

# Burley Tobacco Supports To Continue This Season

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's marketing experiment allowing the sale of untied, baled burley tobacco is to be continued for another year. The USDA will extend price support and official grading for limited quantities of the tobacco

through the 1979-80 season. Acting Secretary of Agriculture Jim Williams announced on Aug. 23.

W.B. Zink, county executive director of the Madison County ASCS office stated that under the continuing experiment, any producer interested in marketing baled 1979-crop burley tobacco should apply during the period Sept. 4-28 at the Madison County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

Zink said, that in the sign-up and marketing process, there are only four changes from last year, which are:

—Each producer would be guaranteed price support on the larger of 1,500 pounds or 20 percent of the farm marketing quota (instead of 5 percent last year).

—Any unwanted quota would be apportioned to producers desiring to sell more than 20 percent of the farm marketing quota from a state pool instead of a county pool.

—Sales opportunity would be available on each sales day instead of on only five specified days.

Individual bales in a lot must be identified. Tobacco graders with the Department's Agricultural

Marketing Service would continue to apply official grades to the limited quantities of untied burley packed in bales during the 1979-80 season.

Any burley tobacco producer who is interested in marketing his tobacco in bales should contact the ASCS office between Sept. 4 and Sept. 28, Zink concluded.

# River Week

## Recreation Opportunities Abound At Event

Learning to enjoy the river will be emphasized during French Broad River Week '79, Sept. 16-22. This idea is carried out in the week's theme, "Get Your Feet Wet".

French Broad River Week offers a variety of recreational activities to encourage people to explore the river's beauty and excitement. The week is coordinated by the Land-of-Sky Regional Council with several other organizations planning and sponsoring events.

Recreational opportunities during the week include a French Broad River Raft Race on Sept. 22, 2 to 4 p.m., from Long Shoals road Bridge approximately three miles to the Bent Creek Recreation Park in Buncombe County. The race is sponsored by the Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Department and WRAQ radio. There are no restrictions on size of rafts or entries.

Businesses, organizations, and interested individuals are especially encouraged to build their own raft for competition. On the same day, the recreation department and WRAQ will also sponsor a French Broad River Appreciation Picnic from 6 to 8 p.m. at Lake Julian Park. Musical entertainment will be provided.

Leisurely float trips and canoe and raft races in Transylvania County are other recreational activities of the week. The Brevard Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring float trips on the river as it flows through Transylvania County on Sept. 16, Sept. 19 and Sept. 21 1:30 to 5 p.m. Historical sites and events, flora and fauna, and hydrological studies along the river will be discussed on the

trips. Canoes will be furnished for a \$2 registration fee per trip or a \$5 fee for all three trips.

A white-water raft trip in Madison County on Sept. 21, will offer plenty of challenges and thrills. Sponsored by Smoky Mountain River Expeditions, the five to six hour trip will originate at expedition headquarters in Hot Springs at 9:15 a.m. The cost is \$22 per person.

For hikers, there will be "river rambling" hikes on Sept. 16 and Sept. 22, sponsored by the Wenoca Group of the Sierra Club. The Sunday hike along the North Fork of the French Broad River will assemble at 2 p.m. at the Pisgah Lane Bowling Alley in Brevard.

Other activities of French Broad River Week include a "Friends of the River" dinner, Southeastern Regional Small Hydro Conference, "Reflections On a River" luncheon, tour of water pollution abatement facilities at the Olin Corporation, a Natural Area Conservation Methods Workshop, Erosion Sedimentation Control Workshop.

Reservations are requested for all activities. For more information or reservations, contact the Land-of-Sky Regional Council (704) 254-8131.



WILL HOFFMAN and JEFF POWELL of Mars Hill competed in the North Carolina Junior State Tennis Tournament held Aug. 13-17 at the Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro. Facing tough statewide competition, Jeff won two singles matches and Will won one before being defeated. The two also teamed up in the doubles matches, losing in the first round. More than 100 entrants in the 11 and 12 year old bracket made the trip to Greensboro.

Most communities in Madison County have, or soon will have, tennis courts for the public. Residents of Mars Hill have access to four public courts at the recreation complex on Crooked Road.

## Tobacco Country

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it and do something ever since. The next morning I got on the phone to Furney and he explained that there was no known control for it. He came up and we began testing sprays down on Jack's Creek. Nothing worked very well."

Furney Todd, a jovial emcee regarded as the foremost authority on tobacco diseases in the state, stepped to the microphone on the damp hillside. "We all have to remember that this is the first epidemic we've ever had in burley. We've had two mild epidemics in flue-cured, in '53 and '64, and I lived through both of them. But this year is a disaster, and it just caught us without warning."

"The good news," he went on, telling everyone to turn to page 47 of their mimeographed report, "is Ridomil EC2. You can apply it to the soil and get full tobacco protection. We've got the answer, folks; we've got the answer!"

It all seemed too simple, and I asked Wiley DuVall if I had heard right. He said yes, Ridomil had not been approved for general use yet, but it seemed to work. "It was being used to control black shank on this plot here and in two other counties," said DuVall. "No one knew it would have any effect on blue mold — that was just good luck. This was a discovery made by accident."

We left Mountain Heritage with a State Patrol escort, headlights and flashers on, and sped along to Roy Ammons' farm south of Mars Hill, the scheduled stop in Madison County. Roy Ammons and his brother grow 16 acres of tobacco along the bottom of a small valley, and I asked him how he was doing this year. "Not too bad, considering," he said. "Last year about this time my plants were above eye level" — he raised a large hand above his head — "and this year they're about a foot shorter. But we'll cut it all."

Wiley DuVall went to the microphone. "Roy started out here real good," he said, "but even Roy couldn't dodge it this year. The mold has pretty well hit every field in the county. We were going to put Ridomil on these plots but the day we came it poured down rain and we couldn't get into the field. The only thing that saved Roy was his high, wide beds. His fields are raised up; otherwise the water would have washed him away. I have some color pictures that look like he was growing rice here."

I caught a ride back to Mars Hill with Doug Taylor of the FHA, who told me that Roy Ammons is one of the better growers in the county. "He stays right on top of the technology," said Taylor. "He stays in touch with the extension people, and when he has a problem he calls in. Then — the most important step — he follows their advice."

The concluding advice of Wiley DuVall and Furney Todd to the local growers had to do with preparations for winter. "We might get some blue mold spores carrying over until next year," said Todd. "So here's a good reason to get your stubble cleaned up and all the leftover crop turned under and all the weeds and grasses cleared away around the edges. We should think in terms of leaving blue mold again next year, and be alert for it. Even if it doesn't make it through the winter here, there's plenty here where this comes from. My friends down in Florida tell me, Furney, they say, we've got blue mold every year down here. And every year it blows right on up this way. So we've got to be alert."

## In Service

Navy Seaman Recruit Beverly S. Price, daughter of Ogle and Selma Price of Marshall, has completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center in Orlando, Fla.

During the eight-week training cycle, trainees studied general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic occupational fields.

Included in their studies were seamanship, close-order drill, Naval history, and first aid. Personnel who complete this course of instruction are eligible for three hours of college credit in physical education and hygiene.

A 1979 graduate of Madison High School, she joined the Navy in June.



BEVERLY PRICE

# A Tour Through Madison County's Tobacco Land

ROY AMMONS (right) of Madison County hosted the Research on Wheels visitors, who inspect his tobacco (far right). Wiley DuVall (below) speaks to the group, and Furney Todd (below, right) shows off some black shank disease. The group also visited experimental plots at Mountain Heritage. H.S. (bottom).

