

# Shoppers Purchase Tons Of Fresh Food

**By Donald Alderman**  
About 8 a.m. last Saturday, hundreds of people began coming to Operation Breakthrough on Umstead Street to buy strawberries for 75¢ a pint, turnips for 75¢ a bunch, sweet yellow corn

the production of the produce, transporting it from the fields, and the marketing and distribution of the produce to consumers. Owners would be in the form of cooperatives or groups of consumers and pro-

Breakthrough, in setting up a market for the produce. If the local groups can put out the word and get enough buyers out to make the day successful, then Ag Teams will buy produce and sell it at least 35 per cent below

Agencies dwindle (Ag Teams is one), Kumanyika says, being able to provide more services to more communities becomes paramount.

That's when the community's role becomes crucial.

The formation of cooperatives, food systems owned and operated and used by consumers and producers, must grow tremendously to combat world food shortages that often make for higher food prices. Projects such as the farm to market then would provide ready markets for cooperatives. So the whole idea, according to Ag Teams officials, evolves around the willingness of communities to be self-reliant, working together to combat food shortages and helping farmers make a decent living and maintain control of land.

Although many wrinkles remain to be ironed out, Ag Teams realized much success in fiscal '81 (August 1, 1980 to July 31, 1981) and expects even greater success in the future.

According to the annual report, Ag Teams

marketed about 1.5 million pounds of produce last fiscal year — mostly in the southern U.S., including Atlanta, Miami, Youngstown and Indianapolis.

Ag Teams also provided technical assistance to 200 limited income farmers and organized several consumer cooperatives.

In North Carolina, the group works closely with the Frank Porter Graham Center near Wadesboro in Anson County. The ten-year-old center is a non-profit demonstration farm and educational center, specializing in providing a market for crops other than tobacco.

Operated by the National Sharecroppers and Rural Achievement Fund, the center helps communities form co-ops. One such co-op is the United Small Farmers Community Development Co-op that last year, with the packaging and trucking help of Ag Teams, sold 20,000 pounds of produce — turnip and mustard greens — at two sites in Atlanta.

In the state, Ag Teams also plans to work closely with farmers in

Alamance, Caswell and Orange counties. Already, according to officials, over 150 small farmers from those counties have signed contracts to produce crops for Ag Teams. Farmers are paid from a revolving fund which is replenished after market days. According to the

financial statement ending July '81, the revolving fund contained \$11,950.

Ag Teams' income included grants — including one from the federal Community Services Administration — donations and savings interest for a total of \$297,596. Expenses ranged from printing and legal costs to meetings and travel expenses for a deficit of \$7,933.

The corporation has a

five-member board of directors, an eight-member staff and an advisory board of 17 persons.

## Visits In High Point

Mrs. Florence Daniels of Durham spent two weeks in High Point recently, visiting with friends and her sister and brother, J.T. Covington and Mrs. Ella Williams.



## Market Day Shoppers

A long line of Durhamites lined up last Saturday to buy farm fresh vegetables and fruit during Durham's first People's Market Day this season. The sale-a-thon sold about 35,000 pounds of food at prices that reportedly averaged about 35 percent below local retail prices.

for 12¢ an ear and squash for 42¢ a pound. They also bought turnip greens, collards, apples and other farm fresh fruits and vegetables.

In the poverty agency's back parking lot, about twenty volunteers and other workers hustled busily with bags, crates and ice. Some unloaded produce from a tractor-trailer truck parked with its motor idling about twenty feet from food-laden tables.

It was the second People's Market Day in the state this season, sponsored by Agricultural Teams, Inc. An Ag Teams official called Durham's Market Day the best by far.

Ag Teams, a non-profit corporation, contracts with small farmers throughout the Southeast to locate and arrange consumer markets for their vegetables and fruit. The "market days" are well organized efforts to get the farm fresh produce to the people.

Formed in Ithaca, New York, Ag Teams moved its national headquarters to Raleigh in September, 1980. The organization's main service is helping small farmers with crop production, livestock production, farm management, marketing, food processing, farm engineering, nutrition and cooperative development.

Officials say such services are important because poor, small and black farmers often labor planting crops without the technology that would make farming efficient or cost-effective.

The ultimate idea, according to Ag Teams executive director Makaza Kumanyika, is to develop food produce systems that are controlled totally by communities. That includes

## ECSU

(Continued from Page 3) Carolina General Assembly, Judge Erwin is also currently a member of the Penal Study Commission, a life member of the North Carolina PTA, a member of the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court, and a member of the State and Forsyth County Bar Associations.

The historic moment of the Ninety-Sixth Commencement will occur when the Color Guard of ECSU's first-year Army ROTC unit presents the colors. The Commencement also marks a decade since ECSU became a Constituent Institution of the University of North Carolina System. This year, Dr. Roy Carroll, vice president for Planning, UNC General Administration, will represent the system during the ceremonies.

ducers that would own the system, using it to their mutual benefit.

But consultation services notwithstanding, Ag Teams' most visible program is the farm to market project.

Starting with the idea of selling produce at least 33 per cent below retail, Ag Teams contracts to buy produce with farmers in rural counties. The contract stipulates that farmers plant a specified number of pounds of produce that Ag Teams will buy.

When harvest times come around, Ag Teams purchases the produce and trucks it from the farm directly to buyers. In between those two events, Ag Teams worked with community organizations, including churches and groups that work with low income persons such as Durham's Operation

supermarket prices. That, in a nutshell, is the farm to market project.

According to officials, the project works well and such farm cooperative movements are on the upsurge, but being a product of small farmers, cooperatives' problems are basically identical to those of the farmers. These include the lack of investment capital, the lack of alternative financial sources and inadequate training and technology to increase agricultural productivity.

"The problem now," say Kumanyika, "is that we are not able to carry produce every place that wants or need it. We would need more refrigerated trucks, more staff or simply more money that we now don't have."

As federal funds for Community Service

The first black newspaper was Freedom's Journal, which began publishing in March 1827 in New York City.

## PROPOSED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS

The Community Development Block Grant Program provides funds for the purpose of revitalizing deteriorated low and moderate income neighborhoods. The goal of neighborhood revitalization is to be accomplished through a concentrated approach that addresses a neighborhood's housing, public facility, economic development and land use needs. The proposed objectives of Durham's Community Development Program follow:

1. To encourage the rehabilitation of deteriorated housing through a Housing Rehabilitation Program providing financial and technical assistance to property owners in designated neighborhoods;
2. To provide public improvements (i.e. streets, sidewalks, water and sewer utilities, parks, etc.) in designated neighborhoods when necessary to support other neighborhood improvement activities such as housing rehabilitation and new development;
3. To eliminate blighted conditions when such conditions threaten neighborhood viability and stability; and
4. To encourage economic development through neighborhood commercial revitalization activities and other efforts to foster the expansion of employment opportunities for low and moderate income persons.

### PROJECTED USE OF 1982-83 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

The City proposes to allocate \$1,958,000 1982-83 Community Development Block Grant and \$238,283 in carryover surplus funds from previous grants to the following activities:

<b>St. Theresa Neighborhood Strategy Area</b>			
Real Estate Acquisition	\$ 162,382		
Site Clearance	45,862		
Relocation Clearance	197,313		
Public Improvements	474,330		
St. Theresa Activities Total		\$ 879,887	
<b>North Albright/Calvin Street Neighborhood Strategy Area</b>			
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 165,886		
North Albright/Calvin Street Activities Total		\$ 165,886	
<b>Crest Street Target Area</b>			
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 208,922		
Crest Street Activities Total		\$ 208,922	
<b>Edgemont Target Area</b>			
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 349,692		
Edgemont Activities Total		\$ 349,692	
<b>Neighborhood Housing Services - Old North Durham</b>			
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 20,000		
NHS Activities Total		\$ 20,000	
<b>Citywide Emergency Housing Repair</b>			
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 59,303		
NHS Activities Total		\$ 59,303	
Planning and Management		\$ 391,600	
Contingency		\$ 120,993	
<b>Total Proposed 1982-83 Community Development Activities</b>			<b>\$2,196,283</b>

The Durham City Council will hold a public hearing on the PROPOSED 1982-83 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM on Monday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber in City Hall. Planning and Community Development Department staff will present their recommended 1982-83 Community Development Plan and 1982-83 Community Development Program and the proposed 1982-85 Community Development Plan can be obtained from the Planning and Community Development at City Hall or by calling 683-4137.

The Carolina Times: May 15, 1982

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