N.C. Mountain State Fair runs Sept. 9-18

The Western N.C. Ag Center in Fletcher will come alive with the sights, sounds and delicious smells of the N.C. Mountain State Fair Sept. 9-18. This annual event showcases agriculture and Western N.C. crafting and musical traditions, set against the backdrop of carnival rides, games and food. Agriculture takes center stage with a number of educational exhibits on the grounds, including Farmer Bill’s Ag-Venture, where visitors can see piglets hanging out with their mom and baby ducks navigating a water slide, and the MooTernity Ward, where calves are expected to be born each day. Other agricultural exhibits include the Agricadabra magic show, a mobile dairy classroom where visitors can learn about the milking process, and a display of farm animals.

Admission tickets for large groups cannot be purchased at Food Lion stores. For information about purchasing tickets for groups of 40 or more, visit www.ncstatefair.org.

An 18-ticket ride sheet is $10 in advance, saving fairgoers $8 off the regular price. Discount admission, ride tickets and special combination packages for the 2016 N.C. State Fair also are on sale online at www.ncstatefair.org.

The 2016 N.C. State Fair runs Oct. 13-23 at the State Fairgrounds in downtown Raleigh. For information the Agricultural Statistics Division reports.

The latest crop report, which came out Aug. 12, offers insight into anticipated production for certain crops. We had been hearing from staff and others in the field that corn looked strong this year. The statistics report forecasts a corn yield of 130 bushels per acre, with total production over 122 million bushels. That would push production up 48 percent from the 2015 total of 82.5 million bushels. As is typical in this stage of the growing season, weather will likely be the greatest factor in whether or not production meets expectations. We have heard from some of our regional agronomists about dry conditions that are affecting crops, particularly in the far western parts of the state. But some farms in the Piedmont and East are beginning to see heat-related stress to crops also.

Cotton is also on pace for a good year, with a yield forecast of 943 pounds per acre. That would be 230 pounds per acre better than in 2015, with production topping out at 560,000 bales. Soybean production is anticipated to be up slightly from 2015 at 57.6 million bushels; the yield forecast is 26 bushels per acre. Similarly, peanuts are looking at a slight increase in production with the planting of fewer acres being offset by an increase in yield. The expected production will be around 300 million pounds, with yield at 3,800 pounds per acre.

On my travels across the state, I have seen some good-looking tobacco and I have also seen some that looked a little farther behind in growth. Overall, production is expected to be down about 4 percent from 2015, with total production expected to come in around 363 million pounds.

The apple crop also looks strong this year, with farmers expected to harvest 5 million pounds, with yield at 3,800 pounds per acre.

Fair hours are Fridays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and second Sunday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Monday through Thursday, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Advance tickets are $7 for adults and $3 for kids 6 to 12 and senior citizens 65 and older, or $9 and $5 at the gate. Go to www.wncagcenter.org for more information.

A number of special promotions and days are planned for the Mountain State Fair. On Friday, Sept. 9, there will be free gate admission until 6 p.m. (See Mountain Fair, pg. 3)
To keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, check out our blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Bucolic briefs

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services International Marketing Section recently partnered with the N.C. SweetPotato Commission to sponsor a food truck introducing N.C. sweet potatoes and sweet potato recipes in Germany. The food truck traveled across Germany, stopping at festivals in Augsburg, Berlin, Cologne, Dortmund, Hamburg and Stuttgart. A member of the food truck team reports sweet potato fries were especially popular with consumers. In Stuttgart, the demand was so great, the food truck kept a long line for nearly three hours.

The goal of the program is to introduce sweet potatoes to general consumers abroad in order to increase demand for North Carolina-grown sweet potatoes. Germany is one of several European markets where sweet potatoes have found success overseas. The department’s international marketing staff is also working on outreach in the United Kingdom, France and Scandinavia.

North Carolina is the nation’s leader in sweet potato production, growing more than half of all U.S. sweet potatoes.

The N.C. Simmental Association’s Fall Harvest Sale will be Sept. 3 at noon at the Shuffer Sale Facility in Union Grove. The sale includes Simmental, SimAngus and some Simmental-influenced commercial bulls, cow/calf pairs, heifers and bred cows. A local appraiser will be present to appraise the bulls. Online bidding through DV Auction is available for those who cannot attend. To see an online catalog, go to www.ncsimmental.com or email ncsa@yadtel.net.

The 75th Annual North Carolina Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival will be held Sept. 10-11 at the Holshouser Building, State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The festival features displays of gourds from around the world, special gourd workshops, gourd arts and crafts, a gourd carving table for kids, and auction on Saturday and items for sale. There will be competitions in a number of categories with ribbons and prizes awarded to the winners. For information on how to enter the competitions, go to www.ngourdsoociety.org/festival, or call 919-696-0744 for more information.

The Lincoln County Apple Festival will be held Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Lincolnton. The free event features crafts, food, entertainment and the county’s signature crop — apples. For more information, go to the festival’s website at www.lincolncountyapplefestival.com.

The 3rd annual Garlic Festival will be held Oct. 1 from noon to 6 p.m. at Southside in Asheville. The event, sponsored by Sow True Seeds, features garlic tastings including unique and creative garlic dishes, classes and tips for growing garlic. For more information, go to www.swedgarlicfest.com or call 828-254-7088.

As a way to help farmers and agricultural workers stay safe at work, the N.C. Department of Labor offers safety videos on a variety of topics through its YouTube channel. Video topics include: preventing green tobacco sickness, hazard communication, tobacco harvester safety, heat stress, migrant housing requirements, forklift safety, and information about the NCDOL’s Gold Star Growers program. The videos are in English and Spanish to increase understanding of safety hazards and preventing accidents. To learn more about the NCDOL, and the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to www.nclabor.com or call 1-800-NCLABOR (308-625-2267). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

Beckwiths with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at www.ncagr.gov/bee-linked. 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 service can do so by filling out an online Submittal Form Ad Form on the BeeLinked page or by contacting NCDAS & AC at 919-923-8214 or by email at NC Honeybees@ncagr.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1600. The NCDAS & AC Plant Industry Division regulates the movement of agricultural or related items capable of spreading harmful insects, diseases, and other pests. Beekeepers participating in this program will be required to comply with all honey and bee industry regulations.

The N.C. Ag Finance Authority provides credit to agriculture in areas where financing is not available at reasonable rates and terms. The agency originates, services and finances farm loans, rural business loans, disaster loans and cotton gin loans. It also offers tax-exempt development bonds for agriculture processing, ag-related manufacturing or ag waste disposal. For more about Ag Finance Authority programs or to request a loan application, call 919-790-3949 or email at Request Loaninfo@ncagr.gov.
Get planning now for the N.C. State Fair competitions

What could be finer than winning a blue ribbon at the N.C. State Fair? How about also helping neighbors in need. The new Shovels for a Cause and Hats for a Cause competitions in the Clothing and Home Furnishing departments will do just that by helping people fighting cancer.

All entries will be donated to local cancer treatment facilities, and contestants will have the opportunity to sign cards for the recipients of their handwork.

“I noticed other fairs would adopt social causes and attach them to their competitions,” said Denise Walker, competitive exhibits director. “It’s a chance to give back to the community and revitalize categories that haven’t had a lot of entries rather than doing away with them.”

Walker said the new contests include the Kids Sugar Cube Building Contest for ages 14 to 12 and the Team Cake Decorating Contest for ages 13 and up. Competitors will sign up for the on-the-spot contests the day of the Sanction Spaces are limited. Two competitions have been expanded. The Egg Art Competition added a Young Artists Category for ages 18 and under in the Handicrafts and Hobbies Department.

There are also new Group Home categories under the Exceptional/Special Needs Category in the Culinary and Handicrafts and Hobbies departments.

Competitors can visit www.ncstatefair.org to find the 2016 State Fair General Premium Book and Livestock Premium Book, which are only available online. The Web pages have instructions, rules, entry forms and deadlines for each contest. Those without Internet access can contact the entry department at 919-839-4515 for assistance.

Entry forms must be submitted by 5 p.m., and online registrations must be submitted by 11:59 p.m., on the deadline dates for the individual competitions.

For more information, visit www.ncstatefair.org.

Mountain Fair (Continued from pg. 1)

for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Seniors 65 and older will be admitted free on Friday, Sept. 16. Both Fridays will be a special Friday Night Frenzy promotion where admission and unlimited rides is $25.

On Sept. 12 and Sept. 15, visitors can ride all day for $20 plus gate admission. On Sept. 13, kids 12 and under can ride all day for $20 plus gate admission.

Sept. 14 will be Ingles Day, where fairgoers can get in free with five cans of Laura Lynn brand foods from Ingles. Collected food will be donated to Manna Food Bank, which serves 16 counties in Western North Carolina.

Adult visitors will receive a free Scratch and Win promotional ticket Sept. 17 on N.C. Education Lottery Day. Advance tickets can be purchased through Sept. 8 at the Ingles Ag Center in Fletcher.

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Classified Advertising

Advertising in the Agricultural Review

SUBMITTING ADS: Ads are free to N.C. residents and can be submitted by mail to 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1001; by e-mail at Ag.Review@ncmail.net; or by fax to (919) 715-8493. The November issue of the paper will not be printed. Ads will not be accepted from Sept. 1-30. The deadline for the December issue is Oct. 1 or when we reach 1,000 ads. Submit ads early to ensure inclusion.

on the first working day of the month prior to publication. Limit is 30 words, editor reserves right to edit or reject ads. Limit 2 ads/person in different categories.

Agricultural Review

September 2016

Page 3
FARM EQUIPMENT

**TD 1010 w/cult harrow**, 3 yrs., 2,900 hrs., $4,500. Randall Taylor, Union Grove 704-539-4857.

**1977 Ford 750**, 3 row corn head w/3 point hitch, $1,260; 2 row corn picker, $1,200; new motor, $4,000. Paul Wagoner, Winston-Salem 336-760-6189.


**Farmland 140 tractor**, new tires, seat & battery, 1 pt. hitch, cult., fert. works, orig. corn planter box, belt pulley, carry-all, good paint, $4,850. Ott Mendenhall, Lexington 336-784-7609.


**Case IH 385**, 2wd, fl loader, remote/cab, tires 70%, trade for fladbed diesitk truck or skidsteer, $9,000; NH grain & 1 for grass seed, drilled & plows, revolution & teeth, $650. Jerry Macdonald, Wagram 910-752-1400.

**Case IH 385**, 2wd, fl loader, remote/cab, tires 70%, trade for fladbed diesitk truck or skidsteer, $9,000; NH grain & 1 for grass seed, drilled & plows, revolution & teeth, $650. Jerry Macdonald, Wagram 910-752-1400.

**Zinc 500**, 4x4, $3,000; John Redif, Asheboro 336-741-3160.


**Farmland 140** combine, new tires, seat & battery, 1 pt. hitch, cult., fert. works, orig. corn planter box, belt pulley, carry-all, good paint, $4,850. Ott Mendenhall, Lexington 336-784-7609.


**Case IH 385**, 2wd, fl loader, remote/cab, tires 70%, trade for fladbed diesitk truck or skidsteer, $9,000; NH grain & 1 for grass seed, drilled & plows, revolution & teeth, $650. Jerry Macdonald, Wagram 910-752-1400.

**Zinc 500**, 4x4, $3,000; John Redif, Asheboro 336-741-3160.

**Farm Equipment**

**FARM EQUIPMENT**

**HAY & GRAIN**

- **104 fast hitch**, $700; restored shroud, $300; Super A/130 restored hood, $300; memorial mixer, $2,500. Thomas Band, Rushville 985-302-2253.

**HAY & GRAIN**


**FARM EQUIPMENT**

**Hay & Grain**


**Hay & Grain**


**FARM EQUIPMENT**

**Hay & Grain**


**FARM EQUIPMENT**

**Hay & Grain**

- **1965 Ford 4000 tractor**, diesel, 6 ft. blade, 1,500 hrs., $6,000. Larry Williams, New London 252-587-2283.

**HORSES**


**Hay & Grain**


**HAY & GRAIN**

- **1992 IH 615 combine**, diesel, high/low, dual clutch w/positive traction, $7,000. Joe/135 restored hood, $300. **Northern Rocking Horse** Statesville 704-942-5177.

**HAY & GRAIN**


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Land for sale to leasing, 

For Sale

Livestock

For Sale

Livestock

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Salmon favorolle pullets/ young hen, need 6-8, standard layer, 30 days old, Denio, Maryland. 336-529-7310.

Farms & Seeds For Sale

Old time cockseeds cockseeds, huge blossom head w/rich crimson plumage, w/fattening grains in stalk, approx. 200 seeds, $3 – SASE. Barry Cox, 2235 Wellborn Rd., Trinity, NC 27370.

Plants, 80% native to NC, rare & endangered, approx. 4,000 plants, $5 apiece; $.50 off & up contact: G. Leland, P.O. Box 759, Edenton, NC 27932.

White homing pigeons, hatched 6-9 rpm, $195-225 OBO. Bill Payne, 2,000w & 5,000w, 230v at 1,750 btu, EC, $3,500. Wayne White, 100kw, 3 phase, 240/115, 6 cyl. generator, $1,000. Kenneth McElveen, Garner 919-772-2847.

Yard Garden Way jr/3 w/seed pcs, 1972 Mack R600, Struble, Charlotte 704-547-0428.

Blacksmith equi., 2 forgos, 500 gal.; 2 avail. forge tools, $1,000. David Goodman, Con- cord 704-432-1457.


Alum, butter mold by T.R. Hall, VGC, $45. Marys, Gallinas, Granite Falls 704-987-8221.


Many varieties, disc. w/lg. orders, tobacco barns, $10,000/ea. Lamar Wortman, Fort 252-241-3199.

Ivermax injection wormer, 500ml, 200 ml. dose, approx. 500, $750. Ivermax, Garner 919-772-3007.

1962 Ford F100 dump truck, 6 ft. bed, $10,000; 1988 Chevy 3500 dually, 3-3 crew cab, new 454 eng., turbo 400 auto. trans., extra wheels & tires, bed liner & chrome, $8,500. Donald Elliott, Cameron 336-464-1774.


2000 Chevy 3500 dually, 3-3 crew cab, newer 454 eng., turbo 400 auto. trans., extra wheels & tires, bed liner & chrome, $8,500. Donald Elliott, Cameron 336-464-1774.
Spence Farm in Spring Lake does more than just feed the physical needs of the community, it also nurtures the souls of those it intercuts. Owners Ed and Sheila Spence operate the farm, run a roadside stand and sell at nearby markets each week. While that would seem to be enough to keep most people busy, the Spences also host workshops at the farm through N.C. A&T State University for people who think they may be interested in farming, such as veterans transitioning from the military into civilian life.

It is a path Ed Spence knows well. When he retired from the military, Spence returned to the familiar roots of the farm. He said hosting veterans at the farm and having them volunteer gives them a more realistic understanding of the work it takes to run a small farm.

“When a vet comes here, we ask, ‘What have you done and how do you know this is what you want to do?’ This gives them a chance to see if they really want to do this,” Ed Spence said. “It’s a lot of work. Anything you do is a lot of work, but what you put in, you get out, too.”

For some volunteer veterans, just the experience of working the land and being outside is enough reward, providing a quiet space for reclamation and reconnection. For others, the experience helps them figure out farming is not for them, something Ed Spence also sees as a valuable lesson.

“By the time a beginning farmer is going, he’s spent $100,000, and maybe $200,000 by the third or fourth year,” he said.

The Spences started their farm from ground zero with a microloan to veterans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and learning along the way. Ed Spence recognizes the assistance he has as a military retiree with an income to rely on as he grows his business.

During a recent visit, it was clear Spence had made his peace with the chores and challenges of farming. With a long to-do list in his head, Spence and his granddaughter, were busy feeding and watering chickens in the backyard. Trenches were awaiting one of the newest additions to the farm—an automated irrigation system. The Spences were able to secure a Natural Resources Conservation Service cost-share grant for small farmers with the help of Jacob Crandall, an agricultural program specialist with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Small Farms Program.

This system will help Spence more efficiently manage the water and nutrient needs of his plants. Understanding what programs are available for small farms and then navigating the paperwork involved in applying for loans and grants can be daunting for farmers who have a lot on their plates already, Crandall said. “That’s one of the things I do, is to help show them what is available out there and figure out what they need to do to apply,” he said. “I work with them and guide them through the process.”

Ed and Sheila Spence operate Spence Family Farms in Spring Lake, where they host military veterans who think they may want to venture into farming after their service. They sell their produce at their roadside stand and at farmers markets in Fayetteville. At left, the Spences received a cost-share grant from the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service to install an irrigation system at the farm. The system will save water and improve the efficiency of the operation.

The plantings in the intensive beds vary depending on the time of the year, with winter vegetables rotating in once the summer plants are finished. Sheila Spence explained that she tends to leave weeds between the rows to help control pests. “The bugs are eating the weeds, and as long as they are eating the weeds and not the kale then I am good,” she said.

The Spences sell their harvest on Tuesdays and Thursdays at their roadside stand, and also travel weekly to a neighboring community market, Fayetteville City Market and a farmers market at Fayetteville State University that was started to serve a neighboring area identified as a food desert.

Marketing remains essential to growing their customer base. Although the farm is not certified organic, the Spences produce crops without the use of pesticides and commercial fertilizers, something their customers appreciate, Sheila Spence said.

Agrotourism from visits to area schools have also been a more recent addition, and the Spences enjoy showing kids where their food comes from, even giving them a chance to pick strawberries and blueberries.

Ed Spence said he loves teaching children about growing fruits and vegetables so they have an awareness of the role farmers play in producing the foods found in grocery stores.

To keep up with the latest NCDA&CS news, follow the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on Facebook or on Twitter @NCAGriculture.

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**Spring Lake farm growing and teaching others**

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**Horse Events**

**Geo. James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, 919-733-8485**

**Sept. 9 & 10—N.C. State Charity Classic. Contact Bill Whiteley, 919-481-4675.**

**Sept. 14-17—N.C. State Championship Show. Contact Bill Whiteley, 919-347-4675.**

**Sept. 23-25—N.C. Quarter Horse Futurity. Contact Judy Sullay, 704-442-8304.**

**Sept. 30-Oct. 2—Special Olympics. Contact Kevin Vaughn, 919-719-7662.**

**Oct. 30-Oct. 2—NCDCTA “C” Outdoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.**

**Nov. 5-9—N.C. State Fair Horse shows. Contact Sheri Bridges, 919-839-4701.**

**Nov. 4-6—NCDCA “C” Indoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.**

**Nov. 8-13—Jump for the Children Duke Benefit H/J Classic. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.**

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**Western N.C. Agricultural Center, Fletcher, 828-877-1414**

**Sept. 9-11—N.C. Mountain State Fair. Contact Ron Stanley, 828-877-1414.**

**Oct. 6-8—N.C. Championship Walking Horse Show. Contact Terri Mosley, 336-325-5009.**

**Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center, Williamston, 252-792-5111**

**Sept. 10 & 11—EHA & NCHJA “C” Horse Show. Contact Wendel Willson, 252-916-3685.**

**Sept. 15-18—NCDA&CS Autumn Leaves Dressage & GAITMG Region I Championships. Contact Martha Healy, 352-363-0085.**

**Sept. 21-25—SERAH Summer’s End & EF Affliate. Contact Danny Blackburn, 919-669-9486.**

**Oct. 15 & 16—EHA & NCHJA “C” Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.**

**Oct. 21-23—Color on the Coast/Cardinal Classic Paint Horse Show. Contact Tony Honeycutt, 980-621-7177.**

**Sept. 28-30—South Carolina Fall Reining Classic. Contact Mike Hancock, 252-937-2800 x 1204.**

**Nov. 11 & 12—2016 Stampede in the Park Rodeo. Contact Robert Bonner, 252-792-1521 x 295.**

**Nov. 18-20—MBA Coastal R us Super Show. Contact Tom Harvey, 919-208-1434.**

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**Southeastern Agricultural Events Center, Lumberton, 919-618-5699**

**Sept. 3—Shawn McMillian Memorial Barrel Race. Contact Donald McMillian, 919-374-1483.**

**Sept. 4—Horse and tack auction. Contact Chad Stephens, 828-390-0787.**

**Sept. 10—Cowboy Up! Contact Jerry King, 910-237-4525.**

**Sept. 17—Horse and tack auction. Contact Chad Stephens, 828-390-0787.**

**Sept. 23-25—North Carolina Horse. Contact Jeremy Taylor, 919-325-9910.**

**Oct. 3—Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Chad Stephens, 828-390-0787.**

*Shows subject to change. Call before attending. More horse events listed in Bucolic Briefs.