

# SCHOOL NEWS



Lee Kirkman

## North Carolina FFA President Meets President Reagan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Lee Kirkman, President of the North Carolina Association of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) was one of 100 State FFA Officers who met Tuesday afternoon with President Ronald Reagan.

The meeting at the White House was a highlight of a week-long State FFA Presidents' Conference in the nation's capital. The conference, sponsored by Chevrolet through the National FFA Foundation, Inc., is designed to help new state officers lead more effectively by expanding their knowledge of the FFA and the nation.

Lee, 17, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Obie L. Kirkman, Sr. of Jasper. He was elected President of the North Carolina FFA Association at the 56th State FFA Convention in Raleigh, N.C.

Reagan told the group, "You represent the best in America. FFA is giving more than a fine start to young people like yourselves. By cultivating traditional values, leadership skills and patriotism, the FFA ensures the strength and vitality of our country."

He praised business and industry for their support of vocational agriculture. "FFA has some 14,000 adult teachers and state advisors who are good caring Americans who are offering a gift of a lifetime, the gift of opportunity and it's all made possible in part by the generosity of the private sector," he said. This year business and industry are expected to give more than \$2 million to provide incentive awards to FFA members.

Following Reagan's speech, the National FFA Officers presented him with a plaque commemorating the White House visit.

Earlier in the day, FFA members attended a Congressional Luncheon on Capitol Hill with remarks from Senator Robert Dole and Congressman E. (Kika) de la Garza.

Secretary of Agriculture John Block spoke to the group on Friday.

National FFA President Ron Wineinger said, "This week in Washington is not only an opportunity for FFA officers to grow personally, but also an opportunity for all of us together to tackle the challenges in education and agriculture."

The group toured historic points of interest in Washington, D.C., and attended a theatrical performance at the Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre.

## To Burn Or Not To Burn

To burn or not to burn is a question asked by many farmers who double-drop soybeans behind wheat. Many farmers who grow wheat may not understand the effect burning wheat stubble has on their soybean growth and yields. To find the answer, the magazine, **Successful Farmer**, asked Owen Etheridge of Shawboro, North Carolina, to compare four basic ways to use wheat stubble on his farm.

1. Burn off the stubble, disk once or twice, then plant conventionally.
2. Burn off the stubble, than plant no-till.
3. Disk in the stubbles.
4. Plant soybeans no-till into wheat stubble.

Mr. Etheridge planted his double crop beans in early June and harvested them in late October. Two quarts of Lasso and 1½ pints of Lorox were applied to all plots, with 1 quart of Paraquat used on the plots planted no-till into stubble. The plots measured ¼ acre in size. Tests were done under the supervision of the county agent and North Carolina State University agronomists.

## Value of Trees Cut For Firewood

The value of trees cut for firewood should be especially important to anyone cutting on his own woodlot. Low value trees should be used for firewood. These include small, crooked, partially rotten, low vigor, diseased, dying and dead trees. Most woodlots have plenty of low quality trees.

It doesn't take much firewood cutting to figure out that a cord requires many more small trees than large ones. While it takes 2 dozen 6 inch diameter trees per cord, only 1 dozen 8-inch ones will do. Three 13-inch trees could provide the same amount of wood, or just 2 of 16-inch diameter.

The firewood cutter should be aware that those two largest trees could have a value for furniture or veneer as high as \$50 for \$75 a piece. Burning them would be as senseless as burning the furniture they could have made.

## Former Governor Continues Pursuit of State's Educational Excellence

By Joel Page

Former governor Robert (Bob) W. Scott is the guest of host William Friday on NORTH CAROLINA PEOPLE, Monday, August 6, at 7:30 p.m. The program airs over the nine channels of the UNC Center for Public Television and will be rebroadcast on Sunday, August 12, at 6 p.m.

Now in his second year as president of North Carolina's community college system, Scott continues to be one of the state's most progressive leaders in the educational field. On NORTH CAROLINA PEOPLE, he discusses the impact of the community college system on the state, including the training and retraining of workers, attracting new industry for the state's economic growth, and combating adult illiteracy. In this year's short session of the state legislature, Scott sought approximately \$86 million for the state's community system in order to meet these and other goals.

During his gubernatorial administration fourteen years ago, Scott challenged the state's higher education leadership to cooperatively provide better educational opportunities. In his Founder's Day speech at North Carolina State University earlier this year, he again challenged these leaders with two major proposals.

First, he proposed reevaluating the way in which people progress through the educational system. He noted that educational administrators must assure that a student's progress is not hampered by unnecessary requirements, outmoded or arbitrary rules, or by failure to communicate. He called for a reduction in legal and historical barriers, ending unnecessary restrictions, and focusing on the student's needs and abilities. The traditional assumption that education must be organized in blocks according to the student's age must be questioned, as well as the traditional view of education as beginning with kindergarten and ending with a final degree. The environment of vast economic, social, and technological changes in the '60s brought about the establishment of community colleges and proved that there is no end to the educational process.

Scott's second challenge called for well planned strategies to meet the needs of the many adults returning to campuses. These adults are returning to education because their jobs are changing or disappearing. Women who have never been in the labor force are now preparing for careers. Other adults are going back to the classroom to enrich their present lives through the knowledge of history, music, or some other field of interest. Still others seek fulfillment of their leisure time after retirement.

"I believe deeply in providing educational opportunities to every person, wherever they are, at a price they can afford," said Scott.

"We must be willing, if need be, to restructure our entire educational system," he added.

For a look at today's educational trends and preparations for tomorrow's student, watch NORTH CAROLINA PEOPLE as it profiles one of state's most foresighted leaders in education.

Cutting firewood can actually improve forests. Removal of low quality trees allows the remaining "crop" trees to grow faster. Many wooded acres can produce one-quarter cord of firewood each year on a continuing basis, while simultaneously producing a valuable timber crop. In some poorer quality forests, all trees should be cut for firewood, to help in establishing a new stand. The typical firewood is generally marketed by the cord (a stack 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet), and

usually hauled by the "pick-up" load (one-fourth to one-half cord). However, since the wood's heat value depends on weight, buyers should prefer the heavier species such as oak, hickory and ash. Other characteristics which might be considered important for firewood include cost, aroma, smoke, ease of ignition, tendency to spark, burning time or intensity, and ease of splitting.

(Next week Safety in Cutting Firewood is A Top Priority).

