Peach growers to vote in April on assessment

N.C. peach growers can vote on an assessment for commercial orchards during a mail-in referendum in April. The assessment was proposed by the N.C. Peach Growers Society to generate funds for peach research and marketing.

Ballots will be mailed to each commercial orchard in the state on April 1. Growers will have 10 days to return the ballots. Ballots will also be available at local N.C. Cooperative Extension offices, or may be downloaded at http://peaches.ces.ncsu.edu.

To vote, an individual must be 18 years old by April 1 and also be an orchard owner.

If passed, the annual assessment would be based on the total number of peach trees per commercial orchard, with assessments ranging from $100-$350.

The rate of farmland loss in North Carolina slowed over a five-year period even as the number of farms continued to fall, a recent review of the federal Census of Agriculture shows.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts an agricultural census every five years and released preliminary results of the 2012 survey in February.

North Carolina had 2,700 fewer farms in 2012 than it did in 2007. The state’s 50,210 farms occupy 8.41 million acres of land. In 2007, there were 52,913 farms on 8.47 million acres.

The 6.56-acre drop is significantly less than the amount the state lost over the previous five years. From 2002 to 2007, the decrease was 600,000 acres.

State Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said a few factors may have slowed the loss of farmland. “The recession reduced the demand for land for residential and commercial development,” he said. “But starting in 2005, the state also established the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust to help counties and conservation groups protect working farms and forests, and this program has been beneficial.

Even so, the loss of 2,700 farms is troubling at a time when worldwide demand for food continues to grow. We also know that North Carolina is gaining about 100,000 people a year, which will only increase the pressure on farmland. We clearly have to step up our conservation efforts. It’s a priority I will work on with the General Assembly this year.”

Other census findings:

- The average size of a North Carolina farm is 168 acres, eight more than in 2007.
- The average age of N.C. farmers increased 3 percent to 58.9.
- Nationally, the average age is 58.3.

Between 2007 and 2012, the market value of N.C. agricultural products sold increased 22 percent to $12.6 billion. The per-farm average value of sales grew by 28 percent to $250,089.

The USDA will release additional census data in the spring.

N.C. continues to lose farms, but rate of land loss slows

From the tractor

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

I grew up with a love of agriculture, and knew at a fairly early age that I wanted to be a farmer. I began farming in earnest while I was still in college, starting small with a few acres and operating a roadside stand. I slowly grew my farm, adding more land and equipment as I went along.

It is hard, honest work, but it is also rewarding to see what I have been able to accomplish and build through both good and bad production years.

Farming is not for everyone, but a couple of activities I participated in recently have encouraged me that more young people are thinking about agriculture as a career.

The first was the 3rd Grade Cabbage Program. The students returned a week or two later and spent two days learning more about the work of the department and the various types of programs we are involved in. We employ people in a wide range of fields here at the department, including scientists, lab technicians, foresters, marketing specialists, veterinarians, truck drivers, research technicians, entomologists, soil scientists, food scientists, veterinary professionals, and more. I hope their visit helped further fuel their interest in agriculture.

In addition to the FFA students, I also recently had an opportunity to meet with third-graders at General Greene Elementary School in Greensboro through the Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program. More than 53,000 North Carolina third-graders received a cabbage plant from Bonnie Plants. The students grew the plant and had to submit a photo of the student and the plant for the contest. Each class selected a winner and those winners were eligible to win a $1,000 scholarship from Bonnie Plants. There was one student winner in each state.

Cassady Teague of Guilford County was the state winner. She planted her cabbage in May last year and harvested the 17-pound cabbage in September.

It is easy to say Cassady has a pretty green thumb; it was a beautiful cabbage plant. I was proud that the winner came from my home county, although that was just a lucky coincidence.

The average age of farmers in the state is 58, so we know we have an aging population. It is a beautiful cabbage plant. I was pleased that several students are planning to major in an animal agriculture-related field, while others were looking at ag business management, ag education and environmental fields. We need bright young minds in agriculture.

To follow up that meeting, the students returned a week or two later and spent two days

NCDA&CS seed lab testing for germination and purity

A seed lab is busy this time of year for farmers, when they have their attention on the field, finalizing plans for what crops to grow, determining how much seed to buy and tuning up equipment to make sure everything is field-ready.

It is also the time of year when the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ seed lab is busy testing germination rates and purity on a variety of seeds including soybeans, wheat, oats, peanuts and vegetables. This is a service to seed producers in the state as well as the farmers who buy seed, said Danny Turner, Seed and Fertilizer Section manager. The lab also tests grass seed, which is a benefit to homeowners.

“What we do is all about the quality of the product and truth in labeling,” Turner said. “What it says on the bag, is what is supposed to be in the bag.”

A number of seed producers in the state grow crops specifically for seed. Turner estimates 75 to 80 percent of soybean and small grain seeds are grown within the state.

Some of these businesses also buy and process from other seed growers. These crops earn a higher price, so a lot of extra work goes into them, coupled with a lot of expectation that they will produce good plants.

“When it comes to seed production, these companies have employees whose job it is to scout the fields and make sure the crop is as healthy as it can be. They scout it for disease and weeds and it has to be kept separate from any other seed varieties,” Turner said.”

“For seed, it is a premium. They will clean it, will keep the moisture down in the seeds, and will store it in a controlled environment.”

High-quality seed is important to a successful growing season, and the work of the seed lab helps farmers know they are getting what they pay for.

Unlike a backyard gardener who may pick up a pack or two of vegetable seeds for $2 to $3 each, farmers are buying bulk seed and, if the cost can add up quickly.

“Cotton seed, particularly that with weed- and disease-resistant technology, can run nearly $500 a bag, corn seed from $250-$300 a bag and soybeans around $45 a bag,” Turner said.

“They are not cheap commodities. If we don’t test it, a farmer is left wondering if he is getting what he paid for. The label is all he’s got to go on. You can’t tell whether seed will germinate or not just by looking at it with the naked eye. And seed that doesn’t

(See Seed lab, pg. 3)
The board of the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation of North Carolina has set the 2014 boll weevil assessment at $1 per acre of cotton. This amount is 30 cents more than the 2013 assessment and reflects the foundation’s support of a new National Cotton Council initiative for a boll weevil buffer zone in south Texas.

In addition, the fee supports the foundation’s efforts to monitor cotton acreage in North Carolina for any re-introduction of the boll weevil and to respond promptly with eradication services. The boll weevil was eradicated in the state in 1986.

"Cotton remains a significant crop for North Carolina, and our cotton growers want to keep the boll weevil as far away from the state as possible, which is why the National Cotton Council’s initiative has the support of both the N.C. Cotton Producers Association and the N.C. Farm Bureau,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Overall, the boll weevil assessment is an excellent investment for growers, ensuring any spot re-introductions of boll weevils in this state are identified and dealt with quickly.”

To monitor and install traps from late summer until after harvest and frost. Because the focus of North Carolina’s program has shifted from eradication to monitoring, the number of traps in fields has decreased. As such, each trap is critical, and farmers are encouraged to contact the foundation if traps are damaged or relocated.

More than 8,600 traps were placed and maintained in North Carolina last year, with each trap monitoring an average of 52.6 acres. To allow for trapping and monitoring, cotton growers are required to certify that cotton acreage information is current. Ministerial workers will also conduct periodic checks of their local U.S. Farm Service Agency office by July 15.

Farmers in 54 counties grew 453,096 certified acres of cotton last year. The top three cotton-growing counties were Halifax, Northampton and Martin.

To learn more about the boll weevil monitoring program, go online to www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry/plantentomology/BW.htm.

Board sets 2014 N.C. boll weevil assessment at $1 per acre

Cabbage contest

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

billion industry, which means there will be opportunities in agriculture, especially with a growing world population that will need food, fiber and renewable fuels.

It is an exciting time to be in agriculture as we will be challenged to stretch well beyond current production numbers and yields to meet future food demands. I am proud that North Carolina is in a position to be a leader in this field and I want to ensure agriculture remains our leading industry for many years to come.

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Cabbage contest

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WNC Brewer’s Grain Alliance: Preparing for Western N.C.’s sudsy future

The craft beer industry is booming in the mountains of North Carolina, as evidenced by the expansion and addition of three major craft brewers: Sierra Nevada in Mills River, Oskar Blues in Brevard and New Belgium in Asheville. Cows may not be the custom- ers these breweries had in mind, but spent grains, a byproduct of the brewing process, could help feed more cattle in the western part of the state.

Spent grains are the by- product when brewers extract the alcohol from malt to make beer. Grains are full of fiber, protein and carbohydrates, and the brewing process produces a lot of them. According to the Western N.C. Brewer’s Grain Alliance, the major breweries are producing around 664 tons per week of the spent grain.

“Farmers can supplement a portion of a cow’s diet with spent grain,” said Bill Yarborough, special assistant with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. “With three major craft breweries coming to the area, we have the possibility of feeding up to 20,000 head of cattle.”

The breweries produce huge amounts of spent grains, and area farmers are eager for a local source of feed for their cattle. “If the breweries don’t have some place lined up to take their spent grains, it stops their local business model,” Yarborough said. “The grains must be used within 48 hours, to deliver the grains to a lower-than-market- ket cost. Currently, they are offering grain about 15 to 20 percent cheaper than average market cost. Spent grains are al- ready about 15 to 20 percent cheaper than other feed sources.

Ward sees this readily available source of feed con- tributing to an in- crease in the cattle industry. “There is a high demand in the beef market right now and we see many farmers retaining their heifers for breeding instead of feed stock,” he said. “This points to farmers feeling comfortable growing the size of their herds.”

The WNC Brewer’s Grain Alliance was awarded $20,000 from the Tennessee Valley Au- thority Ag & Forestry Fund to help establish itself as an entity that will work with local brew- eries, area livestock producers, transportation providers, re- searchers and others to match the supply of wet grains to the demand for lower-cost feed. New Belgium also contributed $10,000 to help the alliance get started.

“The grain was used in feed stor- age trials and feed efficiency tri- als at the station.”

The feeding trials include steers and heifers and researchers feed efficiency and weight gain. The station is also using an agri- cultural-feed bagger to store the grain and then blend it with other feeds such as hay as a way to in- crease shelf-life and feed quality.

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classified ads

farming equipment

Italian honeybees, 3 lbs. pkgs., avail. 6/14-14, $95, extra queens, $22. Production beehives, $15-100. Kenneth Medlin, Hurdle Irving, Madison 335-427-7171 or used for mosquito control, disc.

Magnaflow & car batteries, rebuilt, includes warranty, $125, $90-100. Kenneth Medlin, Hurdle Irving, Madison 335-427-7171 or use for mosquito control, disc.

bees Bison equipment, & supplies

AC 6606 tractor, good tires, 4 remotes, ready for field, $8,500. Fellers disc mower, 2N, 8N & 9N, $3,000 to $5,500. Enviro-chem Tillage 336-788-6646.

AC 390 tractor, $2,000; for pastures, row crop & tobacco. Steve Evans, Whitakers 252-925-2048.

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FARM EQUIPMENT

David Brown 80, 3 cyl diesel w/loader, runs good, tires good, new water pump & muffler, $2,520. Ed Ray, Mocksville 910-822-3909.


Mabe, Stokesdale 336-643-4886.

$1,200. Donald Cox, Denton 336-731-2450 or 939-3871.

Richardson, Liberty 336-404-4310.

Opening 15¾ in. diameter, cast iron ylene, 19½ in. tall & beveled hopper good blades, HD, GC, $1,850. Tom w/loader, runs good, tires good, new


FARM EQUIPMENT

Ford 600 & 660 farm tractors, parts 5, trans, $800; 4 cyl. trans, $600; diesel eng. block, $400; gas & prev. trans, $500. Tipton, Mocksville 336-642-3525.


Bobcat 773, 48 in. bobcat eng., aux. hyd, $9,000; 1948 Cat 12 grader, 24 ft direct start, $9,950, 1950 Ford 6600, GC, $5,000; new swing wheels, $34,000; 1949 NH, JD model 830, GC, $13,500. Gregory Seaford, Salis-

JD 45C track loader w/backhoe & attachment, 8 ft, $25,000; JD bucket, $12,000. David Phillips, Burlington 910-980-0771.

Round baler, hay dryer, $12,000, mill, elec. lift, 10 hp, mill, mix, $1,000, mix, $300, potatoes, $500. Jim Edmiston, Rocky Mount 919-756-4017.

Heseker 1000 sq. bal. accumulator w/grapple forks, VG, $7,000. Martin Cox, Concord 704-872-3479.


Seeley 26 ft round bale carrier, 6 in. o.d., 1 ft, 1 row, used, $1,600. Jay Dean, Alligator 910-972-6130.

Caterpillar 544C rear end, $1,200; 30 ft, $700; EC, 23 ft. Dwayne Oates, Mooresville 704-762-0326.

Hesston round baler, $2,000; JD 350 sickle mower, $250; JD 350 parts machine, $250. Dwayne Oates, Mooresville 704-762-0326.

Jeffreys, Linden 910-980-0771.

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW Page 5

1987 NH 7451 baler, shelter, $900; JD 2810, runs good, tires good, new $3,000; w/loader, runs good, tires good, new

Perkins diesel, GC, $32,000. Richard Kem, Franklin 919-496-4857. JD 2440 2WD, GC, $2,500; hay rake, $400; 5 row, hay rake, $500. Charles Ott, Cameron 919-496-4857.


Dennis Peake, Mocksville 910-980-0771.

2001 John Deere 4220 MF, 4WD, $2,400. Napper Farm, Sanford 919-499-8440.

FARMALL 130 high crop tractor, VG, good tires, & paint, $5,000; Farmland AV high crop tractor, VG, good tires, & paint, $5,000; IHC 70, GC, $3,900. Glen Kemp, Franklin 919-496-4857. JD 1454 MF, 2WD, GC, $2,500; hay rake, $400; wheel, $500, $4 wheel hay rake, $500. Charles Ott, Cameron 919-496-4857.

Manure spreader, 5 ton,教会堂丘, Eston 336-674-4884.

FARMING EQUIPMENT

April 2014

Agricultural Review
HORSES
Rutherfordton 828-287-5401.

lime Spreder, UC. Raymond Davis, high school student wanting to start Sedberry, Mt. Gilead 910-572-8566.
glennharvey@charter.net.


Sedberry hay, Amish horse quality, orchard & fescue, spring growth, sealed, retains 96% nutritional value, 3 pt. hitch fert.

524-1384.

Hay & Grain


Hay & Forage


Fencing, hi-tensile, fixed knot, woven wire, barbed wire, board, privacy, etc., build small barns & bldgs, masonry work, $4.50/lin. ft., $500/ea., delivered.

Minneapolis, $495-546.


Hay, dry bales, 4x4 ft. bales, dry & no rain, $15-30/ea. Dwight Rample, McAdoo’s 336-592-4703.


Hay, hay & straw, horses produce, 1,600 ft of berm. R. Brown, 336-334-7652.

Hay & Pasture

Horses

Line of business for 2014 & future yrs. for deer hunting within hour drive of Mountain City, NC, exp. deer hunter. John Finn, Stafford 704-888-6213.

Land in Spring Hope NC owner/finder, can clear trees, not in log cabin, buys & sells land. John Ray, Franklin 919-480-3316.

10-20 acres in Montgomery Co. w/ pond, barns, hay & good for deer hunting. Cameron Wayne, Bald Head Island 910-898-4203.

Farmland within 50 mi. of Charlotte to farol hog hunt. Ken- nedy, Winder, 704-265-6214.

Land in Rowan, Iredell, Davidson & Davie co to trap beaver, mink, opossums, etc. George Tucker, Henderson 704-438-7955.

Land to lease in Lincoln, Gaston & Cleveland co for hunting. Billy Poolevin, Lincoln 704-732-8196.

Hay fields/pasture to cull/lease in eastern Anne Arundel Co., plus Ann Arundel County, must be under hay fields. John P. Frank Pkwy., wooded w/small pond w/owner site, $90,000.1 Rex Cunningham, Woodlief, 704-278-9944.


Land to lease in Lincoln, Gaston & Cleveland county, must be under hay fields. Bill Poolevin, Lincolnton 704-732-8196.

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Livestock Wanted

Lima beans, red & blk., breeders; roosters & hens, 3 months old. Brenton Grimes, 336-853-2981.

Blastocystis, red & blk., breeders; roosters & hens, 3 months old. L. Grimes, 336-853-2981.


Malay or shamo chickens. Colin Alexander, 828-422-1426.


Chicken litter, Chattooga area. Winfield Allen, Siler City 919-582-2106.

Lake, rooster, broody, 2-4, buffs, reasonable price. Royal Turkeys, 910-242-2631.

Chicken, 210d or 210t aftermoulting. Chickens, bull, $100 & up.

Small Animals Wanted

Bare hondoraima rollers & black and white minx, $30 & up. Randy Harvell, Mt. Gilead 910-863-4807.

Reg. blk. Angus bulls, preg., calve 09-14, $1,850; offspring, $1,250. Harold Cook, 704-663-4774.

Santa Gertrudis cattle


Poultry & Supplies

Dairy goat

Wanted, red & blk., breeders, 3 months old. Jasmine Lewis, Statesville 704-983-5585.

Gringos, rooster, 2-4, $50; others, 250, $175. G. Stowe, 704-888-0213.

Gamefowl

True heritage breed standard bronze turkey, pouls/young birds, ready spring 2014, not comm. $3,000 & up. Keaton Braden, Easter 919-305-4687.


Chickens

Spanish lane red hybrid, laying age, 16-18 w/o, vac. & d.e., $75 & up. E.D. Sinder, Siler City 919-786-2999.

Ross Turkeys, Delaware, Rhode Island red hens, $250 & up. 8 mo, $8 & up. Michael Everhart, Linwood 336-752-2241.


Golden laced cochin bantam rooster, from Murray Mackenzie hatchery, hatched 4-3-14, $15. Lisa Roussell, 919-747-2874.

Show chickens, colored, 2 years old, 5-10, $10. Ernie Chesser, 919-730-6783.

Chicken/pheasant transport containers, with one 100% density polyethylene plastic, durable & washable, single door at top, up $30.00. Ronald Worley, Swannanoa 828-606-4566.

True heritage breed standard bronze turkey, pouls/young birds, ready spring 2014, not comm. $3,000 & up. Keaton Braden, Easter 919-305-4687.


Turkey meat, $100-2,500. Cyndi Berry, Mt. Pleas ant, 910-564-5047.


Hereford, red & blk., breeders, 3 months old. Jasmine Lewis, Statesville 704-983-5585.


Goat


Mexican zinnias, $1/pod w/ SASE. James Bates, Tuckasegee 828-507-1280.


Peacocks, $422. Tim Brown, 910-790-1026.

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Seeds & Plants

NOTE PLEASE: Anyone offering nursery stock for sale in N.C. is required to obtain either a nursery license or dealer license. For more, contact the NCDAC & Plant Industry Division at 208-800-9333 or 919-737-3025.

Seed

Flowers, cone flowers, cockscomb, summer pompietter, datura trumpet, big & little daisy, $1/pod w/SASE. William Snider, plant, cosmos, egg tree, etc., $1/pk. William Snider, tangerine, $1/pod w/SASE. Flat Rock, NC 28731, 828-677-6097.

Old timey cockscomb seeds, seed, $1/pod w/SASE. The flower market, color, sturdy 18 in. stalk, approx. 200 seeds, $1/pod w/SASE. Doe Brook, NC 27853, 919-756-2057. Welborn Rd., Trinity 31770.

Nutmegs, copper marans, 16 inches, 5-10, $10. Laura Morris, Alexis 704-964-4222.

Nutmegs, red sex link pullets, Rhode Island Red hybrid, laying age, 16-18 w/o, vac. & d.e., $75 & up. E.D. Sinder, Siler City 919-786-2999.


Valley Deco waterfowl decoy, 2 lbs., exhaust out, after burner, rain gun, animal scent, Taylorville 328-234-3836.

Red Oak leaves, $10; red oak & yellow, 2 lbs, laying hens, good layers, $10. Randy Williams, Siler City 336-622-2386.

Guinea fowl, keets, $100 & up. Wildman, Concord 704-794-3100.


Arcadia, protein rich meals, low in fat & high in texture, $1/pod w/ SASE. Julian R. Cline, 336-888-0213.

Holland lops, smallest floppy eared rabbits, $20. 3-3.5 lbs. as adults, come w/pid, show parents, 65¢. Donna Clements, 213 S. Main St., Canton 828-422-5581.

Canadian migratory waterfowl, great for hunting. Bruce Bryant, Raleigh 919-761-3075.
**Gardens**

Gardenia bushes, 18 in. high, ready-to-plant, 14-sk. tray, 14/145 cent. R. Barrett, Bessemer 242-4790.

Yellow hibiscus, gallardia, mixed runs, 2 ft. 8 in. high, 1 box, 75 cts. 2 pts. & 2 w/amp. Stitch, King 232-3281.

Goat Coastal Bermudas sprigs, Tifton 44, $1.50/bushel & can use spereder with George Barbry, Keizers 341-4313.


Saw tooth oak seedlings, great for wildlife, fast growing & prod. of acorns, 3-4 ft, 50¢/sk. Caucasian Bergin, Burlington 236-629234. 

Old peach type w/12-14 ft. flower, 15-18 in., diameter, send SASE @ $3.25/seeds; $5.50/seed. N. Sisco, 622 Westmon Rd., Trinity, NC 27370.

Flower, healthy, 2 y/r potted plants, 5-6 ft tall, many varieties of scuppernong & muscadine vines, 15¢. Robert Whitsen, Mocksvile 336-469-4822. 

Juniperus conferta, Jn. Iggo Moore, Liberty 336-685-0375. 

Field produce sale, current stock of rhubarb, 4 ft., 50¢/stalk; wire asparagus, 1 ft., 50¢/pound. Jim Babb, 2825 S. Salisbury St., Salisbury 910-463-6201.

Mulberry, jujube, $8 & up. Jim Babb, mulberry bearing, MT sweet cherries, & dill seeds, $1/tsp.; pumpkin planting buckeyes w/instructions, ft whips, $5. Glen Parker, Mooresville $0.75; 2-3 ft, $1; apple trees, 3-4 ft, $2.35/50 lb., $40. Woody荔枝 yahoo.com.

Climax 336-937-3835 or tdjh3@total.net.

6 peppers, $1/50 seeds + SASE. Bill Salem 336-774-6669.


Hardy 704-983-6282.

Burlington 336-226-9234.


B. Alexander, Summer 336-983-6282.

Potted plants, 5-6 ft tall, many, great


43x43x4.5 in., weighted to hold 1 metric ton, good for roo

Siler City 919-663-3648.

Burlington. 

Burlington 336-226-9234.

Best in 35x96 ft greenhouse, $300. Hoyt 558-7699.


Archdale 336-848-5777.

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You can also nd social media

Gooseneck trailer, 20 ft, 4 ft 8 in., 159K mi., 2 dr, 4x4, 85K mi., 2005 Ford Ranger, Willard 919-259-2717 or 454-761. 

Stoltzfus seed feed trailer, 20 foot, CNC, 15' long, CNC, 3' tall, 5/11 pt., #2, #54, $1,800. K.B. Fink, Yoder, Ind 46985.


1993 gooseneck trailer, runs, no brakes, $2,200. Abe Korczak, 322 Smith St., Winningham, NC 28469.

1996 Dodge Ram 1500, 5 2/5 V8, 125K mi., 2 ft 8 in. bed, trans. 6 spd. man., lots of new, needs painting, $2,200 O.B. Kelly Grimes, Raleigh 919-627-3719 or kgrimes1214@yahoo.com.

1974 Ford F250 truck, 110K mi., used to haul produce, $7,000. Loyaid Norris, Raleigh 919-772-4906.

Hydro bath truck, 12 ft, from 2006 Chevy 500, box toons tops & top side, gooseneck & trailer hitch handles, no bends. $1,600. Leo Anderson, 12625 Arbor Lane, Raleigh 919-777-3318.

Trailer & Trailers

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Trailer & Trailers

Reading utility bed

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