

# Agriculture



**BURKE SELECTED**—Cedric Burke has been selected as Perquimans County's representative to attend a two-week agricultural school at North Carolina State University. The Modern Farming Short Course is sponsored by the N.C. Bankers Association and the state Extension Service. The Bankers Association provides scholarships for a representative from each county, and the Extension Service provides the teaching. Picture (left to right) are Ben Berry of Peoples Bank & Trust Co.; Burke; Charlie Parker of NCNB; and County Extension Agent Stan Winslow. (Photo by Jane Williams.)

## USDA announces cotton grain, rice, wheat programs

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block recently announced provisions of the 1986 price support programs for upland cotton, feed grains, rice and wheat.

The programs include required acreage reductions of 20 percent for feed grains, 35 percent for rice, 25 percent wheat, and 25 percent for cotton included in these reductions is a 2½ percent paid land diversion for wheat and feed grain producers.

Sign up for the farm programs

is anticipated to begin in early March.

The 1986 loan rates (per bushel), will be \$1.56 for barley, \$1.92 for corn, \$.99 for oats, \$1.82 for sorghum, \$1.63 for rye, and \$2.40 for wheat. Loan rates for rice and cotton will be announced later.

Target prices will be the same in 1986 as were in effect for 1985 crops. They are (per bushel): barley, \$2.60; corn, \$3.03; oats, \$1.60, sorghum, \$2.88; wheat, \$4.38.

## Peanut banquet set

The 1986 Peanut Production Meeting and Awards Banquet will be held on Wednesday night, February 5th at the Perquimans County Agricultural Extension Auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m. Speakers will be Dr. Gene Sullivan, Peanut Specialist with N.C. Agricultural Extension; Dr. Rick Brandenburg, Peanut Entomologist with N.C. Agricultural Extension; and Mr. Norfleet

Sugg, Executive Director of the N.C. Peanut Growers Association. Stan Winslow will discuss peanut disease control.

This will be a sponsored meal; please make reservations by Friday, January 31st, that we may plan for your meal.

Attendance at this meeting will give you one hour credit towards renewing a Dealer or Commercial Applicators license.

## Cotton production meeting slated

The 1986 Cotton Production Meeting through the Perquimans County Extension Service will be held on Thursday, February 6th at the Angler's Cove Restaurant in Bethel. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Dave Guthrie, N.C. Agricultural Extension Cotton Specialist, will discuss factors which influence cotton stands, how to get and maintain a

good stand and variety information for 1986. Stan Winslow will discuss weed control options and we will also have a discussion on insect control.

Reservations must be made by Friday, January 31st.

Attendance at this meeting will give you one hour credit towards renewing a Dealer or Commercial Applicators license.

## PERQUIMANS COUNTY TIME FOR FILING NOTICE OF CANDIDACY

**CANDIDATES** seeking party nomination in the First Primary, May, 1986, may file their "NOTICE OF CANDIDACY" beginning at 12 o'clock Noon on Monday, January 6, 1986 and not later than 12 o'clock Noon on Monday, February 3, 1986.

### COUNTY OFFICES TO BE VOTED FOR:

Clerk of Superior Court  
 Sheriff  
 Board of Commissioners District 1 (1 Commissioner)  
 District 3 (1 Commissioner)  
 Board of Education - Non-Partisan (Belvidere)  
 (New Hope)

William L. Tilley, Chairman  
 Perquimans County Board of Elections

## Readers questioned answered

Here are some answers to questions from readers:

### Inside

Christmas cacti makes a handsome hanging basket specimen

## Peanut poundage quota set

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Agriculture John Block announced recently, a national poundage quota of 1,355,500 short tons (2,711 million pounds) from the 1985 level. As required by the Food Security Act of 1985, the national poundage quota for the 1986 crop of peanuts is equal to the quantity of peanuts estimated to be devoted to domestic edible, seed and related use in the 1986 marketing year, beginning August 1, 1986.

The 1986 national poundage quota will be allocated to each state based on each state's percentage share of the 1985 poundage quota. Any increase in a state's poundage quota will be allocated equally among farms producing quota and nonquota peanuts.

Secretary Block also rescinded the national acreage allotment of 1,610,000 acres and the national marketing quota of 2,142,105 tons proclaimed for the 1986 crop of peanuts on November 14, 1985. The legislative provisions upon which these decisions were based were suspended by the Food Security Act of 1985.

Block also announced that peanut growers will vote January 27-31 in a mail referendum to decide whether poundage quotas and price supports will continue for peanut crops for the next five years. The Secretary is required to conduct the referendum not later than December 15. However, since the 1985 law was not enacted until December 23, the referendum will be held in January.

If two-thirds or more of the producers voting favor poundage quotas, no referendum will be held for the second, third, fourth and fifth years of the period and quotas and price supports will remain in effect for the 1986 through 1990 crops of peanuts. If more than one-third of the producers vote against quotas, poundage quotas and price supports will not be in effect for the 1986 crop of peanuts.

Producers are eligible to vote if they are engaged in the production of quota peanuts in 1985. Producers ineligible to vote are those whose only interest in peanut production in 1985 was on a farm on which: (1) the acres harvested for nuts was one acre or less; (2) there was no poundage quota; or (3) the production was for consumption exclusively as boiled peanuts.

In the 1982 referendum, 93.9 percent of the 38,755 peanut growers voting favored poundage quotas for the 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985 crops.



even though it has bloomed. Keep plants in high light in temperatures from 60-90 degrees. Allow surface to dry out thoroughly between waterings. Fertilize every two months.

Hanging ferns require medium light, can tolerate low temperatures, even down to 32 degrees. Keep the potting mixture moist but well drained. Fertilize lightly about once a month. Prune older shedding foliage to encourage new growth. If leaflets turn brown, more humidity is indicated. Mist plants frequently.

Amaryllis that have already bloomed is into active growth, nourishing the bulb for next year's flowering. Keep pot in good light, and do not allow soil to dry out. Fertilize monthly until next September, when the plant should be allowed to go into dormancy.

Keep peperomias, philodendrons, Chinese evergreens indirect light, out of drafts. Keep potting soil moist but well-drained.

Ficus can suffer from low hu-

midity. Mist frequently or place in a container of moist pebbles.

Flowering plants such as African violets, gloxinias, and begonia require a night temperature above 60 degrees. Sudden shifts in temperature results in sparse bloom.

### Outside

Check compost pile for proper moisture to hasten decomposition.

Applying nitrogen fertilizer (one pound of 33 percent nitrogen per 100 square feet) will hasten the process, says Jack Baird, extension soil science specialist at NCSU.

Rhododendrons may still be rooted. Nestle a few cuttings into the mulch under Mama's lower branches and leave undisturbed until late spring.

You can still set out strawberry plants around eastern N.C. November to March is considered the best planting times.

Keep bird baths full of water, even if you have to thaw them out with boiling water, says Gary San Julian, extension wildlife specialist. Birds become dependent on these water sources. If you cannot maintain the birdbath throughout this critical time, turn the container upside down in the fall to prevent the collection of rainwater.

(Note: Send questions for Mrs. Winslow to P.O.B. 42, Hertford, N.C. 27944.)

## Consumers seek convenience

Nutrition has long been a traditional selling point for the red meat industry. Consumers should know by now that beef and pork are nutrient-dense foods. That is, they contain more nutrition per ounce and per calorie than most foods.

don't buy groceries anymore, they buy meals. Pre-packed, cooked and frozen. Take them home, throw them in the microwave and dinner is served. We used to call them "TV dinners" but now they're called "entrees."

The fresh meat counter is being crowded out by the frozen foods, deli and bakery departments. Convenience being the major selling point here.

Brunk advises meat producers not to concentrate on nutrition alone. He believes increased sales will come by promoting price and convenience.



But according to Cornell University economist Dr. Max Brunk, meat producers should know by now that consumers don't buy on nutrition alone, in fact, Brunk believes price and convenience are the true marketing keys today.

Case in point...chicken nuggets. Not exactly loaded with nutrition but affordable and easy to prepare. It's a big consumer hit.

Another example...consumers

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