

Farming news

1987 crop acreage down ten percent

North Carolina farmers planted 10 percent less cropland this year than in 1986 according to the North Carolina Agricultural Statistics Division (formerly the North Carolina Crop and Livestock Reporting Service). Corn and soybeans showed the largest declines in acreage from a year earlier. These findings were based on surveys of farmers conducted in June.

Soybean plantings are expected to total 1.45 million acres, 15 percent less than last year.

Corn planted for all purposes in North Carolina is estimated at 1.35 million acres, 16 percent below a year earlier.

Wheat seedings last fall for harvest this season totaled 490,000 acres, down 7 percent from the previous year.

Flue Cured Tobacco for harvest in

North Carolina is estimated at 216,000 acres, 4 percent more than in 1986.

Peanut plantings in the State totaled 150,000 acres, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Cotton plantings are estimated at 90,000 acres, 10 percent more than the previous year.

Sweet Potato plantings are expected to total 36,000 acres, 3 percent more than 1986 plantings.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION FORECAST

UP 10 PERCENT

Flue cured tobacco Production in North Carolina is forecast at 475.2 million pounds, up 10 percent from the 1986 crop. Both acreage are expected yield per acre are up.

Wheat Production in North Carolina is forecast at 18.0 million bushels, unchanged from the previous

forecast but 27 percent more than the 1986 crop of 14.3 million bushels. Yield per acre is expected to average 41 bushels compared with 31 bushels a year earlier. The area for harvest is estimated at 440,000 acres, down 4 percent from last year.

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Peach Production in the Tar Heel State is forecast at 30 million pounds, same as forecast a month earlier. Harvest was about 35 percent completed as of July 5.



Pictured above Walker Rayburn is seen as he shears one of his lambs. This was a demonstration done at the library for area youngsters on Friday.

1987 commercial pesticide license exam schedules outlined by state

Pesticide license exams will be given in Raleigh every third Wednesday of each month and at various County Agricultural Extension Offices on the dates listed below. All exams will begin at 1:00 p.m. Contact Laura Kirk at (919) 733-3556 for an appointment.

Third Wednesday in Raleigh: July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16.

North Carolina Department of Agricultural Building (facing the Capitol Building) 1 West Edenton Street,

Third floor, Room 359.

Agricultural Extension Offices: Lumberton (Roberson Co.) July 8, O.P. Owens Agricultural Center, Hwy. NC 711 & 72 W.; Greenville (Pitt Co.) August 12, Pitt County Office Bldg., 2nd Floor, 1717 5th Street. Halifax (Halifax Co.) Sept. 9, Halifax Extension Office, Agriculture Ext. Service Office, Pittsylvania St. (Courtland Sq.)

Goldsboro (Wayne Co.) Oct. 14, Wayne Center, Corner of George & Chestnut Sts. (SE)

Clinton (Sampson Co.) Nov. 10, Sampson Co. Office Building, 303 C. East Rowan Street.

The above scheduled exam scheduled exam dates do not include the exams given at the end of the pesticide schools conducted by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service. A schedule of these schools and training material may be obtained from John H. Wilson, NCSU, 51 Kilgore Hall, Raleigh, NC 27695. Telephone (919) 737-3113.

Commissioner Graham announces state increase in regulatory action

RALEIGH

Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham today announced increased regulatory action aimed at monitoring the 1987 tobacco crop for non-approved pesticide use, particularly dicamba and 2,4-D. These chemicals can be illegally used to cause premature yellowing of green tobacco.

"Although we do not feel we have a problem with pesticide misuse on tobacco in North Carolina," stated Commissioner Graham, "we want to reassure our domestic customers of the quality of our tobacco, and let our farmers know that there is no room for illegal pesticide use. Too much is at stake."

NCSU Pesticide Section inspectors have completed training in identification of green tobacco on which dicamba, 2,4-D and other non-approved chemicals have been used to "yellow" the tobacco. These inspectors will travel in all of the tobacco-producing counties, visually inspecting green tobacco for signs of pesticide misuse. Samples will be taken and analyzed by the pesticide residue laboratory in the NCSU Food and Drug

Protection Division.

These inspectors will also investigate suspected cases of pesticide misuse based on complaints from other farmers. People wanting to report suspected pesticide misuse on tobacco can do so by calling the NCSU Pesticide Section at 919-733-3556.

"Where we confirm pesticide misuse on green tobacco," said Graham, "NCSU will prosecute that grower to the fullest extent of the law. We will also turn our confirmed laboratory results over to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) for further action. A few farmers should not be allowed to jeopardize the livelihood of over 41,000 North Carolina tobacco growers."

Growers who misuse chemicals on their tobacco crop are subject to penalties under the North Carolina Pesticide Law. The Pesticide Board may assess a civil penalty of \$500 for each instance of willful misuse of a pesticide, and/or revoke the farmer's pesticide applicator certification, which means loss of his license to purchase

agricultural chemicals he needs to farm. The Pesticide Law also provides for penalties up to \$1,000 and 60 days in jail for misdemeanor violations of any provision of the law.

Flue-Cured Tobacco Stabilization Corporation will also conduct sampling of cured tobacco on the warehouse floor. Growers who have certified to ASCS that they have not or will not use non-approved chemicals on their tobacco, and who are found to do so, will be subject to fines of up to \$10,000, and imprisonment up to five years, and loss of the privilege of selling that tobacco under the price support program.

Graham has also written to North Carolina tobacco warehousemen, pesticide dealers, and vocational agriculture teachers asking for their assistance in educational efforts aimed at preventing pesticide misuse. Additionally, he has written to officials of all major domestic and export tobacco companies assuring them of the quality of North Carolina tobacco and of his determination to use his regulatory powers to prevent pesticide misuse on tobacco.

Perquimans County 4-H group to participate in annual 4-H congress

By JUANITA T. BAILEY

Home Economics Ext. Agent, 4-H Perquimans County 4-H members will be among some 900 Tar Heel teenagers attending the 1987 North Carolina 4-H Congress July 20-24 in Raleigh.

The congress will be held on the N.C. State University campus and delegates will reside in NCSU dormitories.

The congress officially opens Monday night with a flag ceremony, citizenship Gala, State 4-H Honor Club tapping, and dance.

Finals in some 40 contests will be

held Tuesday to pick state winners who will be honored at a banquet that evening. A Beach Party and Dance will follow.

Project exploration workshops are scheduled all over the NCSU campus on Wednesday morning. A pigpicking lunch will take place at Pullen Park where delegates will donate 25 cents each to Farm Aid. Four of the eight districts will spend the afternoon at the U.S. Olympic Festival while others will attend the 1987 premier performance by the N.C. 4-H Performing Arts Troupe. The districts will switch schedules at night so all dele-

gates attend the Olympics and see the premier.

The Thursday program features a morning assembly where Governor James G. Martin will be the keynote speaker. Citizenship workshops, election and installation of new officers, the delegate banquet, and a farewell concert-dance will conclude the 1987 congress.

Perquimans County 4-H members, ages 13 to 19, are eligible to attend, according to Juanita T. Bailey, Home Economics Extension Agent, 4-H.

Ayscue attends governor's school

Approximately 400 gifted and talented high school students from across the state of North Carolina arrived Sunday, June 21, on the campus of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg to begin the 10th session of Governor's School East.

The summer residential program is designed to supplement the regular secondary school curriculum. The students will be given an opportunity for intensive study and training in an academic area or in the performing arts. The Governor's School also provides instruction to all students in applied psychology and philosophy. In addition to their academic art pursuits, the students will publish a yearbook and a weekly newspaper,

form a student government association, and become involved in various recreational activities. Gail Smith, chief consultant for the State Department of Public Instruction's academi-

cally gifted program, serves as director of Governor's School East.

Kathy Ayscue of Perquimans County will be attending the 1987 session of the Governor's School East.

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Exhibit set

The NC Agricultural Extension Service and the NC Extension Homemakers Association will present "Skills for Living" on Friday, August 14 from 3:00-8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, August 15 from 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. at Southgate Mall in Elizabeth City. Participating counties include: Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank and Perquimans.

Home Economics Extension Agents from each of the above counties will be on hand with exhibits on: Kitchen Planning, Food Substitutions, Diet Analysis, Household Smarts, Fashion Analysis and Options, Stress Management, Toys for Children, Window Treatments and educational videos and computer programs. The Extension Homemakers clubs will have exhibits on family record keeping, membership and county club activities and educational programs. Extension Homemaker members will be on hand to answer any questions concerning their organization and educational programs. 4-H youth will also have an exhibit on their cumulative and project book subject area.

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