

Hundreds of thousands of bushels of this basic farm commodity are flowing to a steady stream away from an area which badly needs additional cash income because farmers are either too indifferent or too

ignorant to the potential income this corn crop represents. The farmers' indifference or ignorance begins even earlier in the year when he puts a large portion of his farm allocation of corn into the soil bank. This

year Lenoir County's farmers plant roughly 25,000 acres of corn into this subsidized farm program and they will get on a county average about \$35 per acre for NOT growing corn. The present market price of corn is \$1.10 per bushel.

So to the local economy our farmers have accepted a mess of potato of about \$875,000 in the spring for considerably more than \$2.5 million dollars that they could have had at harvest time.

But even with this great economic waste, and the additional drain on the national treasury the worst blow falls in the fall when an overwhelming majority of the corn that is grown is sold on a glutted market for a reduced price.

Fortunately all of our farmers are not indifferent or ignorant to the value of corn in their overall income picture. Each year a growing number are storing their corn and holding it off of a glutted market.

But an even wiser and slower growing percentage of our farmers are realizing the maximum potential income from the corn on their farms. They are the group in hog, beef or poultry production on a commercial level, rather than on a hit-and-miss basis.

Lenoir County even after NOT growing about 25,000 acres of corn this year still have 40,594 acres of corn, compared to 13,849 acres of tobacco.

Hog Deficit  
And while our farmers are busy NOT using this corn crop to its fullest potential North Carolina in general and our own immediate area are importing millions of pounds of beef and pork every month to the year.

A local example is Frosty Morn Packing Company of Kinston, where 130,000 top hogs are needed each year, and where recently installed machinery is hoped to step this up to an annual slaughter of more than 180,000 top hogs.

Yet 45 out of every 100 hogs Frosty Morn slaughters has to be imported from far beyond the local trading area — some from as far away as the middle west. And the percentages run even higher for the 26,000 beef animals Frosty Morn slaughters each year.

Farmers insist locally that they cannot profitably grow hogs for around 15 cents a pound; but hundreds of thousands of farmers, both locally and across the nation are making a good living growing hogs at this price level.

One man who is vitally concerned with the meat production of the local economy says, "Our farmers can do it anytime they want to, but after years of preaching to them I'm convinced that they will not do it until they are forced to it."

With the tobacco income shrinking on our farms each year and with more and more members of the family looking to the farm for the basic necessities of life, plus such newer necessities as a college education, farmers increasingly are looking around, and many have found ways of materially adding to their cash income by a wise use of their biggest money crop: Corn.

Now it appears that the pressure is on, and that many of our farmers have reached the point where they are forced to do something in this direction.

But not enough have yet felt this pressure, and many never will yield to it no matter how strongly it is applied. Their survival on the farm, as farmers is not possible.

When 1964 started there were 5,549 people living on farm tracts in Jones County. Using the area average of 4.5 members per family this means something slightly more than 1,230 families who receive the major part of their income from the farm.

Yet when the New Year dawned there were only 1,588 sows and gilts kept for breeding on these 1,230 farms. An average of just over one per farm family.

And at the beginning of this year there were just 1,588 beef animals kept for breeding and just 153 cows in Jones County.

So if the total of milks cows, beef cows and brood sows is added up for Jones County there is less than three per family of all varieties.

And each of these categories of animals is the most efficient converter of corn into cash — even more efficient and legal than a whisky still.

Governor Kerr Scott touched the sore spot of Eastern Carolina a long time ago when he said all that was holding back East Carolina was development of a cow that could be milked just five days to the week.

In his satirical way he was calling us what we are: Lazy. But fortunately we all love to eat despite our laziness and when the pinch comes, as it seems to be approaching now, more and more of us will learn to milk cows seven days to the week, or feed hogs seven days to the week.

But we are surely slow about learning. Perhaps quality education is our biggest need.

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Erosion Problem That Costs East Carolina Economy Plenty



This is a fantastic scene few passersby are aware of that is now taking place in the tobacco warehouse complex south of Kinston, where corn has replaced tobacco on the huge floors. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of Eastern Carolina corn is being processed in these warehouses; all of it labelled for shipment out of Eastern Carolina. Corn being shipped out of an area that has a great beef and pork deficit is comparable to the exportation of water from a desert. The efficient use of this great volume of corn could add immeasurably to the overall economy of Eastern Carolina. For each ten bushels of corn that leaves this area roughly one top hog less can be produced on our farms, and with the corn leaving for \$1.10 per bushel, and top hogs selling for \$30 it takes no electronic computer to add up the gross loss to the local economy. Especially when one adds the freight of the corn away from this area to the freight on meat coming back to this area to the price of meat at the retail meat counter.

THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 27 TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1964 VOLUME XVI

Many 4-H'ers Honored With Awards At Annual Achievement Day Program

Following here is a listing of the project awards given last week in the annual Achievement Day program of Jones County 4-H Clubs.

Money Management, J. N. Hill III.  
Market Pig, Michael Davis.  
Tree Identification, Douglas Hill.  
Crafts, 1st—Annette Lowery, 2nd — Allen Stroud.  
Poultry Laying Flock, Grace Thigpen.  
Corn, Allen Stroud.  
Entomology, Patrick Faulkner.  
Canning, Pre-teen — Rhonda Stille, Early-teen — Claudia Armstrong, Senior-teen — Janice Lowery.  
Tractor C., Douglas Hill.  
Automotive I, 1st — Joan Stroud, 2nd — Janice Lowery.  
Food Preparation, Sr. — 1st — Linda Haddock, 2nd — Janice Lowery, Early-teen — 1st — Claudia Armstrong, 2nd — Eva Pollock, Pre-teen — Helen Harrie Moore.  
Home Management, Sr. — Janice Lowery, Jr. — 1st — Annette Lowery, 2nd — Carol Cauley, 3rd — Patrick Faulkner.  
Recreation, 1st—Allen Stroud, 2nd — Helen Flowers.  
Home Grounds Beautification, Jr. — 1st — Annette Lowery, 2nd — Carol Cauley, 3rd — Sue Cauley, Sr. — Linda Haddock.  
Beef — Blue Ribbon Group, J. N. Hill III, Jimmy Pollock, Johnny Cox, Jerry Foy.  
Beef — Feed Efficiency, Ann Pollock.  
Beef — Showmanship, 1st — Rich Frank, 2nd — Eddie Frank.  
Swimming, Jr. — 1st — Annette Lowery, 2nd — Rhonda

Stille, Sr. — Janice Lowery.  
Flower Growing, Annette Lowery.  
Dog Care, 1st — Annette Lowery, 2nd — Paul Faulkner.  
Frozen Foods, Jr. — Carol Cauley, Sr. — Janice Lowery.  
Automotive III, J. N. Hill III.  
Room Improvement, Jr. — Rose Ann Eubanks, Sr. — 1st — Christine Eubanks, 2nd — Janice Lowery.  
Clothing, Pre-teen — Kathy Koonce, Early-teen — 1st — Lolly Byrd, 2nd — Annette Lowery, 3rd — Claudia Armstrong, Sr. — 1st — Janice Lowery, 2nd — Mary Lendell Cox.  
Junior Leadership, 1st — Janice Lowery, 2nd — Joan Stroud.  
Garden, Sr. — Douglas Hill, Jr. — 1st — Earl Scott Banks, 2nd — Claude P. Banks.  
Safety, 1st — Linda Kaye Haddock, 2nd — Annette Lowery.  
Poultry, 1st — Sherwood McDaniel, 2nd — Rodney Scott, 3rd — Beatrice Andrews.  
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Auditor Named for Drainage District By Clerk Henderson

This week Jones County Superior Court Clerk Walter P. Henderson appointed Accountant Earl E. Franck to audit the affairs of the Jones-Lenoir Drainage District No. 1.

Under the existing law an annual audit of all drainage district books is called for, but no auditor has been appointed for this district which was set up in the mid-1950s. Franck is now at work on the audit.

Smithfield Man Becomes Lenoir's 32nd Highway Fatality in Friday Accident

Last Friday morning Melvin C. Moore, 45, of Smithfield became the 32nd highway fatality of the year in Lenoir County. The accident that claimed Moore's life came just inside

Lenoir County on Highway US 70 west of LaGrange when a pair of mules wandered into the path of the truck-trailer driven by Moore.

LAND TRANSFERS

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports recording the following land transfers in his office during the past week:

From Mr. and Mrs. Albert Griffin Jr., Mr. and Mrs. George Felix Griffin and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Griffin to Eunice T. Griffin three tracts in Cypress  
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Contact with the mules caused Moore to lose control of the truck loaded with hogheads of tobacco which plunged off the road, hit a utility pole and finally crashed into a tree.

Patrolman Bill Baker who investigated estimated damage at not less than \$50,000. Damage to the utility line left LaGrange without electricity for nearly four hours.

Farm Bureau Convention Urges Change From Acreage to Poundage Controls

The North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation in annual convention at Asheville Tuesday passed a series of resolutions calling for major changes in the flue-cured tobacco program of the federal government.

retary of agriculture. Secondly, the resolutions call for legislation to implement a poundage allocation system for the flue-cured tobacco crop.

In the first instance the resolutions call for a 20 per cent acreage cut for the 1965 crop, which reduction if any is to be made must be announced on or before December 1st by the secretary of agriculture.

Thirdly, if this poundage allocation system is authorized by congress the Farm Bureau convention urges the secretary of agriculture to fix the 1965 allocation at 1,100,000 pounds, which would of course be divided on an equitable basis among those presently engaged in the production of this crop.

TWO DIVORCES

As Lenoir County Superior Court got underway this week the first action of the court was granting two divorces, each on grounds of two-year separation. The divorced couples were Naomi Reed Kennedy from Robert L. Kennedy and Elizabeth H. Grant from Kenneth L. Grant.

The convention also strongly urged flue-cured tobacco growers to support the continuation of a federal tobacco program in the referendum that will be held on December 15th.