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Duplin Gross Agricultural Income \$238,773, 220

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Duplin County's estimated gross agricultural income for 1980 totals \$238,773,220, which is an increase of \$37,408,907 from 1979. This increase came about because of combination of higher prices and greater production. Agricultural Extension officials are quick to point out that coupled with this, the farmers experienced greater expenses in order to produce last year's crop. Labor, fuel, feed, seed, fertilizer and all raw products were higher than ever known. So even though total agricultural income was up, net income may, in fact, be down for individual farmers. However, the total amount of \$238,773,200 was put into circulation many times in the economy.

Income figures were: (1980 first figure, and 1979 second) Tobacco - \$39,558,043.

\$28,114,507; Corn - \$20,160,000; Soybean - \$9,280,000; \$5,969,000; Other Field Crops - \$1,827,790; \$431,240; Swine - \$27,806,600; \$30,342,000; Poultry - \$120,219,974; \$100,009,500; Horticulture - \$12,344,091; \$13,699,970; Beef & Dairy - \$1,594,322; \$2,014,000; Forestry - \$5,896,200; \$3,267,970; Honey - \$5,235. (1979 not reported); Total Sales - \$238,692,255; \$201,248,523; Government Payments - \$80,965; \$115,790; Total Sales and Payments - \$238,773,220; \$201,364,313.

Duplin tobacco growers harvested 12,689 acres in 1980 with an average yield of 2,150 pounds per acre. The value of tobacco was \$39,558,043. In 1979 growers harvested 11,032 with an average yield of 1,746 pounds per acre which sold for \$28,114,507. In 1980, tobacco income was slightly over \$11 million higher. Duplin County farmers

produced approximately 70,000 acres of corn in 1980 with an average yield estimated at 90 bushels per acre. This gave a total production of 6,300,000 bushels. It is estimated that 5,600,000 bushels of corn was sold for \$20,160,000. This was an increase in income from corn of \$2,760,000 over 1979 income from corn.

The Duplin County soybean crop of 58,000 acres produced an estimated yield of 20 bushels per acre for a total production of 1,160,000 bushels. The average price of soybeans was \$8 per bushel for a total value of \$9,280,000. This was an increase in income from soybeans of \$3,311,000 over 1979 soybean income.

The total value of horticultural crops sold in Duplin County in 1980 was \$12,344,091 which was a decrease of \$1,355,879 from 1979. No one horticultural crop accounted for all the loss, but each experienced some decrease because of price and weather.

The income from pulpwood and saw timber sold by Duplin County farmers was estimated at \$5,896,200 which was an increase of \$2,628,230.

Duplin County hog growers sold 328,200 head of slaughter hogs for \$30,522,600 which was a decrease of \$3,147,400 from 1979 hog sales. This decrease was because of lower production and lower prices in 1980. After deducting the cost of feeder pigs which were purchased from other counties, the adjusted Duplin swine income was \$27,806,600.

Cattle sold for slaughter amounted to 2,500 head which sold for \$1,125,000. Total income from slaughter cattle and feeder cattle was \$1,251,250. Income from dairy cattle sales and milk sales was \$313,072.

Poultry was the leading agricultural commodity in Duplin County in 1980. The

total income from poultry in 1980 was \$120,219,974. Broiler production in 1980 was 33,620,000 head which had a live value of \$34,772,920. This was an increase of about one-half million broilers and \$800,000. Turkey production in 1980 amounted to 10,709,018 head compared to 7,726,500 head in 1979. Turkey production in 1980 was valued at approximately \$70,000,000 which was \$13,500,000 more than the 1979 sales. Commercial eggs sold for \$3,155,838. Broiler hatching eggs and turkey hatching eggs were valued at \$11,147,805 in 1980.

Gross agricultural income in Duplin County has continued to increase as producers have utilized technology to produce and as prices have continued to rise due to inflation. The impact of \$200, plus millions in the economy cannot be discounted even though many farmers are experiencing less and less net income.

County Purges List Of Voters

The Duplin County voter registration books are being purged as required by law, according to Clifford Hepler, county election board supervisor, who believes about 4,500 names will be removed.

The books now contain names of 21,000 registered voters. In the November general election, 13,216

ballots were cast.

The law requires election officials to purge the books every four years. The law went into effect in 1968.

It also requires removal of a person's name if that person has not voted for four years, unless a good reason for not voting can be shown. The election board is sending letters to people who haven't voted for four years to give

them opportunity to object to having their names removed from the voting lists.

Hepler said 2,886 names have been purged from the books of eight precincts so far. The county is divided into 10 precincts. The work will require another month.

Previously, county election officials had met with precinct officials after each general election to remove

names of persons known to have moved from the precinct or who had died.

Precincts in which purging has been completed include: Albertson, 54 names removed, 596 now registered; Smith, 24 removed, 256 registered; Rockfish, 82 removed, 586 registered; Calypso, 64 removed, 438 registered; Faison, 407 registered, 753 registered; War-

saw, 1,040 removed, 2,135 registered; Wallace, 1,104 removed, 2,080 registered; and Charity, 112 removed, 723 registered.

In the November election, the vote totals in each of these precincts were: Albertson, 459; Smith, 208; Rockfish, 382; Calypso, 324; Faison, 555; Warsaw, 1,623; Wallace, 1,735; and Charity, 568.

Hepler said only six persons had come by the office to ask for their names to be left on the books.

Some of the loss in voter registration will be made up this spring when the election officials go to the high schools to register 18-year-olds. Carolyn Murphy, secretary to the supervisor, said about 800-1,000 young people usually register in the spring. However, only about 25 percent actually vote, she added.

Inmate Hangs Himself

A 20-year-old inmate at the correctional facility near Kenansville hanged himself to death using a bed sheet for a noose early Saturday, a corrections department spokesman said.

Guards found Gerald E. Davis, serving two years for larceny and 30 days for a worthless check, dead in his single cell at 9:45 a.m. He had served less than a month of his sentence, having been convicted Jan. 26 in Wayne County Superior Court.

Davis had escaped Feb. 11 after being transferred to Duplin from a prison unit at Goldsboro. He was recaptured last Thursday and put in a single cell at the minimum custody facility, Stuart Shadbolt of the Department of Corrections said.

Another man was being held in the same cell block, Shadbolt said, and Davis was



HANGING NEW PAINTING - David Curtis Smith, visiting artist at James Sprunt Technical College, is pictured hanging his most recently completed oil painting. The painting entitled "Hickory Winds" is available for public viewing during school

hours in the student lounge of the McGowan Building on the technical college campus. Along with "Hickory Winds" at JSTC, Smith has paintings and lithographs displayed throughout Duplin County.

Wallace Board Names Acting Finance Officer

The Wallace Board of Commissioners appointed Faye Peterson acting town finance officer and clerk, effective immediately, during its February meeting last Thursday.

Tom Phillips, town administrator for the past four years, will leave his position Feb. 28 to take a position as Cary town manager.

Mrs. Peterson's salary will be increased \$1,200 a year to bring her annual pay to \$11,000. She has been employed by the town for five years as posting and accounting clerk.

Her appointment was approved by a vote of 3 to 0 with two members absent. The absentees were Commissioners Arnold Duncan and Harry Carter. Carter left the meeting before the vote was taken. Commissioners Willie Biggs, Lloyd Boone and O. C. Blanchard Jr. voted for the nomination.

About 75 residents attended a memorial at the opening of the meeting to the late T. J. "Tommy" Baker, who was Wallace mayor for five years, a town board member for 13 years and Duplin County representative in the General Assembly for eight. Memorial remarks were made by Mayor Melvin Cording and the Rev. Aubrey Jones.

Michael Fox of Wallace

and Johnny Dixon of Rose Hill asked the board for a cable television franchise for Wallace. They said they would provide 11 channels for \$9 per month and pay the town three percent of their gross return. They said they could connect most of those desiring service within six months of receipt of a franchise and would install the service in all public buildings free of charge.

The board turned over the offer to the town attorney, Richard Burrows, for review and comparison with the proposal of Clear-Tel of New Hope. Clear-Tel offered to provide 14 channels for \$9 a month and to pay the town five percent of its gross. "As long as the two offers are about the same, I would favor the hometown folks," Biggs said.

Fox is associated with Duplin Broadcasting Co., which operates WLSE of Wallace. Dixon is associated with Super Cycle Engineering Co. of Rose Hill. Fox estimated the cost of the project at \$300,000.

Bids will be opened March 10 on a contract to paint the 1-million-gallon water reservoir. The town has appropriated \$13,500 for the project.

Phillips reported electric power costs for the first seven months of the fiscal year totaled \$77,713. The budget for electric power for the fiscal year is \$129,000. Phillips estimated the budgeted sum will fall \$15,000 to \$20,000 short of the actual cost by June 30 because of the increase in power rates. He suggested the board increase its electrical power budget to \$150,000 for the next fiscal year.

The largest consumer of power is the water pumping system, up from \$6,800 in July to \$7,600 in January. Cost of electricity for street lights increased from \$2,300 in July to \$2,700 in January.

Warsaw Board Rejects Rezoning Request

At a meeting last week, the Warsaw town board rejected a rezoning request, gave a cable television franchise ordinance its first reading and delayed action on the town hall's structural problems.

Nine persons appeared at the meeting to protest the proposed rezoning of two lots on Wards Bridge Road on the east side of the city from residential to restricted business classification. The lots include what is known as the Charlie Miller property.

Rick Summerlin requested the rezoning and noted a nearby lot had been rezoned to the desired classification. Property owners Joe Costin, George Clark and Virginia Strickland all asserted that business establishments located in residential areas

lower the value of the adjacent residential property.

Following the board's unanimous rejection of the request, other residents asked how they could have the lot previously changed from residential to business classification reclassified as residential. The lot is vacant.

Mayor Sam Godwin suggested they take the matter up with Zoning Board Chairman Johnny Hollingsworth.

In addition to giving the cable television ordinance its first reading, the board ordered a public hearing on the franchise ordinance for its March 9 meeting.

Clear-Tel of Hope Mills has proposed cable television service for \$9.50 per month for 14 channels. It would provide a total of 18 chan-

nels, four of those to require additional monthly fees from subscribers who could order any or all of them. The cable company would pay the town five percent of its gross income from the service in the city. If plans develop as expected, construction of the system could begin in June with service available 90 days later.

The board took no action on the leaking roof and other problems of its three-year-old town hall, pending an attempt to have the contractor, M.E. Perry of Goldsboro, do something about the matter.

In addition to the roof problem, some cracks have developed in the walls and one of the I-beams supporting the roof has sagged,

according to Alfred Herring, town clerk. The board has received an estimate of \$6,000 to replace the roof.

Herring also reported receiving an upset bid of \$3,575.38 from Tom Rabon of Warsaw for the former town hall, a building which once housed the Branch Bank & Trust Co., Warsaw branch. He reported it is the second upset bid received since bidding was opened on the structure. To qualify as an upset bid, an offer must be at least five percent plus \$50 higher than the previous bid, he added.

Herring told the board electricity and gasoline were becoming the town's major expenses. He noted the town is paying about \$10,000 a month for fuel and electricity.

Herring Jr., Clarence Brown and Jimmy Robinson.

Sewer and street work in the affected area is expected to begin in July.

David Hoxie, Rose Hill Jaycee president, presented \$1,000 to the Rose Hill recreation department to help pay for the lighting in Jimmy Jerome Park.

A cable television proposal was presented to the board by Gerald Michaux, representing Clear-Tel Cable Television Co. of New Hope. The board took no action on the proposal.

Rose Hill Accepts Bids On Rehabilitation Work

The Rose Hill town board awarded three contracts last week to begin an \$813,000 Housing and Urban Development grant rehabilitation project on the north side of the city.

Three engineering firms bid on the engineering contract for laying out streets, water and sewer, with L.E. Wooten of Raleigh receiving the award on a bid of \$48,675 although McDavid Associates of Goldsboro offered a lower bid of \$36,600. Odell Associates of Greensboro bid \$65,000 on the engineering

work. A contract for supervising the planned rehabilitation of 47 houses was let to McDavid Associates on a bid of \$37,600.

A contract for administration of the entire project went to McDavid Associates on a bid of \$10,000. The engineering firm was the only bidder on the rehabilitation and administration contracts. Since it is a federal project, the single bids could be accepted, attorneys informed the town board. State contracts require a minimum of three bidders on a contract

before an award can be made.

Commissioner Keith Hinson made the motion to split the contracts among two firms, basing his reasoning on the fact L.E. Wooten has been the engineering firm for the town's sewage treatment plant and he believed the engineering work on the rehabilitation area utilities should be coordinated with the treatment plant project.

Commissioner Jerry Cottle voted against the motion. Voting for it were Commissioners Hinson, Clayton

Barbecue Supper

The E. E. Smith P.T.O. will sponsor a barbecue supper on Friday, Feb. 27, from 5-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$2.50 and may be purchased from students at the school. The menu will include barbecue, potato salad, slaw, hushpuppies and tea or coffee.

Man Killed In Warsaw Fire

Deams Wiggs, 64, apparently died of smoke inhalation when his apartment at 207 South Brighton Ave. in Warsaw caught fire early Tuesday last week according to Fire Chief Frank Steed.

The fire started in the kitchen from unknown causes, the chief said. Wiggs, fully clothed, was found in the living room. The department was called at 4:15 a.m. When firemen

arrived, they found the heat from the flames had melted a television set in the living room and the clock was stopped at 3:05. No flames had broken through the wall to the living room, however. Steed said the fire was extinguished within a few minutes. He said nearby residents told him they heard the smoke alarm sound.

Wiggs was a retired professor from Atlantic Christian College at Wilson.