

The 76th Annual N.C. Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival will be held Nov. 4-5 at the Holshouser Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The festival features displays of gourds from around the world, special gourd workshops, vendors of dried gourds, seeds, crafts, arts and more. The event includes a variety of competition categories, with ribbons and prizes awarded to winners. There will be a live auction at noon on Nov. 4, and a free gourd crafting tables for kids. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$2 for adults and free for kids under 16 years old. For more information on competitions and workshops, go to www.ncgourdsociety.org/festival or call 919-696-0744.

The Cape Fear Poultry Association will host a poultry show Dec. 9 at the Johnston County Livestock Arena in Smithfield. Judging starts at 9 a.m. The deadline to enter is Dec. 4. For show information, contact Wilbur Hanley, show director, at 919-796-2936 or email at langshanman@gmail.com or Carolyn Lynn at 910-897-8001 or sultanlady@embarqmail.com. The show catalog and entry form can be found at www.capefearpoultryassociation.com.

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-NC-LABOR (800-625-2267). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

Beekeepers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at www.ncagr.com/beelinked. 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 information can do so by filling out an online Submit Your Ad form on the BeeLinked page or by contacting NCDA&CS at 919-233-8214 or by email at NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDA&CS 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 ag development bonds for agribusiness 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 RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov.
