

Good Hunting Season Predicted

RALEIGH—Thanksgiving means turkey to many Tar Heels, but to thousands of North Carolina sportsmen it also means ducks. The special Thanksgiving waterfowl season will run from November 27-29, and the final portion of the waterfowl season will run from December 15 through January 17. Biologists have noted large numbers of ducks in coastal areas during recent waterfowl observation flights. While this can change dramatically in a short time—a sudden cold snap could send the birds further south—the present outlook for the season is good.

"It's very difficult to predict the duck season, but right now we're seeing quite a few birds," said Dennis Luszc of Edenton, waterfowl project leader for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "Duck numbers usually peak in North Carolina in early November. We're finding a lot of pintails, widgeon, green-wing teal, and diving ducks such as scaup. Often, these birds except scaup will be gone by Thanksgiving—a lot just depends on the weather. If we have mild weather, the birds will usually stay. We've also noticed that the aquatic vegetation that serves as waterfowl foods seems to be in better shape than last year, and that may help keep the birds here."

"Around Thanksgiving, we begin to see early migrating mallards from the north. That's also usually the peak of the northern wood duck migration. Some of the best hunting for woodies, especially in the beaver ponds and small swamps of the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, is found at that time. Although duck numbers are down overall, if a lot of the birds stop here we could have a pretty good season."

The bag limit for ducks is four birds daily which may include no more than one black duck, two wood ducks, two redheads, three mallards of which only one may be a hen, and two pintails. In addition to the regular bag limit of four ducks, hunters may take two bonus scaup in all waters east of US 17 except Currituck Sound north of US 156. Hunters may also take two bonus blue and green-wing teal during the regular duck season through December 17.

"We'd also like to remind hunters that canvasbacks may not be taken this year," said Luszc.

"Declining canvasback populations have prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to close the season for this species."

Waterfowl hunters are also required to have a hunting license and a federal duck stamp. Although not required by law, the Commission also urges hunters to purchase a voluntary North Carolina Waterfowl Conservation Stamp. These are available for \$5.50 each from license agents.

"Funds from the sale of these

stamps support waterfowl management and conservation programs in North Carolina," said Luszc. "For example, \$400,000 of waterfowl stamp and print revenues have been earmarked to help purchase Conine Island, and \$50,000 was used to help buy four other key tracts of bottomland hardwood forest on the Roanoke River. All of these areas offer excellent habitat for waterfowl."

Technician Request Okayed

RALEIGH—Four North Carolina counties will have stronger programs for reducing pollution of the state's waters as a result of action taken by the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission last week. The commission denied request from two other counties.

Meeting Nov. 12 in Raleigh, the commission approved funds for the N.C. Agricultural Cost-Share Program for four counties, which are part of the 33 counties participating in the program across the state.

The state Cost-Share Program funds Best Management Practices (BMP's) by farmers and landowners to reduce stream pollution from sediment, nutrients, animal wastes and pesticides.

The program pays 75 percent of the average cost for each of the practices, up to \$15,000 per applicant per year. Some of these practices include conservation tillage, animal waste management and conversion of cropland.

Three counties—Perquimans, Chowan and Gates—were given approval to hire one technician. The program and three counties will fund this position on a 50-50 basis, with each county paying one-third of the 50 per cent. The technician will be shared among the three soil and water conservation districts.

The commission also approved appointments for 91 men and women as district supervisors statewide. Seventy-four supervisors were re-appointed for another four-year term. Six were appointed to fill unexpired terms. Eleven were approved to fill newly expired positions. Almost 500 supervisors cover 94 soil and water conservation districts statewide and help farmers and landowners develop conservation

practices.

The Soil and Water conservation Commission sets guidelines for the state's cost-share program and matching funds.

Tobacco Growers

Quota Decided

RALEIGH—State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham has asked that Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng set the 1987 effective tobacco quota at 729.3 million pounds.

This request came in a letter from Commissioner Graham to Dr. Howard Williams of the Commodity Analysis Division, USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Graham based his request on the following premises: (1) that the tobacco companies will report planned purchases of 360.7 million pounds in 1987, the same amount as 1986; (2) that export will total 383.2 million pounds approximately; and (3) that the undermarketings for 1986 will total approximately 30 million pounds, with a restriction on overmarketing of only 3 per cent above their quota.

He stated, "For the reasons I have outlined, I am recommending the quota for 1987 be set at 699.3 million pounds. When you add the 30 million pounds for undermarketing, you have an effective quota for 1987 of 729.3 million pounds, which is a slight increase over the basic quota for 1986."

Continuing, he said, "I feel this recommendation is sound and will give flue-cured growers confidence in the new program for 1987. By the same token, this quota will further increase the confidence of our export buyers in that they will be able to purchase the quantities they need."

Association Meeting Slated

The Corn Growers Association of North Carolina will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, December 12, at the McKimmon Center, on the campus of North Carolina State University. President Ted Ivey will bring an update to the delegates of his activities during 1986.

The Morning session will consist of a panel on trade policy. Alan Tracey who serves as a Special Assistant to President Reagan for Agricultural Trade and Food Assistance will lead off on this subject. Wilmer D. "Vinegar Bend" Mizell, assistant secretary of Agriculture for Governmental and Public Affairs, will address trade policy as it affects the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Darwin Stolte, president of the U.S. Feed Grains Council, will be speaking on trade policy as it affects United States and world agriculture.

Later in the morning Dan Ragsdale, director of Research for the National Corn Growers Association, will bring information on new domestic uses of corn and other market development plans of the national association.

At the luncheon, Agriculture Commissioner James Graham and NCSU Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences, D.F. Bateman, will welcome the group and present awards to corn yield contest winners. Rodney Edmondson, NCGA Board member from Kinston, will present awards to people who have made outstanding contributions to the corn industry during 1986.

Coffee and danish will be served at 8:30 a.m. with the formal program starting at 9:30 a.m. there is no registration fee and no charge for lunch. For additional information, call (919) 782-4094.

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