

The Carlisle Mercury

Our 113th year, No. 34

Carlisle, Kentucky, 40311, Thursday, August 21, 1980

25 cents per copy

Farm revenue, costs increase since 1974

The 1978 market value of agricultural products sold by the 721 farms in Nicholas County amounted to \$113 million or an average of \$155,233 each, up from \$94 million in 1974 with an accompanying increase in production costs, according to a preliminary report of the 1978 Census of Agriculture released by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

A breakdown of the county's total agricultural sales for 1978 followed by that for 1974, is as follows: Crops, \$6.6 million compared with \$5.4 million; livestock, poultry and their products, \$4.8 and \$1.5 million.

While the value of gross sales rose, the farmers' costs also climbed since 1974. Expenditures for feed for livestock and poultry for 1978 were \$82,000 compared to \$72,000; costs of gasoline, diesel and other petroleum products were \$56,000 compared to \$34,000. Fertilizer costs of all types totaled \$67,000 for 1978. The estimated market value of machinery and equipment per farm increased from \$12,325 to \$14,812. Of the total farms in the county, 62 had gross sales of \$40,000 or more and 406 had sales of under \$10,000. Farms

operated by individuals or families represented 82 percent of the total; farms operated by corporations accounted for 1 percent. Some 90 percent of the operators owned all or part of the land they operated.

In 1978 the average age of farm operator was 51.3 years. Since 1974 the proportion of operators listing farming as their principal occupation changed from 69 percent to 57 percent.

Other results of the census show that the number of farms increased from 698 to 721, while the average size changed from 162 to 146 acres. All land in farms totaled 106,118 acres in 1978 compared to 112,590 acres in 1974. Land from which crops were harvested increased from 19,002 to 18,088 acres.

The number of cattle and calves decreased from 24,254 to 21,031. Fed

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Jackets open season Friday

The Nicholas County Bluejackets open the 1980 season this Friday night at home against the Fleming County Panthers.

The Jackets are playing a 11 game schedule this year with one open date, Sept. 5. The team will close its season Nov. 7 in Bellevue.

Those two teams, Fleming and Bellevue, are the picks to win their respective classes in the playoffs this year. And the schedule also includes Lexington AAAA power Henry Clay, added to the list of opponents as a Central Kentucky Conference game.

The Jackets are back in the Central Kentucky Conference after an absence of several years. Their membership will allow them to compete for the conference championships and the

all-sports trophy annually awarded by the conference.

NCHS starts its season after two scrimmages with Class AAAA powers from Eastern Kentucky, Greemp and Boyd counties.

Coach Ben Pumphrey said Monday his team was small but experienced and ready to play.

"We really got down in the trenches and took it to those big boys in the scrimmages," he said. "We might be small but we'll be there."

Jimmy Dale is listed as the biggest player on the roster at 6'11" and 190 pounds. Fleming County lists two seniors on the line at 220 and 210.

But the Jackets have several players with four years' experience as well as a running back in David McGuffey to

Nicholas County Bluejackets 1980 Football Schedule

Aug. 22	Fleming County	Home
Aug. 29	Richmond Madison	Home
Sept. 5	Open	
Sept. 12	Fairview	Away
Sept. 19	Beechwood	Away
Sept. 26	Hazard	Away
Oct. 3	Boyd County	Away
Oct. 10	Lexington Henry Clay	Away
Oct. 17	Raceland	Home
Oct. 24	Paris	Home
Oct. 31	Mayville	Home
Nov. 7	Bellevue	Away

'80 Jackets

The 1980 NCHS football Bluejackets are, front row, from left, Terry Ledford - 66, Brian Watkins - 51, Mark Wade - 74, Jeff Cartwright - 72, Bobby Woolsey - 11, Scott Brady - 85, Jody Duncan - 62, Billy Sosby - 82, Greg Smart - 78, Jeff Hammonds - 66, Rodney Hughes - 92, Ron Allison. Second row,

Mike Wojsley - 15, Steve Anderson - 18, Keith Williams - 48, David Hunter - 57, Greg Smart - 78, Jeff Hammonds - 66, Rodney Hughes - 92, Ron Allison. Second row,

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Cooled off

Mrs. W.R. Kingsolver, left, and Mrs. Mark Prevo present a check for \$1,764 to Rob Hester, Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc. administrator. The money, raised during the Health Care Auxiliary's annual benefit dinner and auction at Forest Retreat, has been used to purchase four air conditioning units in the nursing home. Mrs. Kingsolver is director of volunteer services at the hospital and Mrs. Prevo is president of the Health Care Auxiliary. — Mercury photo.

Unnamed disease hits local burley

Black shank, blue mold and an unnamed, new disease may cause the 1980 Nicholas County tobacco crop to weigh out as much as 25 percent short. According to Nicholas County Agent Mike Phillips, plant pathologists at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture are trying to isolate a new tobacco disease that resembles black root rot.

"It's called the 'unknown stunt syndrome' and the researchers are trying to isolate it now," Phillips said. "It resembles black root rot in appearance but the black root rot resistant varieties of tobacco won't stand up to it."

Phillips said the disease has been spotted in some Nicholas County tobacco fields, particularly those near the Bourbon County line.

"Bourbon has a lot of it," he said, "and we've been finding some cases here. It's also being found throughout most of central Kentucky."

He described the disease as a soil-borne organism that works on the plant leaf and stunts its growth. Testing using a fumigation technique has proved to be successful in combating the disease.

Crop under stress
The prevalence of shank in the county this year could be traced to the unusual growing season, Phillips explained.

"The plants have been going through stress situations after another," he said. "First a lot of them were set when the ground was wet. Then we had three or four weeks of intensely hot weather, moving the plants into another stress situation. They've weakened and been

made more susceptible to diseases." The county agent believes that these stress situations are the underlying factors behind the black shank outbreaks in the county.

"Some of the growers are using black shank resistant strains but when the plants are weakened because of unusual growing conditions the disease can still occur," he said.

"The black shank has been there but the plants were always strong enough to resist it. A weakened plant can't and that's why some growers are finding it in fields they've never seen it before."

Not much help
According to tobacco researchers there's only one way to make sure black shank won't recur in a stricken field and that's to quit using that ground for growing tobacco.

Black shank is a disease that is found only in tobacco although some laboratory tests have succeeded in introducing it to plants of the same general family as tobacco.

One piece of good news is that blue mold, confirmed in Nicholas County last month, is not posing a serious threat at present.

"The spores are still there," Phillips said, "but the weather conditions

And no one is exactly sure how it is spread. Some researchers believe it can be transported from an affected field to a healthy field on farm machinery or even on a farmer's shoes.

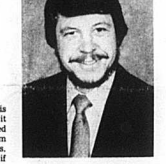
It's also a soil-borne organism and if clods of infected dirt are picked up in one field and deposited in another by machinery or even by human transport, the disease can be transmitted.

However it is spread, once it strikes a field there is little a grower can do, particularly after a rain. Some of the spores are transported by water and a field which has one plant affected with black shank could be virtually destroyed within a week if it rains.

Blue mold shanking
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Dwaine Green

Green named KPHA head

Dwaine Green was installed as president-elect of the Kentucky Pharmacists Association at the annual KPHA convention held in Louisville July 29-August 3.

He will assume full responsibilities of the presidency of the association in July 1981.

Green has been an active member of the Bluegrass Pharmaceutical Association and the Ky. Pharmacists Association for the past nine years. He has served for the past four years as an elected member of the board of directors and second vice president of the state association.

He has participated in the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy Voluntary Faculty program for the past eight years. He is presently working as a part-time professor for the U.K. College of Pharmacy. He is also co-owner of Sageser Drug in Lexington.

Help

For the past two weeks the Mercury has had two reporters and two photographers. Consequently the amount of news produced has doubled and there is not enough room in this week's paper to print it all. If you've had your picture taken or sent some news in, please bear with it. Will be printed as soon as possible.

Democrats plan rally

Area Democrats have planned a rally and picnic for Aug. 30 at the American Legion Park in Paris.

Bill Aversan, Paris, president of the Kentucky Young Democrats, said the guest of honor will be Senator Wendell Ford. Other prominent Democrats expected to attend include House Speaker Bill Kenton of Lexington, State Agriculture Commissioner Alben Barkley II, State senator Tom Easterly of Frankfort, State Senator Ed Ford of Cynthiana, State Representative Jim Lemaster, Paris, Kentucky Democratic Chairman Bob Cobb and Dale Sights of Henderson.

The rally and picnic will begin at 2 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. The event is open to the public and tickets are available in Nicholas County from County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot or they may be purchased at the gate.

