

## Farm Tips

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### SOLUTION SOUGHT FOR BLACKLANDS BARREN CORN MYSTERY

A mysterious ailment is causing some corn grown in the tidewater blacklands of North Carolina to be barren, or without grain.

This is happening in an area that has a history of unusual soil-related farming problems, but barren stalk corn seems to rank in a class by itself. Scientists can't pin down its cause or even find an indication that the specific problem has been experienced before elsewhere.

"Anywhere corn is grown, there are some stalks in practically every field that don't have fully developed ears on them," said North Carolina State University plant pathologist Dr. Craig Grau. He explained that barren stalks are nearly always the results of a nutrient deficiency, particularly boron, or stress from weather or overcrowding.

"But in the blacklands we're talking about something that may be entirely different, because of the much higher frequency of barren plants in some fields," Grau said.

"We've ruled out weather and population stress," the research scientist said. "And we don't think it's the kind of nutrient deficiency we normally associate with barren stalks, although there may be a deficiency or imbalance of a complex nature."

He suspects that organisms living in the high organic soils may be involved. So far he doesn't have a clue as to what the organisms might be.

The N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station is funding a study to try to find the answers. Grau and two other N. C. State University scientists, J. P. Lilly, a soils specialist, and Dr. John Van Duyn, an entomologist, are doing the research.

The answers won't come too soon to suit farmers who are confronted with the barren stalk problem. "It's the problem some of us fear the most, because of its potential and because so little is known about it," said Steve Barnes, a former N. C. State blacklands soils specialist and currently an agronomist with First Colony Farms.

Barnes has observed yields on individual fields fall from 160 bushels an acre to 40 bushels due to the barren stalk problem.

Grau said yield reductions of around 30 percent are common in the affected areas of the blacklands, and added that the problem seems to be fairly widespread. It was found in 25 percent of the fields checked last year by Grau and his team.

An estimated quarter of a million acres of the blacklands soils are currently in crop production — primarily corn and soybeans — and other thousands of acres are in various stages of being drained and cleared for the same purposes. Affected are fields in Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington and Beaufort counties. Not all blackland areas have the barren stalk problem.

"At First Colony, we are changing our rotation in some areas from one year soybeans and one year corn to two years soybeans and one year corn," Barnes said. "This is the first year we've had corn on fields that have had two years of beans, and we're anxious to see what happens."

Research at N. C. State University has indicated that rotation of crops tends to reduce the severity of barren stalk. This will be part of the study during 1976. In addition, Grau will screen a number of commercial hybrids for differences in resistance to barren stalk. Work last year indicated the problem was less severe on some hybrids than others.

In addition, over 400 inbred lines of corn will be screened. If the N. C. State scientists can find one of these with tolerance or resistance to barren stalk, it could become the source of germplasm in developing a resistant hybrid.

Other work will focus on chemical soil treatments. Grau treated affected soils with methyl bromide in 1975 and got sharp increases in ear development and yield. "This piece of information is the primary reason we now believe microorganisms are involved in causing barren stalk," Grau said. He suspects that microorganisms are preventing the plant from getting the nutrients it needs for full ear development.

Methyl bromide is too costly to be considered a practical field treatment, but Grau plans to test some other materials that are less expensive. If they produce the same results as methyl bromide, their use could be an alternative where barren stalk is threatening to drive corn off certain blackland fields.

## Free Lunch, Milk Program

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Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

In certain cases foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals and milk for them, it should contact the school. Under provisions of the policy, the principal of the school will review applications and determine

eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he may if he wishes to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis.

If he wishes to make a formal appeal, he may take a request either orally or in writing to Cecil W. Fry, associate superintendent, P. O. Box 206, Edenton, N. C. 27932, telephone 482-4436, for a hearing to appeal the decision. The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for reduced price meals or for additional benefits such as free meals and milk if the family income falls at or below the levels shown above.

In operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color or national origin.

Each school and the office of the central office has a copy of the complete policy which may be reviewed by any interested party.

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sightly garbage cans detract so much." We spend thousands of dollars to beautify the central business district yet we can't master up enough support for a plan for backyard garbage collection.

Those responsible should hang their heads in shame. But maybe that is what they are doing, thereby not having full appreciation for the mar of natural beauty which abounds so beautifully and abundantly.

### Welcome, Mr. Carver

We want to welcome W. Raleigh Carver, Route 5, Elizabeth City, as a subscriber to the best newspaper published along the Public Parade. Every subscriber is something special, but Mr. Carver is extra special.

For those who are not readily familiar with our new subscriber from the Isle of the Pasquotank, he comes to our mailing list with sterling credentials. He is president of the 10-county Albemarle Area Development Association, is one the executive committee of the 29-county Health Services Agency, is a Pasquotank County commissioner, is a former ASCS fieldman, is an enthusiastic Jim Hunt supporter, is an expert craftsman, and is an eligible bachelor.

And if that isn't enough, he is good at scaring the devil out of our second born who had the misfortune of minding the front office when he came in to shell out his \$6.24.

Mr. Carver thinks accuracy, the Democratic Party and the United Methodist Church are as sacred as motherhood but not necessarily in that order. He admits that we qualify for diplomas in three of the categories, but questions our accuracy on occasion. It is apparent that we have been consistent in one regard—we don't interpret the same set of facts in the same manner as Mr. Carver.

Even as a candidate for county commissioner, a post he serves with great gusto and esteem, he called us on the carpet for something we had written about Pasquotank's lack of support of the College of The Albemarle. He had troubled himself to go beyond mere quotations and get to the meat of the subject, something which did not surprise us in the least.

We were in the office when his rath was the highest on this subject. But to our good fortune we were at a four-wheel luncheon when he came in to exchange his cash for a subscription to this newspaper.

We share his craze for accuracy. We also share his devotion to the United Methodist Church, the Democratic Party and Jim Hunt. But we all make mistakes along the way, more out of accident than design.

If we give every subscriber who is special and unique, and all 3,750 fit into this group, then it will take 72.12 years to pay tribute to them along the Public Parade. But then we are fortunate in that most simplify the matter by giving the U. S. Postal Service 13 cents to deliver their subscription. But Mr. Carver ain't that type; he had rather pay 64 cents per gallon for gas to drive the 70 miles round trip to do his own thing.

During the next 12 months we solicit his understanding of our faltering. Mainly because Melissa can't stand much more of the Carver from the Isle of the Pasquotank.

Thursday, August 19, 1976

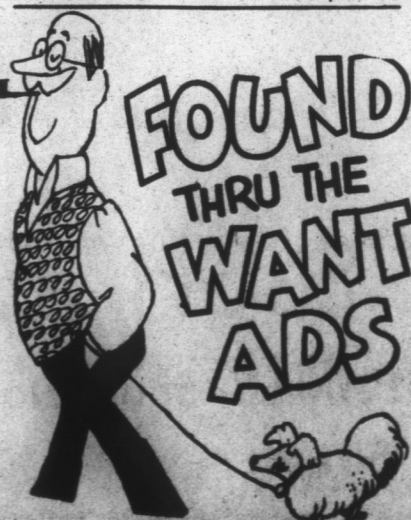
## The Chowan Herald

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## Allocation To Fund Law Enforcement Projects

Albemarle Law and Order Association has recently been allocated some \$330,000 for projects in the 10-county region by the Governor's Law and Order Commission. This was announced by Chief W. C. Owens of Elizabeth City, a member of the commission.

Included in the allocation are funds for implementation of the

communication project for Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties.

Mel Bunch, project director for Region "R", said this included a central tower in the Bear Swamp area to be used by the sheriff's departments and the Town of Edenton.

Also, it has been agreed to update communication equipment at Edenton Police Department as a

potential communication center for the three-county area.

Funds are contained in the program for two policemen in Edenton as well as a records clerk.

Other projects include a \$39,000 investigation unit for Dare County with crime prevention units and added law enforcement in Tyrrell County, the Town of Plymouth and City of Elizabeth City.

## Teachers Preparing For 1976-77 School Year

School bells rang Monday for some 200 staff members of Edenton-Chowan Schools and they are busy preparing themselves for the beginning of the 1976-77 term next Thursday.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, reports there are 31 new teachers among a faculty of 153 in the five schools. Only three guidance counselor positions remain unfilled.

Orientation for students will be

next Thursday when the schools will operate for half a day. School buses will run but the cafeterias will not be open.

The first full day of school is August 27 and September 6 will be a holiday.

Seven state-financed kindergartens will operate in the system this year.

Remedial math labs, financed by a grant from Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA), will

operate in each school. Also, remedial reading labs will be in all five schools.

ESAA provides 389,000 for programs in the system here. It makes it possible for the math and reading labs to be staffed by professional teachers as well as aides. Also, each school will have a guidance counselor once all the positions are filled.

### REPUBLICAN

	EAST EDENTON	WEST EDENTON	ROCKY HOCK	CENTER HILL	WARDVILLE	YECOPIN	ABSENTEE	TOTAL
<b>For Governor</b>								
Alexander	2	4	—	1	2	6	—	15
Flaherty	5	20	—	3	—	10	—	39
McCall	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	7
Privette	6	8	2	—	2	3	—	21
<b>For Lieutenant Governor</b>								
Hiatt	7	13	2	2	—	13	—	37
Payne	5	12	2	1	3	3	—	26
<b>For Secretary of State</b>								
Nanney	6	9	—	2	—	4	—	21
Spaulding, Jr.	6	21	3	2	4	15	—	51
<b>For State Treasurer</b>								
Coble	8	19	—	3	2	8	—	40
McLeod	5	13	4	1	2	11	—	36
<b>For Member of Congress—First District</b>								
Stroud	8	12	2	2	2	6	—	32
Ward	4	20	1	3	4	11	—	43

### DEMOCRAT

<b>For Governor</b>								
Barker, Jr.	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Hunt, Jr.	282	302	134	78	66	64	21	927
O'Herron, Jr.	42	101	3	2	6	30	2	186
Strickland	9	12	5	—	—	3	—	29
Wood	280	301	105	106	81	103	17	993
<b>For Lieutenant Governor</b>								
Akins	145	161	54	26	26	54	9	475
Brown, Jr.	24	43	14	14	6	14	1	116
Green	56	106	30	24	37	18	10	281
Hyde	8	15	1	1	1	10	—	36
Jordan	66	138	39	31	13	46	8	341
Lee	153	139	4	29	5	28	5	363
McRacken	6	14	1	4	2	5	4	36
Stephenson	19	24	12	11	9	4	3	82
<b>For Secretary of State</b>								
Breece	158	274	76	45	53	93	14	713
Eure	252	302	85	106	60	64	26	895
<b>For State Treasurer</b>								
Boyles	190	270	53	56	43	76	15	703
Brown	197	258	69	66	28	70	17	705
Jurney	18	13	6	4	6	11	5	63
<b>For State Auditor</b>								
Bridges	202	309	69	71	40	78	19	788
Fuller	67	79	31	24	10	22	6	239
Woo	143	159	13	26	17	93	9	460
<b>For Commissioner of Insurance</b>								
Ingram	248	304	69	88	46	80	20	855
Johnson	171	272	54	39	30	67	15	648
Waters	23	21	9	12	7	11	4	87
<b>For Commissioner of Labor</b>								
Brooks	108	158	32	24	13	45	4	384
Dunnagan	70	71	8	18	8	14	10	199
McBride	23	37	12	11	7	15	1	106
Scott	237	317	66	85	39	78	20	844
<b>For Superintendent of Public Instructions</b>								
Currin	131	210	41	44	22	61	13	522
Phillips	296	352	78	83	43	85	22	959
<b>For Member of Congress—First District</b>								
Bonner	79	138	84	37	28	51	6	423
Jones	402	522	102	128	81	120	35	1,390
<b>For House of Representatives—First District</b>								
Harrell	523	559	162	127	96	152	23	1,842
James	121	202	56	65	57	55	21	577
Twiddy	27	29	17	9	3	13	6	104
White	159	203	54	54	50	66	23	608
<b>For Register of Deeds</b>								
Ashley	123	115	14	14	22	32	4	324
J. A. Bunch	165	174	98	25	31	45	9	547
Evans	54	93	41	79	50	22	8	347
Spruill	235	305	85	65	51	89	19	849
<b>For County Commissioner—Third Township</b>								
Copeland	241	340	106	85	97	96	26	961
Ward, Jr.	167	180	62	66	47	61	14	597
<b>For Board of Education—First Township</b>								
Bond	369	515	105	108	76	138	—	1,311
Griffin	271	399	101	100	66	99	—	1,036
Underkofler	146	169	27	15	12	48	—	417
<b>For Board of Education—Second Township</b>								
W. R. Bunch	257	300	165	45	56	85	—	908
Copeland, Jr.	83	129	47	58	46	41	—	465
Goodwin	102	137	17	83	34	42	—	464