



# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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USDA wants comments  
on burley program  
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## Feed Grain Provisions Unchanged

Acting Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman today announced the 1979 Feed Grain Program that is essentially the same as in 1978. Feed grain producers will be encouraged to remove from production an acreage equal to 20 percent of the acres they plant for harvest in 1979, a percentage identical to 1978, according to Foreman.

Corn and sorghum producers will again be offered a 10 percent set-aside and a 10 percent diversion program. There will be a 20 percent set-aside program for barley in 1979, instead of a combination set aside-diversion program.

The incentive to participate in the 1979 program totals \$2.30 a bushel for corn and \$2.40 a bushel for sorghum and barley. But, the diversion payment will be 10 cents a bushel, instead of 20 cents. The sorghum target price will be \$2.30 a bushel, and the barley target price will be \$2.40 a bushel, Foreman said.

"Without a set-aside program, feed grain producers would have faced sharply lower prices. At the same time taxpayers would have been forced to assume excessive federal payments to farmers," Foreman said.

"The 1979 Feed Grain Program will protect producer returns. It is expected to result in a modest increase in feed grain prices, but also to ensure that livestock producers and foreign buyers have adequate feed grain supplies at reasonable prices. It will result in higher export earnings from feed grains.



GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES requires some hard work, as Howard Williams of Hemphill can tell you. But, with a net profit of \$9,000 per acre on a seven-year rotation, that work can begin to seem worthwhile. (Mountaineer Photo By Paylor)

## Tree Growers They're Thinking Of Christmas '79

You probably haven't even had time yet to take down this season's Christmas tree, but some folks in Haywood County are already thinking about next year's fir.

Those people are the tree retailers, and they're looking around now to line up supplies so they won't be caught short when Christmas rolls around again.

"The demand for trees is tremendous," county agricultural extension agent Steve West said. "People are buying a year ahead of time in volume."

"I don't think there would be a limit to the number of trees Haywood County could market," West said. "The only thing that would limit the number we could grow would be the site."

The dozen or so Christmas tree growers in the county have approximately 100 acres in production, he estimated. And with each acre bringing in a net of \$9,000, ornamental trees add up to a pretty hefty cash crop.

"It's a high value crop," West said, "but it's long term, and that's the reason most people don't get into it."

Growers will usually plant one acre or so each year. West explained. After the seventh

year, when the trees are ready to be harvested, the grower can then cut an acre and plant an acre on a regular rotation.

"If a person is willing to get into it and stay in it until he completes the (seven-year) cycle, then he has an annual source of income," he said.

"It's a long time 'til you get your first paycheck," Hemphill grower Howard Williams said. "You really need another source of income or good credit," he added, "because you go in pretty heavy before you reach any returns."

Growing trees may seem simple—just stick the seedlings in the ground and wait a few years for the dough to start rolling in. But there's more to it than that, Williams said.

"I've been working full time since March," he explained, "and I hired one person all summer."

Pruning, mowing and spraying for insects require some time, he said. "It's more work than most people realize."

"We have a lot of people who put out an acre of trees and forget them," West said.

"They think the trees will grow themselves, but it takes constant care over the seven years."

"Good trees are very, very easy to sell. People want a quality tree. Nobody wants to buy junk and put it in their living room."

While tree farming isn't exactly a life of leisure, it does have some advantages over annual crops, West said. In

addition to allowing growers use hilly land that would be unsuitable for other crops, Christmas tree production offers a little more freedom in taking care of the necessary chores.

"It's not like a lot of crops (Continued on Page 7)

## Durryl Taylor Awarded Micro Switch Scholarship

Durryl D. Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Taylor of Route 6, Marshall, has been awarded a \$500 scholarship to Mars Hill College by the Micro Switch division of Honeywell Inc., located in Mars Hill.

The Micro Switch Scholarship, established in 1976, is awarded annually to an incoming freshman at Mars Hill who is a resident of Madison County and a graduate of Madison High School. Other requirements include a high scholastic average and leadership potential.

Taylor, a 1978 graduate of Madison High, finished fifth in his class of 130, and was a member of the Beta Club, the student newspaper staff, Math Club, French Club and the Deca Club which named him the "Outstanding Senior" his final year. He is a member of Grapevine Baptist Church where he has served both as a member and superintendent of the choir and has taught several Sunday school classes. He plans to become a lawyer and practice in Madison County.



DURRYL D. TAYLOR of Route 6, Marshall, (center), is shown being presented a \$500 scholarship to Mars Hill College by Micro Switch Division of Honeywell Inc., located in Mars Hill. Presenting

the award is Thomas J. Bodrig, left, location manager of Micro Switch. John Hamrick, director of financial aid at Mars Hill, is pictured at right.

## College Aid

### More State \$ To Private Schools?

Rep. Liston Ramsey of Marshall is definitely in favor of increasing state funding for private colleges and universities, but other area legislators are keeping an open mind.

"I think we have to take another look to see what the advantages and disadvantages would be," Rep. Ernest Messer of Canton said.

"It has been very beneficial up to now, but how far we ought to go depends on a number of things. If we supplement private colleges to the detriment of state institutions, we might be wrong."

"I'm not saying I'm for an increase at this time," Sen. Cecil Hill of Brevard said. "I agree with the theory, but we

have to look at the whole picture."

Sen. Joe Palmer of Fines Creek said he'd favor an increase to keep up with inflation, but would prefer it to go toward helping needy students.

The state already supplements private institutions to the tune of \$600 a year per student. The N.C. Association

of Independent Colleges and Universities is requesting \$200 or more.

Of the money private colleges now get, \$400 goes to reduce the tuition of each North Carolina student enrolled by that amount. That's what the association would like increased.

The other \$200 goes into financial aid funds to help needy North Carolina students. That's the part Palmer would prefer increased to keep up with inflation.

According to Ramsey, those supplements actually save Tar Heel taxpayers money.

It costs the state between \$2,500 and \$2,600 a year to educate one student in a public institution, he said, so even an \$800 supplement would save the taxpayers \$1,700 to \$1,800 per student each year.

"Multiply that by 20,000 and you're talking about some money," he said. "That's what it's all about."

Messer, who served on the appropriations committee when the supplement program began, agrees that it has saved money, but he's not sure it does now.

At the time, he said, there was a surplus of students wanting to attend colleges and universities. In order for them to have an equal chance for an education the state encouraged them to attend private colleges.

"We thought it was the best thing to encourage North Carolina students to attend private colleges rather than spend more money building (at state institutions)," Messer said. "At that time it was workable."

Now, he said, enrollment at state universities may be leveling off. Although he hasn't seen actual figures, that information would have to be considered.

The cost factor is the key, according to Hill.

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## Opportunity Corporation Serves People Of County

By ANN LAWRENCE

The Opportunity Corporation, through the Rural Development Project in Marshall attempts to help the low income residents of Madison County in the areas of education, energy, housing, weatherization health, services and economic development. Specific programs are outlined as follows:

Local craftsmen are supplied with materials and are assisted in marketing their products. Outreach workers are always looking for new products and high quality merchandise. Workers are paid after their goods are sold and are able to work at their own pace in their homes. All crafts are sold at the Country Boutique on the Mars Hill College campus Monday-Friday 8:30-5 and at crafts fairs up and down the east coast.

A variety of services are available upon request to the people of Madison County. The elderly and those with special need are helped with transportation. Canning and freezing materials, and used clothing are available in the Marshall office. A limited amount of hospital equipment is for loan. Emergency financial assistance is available for food, medicine, and housing for families in times of strict emergency. In general, outreach workers try to connect the person with any

available service to meet their needs.

The wood project provides a limited amount of heating and/or cooking wood for low income families who do not have easy access to wood. This service can be obtained by coming to the Marshall office to file an application or by requesting that an outreach worker come to your home. Priority is given to the elderly and those who use wood exclusively as both a source of heat and cooking. Other types

of energy assistance (coal, oil) are available sporadically depending on grant monies. These are announced via radio and newspaper.

The housing repair program provides carpentry labor to eligible low income families to do home repairs that remove health and safety hazards. Funds to purchase needed materials and pay for sub-contractors such as electrical work, plumbing and septic tank installation may be

## Second Public Hearing At Hot Springs Jan. 3

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will conduct a second public hearing on Jan. 3, at 8 p.m. in the Hot Springs Town Hall for the purpose of presenting community development activities for funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This hearing will present activities based on needs presented by citizens at a public hearing on Dec. 6, 1978, January.

in which citizens suggestions included housing rehabilitation, sewer improvements, and fire protection for town residents. Staff from Land-of-Sky Regional Council will present a description of the project, a budget, and selection of the target neighborhood. Citizens are urged to attend and make comments or suggestions on the proposed grant application before its submission in early January.

## Bids Too High

Bids for the construction of the new French Broad Electric Membership Corporation headquarters building near Marshall, opened Tuesday of last week were all above the construction budget.

The board of directors has called for a review of the plans by the manager and the architect to see if adjustments can be made to bring the cost in line with the budget. A decision is expected in January.