper growers had a bad start but a good ending this year," says County Agent Bull of Abbeville. After a poor start, the seasons improved, the crop came out, and most of the growers made some money, he tells me.

This is one of the few crops I know of that's not overdone. In fact, they bring more now than they did a few years ago. And they are grown on contract with a Georgia firm at a fixed price. Interested farmers in the up-country get details from their county agents in counties where the project is undertaken.

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

There's a lot of community improvement work going on over the state. O. W. Lloyd, former county agent at Edgefield, is now state coordinator of that work out from Clemson.

The Little Swamp Community of Bamberg County has already

done a lot to help itself. For the coming year it has set these four goals, according to County Agent Hubbard: (1) Further improve the community center, (2) assist in improving their market shed, (3) hold community affair, and (4) develop a program to meet the young people's needs in the community.

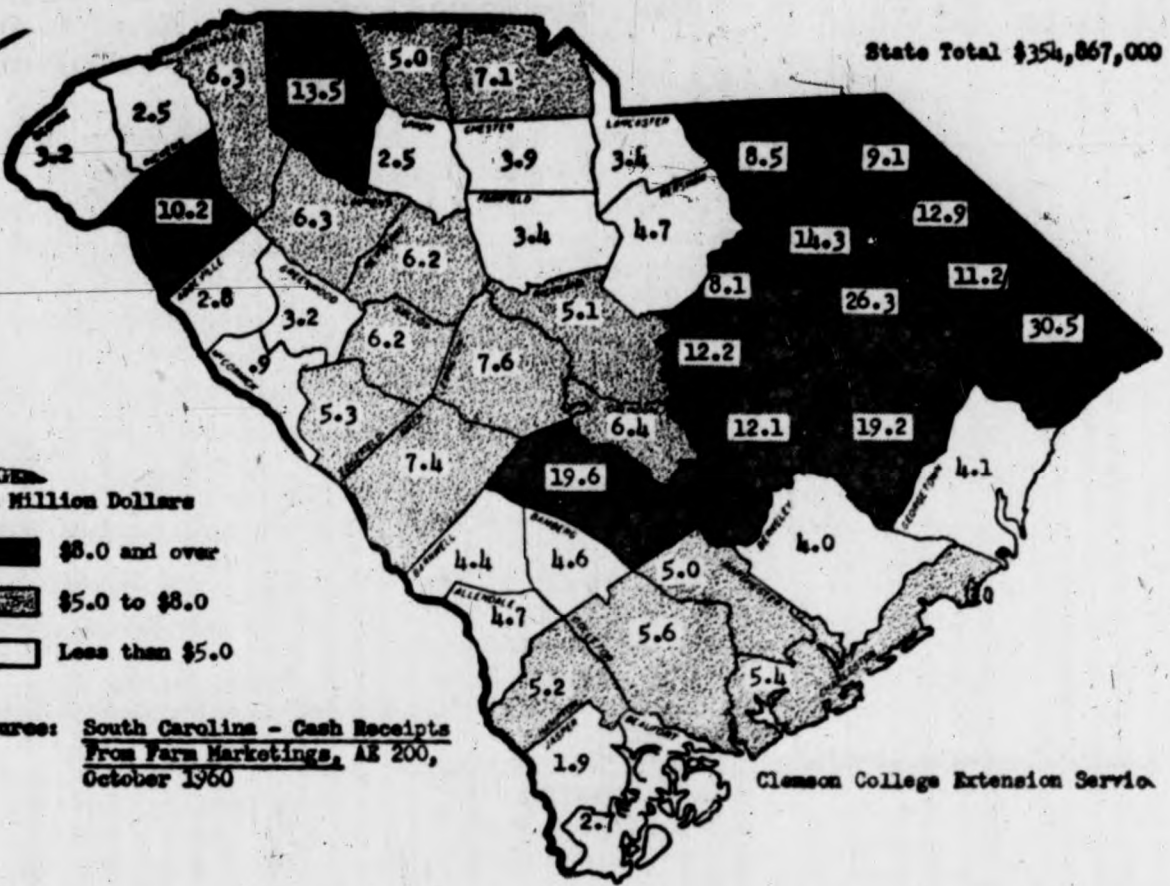
## IRRIGATION IN GREENWOOD

County Agent Garvin tells me, "Those who irrigated their corn in Greenwood County the past summer were amply repaid in increasing yields." He had six farmers in the corn contest. Each made the 100 bushel corn club.

## COMBINING CORN

The first corn I saw combined was some years ago in Hampton County. County Agent Thompson says at least 90 per cent of their crop was thus harvested the past fall. And he tells of Bernard McAlhany's treating a 9-acre field with simazine at planting time,

SOME INCOME FROM CROPS, FARM FOREST PRODUCTS, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, 1959



South Carolina cash income from farm marketings increased more than \$24,000,000 last year. Shown above is the total income from crops, farm forest products, livestock, poultry and livestock products for 1959 expressed in millions of dollars, by counties. The information, compiled by the Crop Reporting Service, was prepared by economists of the Clemson College Extension Service.

never cultivating it at all and making 90 bushels per acre.

## PUMPKINS IN RICHLAND

County Agent Bailey of Richland, tells this one: "Pumpkins as a companion crop in corn paid total cost of corn production, plus land rent, on 13 acres of fertile bottom land for one Dutch Fork farmer the past season. And he points out that the corn yield was not reduced at all by the pumpkins."

Growing pumpkins! Almost a lost art now. They used to be common.

## BOYS ARE THAT WAY

Every few years we used to make some wine at home. Not to be drunk in the usual way. But

for communion at church and for occasional flavoring.

This wine was kept in 5-quart brown bottles that my father, the country doctor, got medicine in. They were stored away back on a shelf in the dark cellar, and became covered with cobwebs and dauber nests in time.

We kids were never allowed to taste this wine. Nor did we covet it. We were too disgusted with any sort of intoxicant, for we had seen it so misused by a few unfortunates in the Stone Hills.

One year the blackberries were specially fine. So my mother made up some wine, as her supply was out. She let the berries and sugar ferment in large crocks with cheese cloth tied over them to keep the gnats out. Then

when it was right, one afternoon she poured it up into the dark bottles and stored it in the cellar.

A colored boy that we raised was helping her. He was an overgrown giant at about 15. She left him to clean up and told him to pour the dregs or skimmings from the wine out back of the woodpile there. He tasted the stuff. Liked it. Drank his fill. And poured the rest out in a hole back of the woodpile there.

Soon the pigs and geese came up to see what he had poured out. They sniffed and tasted at it. And they found it to their liking. Quickly they filled up on the stuff until it was all gone.

Soon there was a queer sight back there around the woodpile. The colored boy had watched the critters lap it up, as his was taking effect. He toppled over, dead drunk. And those pigs and geese were the funniest things you ever saw. Squawking, grunting, squealing, and falling around out there in the weeds, they were a weird sight. Night came on, they went to sleep, and we left the boy out there with them. I don't recall if they all showed signs of headaches next day or not. Those were the only drunk hogs and geese I've ever seen. But I learned this, all drunks are a lot alike, whether they be hogs, geese, or men. In fact, it always seemed to me, a drunk man is a combination of the other two, both a hog and a goose.

## Social Security

The 1960 Amendments to the Social Security Act may be important to you. Here are some facts about them.

1. Q. Does a retired worker who goes back to work lose his social security checks?

A. As in the past, a retired worker who doesn't earn over \$1,200 annually will get all his social security payments for the year. A retired worker who earns more than \$1,200 a year will lose \$1 of his benefits for each \$2 that he earns from \$1,200 to \$1,500. For every \$1 over \$1,500, \$1 of benefits will be withheld.

2. Q. I am over 65 now but I am still working. Should I put in for social security?

A. Many workers past retirement age who are still working have never claimed social security. Many of them may now find it to their advantage to apply. For example, in 1961, a couple entitled to a monthly family check of \$180, would now get some benefits if the husband earns less than \$3,510 in a year.

3. Q. My husband died January 10, 1939. He had worked under social security since it started in 1937, but under the old Social Security Law, I could not get any payments. I am 62 years old. Can I now get any monthly checks?

A. Yes. Survivors of any workers who died before January 1, 1940 (after working under social security for a year and a half) may now get payments.

4. Q. When my first husband died I tried to get social security checks for his two children who were living with and being supported by my new husband. The social security office wouldn't pay checks to the children. They said the children were dependent on their stepfather and not on their own father. That did not seem fair to me. Under the 1960 changes in social security, can the children now get checks?

A. Yes. Payments can now be made to a child on his father's work record no matter who was supporting the child when his father died. If your children are still under 18, go to the social security office.

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