Agricultural research stations unveil new hi-tech equipment

A visitor to the “Ag Innovations @ Work” equipment showcase in Clayton, checks out a new tractor before seeing it work in the field.

Research stations unveils new hi-tech equipment

In conjunction with Got to Be NC Agriculture Month, you will likely also be seeing the debut of our newest marketing slogan: “Grown. Raised. Caught. Made.” to our advertising and promotional efforts.
From the tractor

July is a busy time of year in agriculture. Even with some early season delays in production due to a cool spring, farmers markets are full of activity and fresh North Carolina produce, meats and cheeses. This month we will celebrate that abundance, plus the rich variety of North Carolina commodities with Got to Be NC Agriculture Month. I hope to attend several special events at state-operated markets to bring even more attention to the great job farmers do raising the food we all enjoy.

Special events highlighting peaches, blackberries, blueberries and watermelons are on tap for July, but shoppers will find so many more crops in season at the markets. You can expect to find plenty of peppers, okra, cabbage, zucchini, corn, snap beans, squash, cantaloupes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and ornamental plants. I hope many of you already shop at your local farmers markets, but if you do not, please consider shopping with your local farmers. You are helping support the local economy but better yet, you are getting the freshest commodities available. And that freshness just tastes so good.

In conjunction with Got to Be NC Agriculture Month, you will likely also be seeing the debut of our newest marketing slogan: “Grown. Raised. Caught. Made.” to our advertising and promotional efforts. I am excited to launch this new campaign. I think consumers will connect with this message because it really encompasses the whole of agriculture in North Carolina. Finally, I wanted to thank everyone who came out for this year’s Got to Be NC Festival in Raleigh. This event continues to grow and improve every year, and this year was no exception. Thanks in part to nearly perfect weather, we had the biggest attendance we have had to date.

Everywhere I went on the grounds, I saw people having a good time, which is the mark of a successful event. Go ahead and mark your calendars now for May 15-17, 2015.

By Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Commissioner Troxler

FYI: Scam alert

USDA warns of phone scam referencing FSA

It has been brought to the attention of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency that a phone scam is being perpetrated on FSA customers.

As part of the scam, a caller identifies themselves as a Farm Loan Services representative out of Washington, D.C. and states that FSA “owes” you disaster assistance funds and proceeds from your checking account information or requests a credit card number to settle accounts.

If you should receive a similar call, USDA advises people NOT to provide any personal or financial information to the caller under any circumstances.

USDA also asks people to share this alert with family, friends and neighbors. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please feel free to contact your local FSA Office.

Make preparations for hurricane season

Hurricane season officially under way, with scientists predicting fewer storms than normal. But as Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler says, it only takes one storm to ruin a farmer’s year. He is encouraging all farmers and agribusinesses, such as food manufacturers, pesticide dealers and timber owners, to review their disaster plans now and to get ready for the season.

“No county in this state is immune to possible damage from a hurricane,” Troxler said. “Preparing for a hurricane is smart, and thinking through your emergency plan can help no matter what type of emergency strikes. A produce farm has very different needs than a livestock operation. Determining what your most pressing needs will be if you should lose power, or are at risk for flooding, can be the difference in salvaging a crop or saving livestock.”

Troxler also reminds farmers and agribusinesses that now is the time to review insurance policies and make sure you have proper coverage, including wind, hail, flood and catastrophic coverage if necessary.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has a website, www.ncagr.gov/disaster, with links and resources for different types of agribusinesses to plan and recover from a disaster. A Farm Emergency Plan Template is available on the site to help organize information that is needed after a disaster. As disasters go, hurricanes are generally easier to prepare for because of the advance warning. There are several things farmers can do now to prepare their property for a hurricane.

Equipment needed:
- Consider purchasing, leasing or negotiating a rental arrangement for a backup generator in advance. If you plan to rent (See Have a plan, pg. 3)
- Consider purchasing or renting floodlights or other equipment you may need to help organize information that is needed after a disaster. As disasters go, hurricanes are generally easier to prepare for because of the advance warning. There are several things farmers can do now to prepare their property for a hurricane.
- Equipment needed:
  - Consider purchasing, leasing or negotiating a rental arrangement for a backup generator in advance. If you plan to rent (See Have a plan, pg. 3)
Submit soil sample info online

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is reminding growers and gardeners to get a head start on their fall gardening plans by submitting soil samples now. There is no fee currently, and reports are available in one to two weeks. Also, sample information forms can now be completed and submitted online for more accurate and efficient processing.

“If the weather warms up, homeowners start focusing more on yard and garden maintenance and landscaping projects, which could benefit from soil sampling and agronomic advice,” said Jag- ati Kamalakanthan, NCDA&CS soil testing agronomist. “Submitting samples during the off-peak times ensures faster turnaround times and no fees for this service. Plus, you will have the information in plenty of time to put fall gardening plans and yard or pastures renovations in place.”

The peak season for submitting soil samples is December through March, when a fee is charged per sample. Off-season times are April through November, when no fees are charged. Many home gardeners drop off their soil samples along with a handwritten sample information form, but the agency is moving toward an electronic form to improve customer service.

The new online procedure requires a little forethought but is worth the effort. Before going to the extension office, clients should visit the Agromonic Services Division’s PALS (Plant Analysis Laboratory System) Information Management System website at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pals, create a user account, and respond to a verification email. Then, they can fill out and submit their sample information form online. A copy of the electronic form can be sent along with the samples to the soil lab as usual. There are several good reasons to establish a PALS account, such as the great way for the grower or home owner to take charge of the accuracy of their information. Clients can easily enter into the PALS account and correct their name, address and other details. This procedure reduces errors and duplications that invariably occur when staff key must key in data from handwritten forms.

“Once an account is created, online submission is also a great time saver,” Kamalakan- than said. “For all future submissions, the client’s information is automatically filled in.” Another advantage of hav- ing a PALS account is that clients are always notified when their report becomes available online. The division does not routinely mail soil test reports, but clients can step-by-step instructions is on how to create a PALS account, submit soil sample information online, and search for reports online are available online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/.

Don’t forget to renew your Agricultural Review subcription. Either mail in the card from the front page of the June issue of the Agricultural Review or write your name and mailing address on it, or go online at www.AgReview.org. If you’re renewing online you will need to subscribe your newspaper name listed above your name and mailing address.

** Submit soil sample info online **

The N.C. State Beekeepers Association Spring 2014 meeting will be held July 10-12 at Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro. The event offers informational workshops for beginner beekeepers to advanced levels and includes presentations by educators and commercial operators. Vendors will be selling honey, melts, gloves, and other equipment. For more, contact Ed Hunt at 927-3260.

The Sandhills Farmers Market in Pinehurst is accepting new applications from produce-only vendors within a 75 mile radius of Pinehurst for the upcoming season. Interested farmers can apply online via sandhillsfarmmarket.com or call Melanie Riley, market manager, at 910-272-3692.

Tuition for Wounded Warriors. Contact Mike Lubell, 919-327-1355.

Horse Events

Gin Jones H. Jr. & Company, Sandhills Events Center, Raeford, 919-733-4845.

July 9-13 ......... Horse 4-H Show. Contact Mike Yoder, 919-513-1309.

July 18-20 ......... NCHA C Indoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

July 27 ......... Raleigh Summer Dressage I & II. Contact Jonnie Irvin, 919-269-7507.

July 30-Aug. 3 .... Raleigh Southern Regional 4-H Horse Show. Contact Amy McLean, 919-515-7574.

Aug. 9 & 10 ......... Johnson County Horse Show Series. Contact Michele McLaughlin, 919-934-1344.


Aug. 30 & 31 ........ NCDCTA Dressage Show. Contact Marlee Hudy, 352-363-0083.

Sept. 1-2 ............ NCDCTA Sport Horse Breed Show. Contact Marlee Hudy, 352-363-0085.


Oct. 1-5 .............. & 14-26 ............ N.C. Fair Horse shows. Contact Sherri Bridges, 919-839-4701.

Oct. 5-10 ............. NCDA&CS Indoors. Contact Jo Petty, 919-669-9877.

Western N.C. Agricultural Center, Fletcher, 828-687-3416.


July 18 & 19 ........ Beachville Invitational Horse Show. Contact Joyce Wilson, 919-365-5149.

July 22-26 ............. Blue Ridge Classic Horse Show. Contact Lee Lisowski, 919-672-3741.


Bucolic briefs

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Two new regional agronomists join NCDA&CS

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recently hired two new regional agronomists, one serving central North Carolina and the other serving southwestern North Carolina.

Colby Lambert will consult with growers in Anson, Guilford, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph and Richmond counties.

Baggett has worked with growers in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Pamlico, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

Regional agronomists are part of the Field Services Section of the department’s Agronomic Services Division. They provide advice on crop fertilization, nutrient management, lime needs, soil testing, plant tissue analysis, and with the farms and help them look for cross-marketing opportunities in their communities. “We know that if you offer something to eat at your business people tend to stay longer, so why not partner with a local dairy and offer ice cream?” Baggett said. “Farmers might be able to use value-added farm activities to even out their revenue streams between harvests. This could include school group tours, homemade product sales or gardens.”

Baggett points out that farming is a tight-knit business. “Something is always happening on a farm,” Baggett said. “Farm equipment needs to be fixed, livestock needs to be cared for and products need to be sold. That doesn’t leave a lot of time to think about how to market your farm.”

Surveys have shown that the way to get people to the farm is to have a knowledgeable and friendly staff, offer activities for children and sell homemade products. Word-of-mouth is important too, almost 43 percent of a farm’s visitors are from recommendations from friends and family.

Baggett can be reached at an-nie.bagget@ncagr.gov.

Have a plan (Cont’d from pg. 1)

Agricultural Review Page 3

July 2014

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW

New agritourism specialist joins staff

Annie Baggett recently joined the Marketing Division team as Agritourism Marketing Specialist. She replaces Martha Glass who retired. The Agritourism Office has been a part of the NCDACCs Marketing Division since January 2012.

The office assists farms with marketing and promotion support and helps them develop and expand agritourism activities. Any type of farm experience can fall under the umbrella of agritourism, including pick-your-own fields, farm tours, winery tours, pumpkin patches, farm dinners and corn mazes.

Baggett brings a unique array of experiences to her new role, including experience in marketing and working with her family’s business, Sunshine Lavender Farm in Hurdle Mills. “My husband and I started the farm in 2000. At first we wanted to have a community vegetable garden, but soon discovered that deer were our ‘community,’” Baggett said. “The idea to grow lavender came from friends, and the fact that it’s done, “Baggett said. “My background has always been in marketing, and owning a farm has also given me unique insight into the challenges and opportunities agritourism faces every day.”

There are more than 670 farms in North Carolina engaged in agritourism. Some, like Baggett, open a few days a year, others for a six-week growing season, and a few offer experiences year-round. Baggett’s goal is to elevate the awareness and interest in agritourism across the state. “Some of the immediate needs include encouraging the farms to update their General Store Website and put into place communication mechanisms such as a newsletter,” she said. “Studies show that most people have a computer and many research places they want to visit online. A Google search will often pull up a farm’s General Store page as a first option so it needs to be accessible.”

Baggett also wants to meet with the farms and help them look for cross-marketing opportunities in their communities. “We know that if you offer something to eat at your business people tend to stay longer, so why not partner with a local dairy and offer ice cream?” Baggett said. “Farmers might be able to use value-added farm activities to even out their revenue streams between harvests. This could include school group tours, homemade product sales or gardens.”

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Surveys have shown that the way to get people to the farm is to have a knowledgeable and friendly staff, offer activities for children and sell homemade products. Word-of-mouth is important too, almost 43 percent of a farm’s visitors are from recommendations from friends and family.

Baggett can be reached at ani-nie.bagget@ncagr.gov.

Winners in calendar contest announced

Three elementary school students’ art pieces were chosen for the North Carolina Farm to School 2013-2014 calendar. In addition to the artwork, the calendar includes daily agricultural facts. The contest received more than 5,800 entries.

The Farm to School program began in 2000 with locally grown fruits and vegetables for school lunch programs. During the 2013-2014 school year, the program generated nearly $1.4 million in sales with participation by 92 of the 115 school districts statewide.

The winners of the calendar contest and the month their art will represent are as follows:

**Art by: Tabitha Locklear, a third-grader at Nantahala School in Macon County; August 2014 – Emma Makambak, a third-grader at Farmington Wood Elementary in Wake County; September 2014 – Todd Evans, a second-grader at North Canton Elementary in Haywood County; October 2014 – Jacob Dixon, a fourth-grader at Banks Road Elementary in Buncombe County; November 2014 – Joan Gonzalez-Reyes, a second-grader at Union Elementary in Sampson County; December 2014 – Mad-ry Boykin, a fifth-grader at Claxton Elemen-tary in Guilford County; January 2015 – Lana Butler, a third-grader at Willer Elementary in Mecklenburg County; February 2015 – Jasmine Powell, a fourth-grader at Pisgah Forest Elementary in Transylvania County; March 2015 – Chloe Locklear, a kindergar-tener at Green Grove Elementary in Robeson County; April 2015 – Josefin Houcha-ru, a third-grader at Dayton El-e mentary in Mitchell County; May 2015 – Emily Mason, a second-grader at Nantahala School in Macon County; June 2015 – Layla Sirewell, a kindergartner at Central Elementary in Stanly County; July 2015 – Laila Furr, a first-grader at Bostian El-e mentary in Rowan County; August 2015 – Jenna Shopp, a fourth-grader at N.C. Farm to School Cooperative, the group of farmers supplying produce to the program.

***

Agroganic advice for tomato plants. Malach to prevent blossom-end rot of tomatoes

If garden soils have adequate moisture and a pH in the range of 6.5 to 6.6, tomatoes are not likely to have blossom-end rot. Although this common problem is largely due to calcium deficiency, fertilization is not usually the answer. Any soil with a pH of 6.3 to 6.5 will contain enough calcium. However, during dry periods, plants cannot take up the calcium that is there. If your soil pH is good, you can optimize calcium availability by managing soil moisture. Make sure your plants get an inch of water each week, but be careful not to overwater. Apply two to three mulch of pine bark, straw, leaf compost or other organic material) to help the soil retain moisture.

***

Collect cotton tissue samples.

Collect tissue samples (MICMs + detached petals) weekly beginning at early growth (at least by mathead square or one week before first bloom and continuing for three to four weeks after first bloom. Follow current NCDACC cotton tissue sampling protocol: www.ncagr.gov/agronomy/pdffiles/Cotton.pdf

***

Collect other agricultural samples as needed.

For forages

Forage samples for animal feed analysis should be sent to the NCDACC Food & Drug Protection Division at any location throughout the state. The NCDACS Agronomic Division provides nutrient information relevant to crop fertilization not animal nutrition.

For home and garden

There is a guide to help farmers to prepare for fall planting projects such as vegetable gardens, tree and shrub installation and renovation/maintenance of cool-season lawns. Remember: 1) Do not wait until fall to install new lawn. 2) Apply pre-emergent herbicides for weeds in late fall and winter. You can submit your soil sample information online through PALS all year! For nursery crops:

Collect pot grown leaflet solution samples to monitor pH, electrical conductivity (EC) and nutrient levels.

For turf:

Collect tissue samples five to 10 days before each anticipated leaf harvest to determine ripeness. An appropriate sample consists of 10 to 12 leaves from the appropriate stalk position.
The deadline for the September Issue of the Agricultural Review is Aug. 1; the deadline for the October Issue is Sept. 2.

**For Sale**

**FARM EQUIPMENT**


**EQUIPMENT FOR SALE**

**Classified Advertising**

**SUBMITTING ADS:** Ads are free to NC residents & can be mailed to: Classified Advertising, Agricultural Review, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001; or online at www.agreview.org; or fax by 919-733-5047. Ads must include name, address including zip code, phone number including area code, and price or price range for every item being sold. Deadline for each issue is midnight on the first working day of the month prior to publication.
Becky Enzor, fert. hopper, EC, incl. plates & KS, 5’x8’, 11 ft x 5 ft mower & box blade, JD 8200 grain drill, 21 disc, 7 ft length. Lloyd Smith, Sanford 919-708-3800.

Jennings Humphrey, 3,000 bales, stored under shed, GC, Jr., Louisburg 919-496-4966.

Preston Woolard rubber, not running, FC, $2,500. Abe Hilliard, Siler City 919-200-8146.

Claude can load for buyer, $400. Jim Hussey, Eagle Springs 571-969-0216.

Larry Murray, Louisburg 336-214-3312.


DISCOUNT: For lease, 180 ft long, 4 stalls, riding rink & 4 ac pasture area w/new woven wire fencing, lg. center, in dry, good bedding for stalls, on water, $450/mo. Dianne Watterson, Lexington 240-498-0733.


Becky Enzor, fert. hopper, EC, incl. plates & nuts 150,000, M.D. Smith, Dunn 919-891-4713. M300 compile quick attack attaches to fire giants 30, works 350 pts corn head, 500 John Hydraulic, rotating frame, 500 lbs. Bale spear, 3 pt, main spear, adj. height, can handle up to 1,000 lbs., 919-891-1770. Wake Forest 919-226-2201.

Wallace Henley, Sandy Ridge 336-516-5193.

Sorrell paint pony, 05-14 cutback, VGC, $600. Danny Blackwelder, Robbins 910-639-0294.

Bee hives, will rent bee hives for $200. David Curry, Lexington 336-584-7916.

State inspected bees from tested hygienic stock, pick up/460-4322. Jim Lofts, Beulaville 910-471-0268.

Agricultural Review Page 5

HAY & Grain


**NOTICE:** N.C. law requires a permit to sell honey bees in the state. A permit is required for the sale of less than 10 bee hives in a calendar year, a one-time going, 20 hives or 60 lb. hives, or the rearing of bees prior to the movement to gather honey.

Contact Don Hopkins, state apiculturist, at Chestnut Hills, Ruf

Hay & Grain

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Wallace Henley, Sandy Ridge 336-516-5193.
FARMLAND
FARM LABOR WANTED
LIVESTOCK
LIVESTOCK


300 ac in Tyrrell Co. near Col- lumbia, 52 ac forest, 80 ac in pasture, property great for hunt- ing land for deer & bear, approx. 50% swamp, some water & good deer habitat, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, Watson, Lexington 240-498-0733.

30 ac in Surry co. pasture land, 3 acres to 100 acres, 400 acres to 8,000 acres, hayfields, Free Will, 252-243-6801.

70 ac in Tyrrell Co. between Tyree/Reeds, co water, 1,900 ft rd, fenced, some timber, some open land, deer, turkey, etc., approx. 4 ac trees, $230,000. Steve Varshamov, Lex- ington 240-498-0733.

75.8 ac in Orange Co for 4 yr, lob- bing, 3 acres to 100 acres, 11 ac 1st phase & 84.8 ac 2nd phase, 18 m/o & Chapel Hill, 5,000-6,000/ ac. John Jordan, Saxapahaw 336-376-3712.

51 ac mini farm/hunting/hunting in eastern NC, deer & bear, approx. 50% swamp, deer & bear, good for deer & bear, approx. 50% swamp, some water & good deer habitat, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, Watson, Lexington 240-498-0733.

117 ac in Surry co on M Cray. M Cray, Great for home site, great for home site, great for cows, horses, other livestock, row crops & grapes, $52,000. Gaye Carruthers, 321-246-4501, 336-756-4268.

50 ac in northern Orange Co for 5 yr lease, 2 acres to 100 acres, 100 ft to 1 mile, $120,000. Larry Macon, 336-287-3520 or Garrett Carmichael, Linch- ford 704-501-4550.

17.5 ac in Surry Co for lolly plantation, can be divided, near deer, turkey, etc., approx. 4 ac trees, $376-3122.


chicken houses, $219,000. Carl Wessell, Raleigh 919-801-5383.

Lillie Boyles, Vale 704-276-3193.

Harris, Graham 336-567-5854.

for 1 yr. hunting lease, $400. Mark Wessell, Raleigh 919-801-5383.


in Davidson co 300 ac in Tyrrell co 243 ac in Bladen co 40 ac in Randolph co 26 ac in Randolph co 50 ac in northern Orange

26 ac in Randolph Co; $150,000. Michael Baker, Raeford 901-633-2139.

8 ac in Rowan Co. $1,000, 2 acres to 100 acres, 11 ac 1st phase & 84.8 ac 2nd phase, 18 m/o & Chapel Hill, 5,000-6,000/ ac. John Jordan, Saxapahaw 336-376-3712.

197 ac & 11 ac in Surry Co. 300 ac in Wilkes Co., 11 ac in Rowan Co. 12.9+/- ac

in Surry co, near Mt. Airy, 18 y/o long

field 704-293-2429.

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in Surry co, near Mt. Airy, 18 y/o long

field 704-293-2429.
mandarins, mallards, redheads, teal, laying hens, 1 y/o, $6. Randy Wright, Kalwitz, Cameron 919-935-9797.

Point ball game, lots of history, green, professional level. John Davis, Raleigh 252-915-7692.

Ranch Raised Chicken, free range. Kelly Houser, Vale 704-462-1865.


Regev, cut & clear, for every 60 days, easy to clean, lg. sold in pairs, reproduce approx. 5 varieties, Tifton 44, Tifton 85 & 919-707-3730.


Rita Elliott, Sanford 919-770-9146.

Ritchie, tank w/numerous Angus semen straws, $200. James McCauley, Poole, Autryville 910-624-0703.

Ritchie Elliott, Sanford 919-770-9146.

Robert Delafield, Raleigh 919-801-5383.

Robert Hitch, Pittsboro 919-542-6132.

Robert Houser, Vale 704-462-1865.

Robert McCutchen, Albemarle 704-984-3726.

Robbie Addington, 336-512-8847.

Robbie Durisko, 704-591-4767.

Robbie Ford, 910-461-8624.

Robbie Houser, Vale 704-462-1865.

Robbie Pearson, Lumberton 910-774-8176.

Robbie Pearson, Lumberton 910-774-8176.

Robbie Pelfrey, 336-998-3182.

Robb McLean, 704-984-3726.

Robbins, hay, 15x96 ft, 4 ft bow, 250 bales, $8,500. Eddie Bolick, Hudson 828-874-2064.

Robbins Farm, 1979 Ford F700 truck, 120K mi., no dents, EC, $4,000. Herbert Dowless, Lumberton 910-739-7222.

Robinette, 704-998-3182.

Robert McCutchen, Albemarle 704-984-3726.


Robertson & Sons Landscaping, 2 hole locust line stuffer, standards w/extenders, 2, $200. Reggie Clement, Vale 704-462-1865.

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Robertson & Sons Landscaping, 2 hole locust line stuffer, standards w/extenders, 2, $200. Reggie Clement, Vale 704-462-1865.
enhance research capabilities, and reduce fuel and repair costs in the short term. Long-range goals are to help farmers meet future food needs. Globally, agriculture will be challenged by both growing world population. The United Nations predicts farmers will need to produce 60 to 100 percent more food by 2050 to meet world food needs,” Troxler said.

“How do we get there? The success we’ve had today is a result of agricultural research,” Lassiter said.

Guests were able to ride along on auto-steer tractors, hear details about how the technology works from company representatives and visit with researchers from N.C. State about what projects they are currently working on.

Travis Lassiter, a worker at Central Crops Research Station, explained some of the advancements the equipment will provide as he plowed rows with a new John Deere 7330 tractor equipped with the Trimble auto-steer technology.

While taking your hands off the steering wheel and letting the tractor drive itself is novel, Lassiter said some of the benefits come in maximizing your fields, reducing the stress of keeping the rows in a straight line and eliminating the guess work out of precisely lining up equipment with the rows at harvest time.

“With this technology, it will put my rows in in a straight line sub-inch on every pass,” Lassiter said, adding that this advance helps reduce mental fatigue and physical fatigue, especially when working on larger fields.

The new equipment also makes record-keeping easier, particularly in terms of planting specifics.

“With auto-steer technology, the tractor drive itself is not new in the ag industry, it is new to the research stations. The technology is not new in the ag industry, it is new to the research stations. The stations specifically purchased a variety of brands of tractors.

“You will notice there is not just one brand of tractor represented here,” Troxler said. “If you look across the state, you will see many brands on farms as well. We need to be using the types of equipment in research that growers are using, or considering for their own farms.”

North Carolina has a long history of investing in agriculture research, work that has helped developed new plant varieties especially suited for North Carolina soils and climates and improved production techniques. Those investments have helped grow agriculture and agribusiness into a $78 billion industry.

“Studies have shown that for every dollar invested in agriculture research in our state, there is an economic return of about $20,” Lint said.

The stations have proved their worth, Troxler said, but were in serious need of equipment upgrades.

“ Agriculture is the economic engine that drives our economy,” Troxler said. “Thankfully, our legislators understood that that engine was in need of a tune-up.”

Dig Into Local Restaurant Week runs July 14-23

Diners in eight Piedmont counties can enjoy special, locally sourced menu items at 42 participating restaurants as part of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ “Dig into Local” Restaurant Week July 14-23.

“The promotion coincides with the peak of North Carolina’s summer harvest season, giving chefs lots of local options to incorporate into their menus,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

“With so much culinary talent and creativity in this state, combined with the freshest products, these should be memorable dining experiences for guests.”

Participating restaurants will feature specially designed menus. Each menu will showcase at least four North Carolina-inspired menu items and at least one North Carolina wine. Ingredients with a North Carolina connection will be identified on the menus.

Participating restaurants by county are:

Alamance: The Eddy Pub, Saxapahaw;
Chatham: Oakleaf, Pittsboro;
Durham/Durham: Brigs at the Park, Piedmont Restaurant, and Scratch;
 Forsyth: Kernersville: Bistro B & Wine Bar;
Winston-Salem: New Town Bistro, Pantosos Pour House, and Springhouse Restaurant Kitchen and Bar;
Guilford/Greensboro: Crafted – Ed the Art of the Taco, Green Valley Grill, Lucky 32 Southern Kitchen, and Print Works Bistro;
Moore: Ashten’s, Southern Pines;
Elliot’s on Linden, Pinehurst;
Orange/Chapel Hill: The Carolina Inn, One Restaurant, and Weathervane Restaurant at Southern Season;
Wake:
 Apex: Apex City Grill & Bar;
 Cary: Brigs at the Village Restaurant, LaFarm Bakery, and Lucky 32 Southern Kitchen;
 Garner: Simple Twist, TerraFin Station;
 Raleigh: Brigs Great Beginnings Restaurant, Cameron Bar & Grill, Coquette, Dean’s Seafood Grill & Bar, Gray’s Restaurant, Joule (Ashley Christensen Restaurants), Mia Francesca Trattoria, Mura, Relish Café & Bar, Sitti, TerraFin Station, The Daily Planet, The Oxford, Twisted Fork, Vivace and Zinda;
Wake Forest: Brigs of Wake Forest Restaurants.

A recent study released from the National Restaurant Association reports that the top two culinary trends for 2014 are locally sourced meats and seafood, and locally grown produce.

Dig into Local Restaurant Week is in support of foodservice distribution companies who supply restaurants across the state.

For more information, go to www.gottobenc.com/digintolocal.