

Tobacco still king

By Joseph Tew
Staff Writer

For many people, the word tobacco is synonymous with livelihood.

It is what their entire lives revolve around. Here in Sampson County, tobacco has been a major crop for years. Farmers are turning to other products and areas to diversify now, but tobacco is still the crop that this county has been known for, and by all accounts, will still be known for in the future.

"Tobacco has been here a long time. It has gone through some tough times, but for years it has been the mainstay, as far as farmers are concerned," said Pee Wee Spell, farm market manager at Bright Leaf Tobacco Warehouse. "It is the only crop a farmer can take to the bank and it will stand for his credit," he added.

Spell said as long as the farmer has price support, which gives the assurance of a certain price per pound, he can then use that leverage at the bank.

"Tobacco has been kicked around in the most recent years. It has been a political football. Just in the last three months the tobacco situation has stabilized somewhat, because of the tobacco company's interest in what's produced in Eastern North Carolina," said Spell.

Over at Sampson Tobacco Warehouse, Carlton Barefoot, owner operator, said even though farmers have turned to other areas of farming to create other income, tobacco would not play out of the picture.

"All of us have tried diversifying but we still wind back up with tobacco being our major product," said Barefoot.

"Tobacco has a lot to do with the economic future of Sampson County, the state and the country," he added.

He went on to say that there has been many people who have benefited from tobacco, not even realizing it was tobacco supplying the means by which they were benefiting.

"Tobacco has been good for a lot of people that do not realize that where the money came from was tobacco and tobacco products.



Tobacco warehouse auctioneers, pricers and buyers are seen here inspecting tobacco. The 1995 season is expected to be the best farmers have ever seen. And, since the tobacco situation has somewhat stabilized, growers, and warehouse managers are looking forward to an even better year in 1995.



aroma and flavor as we have here...that one thing will keep tobacco here.

"Tobacco is the livelihood for many persons, and education for a lot of children. The money tobacco produces is one of tremendous value to farm stores, farm equipment dealers, grocery store people and dry goods. It is the bread and butter, or the glue that holds the farm family life together," said

Spell. "I look forward to having a good year in Clinton," Barefoot said.

"Tobacco is the backbone of the farm family life today. Cotton, poultry, and swine are coming on strong and have kept a lot of farmers in business that used it as cash flow," Spell said, "but tobacco is still very important to this economy."

According to Spell, the tobacco produced here is of such quality that it cannot be produced to the standard here in the southeastern part of the United States and especially North Carolina.

"Nowhere else can it (tobacco) be produced with the aroma and flavor that is produced in North Carolina. They produce tobacco in Brazil that looks like ours but does not have the

Sandy Ridge has enjoyed 'tremendous community support'

Sandy Ridge Country Club, Inc. was started in 1989 by L.B. Wilson, president and other owners, Kenny Godwin, Jimmy Mathews, Tommy Sloan and Larry Naylor.

The "front" nine holes opened for play in September 1989 and the "back" nine opened in 1990. All of the original lots

have been sold and most lots now have new houses. Since the original construction of the clubhouse, the pro shop has expanded and added a grill.

In 1993, the dance floor was expanded and a large stage for the band was added.

An additional 29 lots will be available by mid-1995. These lots will be situated

in the area next to the #2 green and #3 tee and from there to N.C. 421.

Sandy Ridge currently employs approximately 10 people with the numbers varying with the season. The primary business is the golf course and memberships for the swimming pool/clubhouse and golf course are available.

"Since the beginning of our business we have enjoyed tremendous support from our friends, neighbors and the entire region," Larry Naylor said.

"For this support, we are thankful and we will continue our best efforts to earn your continued support in the future."

Thank You For Your Support!
Owners: Lynn & Debbie Medlin



It's Planting Time!

- Azaleas
- Garden Pottery
- Water Fountains
- Wind Chimes
- Cabbage Plants
- Broccoli Plants
- Tomato Plants (many varieties)
- Pepper Plants (bell & hot)
- Wolverine Boots
- Trampolines
- Treated Mail Box Posts
- Insecticides
- Fertilizer
- Pine Bark Nuggets
- Seed Potatoes
- Variety of Grass Seed
- Large Selection "Fresh" Garden Seed
- Pine Straw & Wheat Straw
- Herb Plants
- Large Selection Bedding Plants
- Hanging Baskets
- Watermelon, Cantaloupe & Cucumber Plants (will be available at planting time)
- Vidalia Onion Plants

Stop by & see Lynn or Debbie for all your lawn & garden needs.

"Your Business Is Appreciated"

MEDLIN SEED CO.
357 S. Blvd. beside Lundy's Clinton
592-2717

Heel Pain?

Have you unsuccessfully tried cortisone injections, arch supports and pills? A new endoscopic technique has been developed to correct heel



spur syndrome and eliminate painful recovery. Usually patients can return to work in days! Simple, fast procedure, without general anesthetic.

Call for an appointment

DR. JEFFREY B. PUPP

All Insurance Plans Accepted & Filed, PHP Participating Provider

WALLACE FOOT CENTER
285-3362

928 N. Norwood St., Wallace

Covering Sampson County Since 1953 With Proven Protection....



Ruby C. Johnson



Andy Shaffer



Lee Smith Jr.



Jon Moody

Regardless of your needs:
•IRA's •Life Insurance
•Health •Cancer •Medicare Supplement
•Auto •Home •Specialized Coverage



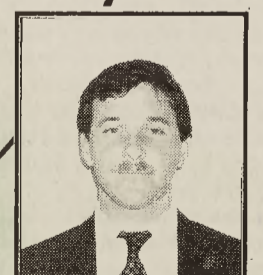
Toby Boyette

Give us a call for prompt, personal attention.



Billy Lockamy

We Cover Sampson County!



Roger Melvin



R.H. Brinson
Agency Manager

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Helping You Is What We Do Best!

Hwy. 421 N. 592-8131 Clinton