

Business/Industry



Feed crop
This Hoke County field of grain is responding well to the wet weather and heading for maturity. There are approximately 10,000 to 12,000 acres of wheat, 200 to 400 acres of barley and oats and 500 to 600

acres of rye planted in the county each year. Grain harvests in the county last year brought in about \$1.1 million in revenue, according to Hoke County Agriculture Agent Willie Featherstone.

Production assessments scheduled for April 25

An important day for Hoke County Beef, Egg, and Pork Producers will be April 25.

On that day they, along with other North Carolina producers, will hold an assessment referendum. Virgil Murphy has been named chairman of the Referendum Committee here in Hoke County.

The Beef Assessment was first adopted in 1958, while the Pork Assessment was adopted in 1963. Chairman Murphy says, "The question to be voted on is whether these producers want to continue programs that have been developed over several years using the assessment funds."

The assessments have been 10 cents per head for feeder pigs sold, twenty cents per market hog sold, and 20 cents per head on cattle sold. Cattle producers will vote on the referendum based on a new

assessment charge of 30 cents per head.

Anyone who sells cattle, hogs, or eggs or receives income from the sale of those products may vote.

Polling places for Hoke County will be at the Rockfish Community Building, the Agricultural Extension Office, Dundarrach Trading Company, and Community Grocery at Five Points. They will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be manned by the Hoke County Livestock Association.

If you are a producer of any of these products, plan to make your views known on April 25 by casting a ballot.

If you have any questions about the referendum, contact Virgil Murphy at 875-4089 or Richard Melton in the Agricultural Extension Office, 875-3461.



Promoted
James L. Beard was promoted effective March 1, to Warehouse Supervisor at the Burlington Industries Raeford Plant. Beard has been employed at the local facility for over 19 years. Beard has worked in various positions since his employment with the Company. Until his promotion, he worked in the Planning Office as a Planner II.

Conservation tillage helps soil

By Donnie R. Harris
District Conservationist

The time for preparing and planting your fields to crop is nearly here. Many farmers are busy making those final adjustments on their equipment for the coming growing season.

They are concerned about having their equipment in the best operational condition, to be as efficient during the planting and harvesting season as possible.

This way you can save time and money during the growing season.

Taking care of your farm equipment is not the only way to lower your operating cost. It is important that you take the time to recognize erosion problems that may be occurring on your fields and take measures to correct the problems.

Most farmers in Hoke County are planting their crops using the conventional tillage methods. These fields are disked and bottom plowed in preparing the land for planting.

After the crop is planted, the field will be cultivated during the growing season for weed control. Each time the farm machinery is used in managing the crop, farm profit is lost and operational cost increases.

Not all of the farm operators are planting their crops using the conventional tillage method. Some are using a practice known as Conservation Tillage. Conservation Tillage (better known as sod plant-

ing or no-tillage) is the planting of crops such as soybeans, corn or milo in the residue of previously grown crops.

This residue is left on the soil surface throughout the growing season to reduce soil loss, increase moisture and nutrient availability for plant use.

Planting may also be done in a winter cover crop; but the operator will need to apply a herbicide to kill or stunt the growth of the cover crop. This way the no-tilled crop will grow and develop without competition from other plants at a young age.

Planting by the conservation tillage method requires only one or two trips over the field during the planting season. The farmer can plant and apply herbicide for weed control at the time of planting or apply the herbicide at a later date. Some advantages of conservation tillage are:

- Control Soil Erosion
- Conserve Soil Moisture
- Requires Less Labor
- Intensify Land Use
- May Improve Yields
- Provide Food And Shelter For Wildlife

The disadvantages in using this method are lower soil temperature and an increase in pest or weed problems, if chemicals are not applied properly.

The success of using conservation tillage on your farm depends on how good a manager you are.

Following proper seeding dates according to seed variety and apply-

The advantages of conservation tillage far out weigh the disadvantages, especially the savings in fuel cost and the reduction in soil loss.

If you have tried conservation tillage and were not satisfied with your crop, ask yourself these questions:

•Was the crop planted according to recommended seeding dates?
•What was the weather condition at the time of planting and during the growing season (wet or dry)?

•Did you follow the recommendation in applying herbicide for weed control and pesticide for insect control?

•Did you use the recommended amount of water for applying your chemicals?

•Did you identify weed problems before planting?

•Did you plant your conservation tillage crop on your worse fields (weed and grass problems) and expect a better yield than with past conventional tilled crops.

Management is the key to a sound no-till program. For more information on soil erosion, contact the Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District Office.

Blue Cross benefits top \$1 million mark in Hoke during 1983

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina paid benefits totaling \$1.2 million to doctors, skilled nursing facilities and home health agencies in Hoke County in 1983, the not-for-profit health service Plan announced.

During the year, the statewide health service Plan processed 4.5

million claims for participants in its regular Blue Cross and Blue Shield programs, amounting to more than \$575 million in total benefits.

In addition, more than \$773 million was paid through the federal government's Medicare program, which is administered by the Plan.



New Salesman
Jerry Jordan has joined the sales force at Clark Chevrolet in Pinehurst. Jordan is married to the former Patricia Owens of Red Springs and they have two children. Jordan was previously employed with Hoke Auto Sales in Raeford.

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