

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Production expected to triple

# Cotton makes comeback in Perquimans

By VAL SHORT

Cotton may not be "king" in Perquimans County in 1983, but County Extension Chairman Bill Jester predicts cotton production will triple.

Jester expects approximately 1,800 to 2,200 acres of cotton will be planted this year in contrast to the 650 acres planted last. In 1981 202 acres of cotton were planted and in 1980 Perquimans produced no cotton.

"Cotton looks as good as corn and soybeans at this point in the year," said Jester.

Jester said the cotton gin that is being built in Winfall has created some of the interest in the crop.

"I would caution anybody who is thinking of planting cotton not to plant without a reliable way of getting it harvested," Jester added. He said several farmers have already purchased cotton pickers.

Jester said planting cotton provides the grower several advantages. In addition to adding to the choice of crops to plant, cotton offers the grower the opportunity to improve rotation, according to Jester.

"Cotton also gives the opportunity to earn a return equal to or better than corn or soybeans," said Jester.

Jester said the USDA Boll Weevil Eradication program, implemented

during the last five years, has restored cotton as a feasible alternative for growers.

Jester said cotton growers are using short season varieties, requiring a 130 to 140 day growing season. He said planting is recommended from April 20 to May 15.

The outlook for hogs is optimistic, according to Jester. According to the county agent, most economists are saying the price of hogs will remain around 50 cents per pound through the first nine month of this year. Prices are expected to fall to around 40 cents per pound during the last quarter, said Jester.

The market outlook is not as good for peanuts, said Jester, "because consumption is down and demand has leveled off."

Although the price support on peanut quotas remains the same as last year at \$550 per ton, the price on peanuts over the quota was reduced from \$200 per ton to \$185 per ton said Jester.

Disappointed at this reduction, peanut growers are looking at contracts as an alternative, said Jester.

The market is already responding to the ASCS PIK program, according to Jester. "Corn looks pretty good," he commented.

"We'll probably have 30 percent less corn planted this year. We'll see a lot of idle land and hopefully we'll see it (the results) in the market place," said the county agent.

Jester is recommending that growers plant some sort of cover on the acres left idle by the PIK program to help maintain weed control.

According to Jester, the best choice for an annual cover would be fescue.

If growers are interested in nitrogen-producing covers, hairy vetch and lespedeza are suggested by Jester.

Cost of seeding would range from

\$6 per acre for fescue, to \$11 per acre for hairy vetch, to \$21 per acre for lespedeza, according to Extension figures.

"Growers will have to weigh the costs versus the benefits," said Jester.

Allowing certain weed species to build up would also be costly, he added and costs of discing and mowing weeds also add up, Jester said.

Other possible cover crops suggested by the Extension Service include pearl millet, crimson clover, subterranean clover, spring oats and rye.

## Priorities set by Chamber

Elizabeth City's Chamber of Commerce director spoke to approximately 50 merchants of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, who gathered at Angler's Cove last Wednesday night.

Mary Livengood led the group in a discussion to establish needs and priorities retailers in the Chamber.

Developing pride and loyalty was the first priority set by the group for the Chamber. Coordination of efforts, advertizing and promotion and communication were also among priorities set by the merchants.

"A chamber that is successful is the chamber that has sustained enthusiasm," Livengood told the merchants. She said Chambers of Commerce are not charities or civic clubs, but they are business-represented organizations requiring strong commitments from volunteers.

"The chamber is the one organization that works full time for the benefit of the community. Your investment goes on year after year," Livengood added.

"The Chamber of Commerce is for progress of the community and that's the bottom line," she said.

Livengood told the group that the chamber should be just as professional as the best office of business in town and that the chamber meeting could provide opportunities for competitors to sit down together and forget their competitiveness.

Livengood told the group, "The success of the chamber is up to you." "Who is the chamber? The chamber is you," she added.

## Perquimans resident arrested

A Perquimans County man was arrested last week in Elizabeth City on charges of selling cocaine by State Bureau of Investigation agents.

Douglas "Lucky" Cartwright, 38, who listed his address as Route 3, Box 823, Hertford, was arrested and charged with three counts of trafficking in cocaine, after a three to four month "undercover" investigation, according to Charlie Overton, SBI supervising agent.

Also arrested in the case was Wiley Frank Wood, 26, who listed his address as Route 5, Box 189-A, Elizabeth City, who was charged with one count of trafficking in cocaine.

According to Overton, the arrests occurred in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn in Elizabeth City. Overton said several weapons were confiscated, but no cocaine was found at the time of the arrest. No shots were fired, however, reported the SBI official.

Overton said Cartwright was released after posting \$75,000 bond. Wood was also freed following the posting of \$15,000 bond.



Welcome spring!

Welcome Spring. Daffodils and crocuses are sure signs that spring is definitely on the way in Perquimans County. Although weather forecasters predict at least one more cold spell, spring flowers show promise that winter is about over. (Photos by Val Short)

## Winfall passes ABC referendum

In a special election held Tuesday, voters in Winfall narrowly passed the ABC referendum.

With an eight vote margin, Winfall voted in favor of having an ABC store within the town.

Of the approximate 250 registered voters, 108 voted in the election — 58 for and 50 against, according to William L. "Buddy" Tilley, chairman of the Perquimans Board of Elections.

Tilley said the turn-out for the election represented around 45 percent of the voters registered in Winfall.

Tilley said he was disappointed in the turn-out, which was comparatively lower than in county-wide elections.

Winfall Mayor Lloyd Ray Morgan said the turn-out was larger than any other Winfall election he could remember.

Morgan said organizing a local ABC board would probably be the next step and he plans to contact state ABC officials soon.

"We will take all the people of Winfall into consideration in the planning," said Morgan.

In reaction to the election results, Morgan said, "I'm always pleased if we are doing something that pleases the majority of the people."

## Local arrests made following raid

Three arrests were made last week by the Hertford Police Department following raids at several King Street locations.

Clinton "Slim" Riddick, 54, who listed his address as 209 King Street, Hertford, was arrested March 5 and charged with possession of alcoholic beverages for the purpose of sale.

A team of officers from the Hertford Police Department, assisted by Joe Lothian, chief of the Winfall Police Department, searched Slim's Place, a business located at 209 King Street. According to Hertford Chief of Police Marshall Merritt, whiskey and beer was seized at the time of the owner's arrest.

Also arrested March 5 and charged with possession of alcoholic beverages for the purpose of sale was Clifton White, 46, who gave his address as 210 King Street, Hertford. Merritt said whiskey and beer were also seized at Lauresas Cafe at 210 King Street, owned by White.

James Wheeler "Jack" White, 62, who listed his residence as 311 S. Church Street in Hertford, was arrested March 5 and charged with failure to purchase a privilege license from the Town of Hertford and with possession of alcoholic beverages for the purpose of sale.

According to Merritt, Hertford police conducted a search of White's apartment, where he was found fully clothed, hiding in the bathroom.

Merritt said a large quantity of whisky, beer, soft drinks, cigarettes and \$1,000 in cash was found during the search.

According to the police chief, anyone operating a business in the Town of Hertford is required by law to purchase a privilege license at the town office.

Following a report of a stolen vehicle in Hertford March 4, Barbara Ann Felton, 26, who gave as her address Route 3, Box 654, Hertford, and Charles Dennis Morgan, 27, who address was given as 203 Oak Avenue, Elizabeth City, were arrested and charged by the Elizabeth City Police Department with larceny of a motor vehicle.

The suspects were then turned over to the Hertford Police Department, which subsequently charged the two with breaking and entering a motor vehicle and unauthorized use of a conveyance.

Bond was set a \$1,500 and the suspects were taken into custody at Albemarle District Jail.

Clyde Leary, 63, who gave as his address 208 King Street, Hertford, was arrested and charged in the larceny of a bottle of wine from S and R Supermarket in Hertford.

According to Merritt, Patrolman Terry Dean Cartwright was the arresting officer and Leary was released on his own recognizance.

## Local school board reviews long range construction plans

Reviewing long range construction plans for Perquimans County High School at the meeting Monday night, Board of Education members agreed on the need for new facilities at the high school.

"We need to go ahead and develop a plan and when the time is right, we'll be ready to move," commented Board chairman Clifford Winslow.

School superintendent Pat Harrell presented blueprints of the four-phase long range plan for replacing the 1924 high school facility.

The plans were developed by architect Sam Ashford of Raleigh. Phase I of the project was completed in 1980 when 12 new classrooms were added and the library was remodeled.

Board members discussed replacing 15 classrooms in the original building as well as a cafeteria during the next phase of the project.

The board asked Harrell to contact Ashford and ask him to meet with the board. The board will also request that Dr. Lucy Presnell, of the Division of School Planning with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, to revise the school facility survey he developed for Perquimans County Schools ten years ago.

In the survey, replacement of the old high school structure was recommended, Harrell told the

Board. Harrell said Presnell's department would have to approve any plans developed by the board.

The Board heard a report on the high school art program from art instructor Deborah Coates.

Coates presented a slide program which featured Perquimans art students. She explained the three teaching objectives of art education — work, language and values.

Coates told Board members Perquimans art students are now designing a sign for the Board of Education office.

With a new policy adopted by the Board Monday night, admission of Board members to school activities will be free. Board members will receive passes which will be valid for their terms of office.

Harrell announced to the Board that the windows were expected to arrive this week for the Perquimans Union window replacement project. He said the crew is ready to "go to work" and could probably complete the job in two weeks, if weather permits.

The Board approved the interim employment of Alma Banks at Central Elementary School, who will replace a teacher, also named Alma Banks, who died recently.

Banks is from Elizabeth City and will be teaching in the program for exceptional children.