A GTI CULTUTAL Volume: 100 - No. 8 Page 100 - No. 8 August 2025 August 2025 Raleigh, N.C.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

The following are deadlines to submit ads for the Agricultural Review newspaper.

Aug. 1 for the September issue Sept. 1 for the October issue Oct. 1 for the November issue Nov. 3 for the December issue Dec. 1 for the January 2026 issue

Reminder: Advertisements for the Ag Review may now be submitted through an online portal.

Sellers and buyers can visit https://apps.ncagr.gov/agreview/ Pages/SubmitAnAd and fill out the form with the details of the item they are selling or seeking.

Mountain State Fair gearing up for fun Sept. 5-14

Seven brand-new entertainment acts will round out a thrilling lineup of fun, games, food, agriculture, rides and more at the 2025 N.C. Mountain State Fair in Fletcher. Back for its 31st year, the fair will run Sept. 5-14 at the WNC Agricultural Center.

New entertainment

Returning grounds entertainment acts, such as Magician TJ Hill, the Mooturnity Ward and Leon Jacobs on the Piano, will be joined by seven new acts at the 2025 fair.

- The Red Trouser Show – a fanfavorite at the N.C. State Fair – will make its N.C. Mountain State Fair debut this year. David Graham and Tobin Renwick make up the energetic and acrobatic duo performing in red trousers. The pair's show combines balancing on each other's heads with juggling tricks and other acrobatic



Young fairgoers ride the swings at the 2024 N.C. Mountain State Fair.

surprises.

- First Bite Fishing will also join the grounds entertainment lineup, offering hands-on fishing to fairgoers.

- The Pompeyo family and their

rescue dogs put on an incredible family show full of energy and tricks in the Pompeyo's Amazing Dogs show. The act, as seen on America's Got Talent, is sure to wow fairgoers. - Fairgoers who are fond of agriculture and racing will want to catch the Squeels on Wheels Pig Racing and Wild Bill's Speedway.

- Polka Dot Entertainment will round out the new entertainment acts with a balloon installation and an acrobatics show with stilt walking, juggling and more.

Competitions

Whether you're an artist, maker, livestock exhibitor, gardener, cook or musician, there is a competition at the 2025 N.C. Mountain State Fair for you. Competition information is online now, with contests rules, guidelines and deadlines located in the online competition catalog. Entry deadlines vary, but are coming up fast.

The deadline for cooking competitions and gospel singing (See Mountain Fair, page 2)

Upcoming Field Days

Aug. 14 – Mountain Horticulture Field Day, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mountain Horticulture Research Station, Mills River

Farmers should examine fields for this invasive weed

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Plant Industry Division is encouraging farmers statewide to inspect their fields for the presence of tropical spiderwort (Commelina benghalensis). The aggressive, invasive weed is recognized by the USDA as one of the world's most troublesome and was recently discovered in eastern North Carolina.

Late June, tropical spiderwort was found in a cotton field in Craven County along the Neuse River. Eradication efforts are underway. Although tropical

spiderwort is most likely to be found in eastern North Carolina, the weed could establish in most of the state. This invasive species poses a serious threat to over 20 economically important crops, including soybeans and cotton.

Also known as Benghal dayflower, tropical spiderwort was first detected in the United States in Florida in 1928 and has since spread to Alabama, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana and Mississippi. Although sporadic infestations have been reported in North Carolina, eradication efforts to date have been effective, and officials

are calling on growers to help maintain that success.

"Farmers have a unique opportunity to detect and eliminate a difficult-tocontrol weed before it becomes a widespread and costly issue," said Dr. Bill Foote, director of the Plant Industry Division.

Tropical spiderwort closely resembles several native dayflower species commonly found in North Carolina, which can make identification challenging. There are several ways to identify tropical spiderwort, including red hairs on leaf sheaths and the presence

of underground flower structures. The easiest way to differentiate this plant from other easily confused species is through its leaves.

Benghal dayflower, or tropical spiderwort, has leaves less than twice as long as they are wide and appear more egg-shaped with a rounded edge. A common lookalike, Asiatic dayflower, has a tapered leaf at least twice as long as it is wide, coming to a point.

The weed can be introduced into fields via floodwaters, migratory

(See Spiderwort, pg. 2)

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

North Carolina is certainly experiencing the dog days of summer; hot and humid around much of the state. This is also when we are in the peak of the growing season and when farmers markets are full of local foods fresh from the farm.

To help celebrate farms, the peak of the season and the considerable contributions of farmers markets, Aug. 3-9 is recognized as National

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Farmers Market Week. I think we should celebrate agriculture every day, but I am happy whenever there is a national or statewide effort to draw attention to the industry that feeds us.

At the markets now, shoppers will find plenty of local fruits, vegetables, meats, foods, plants and flowers. We are blessed in North Carolina that our farmers can grow just about anything. That means you will likely find what you are looking for at a farmers market.

Having access to local foods is important as we saw during the pandemic. By supporting North Carolina farmers, you help ensure we continue to have access to local products. All food begins on a farm, so unless you are growing your own food, we all need our farmers to feed us.

Local farmers markets stimulate local economies and support healthy communities by providing a space for farmers and consumers to come together.

That gives consumers access to the freshest products available and farmers a market for their products, so it's a win-win all around.

The department operates four regional farmers markets across the state. They are: the State Farmers Market in Raleigh, the Robert G. Shaw Piedmont Triad Farmers Market in Colfax near Greensboro, the Charlotte Farmers Market in Charlotte and the Western N.C. Farmers Market in Asheville.

But across the state, there are around 200 independent community farmers markets that offer up locally grown goodness each week.

Another benefit of buying local is you can taste the difference of foods produced and harvested nearby. At the markets, you will likely find produce that has been harvested that morning. Plus, I think it is great knowing you are supporting North Carolina farmers

who are also your neighbors.

At the State Farmers Market for example, you will find a great variety of peppers – from mild green peppers to extra spicy Scotch bonnet peppers to meet the culinary needs of a diverse local population and restaurants.

One vendor alone grows around 50 different varieties of peppers that they offer throughout the year.

Every farmers market that I have been to is different – in part because as the farmers get to know their customers more, they try to add items they know their customers are interested in.

And those relationships are one of the greatest benefits of a farmers market.

If you have never been to a farmers market, why not make this the month to head out to a local farmers market to shop?

Agricultural Review

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Steve Troxler Commissioner

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Check out these upcoming county fairs across NC this fall

- Drexel Community Fair Aug. 15-23, Drexel
- Hickory American Legion Fair Aug. 27-Sept. 1, Newton
- Iredell County Agricultural Fair Aug. 29-Sept. 6, Troutman
- Cumberland County Fair Aug. 29-Sept. 7, Fayetteville
- N.C. Mountain State Fair Sept. 5-14, Fletcher
- Cabarrus County Fair Sept. 5-13, Concord
- Stokes County Agricultural Fair Sept. 9-13, King
- Lee Regional Fair Sept. 10-14, Sanford
- Duplin Agribusiness Fair Sept. 11-13, Kenansville
- Davidson County Agricultural Fair Sept. 15-20, Lexington
- Rowan County Fair Sept. 15-20, Salisbury
- Pitt County Fair Sept. 16-21, Greenville
- Surry County Fair Sept. 16-20, Mount Airy
- Wilson County Fair Sept. 16-21, Wilson
- Chatham County Fair Sept. 18-21, Pittsboro
- Chowan County Regional Fair Sept. 23-27, Edenton
 Caldwell County Agricultural Fair Sept. 25-27, Lenoir
- Cleveland County Fair Sept. 25-Oct. 5, Shelby
- Haywood County Fair Sept. 25-28, Waynesville
- Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair Sept. 25-Oct. 4, Dudley
- Robeson Regional Agricultural Fair Sept. 26-Oct. 4, Lumberton
 Lenoir County Agricultural Fair Sept. 30-Oct. 4, Kinston
- Wilkes County Agricultural Fair Oct. 1-4, North Wilkesboro
- Carolina Classic Fair Oct. 3-12, Winston-Salem
- Columbus County Agriculture Fair Oct. 7-12, Whiteville
- N.C. State Fair Oct. 16-26, Raleigh



You can find agriculture exhibits, rides, games, food, entertainment and more at fairs across North Carolina this fall.

NCDA&CS finds spotted lanternfly in Caldwell County

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has confirmed an established presence of the invasive spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) in Caldwell County. Initial surveys indicate that the distribution of the pest is concentrated in Lenoir within a 1-mile area. Survey efforts are ongoing.

"NCDA&CS has surveyed for spotted lanternfly throughout North Carolina since 2015, and this is the first time a breeding population has been found in the mountains," said Dr. Bill Foote, director of the Plant Industry Division. "Members of our Plant Industry Division are moving quickly to prevent the spread of this brightly colored pest, and we ask members of the public to be on the lookout for more spotted lanternfly and report any finds.

Caldwell County is now the fourth county with an established spotted lanternfly population in the state, and the first outside of the Triad area. This spring, Rockingham County was added to the list of North Carolina counties where the pest has been identified. Spotted lanternfly populations were identified in Forsyth and Guilford counties in 2022, the first time they were found in the state

"Spotted lanternfly poses a serious threat to the state's wine and grape industries and can feed and cause damage on over 100 species of plants including fruit trees, maples, and other common plants. They lack effective natural enemies in the U.S. and populations of this pest grow quickly, often becoming a nuisance." Foote said.

"If left unchecked, swarms of thousands of lanternflies can form during the mating season, which peaks in September," added Amy Michael, Entomological Programs manager. "This unfortunately lines up with when the fall foliage in our mountains are most beautiful, and swarms of insects could certainly impact that view."

Spotted lanternfly has a few other features that make it an unwelcome visitor. Lanternflies excrete a substance called honeydew – essentially sugar water – after digesting the plant sap it feeds on. Honeydew sticks around beneath plants infested with lanternflies, which can lead to additional problems like attracting ants and mold. Spotted lanternflies also hitchhike on people, vehicles and equipment, which has allowed it to spread to 17 states so far.

"Spotted lanternflies like to feed high in the treetops, but they are not good at telling the difference between a truck tire and a tree trunk," Michael said. "This new population most likely

came from lanternflies hopping in with an unsuspecting traveler."

These insects often hitchhike to new areas on vehicles and equipment stored outdoors and can be moved any time of year. "Taking a moment to check your person and vehicle for these insects. Removing any you see goes a long way in preventing this pest from spreading any further," she said.

When spotted lanternfly populations were first found in Forsyth and Guilford counties in 2022, NCDA&CS dedicated teams to surveying and treating for spotted lanternfly to reduce the impact of this pest.



Surveys are expected to continue year-round in Caldwell County to determine if the pest is in additional locations. Treatments for spotted lanternflies are conducted by licensed NCDA&CS operators from April-October each year. Sites that have a high likelihood of spreading the pest to new areas, such as commercial properties and lots under development, are prioritized for treatment. Residents seeking management recommendations are encouraged to reach out to their county's Cooperative Extension Office at https://caldwell.ces.ncsu.edu/.

If you see a suspect spotted lanternfly in North Carolina, please submit a picture through the online reporting tool at https://www.ncagr.gov/SLF.

Mountain Fair (Continued from pg. 1)

contest is Aug. 8, the deadline for the clogging competition is Aug. 15, and the deadline for general competitions and livestock shows is Aug. 22. Exhibitors are encouraged to make their entries early as popular categories can fill up before the deadlines.

Tickets and special days

Advance tickets are now on sale for \$9 for adults aged 13 to 64. Beginning Sept. 5, prices at the gate and online are \$12 for adults. The price for seniors, ages 65 and up, and kids 6 to 12 is \$5 regardless of when purchased, and the fair is always free for children aged 5 and under.

Unlimited ride passes during the fair are \$35 for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and \$25 all other days.

In addition to buying admission tickets in advance, fairgoers can save money by taking advantage of discounts on the following days:

- Opening day, Friday, Sept. 5, is Student Day presented by Sheetz, with free admission for K-12 students until 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 10, is "We CAN Fight Hunger Day" presented by Ingles. The donation of five canned goods earns a free admission. All donations will be collected and distributed by MANNA FoodBank.
- Thursday, Sept. 11, is Salute to Service Day, presented by Fields Auto Group. All active-duty military members, veterans and first responders with a valid ID receive free admission Thursday.
- Friday, Sept. 12, is Senior Day and another Student Day. Admission is free until 6 p.m. for anyone 65 and older and K-12 students.

The 2025 Mountain State Fair runs Sep. 5-14 at the Western N.C. Ag Center in Fletcher. Discount tickets are now on sale at www.wncagcenter.org.

Spiderwort — (Continued from pg. 1)





Tropical spiderwort (left) has leaves less than twice as long as they are wide and appear more egg-shaped with a rounded edge. Asiatic dayflower (right) is a common lookalike.

birds, or contaminated equipment and vehicles transported from infested areas. It thrives in a range of soil types but prefers full sun and moist, fertile conditions.

"Farmers are our first line of defense in the fight against tropical spiderwort. We need their help to detect and eliminate new infestations before they become established. If left unchecked, the cost and difficulty of control will rise dramatically over time," Foote said.

If you suspect the presence of tropical spiderwort in your fields, contact your local county extension office immediately for assistance and verification: www.ces.ncsu.edu.

11 N.C. stores pay fines following price scanner errors

Eleven stores in eight counties were fined by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Standards Division for price scanning errors during the second quarter of 2025.

"Even the smallest price discrepancies can have significant impacts on family budgets," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "When these errors occur, it erodes consumer trust. Our inspectors continue to work hard to ensure transparency, accountability and fairness in the marketplace."

The department conducts periodic, unannounced inspections of pricescanner systems in businesses to check for accuracy between the prices advertised and the prices that ring up at the register. If a store has more than a 2% error rate on overcharges, inspectors discuss the findings with the store manager and conduct a more intensive follow-up inspection later. Undercharges are also reported, but do not count against a store. Consumers who would like to file a complaint about scanner errors they encounter can call the Standards Division at 984-236-4750.

Penalties are assessed if a store fails a follow-up inspection. In addition to the penalties paid, the store will be subject to reinspection every 60 days from the last inspection until it meets the 2%-or-less error rate. Additional penalties may be assessed if a store fails reinspection.

Following are civil penalties recorded in the second quarter of 2025:

(Forsyth) Circle K at 1400 Union Cross Road in Kernersville paid \$1,810 after failing four inspections. The store failed three inspections and paid over \$3,000 in penalties in 2024. A follow-up inspection in March found a 5% error rate for five overcharges on a 100-item lot. The store paid the fine in April and will be reinspected.

(Mecklenburg) Circle K at 4923 South Tryon St. in Charlotte was fined \$1,005 after two failed inspections this year. An initial inspection in March found an error rate of 13% for 13 overcharges on a 100-item lot. A follow-up inspection in May found an error rate of 10% for 10 overcharges on a 100-item lot. The store paid the fine in June and will be reinspected.

(Transylvania) Dollar General at 6751 Greenville Highway in Brevard has been fined after failing four inspections this year. The store failed two inspections in the first quarter of 2025, resulting in a \$1,215 fine the store paid in April. The store was reinspected in April and received an error rate of 6.33% for 19 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$2,345 fine, which was paid in May. A subsequent inspection in June found a 9.33% error rate for 28 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store was fined \$3,715 following that inspection. The store will be reinspected.

(Brunswick) Dollar General at 1745 Southport-Supply Road in Bolivia paid \$3,945 after failing inspections in April and May. An initial inspection in April found an error rate of 10% for five overcharges on a 50-item lot. A follow-up inspection in May found 29 overcharges on a 300-item lot – a 9.67% error rate. The store will be reinspected.

(Union) Family Dollar at 7909 Idlewild Road in Indian Trail paid \$15,000 following three failed inspections in 2025. The store was initially inspected in March 2023 and has failed inspections roughly every other month since, resulting in a total of \$53,775 in penalties. The store failed an inspection in January, with a 4% error rate, and faced a \$5,000 fine. A March inspection found an error rate of 5% for 15 overcharges on a 300item lot, resulting in another \$5,000 fine. A May inspection found an error rate of 2.33% for seven overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in another \$5,000 fine. The store paid these three fines in quarter two. The store will be reinspected.

(Alamance) Family Dollar at 2206 West Webb Ave. in Burlington paid \$3,700 after failing a follow-up inspection in January. The inspection found an error rate of 4.33% for 13 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store was initially inspected in November 2023 and failed five inspections in 2024. The store passed inspection in April with a 0% error rate.

(Mecklenburg) Family Dollar at 4455 Central Ave. in Charlotte paid a \$4,920 fine in April following a failed inspection in February. The inspection found an error rate of 6% for 18 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in April with a 1.33% error rate.

(Gaston) Family Dollar at 2559 West Franklin Blvd. in Gastonia paid a \$1,535 fine received after failing an inspection in December 2024. The inspection found an error rate of 3.67% for 11 overcharges on a 300item lot. The store had failed two prior inspections, as well. The store passed inspection in February.

(Forsyth) Family Dollar at 1019 Rural Hall Road in Rural Hall paid \$1,305 after failing a January inspection. An initial inspection in November found an error rate of 8% for four overcharges on a 50item lot. A follow-up inspection in January found an error rate of 3.33% percent for 10 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in June.

(Mecklenburg) Family Dollar at 2100 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte was fined \$2,790 after failing two inspections. An initial inspection in April found a 20% error rate for 10 overcharges on a 50-item lot. A follow-up inspection in May found a 9% error rate for 27 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.

(Montgomery) Tractor Supply at 527 East Main St. in Biscoe paid \$585 after two failed inspections. An initial inspection in January found an error rate of 12% for six overcharges on a 50-item lot. A follow-up inspection in June found 13 overcharges on a 300-item lot – an error rate of 4.33%. The store will be reinspected.

From the archives: North Carolina's three styles of barbecue sauce

There are a few topics in North Carolina that have risen to be iconic debates in the Old North State. UNC or Duke basketball? Pepsi or Cheerwine? Beach or mountains? Cookout or Bojangles?

The topic that I've seen spark the most passionate of debates, however, is the debate over what kind of sauce should be used to season our chopped (or pulled) barbecued pork. Should it be vinegar based or ketchup based? Thin or thick? Mild or spicy?

If you grew up in the eastern part of the state, you likely would prefer a vinegar-based sauce, lightly colored from a touch of ketchup and a blend of spices. If you hail from Western North Carolina, you probably grew up on a thicker, ketchup-based barbecue sauce made

with brown sugar, butter and spices.

The Piedmont-style sauce seemingly combines the two other sauce styles.

The April 1, 1985, issue of the Agricultural Review featured an article that highlighted each one of these signature sauces. Here are the recipes:

Eastern Pig Pickin' Sauce

2 cups cider vinegar

1 tablespoon Worcestershire

1 tablespoon Tabasco sauce

1 tablespoon chili powder

1 tablespoon paprika

3 tablespoons black pepper

3 tablespoons salt

3/4 to 1 bottle catsup

3/4 teaspoon mustard (dry)

1/2 cup water (optional)

Mix all ingredients and brush on carcass after turning. Makes about



Sauce is spooned over a plate of North Carolina barbecue.

Piedmont Lexington-Style Sauce

1½ cups distilled white or cider

10 tablespoons tomato catsup Salt to taste, if desired

Freshly ground pepper to taste 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper Pinch of crushed hot red pepper

1 tablespoon sugar

1/2 cup water

Combine all ingredients in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer. Cook, stirring, until the sugar dissolves. Remove from the heat and let stand until cool. Spoon a small amount of the sauce over barbecued meats. Yields: 3 cups.

Western Catsup-Based Sauce

1 cup tomato catsup

1 cup brown sugar

½ cup lemon juice

½ stick butter

1/4 cup minced onion

1 teaspoon liquid hot pepper sauce 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Place all ingredients in heavy saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer for 30 minutes.

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699 Aug. 2............ Carolina Paint Horse Association. Contact Lori Smith, 336-309-9470. Aug. 4...... Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

Aug. 16 & 17... Cowboy Mounted Shooting. Contact Pamela Lohery, 540-570-8785.

Aug. 30...... Shaun McMillian Memorial Barrel. Contact D. McMillian, 910-374-1483. Sept. 1...... Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

Sept. 13.....BBHA Open Show. Contact Jerry King, 910-237-4525.

Sept. 20...... Da Bomb Barrel Racing. Contact Josh Smith, 910-639-6387. Sept. 26............ Carolina Cutting Horse Association Show. Contact Nic Johnson, 919-782-8001.

Oct. 6...... Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

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

Aug. 16 & 17 ... Just Horsin' Round Open Horse Show. Contact Elizabeth Tew, btew2@nc.rr.com. Sept. 27 & 28... United Horsemen of The Carolinas Open Horse Show. Contact Ronnie Pope, popespaints@outlook.com.

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, 919-821-7400

Aug. 2 & 3...... TWHA Beat the Heat Open Show (Barn E Ring). Contact Dana Coste, 919-390-8126.

Aug. 22-24...... Triangle Farms Summer Indoors II C. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321. Sept. 5-7 NCQHA Tarheel Fall Classic. Contact Shirley Lombardo, 919-362-4656.

Sept. 10-13 UPHA Chapter 12 NC State Championship Show. Contact Dan Shirley, 864-630-1669.

Sept. 20 & 21... TWHA Fall Fantastic Show. Contact Dana Coste, 919-390-8126. Oct. 1-5......NC State Fair Hunter/Jumper Show. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

Oct. 15-18...... NC State Fair Saddlebred Horse Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-365-5149.

Oct. 19-23....... NC State Fair Horse Shows. Contact Equine Event Planning, 336-908-3302. Oct. 24-26....... NC State Fair Open Horse Shows. Contact Equine Event Planning, 336-908-3302.

*Show dates are subject to change. Call ahead to confirm.

N.C. Pesticide Board announces settlements

The N.C. Pesticide Board recently approved the following settlement agreements. Settlements involved cases of pesticide applications without a license and improper application and storage of pesticides in Edgecombe, Lenoir, Union and Wake counties.

Settlements are listed by county below:

(Edgecombe) Lowe's Home Centers agreed to pay \$800 because a Tarboro store location improperly stored pesticide-containing mulch in an unlocked and uncovered outdoor area, in violation of state pesticide storage regulations.

(Lenoir) Joseph Hunter, a licensed commercial pesticide applicator for Ag Aerial based in Kinston, agreed to pay \$1,200 because a drone application he made near Seven Springs resulted in pesticide drift onto a neighboring residential property and public right-of-way, violating state pesticide laws and labeling requirements.

(Union) Dale M. Connors of Waxhaw agreed to pay \$1,200 for applying a restricted-use pesticide without a valid license.

(Wake) Tammy L. Derousse of MTS Landscaping in Zebulon agreed to pay \$1,200 for engaging in the business of pesticide applicator without a license. A state inspector discovered employees of her company applying herbicides in Raleigh although her license had been expired since Dec. 31, 2015.

Bucolic Briefs

Donate your farm and/or farm equipment to The Veteran's Farm of NC, to use in teaching veterans how to farm. All donations are tax deductible. Contact Robin Tutor at 919-721-2039 or robin@vfnc.org.

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Fall Sale is set for Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 at the Holshouser Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. This sale to buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport is one of the largest in NC. Shoppers will find: all types of saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing for all disciplines of riding. Barn supplies, carts, other animal items and more. Horse Trailers to sell for representation fee only. Bar code tagging on our web site allows consignor to view sales from home. Tagging guidelines mandatory, no exceptions. Consignors can drop off priced, tagged items Aug. 26 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale runs Aug. 28-Sept. 1, with a premier shopping night Aug. 28 from 5 to 10 p.m. that is open to the public for \$10 cash for adult admission, age 12 under free.

Open shopping with free admission is Aug. 29 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sept. 1 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Many items discounted 1/2 off on last shopping day. Consignors pick up unsold items Sept. 3 from 1:30 to 9 p.m., or they will be donated. Sellers should make arrangements if they want unsold items returned. Items will not be stored. Consignors earn 70% and unsold items can be donated to NC nonprofit equestrian organizations at pick up, if desired. Volunteers all ages needed Aug. 25 through Sept. 4, shop before consignors, consignors shop before public. Sign up online. Payment accepted: cash, NC checks with 2 IDs approved, credit cards with 3% fee/per card transaction. DROP and GO and PICK up and GO service (no wait or scanning in items waived) consigning available, see website. Waivers to be signed at drop off. All items must be as clean as possible. For more information, go to www. EquestrianExchange.com or contact Lynn Beeson 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright 540-977-1950.

The Stanly County Antique Power Yesteryear Club will hold its 32nd Antique Tractor Show and Consignment Auction on Sept. 5 and 6 at the Stanly County Fairgrounds, 24302 S. Business 52, Albemarle. Live music, food vendors, craft vendors, vintage items, tools, raffle, cast iron, petting zoo, tractors, games and more. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Auction begins 9 a.m. Saturday. Admission is \$5 per person, with children 12 years of age and younger admitted free of charge. Contact Roger McKenzie at 910-528-6054 for more information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is expanding the Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops program to now include medium-sized businesses in addition to small businesses. Eligible specialty crop growers can apply for assistance for expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification.

Cost assistance can be used for developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification, maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan, a food safety certification, certification upload fees, microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water, and training.

The program also now includes assistance for 2024 and 2025 expenses. Producers can apply for assistance on their calendar year 2024 expenses beginning July 1, 2024, through Jan. 31, 2025. For program year 2025, the application period will be Jan. 1, 2025, through Jan. 31, 2026.

Specialty crop producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a FSA employee ready to assist. Visit https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/food-safety for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply.

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced the availability of low interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private nonprofit organizations in North Carolina who sustained economic losses caused by drought occurring March 4.

The disaster declaration covers the counties of Duplin, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pender, Sampson and Wayne. Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs with financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are available for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the small business or PNP did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills not paid due to the disaster.

2025 N.C. State Fair competition entries now open

If you have ever dreamed of winning a ribbon at the N.C. State Fair now is the time to figure out what you want to enter and sign up! The State Fair is now accepting entries for the 2025 fair, Oct. 16-26. If winning a ribbon at the fair is on your bucket list, now is the time to enter this year's fair competitions.

The State Fair offers many competition categories such as arts and photography, culinary, livestock, fruit and vegetable production, hobbies and handicrafts, flowers, LEGOS and more.

"Our competitions highlight the talents of the residents of North Carolina," said Kent Yelverton, N.C. State Fair director. "Whether your talent is growing giant vegetables, raising champion goats, cross-stitching or crocheting, painting rocks, scrapbooking, photography, flower arranging or more, the fair likely features a competition for you."

Every year the State Fair reviews the competition offerings looking to include newer crafting trends, attract more competitors and improve the shows for fairgoers. The State Fair Flower Show will see some changes in 2025 with each show highlighting different varieties of individual plants.

"This is to ensure that we can accommodate as many competitors as possible in this popular fair competition category," said Yelverton. "All the same competition categories will be included but they may only be represented in one of the three shows held during the fair. Flower show competitors should carefully review this year's show information, including entry drop-off dates and times, when entering the flower show."

The State Fair also offers a variety of livestock shows, with individual classes based on the animal's species, breed, age and weight class. Exhibitors will find both junior and open categories. If any of these competitions sound interesting to you, consider entering today. You could be one of the next blue-ribbon winners. Only a few competitions require an entry fee.

Information on how to enter a competition can be found on the State Fair's website, nestatefair.org. Under the "Competitions" tab, you will find everything there is to know about categories, rules and deadlines. The deadline for entering most competitions is Sept. 15. Read the General Entries Premium Book and Livestock Entries Premium Book for detailed descriptions of events and regulations.

Online registration and paper entry forms are found under the "Forms and General Rules" tab in each department. Entrants are also required to submit digital W-9 forms to receive prize money.

Email ncsfcompetitions@ncagr.gov with additional questions. "We're excited to see what people will enter and we wish everyone the best of luck," said Yelverton. "Let's make this a record year for our competitions."

Peach research in North Carolina is still bearing fruit

When you bite into a juicy, perfectly ripe peach from a North Carolina farm this summer, you're tasting decades of careful research, trial and error and dedicated work. Much of that work has been centered at the Sandhills Research Station in the Windblow community, tucked into the southeast corner of Montgomery County, near the Moore and Richmond county lines.

"The Sandhills Research Station has been the center for peach research in North Carolina for decades," said Mike Parker, Ph.D., a tree fruit specialist with N.C. State University.

"Growers have ups and downs, and I think the research that we've done allows us to give information to growers that allows them to stay in business and remain profitable and productive," Parker said. "Without that research, they're not gonna have that information available. So I think having research in North Carolina, if you look at the research station or the land grant university - that's N.C. State — our job is to take research-based information to our grower community to make them profitable."

Researchers spent years breeding new peach varieties suited to thrive in North Carolina.



 $Peaches \ being \ harvested \ at \ the \ Sandhills \ Research \ Station.$

Although the university no longer runs a formal peach breeding program, the station is still at the forefront of ongoing testing of varieties old and new, to help growers across the state improve their harvests and their livelihoods.

Finding the Right Fit for N.C. Farms

One of the station's long-standing

focuses has been evaluating and recommending peach varieties that can withstand North Carolina's variable frosts/freezes in late winter and early spring. It can be devastating to peach growers if their peach trees begin to bloom during the first warm days of the year but then get a freeze before winter fully fades away.

"One of the major issues that

peach growers have had — that they see going back into the 70s and 80s — was frost or freeze during bloom," Parker said. "And when that happens, when the blossoms experience cold temperatures [during bloom], it kills the blossoms. And there is no peach crop for that year."

That's why he and others have worked to identify high chill-hour

varieties — peaches that need more cold weather before they bloom. The idea is that trees that bloom later are more likely to avoid a freeze. Among the most successful results of that effort are varieties like Contender, China Pearl, and Carolina Gold, which Parker said are "very popular with growers" and a direct result of N.C. State's breeding work. These varieties are hardier and more reliable in the face of the state's variable weather during the winter-to-spring transition.

"You've heard of the peach Winblo?" Parker said. "It's a very high-quality peach, but there are many years that it gets frosted out when our Contenders come through."

A Breakthrough in Peach Thinning

Another exciting advancement is a commercially available spray that helps thin peach trees during bloom — something growers have traditionally had to do manually. Thinning is necessary because peach trees can grow more peaches than they can size — often growing bunched up on the tree limbs. The thinning removes extra peaches, which provides room for the remaining peaches to grow to the size customers want. The thinning

(See Research, pg.5)

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Research

(Continued from pg. 4)

also ensures the tree limbs aren't overloaded, which can lead them to break under the weight of extra peaches. Up to 80 percent reduction may be needed in a full crop season.

"Many growers can spend \$1,500, \$2,000 an acre to thin by hand," Parker said. "This is the first time we really have something that would be commercially available for growers to use to thin peaches."

It's a change that could mean big savings, especially as labor availability and costs remain a challenge.

"Labor's killing farmers," Parker said. "So this is a product that we can use to reduce labor inputs for peach growers."

Tackling Peach Tree Short Life

The team at Sandhills is also part of a national effort to test rootstocks — particularly to combat Peach Tree Short Life (PTSL), a disorder that causes trees to die off far too early.

"We're looking at root stocks that will tolerate and minimize Peach Tree Short Life," said Parker. "And then also those that maybe could grow smaller trees, so we could put more trees per acre — what we call high density."

While the Guardian rootstock has emerged as the best option so far, researchers are continuing to evaluate new ones from around the world, from Spain to California.



White-fleshed Galactica peaches, a flat or "doughnut" variety.

"We have not found anything that will do better than our Guardian rootstock for eastern North Carolina," Parker said.

On the Ground, Long-Term Research

Research like what's done for peaches at the Sandhills Research Station takes time, and a lot of it.

"These are 10-year studies," Parker said. "We have to have fruit [for the research], but if it takes three years to get the trees into production, you've got quite a commitment to get that."

The time and effort are worth it though. Even if the research doesn't result in something new and better, most findings are valuable. Experiments with biochar are good example. The soil amendment touted in other parts of the world hasn't lived up to the hype in Windblow's sandy soils.



This image captured from above shows a biochar test plot at the Sandhills Research Station.



kill trees in their commercial orchards."

The Case for Local Peaches

"We're

that biochar is

not the silver

bullet," Parker

said. "Negative

research is also

good research,

you know? I

rather kill trees

on my research

having growers

much

would

quickly

finding

Beyond the science, Parker has a personal mission to help c o n s u m e r s reconnect with real peaches.

"I think

people realize that food doesn't come from the grocery store," he said. "But a vast majority of the public have never had a high-quality tree-ripened peach."

His advice is to skip the supermarket because most the peaches you find at grocery stores come from out of state — picked before they're juicy and flavorful and shipped in refrigeration.

"If you want high-quality peaches, go to local growers or the farmers markets," he said. "The quality is superb."

With peach season running through September, it's the perfect time to visit a local farm, meet a grower and taste the results of years — sometimes decades — of thoughtful research happening right in our own state.

Don't forget to renew your Agricultural Review!

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- June issue and mail it in, or go online to www.
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Advocating, educating and advancing NC's pork industry at the NC Pork Council

The NC Pork Council supports our state's pork industry in many ways. In fact, its mission is to "promote and educate to ensure a socially responsible and profitable NC Pork industry."

Since 2021, CEO Roy Lee Lindsey has been at the helm of the NC Pork Council, ensuring they not only help farmers mitigate and manage challenges that come their way, but also that the public is well-educated on the N.C. Pork industry and why they should support local farmers.

The NC Pork Council, established in 1962, is the oldest state pork producer organization in the nation that has operated under a mandatory checkoff funding system since its inception. Roy Lee grew up in Oklahoma where he fell in love with the agriculture industry and everything it represents. "I am a product of agriculture," he said. "It is what shapes me and is the foundation of my life." After working for many years at the OK Pork Council, he transitioned to his current role to help manage the issues off the farm so that pork farmers in our state can do what they do best - farm. "Most of our work is on the public outreach side through advocating for farmers with the legislator, educating the public through events, and monitoring the media to correct any myths or miscommunications

about the industry," Roy Lee said. So how exactly does the NC Pork Council support pork farmers in our state? Each facet of the NC Pork Council is made up of pork farmers and industry experts that bring wisdom and experience to the table. "Our Board, which is elected each year, is made up of 18 farmers and industry experts across the state," Roy Lee said. "Additionally, our officer team each year is elected by the board, so they choose people who understand and represent them well." From public policy and advocating at the legislator, to managing national and industry issues off the farm, the NC Pork Council works hard every day to ensure our pork farmers have what they need to keep farming.

"The NC Pork industry is vital to our state," Roy Lee said. "Not only does it rank third nationally in pork production, but it also contributes over \$10 billion in economic impact to our state. Pork is an anchor for the N.C. Agriculture industry, and therefore, must be protected and advocated for."



NC Pork Council CEO Roy Lee Lindsay

Membership in the NC Pork Council is free for farmers and industry experts. "You don't have to be a farmer to become a member of the NC Pork Council, but you do have to be involved in some way with the pork industry," Roy Lee said. To become a member, simply visit the NC Pork Council website and click on "Become a Member" to learn more.

In addition to advocating for farmers and pork industry experts, the NC Pork Council also provides many opportunities each year for the public to learn more about the industry, as well as grow the next generation of industry leaders. "We love sharing with the public what we do and the importance of pork farmers in our state," Roy Lee said. "Anywhere the public is seeking information about the agriculture industry, specifically the pork industry, we like to have a presence, including the Got to Be NC Festival, NC State Fair, AgFest at the University of Mount Olive, and Farm Animal Days at NC State University." In fact, the NC Pork Council sponsored the Pig Patch Birthing Center this past May at the Got to Be NC Festival where attendees could witness piglets being born and learn all about the process from an NC pig farmer. "We love working with the Pig Patch Birthing Center at the Festival because it gives us an opportunity to show the public something they don't get to see on a daily basis," Roy Lee said. "It also allows us to explain the level of faith and uncertainty that pig farmers go through each year." The NC Pork Council also invests time, resources and money into educating and raising

the next generation of leaders for the

pork industry.

The Emerging Pork Leadership Carolinas Program is one of the many ways that the NC Pork Council invests in the future. "One of our priorities is to share with young people the opportunities that exist in the pork industry, and they are literally from A to Z," Roy Lee said. "We have a few programs that allow us to do this, including the Emerging NC Pork Leaders Program, the Pork Leadership Carolina Program, and our Annual Scholarship Program." The Pork Leadership Carolina program is of no cost to members and takes place once every two years. Through this program, individuals will learn leadership skills, visit the general assembly, learn about advocating in the legislature and more. The Emerging Pork Leaders Program takes place once a year for high school and college students. This program presents job opportunities, resume building, leadership skills, networking and more. Finally, the NC Pork Council also awards annual scholarships to students attending college with their sights set on an NC Pork degree and future career. "The pork industry, as stated before, is vital to our state, so ensuring that we have strong leaders in the years to come is essential," Roy Lee said.

The NC Pork Council is leading the way for our state's pork industry to grow, thrive and flourish both now and in the future.

Follow along on their social media channels for more information, and check out their options to become a member, as well as a Friend of the Pork Council, to get involved!

August AgroTips

Turnaround time is optimal for soil samples submitted in August.

need to be reseeded, sampling now will make it possible to apply lime well in submit a corresponding soil sample. advance of September or October planting.

Get rapid identification of plant-parasitic nematode species with new test. The Agronomic Division's Nematode Assay Section offers a new test that identifies plant-parasitic nematodes based on analysis of molecular DNA. The test costs \$10 per sample (instead of \$3), but results are available within a couple of days (instead of weeks), and reports can identify nematodes accurately to species. This is particularly useful information for growers who depend on resistant cultivars and/or crop rotation to suppress nematode populations. For more information on this test and how to sample, contact Dr. Weimin Ye at 919-733-2655 or via e-mail at weimin. ye@ncagr.gov.

Tissue test now to plan for blackberry fertilization next season.

The Agronomic Division's soil testing lab is processing samples quickly now but Collect a plant tissue sample about 10–14 days after harvest. Each sample should will be increasingly busy toward the end of the year. Homeowners, landscapers, include 25-30 most recent mature leaves from the primocane. Sampling the floricane golf course superintendents and others with flexible schedules are urged to submit is not recommended unless it is specifically to diagnose a problem. If you have different samples before the lab's fall busy season. If cool-season lawn grasses and pastures varieties, submit separate samples for each one. Now is also an appropriate time to

Focus on strawberry fertility.

Take soil samples and apply any recommended lime as soon as possible. Generally, strawberries need 100–120 lb of nitrogen per acre per season. Prior to building the beds and laying plastic, apply 30-60 lb of nitrogen along with any phosphorus or potassium recommended on the soil report. Even when soils are high in phosphorus, an additional application of 30 lb can be beneficial for root growth in the fall. Other nutrients that may have a beneficial effect at this time are sulfur and boron (1 lb/acre).

Continue to use tissue analysis to optimize timing of flue-cured tobacco harvest. Collect tissue samples five to ten days before each anticipated leaf harvest to determine ripeness. An appropriate sample consists of 10 to 12 leaves from the appropriate stalk

Classified Advertising General rules for advertising in the Ag Review

- Advertising is a free service to North Carolina residents Ads will be published in one issue only. Ads that are to only. A North Carolina address and phone number are required for submitting ads.
- The editor or advertising manager reserves the right to accept or reject any ad and to edit ads to meet requirements or space limitations.
- Priority will be given to ads that are strictly related to agriculture.
- Advertisements are limited to 30 words or less. This includes first & last name of advertiser (NOT farm name), prior to publication at noon. complete address and phone number w/area code.
- be repeated must be submitted for each issue.
- Only two ads per family per issue will be accepted. Family refers to all individual sharing the same residence, mailing address or home telephone number. These ads must be under separate classifications.
- All "For Sale" and "For Rent" ads must have a price or price range. Stud service must also include a fee.



Equipment For Sale

Farmall H sm tractor, 2smdta w/parts; 806D, Farmall 300 w/or w/o front end loader, \$400-\$12,000. Daniel Jessup, Siler City 919-525-6728.

Cub cults, \$500. Bob Dyson, Statesville 704-903-8812.

Enorossi G41P hay tedder, used, VGC, \$2,700 obo. George Truitt, Browns Summit 336-312-8789

3pt hitch hay spear, \$275; Ford loader bucket, \$150; forks, \$250; Ford tractor wet brake rear end, \$600. Brian Pool, Marion 828-442-7525.

4-row shielded sprayer, 110 gal., pto driven, w/tow adapter, extensions, 6-roller pto pump, elect. on/off switch, \$1,500. Jackie Smith, Marion 828-442-5232.

JD B for parts, full cults front & rear; Ferguson 30 parts tractor, \$800/both. Greg Campbell, Harmony 704-546-2266.

'46 JD H, good for restoration, good sheet metal & rear tires, \$500. Tommy Smith, Winston-Salem 336-924-1588, before 7 pm.

2012 Kubota L3800 tractor, 400 hrs., w/front end loader & Tufline road scraper; inclds 21 ft. tandem wheel, steel deck trailer, \$17,000. Steve Ray, Sparta 803-730-2094.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Ford 5000 diesel tractor, \$6,500. Ryan Shue, Climax 336-382-4181.

Scag STHM, 23hp, \$1,750; JD 210, 10hp, \$1,200. Kent Davis, Clemmons 336-391-

601 Ford Workmaster, GC, everything works; hd bog harrow, 5 ft. hd scrape blade, Ford scoop pan, potato plow, boom pole, log puller, \$4,500 obo. Ronnie Slate, Kernersville 336-391-9745.

JD 430 rnd baler, 4x5 bales, EC, \$6,000. Paul Wells, Hamptonville 336-244-7333.

Farmall 140, GC, lots of attach., many new parts & extra parts, \$6,500. Gerald Cashwell, Fayetteville 910-

1952 Farmall Super A, 90% restored, runs, has some problems; w/plow, bush hog, disc, scrape blade, full set of cults, many spare points, \$5,000/all nego. Delbert Sims, Greensboro 336-317-3323.

Intl tricycle tractor, complete, fair cond., for parts or restore, \$2,000. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

3pt scoop pan, GC, \$200; (2) spring tooth harrows, GC, \$200. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

Ford 309 corn planter parts, water wheel pump, \$400; 50-gal. sprayer, \$200; other items. Joe Carpenter, Nebo 828-317-0244, do not text.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Intl 800 no-till planter, 10-row, 3pt, 20 in. rows, w/ Yetter trash cleaner, \$4,500; 6 in. irrig pipe, 1,200 ft., \$2/ft. Brent Strickland, Louisburg 252-213-2667.

JD LT160, \$1,250; JD LX255, restored, LN, \$1,200. Chris Davis, Clemmons 336-705-0239.

IH Case cultipacker mulcher/ clod buster, 25 ft. hyd fold, hydronic shank feet, hd, \$12,500. M. Jackson, Rougemont 919-417-0026.

Kory 6672 4-wheel hay wagon, 6-ton running gear cap., steel frame, 90 in. width, 14 ft., length, \$1,785-\$1,885; JD 1209 moco, 9 ft. cutting width, \$1,900. Edward Gann, Yadkinville 704-985-6642.

Combine AC gleaner, running when parked, dry storage; (2) AC D17 tractors for parts only, \$700-\$800. David Ollis, Morganton 828-437-9605.

2005 Case IH DX26 tractor, w/front end loader & doub pto, 26hp, 637 hrs., \$9,800. Gayle Williams, Pfafftown 336-829-9217.

Land Pride CA 1556 core aerator, new, never used, stored inside, 3pt, 56# wide, 4.5 in. spoon spacing, indiv. spoon replacement, weight tray, \$1,200. Harry Partridge, Indian Trail 704-668-9272.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Leinbach 6 ft. pulverizer, needs bearings, \$600; 3pt A&B Eagle 2- bottom mold board plow, \$300; 6 ft. Blanton flip over disc harrow, 18 discs, \$1,000. Megan Heriford, Mebane 919-218-0195.

2018 JD 1025r diesel mower, I-hitch drive over hook up, 48 in.; 48 in. tiller, I-tow, joystick, front end backhoe ready, LN, low hrs., \$14,000. Preston Wells, Holly Ridge 910-409-1277.

1989 JD 870D tractor, no hyd lines, but hookups on tractor, barn kept, \$5,500. Sara Richardson, Mayodan 336-314-5387.

3pt tractor attach., big, single Leinbach plow, 5 ft. set of discs, 5 ft. box scrape, \$200 & up. Noah Barber, Mount Ulla 704-245-7671, text.

Old AC tractor, needs restoring, \$5,000-\$7,500; 3010 JD, not started in several years, motor overhauled, \$8,500; B JD, \$5,000 Jim Little, Wadesboro 704-465-0007.

Long sq baler, \$2,500; NH 472 haybine, \$1,000; JD hay rake, \$300. Garry Austin, Albemarle 704-322-0656.

Sperry NH 851 rnd baler, works well, makes up to a 6.5 bale, model number 534397, \$800. Tommy Adams, Browns Summit 336-362-4257, call or text.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Horse-drawn items, hay rake, \$150; Cole planter, \$175; cotton plow, \$150; JD #3 mowing machine, \$200. William Carter, Burgaw 910-259-4691.

Hale volume irrig. pump, 5x5, 30 ft. suction pipe, recently overhauled, \$2,000 obo. Paul Myers, Blanch 336-459-6258.

Used 3pt hitch disc, 20x18, \$400. Raymond Wilkinson, Iron Station 704-740-0415.

Kubota tractor, 25hp, 49 hrs., front end bucket, roto tiller, single bottom plow, bo tiller, disc harrow, forks, \$34,000. Billy Nutt, Timberlake 336-592-0251.

Feed silo, 3.5 tons, \$1,200; 3pt cult, \$200; Purina lick tank, \$450; 3pt hd scrape blade, 6 ft., \$450. Doug Stancil, Greensboro 336-402-8161.

1976 Farmall 140, front disc, rear cults, good tires, GC, \$6,500. Pat O'Brien, Fayetteville 910-488-2777.

530 Hesston rnd baler, VGC. \$2,000 obo. Oscar Kirkus, Lexington 336 239-1583.

Farm Pro 2430 4wd tractor, 3 cyl diesel, 8-spd, 30hp, needs starter, \$2,500; 1949 Ford 8N Red Belly tractor, restore or for parts, runs, \$1,200. Denny Barney, Mocksville 336-909-5180.

NI 4854 rnd baler, GC, \$3,500 obo. John Castor, Ronda 336-928-0686.

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FARM EQUIPMENT

1 set ag tires & wheels for 4 Series compact utility tractor, from 50hp tractor, VGC, \$1,800. Call/text Craig Poole, Raleigh 919-801-3661.

NH 273 hayliner, new tires, stored in shed, \$2,400; NH 451 7 ft. sickle mower, new bar, \$2,200; NH 256, \$1,800; Rotor mh2l tedder, \$1,500. Carlton Hill, Arcadia 336-764-1093.

NI hay rake for AC snap coupler, needs repair, \$300. Joe Hackney, Siler City 919-516-6002.

Cole ridger/lister, 2-row, complete w/drive wheel & chains, fiberglass fert boxes, \$1,200. R. Smith, Lexington 336-239-6179.

ONAN Generator, single phase 37.5 KVA, three phase 57.6 KVA. 6 cylinder Ford engine LP or natural gas. \$4,500. S. Troxler, Browns Summit. 336-601-1006.

International 184 CUB Lowboy Mowing Tractor. Good 6 ft. deck, Good turf tires. Mechanically excellent, runs and mows good. \$2,500. S. Troxler, Browns Summit. 336-601-1006.



Equipment Wanted

Front end loader for MF 253 tractor, must have quick attach at bucket & be in GC, w/in 50 mi of Lenoir. Lee Franklin, Lenoir 828-292-2245.

Irrig pump, eng power unit w/pump or other eng driven power units, limb grinder, etc.; prefer 4-6 cyl eng. Brent Strickland, Louisburg 252-213-2667.

(2) rear tractor tires, 15.5 x 38; 16 ft. & 12 ft. cattle corral panels. M. Jackson, Rougemont 919-417-0026.

Orig. AC tractors, WD 45 or older, orig. paint & rust; also, implements & equip. Reid Ledbetter, Olin 704-539-5353.

Used stainless steel dairy holding tank, GC, 200-300 gal. preferred, will consider others. Randall Smith, Gold Hill 704-279-4001.

Gas motor to turn molasses mill, good running, w/12-16 in. pulley; pulley needs to be for flat belt. Wesley Smith, Gold Hill 336-392-3463.



Farm Labor For Sale

Vert & horiz mowing, ponds, dams, shooting lanes, reclaiming property, fence lines, \$85/hr. + deliv of equip. Roger McKenzie, Jackson Springs 910-528-2293.

Lawn mower/tractor repair in Alexander & surrounding co; also, garden tillers, other sm eng & outdoor power equip.; 45+ yrs. exper., p/u & deliv, \$30-\$60/hr. William Munday Sr., Taylorsville 828-638-1521.

Sr., Taylorsville 828-638-1521. **Energizer repair**, ssc, parmak, \$20. Bobby Nichols, N. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.

Sawmilling, up to 36 in. wide x 17 ft. long, hard or soft wood; also, wood avail. to cut, \$0.75-/\$1.50/ft. Davis Coffey, High Point 336-688-9261.



Farmland For Sale

Land for sale must consist of at least 3 acres and be used for agricultural purposes. Advertisers must indicate use of land.

95 ac hunting land for lease in Stokes co, \$750. Bob Cooke, Westfield 704-619-6903, call or text.



Farmland Wanted

Farmland to lease for hunting, near/around Pilot Mtn or Westfield. Lance Hamby, New Bern 252-675-7249.

Land to lease in Stokes or Surry co., NC Wildlife Hunter Safety Instructor & family. CT Walker, Salisbury 704-273-2685.

Land to lease in Anson co for deer, turkey & hog hunting. Chad Williams, Lincolnton 828-308-3083.



Hay & Grain For Sale

Fescue/orchard grass mix, never wet, 4x4 rnd, \$40/bale; sq, \$4/bale. Roger Poarch, Lenoir 828-850-1377.

2024 oats hay, 4x5 rnd, \$35/bale; 2024 coastal Bermuda hay, stored inside, 4x5 rnd, \$55/bale. Howie Freeman, Sanford 919-770-3605.

2025 fescue, 4x5 rnd, fert & spot sprayed for weeds, tight bales, net wrapped, \$50/bale. Russell Hill, Pleasant Garden 336-669-2990.

Fescue, sq bales, \$6; rnd bales, \$50. Thomas Berrier, Lexington 336-764-1051.

Horse quality hay, \$45/rl.; cow hay, \$35/rl.; deliv. avail. H. Davis, Reidsville 336-260-7606.

2025 orchard grass, sq bales, good quality, no rain, in barn, about 500 left, \$9/bale. Kenneth Chilton, Pilot Mtn 336-374-2410.

Fescue/orchard grass, 4x5 rnd, stored under shelter, no rain, horse hay, \$50/bale; goat/ cow hay, \$40-\$45/bale. Jay Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

Mixed hay, 4x5 rnd, stored inside, \$30/bale. Roger Tuttle, Monroe 704-753-3333.

Hay, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped, stored outside, excel. quality, \$40-\$50. Greg Horrell, Harrells 910-569-8567.

2024 mixed hay, no rain, min. purchase 25 bales, \$6/bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

Coastal Bermuda hay, 4x4 & 4x5 rnd, horse quality, stored under shelter, \$45 & \$50/bale. Dan Lancaster, Pikeville 919-222-6853.

Peanut hay, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped, no rain, can deliv. 42 bales/load, \$25/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

HAY & GRAIN

2025 coastal Bermuda hay, horse quality, out of barn/shelter, \$8/bale; out of field, we load, \$7.50. Gary White, Sanford 919-775-9769.

Horse hay, 1st cut, lrg 5 ft. bales, dry, \$50/bale. Virginia Rubino, Lincolnton 704-241-3734.

Fescue & orchard grass, sq bales, \$5/bale. Sylvia Reid, Welcome 336-688-3092.

Horse quality hay, orchard grass/fescue, rnd bales, \$50/bale; orchard grass, sq bales, \$7/bale. Johnny Sowers, Lexington 336-239-3020.



Horses & Supplies For Sale

PLEASE NOTE: All equine 6 mos. or older must have a current negative Coggins test. Advertisers must supply the accession number of test, the name of lab doing the test, the date of test and results for each equine advertised. The following advertisers have provided proof of a negative Coggins test.

Pasture board, suitable for senior horses, barn w/sheltered paddocks, run-in, rnd pen, 2 feedings/day, up nightly, quality pasture, ref. avail., owner/mgr. on premises, \$325/mo. Mary Ann Harville, Siler City 919-742-5053.

Team of molly mules, 12-14 y/o, 16 hands, very gentle, 1/2 sisters, sold w/harness, collars, bridles, \$6,500. Will Hill, Winston Salem 336-399-5083.

Tucker Aussie Trooper saddle, 15 in. seat, VGC, \$750. Jim Johnson, Bennett 919-930-2623.

Billy Cook saddle, #9449, new, numbers under fender 99 52081, \$1,500. Melanie Carroll, Kernersville 336-686-5162.



Livestock For Sale

Fainting goats, \$150 & up. Joan Culberson, Snow Camp 919-259-6139.

Reg Wagyu heifers, bred, 100% full blood, top bloodlines, very gentle, \$6,500. Mark Greene, Thurmond 336-341-7008.

Katahdin /St. Croix lamb rams & ewes, healthy, raised on lrg pasture, \$150-\$250. Kelly Lynn Martin, Burlington 336-214-9421.

Hereford heifers, ready to breed, \$2.85/lb.; polled Hereford bulls, \$2.85/lb. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

Blk Baldy bull, up to date on shots, recent BSE test, 21 m/o, \$30,000. Wayne Wilson, Kannapolis 980-521-6707.

Lrg gelded male goat, excel. pasture mate, prefer farm w/horses &/or cows, \$100. Sharon Stahoviak, Pittsboro 704-297-5278.

LIVESTOCK

Fainting bucks, dob 12-21-23 & younger, healthy, tame, \$100 ea. Dodd Linker, Clemmons 336-712-2484.

Texel x Dorset sheep, young ewes, thick, meat-type sheep, ewes & lambs, \$400/up; meat goats, Boer x Spanish crosses, does, kids, young bucks, \$400/up. Martha Mobley, Louisburg 919-495-1305.

SimAngus herd bulls, blk, polled, bred for calving ease, muscle, growth & disposition, \$4,000. William Pyle, Franklinton 919-215-5677.

Reg open Angus heifers, bred for calving ease & efficiency, good feet & disposition, (8) to choose from, \$3,000 ea. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 919-444-5307.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

California, Silver California, Bluescales, Gambel's, 8 varieties of bobwhites; partridge, Philby, chukar, Hungarians, \$6 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-351-5654.

Ringneck pheasant chicks, 20 avail., 1-5 w/o, \$10. Austin Hathcock, Norwood 704-984-3787.

Lrg custom incubator, holds 2,000 eggs, made w/GQF parts, runs off a 110v; comes w/hatching trays, will help load, \$500. Noah Barber, Mount Ulla 704-245-7671, text.

Peacock chicks, normals, whites & pieds, \$30 ea.; Royal Palm turkey chicks, \$30 ea. Posie Guthrie, Pfafftown 336-413-0038.

Chickens, less than 5 m/o; game chickens, Welsummer & Easter Eggers, \$20-\$25 ea. Dan Royster, Greensboro 336-338-2609.

Peacock chicks & 1 y/o males, \$25 ea. & up. Richard Simmons, Tabor City 910-640-7114.

Australian Blk swans & Mute swans, \$600 & up; Cape Barren geese, \$600 & up; Ruddy shelducks, \$150 & up. Jim Simpson, Indian Trail 704-361-6497.

Peacock chicks, 2 w/o, sex unknown, all eating medicated starter feed, (9) avail, (2) white, dad India blue, \$40. Ed Comer, Lexington 336-596-7761.



Poultry & Supplies Wanted

to lease in Alexander or surrounding co, 400 ft. or larger, GC, ready to use; may consider partnership, prefer Mount Aire contract. William Munday Sr., Taylorsville 828-638-1521.



Small Animals For Sale

NZ/Rex rabbits, handled, healthy, friendly, litters 9 & 12 w/o, \$20 ea. Marcella Lezine, Elk Park 336-354-3386.



Seeds & Plants For Sale

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PLEASE NOTE: Individuals or business selling seed in North Carolina are required to obtain a Seed License (Retail or Wholesale). For more information contact NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division at 800-206-9333 or 919-707-3739.

Potted muscadine & scuppernong vines, healthy, planting & fert instr incld, \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

Rabbiteye blueberry plants, 2 y/o, healthy, Tifblue, Premier, Climax, Powderblue & Brightwell, \$12 ea. or \$10 ea. for 10 or more. Michael Roberson, Trinity 336-862-3488.



Supplies For Sale

Chicken wire fence & netting, lumber, 2x4 & other; wire traps, truck toolbox for bed of truck, sm plastic sheds, other items, \$1-\$100. Roger Melville, Charlotte 980-355-5907.

New & used water pumps, \$200; water barrel, GC, \$200. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

Water totes, \$100; burning barrels, \$10; plastic feed barrels, 30 & 55-gal., \$20. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Myers shallow well pump, 1hp, w/regulator, EC, \$175; cast iron wash pot, 20-gal., EC, \$125. Jack Matthews, Charlotte 704-846-1903.

Cedar bluebird houses, \$12. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.



Supplies Wanted

Stihl chainsaws, non-running. Mark Houser, Rutherfordton 828-447-5944.

Old steel bear traps & other old traps. Daniel Carawan, Edenton 252-945-6493.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

1967 & 1973 Ford F-250 for repair, dual wheels, same size motors, (1) w/9 ft. metal dump bed, \$1,500/both. Robert Pardue, Ronda 336-835-2602 or 927-3684.

1989 Ford F-150, 4wd, 160,000 mi., w/towing pkg., \$4,200. Wayne Dickerson, Ruffin 336-552-6284.

1988 GMC brigadier truck, Cummins L10 Eaton 9-spd, good running, extra parts, \$6,500. Brian Pool, Marion 828-442-7525.

Northside gooseneck trailer, 30 ft., 3-axle, \$4,600. Paul Wells, Hamptonville 336-244-7333.

Calico stock trailer, bumper pull, 16 ft., \$8,795. YD Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

Craftman trailer, 16 ft., 2 ft. dove tail, ramps, lights, brakes, new floor, \$3,500 firm. Harvey Chriscoe, Ramseur 919-548-6735.

Calico stock trailer, gooseneck, 16 ft., never used, \$9,450; equip. trailer, 20 ft., \$5,850. H. Davis, Reidsville 336-260-7606.

New Curt Q24 5th wheel hitch, inclds railing, \$800. Colin Chilton, Asheboro 704-349-2973.

Discovering NC Agriculture: A family affair of producing NC Pork

North Carolina ranks third in the nation in pork production, making pork an incredibly important industry for agriculture! Chad Herring, manager of Herring Pork Producers in Mount Olive, is passionate about furthering the pork industry not only through his own farm, but by raising future pork leaders for years to come.

Growing up on the family farm, Chad always had a love of agriculture ingrained in his spirit. "I've been involved with the farm ever since I was a kid," he said. "In fact, the farm is ultimately what brought me back to agriculture after college because I just love it here." Chad is a third-generation farmer, carrying on the tradition and legacy of his father and grandfather. "My family grew up raising row crops, however, in 1965 my Uncle Curtis received a project through 4-H to raise a few pigs and take them to market," Chad said. "He ended up loving it so much, he used the money at the end of the project to buy more pigs. That's when his desire to farm pigs full-time was born." From then until now, Chad has helped his father and grandfather manage their hog farm in Mount Olive, where they care for over 14,000 pigs each year.

A typical day on the farm starts at 7 a.m. with Chad and his team checking all the hog houses for feed, water and ventilation. Once that is finished, they examine the pigs from youngest to oldest to ensure any sick pigs are cared for. "We have a hospital pen that we move the pigs to when they aren't feeling well," Chad said. "There we can care for them properly until they are feeding well enough to be put back in with the others." Although no day is the same on the farm, other responsibilities of Chad and his team include barn repairs, record keeping, grass mowing, and shipping and receiving pigs.

As a contract grower for Smithfield Foods, Herring Pork Producers is responsible for raising nursery pigs multiple times each year. This means that on a consistent basis, Chad and his team are receiving pigs from sow farms and raising them until they are moved to a finishing barn. "When the pigs arrive at our facility, they are put into the barns on-site and stay with us for seven weeks," Chad said. "During that time, they are fed four various rations crafted by Smithfield Foods nutritionists. These rations are specialized to fit the growth stage of the pigs and ensure proper nutrition in their diet." After a seven-week period, the hogs are moved to a finishing



Chad Herring and his family run Herring Pork Producers in Mount Olive.

barn where they stay for roughly 16 weeks before being taken to Smithfield Foods facility for processing.

In addition to raising pigs, Chad also has a passion for educating the public on the importance of hog farming and debunking any myths that exist in the industry. In fact, he offers farm tours on a seasonal basis to interested customers, schools, ag groups and more. "I love allowing people to see the farm up close," Chad said. "We don't physically go into the hog houses, but I will take them through an empty one so they can put a visual to the concept. It's really rewarding to see people's eyes light up with wonder as they experience the farm and learn where their food comes from." One of the most frustrating myths that Chad and his team face is that pig farmers don't care for their animals. "We have a deep care for the environment as well as our pigs," Chad said. "They are our livelihood. If we won't care for the pigs, then they won't care for us." With pork being a vital part of the N.C. Agriculture industry, Chad and his team spend a lot of time educating others on its importance and the movement

Although Smithfield Foods owns the pigs, products from Herring Pork Producers can be found at most local grocery store chains, including Harris Teeter and Lowes Foods. "I want people to understand that pork farmers have families just like theirs," Chad said. "We feed a lot of families on a daily basis, our own included, so everything we do revolves



around the customer and the community." From seeing his products in local stores to serving alongside the incredible farmers and members of the pork industry, Chad is honored to serve in the industry that contributes over \$14 billion in economic impact to our state.

In addition to hog farming, Chad also serves as the Director of N.C. Farm Families, a nonprofit organization that advocates for family farmers though social media. "Through



N.C. Farm Families, we are able to speak out and stand up for farmers across the industry," Chad said. "I took over the position of Director in 2018, and it has been incredible to see the recognition and support that we have been able to give farmers through this program." Learn more, including how you can get involved, on their website or Facebook page.

From bacon and sausage to Southern BBQ and pork chops, N.C. pork is a major player in the North Carolina food scene. We are thankful for producers like Chad and his family that continue to work hard every single day to put food on the table.

Diversifying N.C. pork products at Goodnight Brothers

Discovering NC Agriculture is a year-long series focusing on twelve N.C. grown, raised, caught, and made commodities. Tune in each month to see how an N.C. commodity is grown, harvested, packed for consumer use and more. Learn nutritional value, find fun recipes to try, hear from local chefs who use that product, and other unique commodity facts throughout the series. We look forward to helping you better understand some of our N.C. commodities and how they impact your everyday lives!

Pork is a staple in North Carolina, from barbecue to pork skins. Goodnight Brothers Country Ham, located in Boone, has been diversifying products in the pork industry for over 70 years. Although well known for their country ham, they also produce several flavors of pork skins, which have become a favorite of customers across the state

Goodnight Brothers, established in the 1930s, was originally a produce company growing a variety of fruits and vegetables. "The company was started by five brothers," said Tony Snow, Vice President of Goodnight Brothers. "When four of the five brothers moved to expand the company in other areas, the Boone center became the main distribution center." Today, Goodnight Brothers has several distribution centers across Western NC to service customers across the state and beyond.

So how did the produce company turn into a country

ham producer? "It started as a way to give our employees something to do during the winter months," Tony said. "With the produce season coming to an end, we wanted our employees to be able to stay with us year-round, and country ham was the way to do that. However, we had no idea how far that would take us!" Immediately after Goodnight Brothers began releasing country ham, the company took off in a way that it hadn't before. In fact, it created so much interest and demand that the Goodnight family decided to step out of produce and enter the N.C. pork industry full-time! Today, Goodnight Brothers is home to a 100-acre square foot facility in Boone that produces a variety of pork products all year long, including country ham, dry cured bacon, pork fatback, and pork skins.

By working with four pork producers, one of them being Villari Foods in Eastern NC, Goodnight Brothers is able to source the high-quality ham that they need to make their products. "We have very specific needs when it comes to the pork that we purchase," Tony said, "so, we work with a



Goodnight Brothers Country Ham in Boone supplies ham to popular restaurants, such as Bojangles and the Dan'l Boone Inn.





few producers who understand that." Once the pork arrives at the packing facility in Boone, Tony and his team replicate the old school process of curing the ham to ensure the best flavor and quality. "I was surrounded by farmers growing up, so I saw the slaughtering and curing process firsthand," Tony said. "We duplicate that process here by salting the ham for one year. It takes 90 days to cure the ham in a controlled environment, which means it takes 120 days from facility to table." Goodnight Brothers facility processes 250-280,000 pounds of pork per week! "Country ham is what keeps the lights on, but we also diversify our product line with pork skins, bacon and more," Tony said.

Goodnight Brothers partners with a company to produce three flavors of pork skins each year: Original, BBQ, and Hot & Spicy. "Pork skins are a Southern staple, so we knew that adding them to our product line would be a hit," Tony said. Pork skins are a fresh skin that has been pressed and shaped. Once they are fried, the skin expands and cracks, creating the texture and flavor that customers love.

Products from Goodnight Brothers can be found at a variety of locations and restaurants, including Bojangles, Hardees, Piggly Wiggly, IGA, Harris Teeter, Lowes Foods, and Ingles. In fact, anytime you order a country ham biscuit from Hardees or Bojangles, you

are enjoying a product from Goodnight Brothers! Another popular restaurant the company has a longstanding partnership with is the Dan'l Boone Inn. "They are one of our largest customers because they order anywhere from 25 to 100 cases of ham per week," Tony said. "Having them serve our ham in their restaurant has been a blessing that has helped us grow our product line and brand." Products can also be purchased online through their shop.

As a Got to Be NC member, Goodnight Brothers participates in many events throughout the year, including the Got to Be NC Festival, the Flavors of Carolina show, and the N.C. State Fair. "The Got to Be NC program has been instrumental to our growth as a company," Tony said. "It's like having another team of staff members that care about your company and work hard to further its mission and products." We are honored to have them as a part of this program and thank them for all they do in the N.C. pork industry!