Got to Be NC Festival runs May 16-18 in Raleigh

AgroTip

Spring and summer are the best times to take soil samples from established lawns and gardens.

It is always a good idea to take soil samples several weeks before planting a garden or renovating a lawn; then if time is needed, you have time to apply the lime properly and let it begin to work before planting. For established plantings, spring and summer are good times to submit samples because there is no peak-season fee. Reports are usually posted online within 10 days.

The soil lab urges clients to enter and submit soil sample information online via the Public Access Laboratory Information Management System website instead of filling out a paper sample information form. The online option sends sample information to the lab electronically and helps prevent data entry errors and duplications. A printed copy of the electronic Soil Sample Information form must be submitted with the samples.

Links on the Agronomic Services soil boxes, which are available from all county Cooperative Extension offices and from the Agronomic Division office at 4300 Reedy Creek Road in Raleigh, Reports are posted online in PALS.

Troxler announces funding for hemlock restoration

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently announced the allocation of seed funding for a new effort to restore North Carolina’s hemlock trees to long-term health.

Hemlocks across Western North Carolina are being decimated by the hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect that sucks the sap of young twigs, which leads to tree death.

Dead hemlocks can negatively affect nesting songbirds, trout populations, plant nurseries and landscapers, homeowners and tourism.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will use $100,000 from the state’s legal settlement with the Tennessee Valley Authority to start the Hemlock Restoration Initiative. Troxler made the announcement at a March 28 meeting of the N.C. General Assembly’s Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission held at DuPont State Recreational Forest.

“We can and must do more to restore hemlocks on public and private lands as soon as possible,” Troxler said. “Our goal is to ensure that, by 2025, Eastern and Carolina hemlocks in North Carolina can resist the adelgid and survive to maturity.”

Troxler said many people, groups and agencies already are working on promising approaches to return hemlocks to long-term health. These include the search for naturally resistant trees, testing of predator beetles that eat adelgids and efforts to bring in resistance from similar tree species. “We are focused on speeding up the most promising ideas, not reinventing the wheel,” he said.

The department has selected WNC Communities as its primary partner to implement the project. The Asheville-based nonprofit organization has experience in grant management, project development and using partnerships to achieve goals that benefit the region. “WNC Communities can bring together the right mix of researchers, funding organizations and others to make sure we use the best efforts to return hemlocks to long-term health,” Troxler said.

The program will include efforts to

From the tractor

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

April and May are busy months on the farm, particularly for crop farmers. In some parts of the state, cool and wet weather has delayed planting for some crops, so as the weather has warmed, farmers are hustling to catch up and get crops in the ground.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released a report on prospective plantings and it looks like North Carolina farmers will plant more acres of soybeans and fewer acres of corn this year. If the forecast holds, farmers will plant 1.6 million acres of soybeans this year, 10 percent more than they planted in 2013. That is not the only crop expected to see an increase. Cotton, peanuts, tobacco and sweet potato production are also expected to rise, with increases ranging from 1 to 6 percent.

Cotton acreage is projected to be up by 470,000 acres or 1 percent. Peanut acreage is expected to total 83,800 acres, and sweet potatoes are expected to be up 6 percent or 61,000 acres. Hay producers are expected to cut 900,000 acres in 2014, up 5 percent from 2013. Corn and winter wheat are expected to be down. Corn plantings are projected to total 850,000 acres, a drop of 9 percent from last year. Winter wheat acreage, which has already been planted, is down 16 percent from last year, according to the USDA report.

A number of factors influence a farmer’s planting decisions, including input costs, world supply and demand for the crop and, of course, price. Last year, the average price for corn in March was $7.72 a bushel. This year in March, the average was $5.21 a bushel. That’s a pretty significant difference, especially when input costs have not gone down.

There has been a little more stability in soybean prices. Last year’s March average was $14.43 a bushel, and this year it was $14.23.

As with the start of every growing season, I hope for a good year. But I know I will need to manage challenges as they come along during the season. As I have said before, it is hard, but rewarding work.

Farming has always given me a great deal of personal satisfaction and I am proud it remains our state’s No. 1 industry.

Be sure to visit our state-operated farmers markets as well as your local markets to support North Carolina farmers. The markets are starting to bustle with activity as strawberries, blueberries and hot-house vegetables are coming to market. The selection will continue to get larger and larger as the summer wears on.

Remember when you want the best, it’s Got to Be NC Agriculture.
Honeybee colonies are shown being loaded for transport to a new work site. Commercial beekeepers send colonies across the country to pollinate crops.

N.C. bees staying busy with crops

Reprinted from the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Inf the Field blog.

With blueberries in bloom in White Lake, some of the state’s smallest agricultural workers are hard at work. Each year, farmers contract with commercial beekeepers to bring in trac- tor-trailer loads of bees to help pollinate their crops. This happens in North Carolina as well as other large agricultural states, including Cali- fornia. Each tractor-trailer load holds about 450 colonies. Each colony has about 50,000 bees. Nationally, there are about 2.6 million commercial honeybee colonies.

Jeff Lee, owner of Lee’s Bees in Mebane, tends his 1,600 colonies during the pollinating season, the work of the bees doesn’t end. In February, Lee’s bees were in California to help pollinate the almond crop. An estimated 1.6 million of all commercial honeybees work there during their busy pollinating season in California. The bees will be busy for about a month with the blueberry crops in the White Lake area of Bladen County. From there they will travel to Maine to help pollinate that state’s blueberries. Then on to Wisconsin for cranberry season or back to North Carolina to help pollinating numbers of cherries be used in Mt. Olive pickles. Lee also uses some of his bees in honey production. The bees travel with a large net over the tractor to prevent escape during transport. “When we are ready to load or unload the bees from the truck, we wait until dusk or until the temperature drops below 50 degrees at night. ‘Bees return to their hives at night or in cold weather. As long as you wait until later in the day, the bees aren’t left behind.’

While the bees are at work with the blueber- ries, inspectors with the department’s Plant In- dustry Division will check the colonies.

“Our inspectors are trained bee-keepers,” said Ap- iary Inspector Supervisor Don Hopkins. “We inspect the bees for general health, brood dis- eases and population. We then issue certifi- cates of health so they can travel to Maine or another state in need of pollination services.”

Hopkins and his team also provide an extra set of objective eyes for the farmer and bee- keeper. “We do a frame count for each colony,” Hopkins said. “A box holds 10 frames and the standard is to have seven of the 10 full of bees. (See Bees, pg. 8)

Bucolic briefs

Two Johnston County horse show series, one an open class and the second a hunter class, have been announced. Following are open horse shows:

May 9 & 10 at the Moore Complex in Raleigh; Sept. 20, Oct. 25 and Nov. 22. The hunter show dates are June 14, Sept. 6 and Nov. 8. Events are held at the Johnston County Livestock Arena in Smithfield, except where noted. For more, to go to www.blaines-mclaughlin-stables.com or call Michele McLaughlin at 919-934-1344.

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Spring Sale will be held May 1-8 at the Cabarrus Event Center in Concord. Bay or consign any thing related to equestrian sport, including tack for all disciplines of riding. Consignors drop off May 7 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Volunteers shop before the public. A premiere shopping night will be held May 8 from 5-9 p.m. Cost is $7. Open shopping with free admission starts May 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Consignors pick up May 13 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Consignments cost $75 per stall. For more, contact Lynn Benson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950 or go to www. EquestrianExchange.com.

A N.C. State Beekeepers Association 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 woodwaxen, tools, gloves and other equipment. For more, contact Ed Haunt at 919-272-3692.

The Sandhills Farmers Market in Pinehurst is accepting new applications from producer-only farmers within 75 miles of Pinehurst for the upcoming season. Interested farmers can apply online via sandhillsfarmersmarket.com or call Melanie Riley, market manager, at 910-517-5477.

Beepackers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at www.acagc.com/beelink. The site is hosted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the N.C. State University Apiculture Program. Anyone interested in listing their bee operation can do so by filling out an online Subject A form on the Beelink page or by contacting NCDAC&F at 919- 233-8214 or by email at NCHoneybee@ncagr.state.gov, or call NCACF at 919-733-5079. NCDAC&F’s Plant Industry Division represents the movement of agricultural or related items capable of spreading harmful pests. Beekeepers participating in this program will be required to comply with all honey and bee industry regulations.

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Please note: The fax number for submitting ads and news items to the Agricultural Review has changed. It is now 919-733-5047.
“This event continues to grow each year, and I’d invite everyone to check out this unique North Carolina festival. The 9th Annual Lumberjack Show features World Champion lumberjacks in a variety of events. Daily competitions each day of the festival. The lumberjacks will showcase their skills in two-man chainsaw, sawing and horizontal axing, throwing unterhanded, chainsaw carving and log rolling. Kids of all ages will enjoy the shows. Times are to be announced.

The Food, Wine and Beer Expo in the Expo Center features some of the best North Carolina products from more than 70 vendors as of press time. Submitted items, bever- ages and more from noon to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is $2, which includes a coupon sheet for discounts on products for sale.

For Sale: hay/day-only activities include:
- an antique tractor pull from 2-8 p.m. in the Sam Rand Grandstand; or
- Gator Wars from 4-7 p.m. in Doroton Arena. This popular, second-year event challenges high school FEMA teams from across the state to figure out how to get a new John Deere Gator running. Each Gator has been disabled and requires the same fixes to get it started. The first team to figure out the fixes, the Gator started and passed check by John Deere-certified mechanics will win the top prize, more importantly bragging rights for another year. The com- petition is free for spectators.

- Another new event features a backyard presentations of the American flag. This patriotic show will be held at 5 and 9 p.m. in the Sam Rand Grandstand.

Special Saturday-only activities include:
- the 7th Annual Lineman’s Rodeo, featuring demonstrations on live lines, changing of pole-top trans- formers and pole-top rescues, will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The ro- ders will take place inside Gate 9; or
- the 9th Annual Carolina Pig Jig, a barbecue cook-off and fun- tommers for the Masonic for Children in Oxford. This mouthwatering event draws state Masonic chapters hoping to win top honors or cash prizes for the People’s Award for best barbecue. Once official judging is finished, festi- vity-goers can buy the barbecue and cast a vote for their favor- ites. Cost is $15 for ages 12 and up. Kids Ages 7-11 are $5. And those 6 and under eat for free.

- a bluegrass band competi- tion at 11 a.m. on the Waterfall Stage near Horton Arena. Visi- tors can sit back and enjoy blue- grass music as bands compete for cash prizes and the oppor- tunity to win prizes to be awarded for the best barbecue. Once official judging is finished, festi- vity-goers can buy the barbecue and cast a vote for their favor- ites. Cost is $15 for ages 12 and up. Kids Ages 7-11 are $5. And those 6 and under eat for free.

Classified Advertising

SUBMITTING ADS: Ads are free to NC residents & can be submitted by mail to 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1001; online at www.agreview.org; or by fax to 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 all issue is midnight on the day prior to publication.
FARM EQUIPMENT

Franklinton 919-494-2087.

Eddie Eason, Stateline jumper seat, 17 in., newer pull-type, GC, $1,200.

Paul Bennett, JD 4024 24 ft. corn, $2,000.

Mare, 7-14, EC, $4,000; JD 158 4 basket hay tedder, $4,500; JD M w/cult., 828-779-0481.

Eddie Eason, 12v, good paint & equip., 12v, runs good.


Thorne, Wilson 252-289-6190.

Loggins, Oak Ridge 336-207-6632.

Dufour, Nashville 252-230-6387.

Tyer, Fountain 252-215-9125.

Thompson 336-685-4322.

Harden, Reidsville 336-394-7295.

Thacker, Summerfield 252-252-7711.

Smith, Lumberton 910-739-6383.

Carteret 252-393-8578.

Eisenhower, Norwood 704-474-4526.

Logan, Salisbury 704-694-8255.

Cline, Salisbury 704-918-8527.

Brown, Brownsville 336-937-5067.


Crawford, Brownsville 336-937-5067.

Agricraft fert/seeder tender, $10, ton asphalt & steel aes & ramps, $1,600; Valve opener, $150; 6 burner, 400, 6" auto feeder, 500; 2,000. Amy Bridges, Shelby 704-2237.

$2,000. Amy Bridges, Shelby 704-2237.

McSwain, Shelby 704-482-2912.

637-1805.


mower, GHM700, on pull dolly, RR1012E, $3,500; Bush Hog disc fertilizers.}

381-7852.

Keith Lail, Hickory 828-694-8990.

mower, JD 450 dozer.

Magnetos, carburetors & parts for carburetor, $550, 3844-356-783.

FARM EQUIPMENT

9 ac w/80 ac hay fields, hardwood & fruit trees, $15,000. Larry Chesebro, Siler City 919-497-4987.

Land for lease must consist of at least 3 acres and be used for agricultural purposes. Advertisers must indicate this in their ad.

185 ac is Allegany co, hay & small pond, deer & turkey, seck. area, cabin & out build., near Sparta, USDA# 72-1351, 704-982-7303.


51 ac in Caswell co, hay fields, very good hunting, 4,000 ft frontage, water, 27 yrs/hardwoods, rd. frontage, well, 10 acres, $38,000. T. Gary, Cap-Shirt, 336-945-8519.

Land to lease for 2014 & future years, 10+ acres, 1st yr. free w/high tensile fence, with 1 hunter, rustic cabin, near Damonte Ranch, Spring 907-652-5427.

5 ac in Randolph co, 5 mi. south of Randleman, 2.5 acres to lease to retired & disabled hunter, $110,000. David Crawford, 336-576-5039.

Land to lease for hunting, 1 week or season, ref. avail. Steve Garner, Asheboro 336-302-5880.

9 ac w/80 ac hay fields, hardwood & fruit trees, $15,000. Larry Chesebro, Siler City 919-497-4987.

9 ac farmland in Spring Hope area, not in clear cut, not in city limits, under $100,000. Rob Roy, Franklinton 919-488-3316 or 1-866-717-7277.

Land to lease for turkey hunting, 1 week or season, ref. avail. Steve Garner, Asheboro 336-302-5880.

10 ac for 2014, turkey & deer hunting, 5 acres each, 3 acres blackbuck, 2 acres white-tail, 1/2 cleared & 1/2 wooded, Piper's Gap area, 45+ ac in Randleman co for 2014 deer hunting. Lee Carawan, Concord 704-798-7010.


Creek 336-418-0785.

16 ac in Montgomery co, good for farm, clear trees for pasture/chickens, 8 ac pasture, 8 ac woods. Good hunting, 4,000 ft frontage, water, 37 yrs/hardwoods, rd. frontage, farm house, $75,000. Randy Cope, Spring 828-694-2223.

$550, 3844-356-783.

mower, JD 450 dozer, $100, 6' 5 pt. hitch, 750 hp engine, 3800 hrs., RC. Grimes, China Grove 730-224-2307.

Butt & tines, 16" blades, kg, mechanical lift, $2,000. Bob & Joyce Balog, Richlands 919-868-9696.

46 ac in Davidson co, hay fields, 7 ac, 10+ ac on high ground, 100 ac in cult., stream, barn, outbuildings, $100,000. Dan Stikeleather, Statesville 704-565-9700.
Livestock

Grass-fed Katahdin & Katahdin
Dorper cross lambs, 90-110 lbs., $150 each. Russell Quackenbush, Mocksville 336-782-2847.


criptive name, 1 w/blue eyes, poss. trade w/equal does, $150/ea. Sherilyn Formy-Duval, 336-593-2073.

for black-eyed susans, $10/ea. by BSAW, Asheville 336-601-2534.


Mini Nubian, 6-8 w/o, cross landrace, $350. Durwood Williams, Lenoir 828-729-9779.

Atlantic blackie, $1,000. Durwood Williams, Lenoir 828-729-9779.

Kiko goats, 1 y/o, $100. Leighly Morgan, Mocksville 336-473-8545.


Mallards, Pekin drakes, $50/2 days + $50 refundable dep. Mary Eng, Raleigh 919-274-2013.

Soybeans & wheat, $3 + SASE. Barry Cox, Harbor Springs 828-697-6607.

Flower seeds, cone flower, delphinium, daisy, cosmos, egg tree, etc., $1/pk. Barry Cox, Harbor Springs 828-697-6607.


Turken/naked neck roosters, 225,000 btu, $300; 475,000 btu, $400. Michael W. Ronderos, Asheboro 336-622-3748.

Yellow leghorn hens, 1½ y/o, laying well, $25 each. JN Lloyd, Chapel Hill 919-489-3794.


Grass-fed Katahdin & Katahdin


Mallards, Pekin drakes, $50/2 days + $50 refundable dep. Mary Eng, Raleigh 919-274-2013.

Mallards, Pekin drakes, $50/2 days + $50 refundable dep. Mary Eng, Raleigh 919-274-2013.

Marshville 704-753-1614.


Turken/naked neck roosters, 3, $10. Adam Flowers, Mocksville 336-661-3754 text/email pref. adamflowers66@gmail.com.

Dairy goat bucklings, $125-150. Alex Talley, Siler City 919-930-4836.

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Dairy goat bucklings, $125-150. Alex Talley, Siler City 919-930-4836.
Old timey prolific white field corn, good for corn meat, $3, E.C. Tarkington, Greensboro 336-367-7717.

Sea green Spanish cucumber plants, good for canning, $12, Scott Bryant, Raleigh 919-761-3075.

Small animals for sale

Plantable trees, need to see fruit to know: damson plum, pomegranate & more, $8 & $60/30; hellebore plants, double, in Bostian, 6235 River Bend Rd., Seagrove, NC 28739.

Blackberries, domestic pears, Monroe 704-578-5165.

Mill for grits & cornmeal, clean & in good working condition, $2,300, Tony Kalwitz, Cameron 919-935-9797.

266-2214.

Pea/bean sheller, used for storing harvested beans, $1,250, Glenn Hefner, Mt. Airy 336-351-6763.

Irrigation system, including: Peacock water, 15-18 ft., $150; 4x4, used for storing hose & nozzle, $125, Goodloe Martin, Greensboro 336-998-3163.

Spaugh, Yadkinville 336-463-2969.

Marx, Salisbury 336-239-4942.

Ferguson, Albemarle 704-438-0346.

Pat front tire, 215/70R15, dual axle, tandem axle, 2782 or 460-9367.

Dockless alum. dump trailer, 22 ft, 5 ft. door, vertical sides, alum. sides, 19½ in., good tarp, approx. $1,400, Manuel, Salisbury 336-239-4942.

1977 Chevy long bed truck, 78K mi., $2,750, James Sanders, Raleigh 919-985-1692.

1967 Ford F600 w/newer 14 ft dump, oak grain silo, 3 gates, $5,200, Gene Haney, 910-426-4435.

1974 Ford Fords dump truck, air, auto, trans. petite, high hitch, great tires, 14 ft. bed w/elec. hand field dump control, $12,000.00, Bennis Davis, 336-489-4557.
North Stokes High School’s ag class farm is the first in the state to earn Good Agricultural Practices certification.

The practice of produce going from the “farm to school” is a lot shorter at North Stokes High School now that the school’s agriculture program has received its Good Agricultural Practices certification.

The school’s farm is the first in the state to earn this certification, which means the lettuce and other fruits and vegetables grown on the farm and in the greenhouses by students can now be served in the school cafeterias.

Farms selling produce to schools must be GAP-certified under N.C. Department of Public Instruction rules, but DPI is not alone in requiring this. More and more grocery stores, restaurants and retail locations are also requiring the certification.

Food safety is at the core of these requirements, and that includes the ability to trace the crop forward and back, said Cindy Marion, former Stokes County child nutrition director.

“GAP is one of the most important things we can do in terms of food safety,” Marion said. “Food safety has to be No. 1. As a food service director, I want great local products for the kids. GAP is what makes that happen.”

So the students in Ben Hall’s horticulture and livestock ag programs are a step ahead of other farmers who have not yet embraced GAP certification, plus they are learning exactly what is required if you want to sell produce today.

“We want to see more young people in agriculture, and this program is giving students who may have an interest in agriculture, a solid foundation. This program is teaching students what is going on in the real world, because the market is demanding GAP,” said Heath Barnes, a marketing specialist with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

“We don’t see this in every ag program in the schools.”

Bees (Cont’d from pg. 2)

A lower quantity would mean the colony is small and the farmer is not getting his honey’s worth. Higher would be seen as a bonus to the farmer.

Crops, especially almonds, berries and vegetables, depend on the services of the honeybee. And we depend on the bees. An estimated one in every three bites of food is produced thanks to a bee and its busy work.

North Carolina has about two dozen commercial beekeepers. “Our state has mostly hobby or small-scale beekeepers,” Hopkins said. “Our North Carolina State Beekeepers Association is one of the largest in the country, with about 3,000 members.”

Bees are the tiniest agricultural workers.