

Duplin Agribusiness Council

Express Concerns Over Tobacco Program

[Editor's Note: The following is a letter and survey sent to the Duplin Agribusiness Council members. The letter and survey is being printed by request of the Duplin Agribusiness Council in hopes that all Duplin County farmers might express their feelings about the tobacco program to the Congressional Representatives.]

April 19, 1982
TO ALL DUPLIN AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL MEMBERS:
In our last meeting, general concerns regarding the fate of the tobacco program were expressed. In

order to help our congressional representatives better understand the feelings of Duplin County tobacco growers and citizens, we would like to provide you the appropriate addresses to which you might forward your thoughts and suggestions on the tobacco program. As an Agribusiness Council, we do not feel we can express viewpoints for the total organization because we have not had a chance to survey membership. We do feel it is important, however, that each individual express his views. We are enclosing a survey form that was in the last

issue of "Tobacco Farmer" if you wish to use this. Do not feel limited by it. You may also wish to contact Charlie Whitley, Jesse Helms, John East, Charlie Rose, or any other member of the Congress, whether they be from our state or other states. We do feel that our congressional delegation is interested in our opinions and are seeking ways to do what we wish with the tobacco program. Please take this opportunity to let them know your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Roy Houston, President
Duplin County Agribusiness Council

Addresses:
The Honorable Charles Whitley
House of Representatives
404 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
4213 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John East
United States Senate
5313 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Rose
House of Representatives
2435 Rayburn Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

more competitive? (check one):
 Yes, I favor reduction.
 No, I am against it.

ASSESSMENT

14. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has asked Congress to authorize a per-pound assessment to establish a fund to ensure that Stabilization will function without cost to the taxpayer. How do you feel about this assessment? (check one):
 Strongly in favor
 In favor
 Don't care
 Against
 Strongly against

15. If a per-pound assessment is made, it will be determined by the cost for running the Stabilization program. Realizing there is no accurate figure for that cost now available, what level of assessment do you think would be reasonable? (check one):
 Less than 2¢ per pound
 2¢ per pound
 3¢ per pound
 4¢ per pound
 5¢ per pound
 Other _____

LEASING

16. If it came down to a choice between accepting a standard lease-fee—say 40¢ a pound—or losing the allotment program entirely, which would you choose? (check one):
 I would accept standardized lease-fees to keep allotments.
 I am against standardized lease-fees even if it means losing the allotment program.

17. If transfer by sale is permitted, how do you think value of the allotment should be determined? (check one):
 Should be determined by the federal government.
 Should be determined by the county ASCS committee.
 Should be determined

through competitive bidding on an individual basis.
 Should be determined by prices set at county auctions.
 Other: _____

18. Much discussion has taken place regarding the effect of fall leasing. What is your opinion regarding this practice? (check one):
 Fall leasing should continue as currently structured.
 Fall leasing should not be allowed except in cases brought about by natural disaster.
 Fall leasing should be eliminated.

EXPORTS

19. The gateway to expand quota allotments is through increased domestic and international consumption of U.S. tobacco. Economic theory indicates that the proper balance between quality and price will maximize consumption. Which of the following approaches, if any, would you endorse and in which would you participate? (check any and all you will support).
 Would accept a 10 to 15-cent decrease in market price if this would result in a significant long-range gain for U.S. tobacco in the marketplace.
 Would favor increased allotments to increase overseas sales, even if this meant lower prices.
 Would clean tobacco carefully, eliminating such things as off-color, oxidized leaves, sand,

and trash in order to (1) gain increased preference by international buyers, plus (2) slightly higher prices for primings and leaf.
 Would pass on to the marketplace any production cost savings that would result from establishment of a lower standardized lease price.

In addition to the subjects covered above, I have other concerns. I would like the Subcommittee to take into consideration:

DEMOGRAPHICS

In order for the Subcommittee for Tobacco and Peanuts to better understand my answers, here is some information about my involvement in tobacco. I am a:
 Grower. Own all allotments I raise.
 Grower. Lease all allotments I raise.
 Grower. Lease part/own part of all allotments I raise.
 Allotment holder. I don't farm the allotment.

My age is:
 20 or under
 21-25 years
 26-35 years
 36-45 years
 46-55 years
 56-65 years
 Over 65 years

In 1981, I marketed the following number of pounds of tobacco:
 None
 0 to 9600 pounds
 9600 to 15,000 pounds
 15,000 to 20,000 pounds
 20,000 to 30,000 pounds
 30,000 to 50,000 pounds
 50,000 to 100,000 pounds
 100,000 to 200,000 pounds
 200,000 or more pounds

Please fill out and send to:
Congressman Charlie Rose
Chairman Tobacco and Peanut Subcommittee
Committee on Agriculture
2435 Rayburn Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Whitley Office To Visit Duplin County

Congressman Charlie Whitley's Third District mobile office will visit Duplin County on Tuesday, May 4. Rodney Knowles, field representative, will be manning the office and available to persons having matters that they wish brought to Whitley's attention.

The office will be at Beula-

ville from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. at the Post Office, and at Greeneviers from 11 a.m. until noon at the Town Hall. The office will be at Faison

from 1 until 2 p.m. at the Fire Station. This schedule is subject to prevailing weather conditions affecting travel.

... TELL IT TO THE CONGRESSMAN!

Dear Congressman:

I am concerned about the changes being considered in the tobacco allotment and price support systems. I recognize some changes must be made to keep a program, but have thoughts and feelings about those changes. Those thoughts and feelings are reflected in my answers to the questions below. Please take my opinions into consideration as you develop new legislation.

ALLOTMENTS

1. The allotment program has been part of growing tobacco in the United States for years. Do you favor continuation of the allotment program?
 Yes No

TRANSFER OF ALLOTMENTS

2. Regarding ownership of allotments, do you believe (check one):
 There should be a mechanism for transferring allotments permanently into the hands of growers, or
 There should be no change in allotment ownership system.

3. If, as is being proposed in government discussions, such a mechanism for transferring allotments into the hands of growers is created, which of the following systems would you prefer (check one):
 Voluntary. Nonproducers could keep their allotments if they choose, but would be encouraged to sell them.
 Mandatory. Nonproducers would lose their quota without compensation.

4. If transfer of allotment by sale

is permitted separate from the land, which of the following systems would you prefer (check one):
 Sales should be restricted to the county of the original allotment.
 Sales should be permitted anywhere within the state, regardless of the county lines.

5. If transfer by sale is permitted, would you sell quota you now own? (check one):
 Yes No

6. If transfer by sale is permitted, would you buy quota? (check one):
 Yes No

7. If it were possible to sell quota in your county, what do you think would be a fair price per pound? (check one):
 \$.50 per pound
 \$1.00 per pound
 \$2.00 per pound
 \$3.00 per pound
 \$4.00 per pound
 \$5.00 per pound
 \$6.00 per pound
 \$7.00 per pound
 \$8.00 per pound
 More than \$8.00 /lb.

8. If transfer by sales is permitted, what would be your goal as to size of operation? (check one):
 Same
 Larger
 Smaller

LOCATION OF PRODUCTION

9. It has been proposed that quota owners be required to grow their quota on the land to which it is allotted every certain number of years. What do you think of this proposal? (check one):
 Agree.
 Disagree.

10. If it is required that quota owners be required to periodically grow their quota on land to which it is allotted, how frequently do you think this should be done? (check one):
 Every year
 Every second year
 Every third year
 Every fourth year
 Every fifth year
 Less frequently than every fifth year

SUPPORT PRICE

11. It has been proposed that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture be given the authority, beginning with the 1982 crops, to reduce the mandatory price support increase in order to make U.S. tobacco more competitive in the world market. How do you feel about this proposal? (check one):
 Agree.
 Disagree.

12. There have been a number of specific proposals for levels of reduction of the support price increase, beginning with the 1982 crop. If reductions are made, under which of the following reductions could you show a profit for this year's crop? (check one):
 \$1.70—a 35% reduction in the increase
 \$1.67—a 50% reduction in the increase
 \$1.585—freezing the support price
 Higher than above

13. If world demand made it appear that Stabilization would receive excess amounts of a few grades of tobacco in 1982, would you favor a one-year, one-time authority to USDA to lower the price support level on those grades to make them

Kornegay Attends Institute

George R. Kornegay Jr., president-elect of the N.C. State Bar, participated in the American Bar Association's bar leadership institute in Chicago, Ill. in March.

Joining 125 other state and local bar officials from across the country and the president and president-elect of the ABA, the participants reviewed law-related issues affecting the legal profession and the public and learned techniques for improving bar association management of such issues.

Kornegay is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and their law school. He has practiced law in Mount Olive since 1963 and is the senior member of the law firm of Kornegay, Rice & Edwards, P.A., with offices in Mount Olive and Kenansville.

He has served as a member of the N.C. State Bar Council for 8 years. He has served as vice president of the State Bar and is presently serving as president-elect. He will assume the presidency at the October, 1982, meeting in Raleigh.

Thomas Edison and his staff at Menlo Park invented something new every ten days.

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