Agritourism conference slated for Jan. 9 & 10

The N.C. Agritourism Network’s annual conference is Jan. 9 and 10 at the Marriot in downtown Winston-Salem. It is open to agritourism farm operators and others who want to learn more about agritourism.

The two-day event includes farm tours, workshops and educational sessions catered to those who welcome visitors to their farms. On Jan. 9, participants can take part in a five-stop farm tour to talk with farmers who operate strawberry farms, corn mazes, greenhouses and more.

On Jan. 10, guest speakers will lead workshops and panel discussions on topics such as social media, branding, point-of-sale systems and hiring employees. There also will be a town-hall discussion with an attorney, insurance professional, an attorney, insurance professional, financial advisor and experienced agritourism farmer, all of whom are leaders in their respective fields.

Soil erosion and flooding from Hurricane Matthew may have caused changes in soil fertility, and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services advises farmers to account for this as they make plans for the next growing season. The department’s Agronomic Services Division can help answer questions about what was affected and how to manage it.

Many farmers were not expecting Hurricane Matthew to have this kind of impact, and now that fields have drained and dried over the past two months, it is an excellent time to soil sample to evaluate lime and nutrient needs, especially where water was standing for several days,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

In addition, flooding most likely moved harmful nematodes. Floodwater carries top soil with it, and if the soil is infested, the nematodes may be moved to areas that weren’t infested. “Any thing that moves soil also moves nematodes,” Troxler said.

Dr. David Hardy, chief of the Soil Testing Section in the Agronomic Services Division, advises growers to consider several factors before sampling soil.

Wait for fields to dry out well enough to acquire good samples. Drying should have occurred in most areas where flooding happened.

Where soil movement occurred, grade and reshape those areas. Consider sampling them separately to evaluate fertility if they are large compared with other sampling zones.

Focus on soil types in relation to sampling. Leaching of nutrients such as potassium, phosphorus and nitrogen may result in the issuance of a stop-sale (See Imported Fire Ant, pg. 2)

Agronomic testing advised for flooded fields

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From the tractor

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Before the end of 2016, the N.C. General Assembly approved $200 million for disaster recovery, which is likely just a starting point. The money was intended to take care of some immediate needs and shortfalls, with some discussion about revisiting bigger recovery issues when legislators return this month to start a full session.

I am grateful legislators earmarked almost $38 million for the department to help with damage assessment after Hurricane Matthew. We have the experts here to help farmers and agribusinesses recover our agricultural engine.

As we look to new beginnings in 2017, like many in agriculture, I am hopeful for a good growing season, rain at the right times and healthy markets. January and February are typically the months when growers meet with their commodity groups, get industry updates and decide on planting intentions for the upcoming year.

I will again be hosting the Ag- ricultural Development Forum during the Southern Farm Show, Feb. 1-3. The forum will be held in the Holshouser Building on Feb. 2-9:30 a.m. As part of that, I will be providing a State of Agriculture address, outlining some of the issues we will be focused on in 2017. And, I know we will have other agricul- tural experts on the agenda. It is typically an informative session.

Despite the setbacks of 2016, I am still optimistic about the future of agriculture and agribus- iness in the state. At its core, farm- ing means food, fiber and fuel. It doesn’t get more essential than that.

The demand for food is only going to increase as our popula- tion grows, and we need to be prepared to grow with that. Part of preparing ourselves is arming ourselves with the best information possible and making use of new technology and production techniques to increase produc- tivity and efficiency.

I was recently looking at some national economic fore- casts for 2017 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and projections seem to point to a mix bag when it comes to the numbers. Export numbers were expected to be up $4.3 billion to a total of $134 billion. Exports of grain, feed and cotton are also projected up. Nationally, our leading buyers look to be China at $21.8 billion, Canada at $21.3 billion and Mexico at $18.3 billion.

Strong trade policies will be especially important to fostering growth in the export mar- ket, where agricultural prod- ucts are a bright spot of trade. To me, these projections, only reinforce the need as a state to remain focused on international (See Troxler, pg. 3)
Appalachian High Country AVA becomes state’s fifth official wine region

The Appalachian High Country AVA has officially become North Carolina’s fifth American Viticultural Area. Grape growers and wineries in the region are now able to add the distinction to their labels.

The establishment of an AVA can help wine makers describe more accurately the origin of their wines, and assists consumers in identifying wines for purchase,” said Whit Winslow, executive director of the N.C. Wine and Grape Growers Council. “The distinction will allow wineries in the area to market their products collectively for the benefit of the entire region. We’ve already seen this happen with success in Yadkin Valley.”

The Appalachian High Country AVA is a 2,400 square-mile area spanning eight counties in three states. Allegheny, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell and Watauga counties are included, as well as Carter and Johnson counties in Tennessee and Grayson County in Virginia. A total of 10 wineries and 21 vineyards are currently included in the AVA, with an additional eight vineyards planned in the near future.

Johnnie James, owner of Bethel Valley Farms and member of the High Country Winemakers Association, led the effort to get the region distinguished as an AVA. James grows three varieties of grapes on his farm in Watauga County. He said the High Country’s climate makes it unique and challenging for grape growers.

“We have much colder temperatures and fewer growing days above 51 degrees,” James said. “Cold-hardy varieties such as Vil del Blanc, Manquette and Traminer do well.”

In addition to climate, one of the most striking characteristics of the region is its topography. The area has one of the highest average elevations east of the Mississippi River. Vineyards are planted at elevations between 2,290 and 4,600 feet. More than half are at or above 3,000 feet. In addition, more than half of the vineyards are planted on slopes with angles of 30 degrees or more.

Grandfather Vineyard & Winery, Banner Elk is one such winery. Its 58° Fusion wine is so named because the vineyard is planted on a 58-degree slope.

Steve Tatum, owner of Grandfather Vineyard, is excited about having the new AVA designation. “We have a supply of wine made from 100-percent Appalachian High Country AVA grapes that we’ve been holding back for this,” Tatum said. “We plan on being one of the first to apply for new labels on Nov. 28.”

Tourists interested in visiting wineries in the newly established Appalachian High Country AVA can plan their trip by contacting the wineries directly. Following are some of the wineries that make up the new AVA:

- Banner Elk Winery and Villa, Banner Elk (www.bannerelkwinery.com)
- Grandfather Vineyard & Winery, Banner Elk (www.grandfathervineyard.com)
- Linville Falls Winery, Linville Falls (www.linvillefallswinery.com)
- Plumtree Valley Vineyards, Plumtree (www.ravenrockvinyards.com)
- Roaring River Vineyards, Traphill (www.roaringrivervinyards.com)
- Spencer Mountain Vineyards, Vilas (www.thistlemeadowwinery.com)
- Thistle Meadow Winery, Laurel Springs (www.thistlemeadowwinery.com)
- North Carolina’s wine and grape industry has a $1.71 billion economic impact on the state’s economy. North Carolina is home to more than 180 wineries and 525 commercial grape growers. The industry employs 8,000 people across the state.

More information about the state’s wine and grape industry is available at www.ncwine.com/sf.

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

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- Plumtree Valley Vineyards, Plumtree (www.ravenrockvinyards.com)
- Roaring River Vineyards, Traphill (www.roaringrivervinyards.com)
- Spencer Mountain Vineyards, Vilas (www.thistlemeadowwinery.com)
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Two soybean farmers picked for national boards

Two North Carolina soybean farmers have been selected to serve on national boards. Derek Potter, a farmer from Grantsboro is one of 15 farmer-leaders from across the country recently sworn in as a director of the United Soybean Board. Jimmy Thomas, a soybean producer from Timberlake, and 10 other farmer-leaders from across the country recently became directors of the American Soybean Association.

The 70 farmer-directors of USO serve on the ASA’s family farms opened to serve on national boards. Soybean farmers have been selected to maximize profit opportunities for U.S. soybean farmers. These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff funds to increase the value of U.S. soybean meal and oil, ensure soybean farmers and their customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate and sell U.S. soy’s customers. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibility for USO and the soy checkoff.

ASA board members oversee the efforts of the ASA, the organization that helps make sure soybean farmers remain competitive and profitable, protecting their right to farm, by making sure their voice is heard when issues that impact them are debated and created on Capitol Hill.

“We are pleased that Derek Potter was appointed by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to serve on the United Soybean Board,” said Charles Hall, CEO of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association. “The checkoff works to ensure U.S. soy remain a top choice for our customers, and he will be a great addition to the group and will represent N.C. well. “Jimmy Thomas has been a longtime asset to the N.C. Soybean Producers Association,” Hall added. “As a past president of our organization, he has been involved in policy and advocacy efforts for many years, and will provide a strong voice for N.C. soybean growers on the ASA board and in Washington, D.C.”

The N.C. Soybean Producers Association is a statewide trade association representing all N.C. soybean producers, responsible for research, education, and promotion programs to benefit the state’s soybean farmers. The association is the qualified state board responsible for administering national soybean checkoff programs in N.C. The association is the state affiliate of the ASA.

Soil testing

(Continued from pg. 1)

sulfur and, to a lesser extent, magnesium occurs more readily in sandy soils with low organic matter. Near the coast or around brackish waters, salt water intrusion or overwash may have increased sodium levels of soils significantly. Soil sampling will evaluate the need for gypsum to displace sodium from the soil and also for lime if pH is low.

Testing of agricultural water may also be necessary, said Dr. Kristin Hicks, chief of the Plant/Waste/Solution Analysis Section. She advises growers to consider this factors:

Irrigation ponds and wells in coastal areas where flooding occurred should be tested to determine if sodium and chloride have affected water quality and if water pH is suitable for irrigation.

Fish ponds may have been exposed to nitrates and phosphorus from overwash, both of which can trigger algal blooms and fish die-offs if the levels are high enough. Water pH in the neutral range is also essential for fish health. Ponds that may have been acidified by flooding from brackish water should be tested. Pond water pH can be corrected by liming, but the need for lime should be determined by starting with a solution test.

Water sources, both pond and well, that are used for livestock drinking water should be checked for elevated iron, low pH or other mineral components that may affect suitability for animals.

Please note, the Agronomic Services Division does not analyze for any microbial pathogens. Analysis is for chemical elements that can affect crop and animal health. There are fees for solution analyses. There also is a fee for soil tests between Dec. 1 and March 31. For more information about testing services and fees, go to www.ncagr.gov/agronomic.

Troxler

(Continued from pg. 1)

Nationally, economic indicators of net cash farm income and net farm income point down for the coming year, as do total production numbers. I know our industry will be facing challenges moving ahead, especially as it relates to disaster recovery, but I also believe we will emerge stronger. I encourage you to mark your calendar for Feb. 2, and come join us at the Agricultural Development Forum. Here’s hoping 2017 is a strong year.

Discover more about NCDAC&CS on the In the Field blog at http://info.ncagr.gov/blog/

Horse Events


Jan. 6 – 8 ……… Triangle Area Polo Club matches. Contact David Brooks, 919-495-0351.


Feb. 4 & 5 ……… Triangle Area Polo Club matches. Contact David Brooks, 919-495-0351.


March 31 ……… Triangle Farms Spring Indoor III NCHA “C.” Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

April 1 – 2 ………..Virginia Equine March into Spring Reining Horse Show & Rookie Day. Contact Chels Wiley, 919-305-7398.

March 10 & 11 ……… N.C. Barrel Bonanza. Contact Fred Smith, 252-450-9752.


April 5 – 6 ………… Virginia Equine March into Spring Reining Horse Show & Rookie Day. Contact Chels Wiley, 919-305-7398.


April 17 & 18 ……… Old Ford VFD Rodeo. Contact Frankie Buck, 252-946-9780.


March 10 & 11 ……… N.C. Barrel Bonanza. Contact Fred Smith, 252-450-9752.

March 19 & 19 ……… Spring Indoors NCHA & EHA “C” Horse. Contact Marla King, 252-268-4144.


March 30 ………… April 2 ………….. Martinganua AQHA Show & Futurity. Contact Susan Daniels, 919-894-0600.

Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Events Center, Lumberton, 910-618-5699

Jan. 2 ………….. Horse and hack auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 919-390-0878.


Feb. 4 ………….. Borderbird Horse Show. Contact Billy Hunt, 910-422-9315.

Feb. 6 ………….. Horse and hack auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 919-390-0878.

Western N.C. & Carolinas, 828-567-1444

Jan. 27 – 29 ………… Miles Avery Arabian Classic. Contact Monica Avery, 828-351-6666.

March 4 ………….. Coggins Clinic. Contact Danny Sharpe, 828-493-7387.

March 17 & 18 ……… Bullmania. Contact Matt Buchanan, 828-687-1414.

**Show dates are subject to change. Call ahead to confirm.**
Italian bees, 3 lb. pkgs. w/ marked queen, $100; w/unmarked queen, $75; pickup dates 03-27 & 04-11-2017. Dave Bradley, Nashville 252-443-6471.

Beekeeping equipment, ex- tracts, hives, boxes, supers, etc., $500. Mary Jones, Eden 336-432-3070.

Italian bees w/ marked queen, 3 lb. pkg., ready for pick-up 03-25-17, 04-14-17 & 04-31-17, $100; queens, $25/ea. starting 03-25-17, other items avail. John Pledger, Trindad, Forsyth Co., NC 336-431-9836.

Farm NH 19 blade mower, 6 ft, $375; Bush Hog, 5 ft, $250; JD 1400 haybine, $600. 350 lbs w/marked queen, 3 pt., $2,250. Chris Witherspoon, Vidselle 828-381-6587.

Roane mounted roller row tobacco planter, 3 row model, 1 motor, 75 hp, $2,000. 3 row, rear mount row planter, yard wood saw, $2,200. Alan Finke, Burlington 336-904-2084.

1952 Ford 8N steel blade, 4x2, $250. 34% hay cutter, 7 ft, $300. Combination front & rear mowers, several styles, $100. Wendy Ray, Burlington 336-407-7293.

JD M w/cult, runs good, paint good, $4,500; Farmall 140 w/cult, $5,800; JD 1010 w/cult, runs good, $6,300. Donald Cannon, Ayden 252-746-4600 or 917-3403.

MF sickle mower, 7 ft, $1,000; Ford 3 pt. front loader, $1,500. Gene Rainey, Wilmington 910-798-6711.

JD 6615 tractor w/front loader, 120 hp, lift II/III, $27,500. John Plowman, Edenton 336-564-6630 6-8 p.m.

JD 6000 tractor, front & rear tires, $2,500. John Parker, Bolton 910-655-0741.


1951 JD 6300 tractor, N/E, w/ps, rollomatic, rockershaft, remote hyd. tachometer, new battery, good tires, recent restoration w/JD 8 sickle mowers, $2,155. Jim Stall, Burlington 336-213-2467.

Tiller, 32 in. pull type tine, 30 ft spread pattern, many new parts, $450. Ron Alcorn, Burlington 336-215-9358.


Italian honey bees, 3 lb. pkg. w/ unmarked queen, $100; w/markd queen, 3 lb. pkg. produced by NCDA permitted apiarist, ready for pick-up 03-27-16, $115. Rick Cox, Goldsboro 919-737-9999.

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Equipment Wanted


Tree weeder, Lely, Kovar, Einbock or similar, 8 ft. wide. Brian Hayes, Dunn 910-729-2461.

Pick up head to fit NH 892 silage chopper. Lee Johnson, Bladenboro 814-874-4601.

Ford plow to fit JD 24 in. w/ opening 54x53. W. C., Waynesville, NC 828-737-4076.


Hay Equipment


Case power unit, 4-cyl., go, diesel, running/not. David Arron, Snow Creek 331-522-9557 or 213-5537.

Backhoe, 9 in., for 2005 Teramne T5. Charles Barker, Lexington 910-564-4931 or sef@iinet.net.

Wagon or rubber tires, fits small horse/large pony, tow bar & wheels. $800; 1 horse plows, reworked & painted, $40/ea.

Bob Argonne, Hollister 252-903-4108.

Horse barn for rent, 12 stalls & lounge room, horse wash room, riding ring & 4 x 4 pastures. Horse w/ 5 min.; $450/entire barn & pas- ture. David Waterson, Lexington 240-498-8054.

Ob standard/breed mare, solid dk. bay, 13 y/o, 16h, stout, ride/drive/work, incl. harness, lead line safe for kids or carry big rider all day on trail, $800.

Terry Vuncannon, Summerfield 336- 543-3964.

English saddle, Steubbaen, Seigfried, 17 in. w/ fittings, VGC, $50; Crosby Olympia English saddle, 17 in., soft/ride English, VGC, $50; Steubbaen Seigfried English saddle, 19 in. w/ fittings, VGC, $550. Terry Jenner, Lexington 336- 752-2700.

Black & white tobiano foxtrotter, 16 y/o gelding, 15.2hh, 1,100 lbs., loads, clips, b axes, crosses water, great trail & beginner horse, $2,750.

BOO Karen Ingram, Gold Hill 704-202-1929.

Horse boarding, ample pasture, 3 alt. fields opening on level pasture, round ring, stable, tack room, water, trails, near town, $150/mo. Steve Beckner, Mebane 919-563-5666.

Horse boarding, board w/run-in shelter, round pen, trails, trail room, 2 feedings/day, ref. avail., owner. David Golladay, Summerfield, NC 336-224-2070.

English leather all-purpose schooling saddles, GC, pic as avail., $50-150. Deborah Glenn, Hillsborough 919-933-1444.
Highly pathogenic avian influenza alert in 2015 this disease was found in the wildfowl population in the United States, representing a threat for poultry owners. At this time no cases have been found in North Carolina.

Poultry owners are encouraged to report any new poultry outbreaks to your existing flock for two to three weeks to observe for signs of sickness, have a dedicated pair of shoes and clothing for working with birds, keep an up-to-date health record, be mindful if driving onto property with poultry in the car, and be aware of new information. More information about HPAI can be found at www.ncaagr.gov/avianflu.


Quail, Gambel, California, Blue Scale, Mexican Spedeked, jumbo, silver & white bob, Snowwhites, Snowflakes, albino & black, $40 & up. Silver & White Phyll & Barbary, $1.50 & up.

Jimmy Furr, Stanly 910-893-3012.

Greenland, roaster breed, $20 & up.

Durham, roaster breed, $15 & up.

Peafowl, $125 & up. purple guineas, $10 & up.

Bristol, $50 & up. Birdy Teague, Catawba 828-423-8111.

2016 Coastal Bermuda hay, 4.5x4, $55/ea. Coastal Bermuda hay, 4.5x4, $55/ea. Coastal Bermuda hay, 4.5x4, $55/ea.


Chick期末年, 4.5x4, $125/ea. Tony Dabbs, Yorkville 336-289-7419.

Bales, $4.50/ea.


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Fescue mix, 5x4, $40/ea. Harvey Weisman, Lexing- ton 704-918-0846.


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Seeds & Plants

Liriope plants, $0.75/ea.

Midwest Gromower ebb & flow benches, 6x24 ft & 6x30 ft, GC, pump & tank incl., $6,000. John Smith, Wilson 336-364-2460.

Sunflower seeds, old timey type w/huge 12-14 lb. flower, in 18 in. diameter, seed, $5/32 & $25/seed; $50/seed. N. Smoot, 6227 Wehrkin Rd., Greensboro 336-774-4657.

Muscadine & sunnepop plants, healthy, potted, 2-5 y/o, 5-6 ft tall, including plant & trimming instructions. $15. Bob Whittaker, Mocksville 336-761-3794.

Heirloom Georgia rattlesnake watermelon, large, oblong sweet melons, good producer, great for making rind pickles & eating fresh, 25 seeds/order W/SASE, $0.75. John B. Johnson, 422 East 23rd St., Kannapolis, NC 28083.

Direct current generators, 2000w & 5,000w, at 1750 rpm, $95-125 OBO. Bill Payne, Madison M336-548-6630 from 6-9 p.m.


Corn sheller, hand crank, enclosed in wood cabinet, $125. Thomas Conner, Siler City 914-742-9444.

Grain elevator, 120 lb. barrel on rollers, VGC, $40. Wayne Huffman, Hickory 336-294-3100 or 308-0794.


Sorghum cane seed, red top, late orange & m111, untreated, $5/75 lb. treated, $9.50/lb. Larry Stout, Waynesville 828-456-9934.


Blueberry plants, liner s, 1-3 y/o, early, mid & late sea- son, many varieties, d/w or more w/hydr. lift. Silvia Henning, Pilot Mountain 336-374-0051.

Tomato gourds, orig classic type w/huge 12-14 lb. gourds, $12/lb. Jerry Much, Youngsville 919-819-5937.

Champion No. 40 oil drums, 2000 psi, cone bottom & solid top barrels, $10/ea.; metal burning rings, $15/ea.; metal burning supplies, $85/roll; treated posts, approx. 2 ft tall, inc. planting & trimming instructions, $5 each. Marci Hunsperger, Mocksville 336-824-2749.

Steel beams, c-beams, 5x12 ft, 3x8s, 3x12/16 x 10 ft, 10 ft; 5x12 ft, 2x10 s, approx. 8x14/20 ft, $50. Steve Yarborough, Lexington 336-225-1301.

Small Animals

Tobacco harvesting trailers, $150. Tom Lee, Mountaire Feed pilot Mountain 336-374-2477.

Cedar fence posts, w/lids & gourds for crafts, good condition, $30/100, $35/200 & more w/hydr. lift. Silvia Henning, Pilot Mountain 336-374-0051.


Supplies For Sale

Floral float trays, 28 cell, used 1 yr, $0.25. Jill Gammons, Mt Airy 336-315-0347.

Cummings Indian genera- tor, diesel, 6000w, 6.5 cy, auto start up, GC, $4,000. Donon Jones, 1121 US 15-50, Star, NC 27379.


Supplies


Trucks & Trailers For Sale


1990 Intl flabbed mobile welding shop on wheels, truck comes w/boom crane, welder, torch set, generator, $10,000 or best offer. Larry, Cook Jacksonville 919-347-0051.


Chevy 1 ton dump, $4,000. Alex Nelson, Oak Ridge 336-643-1160.

Trucks & Trailers Wanted

Dump trailer, approx. 6x12 or more w/hydr. lift. Silvia Kramar, Youngsville 919- 613-3894.


To keep up with the latest news in the agri- culture and Consumer Services, check out the website at www.ncag.gov/home and find social media links.
N.C. Forest Service lifts burn bans across the state

Fire experts with the N.C. Forest Service say rain helped reduce the fire danger in the North Carolina mountains and Piedmont, prompting the agency to lift the ban on open burning for 47 counties.

The burn ban has been lifted in Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Caswell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Guilford, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin and Yancey counties.

“Fire experts with the N.C. Forest Service have looked closely at all the counties under a ban on open burning and are comfortable the recent rains have helped lessen the fire danger,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “However, people should continue to use caution with campfires and when burning yard debris.”

The N.C. Forest Service will continue to evaluate fire conditions across the state, Troxler said. Those looking to burn yard debris will need to apply for a burn permit, even if one had already been issued prior to the ban.

Many counties are also imposing their own local ordinances prohibiting burning within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling, such as your home, so residents should call their local fire marshal before engaging in any burning activities. Outdoor burning is also prohibited in areas covered by Code Orange or Code Red air quality forecasts.

While rainfall and lower temperatures have reduced fire danger, the precipitation has not ended drought conditions in the state. If the state continues to have warmer temperatures, below-normal precipitation and drought, and there is an increase in the number of wildfires, the ban on open burning could be reinstated.

Based on North Carolina’s open burning laws, the N.C. Forest Service offers these tips to landowners:

- Make sure you have an approved burning permit.
- You can obtain a burning permit at any N.C. Forest Service office, a county-approved burning permit agent, or online at ncforestservice.gov.
- Check with your county fire marshal’s office for local laws on burning debris. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours; others forbid it entirely.
- The national forests, national parks and state parks might also have recently put burn bans in place. Please check with them if your intent is to have a campfire on property they manage.
- Check the weather. Don’t burn if conditions are dry or windy.
- Consider alternatives to burning. Some yard debris such as leaves and grass may be more valuable if composted.
- Open burning includes burning leaves, branches and other plant material. In all cases, it is illegal to burn trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics or other non-vegetative material. Ashes should be hauled away to a convenience center.
- Plan burning for the late afternoon when conditions are typically less windy and more humid.
- If you must burn, be prepared. Have your fire tools ready. To control the fire, you will need a 10-foot steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Never use flammable liquids such as kerosene, gasoline or diesel fuel to speed debris burning.
- Stay with your fire until it is completely out. In North Carolina, human carelessness leads to more wildfires than any other cause. In fact, debris burning is the number cause of wildfires in North Carolina.
- For more information, contact Brian Haines, NCFS public information officer at 919-857-4828.