

U.S. TOBACCO COOPERATIVE SCOOP...

A newsletter from
U.S. Tobacco Cooperative
www.ustobaccofarmer.com

USTC MARKETING CENTERS OPEN

On Tuesday, August 3, 2010, the first of four marketing centers opened its doors for business in Mullins, South Carolina. The Wilson, North Carolina, Nashville, Georgia, and Danville, Virginia marketing centers followed and opened on Wednesday, August 4, Thursday, August 5, and Wednesday, August 18, respectively. In each of the marketing centers, opening days are filled with excitement, anticipation, and some anxiety. The members are excited because they can sell their tobacco. The



Opening day, in Mullins, SC

USTC staff is excited to see and meet with our members. The members and USTC buyers anticipate good prices for offered tobacco. Our members' anxiety comes from waiting to see the buying grade placed on their individual bales. The staffs'

U.S. TOBACCO COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 11, 2010
10:00A.M.**

**NC STATE
FAIRGROUNDS
1025 Blue Ridge Road,
Raleigh, NC
Holshouser Building**

**LUNCH WILL BE
PROVIDED AFTER
THE MEETING**

**DOOR PRIZES WILL
TAKE PLACE
DURING THE
MEETING**

**PLEASE MARK
YOUR CALENDAR**

anxiety relates directly to providing excellent and courteous service for each of our members.

Marketing Center: Mullins, South Carolina

Our members have experienced a wide range of growing conditions. Depending upon farm location, some growers have had excellent growing conditions and other growers have experienced near drought growing conditions. There has been a relatively large number of tobacco diseases reported due in part to the length of time our growers have left their tobacco in the field to ripen. Heat during the day is a contributing factor to growers' reported tobacco diseases and tobacco quality related problems. Even with these conditions, our growers have produced and sold high volumes of excellent quality tobacco. The overall leaf quality is excellent to average.

Marketing Center: Wilson, North Carolina

Our members have had similar growing conditions as our Mullins, SC growers with one large distinction. More of our members have had periods of near drought growing conditions and excessive heat on their tobacco. North Carolina's recorded heat index for 90 degree or higher days has been set for this year at a running total of 90 days. The previous record was eighty-three days recorded in 2007. These conditions have (continued on page 2)

U. S. Tobacco Cooperative Inc. is the grower owned and supported cooperative that serves flue-cured tobacco growers in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

Chairman of the Board

Albert Johnson

Vice Chairmans

Kenneth Dasher

Andrew Q. Shepherd

Jimmy Pate

President

Tommy Bunn

DIRECTORS

District 2 Kenneth Dasher
Live Oak,
Florida

District 3 Albert M. Johnson
Galivants Ferry,
South Carolina

District 4 James C. Pate
Rowland,
North Carolina

District 5 Keith Beavers
Mt. Olive,
North Carolina

District 6 Blythe H. Casey
Kinston,
North Carolina

District 7 Charlie S. Batten
Four Oaks,
North Carolina

District 8 Jimmy Crews
Oxford,
North Carolina

District 9 Richard Renegar
Harmony,
North Carolina

District 10 Andrew Q. Shepherd
Blackstone,
Virginia

Public Director James T. Hill, Jr.
Kinston,
North Carolina

Telephone: (919) 821-4560

Fax: (919) 821-4564



Opening day in Wilson, NC

delayed tobacco harvesting. Our growers have left the tobacco in the fields to ripen, but without the assistance of rain, growers are experiencing added cost due to more sucker control applications and weed and grass applications. Also, tobacco acreage yields are reduced due to tobacco diseases, such as Black Shank and Tomato Wilt Virus. In addition, the unusual heat conditions are baking the tobacco oils out of the tobacco. The overall leaf quality is average to poor.

Marketing Center: Nashville, Georgia

Nashville, Georgia reports growing conditions are varied with some areas of dry weather, but this has been an excellent year for our growers in north Florida and Georgia. They have produced large quantities of excellent tobacco with little or no tobacco



Opening day, Nashville, GA

diseases reported. The overall leaf quality is excellent.

Marketing Center: Danville, Virginia

The growing conditions on the eastern side of Danville are not dissimilar from the growing conditions in Eastern North Carolina. The western side has had slightly more rain, but again heat is a contributing factor. Both areas have just recently received an abundance of rain, so the evaluations of the effects of the rain on the tobacco in the fields are undetermined. Currently, twenty-six percent of our members' tobacco has been received and overall leaf quality is average.



Opening day in Danville, VA

USTC recognizes our members' hard work and time to produce a quality crop of tobacco. It is difficult to produce top quality tobacco when nature does not cooperate with you, but we know you are giving your Cooperative your best effort. Also, many of our growers have purchased or built tobacco cleaning systems and for those growers, your Cooperative thanks you.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS GRADUATE

(continued on page 3)



Leadership Program graduates from left to right: James Roebuck (Robersonville, NC), Garland Comer (Vernon Hill, VA), Jordan Denning (Burgaw, NC), Lance Hendley (Nashville, GA), USTC President Tommy Bunn, Joe Warren III (Salemburg, NC), Brent Watts (Clarendon, NC), Jackson Lord, Jr. (Live Oak, FL) and Sammy Braddy (Hobgood, NC)

The 2009-2010 USTC Leadership Program continued on the second week of March, 2010 with a trip to Washington, D.C. The trip was delayed due to a heavy snow storm in Washington, D.C., occurring the second week in February. The second week is geared towards political awareness and the importance of political involvement at all government levels. Prior to the trip to Washington, D.C., Jake Parker, a lobbyist with Farm Bureau was asked to participate in a discussion with our young farmers concerning current and future farm legislation.

The next day the leadership group traveled to Washington, D.C. for two days of in depth meetings. The participants visited the congressional representatives from their districts to discuss farm issues. The topic of the FDA's regulation of tobacco was discussed and they expressed their concerns as to the impact FDA could have on their farms. It was a clear message to keep FDA

regulators off their farms. They visited with representatives of the USDA and discussed farm insurance issues and the upcoming farm bill.

Following their trip to Washington, D.C., USTC's President and CEO Tommy Bunn presented each Leadership Program graduate with a shirt and a framed certificate of graduation. USTC would like to thank the participation of the following people: the Leadership Program participants, Dr. Bill Collins (NCSU), Dr. David Smith (NCSU), Dr. Loren Fisher (NCSU), Dr. Lanny Haas (NCSU) and Dr. Mary Wiggins (NCSU), Robin Tallon and Brad Edwards (USTC Washington, D.C. lobbyists), Jake Parker (NC Farm Bureau), and Cooperative staff personnel.

2010 – 2011 LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SIGN UP NOTICE

This notice is for all interested Leadership Program participants. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Must be between 18 and 40 years old
- Must be in a decision making position on the farm.
- Must have a USTC Marketing Agreement in their name or be a close member (son, daughter, etc. has an interest in the crop) with the U.S. Tobacco Cooperative.
- Must be willing to commit two weeks to the program. (weeks are not consecutive)
- Must be willing to actively participate in the leadership program.

- Must be nominated by a U.S. Tobacco Cooperative, Inc. board member or marketing center manager.

Interested candidates should contact their Board of Director for their district or contact their Marketing Center manager for an application. Application must be postmarked by October 22, 2010 to be eligible for consideration. We expect that there will be multiple candidates interested from each district. It will be important that you get your application in as soon as possible. A committee will review all applications to accept a candidate from each district. The program is paid for by the Cooperative.



Ricky Powell at his desk in Fuquay Varina, NC

RICKY POWELL RECIPIENT OF COOP'S 25 YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Ricky Powell was inadvertently left out of the 2010 first quarter SCOOP article recognizing Cooperative employee's 25 years of service award. Ricky is a graduate of Campbell University and started his employment in 1984. Ricky is manager of logistics at our facility in Fuquay-Varina. Ricky and his (continued on page 4)

his wife, Vicki and resides in Fuquay-Varina.



Mr. Jimmy Hill

JIMMY HILL RECEIVES CHAMBER'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mr. Jimmy Hill was recognized by the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce with their Citizen of the Year award for 2009 on Thursday, January 28, 2010. The award is one of the top annual awards presented by the Chamber. This is the 50th such award given by the Chamber since 1963. The award honors local residents for their outstanding services for Lenoir County.

Mr. Hill is president of Tull Hill Farms Inc. The farm produces tobacco, sweet potatoes, corn and other crops. In 2000, Mr. Hill was appointed to the President's Commission for the national Tobacco Quota Buyout program. Mr. Hill serves on the U.S. Tobacco Cooperative Board as the North Carolina Governor appointed public director.



TGNAC President Mel Ray presents "Farm Family of the Year Award" to Crews Family from left to right: Sam Crews, wife Karen, Roy W. Crews Sr.,

CREWS' FAMILY RECEIVES TGNAC FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD

On Friday, February 5, 2010, Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina honored the

Crews' family from Oxford, N.C. with TGANC's "Farm Family of the Year Award". The family farms over 200 acres of flue cured tobacco along with other row crops in rotation. Also, they own and operate a farm supply business and the Granville Tobacco Warehouse. The members of the family were nominated by industry peers and neighbors to recognize them for quality tobacco production throughout the years. In addition, the family is civic and community minded, contributing many hours of volunteer service. Specific to tobacco, members of the family have served on numerous boards and causes such as TGANC, Tobacco Associates, the NC Tobacco Foundation, the Phase II Tobacco Trust Fund, NC Tobacco Research Commission, and The Bright Belt Warehouse Association. TGANC's President Mel Ray presented the award to the Crew's family. Presently, Jimmy Crews represents district eight members on the U.S. Tobacco Cooperative's Board of Directors. (Source: The Tobacco Grower)
