



Watershed Projects Save \$7 Million Growers Plagues

Small watershed projects in the Midwest alone save \$7 million and protected more than 10 million acres of rural and urban land during the heavy flooding in the early months of 1973.

This was emphasized by Robert Long, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, in a talk to the 20th. National Watershed Congress in Wichita, Kansas that was heard by a number of North Carolina delegates. The assistant secretary told more than 400 in attendance that "This emphasizes the urgent need to help our local communities obtain more watershed projects, and I hope we can agree that a small watershed is a sensible place to begin managing soil and water resources. Unfortunately, in some areas watersheds have become battlegrounds between landowners and members of certain ecological groups."

He added: "We live in a very complex society and our individual needs have to be expressed. My great concern is that some small interests many times overshadow interests that are very large. It's no trick at all these days for a small but disciplined organization to halt practically any development, no matter how many people want completion of a project. Eleventh-hour stoppages not only hurt those who want the project, but even the people responsible for the stoppage."

Floyd Mathews, Chairman of the Perquimans Soil and Water Conservation Committee, voiced agreement with the views expressed by Assistant Secretary Long. "It is good for individual citizens to ask questions about local projects. Often this results in modifications which are an improvement."

Given Advice

B. C. Mangum, president of the N. C. Farm Bureau Federation, recently urged flue-cured tobacco growers to give their resounding approval to the continuation of their current acreage-pounding quota system and to tobacco Associates in the referendum set for July 17.

The state farm leader also urged cotton growers to vote in favor of continuing their support of the N.C. Cotton Promotion Association through self-assessment of not more than 25 cents per bale. He said these funds are necessary for research, education and promotion activities of the growers' organization. A favorable vote in the cotton referendum, also set for July 17, would continue the program for six years.

Mangum pointed out that a two-thirds majority of those voting is necessary to retain the tobacco program and, failing this, there would be no acreage allotment, no poundage quota, and no price supports on the 1974 crop. If approved, the program will remain in effect for the 1974, 1975 and 1976 crops.

Growers

Major fuel shortages continue to plague tobacco farmers in several areas of the state. According to N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham these producers will lose their crops unless immediate action is taken.

"At the present time no encouragement has been given to these areas as to when fuel can be expected. For that reason I have today sent telegrams to the major oil companies, the White House and the Office of Oil and Gas again outlining the problem and requesting immediate help," Graham said.

"I have exhausted every possible resource to help these producers in the past 2 months," he continued, "but time is about to run out. There is little doubt that serious crop losses will occur unless steps are taken now by those who control the fuel supply."

The commissioner also stated that he had personally discussed the matter with Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and that his office had been in daily contact with the Office of Oil and Gas, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the N.C.

Labor Dispute Cited

A barrage of media appeals by Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers for secret ballot elections for California farm workers caught in a jurisdictional dispute between UFW and the Teamsters is "belated and bewildering."

For six years the record of Chavez and UFW has been in strongest opposition to legislation which would extend elections to workers under coverage of the National Labor Relations Act, or by separate legislation proposed by Farm Bureau and others.

With such a track record, the footing for UFW on the issue of farm worker elections is awfully slippery. UFW does not say just who it is that would conduct such elections. Also, its continued insistence on the secondary boycott to force farmers to sign their workers over plainly suggest the secret ballot proposal is not serious. It is simply more campaign rhetoric in a jurisdictional battle with the Teamsters that Chavez seems to be losing.

The record of UFW and particularly that of its leader, Cesar Chavez, has been characterized by an unyielding opposition to the secret ballot of voting.

Chavez and UFW have repeatedly rejected offers by the California Conciliation Service to hold such elections. In 1971, the UFW vice president said that "farm workers don't understand democracy. They don't know what an election is." Last May, California's Catholic Bishops called for secret ballot elections and confirmed that none had been held.

Farm Economy And Its Future

The problems of private enterprise continue to escalate almost every month. For nearly two years, the economy has been in deep trouble. The first real signs of this became clear in the weeks before the President made his historic August 15, 1971 announcement that he was declaring a 90-day freeze on wages and prices.

Twenty-three months later under Phase 3 1/2 of the Economic Stabilization Plan, we find that controls do about as much harm as good. What seems to be a blessing for consumers has turned into a nightmare for food producers. Feed manufacturers, broiler-chicken and egg farmers, and other segments of the agriculture industry have curtailed and in some instances closed down operations. Administration officials, recognizing this, have indicated that food rationing is a possibility.

At best agriculture rests on a basis of operations subject to many uncertainties, but up to now there has seldom been any doubt that America could produce what it needed to insure adequate supplies of food and fiber in the marketplace. The present condition relates to the ability of farmers to buy their supplies at a cost that will allow them to comply with price ceilings and make a reasonable profit, or, as they put it, a livelihood.

The price ceiling is not the

only major worry of farmers. How to obtain adequate fuel supplies to produce and harvest their crops is a real concern. In response to this situation, along with other members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation, I recently wrote to the President and presented the desperate plight of farmers as they seek to obtain fuel supplies. The members of the delegation pointed out to the President that the tobacco crop is ready for curing and fuel for this purpose is simply not available. We urged the President to "redouble your efforts to obtain vitally needed fuel supplies for our farmers and for other essential services."

We expressed the belief that "America has no choice. Either she intelligently harnesses and allocates her limited supply of fuel resources and successfully weathers the present crisis, or she knuckles under and admits that the problem is too big to handle."

We went on to say that "whatever the origins of the problem, all of us are now faced with it and cannot see when it will end."

Agriculture is the most basic industry of any nation. Without food and fiber, the machinery of our country must, of necessity, grind to a halt.



Perquimans County Farm Scene



Endorsed Quota

State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham today endorsed the tobacco quota program and the Tobacco Associates referendum to be held July 17.

A strong vote would continue the acreage-pounding quota system and permit the association to assess growers \$1.00 per acre for overseas promotion of bright leaf.

Graham pointed out that failure to vote for the tobacco quota program would mean no quota controls and price supports for future crops. He stated that the attacks on tobacco from every front has increased the need for a big turnout in this year's referendum.

The commissioner praised Tobacco Associates for 26 years of service to producers and noted that due largely to their efforts, over 50 percent of last year's crop was sold abroad.

"Tobacco Associates has developed markets around the world including Japan, Austria, Thailand, Taiwan, Yugoslavia, East Germany,

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Cemetery Lot Sales	2,000.00
Perq. Co. Fire Dept.	6,500.00
Others	12,000.00
Sales Tax 1% Opt.	13,000.00
	<u>\$104,450.00</u>

STATE	BUDGET
Intangle Tax	\$ 2,000.00
Franchise Tax	6,000.00
A.B.C. Beer & Wine Tax	5,100.00
Powell Beer Fund	22,800.00
Gasoline Tax	1,200.00
Mosquito Control	600.00
N.C. Sales Tax	4,000.00
	<u>\$ 41,000.00</u>

LOCAL	BUDGET
Power	\$484,482.00
Water	41,000.00
Sewer Tax	9,600.00
Ice Sales	15,000.00
Water & Sewer Taps	1,000.00
Penn. & Cut On Fees	2,000.00
Powell Bill Funds On Hand	10,000.00
	<u>\$363,082.00</u>

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\$ 47,655.92
\$ 9,684.00

EXPENDITURES \$509,232.00

Administrative	\$162,150.00
Police Department	35,800.00
Inspection Dept.	625.00
Fire Department	14,000.00
Cemetery Dept.	4,000.00
Sanitation Dept.	34,100.00
Street Dept.	56,000.00
Water Dept.	57,875.00
Elec. Dept.	194,200.00
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