

County-Wide Tobacco Farmers Meeting In Kenansville

A countywide tobacco information meeting, sponsored by the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina, Inc., will be held Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. in the old Kenansville Elementary School auditorium in Kenansville.

The TGA has played a key role in bringing about changes in the tobacco program that many feel were necessary for the survival of the program, according to

Dr. T. Carlton Blalock, the Association's executive vice president.

"Our members feel we had to take action that will eventually enable us to grow more tobacco instead of continuing to face cuts in the quota almost every year. Since 1975, our basic quota has been cut 46 percent. No one benefits from this kind of trend. Not the active growers and certainly not the allotment holder." The Association was among the first to request a freeze in price supports in 1982.

"We surveyed our members and over 6,000 responded," said Dr. Blalock. "They told us that they'd rather lower price supports if that's what it took to stop the cuts in quota."

Through the efforts of the Association, the recently passed Tobacco Bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to complete a study by December 31, 1985, on the impact of the proposed elimination of lease and transfer after 1986 and report his findings to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. "If that study concludes that eliminating lease and transfer is not in the best interest of the program, we have time to go back to Congress and change the law before the current authorization expires," said Blalock.

Paul Phillips, chairman of the county membership committee, urges everyone who has an interest in tobacco to attend.

"This will give us an opportunity to become better

informed on the problems our tobacco program has faced in the past and the opportunity to join the only total tobacco organization that, with a united effort, can eliminate those problems in the future. We must work together to maintain a sound

tobacco program," said Phillips.

Other members of the county membership committee are: William G. Sullivan, Steve Grady, Terry Whaley, Raymond Brown, Warren Sloan, William Costin and Rouse Ivey.



FILES FOR COMMISSIONERS SEAT - Incumbent Commissioner D.J. Fussell filed for re-election to the Fifth District seat on the Duplin Board of Commissioners January 19 in Kenansville. The Fifth District is

composed of the Kenansville, Magnolia and Rose Hill precincts. Pictured above, Fussell files notification at the Duplin Board of Elections in the courthouse, assisted by Elections Supervisor Carolyn A. Murphy.

NC Soybean Producers Annual Meeting

Burleigh C.W. Leonard, White House deputy assistant director of policy development for energy, agriculture and natural resources, will be the keynote speaker for the 17th annual membership meeting of the N.C. Soybean Producers Association Jan. 20, according to President Don Lee Jr. of Arapahoe.

The meeting will be held at the Royal Villa Motor Inn in

Raleigh and begin at 9:45 a.m. with the business session. Leonard will discuss domestic and international White House policies regarding food and agriculture, including some possibilities for the 1985 farm bill.

The theme of the meeting will be "Soybean Industry Recovery in 1984" with emphasis on many critical production and marketing issues farmers will face as an aftermath of the PIK program and the nationwide

drought in 1983.

The morning session will also feature presentations on railroad issues related to deregulation and abandonment.

In the afternoon, a panel of repeat yield winners will discuss their methods of producing consistent, high yield soybean crops. Specialists from NCSU will cover such areas as production, marketing and new uses for soybean oil.

District Tobacco Corporation Meeting

Flue-cured Tobacco Stabilization Corporation, the grower-owned organization which administers the price support program, will hold its 26th annual district meeting for N.C. growers in District 5 on Jan. 27 in the Clinton City Auditorium beginning at 2 p.m. District 5 includes Duplin, Greene, Harnett, Onslow, Pender, Sampson and Wayne counties.

In 1983, new legislative changes were passed which will affect every person who grows flue-cured tobacco. Stabilization will be discussing the 1983 season in detail and the adjustments made by this new legislation.

In addition, reports will be given by representatives of

Tobacco Associates, Inc., Tobacco Growers' Information Committee, USDA's Tobacco Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, and other allied organizations and agencies. Time will be provided for discussion.

A business session will be held following the program to elect the director for the three-year term on the board to represent District 5. The advisory committee members from each of the counties in the district will also be selected.

J. Michael Moore, Duplin County tobacco extension agent, urges area growers to attend the meeting in order to get a better understanding of the cooperative's operation.

Extension Service Says Fireproof Southern Pines

This winter is a good time to "fireproof" your southern pine stands by having them carefully prescribed burned. The primary benefit of prescribed fire is that it can reduce wildfires by controlling the build-up of hazardous fuels. Prescribed fire can also prepare sites for reforestation, improve wildlife habitat, control understory hardwood, and improve appearance and access for hunting and harvesting.

The use of prescribed fire in the woods is not a new concept. Early settlers learned from the native Indians that fires could control hardwood brush, vines and needle accumulation in pine stands, allowing better access for hunting. However, early fires were rarely controlled. Having seen many

millions of acres devastated by uncontrolled fires, forest managers in the early 1900s fought back with campaigns to exclude fire from the woods. An example is the very effective and continuing campaign of Smokey the Bear.

Today's foresters are no less concerned with wildfire. But, they now know that proper use of controlled fire is one key to creating and maintaining health southern pine forests, and protecting those forests from catastrophic losses. Prescribed burning is now established as an effective tool in forest resource management. In addition to being useful, prescribed fire is one of the least expensive management options.

Prescribed fire is a complex tool though, requiring

proper planning and careful execution by trained, experienced personnel. Factors to be considered, in addition to season of the year, include the area to be burned, boundaries, weather conditions, slope and type of soil, amount and moisture content of fuel, and whether to ignite by hand, tractor or even helicopter. Improperly conducted burns are a liability hazard in addition to their negative impact on air, water and soil quality, aesthetics and wildlife.

Remember, before you burn, you should obtain a free burning permit from the Forest Service. For more information and assistance, contact Phil Denlinger, assistant agricultural extension agent at 296-1996 or Dennis Knowles, Duplin County ranger at 289-2735.

Warsaw Tobacco Production Meeting

The Duplin Agricultural Extension Service will conduct a tobacco production meeting at Bland's Barbecue on Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m. A sponsored meal will be served.

Each year many farmers have problems obtaining good results from chemicals they spray in fields or on crops. Tobacco farmers who attend the meeting will leave with a better understanding of how to use and apply chemicals in their farming operation.

Dr. Bill Lewis, extension weed science specialist from NC State University will be the featured speaker. J. Michael Moore, Duplin tobacco agent, said there will be additional discussion of the changes in the tobacco program and general tobacco production.

Anyone planning to attend

should return the card received from the extension service or call Moore at 296-1996 to reserve your meal.

Two Charged In Warsaw Break-In

Two men were arrested early Wednesday on charges of breaking and entering and larceny by Warsaw police officers.

David Earl Bostic, 26, and

Simpson Columbus Knowles, 20, of Warsaw were charged with taking \$5,865 worth of tools from Duplin Trading Co. on Front Street. Both men were released on bond Wednesday night.

Agribusiness Meeting

The general meeting of the Duplin County Agribusiness Council will be held Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Farm Credit Building in Kenansville. This is a change in date due to conflict with State Fair

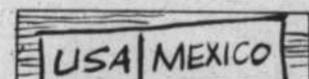
Association meeting. Please make every effort to attend as officers will be elected.

After this meeting, a 1983 report of activities will be sent to each member.

EMT Course

There will be an EMT course beginning Feb. 6 at the Fire Station in Pink Hill, 7-10 p.m. The class will be held on Monday and Tuesday nights for 16 weeks with 116 contact hours.

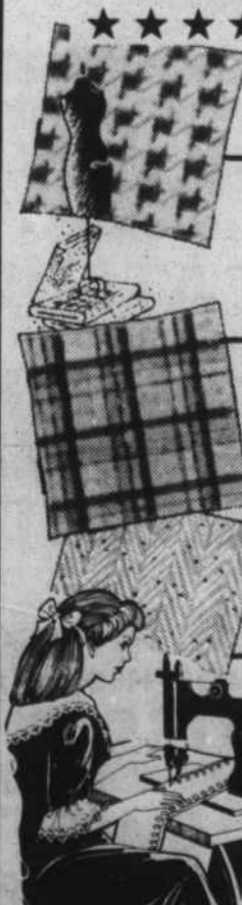
The class is sponsored by Lenoir Community College and is being taught by Charles Liveley. The local rescue squad is in desperate need of daytime help.



The Rio Grande river frequently changes its course, forcing the U.S. and Mexico to reestablish boundaries.

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