

Bucolic briefs

The Cape Fear Poultry Association will host a poultry show Dec. 9 at the Johnston County Livestock Arena in Smithfield. Judging starts at 9 a.m. The deadline to enter is Dec. 4. For show information, contact Wilbur Hanley, show director, at 919-796-2936 or email at langshanman@gmail.com or Carolyn Lynn at 910-897-8001 or sultanlady@embarqmail.com. The show catalog and entry form can be found at www.capefearpoultryassociation.com.

The Southern Farm Show will be held Jan. 31-Feb. 12 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, featuring more than 400 companies showcasing agricultural products and services, industry meetings, pesticide credit workshops, music and more. On Feb. 1, Agriculture Commissioner will host the annual Ag Development Forum at 9:30 a.m. in the Holshouser Building. There will be an FFA Tractor and Truck Driving Competition at 10 a.m. Feb. 1 in the Hunt Horse Complex. The Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina will host its annual meeting Feb. 2 at 10 a.m. in the Holshouser Building. The Southern National Draft Horse Pull will be held Feb. 2 at the Hunt Horse Complex. For more information, go to <https://southernshows.com/sfs/> or call 704-376-6594.

The cooperative extension offices of Person County and Granville County will host a Beginning Farmer Workshop Feb. 7. The event will be held at the Person County Office Building Auditorium at 304 S. Morgan St. in Roxboro. Registration begins at 9 a.m., followed by the program from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This educational opportunity is for anyone interested in starting a farming operation. No experience necessary. Topics will include basic needs for crops and livestock, terminology of farming, economics of farming, equipment, risks and more. This fast-paced program will hit the highlights of several areas related to farming and agriculture. Registration fee covers speakers, materials and lunch. Cost is \$25 per person or \$40 for two people from the same farm. Pre-registration deadline is Jan. 31. After that, the fee increases to \$35 for a single person and \$50 for two from the same farm. For information or to request a registration form, contact Kim Woods at kim_woods@ncsu.edu or at the Person County office 336-599-1195 or the Granville County office at 919-603-1350.

As a way to help farmers and agricultural workers stay safe at work, the N.C. Department of Labor offers safety videos on a variety of topics through its YouTube channel. Video topics include: preventing green tobacco sickness, hazard communication, tobacco harvester safety, heat stress, migrant housing requirements, forklift safety, and information about the NCDOL's Gold Star Growers program. The videos are in English and Spanish to increase understanding of safety hazards and preventing accidents. To learn more about the NCDOL and the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to www.nclabor.com or call 1-800-NC-LABOR (800-625-2267). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

Beekeepers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at www.ncagr.com/beelinked. The site is hosted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the N.C. State University Apiculture Program. Anyone interested in listing their information can do so by filling out an online Submit Your Ad form on the BeeLinked page or by contacting NCDA&CS at 919-233-8214 or by email at

NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division regulates the movement of agricultural or related items capable of spreading harmful insects, diseases, and other pests. Beekeepers participating in this program will be required to comply with all honey and bee industry regulations.

The N.C. Ag Finance Authority provides credit to agriculture in areas where financing is not available at reasonable rates and terms. The agency originates, services and finances farm loans, rural business loans, disaster loans and cotton gin loans. It also offers tax-exempt ag development bonds for agribusiness processing, ag-related manufacturing or ag waste disposal. For more about Ag Finance Authority programs or to request a loan application, call 919-790-3949 or email at RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov.
