

Around The Farms: Peanut And Tobacco Commodity Programs

By Mike Williams
County Ext. Chairman

The people in Washington, D.C. are still working on the compromise farm bill but they haven't finished with it yet. What follows is information on the peanut and tobacco commodity programs as they stood at the end of last week. These programs have not yet been passed by the House or Senate and once passed these are still subject to veto by the President.

Peanuts
House Version: A 250-159 vote to abolish the allotment quota and price support program.
Senate Version: A com-

promise, advanced by Senator Mattingly of Georgia, between retaining and abolishing the program, with features:

(1) to eliminate acreage allotments, thereby allowing anyone to grow non-quota peanuts for export on crushing (2) to retain a poundage quota for U. S. consumption which would qualify for price supports.

Conferees Version: To adopt the essential features of the Senate version, with slight moderation in the proposed size of national poundage quota and price supports.

(1) National poundage

quota: 1.2 mil. tons for next four years.

(2) Price support for quota peanuts set at \$565 per ton in 1982 (was \$455 in 1981) to escalate with cost of production in next three years, but no more than 6 per cent per year.

Tobacco
Bills to abolish the tobacco program were defeated, after heated debate. The Senate vote was 42-56; the House vote was 184-231. A Senate amendment to allow the Secretary to lower price supports for tobaccos which may be noncompetitive in the world market was narrowly defeated. Another

amendment would have denied allotments to those with a majority of income from nonfarm sources who had not planted. This controversial amendment did not reach floor debate in the Senate.

Two significant resolutions passed in the House:

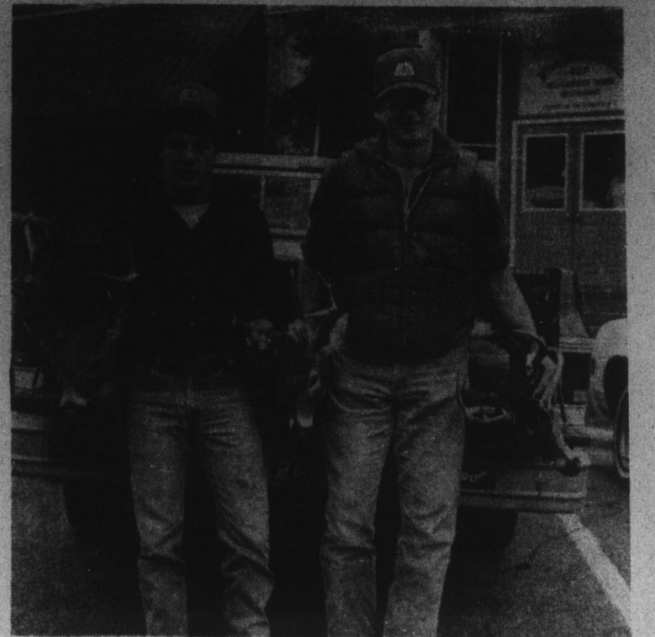
(1) A mandate to USDA to operate the program (or request changes from Congress that would give sufficient administrative authority to do so) at no costs to the taxpayers, except administrative costs.

(2) A requirement that Maryland-type tobacco produced in the flue-cured area be deducted from the farm's quota.

It is not clear whether these issued will emerge in the conferee's version of the farm bill. However, statements by agricultural committee leaders indicate that public hearings are likely to be held this winter to solicit opinions on needed changes in the tobacco program. To avert another move to abolish the program, some spokesmen

predict that some means of accommodation may be required on (a) allotments held by nongrowers and (b) avoiding treasury costs of the program.

Production meetings for corn, soybeans, tobacco, peanuts, cotton and other commodities will be held as dates are verified. Give us a call at the Agricultural Extension Office if you have a particular interest you would like to have discussed at any of these meetings or a separate meeting all together.



BAG THREE BUCKS — Ed Alston, in the green cap, and Jimmy Overton shot these three bucks while hunting in Cravin Co. on November 11. Alston shot the 9-pointer and the 6-pointer while Overton killed the 7-point buck.

Driver's License Law Passed

RALEIGH — In the future, persons who fail to appear in court or who do not pay off their traffic tickets will find they cannot acquire or renew their North Carolina driver's license, according to N. C. Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) officials.

The law was enacted by the 1981 General Assembly and became effective for all 90-day failures occurring on or after October 1, 1981, according to DMV officers.

A "90-day failure" — for

the purpose of acquiring or renewing a driver's license under the motor vehicles laws — is considered a conviction for the offense charged on the citation or warrant.

The new legislation directs that a driver, who appears before the court within 12 months after a "90-day failure" has been entered, may receive a driver's license by paying the court costs or answering the charge. Thereafter, paying court costs will be a prerequisite to obtaining or renewing a driver's license.

Freight Rate Regulations

RALEIGH — Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham has called for animal and poultry feed to be exempted from motor freight rate regulations.

In a prepared statement before the N. C. Utilities Commission, the commissioner said that if feed

and feed ingredients were exempted, farmer costs for the products would be reduced.

"Also these products are exempted from federal regulations and as a result, we are losing business to grain and feed mills in Virginia and South Carolina," Graham said.

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