



County Forestry Group Meets, Tours Farms

JACKSON — The Northampton County Forestry Association held its fifth annual forestry tour Nov. 27. W. P. Morris Lumber Company of Jackson sponsored the event. The 1973 tour was centered around the harvest and management of hardwood timber.

The tour began with a stop on Bill Long's farm in Occoneechee Neck. At this location a selective harvest logging operation was being conducted. Jasper Eley, a representative of Morris Lumber Company, discussed the advantages of using this management tool on a hardwood stand of this type.

Eley pointed out the potential of the stand, 12-15 years from now, by using the selective harvest approach.

The second stop was on the Jessie Wheeler tract on Highway 305. The Wheeler tract was selectively cut eight years ago. This stop gave the forestry group opportunity to actually see the results of a carefully managed logging operation.

Next on schedule was a stop at a hardwood site that had been clearcut with the aid of the chip harvester. As a result of observing this entirely different type of woodland management, much discussion developed as to what method the private landowner should use. It was pointed out by Ed Jones, Forestry Specialist at NCSU, and other professional foresters in attendance, that each tract should be managed on a prescription basis, taking into consideration the objectives of the landowner. In other words, some sites may need to be cleared out and regenerated while others may need a different type of management approach. Jones also pointed out the importance of upgrading your timber stand at all times.

The fourth and final stop before lunch was on Morris' farm. At this location the

Survey Set Here On Hired Farm Workers

CHARLOTTE — A sample of households in this area will be interviewed in the Federal Government's annual Hired Farm Workers survey during the week of December 10-15. The survey is conducted by the Bureau of the Census, part of the U. S. Department of Commerce's Social and Economic Statistics Administration.

Joseph R. Norwood, Director of the Bureau's Data Collection Center in Charlotte, said that information will be obtained about farm work done for pay during the past five years and about migratory farm work.

The farm work questions are in addition to the ones asked regularly in the monthly survey on employment and unemployment conducted by the Bureau for the U. S. Department of Labor.

This ongoing survey provides a continuous measure of conditions in America's labor force. The Labor Department's report on results of the October survey states that unemployment dropped to 4.5 per cent, the lowest level since March 1970. Employment grew by 570,000 to a total of 85.7 million, seasonally adjusted. This was 3.2 million more employed persons than in October a year ago, an unusually large increase for a 12-month period.

About 50,000 households across the country, scientifically selected to represent a cross section of U. S. households, take part in the survey each month. All information reported is confidential by law and can be published only in statistical totals so that no person or household can be identified.

The interviewer visiting households in this area is Mrs. Elizabeth B. Blowe of Ahoskie.

Crop Report

Soil Moisture
Soil moisture supplies improved slightly during the week. The Mountains with mostly adequate supplies are faring much better than other areas. Supplies in the Piedmont were generally short, while the majority of reports from the Coastal Plains describe supplies as very short.

Conditions continued favorable for harvesting fall crops and much progress was made. Farmers were able to spend an average of 4.4 days engaged in field-work — ranging from 4.0 days in the Mountains and Piedmont to 5.0 days in the Coastal Plains. During the comparable period last year, harvesting was at a standstill due to the cold rainy weather and resulting surplus moisture.

Corn
Harvest of the State's corn crop is nearing completion. At week's end about 96 per cent of the Tar Heel crop had been picked compared to 90 per cent last year and the ten-year average of 79 per cent. Acreage remaining for harvest continues in good shape as winds and rain which usually cause damage have not been a problem this fall.

Soybeans
Tar Heel soybean combining continues at a pace

unequaled in recent years. By the weekend, about 82 per cent of the State's crop had been combined compared with 70 per cent a week earlier. At this time last fall only about half of the State's crop had been combined. The ten-year average of 80 per cent falls far behind this year's progress.

The reported 82 per cent harvested coupled with the current acreage for harvest estimate of 1,460,000 acres indicates that more acres have already been harvested this fall than during the entire 1972 season.

Cotton
Weather remained favorable for cotton picking and good progress was made. At week's end about 88 per cent of this year's crop had been picked. This compares to 70 per cent last year and the ten-year average of 80 per cent. Several growers are making their third trip through the cotton fields.

North Carolina cotton, thus far this season, is tops in breaking strength and per cent white, tied for longest staple length and second in per cent desirable mike compared to six other southeast states.

Small Grains
By the end of the week about 84 per cent of the State's intended small grain acreage had been seeded. This is right on schedule with last year and the ten-year average. Seeding in the southern Piedmont and southern Coastal Plains shows less progress than other areas.

The condition of growing small grains improved slightly during the week and are now generally fair.

However, additional moisture is needed to get the crop into good shape before winter arrives.

Sorghum Grain
Sorghum grain harvest is in the final stages as producers now have almost 95 per cent of this year's crop out of the field. This compares to about 83 per cent harvested by this time last year.

Soybean Prospects Unchanged

RALEIGH — Based on field samples and reports from growers around November 1, North Carolina soybean production is forecast at 35,040,000 bushels. This is unchanged from the October 1 forecast and is 27 per cent above the previous record set last year. A yield of 24 bushels per acre is forecast — 1 bushel below last year's average. Beans are expected to be harvested from 1,460,000 acres — 33 per cent more than in 1972.

Dry weather continued throughout October and harvest got underway in fine fashion. By November 1, about 30 per cent of the crop had been harvested, compared to less than 10 per cent at the same time last year. The beans are small in a lot of fields but this is partially offset by a large number of pods.

U. S. soybean production is expected to total a record high 1,575 million bushels, down 1 per cent from the October 1 forecast but 23 per cent above the 1972 crop. The slight decrease from October 1 forecast but 23 per cent above the 1972 crop. The slight decrease from October 1 is mainly due to continued late season dry weather in Iowa and three States in the Southeast. The sharp increase over last year is due to expanded acreage for harvest which is 23 per cent above a year ago. Expected average yield for 1973, at 28.0 bushels, equals the previous record high set last year.

By November 4, 73 per cent of the Nation's soybean crop had been harvested, well ahead of the 60 per cent harvested a year earlier and the normal 64 per cent.

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Farm Bureau Convention Next Week

RALEIGH — With membership at an all-time high, the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation has announced final plans for its 38th annual convention in Durham, December 9-12.

B. C. Mangum, president of the state's largest general farm organization, said there has perhaps been no other time in history when so many pressures have converged on agriculture from so many directions.

He said farmers, therefore, realize the need for unity. He attributes the rapid increase in Farm Bureau membership and the predicted record attendance at this year's convention to that realization.

Mangum will give his annual report to the membership at the Federation's first general session, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Monday, December 10. All sessions will be held at the Durham Hotel and Motel.

Chancellor D. W. Colvard, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, will also address the convention during the first general session.

Highlighting the session on Tuesday morning, December 11, will be addresses by Governor James E. Holshouser, Freshman United States Senator Jesse Helms and North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture James Graham.

Main activity on the convention agenda will be the drafting of official North Carolina Farm Bureau policies by voting delegates representing each of the 100 county Farm Bureaus in the state. Recommendations on national issues will be submitted for consideration by voting delegates at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in January.

The election of officers and directors of North Carolina Farm Bureau and election of delegates to the American Farm Bureau convention in January will also take place on Tuesday.

Other convention highlights will include several county Farm Bureau awards presentations and the selection of North Carolina Farm Bureau's "Outstanding Young Farm Family" of the Year.

Also, for the first time in several years, the farm organization will present Distinguished Service Awards for agricultural reporting in a number of categories covering newspapers, radio and television.

Declares Dividend

ROCKY MOUNT — The Board of Directors of Peoples Bank and Trust Company with an office in Jackson, voted to declare a dividend of 20 cents per share on the bank's common stock. An additional year-end dividend of eight cents per share was also approved at the directors

November meeting. The dividend will be payable Dec. 31, 1973, to shareholders of record Dec. 15. Peoples Bank stock is presently being sold over-the-counter at a price of \$38½ bid and \$40½ asked. The bank's assets climbed recently over the \$200 million mark.



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- (1) Plan your peanut program in units of 75 acres if possible to maximize efficiency of machinery, labor and management.
- (2) Select soil suitable for peanut production.
- (3) Omit unproductive areas.
- (4) Avoid fields that were in soybeans last year.
- (5) Test soil for lime and fertilizer needs.
- (6) Apply needed lime and fertilizer early. (Peanuts respond to residual in the soil.)
- (7) Check fields for nematodes.
- (8) Use a chisel plow to break land. This piece of equipment will eliminate traffic pans if operated at the proper depth.
- (9) Bed land soon after chiseling. This will increase the capillary action in the soil, help to eliminate wind erosion, and cause beds to warm up sooner in the Spring of the year.
- (10) Make seed arrangements now. Plant only tested seed, properly treated with one of the recommended fungicides.
- (11) Plant at least three different varieties with different maturing dates in order to hedge against weather conditions.
- (12) Prepare spray equipment and other equipment for winter storage.
 - (a) Remove pump from sprayer, clean, fill with oil or antifreeze, make sure all parts move freely, and store in a dry place.
 - (b) Remove all strainers and tips, clean thoroughly, and store in light oil.
 - (c) Clean barrel and cut-off valves. Apply a light application of oil before putting in storage.
 - (d) Make sure all water cooled engines are provided with enough antifreeze to avoid freezing.

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