

# N.C. farms hit hard by worst drought since '50s

By MELANIE WELLS  
Staff Writer

Now that many crops have been ruined by the drought that has plagued the area for several months, some farmers are asking whether Orange County will be declared a disaster area.

Landmark editor and local farmer Bob Windsor of Pittsboro said this has been the most damaging dry spell since the 1950s, and there is no doubt that farmers have suffered the most.

Carl Hodges of the Agricultural Extension Service said that if Orange County was declared a disaster area then farmers would be eligible for low-interest loans to carry them over to another year.

"Farmers, if lucky, may be able to produce half of their crops in terms of money," he said. "They are definitely hurting."

In terms of revenue, tobacco and corn have been the crops damaged most by the drought, Hodges said.

Although heat stress on his livestock has been the biggest problem for Chapel Hill dairy farmer Joe Snipes, he said that no amount of rain would help crops now. Fifty percent of Snipes' production is down.

Fred Luxton Jr., a farmer in Durham County, said he lost half of his money crop — tobacco — to the drought. "Spending money will be short this year," he said. "We're just trying to break even, which is going to be hard enough now."

John Sledge, president of the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation Inc., said that Gov. Jim Hunt requested that the entire state be declared a disaster area, but that there was no proper reply. Sledge said he thought that Orange and Durham counties had probably been damaged most.

"A few farms could go out of business completely, but farmers tend to live with high hopes," Sledge said.

There had been more claims on federal crop insurance this year, he said, as the drought had affected every farmer's production.

Howard Crawford of Chapel Hill said he hopes that his

soybean crop will help pull him through. "What many people don't realize is that this will affect us for the next 12 months," he said.

Sledge agreed that the impact of the drought will last for some time. "The consumer probably won't see a big difference until 1984, but the farmers already feel it." He said that more dairy cows would be going to market as beef, and this will raise prices.

William Sparrow of Durham said his beef cows were much thinner this year. "I'll have to sell more calves in the fall because of lack of feed now," he said. He lost half of his tobacco crop, but he said irrigation helped save some of his vegetables.

"It's just too late," Luxton said. "We needed a lot of good soaking rain in July, and we never got it."

Sledge said this has been the most widespread drought because all of the state has been unusually dry.

"Orange County farmers will be feeling the damage for a while," Sledge said.

## Down 15 percent since Aug. 23

### Conservation lowers water consumption

By SALLY SMITH  
Staff Writer

Water consumption in Chapel Hill and Carrboro has dropped 15 percent since voluntary conservation began August 23, a local water utility official said Monday.

"Back when the voluntary call went out we were averaging about seven million gallons a day," said Pat Davis, systems management specialist for Orange Water and Sewer Authority. "During the past week consumption has averaged 5.912 million gallons a day."

University Lake Monday was 57.5 inches below full and consumption on Sunday was 5.716 million gallons.

OWASA's target is a 25 percent reduction in use, and Davis said it is hard to estimate when that goal would be reached. "If the weather stays hot and dry it

might be longer than if we have cooler weather," he said.

Davis cited several factors for the reduced consumption, including cooler weather, the recent rainfall and the present moderate mandatory restrictions.

He said a major factor was increased public awareness. "The message that we need to conserve is finally hitting home," Davis said.

Mark Dalton, Residence Hall Association president, said his organization had been publicizing the water problem and promoting water conservation in the residence halls.

University housing, in addition to helping RHA, is taking other steps to lower consumption, said Wayne Kuncl, housing director.

Since 1977, all residence halls except Odum Village have had flow restrictors

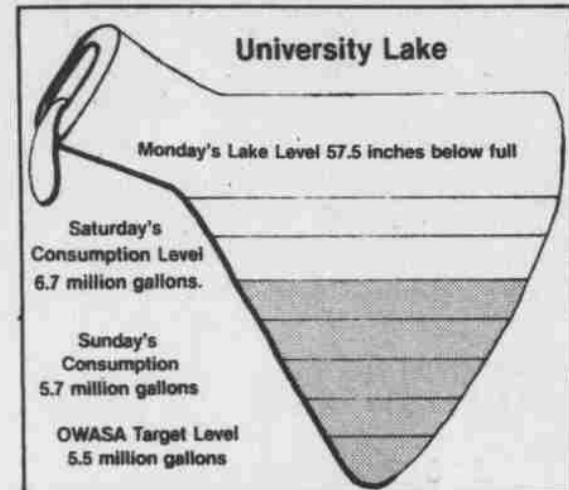
on the shower heads, Kuncl said. The department is working to install conservation devices in the Odum Village showers.

Claude Swecker, director of the UNC Physical Plant, said measures of on-campus consumption would not be available until the end of the month.

Despite the home football game Saturday, water consumption was only 6.7 million gallons. This was considerably better than the weekend before, when consumption was 8.4 million gallons, Davis said.

For this week's homecoming game, Davis said he hoped consumption did not go over seven million.

"We want to stay away from the eight million from the earlier game," he said. "It is going to get worse before it gets better," Davis said. He explained that the long-term rainfall predictions are low,



and temperatures may remain higher than normal.

It is possible that the water shortage may be here for quite some time, Davis said, possibly through the end of November to the beginning of December.

Moderate mandatory restrictions are now in effect, and when the lake level reaches 72 inches below full, severe mandatory conservation procedures will be sought, Davis said, especially on outdoor uses.

The Daily Tar Heel Monthly Gas Survey for September

STATION NAME	SELF-SERVICE			FULL-SERVICE		
	Reg.	Unld.	Prem.	Reg.	Unld.	Prem.
Airport Road Gulf 1201 Airport Road	114.9	120.9	134.9	142.9	148.9	152.9
Blackwood's Service & Grocery Mt. Carmel Church Road	122.9	137.9	---	128.9	141.9	---
East Franklin Car Care 1710 E. Franklin St.	114.9	123.9	131.9	138.9	141.9	148.9
Eastgate Amoco Eastgate Shopping Center	114.9	121.9	137.9	128.9	135.9	142.9
Etna Self Service 1509 E. Franklin St.	114.9	120.9	---	---	---	---
Econ Gas 607 W. Main St.	120.9	129.9	138.9	142.9	146.9	159.9
Glen Lennox Service Station Glen Lennox Shopping Center	113.9	126.9	134.9	145.9	148.9	153.9
Hearn Shell Service U.S. 15-501 Bypass	116.9	124.9	133.9	133.9	137.9	142.9
Holloway Motor Center Eastgate Shopping Center	117.9	124.9	---	125.9	129.9	136.9
Sav-A-Ton 421 E. Main St.	113.9	119.9	125.9	---	---	---
Short Stop Food Mart 300 W. Main St.	113.9	119.9	---	---	---	---
Village Texaco University Mall	117.9	124.9	134.9	135.9	141.9	147.9
W. Franklin St. Gulf 214 W. Franklin St.	114.9	120.9	137.9	145.9	148.9	153.9
Wilco Number 1 1213 Airport Road	114.9	120.9	124.9	---	---	---
AVERAGE PRICES	116.2	124.2	133.6	137	142.3	149

## Spot checks show area gas prices holding relatively steady

By KIM GILLEY  
Staff Writer

A Daily Tar Heel survey of local gas stations shows that gas prices have remained stable for the past three months, with a moderate decline in prices predicted in the next couple of months.

"Prices are coming down and will probably fall more rapidly since Labor Day has passed," said Quentin Anderson, public relations director of the Carolina Motor Club. "It's the end of a heavy driving season when consumption was at its highest."

According to this month's survey of 14 local gas stations, the average price for regular self-service gas was \$1.17 per gallon. Unleaded gas averaged \$1.24 at self-service pumps in September and premium unleaded averaged \$1.34 a gallon.

Glen Lennox Service Station, Sav-A-Ton and Short Stop Food Mart reported the lowest regular self-service gas price — \$1.14 per gallon.

Local service station and gas-selling convenience store managers said that gas prices were fairly stable. "Prices have remained stationary for two, almost three, months, between \$1.13 and

\$1.16," said Jack Adcox, manager of Sav-A-Ton on East Main Street in Carrboro. "They haven't been moving much at all."

East Franklin Car Care's manager Ronny Ragan said that prices are dropping slowly. But Frank Holloway of Eastgate Amoco said he had not noticed a change in prices.

Internationally, energy experts at the recent World Petroleum Congress in London predicted that oil prices should remain stable at least through 1990.

Almost half of every barrel of oil is refined into gasoline. The average number of miles per gallon of an American-made car has almost doubled in a decade to 24.6 mpg.

Daniel Lundberg of Lundberg Oil Survey said demand for gasoline this year would be slightly less than in 1973. Slackening gasoline prices were inciting sales of larger cars, he said, but these automobiles were much more energy efficient than those built in 1973.

Standard Oil of California predicts that the amount of oil used in America will dip slightly by the end of the century. Dr. Wilhelm von Iseemann, president of the World Petroleum Congress, said that the ordinary gas customer need not worry.

## Lebanon

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He also said the defenders "ran very short of ammunition," and shells from the U.S. ships offshore were trucked to the garrison.

Warrant Officer Charles Rowe of San Francisco, a Marine spokesman, said the Marine camp at the airport was hit with two rockets before the naval barrage, but none of the 1,200 Americans were injured.

The Marines took refuge in sandbagged bunkers and foxholes, but there were no reports of retaliatory Druse shelling after the U.S. barges. However, Marine officers said forward positions came under small-arms fire.

Army communicans said the three surviving Hawker Hunter jets of the Lebanese air force

struck at insurgent positions near Souk el-Gharb. The army also said its artillery shelled Syrian army rocket launchers in the northern Lebanese province of Batroun to stop them from shelling a makeshift airfield where the Lebanese planes are kept near Byblos, 24 miles north of Beirut.

The army ordered an indefinite, round-the-clock curfew beginning at 6 p.m. in the southern suburbs of Beirut which lie between the Druse-controlled area of Shweifat and neighborhoods under the control of the Amal militias of their Shiite Moslem allies.

"Violators will be shot without warning," a communique said.



# HOMECOMING '83

## TUESDAY

Homecoming Queen nominations due Tuesday, Sept. 20  
Parade entries form due Tuesday Sept. 20 by 5:00 at CAA

## THURSDAY

Homecoming Queen Elections

## FRIDAY

- 12:00 **PEP RALLY**  
— in the Pit —
- 3:15 **PARADE**  
— Best Entry Contest - Cash 1st Prize —
- 8:00 **ARROGANCE**  
w/ the Accelerators  
— Great Hall —

## SATURDAY

- 1:00 **GAME**  
— Banner Contest - Keg and Pizza - 1st Prize —
- 5:00 **THE EMBERS**  
— Woollen Gym —
- 9:00 **BLACK AND BLUE**  
Semiformal — Great Hall —

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