

# What Henderson County Offers The Farmer

## LACK OF LARGE ACREAGE OVERCOME BY DIVERSIFIED CROPS, AGENT DECLARES

### Henderson County Agriculture

1930 Figures N. C. Department of Agriculture

Total Crop Values Reported to Tax Listers (1931)	\$724,912
Acres in Farms	192,945
Acres in Pasturage	202,981
Total Value of Livestock	398,827
All Cattle	6,163
Horses and Mules	1,961
Hogs	1,937
Sheep	555
Hens (laying age)	36,902

By O. B. JONES

Henderson County Farm Agent

The hope of any agricultural community lies in the ability of its farmers to adapt themselves to the natural conditions that prevail in that community. Sometimes this requires long and patient application. This has been particularly true of most mountain farming communities. Unfortunately the average mountain farmer has been too prone to think of his brother farmer down on the plains and broad valleys as the standard of farming success. There the unbroken stretches of flat fields lent themselves quickly to the establishment of thriving farmsteads. This comparison once caused the mountain farmer to feel somewhat discouraged at his inability to farm as his brother on the plains.

The mountain farmer has hewn from the abundant forests of his narrow but fertile valleys comparatively small fields. Many of these are on the slopes. It was

not easy in the early days to find crop adaptations that would provide for his needs and bring to him the prosperity enjoyed by his plains brother.

The farmer out beyond the mountains has devoted his operations to the production of one or two main crops such as cotton, wheat, and tobacco. Farmers of this type have found themselves often in distress in recent years due to overproduction and price fluctuations of the main crops. The mountain farmer, although he usually produces some of most of the main or general crops, has been comparatively free from the worries that beset his brother with the one-or two-crop system.

For this reason the mountain farmer has come to realize that his apparent inabilities are more than compensated for in the relatively more stabilized demand for his varied products. He knows that the conditions under which he must work are peculiar to his own section and that he must adapt himself and his cultural op-

erations to these conditions. He has found out that if he does this he will succeed.

The purpose of this discussion is to present some of the more recent tendencies in agriculture in Henderson county together with a description of some of its possibilities.

Henderson county is a mountain county, but in many respects it is unique. It is traversed by the Blue Ridge on the east and south and is flanked on the west by the Pisgah range. Yet it is more plateau than mountain valley. This condition is responsible for more semi-flat land than is found in any other strictly mountain county of this section. It has elevation without steepness and for this reason is especially valuable as a mountain farming area.

It is this topographical condition that is responsible for an unusual abundance of water. Rising within the county or very nearby are four large streams, Broad river, Green river, Mills River and French broad river. The numerous smaller streams which flow through field and forest in every part of the county insure forever a generous water supply for farms and orchards.

The soil here is remarkably free from small rock which is troublesome in many of the cultivated fields of the mountain counties. There is much rock deposit, but this is largely segregated on the mountain sides.

The heavy, clay type of soil is scarce in the county, and while there are several types of soil it is for the most part loamy and easily cultivated. It holds fertility well and produces abundantly when given proper cultivation.

Much of the county is covered with hardwood timber with a sprinkling of pine. One of the pleasing things to visitors is the wealth of white pine found on the lower levels.

Elsewhere in this article I have pointed out that the farmers of the mountain counties have been compelled to diversify their cropping system and that they have learned how to adapt themselves to this system. For proof of the truth of this; in Henderson county, in a recent year the farmers of this county shipped out to other markets 64 car loads of Irish potatoes. This county produces more truck than any county in Western North Carolina; also more apples and small fruits.

Some of the various enterprises that have helped Henderson county farmers to succeed are dairying, poultry raising, ap-

ples, both Irish and sweet potatoes, truck crops, raspberries, strawberries, and commercial gardens.

There is now a preponderance of Guernseys in the county. The remainder of the dairy cows are Jerseys and grades. Many animals both Guernseys and Jerseys are registered, and many of them are closely related to the best bloodlines in both breeds. The Kalmia Dairy, a distributing plant in Hendersonville, would do credit to a city many times the size of Hendersonville. No better milk supply is available anywhere.

Poultry raising has been developed in the county until there are comparatively few flocks that are not purebred. A county association, blood testing and careful culling have made this possible. Many flocks have been increased until they are of the commercial type.

Apple orchards are found in many parts of the county. This crop has come to be one of the most important and new orchards are being planted each year. There is probably no more ideal orchard land anywhere in the

south than is found in this county. The gradual slopes of the uplands and the ease with which the soil can be cultivated and gotten over with spray machines makes this county highly desirable for apple orchards.

The attitude of our orchard men toward improvement practices in orchard culture is most heartening. The majority of them are applying a large number of the recommended sprays. They are pruning consistently and supplying plant food in the form of commercial fertilizers and cover crops.

Potatoes and the truck crops constitute a large part of the farm program of the farmers of this county. There is a growing feeling on the part of the consuming public at the south of us that the fruits and vegetables from this county are superior in flavor and quality. The demand for our products is increasing and an ever increasing number of buyers are coming into the county for them.

On account of their iodine content, the vegetables of South

(Continued on page 3.)

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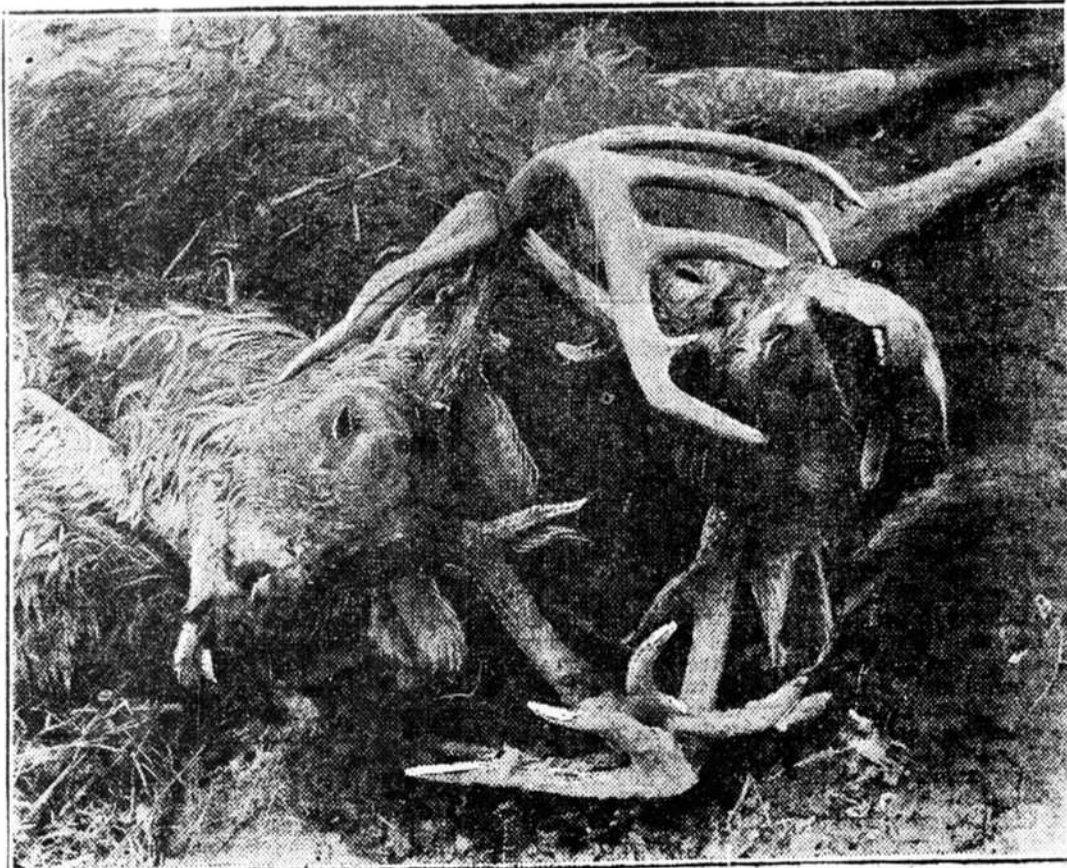
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### STORY OF DEATH BATTLE TOLD BY CAMERA



The photograph tells the eloquent story of how two great bucks of the forests a few miles west of Hendersonville fought out their difficulties and died with their antlers locked together. Unable to extricate themselves, they died of starvation. Their bodies were found on property used as hunting grounds by a number of Hendersonville sportsmen. The bucks weighed about 175 pounds each. One had six-spoke antlers and the other four-spoke antlers. Their ages thus were figured at six and four years.