

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 39, No. 32

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, August 11, 1983

20 CENTS

## Soybeans, peanuts in danger

# Perquimans corn crop damaged by weather

By VAL SHORT

The sixth consecutive week without any significant rainfall means bad news for Perquimans corn growers. If rainfall doesn't soon relieve the parched fields, soybeans and peanuts may also be in danger.

As one farmer expressed it, "Corn has had it," and County Extension Chairman Bill Jester predicts this year's corn crop will be as bad as the 1980 crop, which averaged 70 to 75 bushels per acre.

Corn growers Jimmy Lane of

Belvidere and Ronnie Baker of Hertford estimate they will average 50 bushels of corn per acre. In sharp contrast, Lane averaged 150 bushels per acre while Baker harvested an average of 160 bushels per acre last year.

Jester said Perquimans growers set a record last year, averaging 125 to 130 bushels per acre countywide. No records are expected this year.

"Under normal planting conditions, we would have had a good chance," said Jester, but planting

conditions were anything but normal this year. According to Jester, those conditions plus other factors have contributed to the corn problems.

"Corn was planted two to three weeks later than usual," said Jester, because of the heavy rainfall during the regular planting season. "This put pollination back a week," said Jester, also a critical factor.

Pollination, or fertilization of the female corn plants, would have occurred during the first weeks in July, during which some of the hottest temperatures on record were recorded, ranging from 100 degrees and above.

According to Jester, any temperature above 90 degrees will actually kill pollen.

Perquimans corn growers are now seeing the result of the pollination problems — partially filled corn cobs and in some cases, empty cobs with no grain at all.

Dry weather has also been a factor in the poor corn crop this year, according to Jester. "We went from ample moisture to none at all. The critical period for corn is usually the first weeks in July," said Jester.

From one-half to one inch of rain fell on Perquimans last month, five inches short of the average for July.

Jester said scattered showers have hit small areas, specifically, Bethel, New Hope and Four-mile Desert areas of the county. "We just need a good rain all over," said Jester.

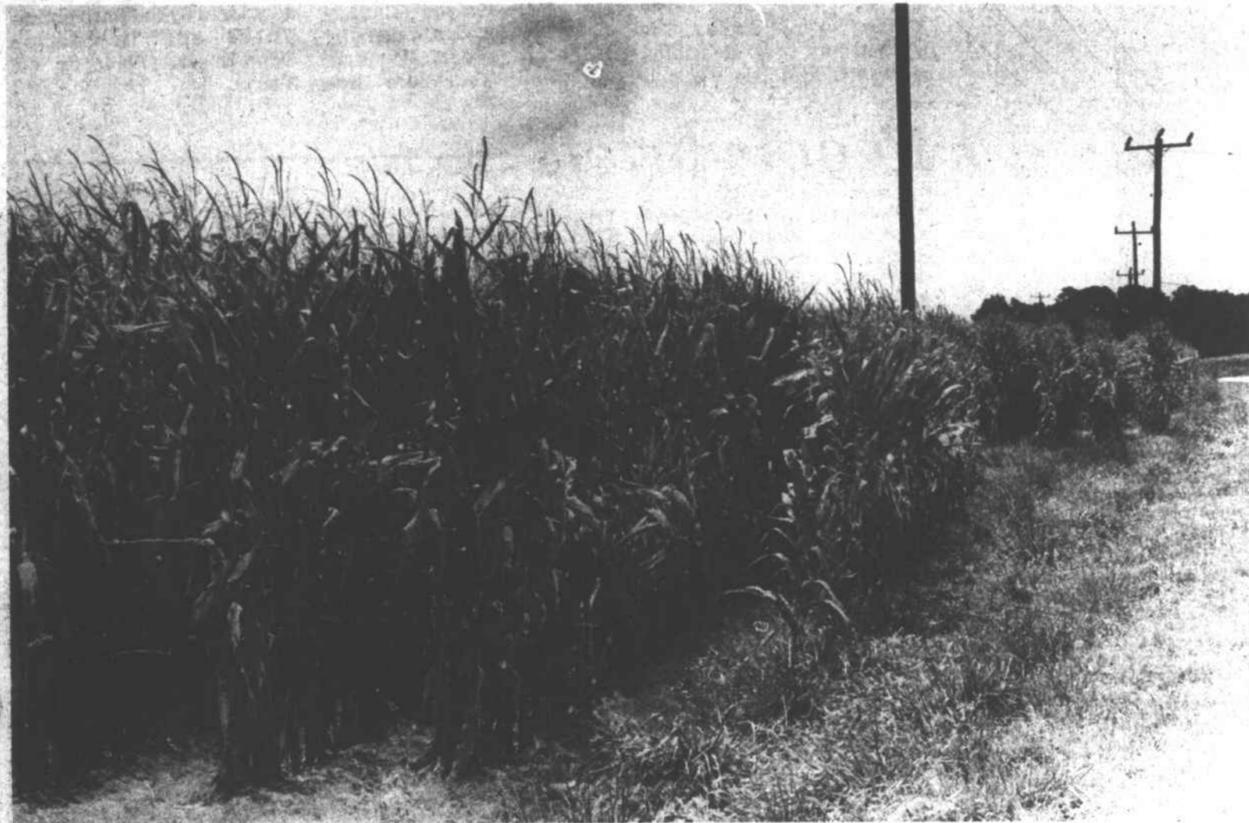
"Soybeans are reaching a critical period and really need rain. Peanuts have not yet been hurt," Jester commented.

Jester warns that proper handling of corn during harvest will be critical because of possible aflatoxin problems.

"Under stress conditions, the chances are greater of having aflatoxin," said Jester. He said dring corn to 13 percent before storage and aerating corn often will help guard against aflatoxin.

Ronnie Baker, whose farm is located north of Hertford near the Perquimans River, said his soybeans are "looking bad," while peanuts are "holding their own." Baker said cotton looks good, but it is also a dry weather crop.

Belvidere farmer Jimmy Lane enrolled in the Payment-in-Kind (PIK) program, setting aside 400 of his 525 acres of corn. But he is concerned about his 500 acres of soybeans as he joins Perquimans growers in a collective hope for rain and "better luck next year."



Late planting and dry weather conditions can be attributed for the poor corn crop in Perquimans County

this year. County Extension Chairman Bill Jester reports that in some fields cobs can

be found partially filled or with no grain at all. He expects an average county wide

yield this year of 70 to 75 bushels of corn per acre. (Photo by Val Short)

## Town Council discusses vandalism

By SUSAN HARRIS

The town council could not agree unanimously on a solution to the vandalism and parking problem in the cemetery at their meeting Monday night.

Councilman John Beers has for several years tried to get the Council to barricade the individual driveways off the main thoroughway in the cemetery, since policing the area has not alleviated the problem.

An even more drastic step was suggested by Councilman Joe White, who proposed closing the entire cemetery, including the main road, at specified times. White said he felt it was disrespectful to use the cemetery as a shortcut.

Councilmen Billy Winslow and Jesse Harris were opposed to such severe measures. Harris said he hesitated to impede the rights of so

many citizens in order to halt the actions of a few.

The council did agree that a barrier be erected between the cemetery and the high school practice field as soon as possible to prohibit traffic from leaving the school property through the cemetery.

The council authorized Mayor Bill Cox to have a temporary fence of guideline wire put up until a permanent structure can be erected.

Council further authorized Cox to order no parking signs to be posted in the cemetery, and to order stricter police surveillance. Tickets will be written to those people who continue to park in the cemetery during football games.

Attorney Chris Bean came before the council on behalf of Albemarle Cable TV, who last month requested

Council to approve a \$1 per month increase on the basic service rate, and to endorse other rate increases. The increase was approved, with Councilman Beers being the sole negative vote.

ABC sales continued to decline, according to ABC chairman Cecil Winslow. Sales totaled \$35,942.80 for the month of July, down \$3,027.35 from July 1982, which represented a sales drop of 379 bottles.

Winslow said that information he has received indicates that this is the first year that no increase in sales has occurred since North Carolina became an alcohol control state.

There have been three price increases in the past 60 days in the store, Winslow said, adding that another price increase is on the way in the fall.

The ABC board earned \$129.84 interest on its checking account in

July.

Blair Pollock of Integrated Energy Systems, which recently completed an energy audit of the town under the state's Energy County Management System funding, reported his findings to the Council.

Costs of overall energy conservation measures, with labor supplied by the town's maintenance department, totaled \$2,350, with a projected annual savings of \$1,610.

Pollock suggested that the town apply for a grant from the Alternative Energy Corporation to fund energy conservation measures in residents' homes. Water heater timers and low-flow shower heads are two of the recommended energy savers.

Council listed as maintenance priorities leveling the dirt piled behind the municipal building and repairing the streets.

## It's time again for immunizations

Howard B. Campbell, Health Director of the Pasquotank-Perquimans-Camden-Chowan District Health Department today urged all parents to make sure their children have had the minimum immunization shots required by state law before school starts this month.

Parents who have moved to North Carolina from other state should request immunization records from their former physicians or local health clinic.

North Carolina's immunization law, revised by the 1979 General Assembly, requires a complete basic series of shots for all children in kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

These immunizations include three combination diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) shots; three oral polio vaccine doses; measles vaccine on or after the child's first birthday; and rubella (german measles) vaccine.

The majority of the children affected are those entering licensed day care centers, kindergarten, and the first grade. The law allows exemptions only for medical or religious reasons.

Campbell stressed that parents should be diligent about having their children properly immunized and keeping their records up-to-date.

"Now is the time for kindergarten

(Continued on page 2)

## Two injured in wreck

Two men remain hospitalized after a one-vehicle accident Friday night. Paul Jerome Trueblood and William Hollowell were hospitalized after Trueblood lost control of his truck, striking a ditch.

The men were traveling north on rural paved road 1145 in Pasquotank County when Trueblood ran off the right side of the road, veered into the left lane, again ran off the right side of the road, and struck a ditchbank.

William Hollowell was transported to Norfolk General Hospital by

Nightingale helicopter late Friday night, where he is being treated for a broken neck. He is listed in stable condition.

Trueblood is listed in satisfactory condition at Albemarle Hospital. According to a family member, his injuries include numerous cuts in his head, bruises and a cut under his arm.

Sanborne charged Trueblood with driving under the influence and exceeding a safe speed. Damages to the truck are estimated at \$2500.

## Quilt show scheduled

A number of firsts will be a part of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce's second Indian Summer Festival.

The Perquimans County Quilters Club, which is the first organized quilters club in the county, will hold its first area quilt show on Friday, September 16, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, September 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Albemarle Commission Building on Church Street in Hertford.

The Quilters Club was organized in October, 1981 with 12 members and meets the last Monday in the month.

The club is not associated with any other organization, but a group of highly talented ladies of all ages enjoy quilting, sharing ideas, and learning new ways to improve their craft.

Some of the members have joined the Four County Quilters Guild and the Tidewater Guild.

Mrs. Lib Harris, of Clark Street, Hertford, is the current president of the club.

You may obtain further information about the club, show, and tickets from her by calling 426-5434.



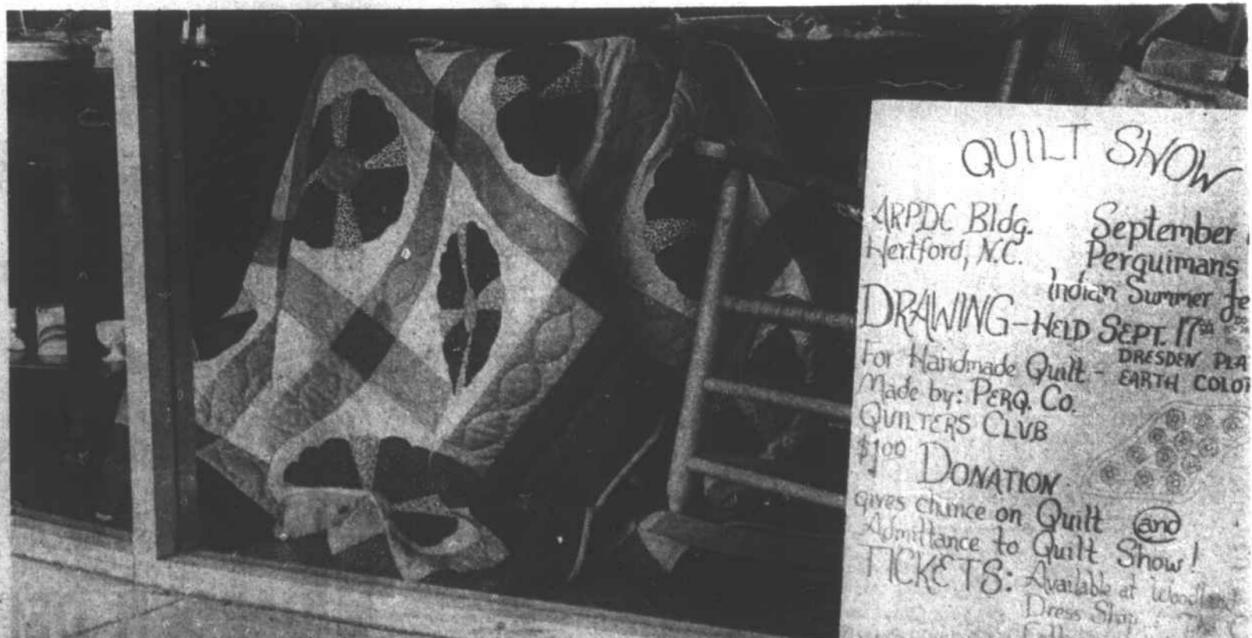
Indian Summer Festival

Tickets are on sale now by the members and can be obtained at the Card Cottage Shop and Woodland Dress Shop.

Everyone is invited to attend the Festival sponsored by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, September 15, 16 and 17 to relive the past and enjoy the present, but most of all to have a good time with friends.

Other events scheduled for the festival include Heritage Day, Old Fashioned Bargain Day, street dance, entertainment, and arts and crafts show and sale.

Booths are still available for food, crafts, art and displays. For information, contact the chamber at 426-5637.



A dresden plate pattern quilt in earth colors will be given away during the quilt show at

the Indian Summer Festival September 16 and 17 at the Albemarle Commission

Building in Hertford. The quilt is now on display at the Card Cottage at Harris

Shopping Center. (Photo by Val Short)