Iberia Has Free School Meal Policy

NEW IBERIA - A free meal policy has been announced by the Iberia Parish School Board for school children unable to pay the full price of meals served at the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

Eligibility

Local school officials have adopted the following family size-income criteria for use in determining who is eligible for free school meals:

Families with one child and a family annual income of less than $3,200 or less; two children, $4,240 or less; three children, $5,200 or less; four children, $6,260 or less; five children, $7,200 or less; six, $8,160 or less; seven, $9,060 or less; eight, $9,960 or less; nine, $10,860 or less; 10 children, $11,760 or less; 11, $12,660 or less; 12 children, $13,560 or less. For each child over 12 add $780 to the minimum income requirement.

In addition, families not meeting these requirements but with unusual medical expenses due to unusually high medical expenses, shelter costs in excess of two times the cost of income, special educational costs due to mental or physical condition of a child and disaster or casualty losses are urged to apply for free lunches for their school-age children.

George Crowson, assistant superintendent for Iberia schools, said parents can apply for the free program by filling out the application forms sent home in a letter to their children.

Applications for the program are available at the principal’s office in each school. The information called for on the application will be confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility for this program. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year.

Foster Children

In certain cases, Crowson said, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for the free meals for the children they should contact the school.

Under provisions of the policy, the principal in each school will review applications and determine eligibility. If parents are dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, they may discuss it with the school official or he may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing to appeal the decision. Crowson’s address is Star Rt. 5 Box 304 B (NAS), New Iberia, La. 70590.

Cotton Gin In Arnaudville Closed After 90 Years

By CAROL RAYMOND
Advertiser Area Reporter
ARNAUDVILLE - It's been operating for 90 consecutive years, but because of a lack of cotton in the area, the gin built by Leonce Darby Sr. and passed down through the generations to other members of the Darby family will be closed down this September and October for the first time since it began operating in 1884.

Because of the tobacco-bud worm which migrated from Mexico and affected the cotton crop severely in the Arnaudville area in the past, the gin has been operating without an acre of cotton being planted. Federal regulations have forbidden the use of chemicals (DDT for one) that can be used to control the tobacco-bud worm and other insects, said Joe Darby who, along with his brother Leroy, has managed the gin since 1948.

With the harm these insects do to the cotton crop, it is unprofitable to grow cotton, and many farmers are now growing soybeans and corn instead. Cane is also being grown.

"If and when we come up with some insecticides to control insects and a decent price for cotton, farmers may start growing cotton again," said Darby.

"I think economically it's going to affect a lot of areas. People employed by the cotton industry are going to be affected.

Other Areas

Since the insects have hit other areas in the quantities where there will still be plenty of cotton. But none of it will be grown, harvested and ginned in Arnaudville for the time being.

The days of the mule-drawn, steam-operated gin are over, said Darby, with the ginned cotton shipped by barge down the Atchafalaya and the cotton seed packed in 200 pound bags and shipped on barges to the oil mills, are over because of innovation.

Two Term (Continued From Page 49)

Cotton Gin In Arnaudville

New Iberia's Cotton Gin's operation has also become a thing of the past, at least temporarily.

This modern gin, built in 1922, is the third constructed since 1884. The second was a two-story gin run by a one-cylinder diesel engine.

Present Owners

The gin was run by Leonce Sr. for many years, then turned over for operation by his sons Jules, Leonce Jr. and Felix Darby. In 1948 management was taken over by Joe and Leroy Darby who, along with their sister, Mrs. Albert Braquet, own the gin.

Though the gin has been in his family 90 years it will no longer be operated. Darby accepts the inevitability of the situation.

If it's not good for the farmer, there's no need for me to try to encourage the farmers to plant something they won't make money with," he said.

And though he remains fairly unemotional, he admits the operation of the gin, which has become somewhat of a family tradition, will be missed.

"Fundamentally it's a big investment that's going to be lost if we don't return to ginning cotton at some future date," he said.

"It just doesn't seem natural for me not to be ginning cotton in September and October."