

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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## County swelters in 100 degree temperatures

# Heat wave damages crops and poultry

By Sally Jamir

The 100-plus temperatures that have been sweeping the region have taken their toll on the area's agriculturists.

According to Agricultural Extension Chairman Willie Featherstone, "Hoke County has done a little better than other counties, but crops such as tobacco and soybeans are beginning to wilt, and corn, which is in the state of filling out, is not doing well."

"We're short grass for grazing cattle and hay that the cattle depend on through winter. We need rainfall," Featherstone continued. "I'm not aware of any changes made because of lack of rain but we do need some."

The Tarheel Turkey Hatchery has been badly affected, according to owner Wyatt Upchurch.

"We have lost 55 out of 13,000 hens at one house and about 40 adult birds per house on July ninth in 60 to 70 houses," Upchurch said.

Upchurch related that losses at grow-out houses in areas such as Clinton, Samson and Duplin are quite large.

This loss translates into a one-half percent production loss. Usually the loss averages one-fifth of one percent.

The hatchery is taking precautions against the heat by using high pressure foggers and fans which break up water droplets in the air into molecules in order to increase the humidity in the air.

The fans are not run as long on high humidity days because of moisture falling out of the air and onto the pavement. Upchurch said they try to keep the moisture off the pavement in order to decrease the possibility of bacteria.

The fans decrease the outside air temperature by five degrees and produce a breeze of four to five miles per hour.

In addition to the fans, insulated roofs have been constructed in the

houses. Automated waterers are replenished with fresh water supply and electrolytes are added to the water in order to help the turkey's body cells to hold more moisture.

Even with these precautions production is being hurt.

"Any extra stress is dangerous for the birds. We do not excite the birds. Handling the birds increases fatalities," Upchurch said. "We've had to change our production schedule to keep them alive, keep them in production. It's cost us."

The production schedule Upchurch refers to is the artificial insemination used for breeding. The hot weather has caused the hatchery to use a much earlier breeding schedule, starting at 4:00 a.m. instead of in the afternoon. This has set back their breeding program.

The hatchery has also been hurt in egg production.

"We're off by eight to ten percent. Out of 250,000 eggs a week

we're losing 20,000 at fifty cents an egg," Upchurch said.

According to Upchurch, over a 25 week egg-laying period any hens that go out of production after three to four weeks will negatively effect production for the remainder of the five-month period.

The younger hens which have been in production ten weeks or less are the ones most effected. The older hens, those which have been in production ten weeks or more, are more able to take the heat.

"The older birds have dropped their feathers and their body temperature is cooler," Upchurch said. "The heat hasn't hurt them as much."

Volunteer weatherman Virgil Murphy, who supplies weather information to the Extension Service, reports that there was 1.6 inches of rain for the month of July. Temperatures over the weekend were consistently around 100 degrees with the lows on Saturday and Sunday at 78 degrees.



Crop wilt

Tobacco plants throughout Hoke County are beginning to wilt because of the sweltering heat and drought conditions.

## Storm system brings Sunday night twister to Hoke County

A storm system that brought high winds, lightning, hail and heavy rains to Hoke County Sunday night is also believed to have generated a tornado in the Philippi Church Road area.

Beth Childrey, 2244 Philippi Church Road, said she and her husband, Phil, were asleep in their bed when the sound of hail hitting the roof of their house woke them at approximately 11:30 Sunday night.

"The sound of hail got louder and louder," Childrey said. "Then something hit the roof and we heard a whining sound."

A security light outside in the yard went out.

Then the Childreys heard another whining sound and a roar. "It sounded like a big explosion on the roof," Childrey said.

After the storm had passed, the couple went outside to the back of their house and discovered that a

section of the roof had been peeled away. The roof section, approximately 12 ft. X 4 ft., had been located over the couple's bedroom.

"It looked like somebody took a razor edge and cut the roof away," Mrs. Childrey said.

Pieces of the roof were found scattered throughout the front yard and across the street.

Although Mrs. Childrey said she had never heard or seen a twister before, she and her husband

believe that a tornado hit their home.

The two sheriff's deputies called to investigate the storm also said they also believed a tornado had struck, according to Mrs. Childrey.

"There was nobody hurt as far as I know," said Mrs. Childrey. "But there was some damage in the trailer park behind us."

At the residence of Malcolm and Bernice McPhatter on Philippi

Church Road, the Sunday night storm pulled a satellite dish out of the ground and sent the nose of the dish into a neighbor's yard approximately 200 yards away.

Mrs. McPhatter was home with her eight-year-old son when the storm hit at approximately 11:15 p.m.

Hail from the storm sounded like "somebody was throwing things against the window," Mrs. McPhatter said.

"There were high, howling winds, but I never heard the roaring of a train," McPhatter said. "I can't be sure if it was a tornado -- I was too scared to look out the windows."

Mrs. McPhatter said the storm lasted about one-half hour and scattered lawn chairs and tree limbs throughout her backyard. Her electricity went out during the storm and was not back on until 3 a.m.

## Excitement is brewing over Turkey Festival

By Sally Jamir

Plans for the North Carolina Turkey Festival, September 18-20, are off to a flying start, according to festival committee chairwoman Evelyn Manning.

"We've finalized the schedule as far as the program goes and we feel good about where we are," Manning said. "Everywhere they're asking about the festival...I can see the excitement and enthusiasm that's already brewing."

According to Manning, there were 30,000 people who came to the festival last year. This year "I expect it to be much bigger and better," Manning said.

"North Carolina is number one in turkey growing in the nation. This is our salute to the turkey industry. We are playing it up more this year than last year."

The schedule of events for the festival is a fitting salute to the industry which will be represented more so this year than last by V.I.P.s such as the National

Turkey Federation Executive Secretary and others.

Starting Thursday, September 18, there will be an opening ceremony at the Hoke County Library. Shortly after, a seminar on turkey recipes will take place at the conference room inside the library.

At noon, the N.C. Turkey Cooking Contest will be sponsored by the N.C. Turkey Federation and N.C. Department of Agriculture. Throughout the festival there will be drawings for turkey prizes, outdoor entertainment, parachuting demonstrations, a horse show, a car show, athletic tournaments, the parade, a turkey dinner and food and crafts booths.

Festival board members and special events chairmen have worked many hours to pull together a program that has something for everyone.

"We really do have a lot of work done," said Kay Thomas, board secretary.

Thomas related some of the highlights of the schedule.

"Friday night there will be a concert of beach music with the 'Catalinas' and the 'Band of Oz' at the old armory," Thomas said. "There will be music going on simultaneously at two stages on Saturday. The Turkey Olympics is planned for that afternoon with distance running and precision running."

Manning said that it is anticipated that comedian Jerry Clower will give a performance on August 29. The show will be in connection with the festival.

"We will be pre-selling tickets. There will be a limited number of tickets sold for a performance in the High School Gym in case of rain," Manning said. "If it is held at the football stadium, we will sell tickets at the door."

Manning said she was "seeing more participation in the crafts fair this year than last year. A lot of the same ones will be here along with some new people."

According to Thomas, "over \$300 has already come in on booth registration fees."

T-shirts, which went on sale July 10 at the Chamber of Commerce, are being offered this year in a wider range of sizes. Last year \$10,000 profit was made from T-shirt sales because of a donation of shirts by Faberge.

According to Thomas, \$10,000 made from the shirts was already in the budget for festival preparations this year. Yet, more is needed before the plans can be fully carried out.

"We have to advance \$20,000 before the festival happens," Thomas said.

Manning admits that she is "nervous about the budget. We haven't yet received the (\$7,000) pork barrel funds promised for the event."

The advertising budget is \$10,000 and will provide coverage in brochures, on billboards, televi-

(See EXCITEMENT, page 9)

## Broyhill to visit



Sen. James Broyhill

Senator James Thomas (Jim) Broyhill R-N.C., a 23-year House veteran, who was sworn into the office on Monday, July 14, will visit Raeford Saturday to speak at a breakfast meeting at the Edinborough Restaurant.

Broyhill is running against former Democratic Governor Terry Sanford in the state's U.S. Senate race. He resigned his House seat to accept the July 3rd appointment to the Senate seat left vacant by the death of Senator John East, R-N.C.

A native of Lenoir, North Carolina, Broyhill was first elected to Congress in 1962. Before serving in Congress, he was an executive with Broyhill Furniture Industries of Lenoir from 1945-1962.

The breakfast meeting will be at 8:30 a.m., July 19. Tickets for the event are \$5 each and may be purchased from Buddy Blue or Evelyn Manning.

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

Last week when I wrote that we had had enough summer for this year, it was the wrong thing to write about. Since last Monday the thermometer has been 100 degrees or above every day. The nights have seen the temperature only go down to the high 70s. Now what will August be like? This is when it is the hottest in Hoke County.

We have not received the rain that we need, but as stated last week, we are better off than many sections of the state. The crops are not as good as they should be at this time and the yields will be lower than we usually produce. One farmer said Sunday that the soybean crop in his section of the county wouldn't make unless rain comes soon. Let's hope he received some Sunday night.

The forecast for the week is for continued hot weather with rain (See AROUND, page 9)



Twins

The double cantaloupe pictured above was grown by local farmer John W. Harrell. Despite the drought and extreme hot weather, these twins from the melon family matured into a tasty treat.

## Involuntary manslaughter plea from Baxley

A Hoke County man was sentenced for the December 1985 shooting of his stepson in the July 8 session of Superior Court.

John Baxley Jr., Rt. 12 Box 616, Fayetteville, pleaded guilty to the felony of involuntary manslaughter for the shooting of James Thomas Rickers which occurred on December 7, 1985 in front of David's Food Store on Davis Bridge Road.

Presiding Judge Anthony M. Brannon sentenced Baxley, 61, to six years with a suspended sentence of five years, and placed him on supervised probation for five years.

Records say Baxley must serve an active prison term of 60 days in the Hoke County jail starting July 23. A work release was recommended.

Sentence also included the payment of counseling reimbursement fees of \$750 and court costs.

Baxley pleaded not guilty to charges of second degree murder in a preliminary hearing in District Court. The charge implies that the

assault would have had to harbor "malice aforethought" in a killing.

According to Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell, the "not guilty" plea in District Court insured a hearing of this "very complex case" in Superior Court.

Public Defender Michael O'Foghlodha said that it was discovered during the trial that although there were witnesses to various incidents during the evening of the shooting, the only ones who directly witnessed the shooting were two men who accompanied Rickers to the store.

The two men apparently confronted Baxley to the point of provocation.

"Mr. Baxley was threatened," O'Foghlodha said. "Both Powell and myself checked out his background. He was a person of character...well thought of and highly regarded in the community. He didn't have violent or mean tendencies...he wouldn't have reacted in the way he did unless

there were substantial threats made."

"It was a fair decision by the DA's office," O'Foghlodha continued. "A lot of thought was given to the case. Credit should go to Jean Powell as someone who is willing to make tough decisions."

Also in last week's session of Superior Court, Timothy McLaurin, Rt. 4 Box 203, Red Springs, pleaded guilty to charges of breaking and entering and larceny which had been committed on January 18.

McLaurin, 20, was sentenced to four years, suspended for five years and placed on supervised probation for five years.

As a condition of probation, McLaurin must pay a total of \$466 in reimbursement, restitution and other fines.

Records say McLaurin broke into a dwelling belonging to James Huggins located on Rt. 1, Red Springs, and stole two pistols and one twelve gauge shotgun, all

(See GUILTY, page 9)