Farm safety needs to be top priority; agriculture, including forestry, is a dangerous job

Farming is a dangerous profession, something that Regina Cullen with the N.C. Department of Labor is reminded of regularly. Cullen is the department’s Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau chief and her office investigates reportable farming accidents.

Just about every year, Cullen said, her office sees at least one fatality due to an accident involving a tobacco harvester. The sad part of that sobering statistic is that “I believe they are all preventable,” she said.

Injuries are not just limited to tobacco harvesters. Augers, balers, combines, tobacco boxes are other pieces of equipment that are commonly involved in injuries.

Accident Hits Close to Home

Earlier this year, Kirk Mathis, a Wilkes County farmer and member of the N.C. Board of Agriculture, saw the effects of a farming accident firsthand when he responded to an incident involving a hay baler as a firefighter with his local volunteer fire department. The farmer survived, but lost part of his arm.

Mathis said he has seen accidents before involving tractors that have rolled over, but it was the first time in 15 years with the fire department he had seen one involving a hay baler. It has made him give more thought to farm safety, and champion the message that farmers need to be extra vigilant when working around these large and powerful pieces of equipment.

“As a firefighter, there are two calls you don’t want to hear come across the fire pager – a disc mower accident or a round baler accident – because those are normally fatal,” Mathis said.

His message to other farmers is straightforward: “Cut this equipment off. Don’t work on it while it is running. No, no, no, no, never do that. Cut the darn machine off. There’s no need to leave it running.”

Mathis’ story is way too similar to one Cullen hears in her job. Stories of workers hurrying to harvest a crop, reaching into a running machine with a stick, a pole or their hand to loosen jammed tobacco, hay or other material. “We hear it all the time, [people say] ‘I’ve done it a hundred times,’ or ‘I am in a hurry,’” she said.

Those decisions can lead to fatal consequences.

The N.C. Department of Labor investigated seven agricultural and forestry fatalities in 2012, nine in 2013, three in 2014 and six in 2015, but those likely were not the only accidents that occurred during that time.

Under the law, only farms with 10 or more employees, or that use H2A workers or provide migrant housing, are required to report fatal accidents. Some fatalities go unreported because

From the tractor

Commissioner Troxler

As we come to the end of another year and I think back on all that has happened, what we have accomplished professionally and personally, the groundwork we are laying for the upcoming year, and even the recent world tragedies, I can’t help but have a profound sense of gratitude. Because even in our difficult times, there are still many reasons to feel blessed.

We have so much to be grateful for every day; from the small things we too often take for granted, such as a beautiful fall day, a breath of fresh air, a stand of pine trees, our health, a full plate and a full stomach, to the larger ideals that we also take for granted such as our freedom, our sense of community and our faith.

Each of these ideals comes with a price tag of service, personal resolve and sacrifice, and a steadfast belief and commitment to something bigger than oneself. These ideals stand as our foundation, and strengthen and support us as a country and as people during challenging times.

In November, I was fortunate to welcome my fifth grandchild, Summit Steven Troxler, to the family. It is a blessing to see the family grow, but I also appreciate how they influence my thinking and my focus.

Having grandchildren reinforces my belief that we must work hard to ensure there is enough farmland and forestland to provide for future generations. It also confirms to me the importance of research in meeting future food needs.

Every generation hopes for things to be better for their kids and grandchildren. From a technology perspective, we have made great strides in the last 30 years. Just think about the first cell phones and how large they were and how little they did in comparison to the mini-computers that today’s smartphones are. We will need to make similarly large strides in food production to keep up with the growing global population.

I believe we are up to the challenge.

As I think back over the year, I am so proud of the work of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and our many partners.

A few department highlights for the year include:

(See Troxler, pg. 8)
already been pulled around the shaft six times before their brain even recognizes that they are caught.

When I was a kid we had less powerful equipment and clothes weren’t as good, so it was a frequent occurrence for a farmer to get his clothes ripped off, Graff said. “Now clothes are stronger and equipment more powerful, so now it is more common for it to pull people into the equipment or take off a limb.”

Familiarity tends to lead to complacency when it comes to safety around machinery, Graff added. “People don’t necessarily have a close call or something that gets their attention before a fatality occurs. The close call may be the time you get killed.”

It all reinforces the need to remain diligent in worker safety training and to stay focused on safe operation of equipment at all times, Cullen said. Investigator’s Findings

In an analysis of 41 accidents, Cullen said some of the most common findings are misuse of equipment, failure to properly train workers, failure to provide adequate personal protective equipment, failure to recognize the symptoms of heat stroke or stress, and getting in a hurry and bypassing safety measures such as not using seatbelts on tractors.

Cullen offers the following safety reminders:

• Review safety measures regularly and make sure workers are trained on the specific piece of equipment they will be using.

• If rollover protection equipment is present, always use it, including seat belts;

• Do not disable safety mechanisms such as dead man’s rope wheels, which will automatically cut off machinery when an operator leaves the machinery seat;

• Provide adequate water throughout the day, even at the end of the day;

• Make sure portable toilets are available and properly maintained.

Something else farmers may want to consider is adding reflective 911 address signs at the end of roads to help responders find where they are going as quickly as possible in the event of an accident, Mathis said.

When seconds count in terms of response time, navigating remote areas of a field to find an injured worker can present challenges, Mathis said.

“The most operational county communications centers can locate you, but your issue as a first responder or a firefighter is how to get through the property to get to where an injured person is,” he said. “Timing is everything. If it’s a heart attack or stroke, you have a window of opportunity to get there to help the person.”

Farming accidents and fatalities can have long-reaching effects on families, a consideration that Cullen hopes may help influence more attention to safety.

“In the aftermath, there is sorrow and loss along with the trauma of an accident,” she said. “Everyone talks about the trauma of an accident. People have to pick up and go on after it, and you often underestimate the psychological effects.”

Farmers can find publications outlining safety and inspection requirements at www.nclabor.com and additional information at www.nclabor.com/ash/ash.htm.

DIVISIONS


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The Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund recently awarded more than $1.7 million to help communities across the state protect farmland and promote agricultural enterprises.

“The trust fund was able to fund 18 projects this year,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “The conservation easements, agricultural projects and plans will help to solidify agriculture and agricultural industries as North Carolina’s top industry.”

Following is a list of applicants that received grants:

- The Association for the Preservation of the Eno River in Orange County received $75,000 to assist with the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 75 acres of the Poe Farm.
- The Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District received $317,013 to assist with the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 116.4 acres of the Glance Cove Farm.
- The Land Trust for Central North Carolina received $175,000 for the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 220 acres of the Williams Farm in Cabarrus County.
- The Catawba Lands Conservancy received $106,700 to assist with the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 134.2 acres on the Elmore Farm.
- Duplin County received $81,327 to assist with the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 78 acres on the Butts Farm.
- The Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District received $100,000 to assist with the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 42.6 acres on the Nesbit Farm.
- Alamance County received $112,713 to assist with the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 75 acres on the Stevens Farm.
- The Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District received $465,438 to assist with the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 120 acres on the Houser Farm.

The trust fund also awarded grants to the following organizations for projects of regional impact:

- The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at the University of Mount Olive received $98,000 to aid in the development of farm-land protection plans in Chowan, Currituck, Lee, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Wilson counties and to study the cost of community services in Lee and Wilson counties.
- The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center also received $81,581 for an economic impact study of agricultural development of value-added soybeans in Alamance, Bladen, Chatham, Cumberland, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Lenoir, Martin, Person, Scotland, Stanly, Wilson and Yadkin counties.

The trust fund has used the receipts to solidify agriculture and agricultural enterprises as North Carolina’s top industry.

To keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, check out the department’s blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog, where you can also find social media links for Facebook and Twitter.
Advertising in the Agricultural Review

SUBMITTING ADS:
Ads are free to N.C. residents and can be submitted by mail to 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1001; by fax to 919-733-5047 or online at www.AgReview.org. The deadline for placing an ad is the last day of the month. The deadline for the February issue of the newspaper is Jan. 2 and the deadline for the March issue is Feb. 1.

Limit is 30 words, editor reserves right to edit or reject ads.
Limit is 2 ads per person/household in different categories.

Classified Advertising

Agricultural Review

December 2015

FARM EQUIPMENT

Farmers, every day is a new opportunity to make your farm better. Whether it's new equipment, new skills, or new ideas, this is your chance to make a difference on your farm. Advertise your farm equipment in the Agricultural Review and get the exposure you need to make your farm a success.

Classified Advertising

Advertising in the Agricultural Review has changed. It now is 919-733-5047.

Please note: The fax number for submitting ads and news items to the Agricultural Review is now 919-733-5047.

Bees, Supplies & Services For Sale

N.C. law requires a permit to sell honey bees in the state. A permit is not required if the sale of less than 10 bee hives in a calendar year, a one-time going-out-of-business sale of less than 50 hives; or, the renting of bees for pollination purposes or their movement to gather honey.

Contact Don Hopkins, state apiculturist, NCDA&CS, 1800 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001 for information.

Carpenter beehive traps, like bird houses, traps & kills shipping up. Tony Parker, Bolton 910-210-6227.

Brown, Zebulon 919-404-1441.
EQUIPMENT WANTED
HORSES

24 ft feed bunk wagon, good rubber tires, $1,150; Stoltzfus Bros. will use for parts, $800. Rick Jr., Salisbury 704-857-8244.
660, $5,500 & up; JD 520 w/live walk behind tractor w/11 hp diesel eng., $3,500/both; 1954 Farmall 1 pt. hitch, $1,250. John Brindle, Mocksville 336-940-7702.
1939 JD 4440 tractor, 3,800 hrs., orig. paint, new stainless, excellent tires, $37,500. Barry McInwain, Norwood 704-985-3751. JD 568 major wide pick-up bale, baled 2,600 bales, string & weight net available, Real Price, Goldstrand 917-833-7707.
1952 TD6 62 series wide track loader w/4-in-1 bucket, parts $400. Mike Linn, Telford 336-407-9643.

JD 40 tractor, run good, $1,300; McCormick W40, good tires, not running, $1,800; bush hog, 6 ft. x 400. Abe Kemp, Franklin 919-770-4557.
1994 JD 9500 combine w/1285 head, shows 546 hrs., runs good, 3 spd. hydro, new batteries, excellent tires, $13,000, Maxwel Wheeler, Franklin 919-524-3232.
1950 MF 50 tractor, good for small/med. farms, approx. 35 hp, 3 cyl. Perkins diesel, multiple transmis. $4,000. Mike Bereznay, Elkin 919-564-9880.

JDAC tractors:

JD 20 tractor, not run good, $3,000; McCormick WC35, runs good, $3,000; dual wheels, runs good, $450 & up/hr. Danny Frey, Vass 919-622-0970.
1952 Farmall Super C, good paint tires, sheltered, $3,000; Farmall H, good paint & tires, sheltered, $2,750; Farmall M, good paint & tires, sheltered, $3,750. Paul Franklin, Jacksonville 919-389-3816.
254 TRAactor m10xgs w/4w de11e, deca1e bu-cw/heat/air/rdio. 12v, 660 hrs., 110 hp, pics. avail., $58,500 OBO. Danny Sedberry, Troutman 336-794-7506.
1933 JD 6125 tractor, 340 hrs., premium tractor, 3,350 hrs. JD 776, auto clutch control, air ride seat, pt 540/540e/1000, autoquad plus 24/24t, cat. 2 quick hitch, LNC, $92,000. Dennis Bazemore, Ahoskie 919-890-2940.
JD 40 tractor, run good, $3,300; McCormick W40, good tires, not running, $1,800; bush hog, 6 ft. $400. Abe Kemp, Franklin 919-770-4557.
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**HORSES**

Horse boarding, new 6 stall barn w/ tack room & wash bay, 4 Pryor, 704-233-5427, full board, $300.00. Kent Whicker, Kemezville 336-207-9503.

**Pasture horse boarding** w/ tack room, feed, grass & hay for tack & hay riding, trails 10, 00. Boyd Lockhart, Semora 336-234-2125.

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**ASSOCIATION REVIEW**

**Agricultural Review** December 2015

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**FARMLAND**

**FARMLAND LIVESTOCK**

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**LIVESTOCK**

**Farmland Wanted**

8+ ac. in Bladen Co, Lake township, good deer & turkey hunting, $9,000. Mitch Bordeaux, Tar Heel 910-466-4796 before 9 a.m.

31+ ac. in Ashe Co, springs, partially wooded w/2 bd old house, $130,000. Bordros Rosen, Atlanta 678-593-2443.

17.5 ac. in Davidson Co, irrigation, conservation minded, refs. Avail. Mike Gray, Thomasville 828-736-1117 or mgrey03@northstate.net.

Small farm w/ residence to lease/own within Charlotte area. Meg Soro, Kannapolis 862-597-9595.

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**Livestock For Sale**


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**Reg. Angus bulls**

41+ ac in Rutherford Co, 32 ac grass & mostly fenced, 2 bloodlines, 3 registered, 3 updates, 3 bgds., good cattle/ horse farm, $44,000. Roger McSwain, Eiloaen 828-289-8449.

40+ ac in Bladen Co, 730 acres, Rd. Church Rd., $70,000 all; $3,500 ac. Nick Reeder Sr., Connelly Springs 828-591-2087.

29 ac, 25 ac to hunt on, remaining field, fenced pasture w/4 ponds & 2,000 ft. of road frontage, $2,000/bd. Russ Hicks, Oxford 910-646-9690.

10.5 ac in Anson Co, good for pasture/chicken farm, good hunting, deer, large hogs & turkey, $21,900. Carl Lake, Rockingham 918-895-4564, 417-9649 or 959-8876.

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**Newborn**

**FARMLAND**


**Reg. blk. Angus bulls**, ai sired by Ovine Angus & Ovine Charolais, $2,000 & up. Timothy Aldridge, Yanceyville 638-4313 or 390-5967.


**Goats, 100+ New Zealand**/ Jacob buck, kids of does, full blood Boer Doe, $150 & up. Steve Jones, Thomasville 336-373-6539.


**Bred Angus cows**, due soon, $2,250; bred Angus cows, due soon to grass & grain, $1,500 & up. Jim Long, Kannapolis 704-668-3971.

**Fed pigs, 2000**/lb, sold by the half, $400 & up. Kevin Evans, Gold Hill 704-213-1427.

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**Feeder pigs, 40-50 lb. pigs, healthy, nised on county farmland, 17.5 ac, 3,000 oak & 15 m/o, $45. Doug Briggs, Sunbury 332-532-3231.

**Gyotaku Print, 16 lb. pigs,** fed only grass, fed 3,000 ac., $500 & up. Justin Ridenhour, Southport 336-432-9115.

**Sim-Angus bulls,** et bulls from sire Connealy Final Product, dam Briddle Bit Miss Cass, 13 m/o, 1,100-1,250 lbs., easy calving, low birth weight, $4,000-4,500. Jeremy Wayne, Davidson 704-363-9320.

**Dairy**, billies & heifers, 7 m/o & up, $1,000 & up. Angus charolais cross heifers, 7 m/o & up, $1,000 & up. Johnny Humans, Salisbury 704-642-9680.


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**Charolais bulls**, 2 purebred, polled, gentle, shots, 7 m/o, $1,500 & up. Nathan Sanders, Salisbury 704-642-9680.

**Duroc & landrace breed sows,** 20+ m/o,かつて tested, In Focus & Final Product, $2,000 & up. Terry McPherson, Graham 336-764-2222.

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**Dairy**

**Horse farm**

**Bucks & heifers**, 7 m/o & up, $1,000 & up. Angus charolais cross heifers, 7 m/o & up, $1,000 & up. Johnny Humans, Salisbury 704-642-9680.

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**Sheep**

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Highly pathogenic avian influenza alert (HPAI) has been found in the wildfowl population in the United States, presenting an increased risk for poultry owners. At this time no cases have been found in North Carolina, but there have been cases in commercial and backyard flocks in other states.

Because of its presence, poultry owners are encouraged to watch their birds for any signs of illness and to contact a veterinarian if they find sick birds.

Growers can also contact one of four NCDAC&CS regulatory diagnostic labs for more information. Go to www.ncagr.gov/vet/ for contact information.

As this disease can spread by infected wildfowl, it is important to eliminate opportunities for your birds and contact a veterinarian with any sign of wild birds.

Some practices include quarantining and adding additional areas from your existing flock for two to three weeks to observe for signs of sickness, have a dedicated pair of clothes and shoes for working with birds that stay on your property, be mindful if driving onto properties with poultry as the disease can spread by vehicles.

More information about HPAI can be found at www.ncagr.gov/avianflu.

Bantam chicks, cockerins, blues, whites, $15/ea; white cheek blks, bantam, 1 pair, $45. M. Pittsboro 336-376-8137.


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Oxley named new executive director of Ag Finance Authority

Stephanie Oxley became executive director of the N.C. Agricultural Finance Authority on Sept. 1 after the retirement of its longtime leader, Dr. Frank Bor- deaux. Oxley began her career with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services more than 25 years ago and has spent almost 20 of those years with the Agricultural Finance Authority.

Following is a brief Q&A with Oxley:

You are executive director of the N.C. Agricultural Finance Authority. Tell us about this agency and its importance for agriculture to the state.

The AFA was established in 1986 by the General Assembly to provide credit to agriculture in local areas where it is not available at reasonable rates and terms. The mission applies to all aspects of agriculture: farming, processing, manufacturing and exporting. Since 1987, we have loaned over $80 million to more than 400 lenders in North Carolina with less-stringent equity and cash-flow requirements than many conventional lenders use. We keep closing expenses to a minimum and we have competitive interest rates with reasonable loan terms. AFA can provide farm ownership loan assistance to beginning farmers, startup operations and borrowers unable to obtain conventional financing and to farmers with needs that can’t be met by direct USDA loans.

AFA has statewide authority to issue tax-exempt Agricultural Development Bonds utilizing a state al- location. These bonds provide better interest rates for agribusiness. Bonds are usually used for projects from $1.5 million to $10 million. Since 1995, $46,810,000 of ADBs have been issued for the development of agri- cultural processing and manufacturing.

Livestock winners (Cont’d from pg. 2)

shown by Madison Adams, 16, of Moore County; Junior Beef Heifer – Commercial Grand champion shown by Wyatt Kendall, 15, of Sampson County; Junior Heifer – All Other Breeds Grand champion shown by Melinda Boyd, 20, of Beaufort County; Reserve grand champion shown by Lynae Bowman, 12, of Stokes County; Junior Beef Heifer – Commercial Grand champion shown by Jac- cob Burleson, 16, of Buncombe County; Reserve grand champion shown by Shane Kendall, 10, of Samp- son County; Feeder Calves Grand champion and reserve grand champion pens of three shown by NCSU Animal Science of Raleigh; Senior Beef Heifer – Limousin Grand champion individual shown by Madison Boyd of Pine Town (Beaufort); Reserve grand champion individual shown by Isaac Wallace of Franklin (Macon); Supreme Champion Market Hog Supreme champion shown by Hunter McMullen of Currinck County; Reserve grand champion shown by Manley Palmer of Orange County; Performance Market Hog Grand champion shown by Brian Batchelor of Nash County; Reserve grand champion shown by Crissy Scott of Wilson County; Market Barrow Grand champion shown by Hunter McMullen of Currinck County; Reserve grand champion shown by Manley Palmer of Orange County; Market Lamb Grand champion shown by Alan Sharp of Wilson County; Reserve grand champion shown by Nahunta Farm of Wilson County; Jr. breeding gilt Grand champion shown by Mark Jenkins, 4, of John- son County; Reserve grand champion shown by Lucas McCoy, 2, of Craven County.

Grants (Cont’d from pg. 3)


Davie County received $12,000 to develop a farmland protection plan.

Johnston County Economic Development Office received $35,000 for a canola livestock meal, cooking oil and biofuels study for Harnett, Johnston, Sampson, Wayne and Wilson counties.

The N.C. Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation received $46,500 for a project to improve soil health for cover crops state- wide and a $50,000 grant to promote soil health statewide through the Mobile Soils Classroom.

The Durham Soil and Water Conservation District received $22,000 for the Conservation Equipment Rental Program for Chi- tham, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person and Wake counties.

Caldwell County Cooperative Extension received $10,000 for the purchase of farm equipment.

The southern N.C. Resource Conservation and Develop- ment Council received $24,000 for the Western N.C. High Tunnel Education, Production and Marketing Initiative for Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

Mountains Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council received $10,000 to develop a grazing strategy for unde- nitrified land in Buncombe, Cleveland, Henderson, McDowell, Madison, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania counties.

Troxler (Cont’d from pg. 1)

• Providing support to the state’s No. 1 industry, which provides food, fiber and fuel for the world.

• Building strong partners- ships with our military to en- hance mutually beneficial open land.

• Working to create more global trade opportunities and to establish the necessary infra- structure at our ports to allow agribusiness to export.

• Successfully rallying agri- cultural supporters from across the state to Raleigh to remind leg- islators of the importance of the state’s $76 billion agriculture and agribusiness industry.

• Offering assistance and ad- vice to farmers, residents and landowners on a variety of top- ics, including forest management plans, soil testing recommenda- tions, organic cost-share grants, agribusiness development, farm- land preservation grants, soil and water conservation programs, marketing plans and more.

• Hosting a successful State Fair, which posted the second- largest attendance in its history with more than 1 million visitors.

• Also, recording the largest Junior Livestock Sale of Champions, with $176,000 in sales. This is only a partial list of the many programs and accom- plishments of the department. We work very hard in day and day- out affects each of us, not just farmers. As consumers, we all benefit directly from the success of our farmers. Their success helps keep food in the United States affordable, abundant and varied, also a blessing.

• This year as you gather in the midst of the excitement and bus- tle of the holidays, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on all the things, big and small, that are blessings in your life. As a challenge, let us also be mindful of this spirit of gratitude through- out the year and not just during the holiday season.

• Every day, let’s choose to look at the day through grateful hearts and eyes.

Can you provide some examples of projects or businesses the authority has funded over the years?

Poultry operations are a big part of our portfolio. We have also financed row crop farmers, swine farms, swine processing plants and wine producers. AFA has a disaster loan program for farmers to help rebuild structures when a natural disaster is declared.

You’ve been executive director for a few months now. What is your vision for the AFA going forward?

To reintroduce AFA to the farming community as a re- source to increase awareness of our programs. Since we receive no appropriations from the state, we also want to increase our loan volume by continuing to sell the USDA-guaranteed portion of the loans on the second- ary market, thereby generating more funds to lend. I want to continue to improve our opportunities by having a presence at farm shows and other farm venues across North Carolina. Outreach is critical in developing ways to reach the diverse population in North Caro- lina by helping create new opportunities for family- owned farms. Small family farmers have played a big part in bringing North Carolina to one of the top states in agricultural production, and we would like to see this tradition continue. I’m very proud of the success of this agency, and with continued hard work the staff and I will keep AFA moving forward.

If someone is interested in applying for a loan through the AFA, how should they do it?

Interested persons can contact us by going to our website, ncagr.gov/agfinance, emailing us at request- loaninfo@ncagr.gov or by calling 919-790-3949. The website has information about all programs offered by AFA and a list of staff email addresses.

In your opinion, what makes North Carolina agricul- ture special?

First of all, North Carolina is one of the few states in the nation that has an AFA. It is one of the most diversified agriculture states in the nation, and agriculture is an important part of the state’s econ- omy. The climate differences from the mountains to the coast, with many different soil types, provide for a multitude of row crops, fruits and vegetables, nurser- ies, trees, swine, poultry, livestock and specialty farm enterprises. Farmers across the state have a profound awareness of how important it is to keep the environment that not only they live in, but the environment we all live in, safe.