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Payment-in-Kind program deadline March 11

By VAL SHORT

Time is running out for farmers wishing to sign up for PIK, the Payment-in-Kind program developed by the USDA and sponsored by ASCS.

March 11 is the deadline for PIK sign-up, according to Tommy Riddick, ASCS director. All PIK contracts will go into effect following the deadline.

The program will not solve all of the economic problems of Perquimans County, but according to Riddick, it "will help."

"It's going to put money in circulation that's not there. I think overall, we're going to get through

another year," said Riddick.

The PIK program was developed to help reduce the current over supply of corn, wheat, sorghum, cotton and rice.

Riddick said corn, wheat and cotton would be the crops most affected by the program in Perquimans County.

Farmers have three options for participation in the program, if they have an established base, according to Riddick.

The first option is to participate in the Acreage Reduction Program in which the farmer plants 80 percent but leaves out 20 percent of his established base which makes him eligible for a diversion payment of 10

percent.

Under "10-30 percent PIK diversion," participants agree to leave out from 10 to 30 percent more of the base, planting half and leaving out half, said Riddick.

Farmers under this agreement would be eligible to receive a diversion payment on 10 percent of the base plus certificates for the number of bushels they are entitled to receive, according to Riddick.

Farmers can also elect for the "whole base bid," in which they agree to leave the entire base out. With this option they would receive a diversion payment of 10 percent and certificates of entitlement on 9 percent of the base.

With the certificates of entitlement for corn, wheat and other crops, farmers have the choice of marketing the certificates or redeeming them for the commodity.

The certificates will be issued next October 1 and the participants will have five months to market or redeem them.

Riddick feels most of the certificates will be marketed.

Riddick said PIK would not really affect 1983 prices, but "I think we'll see a big difference in 1984," he said.

"The supply should be reduced substantially," he said. That reduction should bring better prices for the following year.

The goal of the USDA has to reduce

production by 23 million acres, which is 16 percent of the total national base.

Riddick explained that this reduction would not only help the farmer, but also the taxpayers who are paying for storage and other costs of the oversupply of grain and other commodities.

What is to become of the land that is to be left unplanted?

Riddick said nothing can be planted for harvest on the land.

"We encourage some type of cover, but it's not required," said Riddick.

"They need to control weeds and grasses by discing or mowing," he continued.

Fescue and clover are suggested examples of cover crops that can be planted until April 15. Riddick said grazing would not be permitted between April 1 and September 30.

Riddick said he thought most of Perquimans participants will use a natural cover.

Wildlife will benefit from the PIK program, according to Riddick. He said the natural cover would create desirable habitats for small game.

The PIK program could mean an easier, more profitable year ahead for area farmers. Riddick said. "It won't make the farmers rich — it's a means of survival right now."



Enjoying a few brief moments of sunshine is Jennifer Williams, of Edenton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Williams. Jennifer found a sunny spot to play at Missing Mill Park in Hertford.

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Joe Lothian named Winfall PD chief

Winfall now has its own police department and the new chief of police was sworn in last Thursday.

The Town of Winfall has employed Joe Lothian, former deputy of the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, to head the newly formed police department.

The department was formed to provide police protection for the residents and businesses in Winfall and was a way of giving some of the taxpayers' money back to the community, according to Winfall mayor Lloyd Ray Morgan.

Lothian plans to emphasize crime prevention in the police department and feels the department will offer greater security for businesses.

The Winfall Police Department is now part of the county Dispatch systems, which means that reports will be dispatched to Winfall through the main dispatch number — 426-5751.

The office is located in Winfall beside the town water plant.

Uniforms and a patrol car have been ordered for the department.

Currently, Lothian is using a rented vehicle.

Prior to his two and one-half years with the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, Lothian worked with the Elizabeth City Police Department three years.

He received his basic training at the ECPD through College of The Albemarle. Throughout his career he has received 500 total hours of training, including training as a forensic hypnotist at the N.C. Justice Academy.

"I'm looking forward to working with the people here and I think this will be a benefit to the community," said Lothian.

The new police chief plans to get involved in the community through educational programs. "I'm tickled to have the opportunity to work in Winfall. I'm glad things worked out as they have," he said.

A Perquimans native, Lothian lives with his wife and two children in the Whiteston area. He is author of "Perquimans Outdoors," featured in the Perquimans Weekly.



New Winfall Police Department Chief of Police Joe Lothian was sworn in

last week and is now on duty.

In Perquimans

January unemployment rate hits 9.6%

The unemployment rate in Perquimans County rose to 9.6 percent in January, which represented 310 unemployed of the 3,240 total labor force.

According to Employment Security Commission figures, the statewide total unemployment in January reached double digit figures for the first time since 1975. The January rate was 10 percent, representing 288,800 unemployed.

The current unemployment rate in

Perquimans represents a 1.4 percent decrease over the rate for January 1982, however.

ESC statistics indicate that Perquimans unemployed received \$58,000 in benefits with an average of 141 persons per week receiving those benefits.

On the state level, a record \$56.3 million in weekly unemployment insurance benefits was paid to jobless workers in January.

According to Alice Bond of the ESC

office in Edenton, the statistics do not necessarily reflect unemployment within Perquimans only. The rate also includes Virginia and surrounding counties in which Perquimans people are employed.

The January rate showed an increase of .9 percent over the unemployment rate for December in Perquimans. According to Mrs. Bond, the Perquimans rate for December was 8.7 percent.

Statewide the January rate showed

an increase of 27,600 from the previous month. The revised December rate was 8.9 percent.

Glenn R. Jernigan, chairman of the ESC in North Carolina said, "Historically, the January jobless rate is high because winter weather curtails outdoor job activities and the retail trades lay off their holiday sales personnel."

"Fewer students in the work force, due to the January semester break, also added to the increase," he continued.

Reed named first VP

The Committee of 100 elected Roy Reed of Hertford first vice president last week replacing Alan Asbell, who recently resigned.

Also elected was a board of directors, which included Tim Brinn, H.R. Christensen, Shirley Perry, Bill Cox, Jan Sprull, Mary Harrell, Bobby Eure, Roy Red and Ben Berry.

Also at the meeting committee reports were heard including a report from Roy Reed, chairman of the Industrial Development Committee.

Reed reported that members of the committee had been assigned to study labor, commercial and funding resources for the county.

The Committee of 100 amended its bylaws so that an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors would not be counted as one of the nine established by the by-laws.

The Committee was organized last year to encourage industrial development in Perquimans County.



Dwayne Parks recently received the Governor's Award from Governor Jim Hunt which is "the highest

designation of meritorious service" in North Carolina. Parks received the award from his social studies

teacher Anne Washington, left. His mother, right, was on hand for the presentation.

Brown resigns AEMC

Ed Brown, manager of the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, has resigned to accept a position with an electrical cooperative in Alaska.

Brown, who submitted his resignation to the AEMC board February 4 to become effective March 4, said his resignation was prompted only for positive reasons.

"I have been in full harmony with the board and have no problems. I am just ready for a new job, a new challenge and a new opportunity," said Brown.

In his new position with Chugach Electric Association in Anchorage,

Alaska, Brown will be the manager of member services. He will be working in communication with the members of this 55,000 meter cooperative which generates its own power.

Brown said he would like to return to North Carolina one day and possibly head a larger cooperative, but right now he is looking forward to the challenge awaiting him in Alaska. He reports to work next week.

Mrs. Doris White, office manager at the EMC, will serve as acting manager until the new manager is named.