

Application For Supplemental Security Income Payments To Aged, Blind, and Disabled

The Goldsboro Social Security Office is now taking applications for supplemental security income payments, a Federal Program scheduled to start in 1974 that will establish an income floor for people in financial need who are 65 or over, or blind, or disabled, according to James P. Temple, Social Security District Manager.

But people already getting State Old Age Assistance, or State Aid because they are blind or disabled, don't have to apply, he said. They will be getting more information later this year about how the program will help them.

The first monthly payments under the Federal Program will be made in January 1974.

Until then, State and local public assistance office will continue to make payments in the usual way.

People not getting public assistance now who think they may be eligible for the new Federal Payments should visit, call, or write their social security office to find out if they should apply.

Federal Supplemental Security Income Payments will be made by the Social Security Administration. But the program will be financed by Federal General Revenue—not by social security contributions from workers and employers. It is not the same as social security.

The aim of the new program is to provide supplemental payments in cases of need so that people 65 or over, or blind, or disabled will have a basic cash income of at least \$130 a month for one person and \$195 a month for a couple.

This does not mean that every eligible person or couple will be getting that much from the Federal Government every month. The amount of the Federal payment any person gets will depend on how much other income he has.

States may add to the basic Federal payment. Eligibility for Federal payments will depend not only on the amount of income people have but on the value of their assets.

If you are single or married but not living with your husband or wife—you can own things worth up to \$1,500 and still get Federal payments. A couple can own things worth up to \$2,250 and get payments. Not everything you own has to be counted toward your total assets, however.

A home of reasonable value will not be counted as an asset. In addition, the Federal Government will not put liens on the homes of people getting Federal payments. Personal effects and household goods won't count in most cases. Insurance policies on a car may not affect eligibility, either, but it will depend on their value.

Certain income also will be disregarded in deciding on an application for supplemental security income. The first \$20 a month of income generally won't affect the Federal payment at all.

In addition, people who are working part-time should know that the first \$55 a month of earning won't be included in counting their income and only half of the rest of their additional earnings will be counted.

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The simple key to ample food supplies at fair prices is to let the American competitive enterprise system work. It may not be perfect, but it's a lot better than whatever is in second place.

Remember, farmers don't set prices of food. They react to them. There is no law to make farmers produce food. They produce or don't produce in response to price and opportunity for profit.

Tobacco farm owner-operators "cleared" about 22 cents a pound on their fine-cured crop last year despite a rise of production costs to nearly 64 cents a pound.

The largest single component of the total cost figure was an average expenditure for hired labor of 17.4 cents a pound.

These are some of the key statistics pulled from an analysis of the records of fine-cured tobacco farms enrolled in the Farm Business Records Program at North Carolina State University.

The economist who made the analysis, Dr. Charles Pugh, said the figures "should be fairly representative of owner-operated farms."

In commenting on the analysis, Dr. Pugh explained that the 22-cent "profit" represents the farmer's return over cash expenses and depreciation of equipment and buildings. It doesn't include compensation for his own time and investment.

The base statistics from the farms in the analysis were these:

- Average total acreage of tobacco per farm was 23.5.
- Average yield per acre was 2,113 pounds.
- Average per pound cost of production was 63.5 cents.
- Average price received was 85.5 cents per pound.

On the cost side, the second largest expenditure behind that for hired labor was 9.5 cents per pound charged to rent. This represents the total rent paid by the 19 sample farms divided by the pounds produced.

"The farms had substantial quotas of their own," the N. C. State University economist said, "Therefore, this 9.5 cents per pound figure is below the average cost of leased-in quota."

Depreciation costs averaged 8.7 cents a pound; supplies, including chemicals, 4.2 cents; fertilizer 3.8 cents; warehouse charges and miscellaneous 3.7 cents; interest 3.5 cents; curing fuel and other utilities 3.2 cents; gas and other fuel 2.3 cents; repairs 2.2 cents; insurance 2.2 cents; and taxes 1.7 cents.

"We feel this is probably the most accurate set of records we've ever had on a small group of tobacco farms," the farm management economist said. "They should provide growers who are keeping their own records with a good basis for comparison. They should also encourage the many farmers who don't attempt to keep cost records to do so."

Wide distribution of the cost breakdown is being made in an effort to encourage better record keeping.

Growers need this kind of information to make the many decisions they have to make in operating a farm and a tobacco enterprise.

Better quality tobacco in 1973 is a goal of many tobacco growers this year, according to Franklin M. Green, Rockingham County extension agent.

Green said growers have made a conscious effort to study the problems that have caused low quality in the past.

Green explained that some of the causes of trouble last year were identified as excessive nitrogen, late transplanting and harvesting immature tobacco. These were complicated by too much rainfall and cool weather in the early growing season.

Growers have already made progress toward avoiding some of these same problems this year. More of them have selected varieties that are more resistant to root diseases, and a great deal of attention has been given to planning the best possible fertilization program.

Much will still depend on the weather.

Congressman David N. Henderson Reports from Washington



The month-long recess of the Congress which begins this week should have some beneficial effects. For one thing, most House members and Senators will spend some time in their home states and districts, getting some first-hand opinions from the people they represent. I sometimes think that when members stay isolated from their constituents as much of the time as year-long sessions require, they form too many of their opinions from the national news media and not enough from the people who are responsible for their being in office.

For another thing, the Watergate hearings will probably be suspended after another week, regardless of what one may think about the overall desirability of the hearings, almost everyone (including Senator Ervin) agrees that both the Committee and the public are beginning to tire of the whole business. Among other things, a break might make it possible for the President and the Committee staff to reach a compromise on the question of releasing tapes and other evidence for private hearing or viewing by committee personnel and the special prosecutor's office.

Finally, while the Congress and the news media can take advantage of the opportunity to get some first-hand information and party wrapping and other activities of the young animals.

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FRUSTRATION ON THE FARM

Inflation has cut heavily into the possibilities of making a decent living on the farm.

Adding to the problem, farmers have been considerably frustrated and confused by controls varying from the voluntary controls of Phase 2 to the rigid controls of Phase 3 1/2. With controls in effect and facing the uncertainties of what they might be producing crops and livestock only to lose more money. The uncertainties of the future have made farmers gun-shy in making the substantial investments to increase production.

Farmers have also found it hard to understand why consumers have reacted so to food prices which have just begun to catch up to rises in prices of other things we all buy.

Now with controls lifted under Phase 4 (and on beef next month) farmers can begin the long hard fight to get food production back in high gear. It must be remembered, however, that it takes nearly a year from the time the farmer decides to increase pork production until that pork is on your supermarket counter. It takes nearly two years in the case of beef.

Even though Phase 4 has been announced, all of the farmer's problems are far from solved. It takes a good deal of good weather to produce good crops. And then, farmers need a few weeks of good fall weather in order to get crops out of the field.

Once the crop is harvested, farmers will need energy to dry it and transportation to get it to you at a time when both are in short supply.

Consumers, however, must face up to the realities of today's food prices. Even with increased farm production, they cannot expect to return to the good old days of \$1 porterhouse steaks or 35¢ hamburgers, with current fixed costs locked into inflexible union contracts, with buying power of families at new highs, and with inflation, fueled by government deficit spending, continuing to escalate.

The simple key to ample food supplies at fair prices is to let the American competitive enterprise system work. It may not be perfect, but it's a lot better than whatever is in second place.

Remember, farmers don't set prices of food. They react to them. There is no law to make farmers produce food. They produce or don't produce in response to price and opportunity for profit.

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Dying Man Described Stabbing

Reprint from the News & Observer

JACKSONVILLE — A 47-year-old Smithfield man, fatally stabbed at a deserted beach here early Monday, and before he died that his killer took \$8 from him before the stabbing. Authorities were continuing to investigate the incident later in the day.

The victim was identified as Jesse L. Wilson, a Smithfield landscaper who was working at a West Onslow Beach campground.

Wilson told Onslow County deputies that his unidentified assailant took the money, then stabbed him in the stomach.

Deputy Nason Cannon said a fishing knife with a nine-inch blade, found on the beach near the scene of the stabbing, appeared to be the murder weapon.

Wilson told deputies he had gone with another unidentified man to check fishing conditions at several piers along the beach.

He said his companion left him just before the stabbing, saying he wanted to talk with surf fishermen along a deserted section of the beach.

Wilson said he pulled the knife from his stomach after he was stabbed and walked to a highway, where he flagged down a car. He died en route to Onslow Memorial Hospital.

No arrests have been made.

ROSALEE MURPHY BOULAVILLE — A funeral service for Rosa Lee Murphy, 61, of Pink Hill, retired farmer, who died Monday, August 13, at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Community Funeral Home Chapel by the Rose Pruden Health Center, Oak Ridge Memorial Park in Pink Hill.

Surviving: his widow, Mrs. Isabelle H. Murphy, three daughters, Mrs. Billy Houston of Pink Hill, Mrs. Walter Dale of Mt. Olive, and Mrs. Arthur Penney of Bouleville; two sons, Marvin of Cocoa, Fla., and Adolph Murphy of Pink Hill; two sisters, Mrs. Ida Houston and Mrs. Kinsey Keith of Pink Hill; 12 grandchildren; a great-grandchild.

JESSE L. F. WILSON ROSE HILL — Jesse L. F. Wilson, 47, landscape architect in Smithfield, formerly of Rose Hill, died Monday. Memorial service, 2 p.m. Wednesday, Rose Hill United Methodist Church.

Surviving: his widow, Mrs. Peggy Jordan Wilson; a daughter, Miss Elizabeth Jordan Wilson of the home; a son, Jesse Walter Wilson of the home; his mother, Mrs. L. A. Wilson of Rose Hill; four sisters, Mrs. Edward (Bettie) Cullif of St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. Ray (Pat) Williams of Denver, Colo., Mrs. Ernest (Shirley) Boatman of Smithfield and Mrs. Arnold (Barbara) Pope of Fayetteville.

The family will be at the home of Mrs. L. A. Wilson in Rose Hill.

PLATO C. THIGPEN
A funeral service for Playto Collins Thigpen, 59 of Beau-

ville, former who died Monday, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, at Trinity Baptist Church, by Rev. Carl Pagan and Rev. William H. Pope. Burial, East End Memorial Park, Bouleville.

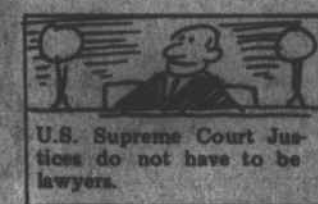
Surviving: his widow, Mrs. Mavis Brinson Thigpen; two daughters, Mrs. Richard L. Thomas of Red Springs, N.C., Mrs. Douglas W. Stoney, Charleston, S. C.; two sisters: Mrs. Louise Long, Flushing, N.Y.; Mrs. Hugh Matthews, Whiteville, N.C.; Mrs. David R. Smith of Bouleville, Mrs. Walter Herring, Jr., two brothers: Mr. Ralph Thigpen of Bouleville, Mr. Eldridge Thigpen of Mealey, N.C., and two grandchildren.

Resident Of Calypso Is Buried

Mrs. Elizabeth Faust Guy, 63-year-old resident of Calypso, died Friday after a period of declining health. She had been a resident of the Calypso community for many years.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Calypso Methodist church with the Rev. Richard Lewis, Methodist minister of Falson, and a native of Calypso, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Bob Campbell and the Rev. Bill McCullen. Burial was in the Calypso cemetery.

Surviving are one son, A. D. Guy of Jacksonville, N. C., where he was at one time mayor; three daughters, Mrs. Aldon Bryan of Dunn, Mrs. W. T. Dail and Mrs. Ruth Cowles of Mount Olive; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



U.S. Supreme Court Justices do not have to be lawyers.

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