

Knowing N.C. And Duplin County Agriculture

Did you know that a family of four eats about 2 1/2 tons of food in a year? This includes some 629 pounds of red meat, chicken and turkey add another 260 pounds. There are also 51 pounds of seafood, 88 dozen eggs, 336 pounds of fresh fruits, 13 pounds of frozen fruits, 400 pounds of fresh vegetables, and 598 pounds of flour and other cereal products used. Today the average farmer not only produces enough to feed himself, but he also produces enough for 77 more people. Duplin County residents are proud to be a part of one of the leading agriculture counties in the United States and the number one producing county in North Carolina.

Duplin occupies 526,933 acres (822 square miles) in southeastern North Carolina. The county population was 40,951 in 1980 with 13,993 households. Seven percent of the population is less than 4 years old, 26 percent is between 4-19, 55 percent is between 20-64, and 12 percent is over 65 years old. The annual average temperature for the Duplin area is 60.3°. January is normally the coldest month with an average temperature of 36.6° and June and July the warmest with an average of 79.8° in 1981. The annual average precipitation is 3.7 inches per month, with November having the lowest average of .76 inches and August the highest with 10.91 inches in 1981.

To cover all of Duplin agriculture assets in this article is impossible. However, we should point out that we are leaders in many areas. We do not intentionally leave out any commodity for we fully realize it is our county's broad range of agriculture products that makes it so great. Listed below are facts and figures the Duplin County Agribusiness Council felt would be of interest to the residents of Duplin.

Flue Cured Tobacco - North Carolina ranks No. 1 growing approximately 65 percent of the U.S. production. Duplin County ranks 13th in N.C. production, selling 23.3 million pounds in 1982 for \$41,623,978. Our own Wallace Tobacco Market sold 11,479,549 pounds for an average of \$176.92 per pound in 1982.

Chicken Production

North Carolina ranks 4th in broiler production and 8th in egg production. Duplin County ranks 8th in overall chicken production. Three hundred Duplin farmers sold 146.9 million pounds of broilers, 4.4 million pounds of hens, over 4 million commercial eggs and over 8 million hatching eggs in 1982. Total chicken income was \$47,628,763 in 1982.

Turkey Production - North Carolina ranks No. 1, producing approximately 16 percent of the U.S. production. Duplin County ranks No. 1 in turkey production and produces approximately 36 percent of North Carolina's production. One hundred fifty-five Duplin County farmers sold 165.6 million pounds of turkey and over 8 million dozen hatching eggs in 1982. Total turkey income was \$66,663,633 in 1982.

Swine Production - North Carolina ranks 8th in on-farm hogs. Duplin County ranks No. 1 in North Carolina total hog production with 375 Duplin farmers selling over 313,500 hogs in 1982. Total income for hogs sold for slaughter was \$39,814,500 in 1982.

Corn Production - North Carolina ranks 13th in United States production and Duplin County ranks third in North Carolina production. Two thousand Duplin farmers produced 6.5 million bushels on 65,000 acres in 1982. Approximately 4.4 million bushels were sold for a 1982 income of \$9,798,750.

Soybean Production - North Carolina ranks 14th in U.S. production and Duplin County ranks 9th in N.C.

production. One thousand five hundred farmers produced 1.475 million bushels in 1982 on 59,000 acres. Total income for soybeans sold was \$8,186,250 in 1982.

Farm Forest Products - North Carolina ranks No. 1 producing 18.3 percent of the U.S. production. Duplin County produces approximately 3 1/2 percent of the N.C. production. There were 58,500 cords of pulpwood sold for \$549,315, and 43,200,000 board feet of lumber sold for \$5,728,752 in 1982.

Vegetables and Berry Production - North Carolina ranks No. 1 in sweet potato production, No. 2 in cucumber for pickles, No. 4 in cucumber for fresh market, No. 5 in snap bean and cabbage production, No. 6 in green pepper production, No. 11 in tomato and watermelon production, No. 4 in blueberry production, and 9th in grape and strawberry production. Duplin is fortunate to have one of the world's largest produce markets in Faison. Total Duplin farm income from vegetables and berries was \$13,567,416 in 1982.

County Taxes - The current Duplin County tax base is \$670,903 million with 70 cents per hundred tax rate; \$450 is from farmland and equipment. Animal inventory accounts for \$3,657,415 of the tax base. Another \$100 million is agriculture-related (business, etc.) The following tables show how land is valued for tax purposes in Duplin County.

Land Symbols	Cultivated, Open/ Pasture Land		Semi-Dirt	Dirt Private
	Road Relationship/ Hard Surface			
Excellent			810	720
Good+			730	650
Good	900		650	560
Good-	810		560	470
Fair+	720		480	390
Fair	630		400	320
Fair-	540		320	260
Poor+	460		380	230
Poor	380		270	
	320			
Woodland				
Good Pine	220	180	140	
Fair Pine	170	140	100	
Poor Pine	130	110	70	
Good Hardwood	100	80	60	
Poor Hardwood	80	60	40	
Waste	20	20	20	

Agriculture Education - Farming has revolved into a highly technical agribusiness. Duplin's public school system offers agriculture classes to prepare young men and women for further education or to take advantage of numerous agricultural occupations. James Sprunt Technical College gives students a chance to

stay in the community and further prepare themselves for a successful career as farmers or in related agribusiness. Duplin's young people should look here in Duplin for careers in agriculture. The number one agriculture county in the state needs its young people to carry on a big job and a proud tradition. Students are

urged to check with their school counselor for career opportunities.

By David Byrd Jr.
President of the Duplin County Agribusiness Council

Fishing Season Opens

Hunting season has ended and sportsmen are putting down their guns and picking up fishing equipment. Shad, herring and mullet (non-game migratory saltwater fish) are the first seasonal catches in the Northeast Cape Fear River. Wildlife enforcement officer Jeff Black said.

During the January 1 to June 5 season, fishermen may use special devices in addition to hook and line to catch non-game species, Black said. Special devices include dip, bow and gill nets and seines. Special devices require a license. According to N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission regulations, special devices can be used in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Sarecta bridge on State Road 1700. A fee of \$3 is attached to personal use special device licenses. Nonpersonal special device licenses are \$10 and should be purchased by fishermen who sell their catch, Black said. No license is needed when a person fishes within their county of residence using natural bait.

Inland game fish, freshwater varieties found in the Northeast Cape Fear River include bass, chain pickerel and panfish. The freshwater fish usually begin to bite later than nongame fish. No

license is required of Duplin residents fishing for game fish within the county when using natural bait. However, Black said, game trapped in special devices set for non-game fish must be released immediately into the river. Likewise, game fish captured in bait traps must be released.

Fishing is a popular sport in North Carolina and sportsmen contribute heavily to the economy. State Wildlife and Resources figures indicate sportsmen spend over \$125 million each year on large items such as boats, trailers, campers and four-wheel drive vehicles. During 1980 the anglers spent over \$373 million on fishing. Fishermen expended over \$157 on the fresh-water sport, alone. The Wildlife Resources Commissioner estimates every dollar they spend returns over \$50 to the economy of North Carolina. And, ninety percent of the funds used by the Wildlife Commission comes from sportsmen through the purchase of licenses and permits and excise taxes on sporting equipment. Much of the money spent by the Commission goes for purchasing equipment, food, lodging, gasoline, hiring of guides and other related expenditures.

Violation of fishing regulations can result in the loss

of fishing privileges, impoundment of fishing equipment, and cash fines, Black said. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission publishes an annual volume of inland fishing regulations digest which can be obtained where hunting and fishing licenses are sold, Black said. The publication includes fishing regulations and specification of limits for game and nongame fish. Black also requested public support in the protection of the county's wildlife. Any persons wishing to report game law violations or receive additional information on fishing and hunting regulations can phone Jeff Black, Wildlife Enforcement Officer, at 296-1526 in Kenansville.

35th Anniversary

On Sunday, March 6, the senior choir of First Baptist Church in Kenansville was host for a gala "Festival of Songs" in celebration of its 35th anniversary. The choir was honored by several guest choirs, chorales and soloists from area churches.

The program, chaired by Ms. Virginia L. Washington and Ms. Eva S. Miller, included a brief history of the choirs founding leaders, a surprise token of appreciation presented to the president, Ms. Annie D. Washington, for her loyal service to the group, and, of course, an evening of great gospel entertainment.

After remarks from the pastor, Rev. C.W. Wright, light refreshments of sweet-cake squares, mints, nuts and jelled punch were served by Mrs. Rosa Brown, Mrs. Bessie B. Faison and Ms. Annie Washington.

The event was truly enjoyed by everyone present.

The choir was accompanied by musician Bruce McCalop.

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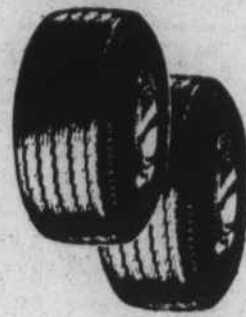
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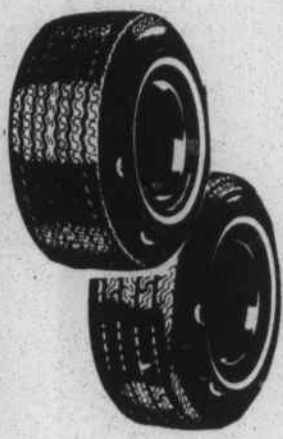


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G78-14	'32.69	'2.26	'34.95
H78-14	'33.46	'2.49	'35.95
600-15	'26.33	'1.62	'27.95
G78-15	'32.60	'2.35	'34.95
H78-15	'34.41	'2.54	'36.95
L78-15	'37.16	'2.79	'39.95

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March 21st 1983

National Agriculture Day

Congress authorized, and President Reagan signed, the second consecutive proclamation of Agriculture Days as an official national observance, with Governors recognizing it in all 50 states.

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The Duplin County Agribusiness Council is proud to play a supportive role in Agriculture production. The membership strives to support and initiate action that will strengthen our farmers' position and his supporting businesses. The Council needs your support. Please contact a member or write to Duplin Agribusiness Council, Box 84, Kenansville, NC 28349. Join the Council in supporting our greatest asset, AGRICULTURE, the HEARTBEAT of our nation.

Don't Miss the 2nd annual Duplin County Agri-Business Fair, Oct. 3-5, 1983

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