

Duplin Times

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Pictured above, a harvester creeps through a tobacco field near Warsaw, leaving one more cropping behind.

Kenansville Expo At Kenan Memorial Looks At Drainage

Displays and demonstrations of equipment for drainage, water runoff control, soil conservation and channel maintenance will be featured during the first Coastal Expo & Field Day Sept. 13 in and around Kenansville.

The event will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Equipment and demonstrations should be of use to urban and rural officials, home builders, homeowners, farmers and anyone else involved with control of land or water, J. Marcus Lynch said Thursday. Lynch is soil and water representative of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, stationed at the NRCD offices in the former Babies Hospital at Wrightsville Beach.

The NRCD is helping to arrange the event. The N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the N.C. Chapter of the Land Improvement Contractors of America are sponsoring it. Others assisting are the Kenansville Chamber of Commerce, Duplin County SCS, extension service and the Kenansville Jaycees.

Lynch said engineers and officials of jurisdictions such as New Hanover County that are grappling with increasing erosion and drainage problems should be able to obtain information and ideas from the displays and from specialists in various fields.

Lynch said 50 exhibits and 15 demonstrations had been signed up for the event by Thursday afternoon.

"The event's being set up for all of North Carolina east of Raleigh, not just for one county," Lynch said.

As development sweeps eastern North Carolina, the beaches, wetlands, swamps, streams, forests and farmland are facing greater stress than ever.

In crowded areas, drainage has become a severe problem. Pollution has become a major problem of the low, poorly drained coastal region.

Streams clogged by centuries of debris from agriculture, forestry and storms force their branches to back up, flooding much usable land during rainy periods.

New farming techniques and modern technology to keep soil in place, both on farms and in developed areas, will be displayed, Lynch said.

The exhibits will be in and around Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville.

Some of the conservation demonstrations will be conducted on the Fernie L. Boyette farm north of Kenansville. Boyette received national recognition early this year for an outstanding soil conservation program to rebuild an eroded farm.

Other demonstrations will be conducted in the Limestone and Muddy Creek watershed projects, now under construction in eastern Duplin County.

Tobacco Harvest Delayed This Season

Local tobacco farmers are about two weeks behind in harvesting this year's crop of the golden leaf. While lagging behind in the field, tobacco at the warehouse has been bringing prices which have pleased area growers.

Corn Yields Expected To Be Down

Comparing last season with the corn crop this year are two totally different extremes. Corn yields this season are expected to drop 10 bushels per acre, according to the Duplin County Agricultural Extension Service.

Duplin farmers averaged 85 bushels of corn per acre last season and J. Michael Moore of the county agricultural extension service said averages are expected to drop to 75 bushels per acre this year.

"The reasons for the drop include the PIK (Payment in Kind) program," J. Michael Moore, Duplin agricultural extension service agent, said. "With the PIK program, a lot of the marginal land was left out. Just the best land was planted and farmers had a good growing season which produced a high yield."

"This year the farmers planting

earlier were caught in a bad weather situation," Moore said. "The corn crop was hit by a month of severe heat in June which was followed by rain in July. The continued rain in July ran down the shucks and caused rotting just as the ears of corn had filled out."

"Farmers have also been faced with problems from the corn ear worm destroying the crop," Moore said.

Even with the expectation of a reduced yield, Moore said farmers should continue to watch weather conditions until their corn is harvested. Potential tropical storms, common this time of the year, can also reduce corn yield by blowing down the crop in the field.

"Harvesting early is encouraged to prevent loss of yield," Moore said. "Men with their own drying system are encouraged to harvest

their corn crop at about 21 percent moisture.

"Men without a dryer system may find it helpful to negotiate a marketing contract prior to harvest," Moore said. "Contracting ahead for a fair price allows the farmer to leave the grain in the field longer to dry without the threat of a low market price for a late harvest."

Regardless of harvest time, Moore encourages all farmers to disk their fields immediately after picking in order to reduce next year's weed population. Soil samples should also be taken soon after harvest while yield and production information is still fresh on the farmer's mind, he pointed out.

For a third season with the county, the Duplin County AES and the state extension service in conjunction with the N.C. Corn Growers Association are sponsoring a corn contest. To enter at the local level, Moore said farmers should phone the Duplin Agricultural Extension Service in Kenansville. Winners on the county

level participate in statewide competition. Local winners are furnished plaques.

"To enter, farmers should call the extension office at least 24 hours ahead of the day they plan to harvest," Moore said. "I will come to the field and help measure at least one acre. I watch it being harvested and dumped into an empty truck. We then take the truck to the mill and verify dry weight."

Last season the contest was won by Jerry Jackson of Calypso with 175.89 bushels and second place, Raburn Houston of Potters Hill with 173 bushels. Entries doubled last year over the first contest year, Moore said. Last year 22 entries were made in the county corn contest.

To enter this season's corn contest, phone Duplin AES at 296-1996. Entries must be marked by Nov. 15 and winners are announced each year at the annual Duplin Corn Production meeting held in January, Moore said.

Farmers To Report Rental Payments

Duplin County farmers are reminded that they are supposed to report certain rental payments to the Internal Revenue Service. J. Michael Moore, Duplin County associate agricultural extension agent, said payments of more than \$600 should be reported to the IRS on Form 1099-MISC.

Money paid for the rent of tobacco quota is an example of the payment which should be reported. Other reportable payments might be for such things as land rental, contract labor and custom harvesting.

Moore said the reporting requirement is not new. "What is new is a 1982 law that puts teeth into the requirement. Penalties for failing to provide such information have been increased substantially," Moore added.

Along with reporting the amount paid, the payer is supposed to provide IRS with the name of the person receiving the money and his or her tax identification number.

Farmers having questions about this requirement can call IRS toll free at 1-800-424-1040 for further information.

Duplin School Enrollment Down

Duplin County schools enrolled 7,794 students Monday of last week, the first day of the 1983-84 school year, said Alice Scott, assistant superintendent in charge of personnel.

This was about 200 fewer than on the first day last year, she said Tuesday. "It appears that the greater discrepancy would be in grades seven to 12," she said. She attributed this to a rush in farm work, particularly in tobacco.

The average daily attendance last

year was 8,377 students. She said about 500 students enrolled during the first 20 school days last year.

The key day is the 10th day of classes, Sept. 10 this year. Dr. Scott said the state computes financial aid, including the state-paid teacher allocation, on the enrollment on the 10th day.

First-day enrollment by grades was: kindergarten, 566; first, 649; second, 642; third, 587; fourth, 583; fifth, 614; sixth, 619; seventh, 643; eighth, 681; ninth, 556; 10th, 496; 11th, 514; and 12th, 462.

Fall Convocation At MOC

Over 400 students, faculty members and guests listened as Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of Mount Olive College, officially opened the 1984-85 academic year during the fall convocation Thursday.

The college is beginning a history of firsts with the enrollment of the first junior class and the development of the first four-year program.

In his address, Dr. Raper said, "Today Mount Olive College made history and you are part of that history." He welcomed the students telling them they were on the threshold of a really great experience.

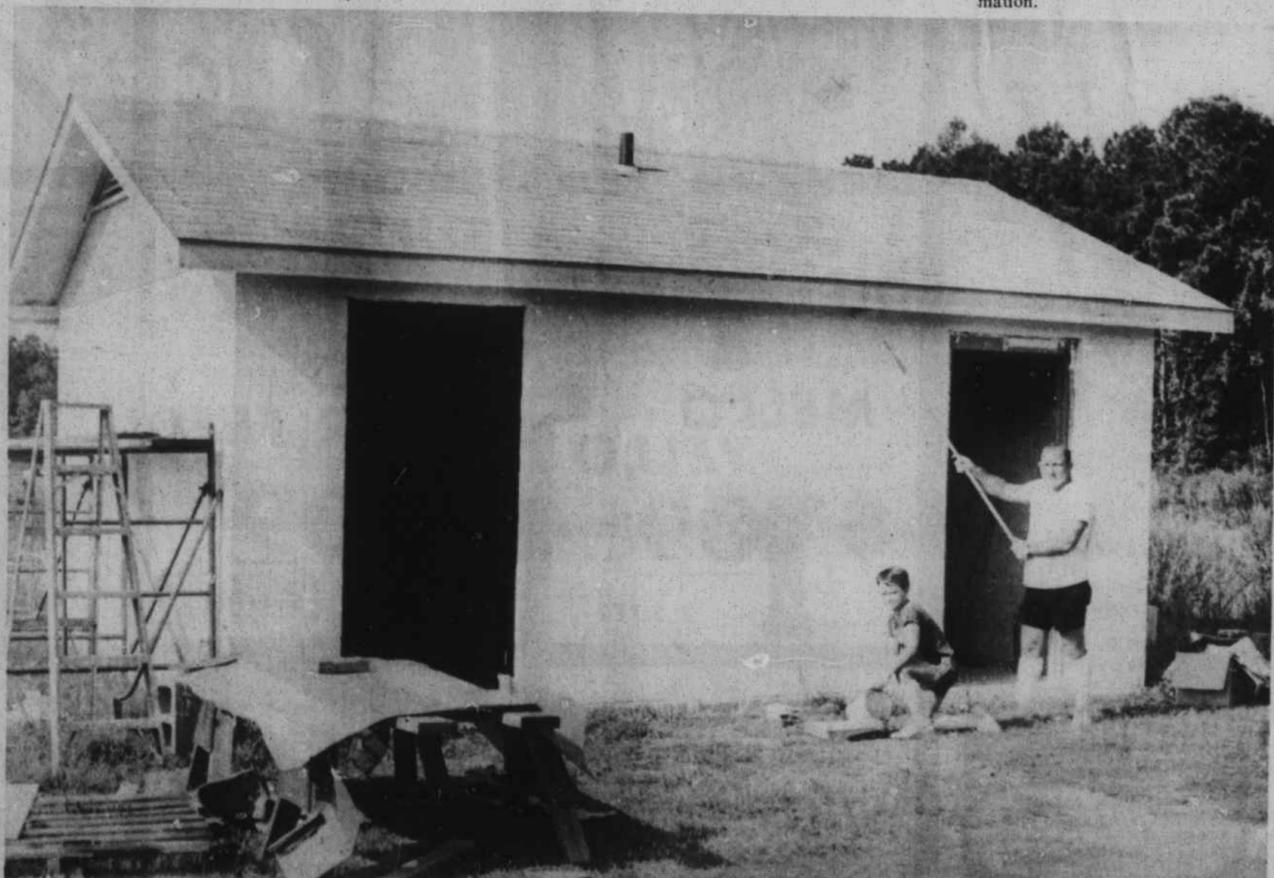
Dr. Raper noted that becoming a four-year college meant certain things — higher standards of

scholarship, stronger emphasis in making the campus characterized by the academic life and asking the administration and faculty to be models of the qualities and graces of education.

"Whatever you do in life," Dr. Raper said, "do for God. That way, whatever you do will last."

The Rev. Frank Harrison, chaplain, presided at the convocation which was held in College Hall for the first time.

Dr. Opey D. Jeanes, vice president and dean, offered the scripture reading, Carolyn Knox, professor of music, was the pianist and Frankie Whaley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lemmie F. Whaley of Kenansville, sang "I Praise Thee, O Lord."



Restroom Facility To Open On James Kenan Athletic Field

James Kenan High School football fans will benefit this season from the newly-constructed restroom facility at the athletic park. According to JK Athletic Director Billy Byrd, the facility will be finished and opened for the first football game at the high school this Friday night. The facility received most of its financing from the JK Boosters Club and was constructed by the Kenansville Correctional Center building trades class under the instruction of Dennis Pope, an instructor for James Sprunt Technical College. Byrd pointed out the restroom facility is just a part of the new athletic park planned for James Kenan. Last spring the new baseball field was in use and a new

football field will be part of the athletic complex at the high school. James Kenan will face the Dark Horses of Clinton Friday night at home. The game was scheduled to be played in Clinton, but a delay in completing the field rescheduled the location to James Kenan. According to Byrd, the game will be a home game for Clinton and only James Kenan Booster Club memberships will be honored for admission. Seating will remain as usual with James Kenan fans occupying the home side. Gate admission had been undetermined at the DUPLIN TIMES press time. Pictured above, Coach Billy Byrd and son Pat work Monday to help complete the restroom facility at James Kenan.