

Jones Farmers Slow In Signing Soil Bank Agreements

Lenoir County ASC Officer Manager Horace Mewborn says the soil bank business is better than anticipated in his county but Nelson Barker, who holds down the same spot in Jones County, says that up until Tuesday the number of contracts signed in his county has been very small.

Barker reports only 42 agreements entering the three basic crops from Jones County in the soil bank. These include 13 for tobacco with a total of 37.2 acres; 23 corn contracts including 269 acres and six cotton contracts including just 13.1 acres.

Payments contracted for include \$16,462 for tobacco, \$6,903.23 for corn and \$677 for cotton. These included all crops entered by Jones County farmers in the soil bank through Tuesday of this week.

Barker blames the lowered amount of tobacco that can be put into the soil bank and the sharply reduced corn acreage for the drop in interest by Jones County farmers in the soil bank.

As the close of ASC business on Monday — after only two full days of soil bank application-taking — Mewborn's summary sheet shows that 13.7 per cent of the soil bank funds allocated to Lenoir County have been tentatively allocated under the 182 contracts signed.

Corn acreage led the list in Lenoir County with 83 agreements which reduce corn plantings by 1,184.5 acres and represent total cash commitments from the soil bank of \$36,833.60.

Tobacco contracts rank third in acreage — with 91.89 acres from 24 agreements — but the nicotine weed ranks second dollar-wise with overall cash commitments of \$6,903.23 in this category.

Cotton contracts by 55 agreements represent cash promises of \$1,254.80.

Although cotton is far behind corn and tobacco in the dollar lists a far larger percentage of the total Lenoir County cotton allocation has been used up in this first two days than for the other two basic crops. The total county fund for cotton is \$37,260, indicating that cotton farmers have already used up over 30 per cent of the money available for cotton in Lenoir County.

Corn agreements amount to just over 22 per cent of the total money set up for Lenoir County.

Tobacco having \$330,225 allocated in Lenoir County has a long way to go before the county's total is used up, since only 7.2 per cent of the tobacco money was used up in the first two-day rush period.

The impact upon the overall Lenoir County farm economy by the 182 soil bank agreements written in these first two days is slight — very slight.

This is clearly reflected by setting the soil bank acreages by the overall county allocations of these three basic crops. Tobacco allocation, 13,800 acres — signed up 91.89 acres; corn allocation 37,000 acres allotted, only 1,184.5 acres signed up and cotton 2,700 acres allotted and just 199.5 put into the soil bank in these first two days.

Mewborn points out that many of the farmers included in these 182 contracts put more than one crop into the bank. He estimates that about 125 farms are represented in these 182 contracts.

He also reminds that these same 182 contracts also have more of the same crops they would like to put into the bank if funds permit at a later date. At present a farmer may not put more than one crop in the bank under the following maximums are 20 acres for corn, 10 acres

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Soil Bank Meeting

Friday night, February 6th, at 7:30 p. m. in co-operation with the Jones County Farm Bureau, at their regular monthly meeting, there will be a special discussion of the different phases of the Soil Bank program for all farmers and businessmen in Jones County. This discussion will point out the various methods of participating in both the Soil Bank acreage reserve and the Soil Bank conservation reserve. All farmers who think that they might be interested in the Soil Bank program are especially invited to attend this meeting.

Annulment Sought By Thelma Bell

A civil action has been filed in Jones County Superior Court by Thelma Grey Bell, asking annulment of her March 23, 1954 marriage to Linwood Franklin Coombs of Durham.

The action alleges that the marriage took place while Coombs was still married to another woman, Miss Bell is asking custody of a son which was born to the allegedly illegal marriage.

Tax Listing Extended

The Jones County Board of Commissioners, as for many years in the past, Monday extended the tax listing time for another 15 days until February 15th. Under the law January is set up as the month for listing of taxes and unless an extension is granted by the commissioners all those who list after the end of January must pay a penalty for late listing.

for corn or three acres for tobacco.

After the deadlines for signing up have passed (March 1 for cotton and tobacco and March 8 for corn) and if there remain unused soil bank funds for either of these crops these further requests beyond these maximums may be processed. These requests include \$9,017.79 for tobacco, \$5,580.40 for corn and \$1,254.80 for cotton.

In Lenoir County the following schedule of payments is being used: Tobacco \$212 per acre minimum, \$292 per acre maximum; cotton \$41 per acre minimum and \$70 per acre maximum; corn \$16 per acre minimum and \$43 per acre maximum. Payments to individual farms are based on the production histories of each farm.

Mewborn also alerted the penalties that may result from failure to comply with various regulations included in the soil bank contract. Naturally, any failure to take the land out of production results in cancellation of the soil bank payment. Further, if a farmer has put corn into the soil bank and harvest more than his cotton or tobacco allocation he may be penalized from one to 50 per cent of his soil bank payment. In short, violation of acreage allocations on any crop, if detected, will result in sharply reduced soil bank payments. The payments for soil bank contracts will probably be made in September, after compliance is checked.

Kinston Firm Bids Low on Ag Building Expansion in Jones

Fred Gardner, general contractor of Kinston, was low bidder among four Kinston contractors who tendered bids Monday on the 24 by 78 foot addition planned for the Jones County Agriculture building in Trenton.

Gardner's bid was \$14,493. Other bids included those of Kirby Hawkins at \$16,200, O. L. Shackelford Co. at \$16,740 and from J. H. Evans and Sons at \$16,360.

There were some discrepancies in just exactly what some of the contractors were bidding upon so Architect John Rowland was asked to take the bids under consideration and make a later recommendation to the Jones County Board of Commissioners as to which to accept, or whether a re-advertisement for bids will be necessary.

March of Dimes is Lagging in Jones

Sheriff Brown Yates says Jones County is lagging badly in their giving this year to the March of Dimes. With a county quota of \$10,000, only \$2,000 has been realized so far, Yates reports.

Folks in Jones County ought to remember that the fight to put polio out of business is not yet

Jones Jury List is Drawn for Next Court

The following Jones Countians were selected Monday for jury duty at the March term of Jones County's Superior Court:

Elma Collins, O. C. Thomas, Elbert Andrews, R. T. Fordham, George Jahn, Charles Brown, A. R. McDaniel, L. D. Howard, W. H. Duval, Theron B. Humphrey, J. L. Conway, Felix Andrews, L. T. Mallard, Jack Whaley.

Dewey Jenkins, C. S. Hargett, H. B. Johnson, William Moore Jr. Ralph Jenkins, R. F. Huggins, Joe Killingsworth, Dave Collins, G. O. Ward, J. R. Westbrook, Earl C. Meadows, W. W. Shivar.

Alva B. Howard, Jim Jarman, C. A. Loftin, Dan Oxley, C. N. Mallard, David Civils, Taft King, Dan Gooding, Solomon Jarman and Wayne Mallard.

ended, and in addition to that there are several thousand polio sufferers still under treatment in hospitals all across the nation and this treatment is being paid for by the March of Dimes, the Sheriff reminded.

Those who have not yet made their donation and would like to help the county reach its quota are urged to mail their check to Sheriff Yates, or call him and he'll come by and pick it up.

Work to Start Soon On Maysville-Bogue Highway, Official Says

Work certainly should begin in February unless the weather is impossible, an official of Barrus Construction Company said this week, commenting on the Maysville-Bogue Highway contracts which were let in January.

The Kinston contractor was awarded the grading and paving parts of this major revision of a roadway that will ultimately be a major link between Kinston and the ocean area between Swansboro and Morehead City.

Considerable re-routing of the highway, eliminating many of the sharp turns and shortening the trip from Maysville to Bogue by almost five miles will result from this work.

Because of the difficulty of the terrain and the uncertainty of the weather, the Barrus Company official expressed the view that it would be 1958 before this highway begins carrying through traffic.

Hunters Out, Stills In

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates said Tuesday that with the end of hunting season the hunters, naturally, were moving out of the woods of Jones County and the whisky stills are moving back in, of course, with a little help. Jones County is such a rich area for the hunter that a very large part of it is thoroughly hunted over, hence, the moonshiners tuck their stills away during hunting season, and drag them out when the deer, bear, rabbit, squirrel and bird shooting season ends. Sheriff Yates reminds, however, that there is still at least one hunter in the woods — himself, and he's hunting stills.

'Deacon Daniel', Coon Chasing Society Dean

This is Deacon Daniel Daughety — a Sand Hill Daughety of whom there is no more doughety Daughety than.

Among other things "Deacon Daniel" is the dean of the Coon Hunting Fraternity of his native heath, Lenoir County's Sand Hill Township.

Young men hunt coons, "Deacon Dan", points out, to catch up with their sleep, but after a fellow passes seventy if he hunts coons it's just because he loves coon hunting. "Deacon Dan" is 76.

Although he cannot match step for step with his young coon-hunting companions, Fletcher and Calvin White, he can much more than keep up with them — word for word — with coon-hunting yarns, that are everyone's the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

"Deacon Dan" doesn't make every hunt this year and stays behind to watch store for Fletcher, whose emporium is just behind Oak Bridge on the Fort Barnwell Highway. But he is still "Master of the Hunt" . . .

And this year hunting has been mighty good.

Through last Friday 91 coon hides had been hung out to dry by this Sand Hill trio, and their goal for the season is 100. Calvin, the most ambitious, of the trio says, "When we get nine more I'm quitting for the year . . .

Three hunts this year — the most successful of many — yielded a total of 17 striped-tails. Six on two of the hunts and five on the third.

"There ain't much profit in coon hunting", the Deacon confesses.



Coon hides sell for a dollar a piece and some folks will pay a dollar for the coon for eating purposes. . . Which makes a maximum possible return of two dollars per coon, if all are sold, and all are not.

When a pair of \$200 coon hounds and their veterinary bills are added up along side the income from coon hunting it doesn't take long to discover that coon-hunting is much more a sport than an occupation.

"Deacon Dan" says when he passes on he wants to be buried in the Neuse River lowgrounds where he can hear the coon hounds bay and have the coons scamper across his grave. Those who know him best can't figure if he's joking or serious when he says that.

The Coon Catching Corporation of which Deacon Daniel Daughety is president, Fletcher White is vice-president and Calvin White is secretary and treasurer, has performed this task 91 times this season as of last Friday afternoon. Much to the embarrassment of assorted Neuse River lowground coons, but much to the pleasure of these corporation executives.