Find ag-related events, workshops online

If you are interested in keeping up with upcoming ag-related workshops and events, check out the Google calendar posted on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ website at www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/index.htm.

Scroll to the bottom of the page to find listings for upcoming auxin herbicide classes, field days, farmers market events, Board of Agriculture and Soil and Water Conservation meetings and more. The calendar is updated regularly as events are announced.

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While you are looking for agricultural information, you might want to check out our In the Field blog, where we regularly post articles about the department’s work, recipes and other items of interest. You can find the blog at http://info.ncagr.gov/blog/.

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Be sure to mark your calendars for the Go to Be NC Be Starling, who was named as special assistant to the president for agriculture to be sure the voices of agriculture to be sure the voices of agriculture, trade and food assistance. The Starling, who was named as special assistant to the president for agriculture, trade and food assistance. The

Applications being taken for industrial hemp pilot program

Applications are now being accepted for a pilot program to grow industrial hemp for research in North Carolina. There is no deadline to apply for the program, which is open to farmers who can show evidence of income from a farming operation.

“The N.C. Industrial Hemp Commission has worked diligently and quickly to establish temporary rules before the 2017 planting season,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “There has been considerable interest in this program, and we expect a good number of farmers to apply for licenses.”

Under the rules, farmers will need to apply for a license, which will allow the holder to plant, harvest and market the crop. Licenses can be for one or three years. Applications will be reviewed

From the tractor

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

I often share the story of one of my college professors telling our class that the biggest challenge for farmers is not the weather, insects and disease, or up and down markets, but good ag policy.

I am not sure I believed him entirely when he said it, but his words have stuck with me over the years, and throughout my farming career have been proven true time and time again. It’s one of the reasons I decided to run for office — to help steer discussions toward good and effective agricultural policy.

In the department, we continually monitor state and federal legislation that could impact agriculture to be sure the voices of North Carolina farmers are heard. I know how critically important it is to stay on top of these issues.

For that reason, I have been encouraged by two recent appointments made by the Trump administration, including one of my former staff members, Ray Starling, who was named as special assistant to the president for agriculture, trade and food assistance. Also, former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue was selected to serve as agriculture secretary.

Both on understand the challenges farmers face daily in running a small business. They also know the impact ag policies have on those businesses, and both are versed in Southern farming issues, hopefully making them strong advocates for the region.

Ray served as chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis. He also served as Sen. Tillis’ chief counsel and then-Speaker Tillis’ general counsel and senior agriculture advisor in the N.C. General Assembly. He was the general counsel for the department, has private practice experience from several years at Hunton & Williams and has taught numerous agricultural and food law courses. Ray grew up on a Century Family Farm in southeast North Carolina, and received a bachelor of science degree in agricultural education from N.C. State University and a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

I feel fortunate to have had Ray on my staff because of his commitment to the farming community here in North Carolina, and his dedicated work to ensure good agricultural policy statewide and nationally. I hated to lose him to Sen. Tillis’ office, but took comfort in knowing we had a passionate and extremely knowledgeable ally in Washington, D.C.

I know Ray understands the landscape in Washington, but also has a deep passion for agriculture because of his farming roots. He is a bright star and I am proud that he will have the opportunity to serve farm families and agribusinesses at the highest level.

I look forward to working with both men going forward.

One year ago, North Carolina became the 14th state to partner with FieldWatch, an online mapping service designed to help prevent crop damage and bee deaths due to accidental or unintended pesticide drift.

The BeeCheck and DriftWatch programs allow beekeepers, specialty crop growers and pesticide users to use a website to plot or view hive locations and areas where pesticide-sensitive crops are planted.

“Beekeepers have really gotten on board with the BeeCheck program part of DriftWatch,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “In just over a year, we have surpassed every state except Illinois in the number of registered apiaries. Our number of registered specialty crop acres has really started to grow since more and more people hear about the program.”

Conrad Draughn, a tobacco farmer from Mount Airy, recently signed up for Driftwatch, the part of FieldWatch for producers. “I grow 100 acres of tobacco that is sensitive to the new 2,4-D product,” he said. “I wanted to mark my crop because it is sensitive to spraying.” Draughn signed up for DriftWatch after hearing about the program at a Good Agricultural Practices training workshop for tobacco growers.

“It was very easy to plot my fields, especially after getting the first outline drawn,” he said. “I could use that to help plot the rest.”

Frank Fowler, vice president of McNairy Pest Control in Winston-Salem, found out about the program at the Winter Pesticide School. “We signed up for it because it is a good fit for us,” Fowler said. “We do a lot of mosquito spraying under our public health license and want to make sure there are no bee hives around when we use it.”

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“One of the most important things I tell my growers is to stay on top of these issues, hopefully making them strong advocates for the region.

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Avian influenza back in the news; case found in Tennessee in March

The occurrence of an H7 avian influenza case in Lincoln County, Tenn., in early March serves as an excellent reminder for North Carolina poultry producers and backyard flocks to take advantage of good biosecurity measures on the farm.

Following confirmation of the avian flu, the U.S. Department of Agriculture worked closely with state officials to depopulate the commercial flock to contain the spread of the virus.

"The outbreak at the farm highlights the need for good biosecurity practices to limit outbreaks of a highly pathogenic avian influenza in 2015 in Minnesota and Iowa, learning many lessons along the way. That outbreak led many states to prepare for response in the event HPAI is found in their poultry population."

"The most recent information provided suggests the Tennessee disease outbreak has been quickly and appropriately managed and the level of threat to North Carolina and other Southeastern states is markedly diminished," said State Veterinarian Doug Meckes. "Many North Carolina families rely on the poultry industry for their livelihoods, and the department will continue to work closely with local, county and federal partners and the poultry industry to help prevent the introduction of disease or immediately respond should the disease be identified here in North Carolina."

Commercial and small flock owners in North Carolina should implement steps to limit the possible introduction of HPAI to their flocks. It’s also important to know the warning signs and be aware of changes to your flock that may signal that something is wrong. Visit our website, www.ncagr.gov/avianflu, for more information about HPAI and our preparedness efforts.

Dr. Beth Yongue has been named director of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division at the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Yongue replaces Alan Wade, who retired in January. She will oversee the 120-employee division, which inspects poultry processing plants, and veterinary professionals and veterinary officers who enforce laws designed to prevent the spread of disease and ensure products entering grocery stores and restaurants in North Carolina pass rigorous guidelines and are properly labeled. The division has 85 inspectors located across the state, and its job is to supervise the humane slaughter of animals and to make sure processing plants are in compliance with state and federal laws.

"Dr. Yongue has spent 20 years on the front lines of the meat industry in North Carolina," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "I am confident her experience as a veterinary medical officer and as a veterinarian has prepared her well to lead.

Yongue received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a doctorate in veterinary medicine from N.C. State University. She is native of Laurinburg.
**BEES**

**Beekeeping equip., wood,** enware, 10 & 8 frames & supers, $1,250; wood, varnish, fences, smokers, hives, suits, feeders, extractors, honey, $75-150. Gail Morgan, Liberty 336-622-3720.

Painted assembled 10 frame empty hive bodies, medium super & shallow super, UC, $16 ea.; ulster observation hive for deep frames, division board feeder incl., $110; other items avai. Justin Leonard, Statesville 704-838-0299.

Bee frames, Carniolan nucs, 5 frames of brood, food, bees & fresh laying queen, inspected, licensed, certified, orders require 50% deposit, large wholesale orders avai., 157. Ricky Mar- shall, Mooresville 704-904-6725.

Italian bees w/queen, 3 lb., pkgs., Italian bees avail. all season, 1st quality, shipping avail.; beginner kits & all beekeeping accessories. Garry White, Albemarle 704-982-0668.

Bee equip. for 30 hives w/100+ supers, feeders & frames incl., most w/foundation frames, $3,000. David Davis, Penrose 828-877-4555.

**Frame & accessories**

Frames, pickup 20 mi. north of Wilmington, no frame exchange, qty. discounts avail., $170. Barry Harris, Wilmington, 910-352-7868.


Beekeeping supplies, hardware, tools & supplies. Beekeeping supplies, bottled supplies, etc., 1-100, 2017 Italian honey bees pkgs., 07-17 to 07-24-17, 16 packed units, marked & marked pkgs., 100-157; add’l queens avai. David Bradley, Rocky Mountain Equine, Statesville, 704-652-7415.

Italian bees w/bees, 3 lb. pkgs., 03-20-17 to 04-14-17, 07-14-17 to 07-30-17, 100; marked queen, extra $3; 5 frame nucs, after 05-01-17, $175; other items avai. P.J. Plowman, Mooresville 704-473-5517.

Taking orders for 5 frame nucs, no frame exchange, $150; other items avai. Brett Callaway, Hendersonville 828-696-6629.

**REGULATED MEDICATIONS**

These claims were removed from labels when the drugs were reclassified as VFD drugs, and all statements, claims, or representations regarding the use of a feed containing a VFD drug may be ordered only by a li- censed veterinarian. A permit may be ordered only to treat an illness for which the drug has received FDA approval.

For questions about the Veteri- nary Feed Directive call 919-733-7446 or j.sica.gore@ncagr.gov.
FARM EQUIPMENT

NF 150 grain drill, 50 hp, FC, $1,800; Farmall H tractor, new paint, tires, $1,200. Wesley Johnson, Dobson 336-876-0693.

NF 143 round baler, field ready, $4,400; JD 120 square baler, $400; separator, 50 hp, $3,000. Jodi Perry, Statesville 704-584-4520.


NF 1049 hay baler, w/single front wheel, 10 ft, $2,600. Meyers Tractor, New London 704-984-0715.

NF 6620 tractor, C&A quad trans., $7,000; JD 7000 4 row 30 in. nontill grain/liquid fert., $13,000. Blake Allen, Statesville 704-595-5614.

NF 650 hay rake, 13 ft, $1,850; 315 AC grain header, 145 hp high production, GC, $3,200. David Martin, Statesville 704-584-4520.


NF 2008 JD 5425, 13 ft, good tires & sheet metal, $3,000. Wesley Johnson, Dobson 336-876-0693.
HORSES
2008 Merrow trailer, slide, large back room, factory living quarters, 3 horse load, generator and AC, $25,000. Contact Ron Lippard, Randleman 336-498-3477.

Horse boarding: 30 ac fenced pasture, barn, storage for tack and hay, riding trails, $100/ mo. Boyd Lockhart, Semora 336-234-8518.

Horse boarding, stall & daily pasture, good sized lighted stalls, 2 daily feeding & hay, tack room, work rig, 60x160 rider, 100 ac. Contact Nicky Davis, Rocky Mount 704-432-7744.

Percherons, gray, geld. & mare, 11 yrs., broke to all farm equipment & are 1/2 brother & sister, $6,500 & up. James Gray, Rockwell 704-868-7346.


Horse boarding, pasture run in stables & tack room, 10% disc. for year if paid in advance, $150/mo. + feeding costs. Joe Snow, Thumod 336-648-5997.

Horse boarding, donate all money to horseological research, 400 ac. in or out of state, $500. Contact Dan Kohlman, Blacken 339-219-6814. Portable white corridor pen can be set up as a loading chute, horse/road pen, paint chipping, structurally fine metal wire/no holes on any edge, $450. John Pate, Apex 336-699-6229.
FARMLAND
46.23 ac in Moore co, $169,000. Debbie Ingold, Ashe- bo, 704-929-5888.
46-64 ac in Alleghany co, long rd. frontage w/50 acres, 48 ft streamfrontage, 10 acres of woods, 30 acres of pasture, abundant life of wildlife, 3 bd/1½ ba brick home, $400,000. Andy Simmons, Ararat 336-469-8129.
95 ac in Caswell co, good for deer & turkey hunting, some timberland & 2 cabins nearby, 48 ft frontage & perk sites, $3,200/ac. L.E. Smith, Benson 336-341-3746.
24 ac in Caswell, go to www.atac.org for more infor- mation, 1830’s log cabin, updated & expanded, 4 stall barn & 45+ ac, 1850’s log cabin, +/-52+ ac, Norbert Hector, Brown Sum- mit 919-368-4411.

FARMLAND
26 ac in Richmond co near Mebane, ridge frontage, ready for building, $45,000. Jareid Gantner, Elberton 910-1099-5156.
20 ac in Randolph co, 1830’s log cabin, updated & expanded, 4 stall barn & 35 ac, +/-52+ ac, Norbert Hector, Brown Sum- mit 919-368-4411.

FARMLAND

FARMLAND

LIVESTOCK
Purebred white Dorper ram lamb, from quality stock, do & bull, $500 & $1,000, Rainy Valley, Trail 733-497-9041.

LIVESTOCK
Purebred white Dorper ram lamb, from quality stock, do & bull, $500 & $1,000, Rainy Valley, Trail 733-497-9041.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES
Growers can also contact the N.C. Department of Agribusiness & Sea- sonal veterinary diagnostic labs for N.C. to www.nccgov.net/vet/nvdl/ VetLabFacilitiesDirectory. html for locations.

FARMLAND
As this disease can spread by infected wildfowl, it is important to take protective measures. There are no oppor- tunities for your birds to come in contact with wild birds.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES
Growers also are urged to be aware of these tests and the bio- security measures to prevent the spread of this disease.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES
For more information about increasing any new poultry additions from your existing flock look for tips from three to five weeks about signs of sickness, have a dedicated pair of shoes and clothing for working with birds that stay on your property, be mindful if developing onto property with poultry as the disease can spread by infected wildfowl. More infor- mation about HPAI can be found at www.nccagr.gov/avianflu.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES
Quail, Gambel, California, Black, English, Silver, Greek, jumbo, silver & white bobwhites, snow wolves, albino & gray & red Charlies, red & white Contra- Barbary, $150 & $50 & $1. Jimmy Johnson, Mocksville 704-885-1421. Big Dutchman 42 single jet brooder, buy 10 & get free buck- et of paddy feed, $100.00 for 150 lbs. Grover Foley, Maple Hill 910-330-6436.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES
Pearl guineas, 2016 hatch, adult males, $10; female roosters, $5-50; male white ducks, $10-40, Alvin Se 얘, Marion 828-738-4853. Lewis Brothers Poultry Housekeeper, 92, low usage, $5,000. Dale Haich, Hamp- tonville 336-244-7814.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES
Peafowl 15/10, up & purple pigeons, 10/4, white pigeons, $50 & $50 & $1. Bob Whitmore, Quail, Cor- nell, Rowland 1-309-2129.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES
Chickens, hatches 270 chicken eggs, $60. David De- wald, Hartford 252-333-5813.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES
Brooders trio, $60. Steve Thornburg, Lenoir 336- 428-8425.
Seeds & Plants

White face bk, spanish strawberries, raspberries, currants, blackberries, cherries, peaches, prunes, grapes, pears, apricots, nectarines, quince, root cuttings; 6 in. potted cuts, 2/y/o, $7.00; 10/y/o, $10.00. - John Wilson, 3061 Caswell Blvd, Ramseur 336-465-8165.

Old timey small white cucumber seed, $0.75-15. - Michael Crippin, Garner 919-514-7061.

Lucky buckeyes $0.75/25 as will do, 100/lb. 1 gals, $5.00. - Larry Stout, Waynesville 828-497-7706.

Sorghum cane seed, 100 lb. 50 lb. bags, $35/ea. Randy Clontz, Statesville 704-388-7123.

Weberhaus seed, old timey type, $90. Each box 50 lbs. - Larry Whicker, Winston-Salem 336-724-6146.

Rutabaga seed, 500 lbs, $185. - Robert Smith, Mebane 336-697-4590.

Packase, white cucumber, 1625 lb. $30.50. - 2000, 1440 eng., 75,000 mi., 100 single bin dump, 8x4 dump, $1800. - Roy Somers, McLeansville 336-903-9250.

XS Smith greenhouse, 20x36 ft., 20x30 ft., wood frame, $2500. - Clarence Cameron, Southern Pines 919-693-7922.

Hay barn, 90x160, all metal frame, 1 story, $6,000. - Neil Somers, McLeansville 336-903-9250.


Conveyor belt, wash tank, brushes, 4x4 & 8x4 bins, debris/trash removal conveyor, $1,800. - Dan Morgan, Oakboro 336-317-0835.


4x4 & 8x4 bins, existing field stone & rock, $250 to move, GC, $350. - T. Scappi, Ramseur 336-465-8165.


1988 Ford F100, 350 Cummins, tandem axle, short wheel base, low mi. on motor, rebuilt clutch & front end, will sell/ trade for Ford F250 pickup, 4x4, $5,000. - Lloyd Wright, Pilot Mountain 336-351-7296.

1989 Ford F-250 supercab diesel, 4x4, recent tune-up & winterized, EC, $6,000. - Neil Morgan, Trinity 336-770-1205.


1969 Chevy C40 dump truck w/dump bed, 26' box, new motors, $2,500. - Billy Hardy, Bennett 336-736-7453.

2008 Ford F350 XLIT, diesel, 40,668 mi., $10,500; gusset dump trailers, 8x24 ft, drive on flatbed, 8x16 ft trailer w/certer gate & 3 doors, 2nd owner, $22,000. - Larry Smith, Denton 336-859-5359.

1987 Western Star truck, 13 sp. & hend. rear w/halzr pressurized tank, 4,100 gal., $32,000. - David Burgess, Ham- mond 336-724-5302.

2013 Big 16 ft 4x4 dump trailer w/tram, 3-way gate, the dump bed is 7 ft long, GC, $4,000. - Spade tire, LNC, $6,500. Jason Smith, Salisbury 704-798-4844.


1990 Inl truck welding shop on wheels, incl. welder, torch set, boom, crane, new motor w/ less than 500 mi., $9,000. Cindy Cook, Jacksonsvile 910-347-0051.


To keep up with the latest in the field of Agriculture and Consumer Services, check out the Resources section at www.ncagr.gov/blog, and follow us on social media links.
Small-farm workshop inspired start-up microgreens venture

Tentia Solantol wasn’t specifically looking for a change when she attended the Minority Farmer Workshop at Fayetteville State University in 2016, but that workshop set a new direction for the U.S. Navy veteran and former information technology employee. It led to the founding of Green Panda Farms, an urban microgreens operation. Already, Solantol’s products are offered in the Durham Co-op Market and the Bulldogga Urban Market in Durham. She also sells microgreens to restaurants and caterers in the Raleigh-Durham area, and takes online orders for Triangle delivery of the nutrient-packed greens at greenpandafarms.com.

Following a transition with her job, Solantol had found her own IT company, offering computer services to small businesses. She reasoned that attending the workshop aimed at people with small farm operations or interested in starting one might lead to some new opportunities.

I went there to work with farmers on a business administration level, offering tools to help them keep their work and production records, organized” Solantol said. “However, after hearing the speeches from the local farmers learning about their impact in the community and understanding that we need food, I felt inspired to try it.”

I knew she had a quarter of an acre of land, but wanted to be able to grow row year round. Solantol started reading up on urban farming, including indoor gardening.

I started researching information and articles and in less than 30 days, I was growing my first tray of microgreens,” Solantol said. And, so began the business.

Making her story even more interesting is that she didn’t grow up on a farm and never really grew plants before she started with the microgreens.

“I always think way bigger,” she said with a laugh. “Anyone can farm, you have to have a little bit of drive and motivation, too.”

Thankfully, her studying and research paid off. “It’s science, and I like science,” she said. “There is a method to growing a good organic crop, and we follow that method.”

When she offered samples of our Strawberry Salad, everyone loved it and particularly kids who do not like salads, Solantol said, “I like to show them it is way more than a garnish.”

Microgreens can be consumed as a salad or snack, juiced or added to dishes. A go-to sampling favorite is a strawberry salad that includes her Healthy Fresh Blend Microgreen Salad. “When we offer samples of our Strawberry Salad, everyone loves it and typically kids who do not like salads end up coming back for seconds.”

Solantol hopes to grow the business, and has recently received a RAIFI grant to retrofit a building in Siler City to expand her operations. She is eying April as a potential start date for the building work. Expanding operations will allow her to serve more stores and potentially add other products to what she offers.

For now, she plans her production schedule around market demand, which has been growing as more people become familiar with the product.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services works one-on-one with small and minority farmers on a number of issues through workshops, and other outreach activities. Staff provide assistance geared towards Federal and private programs available at reasonable rates and terms. The agency originates, services and sells Ag Finance programs or to request a loan application, call 919-790-3594 or email at Requestloaninfo@ncagr.gov.

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FieldWatch

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

Foggers. “Fowler had not heard of the program until seeing the booth at the training. He was eager to get his company signed up. “Any tool that helps people have registered.

“DriftWatch is a tool that helps people have registered.”

Users have access to DriftWatch videos are in English and Spanish to increase understanding of safety hazards and preventing accidents. Cooperative Extension 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, the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to www.ncsafety.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

The inaugural Mint Hill Historical Society Rodeo will be held April 21 and 22 at 8201 Bartlett Road in Mint Hill. Gates open at 6 p.m., with the rodeo starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for kids 12 and under. A special junior rodeo event will be held April 22 at 11 a.m. Tickets for the junior event are $5. For information, contact Sue McDonald at 704-573-0726.

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, the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to www.ncsafety.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

Beek keepers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at www.ncagc.com/bosilink. The site is hosted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the N.C. State University Agriculture 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 NCD&A/CS at 919-233-8214 or by email at NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCD&A/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 bee laws and 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 ag business processing, ag-related manufacturing or ag waste disposal. For more about Ag Finance Authority programs or to request a loan application, call 919-790-3594 or email at Requestloaninfo@ncagr.gov.

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Bucolic briefs

Oxford Research Station will host a Matling Barley Field Day April 21 from 10 a.m. to noon at Carrin Farms, 650 Robert Chapel Road in Stem. The field day will include a tour of field plots and presentations on barley variety studies, a study on nitrogen recommendations, timing of fungicide applications, a no-till wheat study and marketing. To register, or for more information, contact the Granville County Cooperative Extension Office at 919-663-3350 or online at go.ncsu.edu/matlingbarley.