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## NC Oil Jobbers President Lists Fuel Regulations

Homeowners and other oil heat consumers are being urged by the North Carolina Oil Jobbers Association not to call their local oil dealers if and when such customers are served on an "automatic keep-fill" basis. President of the Association, Richard Pugh of Asheboro, in making an announcement in respect to the new mandatory fuel allocation regulations, stated, "Homeowners will still be served on an automatic basis and will be filled up once after the first of the year on regular

pattern--and subsequently a second delivery will be made when their usage calls for such deliveries. Oil dealers will notify and warn those customers at the second delivery after the first of the year when the usage appears to be running in excess of the required temperature setback--but the oil dealers should not be worried or called by homeowners served on the automatic plan--most of them are forced to charge a special trip rate for deliveries that are unnecessary."

In commenting on the fuel situation, Pugh added, "There have been reports and rumors that tanks are overflowing--and tankers are lined up to unload at the Wilmington Port. Because of the unseasonably warm weather thus far this winter, many of the terminals and bulk plants do have more than usual amount of heating oils on hand--but these supplies must be held for customers' use in the worst months of winter ahead," Pugh stated, "The fact that inventories are high now doesn't mean a thing if the weather certainly takes a severe turn--in fact, when we have had 20% warmer weather this winter, that means millions of gallons that have not been consumed--but in the long run, the winters usually average out and this product must be available when needed."

Pugh concluded by urging all heating oil users without a supplier to contact their local coordinator under the Federal Energy Allocation Program--generally this person is a civil defense or civil preparedness representative who can handle local problems and find suppliers for those without fuel. He added that there are certain procedures that need to be followed in hardship cases--and most oil dealers should not be called because they cannot take on customers until the local coordinator has secured allocation through the proper channels--mainly the state's new reserve system under the mandatory plan.



Hi - 58°  
Lo - 18°

## Yancey, Mitchell Draw Abreast

Local 1% Sales and Use Tax collections by county for November, 1973 were issued recently by J. Howard Coble, Secretary, State Department of Revenue in Raleigh. The report shows Yancey County collections amounted to \$17,387.85. This compares to the collection amount reported for Mitchell County of \$17,891.68, and exceeds by wide margin the amount of \$12,626.34 collected by Madison.

The report is issued monthly from the State Department of Revenue.



## Jaycees Host Christmas Party

Yancey County Jaycees hosted a gala Christmas Party for inmates at the Yancey County Correctional Unit near Burnsville. "Robert Harrison and the Western Strings," a well-known band from South Toe, provided music for the occasion. Charlie Hensley, master of ceremonies,

told jokes, and soft drinks and cookies were served for refreshments. More than a dozen Jaycees were present at the party, and they distributed a small amount of "pin money" to the men from the State. The event was termed a rewarding experience for all concerned.



## Farmers Home Administration Director Announces Allocation Of Rural Development Funds For 1974

James T. Johnson, State Director, Farmers Home Administration, announced today that the allocation of rural development funds for North Carolina for fiscal year 1974 will amount to \$152,565,000.

The Farmers Home Administration serves farmers with farm ownership, operating and emergency credit; rural residents and towns of up to 10,000 population with housing and community facility loans. In towns below 50,000 or open country, loans are available to develop business and industry.

The current allocation for FHA's farmer programs in North Carolina is \$24,500,000. An apportionment of \$100,000 was made for farm emergency loans, with the proviso that "emergency loans in amounts necessary to meet the needs resulting from natural disasters" would be provided.

Under the community service

program, an allocation of \$20,490,000 has been made for water and waste, community facilities, and industrial development grants.

The business and industrial loan program has an allotment of \$9,125,000. Preapplications are now being received for this new loan program.

The allocation for rural housing is \$98,350,000 for purchase, renovation, construction and rental.

A recent change in the rural housing program will enable the Farmers Home Administration to assist a greater number of rural residents across North Carolina, according to State Director Johnson. The change in the eligibility requirements raises the maximum adjusted family income from \$9,300 to \$9,600.

Although final allocation has just been completed, the fiscal year started with July 1, 1973, so loans have been made against these now-official totals, Johnson said.

## New Postal Rates Threaten Magazines, Newspapers Say Reader's Digest Editors

The Reader's Digest, in a rare "message from the editors," warns this week that "a large number of magazines" will be forced to stop publishing if projected increases in second-class postal rates are allowed to take effect as presently scheduled. In the lead article in its January issue, the Digest characterizes the increases as "the most

serious financial threat in the magazine industry's history."

The rates, which apply also to newspapers, are already 50 percent higher than they were three years ago. Yet last September 25, the U.S. Postal Service announced its intention to more than double second-class rates over the next three years. Moreover, some obser-

vers of postal affairs think the rates may actually triple.

Individually these increases may seem relatively small, amounting to just a few cents per copy. But cumulatively they mean many millions of dollars of added expense, which newspapers and magazines sim-

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## New Farm Year Promises High Costs, High Prices

By Woody Upchurch

The new farm year probably will be a good one for the farmer--compared to any year except 1973. The record shattering net income of the season just completed isn't likely to be repeated in 1974.

This seems to be the consensus of the experts at a time when the difficult task of predicting agriculture is even more difficult than usual.

In many ways it's a new ball game. There is a new government program with its "target" prices and strong appeal for expanded production; there is a delicate balance of commodities worldwide; there is a serious shortage of such basics as fuel and fertilizer, and there are increased costs almost at every turn now.

These are just some of the factors that promise to make 1974 an "interesting" year for agriculture and the farmer.

Whatever happens in 1974 farmers will be hard pressed to match the income they received last year. Realized net farm income probably reached \$25 billion, up over \$5 billion from the previous record set only the year before.

North Carolina State University economists point out that this "phenomenal" increase in farm income was a result of the continuing strong domestic demand for livestock production and an exceptionally strong foreign demand for crops.

Higher prices for all commodities and increased production of most major crops contributed to the strong agricultural picture in North Carolina. Production of flue-cured tobacco was up 18 percent, corn 5 percent, soybeans 27 percent, cotton 30 percent and peanuts 22 percent.

Looking into the new year, the NCSU economists point out that markets for important commodities are in a delicate balance. Prices are likely to move up and down during the first half of the year, but they should remain strong for commodities produced in 1973 and carried over for sale.

Farmers' response to the new farm program will be a critical factor influencing prices in the second half of the year. If they respond as anticipated and weather conditions are favorable, grain and soybean prices next fall will be lower than last fall but well above the average of the late 1960's.

Increased feed supplies at lower prices will encourage expansion of livestock in the second half of 1974, the NCSU economists suggest.

The story on costs is the same as it has been for years--they'll be higher. Taxes and farm wage rates will continue to rise also.

## '74 License Now On Sale

The application cards for obtaining 1974 license plates were placed in the mail on December 3, December 14 and December 20. Department of Motor Vehicles officials expect this huge mailing, estimated at more than 3,700,000 cards to be delivered by January 1.

The 1974 Green and White plates will go on sale throughout the State on January 2. Owners who have their vehicles properly registered by the Department have through February 15 to obtain new plates.

Surrounding area residents may obtain plates at Yancey Merchants Association Office located on the town square. Hours are 9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 9:00 to 12:00 on Wednesday and Saturday.

Local license agent Grace Banis points out that "to renew a plate you must have a renewal card" and cautions against losing or misplacing it when it is received. Please read all instructions and complete the application according to instructions before presenting it for a new plate.

Anyone failing to receive an application card may possibly find it at the local license office, but Mrs. Banis emphasizes that it will take from ten days to two weeks to get application cards from Raleigh so those who have not received theirs should apply to her office as early as possible so that there will be time to get one out of Raleigh.