Cogongrass workshop June 2 in Scotland County

Following the discovery of the federally listed noxious weed cogongrass in northern Scotland County, plant pest regulators will hold a workshop June 2 to help residents identify the grass to be able to report it and help prevent its spread.

The free, hands-on workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will provide participants the opportunity to see the plant during its flowering stage, help them learn how to identify it and offer discussions with weed control specialists about various control options. The workshop will be held at the cogongrass site in Marion.

Isolated stands of the weed have been eradicated in Martin, Pender and Stanly counties. Cogongrass is considered one of the top 10 weeds in the world, and spreads through seed and rhizomes. Anyone interested in attending the workshop is asked to register through Eventbrite by searching the site for Cogongrass Workshop or contact Lassiter at 919-707-3749 or email at bridget.lassiter@ncagr.gov.

Got to Be NC Festival runs May 20-22

Dinosaurs, pirates and bull-dozers will be among the additions to the perennial lineup of North Carolina food, animal and agricultural exhibits at the 2016 Got to Be NC Festival. The event will take place May 20-22 at the N.C. State Fairgrounds.

“The Got to Be NC Festival showcases the finest of North Carolina’s $76 billion agriculture industry while offering a variety of family-friendly attractions for visitors to enjoy,” said Agricultural Commissioner Steve Troxler. “This year’s lineup is one of our most diverse yet, so come out and celebrate with us.”

The new attractions include an interactive dinosaur exhibit curated by a former N.C. Zoo employee and paleontology enthusiast, swashbuckling pirate reenactors Dakota & Friends and a timeline of farm equipment.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has joined 13 other states in partnering with FieldWatch, an online mapping service to help prevent drift damage and bee deaths due to accidental/unintended pesticide drift. Producers, horticultural and organic crops can map their field location using the DriftWatch program. As a companion program, BeeCheck will allow hive owners to map the locations of beehives.

Pesticide applicators can access both databases before treating a field to identify sensitive sites that are close to the spray areas.

“This program is voluntary, non-regulatory and free to use,” said Agricultural Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Other states, especially in the Midwest, have had great success in getting pesticide users, farmers and beekeepers to use the site to reduce the effects of accidental drift. We hope to see similar results here.”

Growers, beekeepers, and bee- and other insect pests can access both databases and use the mapping tools.

Voluntary program aims to help prevent crop damage and bee deaths

NCD&A&CS offers new online mapping services

Voluntary program aims to help prevent crop damage and bee deaths

From the tractor

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released its 2016 Prospective Plantings Report, and planting intentions point to some interesting changes for some crops this year.

Farmers report that they intend to plant more corn, sweet potatoes, hay and peanuts in 2016. One of the most interesting is sweet potatoes, which are projected to be up 21 percent from 2015. The record is 101,000 acres in 1932.

If planting intentions hold true, we could be looking at the highest acreage ever recorded in our state at 105,000 acres. That is up 21 percent from 2015. The record is 101,000 acres in 1932.

Sweet potato producers are finding new markets for their commodities, including through value-added production, so this jump is not too surprising. We are now seeing sweet potatoes in pet food, as well as the raw product being turned into chips, fries and purées, making it easier for consumers and food service workers.

We even have a company in the state making vodka from sweet potatoes. All of these uses mean there is a market for less-than-perfect potatoes including smaller, misshapen ones, which is good for the bottom line.

When we see up and down numbers for corn, particularly as prices fluctuate. Farmers have indicated they plan to plant 930,000 acres this year. That is 18 percent higher than 2015, reversing a downward trend of the past two growing seasons.

Another crop that Dr. Nick Piggott, an N.C. State University agronomist, recently pointed out as being on the rise is grain sorghum, which is projected to be up by 25 percent. If planting intentions hold true, acreage would jump from around 40,000 acres to 50,000. Piggott attributes that increase to grain sorghum potentially being more profitable than soybeans or cotton.

Hay acreage is expected to be up 7 percent and peanut acreage is expected to be 6 percent higher. When we have increases in some crops, that typically means another crop loses ground. Cotton, tobacco and soybean plantings are all expected to be down. We already saw a drop in winter wheat production, down 25 percent at 490,000 acres planted.

Cotton looks to be the next biggest dropper, also down 25 percent at 290,000 projected acres.

Farmers are looking at smaller flue-cured and burley tobacco acreage this year, with flue-cured dropping by 6 percent to 160,000 acres and burley being forecast down by 5 percent.

Intentions also point to smaller soybean acreage, down 7 percent from 2015.

Of course, planting intentions and actual plantings can be two completely different things. We’ll know more in June when the USDA’s acreage report comes out.
Seven stores pay fines for price-scanning errors

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Standards Division has collected fines from stores in Duplin, Durham, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Wake and Wilson counties because of excessive price-scanner errors. The Standards Division conducted drugstore inspections and found scanners of a business’ price-scanner system to check for accuracy between the prices advertised and the prices that register will pay. If a store has more than a 2 percent error rate on overcharges, inspectors discuss with the findings with the store manager and conduct a more intensive follow-up inspection at a later date. Undercharges are also reported, but do not count against a store.

Penalties are assessed if a store fails the follow-up inspection. In addition to the penalties paid, the store will be subject to re-inspection every 60 days from the last inspection until its error rate is 2 percent or less. Additional penalties may be assessed if the store fails a re-inspection. “Stores have a responsibility to make sure that the price listed on the shelf matches the price charged at the register,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “We want shoppers to be confident that at grocery stores and retail outlets they are paying the shelf price they expect and not more. Consumers can contact our Standards Division at 919-707-3225 to report a complaint.”

Following are stores that paid civil penalties in the first quarter of 2016:

- Wal-Mart #1352 at 5625 S. NC Highway 41, Wallace, paid $525 in civil penalties. An initial inspection in December found an error rate of 3 percent, based on three overcharges in a 100-item lot. A second inspection in January found an error rate of 2.3 percent, based on seven overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store will be re-inspected.
- Wal-Mart #1614 at 1525 Glenn School Road, Durham, paid $1,545 in civil penalties. An initial inspection in October found an error rate of 7 percent, based on seven overcharges in a 100-item lot. A second inspection in January with a 3.33 percent error rate.
- Carquest #1181 at 926 N. Brightleaf Blvd., Smithfield, paid $900 in civil penalties. An initial inspection in October found an error rate of 12 percent, based on four overcharges in a 100-item lot. A second inspection in January.

The Got to Be NC Festival runs May 20-22 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Admission to the festival is free. The event features a food, wine and beer expo, barnyard animals, a rabbit and eel show, bluegrass competition, trout pull, BMX bikes, racing pigs and one of the largest antique tractor displays in the Southeast. The event also includes a family-friendly carnival and fireworks. More information is available at www.gotobenefest.com.

Please note, our fax number has changed to 919-733-5047.

The deadline for the June issue is May 2, the deadline for the July issue is June 1.
Students win soybean scholarships

The North Carolina Soybean Producers Association recently announced the recipients of its N.C. Soybean Research Scholarship. The association established the scholarships to support students who are seeking careers in the soybean industry. The scholarships are awarded annually to students studying soybean production and who are involved in soybean research at N.C. State University. They are based on merit and need, with a strong preference for students from N.C. families farming soybeans.

“We are pleased to provide scholarships through the soybean checkoff to this strong group of students who have shown an interest in the soybean industry,” said Jeff Peed, a soybean farmer from Aurora and president of the NCSPA. “We believe the scholarships will have a positive impact on agriculture and soybean farming, and are glad to offer these scholarships to support their education.”

Scholarship recipients for the 2016-2017 academic year are:
- Joshua Joyner of Johnston County, a junior majoring in plant and soil sciences in the NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- Jason Ferebee of Currituck County, a senior majoring in agricultural business management in CALS.
- Dustin Black of Randolph County, a senior majoring in plant biology in CALS.
- Collin Blalock of Wilson County, a sophomore majoring in agricultural science in CALS.

Ty Earl Englebright of Granville County, a junior majoring in plant and soil sciences in the NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

- Joseph Hunter of Lenoir County, a senior majoring in agricultural science in CALS.

In a state-wide trade association representing all N.C. soybean producers, responsible for research, education and promotion programs to benefit the state’s soybean farmers. It also administers national soycheck programs in North Carolina.

Poultry & Supplies For Sale

Highly pathogenic avian influenza alert

In May, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said an outbreak of the highly virulent strain of HPAI was confirmed in the wildfowl population in Washington state, and prompt action by poultry producers can have significant economic impact on the poultry industry. In response, the poultry industry is working with federal and state officials to prevent the spread of this disease.

This includes quarantining any new poultry additions from your existing flock for two to three weeks to observe for signs of sickness, have a dedicated paired pen of birds for observing with birds that stay on your property, be mindful of proper biosecurity practices with poultry with as the disease can spread by vehicles. More information about HPAI can be found at www.nacgav.org/avianflu.

Bees, Supplies & Services Wanted


Hive & swarm removals by exp. beekeeper, willing to travel within Bledell co & northern surrounding cos. Jacob Gant, Statesville 704-487-3109.


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FARM EQUIPMENT

Ronald White, Pilot Mountain $1,500. Clinton Peele, Cameron $1,500; Lely tedder-rake, pull-tine, OBO. J.T. Callicutt, Asheboro $1,500.


80% tread, mounted on wheel, $450. Phillip Fields, Sanford 919-495-2961.

5240 tractor, single cycle, 7 shank, $300. Tommy King, High Point 336-418-0015.


John Deere 4600, 2001 JD 72D tractor, single cycle, 7 shank, $300. Tommy King, High Point 336-418-0015.


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**FARM EQUIPMENT**

**Leinbach 81**, 16 in. single HD plow, slightly used, $400. Dickie Hall, Hickory 828-336-2090 or 425-1500.

**2008 Arctic Cat 400 artv, 24wd, front & rear racks & gun rack, 1 seat, trailer hitch, GC, 493 mi., VG, $3,999. Doug Breeden, Mount Holly 704-747-7389.

**1983 Power King 1212, 12 ft. txt, eng. & 4-spd & tow/ho plow, GC, $450. LaVallie Colony, Conover 828-398-4282.


**335 round baler, 4x4, new bells, field ready, $465. Jack Luecke, Seboeis, VT.


**JD 7260 8 row Maxemerg2 no-till drill, GC, $3,440 4 dual tire rim spacers, 18x38, 2500 bu., $450; 100 hyd. angle blade, $350; others available. Gene Wells, Watauga 910-259-4338.

**2013 Kubota m110x4de MF, diesel, 1930 hrs., runs good, d/wa, radio, 24 sq. rt power top, shelter, $665 hr., owner fin., skills required. Dairy Mike, Gilead 910-572-5866.

**JD 455 E-track trailer w/14 ft round corn head, 2500 seprator hrs., good tires, spreader & hopper avial., $500. jonathan sedberry, Mt. Gilead 910-572-3511.

**Kubota belly mower, 6 ft extra, fits 2900 series tractors, mounting parts for loader, no-traction loader, VGC, $1,100 000. Jim Murray, Lakeview 910-638-5774.

**JD 5105 wloader, power reverse, rear, JD 5100 loader, 1025 hrs., $21,500. dexter mathews, Carthage 910-842-0674.

**JD 445 E-Track trailer w/14-in bucket, sheltered, GC, 1210 hrs., good tires, $1,200. Dan Thompson, Lillington 910-896-9690.


**2004 John Deere 7520 tractor w/40 ft grain cart, GC, runs good, run 24 by 241, 31.00 14 tires, $700. Danny Thompson, Gilead 910-572-3511.

**2010 John Deere 7520 tractor w/40 ft grain cart, GC, runs good, run 24 by 241, 31.00 14 tires, $700. Danny Thompson, Gilead 910-572-3511.

**1999 JD 7430 tractor w/18 blades, adjustable front & rear gages, $850. Danny Thompson, Gilead 910-572-3511.


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For Farm Labor


Farming, plumbing, fencing, repairs on existing fences. (540) 927-2683.

Farmers Advertiser

Land to lease for hunting, 10+ ac farmland w/house in 100% NZ Kiko goats, can be used for fruit & produce farm, can be used for forage herd bulls, $1,200 & up. Dave King, 336-910-4048.

For Sale

Polled Hereford bulls, bred to Angus cows, 5 y/o, $1,200 & up. Robert Cox, 910-572-2286.

LIVESTOCK

Boer/Savannah cross bulls, born 2016, low hoof maintenance, 70% Boer, 30% Savannah. $300. Hunter Nottingham, 910-573-5302.

ADGA/AGS reg. Nigerian dwarf, registered heifers, $400 & up. 5-30 ac within an hour south of Frankfort. For information, 270-812-5665. Kathy Knight, Silsmon 325-332-5154.


Boer kid, $50. $125 & up. Steve Jones, Thompsonville 336-659-7975.


French alpine doelings, dob 02-16-15, $200-600. Atlanta Batten, Selma 919-740-6418.

Polled Boer/Savannah cross doelings, $80-120. R. G. Barnhardt, Supply 910-639-1214.


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Livestock Wanted

**Jersey heifer calf** to bottle rear, Smoker 854-6972.

**Sheep** for **Sale**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Anyone offering a **nursery stock** for sale in N.C. is required to obtain either a nursery or a local farm supply license. For more contact the NCDAC&C Plant Ind., attn: Mrs. Byrd, 2020-886-9353 or 970-7370.

Lucky buckeyes, $4.25 dozen.

Shedding, fencing, 12 gauge 100 ft., 5 strands, $20. Bill Young, Ross 910-735-5261.

**Ducks & Geese**

Duck decoys, 6” & 20”, $2. Jim Johnson, 910-694-5368.

**Rabbits**


**Angus heifers**, bred to calve in early fall, 8 avail. $2,000. Gordon Nevell, Chesapeake, VA 757-622-4993.

**Purebred sanaan doers, 9 mos.** $175. John Kalvest, Cam eron 919-935-9797.

**Rice**

Scott Snider, Lexington 740-802-5979. 

Tomato, etc., $1/pack + SASE.

**Miscellaneous**


**Nursery seed, etc.**

Old timey cockscomb seeds, $2,000/ea. Gordon Neville, s.a-Wastin, On Target & others; A.W. smiling, Maxton 910-869-2237.

Arkai irrigation disinfection system. wefl. backwash, salt, one gal. 11, $50. Davis, Raleigh 919-472-3648.

Unwashed dried, various types & sizes. Statesman, 800-961-4902.

**Rabbits**

several sizes, no chemicals used, sheltered, 200. Philip Fields, Sanford 919-795- 5373.


**Tomato cages/trellises**, $15. Dr. Sidney, 910-823-7500.

**WANTED:**

Anyone offering old log tobacco barn, tear down 1,900 gal. tobacco, barn, 18 boxes, $2,500. Thomasville 336-472-1724.

**Gardens**

Summer spinach & honey dew melons, $10. Sharman Marks, Zebulon 919- 602-8474.


**Horse fencing**

100 ft. & 75 ft. loose run, $30/ea. & shifts great, stationary dump, 175 kw, 600 amp transfer switch, for sale. Tony Lockhart, Semora 336-234-8518.

**Equipment**


**Feed & Supplements**

Tomato, 100 ft. 803-417-0899.

Lodging, $8.50; 2 hole locust line posts, $9; rails, $7; 3x3 in. hemlock rails, $1.40; steel rails, $1.75. Jim Johnson, 910-694-5368.


Cider mill parts

Aermotor windmill

20x50, incl. cover, $50. John Gregory, Dunn 919-975-2373.

**Travel trailers**

10 ft. 803-417-0899.

**Trucks & Trailers**

Ford F-800 truck, 50 ft ladder w/ utility carrier, $3,000. Martin gourds

1993 Ponderosa gooseneck stock trailer, 14 ft, side-viewing rear & front (1,200 miles), Mooresville 336-667-7120. 


**Livestock pickup truck**, metal, 10 ft. dump trailer, gooseneck rear gate, fits 8 ft truck bed, $500. Elaine Knight, Siloam 336-580-6224.


1994 GMC 150 truck, runs well, 92,000 miles, not road worthy, for $500. Thomasville 336-472-1724.


**Stainless steel tank**, 175 gal., $100. Dr. Sidney, 910-823-7500.

**Fencing**

2” x 4” steel mesh. $300. A.W. Smiling, Maxton 910-869-2237 before 8 p.m.


**Dietary supplements**, expirable, 1 lb. $4.75. Mountain Home, 336-736-5235.

**Truck tires on wheels**, 12.00-20, 4-7.50x20, 4-7.50x20. Alvin Johnson, 910-662-0985.


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Plan now for the Century Farm Family reunion Oct. 18

For 45 years, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Century Farm Program has celebrated and recognized families for 100 years of continuous ownership of their farms. This program began with the 1970 N.C. State Fair as a way to highlight the fair’s theme, “Salute to Agriculture.”

That year, a large push was made to get families to register their farms for the program, resulting in more than 800 farms being qualified. Today, around 1,600 farm families have earned the distinction of being a Century Farm Family, with some families now marking 200 or more years of continuous ownership.

Wakelon Farms of Zebulon, owned by the Fowler family, is one of those. The Fowlers can trace their family farm roots back to 1743, making their farm 273 years old.

The 150-head Angus beef cattle operation includes around 1,400 acres and is operated by Bob Fowler, son of Jane Fowler and the late J.R. Fowler Jr. He owns the farm with his sisters, Jill Bright and Ginny Wheeler. The family has been in the beef cattle business for 60 years; earlier generations raised tobacco, cotton, grains and feed, dairy cattle and timber.

Jane Fowler said her husband believed in investing in land, eventually acquiring five of the original six tracts of land that belonged to his grandfather.

James Robert’s philosophy was that they aren’t making any more land. He could see it, take care of it and enjoy it,” Jane Fowler said. “On both sides of his family were men who loved land, and he invested in that versus other things.”

Bob Fowler, who is the eighth generation on the farm, inherited his dad’s love for the land. He appreciates his family’s long connection to the rolling hills, streams and open pastures that make up the farm in northern Wake County, and works to improve the land in a variety of ways while also making his living through farming.

“I’m not going to do anything to pollute the land I make a living on and is my heritage; or not improve it,” Bob Fowler said. “Everywhere we have creeks, we have fenced off to keep the cattle out. The water has the same quality as a good quality mountain stream.”

Wakelon Farms has many small gardens filled with plots with persimmon trees, cone flowers, nut plants, honeybees and Maximilian sunflowers. Those provide great habitat and food for quail, rabbits, turkeys and deer.

Bird houses are affixed to fence posts around the property to house some of these visiting inhabitants. Bits of twigs and grass peeking out from entrances and corners of these simple boxes indicate the homes are welcomed and used.

During an early morning drive to check on the cattle, a flock of quail flushed up from the brush, filling the air with the sweet sound of the quail call in the lush, green pasture. It is a snapshot-worthy moment; nature awakening to a new day, stirred into motion and flight.

It is rare to see that large of a group of quail flush from a field these days,” Bob Fowler said. “That’s a pretty sight to see.”