N.C. ag exports top $3.75 billion

The total value of N.C. agricultural exports was more than $3.75 billion in 2011, according to data recently released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The record amount is an increase of half a billion dollars from 2010 and was enough to rank North Carolina 11th in the nation for overall agricultural exports.

“Our International Trade Office is working to make North Carolina agriculture an international-based economy by 2025,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

The new numbers show how North Carolina farmers are rising to meet the food and fiber demands of a growing world population.

The USDA tracks 20 commodities for the report. Of those, North Carolina saw increases in 17 categories, including significant jumps in pork, cotton, chicken meat and wheat. The largest increase was seen in cotton, which increased from $306 million in 2010 to $509 million in 2011. Tobacco exports saw a decrease in 2011 due to significant crop damage in Eastern N.C. caused by Hurricane Irene.

“Overall, we’re very pleased with these numbers,” Troxler said. “And they don’t even take into account the additional $1.5 billion in forestry products, such as wood, pulp and paper, the state exported last year.”

Price-risk management workshops offered

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will host nine free price-risk management workshops across the state to help farmers better understand the futures market and other trading options to sell their commodities.

The series, “Managing Price Volatility/Identifying Macro Indicators,” features workshops conducted by NCDA&CS staff and the people who operate them.

The workshops are based on input from farmers who were in of the N.C. General Assembly since 2010. In the state House and Senate, 102 of the 170 legislators who were in office three years ago will be gone when the legislature opens its session this year.

And because of redistricting, the makeup of the legislature will be less rural. We all will have to work hard to raise awareness about this industry that supports jobs, creates revenue and feeds and clothes us. By filling out the Census of Agriculture form, you help us tell agriculture’s story in a real way and with real numbers that can paint a powerful financial picture for our state and the whole country.

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

It’s that time again – time to have your farm and farming information counted as part of the Census of Agriculture. Every five years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts a count of all U.S. farms, ranches and the people who operate them. Some people are reluctant to share information about their business, and I understand that, but, I hope everyone will take the time to fill out the census form accurately and completely. Federal law requires all agricultural producers or secretaries from all 50 states and U.S. territories.

I am excited to be serving in this role at such a critical time in our country. Congress has not approved a farm bill at press time, there is talk about immigration reform and any ag policies being considered will be critical to the future success of our industry.

Having numbers, specific numbers about the scope of a certain industry in our state, along with other industry details will help me in talking with our representatives in Congress and even in our own state legislature about the contributions of agriculture.

We have our work cut out for us this year, bringing a new group of legislators up to speed on the importance of agriculture and agribusiness to our economy. There has been tremendous turnover in the N.C. General Assembly since 2010. In the state House and Senate, 102 of the 170 legislators who were in office three years ago will be gone when the legislature opens its session this year.

And because of redistricting, the makeup of the legislature will be less rural. We all will have to work hard to raise awareness about this industry that supports jobs, creates revenue and feeds and clothes us. By filling out the Census of Agriculture form, you help us tell agriculture’s story in a real way and with real numbers that can paint a powerful financial picture for our state and the whole country.

A worker checks boards for export at Beard Hardwoods in Greensboro, North Carolina exports around $1.5 billion in wood and forest products annually.
Horse Council raising money for new building at ag center

The N.C. Horse Council and the NCHC Foundation are working to build a horse stable and arena at the Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Events Center in Lum- berton. They have raised $76,000 toward their goal of $100,000.

The fundraiser, known as the “Stall Naming Project,” will help meet a need at the center and in the state’s equine industry, said Sue Gray, the Horse Council’s executive director. The effort fits nicely with the council’s mission of growing the equine industry across North Carolina, she said.

The fundraiser has a variety of sponsorship levels. Donors who give at least $1,000 will have the oppor- tunity to place an engraved plate on a stall door, but smaller donations also are being accepted, Gray said.

Census

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

picture for legislators. In many rural areas of our state, agriculture may be the largest industry in a county, but that is more difficult to realize on a farm-by-farm bases versus in a collective manner. It is important for our legislative leaders to understand how many jobs these small businesses support, the benefit the land pro- vides to a community and the financial benefit of these companies.

Census forms were mailed out in December and Feb. 4 is the deadline to return the completed forms. You can also fill out the form online through the secure website www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Exports

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

state exports annually. Agricultural exports help boost farm prices and incomes for local farmers. In addition, exports exceed about 36,000 jobs directly on farms and indirectly through processing, storage and transporta- tion jobs.

For more on agricultural exports, including a breakdown of exports by commodity, go to www.nccag.gov/markets/international/NCAG- ExportStatistics.htm.

Workshops

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

Trawny Road, Sanford, 919-275-5262.
• Friday, Feb. 8 – North- hampton Cooperative Extension Center – viewing money to build a horse stable and arena at the Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Events Center in Lum- berton. They have raised $76,000 toward their goal of $100,000.

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Individuals interested in making a donation may contact the Horse Council at suegray@nchorsecouncil.com or 919-854-1990. Donations also can be made on- line by visiting www.nchorsecouncil.com and clicking on the “Donate” button. Donations are tax-deductible.

An additional, the center’s newest addition, a 55,000-square-foot multipurpose build- ing known as the Pavilion. Since its opening last April, the building has played host to horse shows and other events, such as the Southeast Ag Show.

The addition of a stall barn will allow the center to accommodate horses for overnight stays. The center then can work with large events and multi-day horse shows, said Kent Velverton, director of property and construc- tion at the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consum- er Services, which operates the center.

Bucolic briefs

The Mountain Research Station Performance-Tested Bull Sale will be held Jan. 5 at the Haywood County Agriculture Office Building in Waynesville. Bulls may be viewed from 10 a.m. to noon, with the sale beginning at 1 p.m. Information on the bulls can be found at http://www.cab.eclusu.edu/an_sc/exten/and classi- fication/evalution.html

Gaston County Cooperative Extension will hold a Puttting Small Acreage to Work Conference Jan. 26 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gaston County Citizens Resource Center in Dallas. The conference includes sessions on aquaculture, fruit production, pastured pork, organic management, beef cattle production, parasite management for small ruminants, growing specialty crops, direct marketing of meats, forages for free-range birds, importance of cover crops and QuickBooks for farmers. The program will feature three break- out sessions, registration is $50. In addition, a day tour of farms from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. is available for $20, each. For more or to register, go to smallacres.eventbrite.com or call Gaston County Cooperative Extension at 704-922-2112.

The 4th Annual Organic Commodities and Livestock Conference will be held Feb. 14 and 15. On-farm workshops will be held Feb. 14 at Lindale Dairy in Snow Camp and at Hocutt Farms, an organic vegetable farm, in Sims. The conference will be held at the National Ag Extension and Industry Center at NCSU in Rocky Mount. The conference features workshops on organic grain varieties, organic tobacco production, holistic vet care, soil fertility and organic disease management. The conference is $35 and the deadline to register is Feb. 4. For more, go to www.carolinafarmerweekly.org/uc or call Amy Arumbruster at 910-422-2402.

The 7th Annual Agritourism Networking Association Winter Conference will be held Feb. 21 and 22 at the Fort Bragg Marriott at Carolina Beach. Participants can visit seven farms in the coastal area 2:30- 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 21. In addition to the winter conference, four mini-conferences will be held regionally. Following are dates and locations: Jan. 17 at the Soc. Rob Martin Ag Center in Williamston, Feb. 28 at Oak Haven Farm in Rockingham County; March 14 at The Fork Farm in Stanly County; and March 28 at St. Paul Mountain Vineyard in Henderson County. For more information on any of the events, contact Martha Glass, agritourism manager, 919-787-3129.

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Sale will be held Feb. 21-25 at the Cabarrus Arena Event Center in Concord. Buy or consign anything related to equestrian sport and tack for all riding disciplines. New bar code tagging allows consignor to view sales remotely. Consignors drop off items Feb. 20 and pick up items Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. A 50-cent admission charge is required. Proceeds from the public to the public will be held Feb. 21 from 5-9 p.m. Cost is $7. Free shopping Feb. 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Feb. 24 from noon to 6 p.m. Consignors earn 75 percent and can donate unused items to nonprofit equestrian organizations. For more information or to purchase a ticket the premier night sale, go to www.equestrianExchange.com or contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950.

Piedmont Saddle Club in Colfax will open its Lighted arena every Friday from 5:30-11 p.m. for horse riders. The club is 538 acres per equine and 12 could accommodate 99 students of various size and skill levels. The tests are open to the public. Contact info@piedmontsaddlecroft.com for more information.

The North Carolina chapter of Re-Run, a non-profit organization that places ex-racehorses into adoptive homes, now has thoroughbred racehorses available for adoption. Thoroughbreds are versatile and do well in non-racing careers including stabling, hunter-jumper, driving, and pleasure riding, according to Elizabeth Macdonald with Re-Run. For more, go to www.eren.org or contact Elizabeth Macdonald at hemead@sbcglobal.net.
Growers are choosing grain sorghum fills a niche in North Carolina

About 50,000 acres of grain sorghum were grown in North Carolina in 2011, a 10-fold increase from 2011. Growers are choosing the crop for the real advantages it provides such as heavy yield, flexible planting dates; unattractiveness to deer; no need for specialized equipment or costly inputs; and diversified or double-crop options for management of plant-parasitic nematodes and difficult weeds. On light, sandy soils where little else will grow, grain sorghum endures, good yields, and commands a reliable, local market.

In Harnett County, growers Ronnie Hall and Laurel “Stick” Cameron each have two years of experience with the crop. They both started out with 50 to 60 acres and opted for more the next year because two growing seasons represent the typical variability in the Sandhills region. Cameron combed through the stubble and paid special attention to soil pH and nutrient levels. He will continue to watch nutrient levels and keep on his progress.

Some advisers express caution about planting small grain during dry years. But in late June as a double crop behind soybeans, the corn produces far better, Cameron feels. Corn and sorghum witheld it out. In 2012, weather was near perfect. Corn probably did not perform as well, but sorghum did well too.

“There’s no comparison between corn and sorghum, 2011 and 2012,” Hall said. “Partly because the weather this year was so much better and partly because growers have more experience with the crop now. Next year, I’m probably going to drop back on soybeans and corn and go with more grain sorghum. I think the crop is well suited for this area and keep tabs on its progress.”

Some advisers express caution about planting small grain more than twice in a row.

Growers are choosing the crop in October to prepare for timely harvest. He said devotion, high temperatures, and specially timed irrigation paid special attention to soil pH and nutrient levels. He will continue to watch nutrient levels and keep on his progress.

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FARM EQUIPMENT

9N Ford tractor, late model, good paint & lights, field ready, $3,100. John Smith, 352-225-2311.

706 AC tractor, rebuilt eng., new tires, 1948 Farmall C, cat. 2 hitch, $1,250; AC 706 tractor, low hours, good tires, $2,800. Skinner, Winterville 252-714-3848.

850 John Deere baler, model 430, discharge w/stainless steel liner after 8 p.m., $3,000. Capps, Spring Hope 252-478-4264.


John Deere 4 row corn head, 292 6 cyl. gas eng., new paint & lights, runs great, $2,850. Howse 5 ft bushhog, $1,100.

Hustler 10 disc, 50 ft cult., great, milks 2 cows/goats at once, GC, hoses never turned, $7,500. Oldham, Chapel Hill 919-636-2254.


Fiat Allis 7GB track loader, GC w/354 NH tedder rake, 437-3107. Larry Hales, Princeton 919-689-9077.


Post hole digger, Bush hog brand, MD, $950. Glenn, Hickory 336-809-1040.

Tactor, good years 18.4 x 34 radius, NC, 2, $1,000. Bill Hopkins, 910-252-2311.

Circular sawmill, 2, 900ick w/wood frame, motor, 10 hp, 36 in. 13 band saw, $1,500. in. wood planer, old style, $700. Amber Tucker, 336-513-5011.

7600 AC CA tractor, rebuilt eng., wide front end, 28 in. spin out rear wheels, tires 95% front & rear, $9,600. Ray Grimes, Granton 910-980-8107.

354 NH tedder rake, 437-3107. Larry Hales, Princeton 919-689-9077.

7560 Case tractors w/sickle bar, model 730, $2,200; Ford hay rake, 3 pt. hitch, $2,000; 4251 JD baler, field ready, $1,000. Bill King, Myrtle 336-678-2489.

Case, Bobcat Construction King w/3 buckets, $550. Mike Brown, 336-338-0555.

1962 B, field ready, $1,200; John Deere 4 row corn head, 292 6 cyl. gas eng., new paint & lights, runs great, $2,850. Howse 5 ft bushhog, $1,100.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1987 Case 440C, Cat. 2 hitch, good paint, tires 95%. John Thomas, Edenton 252-448-4611.


3 row corn head, 292 6 cyl. gas eng., new paint & lights, runs great, $2,850. Howse 5 ft bushhog, $1,100.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1956 Field fin 336-980-4538. Mike Williams, Grove Hill 919-689-9077.

7030 Ford tractor, field ready, $8,500. Jamie Hales, Princeton 919-689-9077.

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Agricultural Review


25 & 38 ft Fords, drive shaft eleven, 1/2 hp, Bill White, 910-376-8477.

Italian honey bees, 37 kg, keyway in, 3 lb. pkg., w/frames, 158, Rick Goddor, Chilton 919-778-0219.

Hay & Grain For Sale

Bee hive, 10 frames w/stripions, assembled & painted, incl. 1 top, inner cover, I live body, I bottom & 1 exter. hive body. $110. Michael Stephenson, Princeton 910-559-9609.

Be 3 G Ba kg, 3 lb. pkg., 110c, no rain, stored in barn, 3 lb. pkg. $1.50. Pat Snider, Stanley 336-317-4105.

Italian honey bees, 45 kg, no rain, stored in barn, 25 kg, 3 lb. pkg., 5 kg, 2.5 kg, 20 kg, 15 kg, 10 kg. Tom Strong, Rich-

336-313-3606.

Honey bees, 45 kg, rolls, 15 l, 1st cutting, squares, $50, cow quality, $60; 2nd cutting, squares, $65, horse quality, $70-75. Maria 336-342-4066.

Honey bees, 3.5 l, 4 x 5 rolls, 3x1000 kg, $255. Joe Rosa, Mocks Mill 336-536-0127.

Cow hay, quality 4, 4 x 5 rolls, horse quality, $60; 4 x 5 rolls, cow quality, $70. Crysta Fowler, Saxapahaw 336-414-1859.

Honey bees, 2012 crop, no rain, cut, clean honey, will sell boxes, 2012 crop, $3.50/box. Virginia Irwin, Reidsville 336-

442-4267.

Honey bees, 3 drums, $280. B. Calvin, Blue Ridge 910-338-3916.


Honey bees, 45 kg, rolls, 15 l, 1st cutting, squares, 4x5 rolls, $50, cow quality, $60; 2nd cutting, squares, $65, horse quality, $70-75. Maria 336-342-4066.

Cow hay, quality 4, 4 x 5 rolls, horse quality, $60; 4 x 5 rolls, cow quality, $70. Crysta Fowler, Saxapahaw 336-

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414-1859.
Coastal Bermuda hay, horse quality, approx. 100-200 rolls, can walk through door & stud wall, new full fridge, shower w/sep. toilet, horse w/living quarters, awning, lines on 1 side, $300. Renee, Liberty 336-253-1967. Tammie Sumey, Lawndale 704-692-7280.

336-376-8137.

Renee, Lib-}

Sedwick, Knightdale 919-365-7365. Danny Sawyers, West

King 336-983-0034.

next truck w/roll-up door, $425,000. Suzanne Mit 336-656-3675.
Livestock For Sale

Kiko goats crossed w/Boer & Spanish, less working & hoof trim. 2 does, 5 y/o, $150/ea. Louisa Peffritt, Grimesville 252-743-2013.


Reg. polled Dexter buck, 3½ y/o, $600; 3 does, $300 each. Robert Allen, Shelby 704-538-5304.

Boer goats, 3 billies born in June 1 & ½ y/o, bred nannies, $150 ap each. Bud Eanes, Thomasville 336-748-0725.

BLG. Angus herd bulls, Traveler, GT Maxum & 727 Executive breeding bloodline, $700 & up. Tim Moss, Graham 336-376-3773.

Blk. Angus cows, 3 ½ y/o, $600; 2-3 y/o, $500; heifers, $350 & up. John Dyer, Siler City 919-663-4309.

Reg. Angus bulls, Al, sired by breeder at sale, $1,000 & up. John Carlson, Bear Creek 919-748-2136.


Nubain does, 1 doe, $60; 2 saanen bucks, $125 each. Phil Deese, Indian Trail 704-681-2542.

Young laying hens, Cuckoo Marans, $2.00 & up. Jim Philby, Midland 704-888-1455 or 888-6283.

Game chickens, #1 & #2 grades, premium quality, $20/ea. Russell Stovall, Madison 736-381-2750.

Golden ducking bantams, hatchlings or Poults, $3.00 each. Agri-Poultry Supply, Camp 336-376-7939.


Silver/grey dorking chicks or young adults, must be pure breed. Melina Pric, Radford 910-066-1776.

Eastern wild turkey gobbler. Adrian Thompson, Hillborough 919-732-5487.


Seeds & Plants

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals or businesses offering nursery stock for sale in North Carolina are required to obtain either a nursery or nursery dealer license. For information, contact the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division at 2006-9003-3535.

Seeds & Plants

Bik. rosecomb bantams, Ameri- can barred rock, brown, male/female, male/female, $5 & up on breed. age & sex. Delbert Spillman, Sp- otylvania, VA 804-282-7958.


3,000 red sex birds, Rhode Is- land breed, $1.50 ap, de-beaked & de-sexed. $1.50 & up. E.D. Smith, Rockingham 910-948-5870.

Cetarsia quail, $5.00. Ely Ex- celer, Lexington 336-778-3884. 6-8 birds, $5 to $10.00 each, no shipping. $10/neg. Ronnie Hull, Kannapolis 704-503-1043 or 362-4019.


Incriminator, 200 lb. water fowl, EC, $1.00. Eugene White, Taylorville 336-821-6018.

True silver pheasants, spring 2012, $200 each, w/4 ft. drizzled lines & extra supplies for drum lines, $1.000. Russell Britain, Statesville 704-888-0213.

Poultry cages, $5 & up. Roger Mann, Salisbury 704-633-6023.

Seeds & Plants Wanted

Peter pepper seeds $1/pod; N. green tomato paste, seed, $1 each, both req. R. Kesler, Goldsboro 919-778-2781.


Pitkin banty rabbits for selling or re-starting, $12.50ea; $3 for 3+ bunnies. Steve Miller, Delbra 910-462-2389.

Small Animals Wanted

Martin, Biscoe 910-975-2373.


$5.25/doz.; buckeyes to carry, color, sturdy 18 in. stalk, approx. 200 & asst’d. L. Martin, Catawba 704-591-8379.

Small Animals For Sale

Powell tomato barn, 150 rack, $2,000; Powell tomato barn, 126 rack, $1,800. Dairy Queen, Mooresville 704-479-2841. 3 racks with irrigation pipe w/misting, 1,400 ft, $1,200. Chris Mcilroy, High Shoals 828-306-9422.

Direct current generators, 3 sizes available, $100-$250. L. Sharpe, Bruton 804-979-1563.


Sugar wood lumber, air dried, $2.50/ft; 50 yr old sugar wood, $1.50/ft. J. Thomas, Mansfield 336-653-7468.


Trucks & Trailers For Sale


1976 Chevrolet C2500, 10 ft state pt dump tr reversing, 2400 mi, $7,000. A. Collins, Statesville 704-220-8914.


Trailer, 18 ft, dovetail, car hauler, good tires, good lights & rims, 10 in. & bigger, good shape, $1,750. T. Davis, Madison 336-671-1581 or 336-673-2531.

8 in. or 10 in. wheel, 350 auto., 150K mi., new tires, $1,000. T. Davis, Madison 336-671-1581 or 336-673-2531.


Ford Aeromax L1000 dump truck, 4-wd, 16 ft, runs & drives excellent, $6,000. C. Wilson, Mooresville 704-735-3712.

1990 Ford Ranger, 22 ft dump, spring susp., tarp, approx 40K mi., $2,000. J. Davis, Mooresville 704-734-2765.


2003 F250 XLT dually truck, 6 sp., all metal tobacco barn, 150K mi., new tires, $1,000. S. Brown, Statesville 704-220-8914.

1991 Int’l 9400i tractor, 2 drive, runs great, has 360 motor, 60K mi., $17,000. J. Eshleman, Taylorsville 828-312-6018, 632-4255 or 578-3218.

Goosey trailer, dual wheel tandem axle, $900. N. Grisby, Rockingham 910-859-3488 or 817-4448.

Goosey trailer, pickup or SUV, 4 sp., new tires, $1,200. K. O’Neill, Johnson 910-897-5383.