

# Rose Predicts Tobacco Program Will Survive

BY SUSAN USHER

In spite of tougher opposition than it faced four years ago, Rep. Charles Rose predicts the federal flue-cured tobacco support program will survive this year's budget battles "in some form."

A combination of three problems that didn't exist during the 1981 farm debates are adding to leaf farmers' woes this year, Rose told a group of local growers Saturday afternoon: a "popular" Reagan administration "out to kill" the tobacco support program along with other farm programs such as soil conservation and farmer's home credit; a strong dollar that has invited a "flood of imports" because products, including tobacco, can be produced more cheaply elsewhere than here; and a worldwide oversupply of tobacco and other farm products that has brought prices down.

The 7th District congressman met with about 20 local farmers, Rep. David Redwine and County Commissioners Grace Beasley and Herman Love for several hours at the county complex to talk over farming issues.

Rose suggested a solution to the current leaf problems rests with greater tobacco company participation: either by getting them to buy American-produced leaf or by taxing

their products.

A proposal supported by the Farm Bureau and other interests calls for discounting the price of the 812 million pounds of tobacco held by the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp. The co-op buys leaf that farmers can't sell at the support price. Last year's price was \$1.69.9 per pound, with farmers paying a 25¢ per pound "no net cost" assessment.

The proposal also calls for a \$1.40 support price, and for tobacco companies to contribute to the no net cost program for stabilization.

But Rose said the tobacco companies are lobbying for a \$1.35 support price plus antitrust protection. Rose asserted the companies didn't need any more protection than they already have, but predicted that at least one company would fight the compromise proposal.

If the tobacco companies don't reach agreement on the compromise within a week to 10 days, Rose said, he plans to introduce a bill setting aside two cents of the current tax on every pack of cigarettes. The fund would provide up to \$800,000 per year into the no net cost program to support stabilization. Under this plan, the price support level would remain at \$1.69.9.



ROBERT AND JUDSON WARD of Bolivia (left) were among the farmers who met Saturday with Rep. Charles Rose to discuss farm credit and tobacco programs.

"When you get real depressed about this," he told the farmers, "remember people still like to smoke."

Even while consumption has declined, he added, tobacco companies have raised their prices and report increasing profits.

"As long as I've got life in this body," he vowed, "we're going to get part of the action."

On farm programs in general, he said he planned to fight the Reagan Administration's proposed farm program and try to get a better program introduced. The Reagan program, he

said, would move to the free market, eliminate the Soil Conservation Service, funds for certain types of agricultural research, Farmer's Home Administration and eliminate U.S. Department of Agriculture subsidies of the Rural Electrification Authority.

Sen. Jesse Helms has introduced an alternate farm bill that is "not as bad" as the Reagan Administration's "but not as good as what we had in 1981," he said.

"When you see me vote against the MX next week to save a billion dollars, remember this conversation," he said.

"I believe in a strong America. But

a strong America is more than a strong defense. A strong rural America is just as important as a strong defense."

No Help

Rose was reminded Saturday that the future of tobacco support and other federal programs aren't the only worries for Brunswick County farmers, just the latest.

Pearly Vereen, a farmer from Exum and former county commissioner, told Rose Brunswick County was declared an agricultural disaster three times last year: after excess rains in early May, after a summer drought and after Hurricane Diana.

He, like others, expressed displeasure with the lack of relief or help available to farmers.

"Everybody was going to come in and help us, but the way it was handled was a disgrace," he said. Farmers with credit available at standard interest rates elsewhere weren't eligible for low-interest loans available to other small businesses.

Winnabow farmer Mary Earp

agreed, saying those who needed help most were turned away. "They make you feel like you're a criminal when you ask for help."

The Earps, who lost their entire vineyard to Hurricane Diana, pursued their quest for assistance and are awaiting word on a loan. But Mrs. Earp said she was concerned especially about those without the skills or persistence to follow through.

She and her husband Wilbur also were concerned about the Reagan Administration's efforts to make substantial cuts in relatively small areas of the budget, while hardly touching others. The Soil Conservation Service, for instance, is proposed for elimination. It represents only four-tenths of a percent of the budget, compared to 72 percent for military programs and entitlement programs and 13 percent for debt retirement.

Advocating an across-all-programs cut, Wilbur Earp said, "I believe in balancing the budget, but I don't think it should be taken from the farmer's hide."

## Grant Seminar Emphasizes Business Approach To Farming

Businesslike farming was the emphasis at a national seminar for land grant lay leaders in Washington, D.C., recently attended by Mary Earp of Winnabow.

"They emphasized debt management and cash flow by farmers, risk planning and market risk management," said Mrs. Earp, one of 10 participants from North Carolina. "In order to survive, the farmer will have to incorporate these practices into his daily schedule."

She represented the 7th Congressional District at the event that promoted extension work. Participants in the leadership development program also explored the Land Grant-U.S. Department of Agriculture partnership.

Following two days of seminars, participants met with their congressmen to discuss the impact of proposed federal budget cuts on farming, including proposals to do away with certain kinds of research, including pesticide research.

"Without agricultural research, where are we going to be 10 years down the road?" asked Mrs. Earp.

Eight of 11 North Carolina congressmen joined the state delegation for a luncheon also attended by state land grant leaders such as the dean of agriculture at N.C. State University and the state director of the extension service.

North Carolina's farmers fared poorer in 1984 than in 1983, recently-released state statistics indicate. And fewer young people are showing interest in farming as a career.

N.C. State University, for instance, experienced a 30 percent reduction in enrollment in its two-year program between 1978 and 1984 and a 17 percent decline in its four-year program during the same period.

Help is available, Mrs. Earp said, noting management resources available from services such as the county extension office. "Farmers just have to learn to use it."

### This Week's Tide Table

Date/Day	MARCH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday 28	3:07	2:28	8:24	8:33
Friday 29	3:15	3:34	9:29	9:39
Saturday 30	4:17	4:35	10:28	10:40
Sunday 31	5:15	5:30	11:21	11:31

APRIL	
Monday 1	4:07 4:34 10:32 10:51
Tuesday 2	5:01 5:32 11:25 11:47
Wednesday 3	5:54 6:38 — 12:15

ADJUSTMENTS  
 SHALLOTTE INLET (Hoven Point)—add 10 min. high tide, add 28 min. low tide.  
 TUBBS INLET—subtract 19 min. high tide, subtract 12 min. low tide.  
 LOCKWOOD FOLLY—subtract 29 min. high tide, subtract 12 min. low tide.  
 LITTLE RIVER—add 3 min. low tide.  
 BALD HEAD ISLAND—subtract 17 min. high tide, subtract 11 min. low tide.

### LAUREL BRANCH NURSERY

Landscaping  
Lawn Service

Spring is clean-up time. We can help get your yard in shape. Call us for spring pruning & winter clean-up.

HOLDEN BEACH 842-2924

## WE'VE MOVED

After 31 years at our old location.

### HARRELSON'S FARM CENTER

Hwy. 17, 1 mile south of Shallotte

OFFERING:



Feed & Seed  
Fertilizer  
Complete line of Garden Tools  
Fresh Garden Plants  
Nursery Items

CALL 754-6373

## EVINRUDE Trade-In Days



Frank says: We'll trade for 'most anything of value!

So now's the time to trade-in that old boat and motor for a new one like this beauty! Don't be bashful. . . Frank might surprise you and say yes!

### Shallotte Marine Supplies

You'll need a self-adjusting galvanized Cox trailer to haul your new rig. Frank has a good selection.



MAIN STREET, SHALLOTTE, 754-6962



\$14.99 gal.

\$8.99 gal.

\$9.95 gal.

## Follow the crowd!

### SOUTHERN COATINGS PAINT IS HERE!

The South is unique... and so are the products from Southern Coatings. Check the features, check the prices, then check our shelves for the best paint you'll ever use. See all the crowd pleasers from Southern Coatings at:



Hwy. 179 between Ocean Isle & Sunset Beach, 579-3561

