

# Heat scorches Southeast

## N.C. residents face jail for taking long showers

By MARTIN STEINBERG  
Associated Press

Residents of three North Carolina communities face jail for five-minute showers, and limits on water use are spreading as the Southeast battles a farm-threatening drought and a two-week-old heat wave blamed for nine deaths.

Despite scattered thunderstorms Monday night in Tennessee and South Carolina, forecasters held out no hope of relief today from what in some areas is the worst drought in a century and from record high temperatures.

"It's not widespread enough, it's just too spotty to make a difference," said Mike Looney of the National Weather Service in Memphis, Tenn.

The National Weather Service predicted 100-degree temperatures today in parts of South Carolina, where it was 101 degrees in Columbia on Monday for the eighth straight day of triple-digit readings, a state record.

Officials in De Kalb County near Atlanta planned to open a shelter today for senior citizens to cool off. Augusta, Ga. hit 104 degrees Monday, tying a 98-year-old record.

"After you're on the street an hour or so, you're soaked all the way through and you stay wet all day," said mailman Ken McDowell in Charleston, S.C. where the temperature hit 101 on Monday, when humidity made it feel like 111. It was a record seventh straight day of 100-plus temperatures.

"That's about the most miserable thing," McDowell said, "that you're soaked all the time."

The weekend deaths of two elderly men of heat stroke raised the number of heat-related fatalities in Georgia to four. Two heat-related deaths have been reported in North Carolina and one each in South Carolina, Virginia and Louisiana.

Georgia poultry producers and processors said the heat had killed more than 400,000 chickens within three days last week.

In addition to the heat, rainfall this year is 15 to 20 inches below normal in the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee. Parts of Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia and Delaware also are below normal.

"Unless abnormally high precipitation occurs within the next few months, streamflows and

Please see DROUGHT/13-A



AP photo

Jim Henderson kneels in the cracked soil of what was once a watering hole for the herd of cattle on his Hall County farm near Gainesville, Ga. recently. Henderson's 750-acre farm has had only 2 inches of rain since March.

\* St. Petersburg EVENING INDEPENDENT, Tuesday, July 15, 1966 ■ 13-A

## DROUGHT

Continued from Page 1-A

ground-water levels in much of the (Southeast) could be at their most critical levels in recent times," said Harold Golden, a U.S. Geological Survey hydrologist in Atlanta.

Faced with declining reservoirs, at least seven Tennessee utility districts have asked customers to limit water consumption.

Residents of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and southern Orange County, N.C. faced \$50 fines or 30 days in jail if they showered longer than four minutes. They also are not allowed to fill swimming pools or wash cars, must limit lawn watering, and restaurants may serve water only upon request.

The South Carolina Water Resources Commission declared a severe drought alert for 13 counties, allowing regional committees to restrict non-essential water use.

"In drier areas, it's probably the worst in 100 years, at least for this time of the year," said John Purvis, South Carolina state climatologist.

The Atlanta area is the driest it has been since record-keeping began in 1888, said the weather service's Gary Beeley.

Clayton County, south of Atlanta, imposed a

ban on outdoor watering Monday and asked restaurants not to serve water unless customers request it.

"We're basically at the point that people can either have green yards or water in the house," said Melvin Newman, water system manager there.

The Georgia Farm Bureau is surveying drought-related crop damage to see if any farmers qualify for disaster aid, said president Bob Nash. "The drought will accelerate the failure of farmers in Georgia and throughout the Southeast.

"Every commodity out there is going to be below average."

Carl Cross of North Carolina's Department of Agriculture Livestock and Crop Reporting Service said weekly reports from all 100 counties showed 41 percent of the corn crop and 27 percent of soybeans already are rated poor.

Jason B. Wise, 55, who farms near Lexington, S.C., said the drought virtually wiped out his wheat, turned his corn crop into a disaster and is killing the few soybeans that have sprouted.

"I think this one will do me in," said Wise. "A bumper crop would have allowed us to break even."