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Tobacco Farms Facing Loss Of Price Support Program

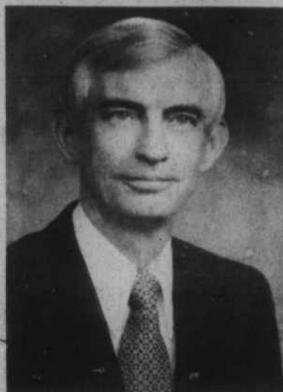
"I don't believe I have ever seen the tobacco program as threatened as it is now."

Rep. Charles Whitley warned Duplin County Municipal Association members that the tobacco economy and the federal price support program are in the greatest danger they have ever seen.

Whitley spoke at the November meeting of the Association Thursday night in Rose Hill.

The association elected Arnold Duncan, Wallace town commissioner, to succeed Mayor Ruth Quinn of Magnolia as president, and Mayor Alex Brown of Greenevers as vice-president to succeed Duncan.

Whitley, who is a member of the House subcommittee on tobacco and peanuts, said, "I don't believe I have ever seen the tobacco program as



Rep. Charles Whitley

threatened as it is now, politically and economically. If we leave it alone it will eat itself up."

Whitley expects a cut in production allotments and quotas and an increase in the no-net-cost assessments on tobacco sold. The assessments create funds that are supposed to meet costs of operating the surplus tobacco program.

Whitley also expects cuts in programs such as business and industrial loans, aid to water, sewer and rural fire units and urban development grants from the new Congress. These programs all help Duplin County, he noted.

He believes revenue sharing will survive.

Whitley fears the makeup of the new Congress will be less favorable. There is a strong anti-tobacco feeling in the country, he warned.

Turkeys Lead Poultry's Passage Up Money List

Poultry, represented by the teeming flocks of turkeys in Duplin and Sampson counties, soon could replace fire-cured tobacco as North Carolina's top cash crop, officials say.

Although tobacco has been defended and supported by state political and agricultural leaders, its place in the farm economy is increasingly precarious.

Agriculture experts say the shift shows that diversification in the North Carolina agricultural economy is helping blunt the economic blows that have been thrown at the tobacco industry in recent years.

That diversification, however, is not uniform. Poultry growing, for example, is concentrated in Duplin, Sampson and Pender counties in the eastern half of the state, and in Union and Cleveland in the west.

Turkey and chicken production has made little impression on the economy of other parts of the southeastern tobacco-growing region, such as Bladen and Columbus counties.

Duplin County is also a center for poultry processing, with a Swift & Co. turkey plant near Wallace employing about 400 people and a new

plant planned as a joint venture by Carroll's Foods Inc. of Warsaw and Goldsboro Milling Co. of Goldsboro.

A major Duplin County poultry firm, Nash Johnson & Sons Farms of Rose Hill, owns House of Raeford, a processing plant in Hoke County.

Last year tobacco accounted for \$1.02 billion, or about 27 percent of the state's total agricultural cash receipts of \$3.784 billion. The poultry industry — including turkeys, chickens and egg producers — came in second with \$912 million, or about 24 percent of the total.

In 1985, poultry is expected to account for about \$950 million, while tobacco may be less than this year's total, officials say.

North Carolina leads the nation in turkey production. Duplin County produces more turkeys than any other county in the United States.

Modern poultry production has little in common with the image of the traditional farm.

Chickens and turkeys are typically "grown out" by independent growers under contract with large producers who provide the young birds, feed and medicine.

While much of the area's production takes place in poultry houses,

many turkeys are still grown on open-air ranges.

In the post-World War II period, such commodities as livestock, soybeans and corn became more important to the North Carolina economy while traditional crops such as peanuts and cotton declined.

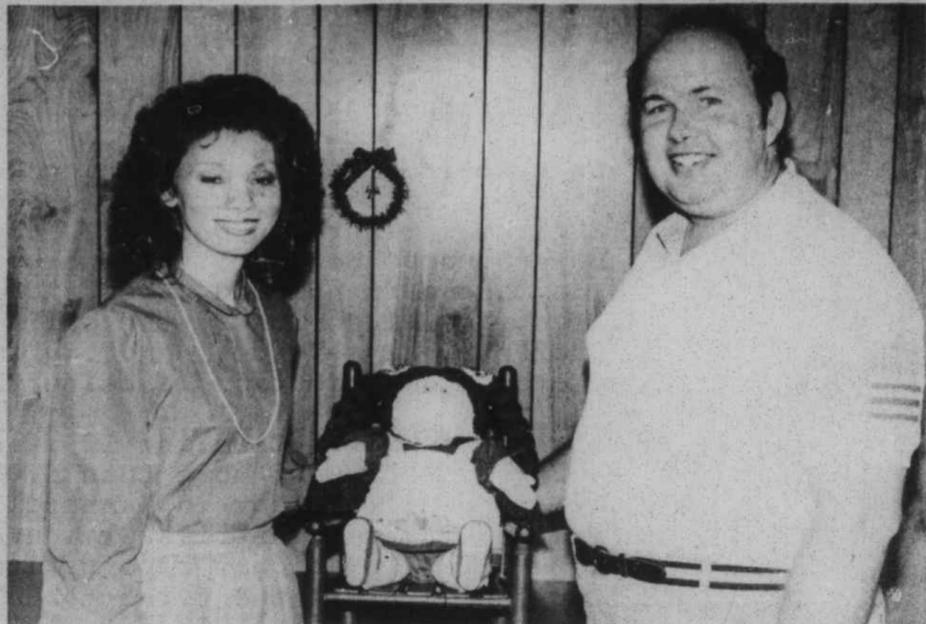
J.E. Legates, dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University, said commodities other than tobacco became increasingly important because tobacco can be grown only by farmers who own or lease government allotments.

"Our poultry industry and other commodities have allowed us to expand our income because they are not a controlled commodity," he said.

Legates also said the livestock industry became a bigger force in state agriculture because the state has been growing more corn and soybeans, which are used as feed.

Tobacco accounted for almost half the \$922 million in farm cash receipts 30 years ago, while poultry brought in slightly less than 11 percent.

In the 1930s, tobacco was a full 75 percent of the state's farm income.



Doll Kicks Off Christmas Fund-Raising

Duplin Social Service employees held a bake sale and doll give-away to raise money for foster children and adults during Christmas. The money from the bake sale and doll give-away will be used to buy Christmas gifts and clothing for children and adults in the Duplin foster care system. The effort by the employees of Social Services only compliments annual programs of the department which works with area civic groups and private individuals to collect toys and clothing for the foster individuals. Public citizens or groups wishing to

donate good used or new toys should contact Duplin Social Services Chore and Transportation Worker Johnny Pickett. Donations of clothing or food should be made through contact with Jackie Pickett, Duplin social services home economics worker. The coordination of gifts is made through Duplin Social Services Foster Care Worker Joyce Wallace. Pictured above with the doll given away in the November 21 fund-raiser are Joyce Wallace and Johnny Pickett.

Duplin Seeks Permission To Clean Grove Creek Channel

Duplin County officials will ask the Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to clean the channel of Grove Creek near Kenansville to improve drainage in and near the town.

The Kenansville Board of Commissioners has repeatedly asked the county board to take this action.

About 3½ years ago a request was made for the permit. A study was called for. Nathan Whaley, county landfill and heavy equipment supervisor, urged the board last week to make another request for a permit saying the project had been studied long enough.

The board also gave Walter Brown, director of services to the aging, permission to apply for a \$24,600 one-year grant to hire a coordinator and clerk for transportation. The county would have to provide 10 percent matching funds, \$2,460.

Different county departments operate buses independently. Brown

said a coordinator will reduce overlapping of routes and excess mileage.

Board members agreed that if a coordinator can't show a saving sufficient to pay his salary, the job should be eliminated after a year.

In other action, the board decided to study the request of Thomas Rabon for county garbage pick-up service at an apartment complex he owns in Kenansville and one he is building in Warsaw. He said he wants to install dumpsters in the complexes to replace garbage cans he now furnished for each apartment.

He said the individual cans create a messy situation. The county empties dumpsters in its garbage trucks on rural routes.

Commissioner D.J. Fussell commented, "We'd like to have your business but it would be opening up a new can of worms. If we open up to you we'll have to open up to others."

Whaley said garbage pick-up crews are operating six days a week and have all they can do. Any more garbage would require the county to buy another truck and hire another employee at an estimated initial cost of about \$100,000.

The board also agreed to a request by Gerald Quinn to ask the state to close a portion of Secondary Road 1902, a dirt road next to the Quinn Co. south of Warsaw. In return, Quinn said, the company would pave a connecting road between S.R. 1902 and U.S. 117 a short distance from the road's present location.

The company wants to build a warehouse across the proposed closed portion of the road. Voting for the request were Commissioners Fussell, Calvin Turner, Dovey Penney and Allen Nethercutt. Commissioner W.J. Costin voted against the action, saying a hearing should be held.

Recognized For Service In Education

Jimmy Strickland, known as the Dean of Board Members of Duplin County, was recognized for his boardmanship and service to the children of Duplin County at the 15th annual conference of the North Carolina School Boards Association at its meeting held in Greensboro on Nov. 8-10. Strickland has served as a member of the Duplin County Board of Education for more than a quarter of a century.

"Strickland has been a positive voice for public education in Duplin County and has worked closely with school personnel to improve the schools of our county," L.S. Guy Jr.,

superintendent, stated. "Jimmy has made a lasting contribution to the youth of our community. He has given of himself so that our children would have a strong educational base from which they could develop as good productive citizens of the county, our state and our nation. We appreciate all that he does in the interest of the children of Duplin County. The investment he has made in the schools will live long beyond the lifespan of an individual. Jimmy represents the leadership caliber of the Duplin County Board of Education," Guy added.



James F. Strickland

Strickland was selected to represent Region 2 on the All-State Board of Education. Region 2 includes 13 counties.

Health Service Has Been Popular

Since it was organized in September, Duplin County Home Care Inc. has served 151 clients.

Lynn S. Hardy, executive director of the non-profit organization, recently delivered a report on the program to the county Board of Commissioners. Among its patients are 39 people who transferred from the Health Department when the new service opened.

Duplin County Home Care Inc. is a

non-profit organization with a board of directors composed of county officials, physicians, pharmacists and others, all from Duplin County.

The service provides care of clients in their homes rather than placing them in hospitals or other institutions. It allows patients shorter hospital stays.

It provides homebound patients with intermittent or part-time care. Visits are made to patients between

8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A nurse in on call 24 hours a day to provide services required at other times. Services are available to anyone within a 50-mile radius of Kenansville.

Patients are admitted to the program at the request of their physicians.

The full-time staff includes two registered nurses, a secretary and two home health aides. Physical, occupational and speech therapists and a medical social worker also provide services by contract with the agency, she said.

"I can't say enough about this place. I don't care what time it is you call, and they'll be right out," said Allen Nethercutt, whose mother is homebound. Nethercutt is chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Hardy said no one is refused needed services due to inability to pay. Private and government insurance programs provide payments for most patients. Services can be purchased on a fee basis.

The office is located in Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville.

Whitley Mobile Office Schedule

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

The mobile office will be at Chinquapin from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Post Office; at Rose Hill from 11-12 noon at the Post Office, and in Warsaw from 1-2 p.m. at the Post Office.

The above schedule is subject to weather conditions affecting travel.

Two Voting Precincts Rearranged In Duplin

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners last week shuffled two voting precincts to equalize the population of three of the county's five voting districts.

Before the shuffling, a 24.8 percent variation existed between the populations of the smallest and largest districts. The shuffling reduced the spread to 8.2 percent.

The county has a population of 40,950 and ideally, each of the five districts should have 8,190 people. The board made the district changes to bring the county more in line with the one-person-one vote principle.

Hallsville Precinct, with a population of 1,286, was re-assigned from District 3 to District 1. The precinct is part of Limestone Township.

Locklin Precinct, with 729 people, was moved from District 4 to District 3. The precinct is in Island Creek Township.

District 3 covers the rest of Limestone Township, with 4,108 people, Cypress Creek with 2,901 and Locklin for a total of 7,738 people.

Before the juggling, District 3 included all of Limestone's 5,394 people and Cypress Creek's 2,901 for a total of 8,295. It was 113 percent higher than the ideal. It now is 5.5 percent less than the ideal figure. The district is represented by Commissioner Allen Nethercutt and school board member Carl Pate.

District 2 sprawls across northern and much of eastern Duplin County. It now has 8,352 people with the addition of Hallsville Precinct's 1,286 people.

Other precincts in District 2 are part of Faison Township with 1,234 people, Wolfscrape Township and precinct with 1,624, Albertson with

1,351, Glisson with 1,108 and Smith Township's Smith and Cabin precincts with 1,749 people.

Before the addition of Hallsville, District 2 had 7,066 people, 13.7 percent less than ideal. It now is 2 percent more than the ideal. Representing the district on the board are Commissioner Calvin Coolidge Turner and school board member Joe Swinson.

District 4 now has 8,342 people, 1.9 percent more than the ideal. It covers Rockfish Township and precinct with 1,290 people and the Wallace and Charity precincts of Island Creek Township with 7,052 people. Before the shuffle the district had 9,071 people, 10.8 percent over the ideal.

Commissioner Dovey Penney and

school board member Bill Richards represent District 4.

Unchanged were: District 1, which has 2,368 people in southern Faison Township, including the Faison precinct, and 5,783 in Warsaw Township. Its 8,151 total population places the district 0.05 percent less than the ideal number. It is represented by Commissioner W.J. Costin and school board member James Strickland.

District 5, which is made up of Kenansville with 3,779, Rose Hill with 2,846 and Magnolia with 1,744 people for a total of 8,369, is 2.2 percent more than the ideal. The district's commissioner is D.J. Fussell. Starting next month, it will be represented on the school board by Amos Q. (Doc) Brinson.

Congratulations!



James Kenan Eastern

Division II

Class 2-A Champions