

Farming news

Governor Martin supports funding for state conservation programs

RALEIGH—Gov. Jim Martin today announced that the state will provide \$200,000 this year to soil and water conservation districts as matching funds for soil and water conservation programs. The funds will be dispersed through the state Soil and Water Conservation Commission, which receives the \$200,000 annually from the General Assembly to support each county's soil and water conservation districts.

Once the districts meet the requirements and the counties appropriate matching funds on a 50-50 basis, the Commission will disperse \$2,000 to respective districts. The funds are used for secretarial and technical personnel, education, supplies and communications. Soil and water conservation districts—staffed locally by elected or appointed supervisors who volunteer their time—review and approve appli-

cations for the state's Agriculture Cost-Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution and coordinate local conservation education programs for landowners and youth. The Commission sets guidelines for the state's cost-share program and matching funds. The Division of Soil and Water Conservation in the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development provides staff assistance.

State reduces traffic congestion

RALEIGH—The state transportation department has found a way to reduce traffic congestion on US-17 at Bridgeton in Craven County. Delays and traffic backups occur on the highway when the drawbridges across the Trent and Neuse Rivers are opened to allow water traffic to pass. Beginning Wednesday August 12, the department will erect signs on US 17 at Vanceboro and New Bern to direct motorists onto a series of primary and secondary roads bypassing Bridgeton. The bypass will be signed as NC-43 to provide continuity to the route. NC-43 currently extends from

just south of Warrenton in Warren County to Vanceboro. The bypass will be 18.2 miles long or 2.7 miles shorter than the US 17 route between Vanceboro and south of New Bern. Randy D. Doub of Greenville, who represents Craven County on the state Transportation Board, urged motorists not headed directly to the New Bern-Bridgeton area to use the bypass. Doub said motorists headed south to Jacksonville and Wilmington and north to Washington, Greenville and Elizabeth City will save time by taking the bypass.

DOT crews will begin erecting signs designating the NC-43 bypass next week. The signs on US-17 directing motorists onto the bypass will be erected on Wednesday. The signs south of New Bern will go up at 8 a.m. with the ones at Vanceboro set to be erected later that day. The NC-43 bypass will use sections US-17 Business, Weyerhaeuser Road (Secondary Road 1482), Secondary Road 1400, Secondary Road 1401, NC-55, Glenburnie Road (US-70 Business), US-70 Bypass, and South Glenburnie Road (Secondary Road 1309).

State passes ethanol legislation

RALEIGH—Senate Bill 1241, distillery tax credit changes that will create an ethanol industry and enhance production of corn in North Carolina, has passed the North Carolina General Assembly on the final day of the legislative session. The new law, introduced by Sen. Harold Hardison of Lenoir County, will become effective January 1, 1988. The law, which drew strong support from both the Cornrowers Association and the North Carolina Farm Bureau, provides a 20-percent tax credit for the construction of an ethanol production facility. Location of the new plant, as yet undecided, will most likely be in the eastern part of the state and employ 175 people. The ethanol facility will immediately

generate \$60 to \$75 million in construction costs into the North Carolina economy. Ted Ivey, president of the Cornrowers Association of North Carolina, praised Sen. Hardison and the legislative leadership for their role and said the ethanol distillery plant will be a boon for family farms in the state. "There are 25,000 farm families whose income depend on the production of corn. This new plant will eventually use 25 million bushels of corn per year. Methods are now under study that would even allow the plant to safely use drought-stressed alfalfa-tainted corn, which in the past has caused great monetary loss to cornrowers," Ivey said.

"Sen. Hardison's efforts, the work of Representative John Kerr and Senator Henson Barnes, both Democrats from Wayne County, and Vernon James, D-Pasquotank, as well as the leadership of the House and Senate, were instrumental in gaining passage of this important legislation," Ivey said. Proponents of the ethanol industry say that ethanol enhanced fuels burn cleaner and will help reduce the dependence on foreign imported oil. Approximately 50 million gallons of ethanol are currently being shipped annually into North Carolina. North Carolina production of ethanol is expected to greatly reduce that amount.

Teachers participate in project

A new science-teaching method in North Carolina's public schools may have students turning into grasshoppers, shrews and hawks when they return to school this Fall. Under a correlation plan between the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the state Department of Public Instruction, students may get a better understanding of the reasons for protecting the state's natural resources. Some of the wildlife activities in the new plan call for students to pretend they are different animals—some predators and some prey—to get an understanding of natural processes. This summer, 15 public school teachers matched the Commission's two Project WILD teaching manuals with guidelines set by the State Board of Education for science and social studies. Project WILD is a method endorsed and sponsored by wildlife and natural resources agencies nationwide to help school teachers with their lessons on the environment. North Carolina began using Project

WILD in 1984. In one lesson for sixth-graders, the teacher's goal, according to the state Department of Public Instruction, is that children learn the importance of natural resources. One Project WILD activity for that lesson calls for the teacher to divide the students into groups of grasshoppers, shrews and hawks and give them colored pipe cleaners to represent food for the grasshoppers. Some of the pipe cleaners represent pollution. Since the shrews prey on the grasshopper and the hawk preys on the shrew, the activity shows how the shrew ingests more pollution when it eats the grasshopper. And, it shows how the pollution contamination multiplies when the hawk eats the shrew. This lesson demonstrates the principle of biological concentration of contaminants in the food chain in terms the students can easily understand. A \$2,500 grant from the N.C. Wildlife Federation paid the teachers to match activities described in Project

WILD with their own teaching guidelines. Teachers divided into teams according to grade levels and subjects such as science and social studies to devise the new teaching method. A 15-page manual compiled by those teams will be delivered to 3,000 of the state's teachers who have attended Project WILD workshops in the past. "Most of the activities provided in the Project WILD manual apply to science and social studies," said Rick Estes, supervisor of the Commission's Educational Services Section. "For example, during a geography lesson for fourth-graders, teachers may show which native plants and animals live with humans in certain geographical regions and how they are important to the area.

Protecting your child's pennies

Media attention has recently focused on a series of seizures of children's bank accounts. According to the Internal Revenue Service, this is one childhood trauma that could be avoided. The new tax law requires any dependent age 5 or older to have a social security number of his-her own number. On existing accounts, parents should notify the bank of the child's social security number to eliminate potential problems. By law a bank must have a social security number in order to set up an account. When parents set up an account for their child, many times a

parent's social security number is used because the child does not have one. This can cause problems. When a taxpayer owes back taxes, the IRS sends several notices and bills requesting payment. If the taxpayer does not pay voluntarily, the IRS is authorized to levy on any account listed in the taxpayer's name and-or social security number. A new procedure has been initiated by the IRS in response to public concern, which adds a safeguard for innocent parties to collection actions — whenever a levy involves a joint account, the funds are frozen until ownership can be verified.

Haw River man convicted

GRAHAM - A Haw River man has been convicted here in Alamance County District Court of operating a boarding kennel without a state license. According to Al Eatman, animal welfare director with the N.C. Department of Agriculture, Roy C. Parker, Jr., owner of McRoy Kennels of Rt. 1, Haw River, was charged with operating the business from July 7 through July 11 without a state license issued by the NCDA. District Court Judge W. S. Harris, Jr. found prayer for judgment continued on condition the defendant not violate the North Carolina Animal Welfare Act for five years and not apply for a state license during the same period of time. It was stipulated that if Parker violates the condition, he would be fined \$25 a day for each of the days he operated the kennel without a license. Prosecution of the case resulted from an investigation by the Veterinary Division of the N.C. Depart-

ment of Agriculture. Under the law, it is the responsibility of the Veterinary Division to enforce the laws, rules and regulations of the state Animal Welfare Act. **NORTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU Insurance** For Farm Bureau Members **Lewis B. Evans AGENCY MANAGER** Pat Ward AGENT Jeff L. Smith AGENT 426-5636 426-7401 Church Street Ext. Hertford, N.C.



Area farmers and extension agents gathered last week in Hertford for the annual test plot tour sponsored by the Perquimans Extension Office. Farmers were given an opportunity to see various test plots and their results throughout Perquimans County.

Information on webworms

Fall webworms are not tent caterpillars in fall dress, say experts at the N.C. Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The communal web tent is the home and feeding ground for the larval or caterpillar stage of a tiger moth, a relative of the woolly bear caterpillar. Trees the webworms favor most for snacking are the ash cherry willow and apply. In this area, they munch heartily on the sourwood as well.

The female moth lays from 200-500 eggs on the underside of the tree leaves. The masses of eggs are covered with white hair from the female's body. When the eggs hatch about a week later, the larvae begin a web around the leaves. This is done usually during the evening. When the caterpillars are one-and-a-quarter inches long, after six molts in four to six weeks, they wander away to pupate individually in gray cocoons possibly in a rubbish pile, on a fence or in crevices in tree bark. Fall webworm nests are much like tent caterpillar nests except tent caterpillar nest are in the crotch of branches and fall webworm tents are in the tips of branches. The difference results because the tent caterpillars leave the protected nest to

feed on leaves, and the fall webworms build their nests around their feeding areas. The fall webworm is seldom seen outside its nest. Although the webworm's nest seems safe, the caterpillars do fall victim to birds, hornets and wasp. Yellow warblers especially enjoy dining on webworm caterpillars and can easily annihilate an entire colony. Wasps do not cause as much damage. They either sting a caterpillar or chew on it awhile before taking the larva to their nest. Fall webworms likely will not destroy trees, but the web is unsightly. For gardeners who have fall webworms and do not want them, two remedies exist: the branch can be cut and burned, or it can be sprayed with bacillus thuringiensis.

Landis promoted

ROCKY MOUNT, NC.—H. Kel Landis, Peoples Bank Executive Vice President, has been appointed Peoples Bancorporation's first Holding Company Administrator by Robert R. Mauldin, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Landis' new duties include providing coordination on mergers and acquisitions, investigating additional opportunities in non-banking activities, overseeing strategic planning, and taking over administrative responsibility for the Audit, Investor Relations, and Legal Departments. According to Mauldin, "The holding company needs the attention of a full time administrator in order to facilitate future growth and progress and to deal with the increasing complexity of a multi-bank holding company. With Kel's financial management background and years of experience with Peoples, we feel fortunate that he is the one who will be assuming the responsibility of this much needed position. We are certain that Peoples Bancorporation will benefit from his serving in this capacity." Landis has been serving in the financial management area of the bank for most of his banking career.

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