

Average Warren County Farm Reported To Contain 197 Acres

By MARY CATHERINE HARRIS
Staff Writer

Did you know that N. C. ranks first in production of flue-cured tobacco, cucumbers for pickles, sweet potatoes, turkeys, and in receipts from farm forest products? Further, it ranks fourth in burley tobacco, peanuts, and commercial broiler production, sixth in egg, and seventh in hog and apple production?

These statistics, which exemplify the diversified agriculture of the state, are published in the N. C. Crop and Livestock Reporting Service's newest edition of agricultural statistics. Farmers who periodically complete government questionnaires regarding their farming operations contribute to

this annual compilation of facts and figures which gives an overview of the status of agriculture statewide. The latest of these publications, entitled "North Carolina Agriculture 1984," was released recently.

According to the report, the weather extremes of the 1983 crop year hurt crop production. The 1982-83 winter was one of the wettest in recent history, causing widespread delays to spring farm work and lowland flooding in many places.

July brought high temperatures and dry conditions and by mid-month, temperatures soared into the 90s and low 100s statewide. Crop conditions continued to deteriorate during August and drought conditions existed.

Farm production during 1983 reflected the adverse weather conditions, as crop yields were lowered and livestock and poultry gains curtailed. The flue-cured crop was down sharply; corn production was less than half that of the previous year; and soybeans, peanuts and sweet potatoes were down. Apples, the only crop statewide to show an increase in production, rose 144 percent above the freeze-damage 1982 crop.

Warren County's farm production during 1983 followed the state trend. The exception was in corn grown for silage, which showed a slight increase locally. Livestock production did not change significantly in the county from 1982 to 1983. Chickens and dairy cattle numbers were the same, while hogs

and beef cattle increased slightly.

The 1982 census of agriculture reported 470 farms totalling 92,281 acres in Warren County, an average of 197 acres per farm.

The Reporting Service, a division of the State Department of Agriculture, measures agricultural production across the state by digesting the information voluntarily given by participating farmers and ranchers. The collection and dissemination of agricultural statistics is one of the oldest activities of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and in 1919, the N. C. Department of Agriculture entered into a cooperative agreement with the federal counterpart. The agreement resulted in the creation of the reporting service division.

Rezoning Requests Approved

The Warrenton Planning Board on Monday evening voted to recommend to the Town Board the approval of two requests for rezoning which would clear the way for the construction of proposed apartment complexes on the Ridge-way Road and West Franklin Street.

Chairman Roy Pat Robertson presided over the meeting, which was called to consider the requests presented to the Planning Board two weeks earlier by K and B Walker Corporation during a public hearing at the Town Hall.

In considering the first request to rezone property belonging to L. C. Cooper on the Ridge-way Road from low-density residential to high-density residential, the Planning Board voted four to two in favor of approving the change. Opposing the request were Mrs. Anne Harris and Jeff Palmer, and casting a favorable vote were Mrs. Virginia Andersen, Lawrence Boyd, Lee Cheek, and McCarroll Alston.

If accepted by the Warrenton Town Board, the rezoning recommendation would allow K and B Walker Corporation to proceed with plans to build a multi-unit apartment complex in a neighborhood, the residents of which voiced their objection to the proposed construction at the public hearing on Nov. 12.

The vote was unanimous in approving the second request for rezoning property on West Franklin Street from medium-density residential to high-density residential. This request had come also from K and B Walker Corporation, which plans to construct apartments for senior citizens and handicapped persons, a subsidized project which spurred no public sentiment at the Nov. 12 hearing.

Before approving the requests, the members heard L. C. Cooper and T. T. Clayton, representing the developers, name the partners of K and B Walker Corporation, request for which had not been honored at the public hearing. Corporation officers named were Dr. James P. Green, president; L. C. Cooper, vice-president; and Mrs. Margaret Cooper, secretary. Preston Buckley, Marshall (Continued on page 10)



A mobile home in the Lickskillet community was reduced to rubble in a Saturday morning fire which also took the lives of a man and two boys. Firemen

from the Afton-Elberon and Warrenton Rural Fire Departments responded to the call and battled the blaze for two and one-half hours. (Staff Photo)

Roof Repairs At Warren Hospital Get Green Light From Commissioners

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

Roof repairs and interior renovation at Warren General Hospital were given a green light by Warren County commissioners last Wednesday night when they accepted three bids totaling \$186,849 for a new roof and general construction and mechanical work inside the facility.

The bids were accepted subject to approval by the Economic Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce which last March approved a \$152,000 grant to the county for capital construction at the hospital.

As a part of the grant terms, the county contributed \$60,000 in a matching grant.

A breakdown of the low bids as received by the architectural firm of C. Robert Shields of Rocky Mount, which is overseeing the project, includes \$82,000 from East Coast Roofing & Metals, Inc. for roofing work; \$98,000 from D. W. Ward Construction Co. for general construction work; and \$6,138 from Fitts-Crumpler Company for mechanical work.

Shields, who presented the bids to the commissioners, estimated that the construction and mechanical work would take about 150

days and the roofing work about 45 days.

Priority is being given to roof repair, but Shields said he didn't expect actual work to begin before the first of next year.

In recent months, the hospital has been plagued by low patient census and a decline in revenues.

The State Office of Rural Health is currently conducting a study to determine how the hospital can best meet the needs of the community. Although the future of the hospital is uncertain, county commissioners have favored repairs because of the value of the facility to the county.

In other action, the board responded favorably to a request from the Warren County Memorial Library trustees for a maximum of \$3,800 for roof repair. The library building on the courthouse square also houses the Warren County tax supervisor's office.

The board also allocated \$864 to the Coordinating Council for Senior Citizens of Warren County to assist with the installation of telephones in the newly renovated Senior Citizens Center. The center, which is located in the old vocational center on the Hawkins Elementary School campus, is almost 65 percent complete, according to Council Director Allen Hawks, and should be ready for

occupancy within the next month.

In the absence of outgoing commissioner Jack Harris, chairman of the recently appointed Capital Development Committee, Commission Chairperson Eva M. Clayton reported on the committee's first meeting.

Among two items given priority by the committee were repairs to the roof, porch and exterior of the Peter Davis Store, which currently houses the Warren County Board of Elections and the Hendricks Building which houses several county offices. The latter is in need of repair, according to Mrs. Clayton, to be "safe and sanitary for citizen use."

Fuel Efficiency Report Is Given

The fuel efficiency of Warren County's school buses was cited recently in a report issued by the State Department of Public Instruction.

During the 1983-84 school year, Warren County's buses ranked neither below nor above the state average, but equalled it with 4.62 miles per gallon of gasoline.

According to school transportation director Norfleet Gardner, the average cost-per-mile and expenditures-per-vehicle statewide went down a fraction over the previous year. Gardner (Continued on page 8)

No Foul Play Suspected

Mobile Home Fire Claims 3 Victims

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

An investigation has revealed no foul play in an early morning mobile home fire Saturday which claimed the lives of a man and two boys in the Lickskillet community, according to the Warren County Sheriff's Department.

The sheriff's report indicated that the blaze which destroyed the dwelling apparently started from a woodstove in the living room.

Charles Williams, 37, of Rt. 2, Warrenton, Timothy Williams, 10 of Rt. 6, Henderson and Henry Lankford, 11, of Rt. 2, Warrenton were found dead in the trailer by firemen who had fought the flames for two and one-half hours, according to spokesmen for the Afton-Elberon Fire Department.

Fire Chief William Fuller, Jr. reported that the home was fully engulfed and the roof was falling in when the firemen arrived shortly after the fire was reported at 5:50 a. m.

A third youth, James Henderson, managed to escape by rushing out the front door of the mobile home after he had awakened and felt the fire burning his shoulder and hair. He did not suffer any serious burns and required no medical treatment.

The three boys were apparently asleep on the living room floor, and Williams was asleep in the bedroom when the fire started. Fuller surmised that the three died from smoke inhalation.

He noted that it was the worst fire that he had seen in the several years he had been with the rural fire department.

Two trucks and 13 members of the Afton-Elberon Department responded to the call, and they were joined by a truck and seven firemen from the Warrenton Rural Fire Department.

Funeral services for the victims of the fire will be conducted at 1 p. m. Thursday at the Jerusalem Baptist Church by the Rev. A. A. Brown. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Charles Linwood Williams, a mechanic, was

the son of Peter Williams and Matlene Williams of Warren County.

Surviving, in addition to his parents, are his wife, Mrs. Katherine Kearney Williams; two sons, James Anthony Kearney of Warrenton and James Edward Woodard of Henderson; three brothers, William Edward Williams, Wilbur Williams, and Preston Williams of Warrenton; four sisters, Mrs. Margaret Lankford and Mrs. Marilyn Gladden of Warrenton, Mrs. Loretta Scott of Henderson and Mrs. Sharron Elam of Soul City.

Timothy Williams is survived by his mother and step-father, Loretta and Gerald Scott of Henderson; his father, Kenneth Christmas of Warren County; a brother, Carlos Scott, a step-sister, Chanel Scott; his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Grandison Christmas; and his step-

grandmother, Mrs. Carrie Scott.

Surviving Henry Lankford, Jr. are his parents, Margaret and Henry Lankford; a sister, Patricia Lankford of the home; three brothers, Steven Alston and Reginald Alston of the home and Donnell Jenkins of Paterson, N. J.; his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Warren of Sedely, Va.

Pallbearers will be Benjamin Cheek, Thomas McCaffity, Thomas Jones, Jack Harrison, Daniel Davis, Erwin Williams, Daniel Davis, Jr., Yarborough Williams, William Henderson, Gregory Williams, Tyrone Williams, Paul Kearney, Linwood Williams, Casey Pennell, Craig Hymon, Anthony Alston, and Earl Hayes.

The bodies will remain at Brown's Funeral home in Warrenton until one hour prior to the service.

Cramped Department Gets Breathing Room

After 17 years in a cramped one-room office in the Warren County Courthouse, the County Sheriff's Department last week moved next door to new quarters in the basement of the County Agricultural Building.

One of the final aspects of the move, the relocation of the police radio communication system, was completed yesterday, according to Betsy Frazier, office deputy with the department.

"We're still unpacking, but everything has been moved now," Deputy Frazier said, and signs directing the public to the new offices should be up by the first of next week.

One of the chief complaints by department staff about the old quarters was the lack of privacy for interrogation and other police business requiring confidentiality.

The department is now housed in five

rooms with offices set aside for the sheriff and chief deputy.

An additional office will be shared by an ABC officer, SBI officer and a license and theft officer and quarters have also been set aside for the fingerprinting process.

Renovation of the building, which was previously occupied by the Warren County ASCS office, came to a total cost of \$21,000 and included addition of windows, construction of partitions, repainting of walls and carpet installation.

The department has also added another telephone line and can now be reached by calling 257-3364 or 257-2911.

Thirteen people will work out of the new facilities, including the sheriff and six deputies.

The office of the Warren County Clerk of Court is expected to expand to the quarters vacated by the Sheriff's Department.