

Agricultural REVIEW

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Help us recognize farm families

The application and nomination period is now open for the N.C. State Fair's Farm Family of the Day program, sponsored by Tractor Supply Company.

The N.C. State Fair will recognize 11 farm families, one each day of the 2026 fair, running Oct. 15-25 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

The application form can be found online at www.ncagr.gov/2026-farm-family-day-application-form/open or nomination forms can be found online at www.ncagr.gov/2026-farm-family-day-nomination-form/open.

The deadline to submit applications and nominations is Aug. 21.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

Aug. 3 for the September issue
Sept. 1 for the October issue
Oct. 1 for the November issue
Nov. 2 for the December 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.

Sellers: Please continue to be mindful of potential scams. Be wary of out-of-state buyers and checks.

NCDA&CS records 100th easement with USDA

SMITHFIELD -- The Farmland Preservation Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have reached a significant milestone with the closing of their 100th jointly funded agricultural conservation easement. The easement was recorded on July 15 in Johnston County.

This milestone is the result of the long-standing partnership between the two agencies to permanently protect North Carolina's working farms and preserve the state's rural landscape for future generations. The two agencies first partnered to conserve a 76-acre farm in Durham County in 2009. Since then, 16,554 acres in 32 North Carolina counties have been conserved in partnership with

NCDA&CS and USDA-NRCS. Those figures include this 100th easement, which was recorded on a Johnston County farm.

"This milestone reflects what can be accomplished when state and federal partners have a shared goal to protect farmland," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "For generations, these conserved farms will continue producing food and fiber, supporting our state's rural communities and preserving our agricultural heritage. We thank USDA-NRCS for its longstanding partnership and shared investment in ensuring our farmland remains farmland."

Representatives from NCDA&CS, USDA-NRCS, Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District, county officials and landowners gathered



From left: The Langston and Youngblood families, Evan Davis and Brian Loadholt.

at the Johnston County Agricultural Services Building in Smithfield to commemorate the easement recording.

"A big mission of ours at NRCS is to keep working lands in working (See Milestone, pg. 2)

2026 N.C. State Fair to feature new competitions

Show off your talents at this year's N.C. State Fair by entering one of the many competition categories that are now open. This year's fair features several new competitions including Plein Air art, country ham, egg grading and diamond art.

"Our competitions highlight the talents of the residents of North Carolina," said Kent Yelverton, N.C. State Fair director. "There's a memory worth making at this year's fair and yours could be becoming a ribbon winner. Whether your talent is growing giant vegetables, raising champion goats, cross-stitching or crocheting, painting rocks, scrapbooking, photography, flower arranging or something else, the fair likely features a competition for you."

Some of the new competitions coming to the 2026 N.C. State Fair are:

- Arts and Photography: Plein Air Art
- Country Ham Competition
- Poultry Show: Egg grading
- Hobbies and Handicraft: Diamond art and paper flowers

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

The N.C. General Assembly passed a \$34.4 billion state budget that was signed into law by Gov. Josh Stein on July 7.

I wanted to share a brief rundown of some of the highlights for agriculture and the department. Candidly, we did not receive everything we asked for, but I sincerely appreciate the support the legislators have shown for our state's agricultural industry, farmers AND consumers.

One big win for agriculture was \$46.91 million in one-time funding to the Agricultural Development and

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. Additionally, the budget added \$2 million in recurring funding for the program, which brings the annual funding up to \$7 million.

I consider this a win for the agriculture community and the many farmers and supporters who rallied at the legislature back in May for the very first Farmland Preservation Advocacy Day. I cannot thank you all enough for showing up, for meeting with your legislators and for sharing how important it is that we keep working farmland in production.

Year after year, we have seen strong interest from farm owners who want to ensure their land remains in agricultural production, but funding would only go so far in protecting acreage. This one-time funding changes that.

As long-time readers know, farmland preservation has been a top priority for me since my first day in this job. Farmland loss was a significant issue 20 years ago and it remains a big issue today. I feel an even greater sense of urgency to protect valuable farmland with the recent push to build data centers across the state.

The American Farmland Trust projects that we could lose 1.2 to 1.6 million acres of farm and timberland by 2040. That puts us at number two in the country for risk of farmland loss.

This fund has been successful in permanently preserving 42,000 acres of working farm and forestland since 2006. We have accomplished that through the support of the N.C. General Assembly and partnerships with the military and non-profit land conservation organizations.

Sometimes people overlook the broader benefits of agriculture and think funding for agricultural requests only helps farmers and agribusinesses. But agriculture and agricultural funding benefit us all by providing access to local foods and by helping keep our state green. Farm and timberland provide open space and green space that define our state and make it so attractive, provide wildlife habitat, plus sequesters carbon and provide other environmental benefits.

Protecting farmland today is a visionary benefit to all North Carolinians.

Other budget highlights include:

- \$7 million for wildfire mitigation and risk reduction activities for Hurricane Helene impacted counties;
- \$2 million in additional non-recurring funds for the Agriculture Cost Share Program;
- \$450,000 increase in funding for domestic marketing
- \$1.5 million in non-recurring funds to support the N.C. Wine and Grape Council
- Additional recurring funding of \$4.5 million for the N.C. Forest Service for equipment repair and replacement, overtime and on-call budget shortfalls and aviation operating and maintenance needs.
- Nearly \$24 million in funding for capital improvement projects involving research stations, and county and district N.C. Forest Service facilities.

We are continuing to work with legislators regarding the elimination (See Troxler, pg. 3)

Agricultural Review

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Keeping nurseries and yards healthy

Many North Carolinians have been busy beautifying their yards this spring and summer with trees, shrubs, flowers and other plants. When they visit a local nursery or home improvement store, they expect the plants they purchase to be healthy, pest-free and ready to thrive at their new home.

Specialists with the Plant Industry Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services help secure that confidence by inspecting stock at nurseries across the state for signs of worrisome insects and diseases.

In North Carolina, a certificate is required to distribute or sell nursery stock or collected plants. All wild or cultivated plants or plant parts, trees, shrubs, vines, bulbous plants and roots, grafts, scions and buds are considered nursery stock. Strawberry plants, turfgrass and bulbs are also included in this definition. Excluded are annual plants, cut flowers, true seeds, decorative plants or plant parts without roots, and perennial plants intended for indoor use are not considered nursery stock.

NCDA&CS inspections help ensure that plants entering the marketplace meet standards designed to protect the public, the state’s landscapes and the agricultural industry. By identifying pests and disease problems before



Inspectors checking nursery stock for signs of pests and disease.

plants are sold, inspectors help prevent the spread of harmful pests and plant diseases that could damage home landscapes, commercial properties, forests and agricultural crops.

North Carolina has a diverse landscape that plays a crucial part in the environmental and economic health of our state. A single invasive pest or plant disease can spread quickly through the movement of infected nursery stock, creating costly consequences for property owners, municipalities and farmers.

Nursery inspections serve as an early line of defense, helping protect the state’s natural resources while supporting a healthy and competitive

green industry. Having trained professionals evaluate these products ensures North Carolina consumers can be confident that their hard-earned dollars are being spent on healthy plants.

At a recent nursery inspection, April Bauder, central region field certification specialist with the Plant Industry Division, and HT Tseng, NCDA&CS plant pathologist, conducted a visual inspection of the nursery’s stock and greenhouses. The two were on the lookout for pests (or evidence of their recent presence) and signs of disease on the trees, shrubs and other plants being grown or sold

(See Nurseries, pg. 6)

Competitions (Continued from pg. 1)

State Fair’s website, ncstatefair.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 may also be required to submit digital W-9 forms to receive prize money.

“We’re excited to see what people will enter and we wish everyone the best of luck,” said Yelverton. “Let’s make the 2026 N.C. State Fair a story worth telling and set a record for competition entries.”

The 2026 N.C. State Fair runs Oct. 15-25. Advance tickets are available now at www.ncstatefair.org.



Mark your calender for these county fairs!

- Drexel Community Fair – Aug. 21-29, Drexel
- Hickory American Legion Fair – Sept. 2-7, Newton
- Iredell County Agricultural Fair – Sept. 4-12, Troutman
- Cumberland County Fair – Sept. 4-13, Fayetteville
- N.C. Mountain State Fair – Sept. 11-20, Fletcher
- Cabarrus County Fair – Sept. 11-19, Concord
- Stokes County Agricultural Fair – Sept. 15-19, King
- Lee Regional Fair – Sept. 16-20, Sanford
- Chatham County Fair – Sept. 17-20, Pittsboro
- Davidson County Agricultural Fair – Sept. 21-26, Lexington
- Rowan County Fair – Sept. 21-26, Salisbury
- Pitt County Fair – Sept. 22-27, Greenville
- Wilson County Fair – Sept. 22-27, Wilson
- Chowan County Regional Fair – Sept. 29-Oct.3, Edenton
- Haywood County Fair – Sept. 24-27, Waynesville
- Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair – Oct. 1-10, Dudley
- Robeson Regional Agricultural Fair – Oct. 1-10, Lumberton
- Cleveland County Fair – Oct. 1-11, Shelby
- Carolina Classic Fair – Oct. 2-11, Winston-Salem
- Lenoir County Agricultural Fair – Oct. 6-10, Kinston
- Onslow County Fair – Oct. 13-17, Jacksonville
- Columbus County Agriculture Fair – Oct. 13-18, Whiteville
- N.C. State Fair – Oct. 15-25, Raleigh

Milestone

(Continued from pg. 1)



Representatives from NCDA&CS, USDA-NRCS, Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District, Johnston County and the landowners gathered to commemorate the easement recording.

hands,” said Ken White, assistant chief for the USDA-NRCS South Region. “This milestone easement is the result of many partners and agencies sharing a vision and working together to protect working farms. We would not be here today without the families and the continued partnership between NCDA&CS, Johnston County and the NRCS.”

The conserved property will remain in private ownership while permanently restricting non-agriculture development, allowing the land to continue supporting agricultural production and contributing to the state’s leading industry.

“During this application review and assessment process for farm conservation easements, I have talked with accountants, attorneys, surveyors, reviewers and numerous other parties – no one, no one has given me any indication that farmland preservation is a wasted effort or not an admirable, worthy governmental initiative,” said Ken Langston, trustee of the trust which owns the property. Langston thanked the Youngblood family of Youngblood Farms, who has farmed the Swift Creek Road farm since 1982.

“Farmland preservation starts with the farmer, and we thank the Langston family and the hundreds of other farm families across the state that have participated in these programs over the years. Without the farmer, there is no farmland preservation,” said Evan Davis, director of the NCDA&CS Farmland Preservation Division. “Thank you to our friends in Johnston County, and the many other counties, soil and water conservation districts, and land trusts that are essential in the delivery

and long-term stewardship of this program. And thank you to USDA, we are looking forward to the next 100 partnership projects.”

This achievement comes just after the North Carolina General Assembly passed its 2026-27 budget, which included a \$46.9 million one-time investment to the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund – the most funding ever in a single year.

The Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund supports the farming, forestry and horticulture communities within the agriculture industry, purchasing agricultural conservation easements, funding public and private enterprise programs to promote profitable and sustainable family farms, and providing funding for conservation easements targeted at the active production of food, fiber and other agricultural products. Since its inception in 2006, the program has invested \$118 million to permanently conserve more than 42,000 acres of farm and forestland.

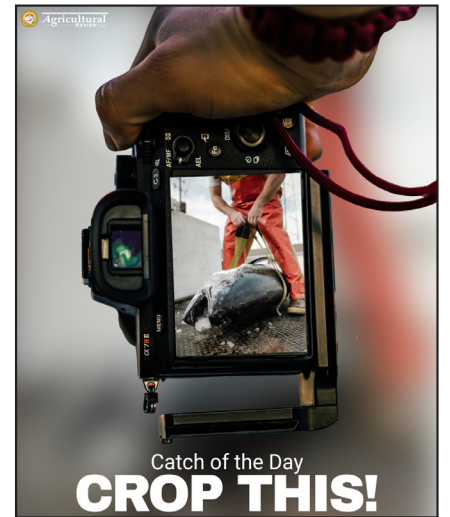
The Natural Resources Conservation Service works to help facilitate practical, voluntary and locally led conservation solutions to conserve natural resources, strengthen agricultural production and keep working lands productive for generations to come.

The Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District provides technical, educational and financial resources to Johnston County citizens for the protection and preservation of its natural resources.

A bride in a white wedding dress and veil is feeding a white horse in a grassy field. The horse is wearing a blue halter. The bride is holding a small bowl and feeding the horse. The background shows a large tree and a blue sky.

Send your photos to us at ncdablog@gmail.com. Include your name, county and a brief description of your photo. Original, amateur photography only. Open to North Carolina residents. Full terms and conditions online at www.ncagr.gov/divisions/public-affairs/ag-review/CropThis.

December: Holidays on the Farm, deadline Nov. 15



Clip the renewal card on the front page of the June issue and mail it in, or go online to www.agreview.org and enter your subscription number. It is listed above your name and address.

Other participating agencies included: N.C. Farm Bureau, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Animal Rabies Control Association, N.C. Vet Medical Association, N.C. Animal Federation, Cattlemen's Association, Piedmont Emergency Animal Response Team and N.C. A&T State University.

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

We will continue to work with legislators to address these ongoing needs and concerns and I remain hopeful they can be resolved through technical corrections.

Each new blueberry variety starts in a research field

North Carolina blueberry farmers have some solid options when it comes to what cultivated varieties – or cultivars – of blueberries they grow, but various demands on those farmers mean they’re always in need of improved blueberries that meet their evolving needs. That’s where blueberry breeding research comes into play, along with the research stations operated through partnership between the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and NC State University.

Blueberry varieties such as Legacy, Star, O’Neal, Suzibblue and New Hanover have become standards in North Carolina. Each variety falls into early, mid or late season, which means North Carolina blueberry farmers who grow multiple varieties can stretch their season each year and give customers what they’re looking for on grocery store shelves, farmers markets and pick-your-own farms. They have consistently performed well under North Carolina conditions. However, the varieties that were once considered cutting edge eventually begin to show their age.

“Each of our growers [in North Carolina] rely heavily on two or three main cultivars, and they’re always trying new ones to kind of fill in gaps with ones that will hopefully work better for them – [for example] to have a higher yield or produce earlier in the season – but a lot of the ones they have now are 20 to 40-year-old cultivars,” research scholar Jessica Spencer explained. “They’ve been out for a really long time, and so they definitely need something that is more suited to our markets these days.”

Consumers these days are looking for bigger, firmer berries, and fewer workers means farmers need to rely more on berries that can be effectively machine-picked.



NCDA&CS and NC State University researchers have long partnered on blueberry breeding research.

New diseases have emerged too, and late winter is getting warmer. That’s why researchers with North Carolina State University’s Department of Horticultural Sciences have been working on the next generation of blueberries.

Spencer is one of those researchers, along with associate professor Hudson Ashrafi, who leads North Carolina’s public blueberry breeding program – a program that involves lots of work at the Castle Hayne Horticultural Crops Research Station. Their goal is simple in concept but complex in execution: develop blueberry varieties specifically adapted for North Carolina growers. That means breeding plants that can thrive in the state’s climate while producing the larger, firmer, more flavorful berries today’s consumers expect. It also means helping growers adapt to modern production practices such as machine harvesting.

“So traits favorable for that are needed – firm berries, loose fruit clusters, upright plants, green

berries that stay on the bush and ripe berries that come off easily,” Spencer explained.

Those improvements don’t happen overnight. The time from making the initial cross between two parent plants until the time of patenting and releasing a new variety can take 15 years or more. During that time, researchers evaluate thousands of seedlings before narrowing them to a handful of promising selections that are tested for years under North Carolina growing conditions.

Yield also remains a top priority. To develop varieties with good yield and the favorable quality aspects (size, flavor, etc.), researchers are also selecting for traits that help plants withstand North Carolina’s unique environment. Blueberries require a certain amount of winter chilling before they bloom. Varieties developed farther south may bloom too early and become vulnerable to late winter freezes, while varieties bred for colder climates may never receive enough chilling to perform well in North Carolina.

“Our climate is changing and on top of that there’s always going to be new disease pressure and new needs that growers have. So, it’s really important to keep a program like this up and running and bringing in new genetics and making sure we have the ability to breed a better blueberry for North Carolina,” Spencer said. “It’s a pretty strong industry in the state right now.”

That focus on North Carolina distinguishes the state’s public breeding program from many private breeding companies. While private companies often develop varieties for broad commercial markets, the NC State program evaluates selections specifically for North Carolina’s climate, disease pressures and production practices.

“Companies may trial varieties here, but they aren’t specifically breeding for North Carolina,” Spencer said.

Public breeding also helps reduce costs for growers. Ashrafi said many privately developed varieties require

growers to pay big licensing or royalty fees, but North Carolina’s public breeding program instead develops varieties intended to provide growers with affordable cultivars with lower royalties that aren’t based on fee structures like some of the larger private companies are moving toward. The locally adapted options support one of the state’s most valuable specialty crops. North Carolina consistently ranks among the nation’s leading blueberry-producing states, placing sixth or seventh nationally depending on the year.

The breeding program is also becoming more efficient through research supported by grants. Funding from the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Specialty Crop Block Grant Program allowed Spencer to partner with NC State engineering professor Edgar Lobaton to develop machine-learning technology

(See Blueberries, pg. 5)

Ivanhoe

(Continued from pg. 8)

in Burgaw and on-site at the main farm in Ivanhoe. Although the majority of their berries are used for wholesale or sold direct to consumers, they do work with a few processing facilities that use their berries to make other food products for consumers and sometimes even their pets. “Our blueberries can be found in stores across the United States and even in Canada,” Anna said. “We take a lot of pride in providing a product that is enjoyed by people across the world.”

Although labor can be extremely challenging, Anna and her family wouldn’t trade anything for the pride they feel in producing blueberries and creating a legacy on their family farm each year.

Blueberries have played an important role in our state’s agriculture industry through the years and continue to be a staple today. “In North Carolina alone, blueberry farmers picked 48.5 million pounds in 2025,” Anna said. “That contributed over \$87 million dollars for our state’s economy and provided countless jobs for people across the state.”

Ranking seventh in the nation for blueberry production, North Carolina is a large player for the industry, and farms like Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms make that possible each year. “We are proud to have a legacy of producing high-quality blueberries in this state and will continue to do so in the years to come,” Anna said. “Our goal is to keep this farm in our family by raising the next generation and expanding production however we can.”

Owners Neil and Willie, are also dedicated to the advancement of the blueberry industry. Neil served as the North American Blueberry Council president from 2015 to 2017, and Willie is the current president of the North Carolina Blueberry Council. With seven grandchildren currently in the picture, it looks like Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms is well on their way to continuing the business motto of producing “Carolina’s Finest Blueberries.”

\$3.9 million in grants to fund 10 projects

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced recently \$3.9 million in grants that focus on the expansion of meat processors, value-added manufacturers and farmers in North Carolina.

The intent of the N.C. Agriculture Manufacturing and Processing Initiative (NCAMPI) is to strengthen North Carolina’s agricultural economy by advancing value-added processing opportunities, recruiting and supporting facilities that address geographic and commodity gaps, and providing targeted funding to help create or expand manufacturing operations that increase jobs, enhance local tax bases, reduce costs and improve profitability for the state’s farmers and growers.

Ten projects totaling \$3.9 million in awards were approved. Seven of those projects are related to meat production and account for \$3.1 million of the grant total. Three additional projects are focused on cider processing, automated seafood processing and rice storage.

“The goal of NCAMPI is to upgrade and support local processing operations, strengthen the agricultural supply chain and open new channels for North Carolina farmers,” said Troxler. “By increasing our in-state capacity for food processing and agricultural manufacturing, we’re ensuring that more of the value created from our commodities stays here at home, benefiting our farmers and communities.”

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services administers the NCAMPI program with funding provided by the N.C. General Assembly.

Following are the July 2026 grant recipients and projects in alphabetical order:

- Apple Wedge Packers, Henderson County -- \$210,323 for cider processing facility
- Blue Ridge Processing, McDowell County -- \$451,630 for meat processing
- Caudle Meat, Greene County -- \$189,470 for meat processing
- East Coast Solutions, Halifax County -- \$681,680 for meat processing
- Fulcher’s Seafood, Pamlico County -- \$463,890 for wild caught seafood processing
- Piedmont Custom Meats, Caswell and Randolph counties -- \$761,810 for meat processing
- Stevens Sausage Co., Johnston County -- \$188,127 for meat processing
- Tidewater Grain Co., Pamlico County -- \$147,292 for rice seed storage
- Villari Food Group, LLC, Duplin County -- \$800,000 for meat processing
- Windy River Meats, Wilkes County -- \$78,983 for meat processing

For the latest information on NCAMPI, go to <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/marketing/ncampi>.

Check your reciepts: 16 N.C. stores fined for overcharging

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Standards Division collected fines from 16 stores in 13 counties for price scanning errors during the second quarter of 2026.

"This time of year brings more trips to the store for sunscreen, cookout essentials and other summertime needs," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "These inspections help identify and prevent price scanning errors so families can enjoy their time together instead of worrying about overpaying."

The department conducts periodic, unannounced inspections of price-scanner 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.

Following are civil penalties recorded in the second quarter of 2026:

(Beaufort County) Dollar General at 1810 Live Oak St. in Beaufort paid a \$1,490 fine after failing a reinspection in April. The inspection found a 3% error rate for nine overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in June.

(Camden) Dollar General at 917 NC 343 South in Shiloh paid \$6,800 following three failed inspections. An initial inspection in February found an error rate of 16% for eight overcharges on a 50-item lot. A March reinspection found an error rate of 10% for 30 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$4,470 fine. Another reinspection in May found an error rate of 4% for 12 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$2,330 fine. The store will be reinspected.

(Chowan) Dollar General at 1503 Virginia Road in Edenton paid a \$5,000 fine incurred following a failed October 2025 inspection. That inspection found an error rate of 15.67% for 47 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in February.

(Craven) Family Dollar at 1405 Neuse Blvd. in New Bern was fined \$1,620 following two failed inspections. An initial inspection in April found an error rate of 8% for four overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in May found an error rate of 5.67% for 17 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.

(Cumberland) Family Dollar at 6021 Raeford Road in Fayetteville was fined \$1,890 following two failed inspections. An initial inspection in April found an error rate of 18% for nine overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in June found an error rate of 3.67% for 11 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.

(Dare) Dollar General at 26038 NC Highway 12 in Waves paid a \$1,515 fine following two failed inspections. An initial inspection in February found an error rate of 12% for six overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in March found an error rate of 4.33% for 13 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.

(Jones) Dollar General at 1008 Main St. in Maysville paid \$1,155 after failing two inspections this year. An initial inspection found an error rate of 6% for three overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in March found an error rate of 3.67% for 11 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in May.

(Moore) Advance Auto Parts at 1800 North Sandhills Blvd. in Aberdeen paid a \$435 fine it incurred after failing two inspections in 2025. An initial inspection in August 2025 found a 16% error rate for eight overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection found an error rate of 5.67% for 17 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in the fine. The store passed inspection in November 2025 and paid the fine in May 2026.

(Onslow) Dollar General at 550 Sandridge Road in Hubert was fined \$3,500 following three failed inspections. An initial inspection in March found an error rate of 16% for eight overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in April found an error rate of 7.33% for 22 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$1,650 fine. A June reinspection found an error rate of 3.67% for 11 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$1,850 fine. The store will be reinspected.

(Onslow) Family Dollar at 1419 North Marine in Jacksonville was fined \$1,650 after failing two inspections. An initial inspection in March found an error rate of 6% for three overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in April found an error rate of 6.67% for 20 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in the fine. The store passed inspection in June.

(Onslow) Family Dollar at 1122 Old Maplehurst in Jacksonville was fined \$1,740 following two failed inspections. An initial inspection in March found an error rate of 6% for three overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in April found an error rate of 5.67% for 17 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in the fine. The store passed inspection in June.

(Perquimans) Dollar General 1035 Holiday Island Road in Hertford was fined \$1,590 following two failed inspections. An initial inspection in March found an error rate of 16% for eight overcharges on a 50-item lot. An April reinspection found an error rate of 4.67% for 14 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.

(Richmond) Family Dollar at 1002 East Broad Ave. in Rockingham was fined \$5,645 after failing three inspections. An initial inspection in February found an error rate of 12% for six overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in March found an error rate of 8.67% for 26 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$3,525 fine. A reinspection in May found an error rate of 4% for 12 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in an additional \$2,120 fine. The store will be reinspected.

(Scotland) Carlie C's at 1688 South Main St. in Laurinburg paid a \$1,635 fine after failing two inspections. An initial inspection in February found an error rate of 8% for four overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in March found a 4.33% error rate for 13 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in June.

(Scotland) Dollar General at 24020 North Main St. in Wagram was fined \$5,330 following three failed inspections. An initial inspection in February found an error rate of 22% for 11 overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in March found an error rate of 13.33% for 40 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$3,600 fine. A reinspection in June found an error rate of 4.33% for 13 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$1,730 fine. The store will be reinspected.

(Union) Circle K at 1071 Chestnut Lane in Indian Trail paid \$2,525 after failing two inspections this year. An initial inspection in January found an error rate of 22% for 11 overcharges on a 50-item lot. A March reinspection found a 9% error rate for nine overcharges on a 100-item lot, resulting in a \$780 fine. A May reinspection found an error rate of 8% for eight overcharges on a 100-item lot, resulting in a \$1,745 fine. The store will be reinspected.

A family tradition at the State Fair

"The best part of the N.C. State Fair is coming together with those life-long friends that make it worth it," said Whitney Meadows, a long-time participant of many livestock shows at the fair. Meadows enters lambs and sheep with her two sons; Hesston, 11, and Brantley, 15.

Meadows was raised on North Creek Livestock, a farm in Leicester. Her sons were also raised on this farm. North Creek Livestock raises high quality sheep, most of them being the club variety, or lambs raised for 4-H and FFA livestock shows.

The Meadows Family has been entering sheep into the fair since 1991. "It's a yearly tradition for our family at this point," said Meadows. "I first entered a competition in 1991, when I was four. My son Brantley started showing sheep in 2013 when he was two. It's a nice family tradition of ours."

"The N.C. State Fair looks a lot different than it used to be," said Meadows. "I remember when I first entered that everyone from all species competitions came and presented at the same time. Specifically, everyone came down on a Wednesday and left on a Sunday. These competitions used to be much smaller back in the day."

North Creek Livestock is dedicated to raising high quality sheep. AI is part of their production process. Not artificial intelligence, but artificial insemination. "When we first started out our batch of sheep, we bought our materials for AI from Iowa," said Meadows. "Over time, our batch narrowed down the best and we've raised and breed the best ourselves."

"When we are choosing which livestock to enter into the competitions, a good friend of ours comes over to help us," said Meadows. "While we have an idea of what to pick, our friend has judged professionally, so he helps us pick the best. After he picks them, the rest are sold. But sometimes the ones sold are better than the ones kept. In fact, one of our sold lambs was sold to the Glass Family, who won grand champion market lamb in 2021 with that same lamb."

The Meadows Family is well known for winning



The Meadows family at the 2025 N.C. State Fair.

competitions at the N.C. State Fair. Hesston, who was 10 years old at the time, won N.C. State Fair Grand Champion in 2025. They are also well connected with agriculture and their surrounding agriculture community, as they are active members of FFA and 4-H organizations.

"My favorite part about entering these competitions is the friends I've made over the years," said Meadows. "Our fellow competitors are like family to us. While we are all very competitive and like to win, we all cheer for one another at the end of the day. Those lifelong friends are what make it worth it. That has likely been the greatest reward for these competitions."

Besides the competitions and the camaraderie of the fair, Meadows enjoys the delicious food that she has each year. "My favorite thing to eat is actually three things," said Meadows. "The cinnamon buns outside the Graham Building, the gourmet apples, and Peachey's donuts (even if the lines are long)."

This year, Brantley and Hesston will be entering turkeys in the State Fair for the first time. And, of course, the Meadows family will be submitting market lambs and ewe lambs for the other competitions. They are all very excited about the fair this year. Be sure to look for their animals at the State Fair livestock shows.

Blueberries

(Continued from pg. 4)

that analyzes photographs of harvested blueberries. The system can already measure berry diameter, circumference, color, uniformity and ripeness from a simple photograph. Researchers are expanding the technology to automatically identify additional characteristics such as stem scars, calyx size, fruit splitting, diseases and other quality traits.

Another project, funded by the N.C. Blueberry Council, has demonstrated that growing seedlings in pots instead of planting them directly in the field can reduce losses while allowing researchers to evaluate potential varieties one to two years sooner. Together, those grant-funded projects and others help address one of the biggest challenges in plant breeding, which is time.

"It allows me to hire temporary workers – usually college students – so we can get out in the field. It's a numbers game. The more numbers I can look at, the more things I can plant in the field, the more selections we can make, the more things I can test with growers, then the more likely we are to find something North Carolina growers can use," Spencer said.

That investment is beginning to pay dividends again. After a lull in staffing, the breeding program has begun introducing new varieties, such as Rowan, formerly known as NC3104. It's a sibling to the established New Hanover variety, so they have similar traits, but Rowan is a slightly earlier variety that doesn't have stem tear issues like New Hanover. The researchers are now preparing to release two additional selections that have improved attributes, currently called NC5288 and NC5289. Ashrafi hopes those introductions signal a return to more regular releases.

"We had some downtime, and now we are back up and have so many advanced selections that can be introduced, and I think we should be naming them and releasing them as fast as possible," Ashrafi said. "We have something to overlap every year or every couple of years now."

There are now about 80 to 90 advanced selections in the breeding program, and that steady pipeline matters because establishing a blueberry field requires significant time and investment. Growers expect a planting to remain productive for decades, which makes the choice of which variety to plant one of the most important decisions they make.

For North Carolina growers, the state's public breeding program helps ensure those choices continue to improve – one new cultivar at a time.

August AgroTips

Turnaround time is optimal for soil samples submitted in August.

The Agronomic Division’s soil testing lab is processing samples quickly now but will be increasingly busy toward the end of the year. Homeowners, landscapers, golf course superintendents and others with flexible schedules are urged to submit samples before the lab’s fall busy season. If cool-season lawn grasses and pastures need to be reseeded, sampling now will make it possible to apply lime well in 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.

Collect a plant tissue sample about 10–14 days after harvest. Each sample should include 25–30 most recent mature leaves from the primocane. Sampling the floricanes is not recommended unless it is specifically to diagnose a problem. If you have different varieties, submit separate samples for each one. Now is also an appropriate time to submit a corresponding soil sample.

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 position.

Nurseries

(Continued from pg. 2)

there.

“When you have a nursery license, your job is to sell your plants free of pests,” Bauder said.

Bauder and Tseng systematically walked the nursery, checking



Bauder examines a plant using a magnifying glass.

each plant for signs that might suggest pests or disease, such as leaf spotting, unusual discoloration, insect feeding damage, eggs, larvae or active insects.

Inspectors don’t automatically assume every unhealthy plant has a disease. Bauder noted that heat stress, drought, poor irrigation, nutrient deficiencies and transplant stress can mimic disease symptoms. When symptoms were spotted, the two took time to determine whether they were pest-related, disease-related or environmental.

North Carolina nurseries have been impacted by the ongoing drought and heat, Bauder said, and much of the little damage they observed during the inspection was attributed to sun damage or thirst — no major pest or disease concerns were identified during the visit.

Nurseries are inspected either annually (certified and institutional nurseries) or every three years (registered nurseries), based on their classifications. Nursery dealers, which obtain and resell nursery stock but did not grow nursery stock themselves, are inspected annually as well. Certified nurseries are larger operations that may be shipping plants to or receiving plants from other states, meaning the risk that they may spread diseases or pests is higher, so they are inspected more often.

Plant Protection Specialists inspect over 10,000 acres of nursery stock grown by around 1,400 North Carolina nurseries each year. Nearly 2,700 nursery dealers distribute plants throughout the state.

To learn more about the Plant Industry Division and nursery inspections, visit our website at www.ncagr.gov/divisions/plant-industry/plant-protection/plant-industry-nursery-regulatory-services.

Classified Advertising

General rules for advertising in the Ag Review

- Advertising is a free service to North Carolina residents 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), complete address and phone number w/area code.
- Ads will be published in one issue only. Ads that are to 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.
- The ad deadline is the first working day of the month prior to publication at noon.

**Bees, Supplies & Services For Sale**

NOTICE
N.C. law requires a permit to sell honey bees in the state. A permit is not required for: The sale of less than 10 bee hives in a calendar year, a one-time going-out-of-business sale of less than 50 hives, or the renting of bees for pollination purposes or their movement to gather honey.
Contact Don Hopkins, state apiarist, NCDA&CS, 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001 for information.

Honey extractor, 9-frame, electric, \$200-\$250. Mellie Swaney, Kinston 252-521-9697.

**Equipment For Sale**

1957 Farmall Cub, restored 5 yrs. ago, been sitting in bldg., w/disc plow & cults, \$2,200. G.E. Brittain, Connelly Springs 828-368-0656.
MF disc, 8 ft. pickup, adjust., GC, \$1,000; 16 ft. grain auger, GC, \$200. Zeb Russell, China Grove 704-857-8381.
Intl FC tricycle tractor, ‘48 or ‘50 model, been sitting, \$1,500 or trade; JD riding mower, 5-spd, \$800 obo. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.
Aerator for riding mower, drum type, 36 in. wide, \$195. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.
AC -CA tractor, shed kept, running when parked, \$650; AC D15, shed kept, needs rear tire & rim fixed, \$2,200. Jerry Daves, Lawndale 980-329-9416.

FARM EQUIPMENT
Ford 501 sickle mower, 6 ft. cut, 3pt, \$500. James Hager, Statesville 704-929-8586.
JD 2440, new starter/radiator/hyd pumps/plugs, needs clutch repair, \$6,000; front axle for Super A, tires, steering wheel, rear wheels, starter, other parts, \$100-\$200 ea. Glenn Koepp, Zebulon 252-230-1352.
Operator manual for Case tractors, models 220, 222, 224, 444, 446, \$20 ea.; parts catalog for Case 580D, 580 Super D, \$20. John Huskey, Hillsborough 919-452-1532.
Ford 8N tractor, new tires, runs great, showroom cond., \$3,500. William Brock, Mocksville 336-998-3621.
Case 850C Construction King backhoe, GC, \$6,000. Jerry Green, Franklin 828-342-1698.

FARM EQUIPMENT
Ferguson TO-20, not running, new rear tires/rims, size 11-2-28, \$900; front wheel wgt. for Farmall 140, \$50/set. Donald Yountz, Clemmons 336-764-0748.
(2) racking tables, \$100 ea.; (2) tobacco orders, \$100 ea.; tobacco trailers, \$200 ea.; other Roanoke tobacco parts. David Pace, Archer Lodge 919-553-7593 or 971-1494.
1925 Fairbanks Morse Y diesel eng., 20hp, 56 in. fly wheels, hand clutch pulley on steel wheel wagon, \$6,000. Bobby Harkey, Albemarle 704-982-2494.
JD corn sheller, 1800s model, GC, \$700. Ricky Bebbler, Taylorsville 828-320-7046.
1944 Oliver 90, new paint, cranks/runs, \$3,500. Don Bennett, Pinnacle 336-351-2893.

FARM EQUIPMENT
Brinly PA-402 BH lawn aerator, 40 in., pull-behind, plug type, spare spoons, \$200. Duane Kirschenman, Winston-Salem 704-528-9369, call or text.
Palco cattle handling system, 985 Cattleboss headgate/squeeze chute/palpation cage, 8’ adjust. alley, 16’ dia. crowding tub, corral panels, swing gates, \$14,750; Cat D6B dozer, \$27,500. Richard Ingram, Greensboro 336-420-9253.
(2) Nelson big gun irrig. sprinkler heads, GC, \$450/both. Channing Byrd, Selma 919-901-2871.
2013 JD 5085M, w/front-end loader bucket/forks, 850 hrs., EC, used for light duty farm work, \$60,000-\$65,000. Jeff Jennings, Elizabeth City 919-801-3721.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Tarter 180-degree cattle sweep, older model, \$2,000; Priefert 91 auto/manual headgate; squeeze chute w/swing out gate, take down panels, rear catch door, \$3,000. Ed Blackburn, Tobaccoville 336-817-6092.

1953 JD 40, not running, \$900; other M, 40, 420 parts. Guy Hiniker, Oxford 919-815-0268.

1976 Intl 140, 12-volt system, GC, w/1pt hitch & Cole corn planter, \$5,500. Ernest Pinnix, Eden 336-432-4960.

Box blade w/rippers, 5 ft., 1pt, GC, \$325; 8 1/2 ft., 1pt drag hare, GC, \$500. Kenny Barrington, Burlington 336-214-9924.

Unverferth field cult, LNC, 8 ft., spades/points GC, \$4,000; King disc, 8 ft., 20" blades, rear extenders w/16" blades, good bearings, removable drag board, \$1,000. Harold Coltrane, Snow Hill 252-526-1241.

6" irrig. pipe, 20' joints, Akron & Rainbow, 100+ joints, \$20 ea. Ken Chappell, Eagle Springs 910-690-0422.

JD 336 baler, GC, shed kept, field ready, \$1,500. Doug Foster, Concord 704-361-1218.

Loeering skid steer tracks, fits 12 x 16.5 tires, \$600. David Watterson, Lexington 336-989-8829.

Ford 4000 industrial tractor w/loader, forks & bucket, \$3,400; Ford 4000 industrial tractor, trans not working, \$1,850; Ford 800 tractor for parts, \$3,400; other equip. Brian Pool, Marion 828-442-7525.

Befco H40-S 60" flail mower, w/hyd side shift, hvy duty, approx. 16 hrs. run time, \$5,000 firm. Tom Mayes, Graham 757-707-4782.

Komatsu D41P-6, 5,344 hrs., mid-size, 3 slight cyl. leaks, need repacking, \$30,000-\$33,000. Gerald Woods, Cary 919-592-7433.

JD X380 riding mower, 23hp, 48 in. deck, hys, 140 hrs., bagger, GC, well-serviced, \$4,000-\$5,000. Daniel McLean, Lenoir 828-244-2561.

AC 7080 Blk Belly tractor, w/power director, runs/drives great, new rear tires & batteries, field ready, \$8,500 obo. Todd Brown, Ramseur 336-318-5131.

Kubota L4330 tractor, 4wd, 43hp, hys, w/855 loader, 1,287 hrs., auxiliary remote, new R4 tires, canopy, \$20,900 firm. David Foust, Sophia 336-847-2882.

King 20-blade disc harrow, \$1,000; 6 ft. Woods BB60 bush hog, \$1,750; 6 ft. sickle mower, \$400; Befco C70/90 mower w/new blades, \$4,500. Bill Mills, Cary 919-600-9896.

Scoop pan, 3pt, GC, \$150. Henry Lambeth, Gibsonville 336-684-1218.



Equipment Wanted

Frontier TD 1316 hay tender for parts; need hyd. cyl. & pto shaft. Keith Hyatt, Canton 828-648-7538.

Pull-behind aerator for pasture, spike type. Ron Peters, Reidsville 336-280-6111.

Owner/operator manual for C-160 wheel horse. Bobby Pearson, Milton 336-234-0484.

JD model G tractor. Tyler Dunn, Robbins 336-963-4018.

JD 215 silage wagon for salvage parts. Norris McConnell, Mount Ulla 704-431-9321, before 7 p.m.

NH 256 bar rake, EC. Marty Perry, Bunn 919-534-5192.

Ford 7108 front end loader attach. w/bucket. Michael Chatham, Morganton 828-443-4823.

Rear tire for Intl Cub tractor, size 11.2-24. Kevin Collier, Liberty 336-215-7332.

Cyl. head for JD M. Ronnie Campbell, Sanford 919-708-8322.

Left fender for a Fordson Dexta or Super Dexta tractor; will take both left & right. Jackie Brown, Denton 336-953-6027.



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.



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 older 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 919-545-4239.

Child's saddle & bridle, used very little, \$250. Harold Wright, Liberty 336-675-5011.



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.

13+ ac farmland for lease, partially fenced w/creek, \$50/mo. Pamela Smith, Lexington 336-247-8353.

FARMLAND

65+ ac Randolph co., 40 forestry plan, 25 open for ag use, undivided, \$15,000/ac. Rick Williams, Liberty 336-362-9771.



Hay & Grain For Sale

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

2026 coastal bermuda hay, horse quality, out of barn/shelter, \$8; out of the field, we load, \$7.50; quality rnd bales, \$75. Gary White, Sanford 919-775-9769.

2026 fescue mixed hay, no rain, min. purchase 25 bales, \$6/bale. Vernon Hill, Mount Pleasant 980-621-5091.



Livestock For Sale

Nubian/Boer cross buckling, dob 5/18/26, \$150. L.A. Mize, Lexington 336-250-4520.

Belted Galloway bull, dob 6/11/24, blk & white, gentle, reg., hypp neg dam is red & white, \$3,000; (4) weaned Beltie steers, 6 m/o, \$600 ea. A. Furr, Rockwell 704-798-3460, text.

Reg. SGBI young bulls & heifers, \$1,800 & up. Charles O'Bryant III, Reidsville 336-908-0276.

Fainting goats, young bucks & does, all healthy & tame, does, \$125; bucks, \$100. Dodd Linker, Clemmons 336-712-2484.

St. Croix ewes, reg., \$450 ea.; St. Croix rams, \$350 ea. Valerie Cockerham, Yadkinville 336-416-2240.

Katahdin ewe lambs, born Feb/March, 20-25 avail., direct descendants of 1st Katahdins brought to NC in 1987, sired by rams selected for parasite resistance, \$275-\$300. Bill Sparrow Jr., Durham 919-599-6669.

Fainting goats, weaned, healthy, polled/horns, blue eyes, brown eyes, various colors, bucks, \$100; does, \$200. Connie Isley, Snow Camp 336-269-5876.

Dorper/St. Croix cross lambs, weaned, 45-50 lbs., natural pasture raised, excell. meat quality, around 15 rams & ewes avail., \$225-\$250. Brian Laney, Monroe 704-361-3948, brianlaney1227@gmail.com.

2 Braunvieh bulls, purebred, 7 m/o, reg., pasture raised, current on vaccs & deworming, low birth wgt, calving ease stock, \$3,000. Karen Grigg, Kings Mtn 704-472-6389.

7 SimAngus heifers, open, ready to breed, born 2024, \$3,500. Murray Cohen, Pittsboro 919-742-4433.

Blk Angus bulls, 18 mos to 2 yrs., good disposition, \$2,500-\$2,800. Harold Wright, Liberty 336-675-5011.

3 Katahdin rams, pasture raised, 2 proven, reg., gentle, \$550 ea.; 1 yearling, 50% reg., \$400. A. Beveridge, Lexington 336-906-0492.

LIVESTOCK

American Blackbelly ram, \$200. Dolly Hulin, Denton 336-964-2209.



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.

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

(2) brooders, 2x6, 18 in. deep, wire bottoms, treated legs, easy open top; can be used for other sm animals, \$40 ea. Robert Burns, Holly Springs 919-422-7023.

Bantam Dark Cornish, from exhibition stock, hatched spring 2026, cockerels, \$40; pullets, \$60. John Thornburg, Raleigh 336-302-3838.

CoolAir fans for chicken house, 48 in., can be used for hog farm or greenhouse, \$200. David Gwaltney, Taylorsville 828-632-3286.



Poultry & Supplies Wanted

3-5 female Muscovy ducks, \$5-\$10. Terry McLean, Lincolnton 704-530-4536.



Seeds & Plants For Sale

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.

Sunflower seeds, 12-14 lb. flower, 15-18 in. diameter, SASE & \$5 cash for 50 seeds. N. Smoot, 6227 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370, 336-338-8726.

Cockscomb seeds, huge blossom head, crimson color, sturdy 18" stalk, about 250 seeds, SASE + \$5 cash. Barry Cox, 6225 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370, 336-434-4662.

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.

Muscadine & scuppernong vines, potted, healthy, several varieties, fert. & planting instr. incld., \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.



Seeds & Plants Wanted

Hollyhock seed, single bloom. Wade Shelton, Mt. Airy 336-374-2254.

Old fashioned horse apple trees, any size; dolgo crabapple trees. Robert Burns, Holly Springs 919-422-7023.



Supplies For Sale

Cypress posts, 8 ft., \$20 ea. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

Water totes, \$100; tote cages, \$40; burning barrels, \$10; plastic or metal solid top, \$10. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Champion generator, 9,400 watts, dual fuel, new, \$850. Zeb Russell, China Grove 704-857-8381.

3-panel cement fence, +/- 200 ft., \$3/ft. Tommy Sink, Lexington 336-250-4234.

Handmade cedar bluebird houses, mite resistant, \$12. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

Commercial hand truck, hvy duty, used on farm, \$90. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

Sprinkler heads & controller, 200+ Rainbird, Optima & Water Whiz, \$80. Duane Kirschenman, Winston-Salem 704-528-9369, call/text.

Reading apple peeler, GC, \$75. Gary Williams, Granite Falls 828-493-2461.



Supplies Wanted

Old bear traps & other old steel traps, long spring or jump type, Blake & Lamb, Newhouse, Triumph, others. Daniel Carawan, Edenton 252-945-6493, call/text.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

Miller tilt-top trailer, 20 ton, lights, brakes, \$8,500. Tommy Sink, Lexington 336-250-4234.

12 ft. truck dump bed, \$1,000 obo. Charles Lynch, Newton 704-462-2416.

1999 Sundowner, 2-horse slant load, weekender pkg., rear tack w/swing out saddle rack, \$9,000-\$10,500. Donna Byrd, Peachland 704-438-2254.

1994 Intl 4700 dump truck, 282,592 mi, 4x2-diesel-L6, used for hauling grain, \$5,800-\$6,500. Anna Wishon, Lexington 336-971-9256.

1970 C10 short bed frame, \$500; 1972 C10 auto short bed frame, \$500; other parts. Brian Pool, Marion 828-442-7525.

2002 Kawasaki mule, 4 x 4, dump bed, \$4,500-\$5,000. Evon Crooks, Mocksville 336-817-6890.

2020 Adam Overnighter livestock trailer, blk, 12 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, 7 ft. tall, spare tire & mats, \$6,800. Dolly Hulin, Denton 336-964-2209.



Trucks & Trailers Wanted

1-ton flatbed truck, 1967-1976. G.E. Brittain, Connelly Springs 828-368-0656.

6 x 12 utility trailer w/3,000 lb. axle; does not need to have a ramp. Andy Zeman, Graham 336-525-2401.

Growing 'Carolina's Finest Blueberries' in Ivanhoe, NC

Discovering NC Agriculture is a social media series focusing on N.C. grown, raised, caught, and made commodities. Originally started in 2025, this series has been renewed to run for another year! 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!

Blueberries are native to North Carolina and have been a major player in our state's agriculture industry for many years. In fact, if you look back in our history, blueberries have been on the scene for over 90 years! Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms Inc., located in Ivanhoe, has been producing blueberries almost that long, with their first bushes planted in 1941. Since then, the farm has grown to five farm sites producing over 700 acres of blueberries each year for customers across our state and beyond.

As a fourth-generation family farm, Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms is the definition of a family-owned and operated business. In 1941, John Moore and his two sons planted five acres of blueberry bushes just across the Bladen County line, now referred to as their "210 Farm."

"My great-grandfather learned about blueberries from the Cutt Brothers, blueberry farmers in New Jersey who moved to North Carolina looking for a new harvesting season," said Anna Moore Hoy, food safety coordinator and inventory manager for Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms. "Since blueberries are native to North Carolina, John knew that blueberries would produce well in this area and provide an earlier production window than in New Jersey." In 1979, current owners H. Neil Moore and Willie R. Moore purchased the Cutt Brothers farm in Sampson County when they decided to move back to New Jersey and officially incorporated Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms. From the original five acres, Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms has



The Moore Family

grown both in acreage and varieties. In fact, it is one of the most diverse blueberry farms in our state, producing over 25 varieties each year and working with N.C. State Extension by providing test plots for new varieties on their farm. Some of their most popular varieties are Legacy, O'Neal, Rebel and Powder Blue.

From the time a blueberry bush is planted to production is roughly three years. At Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms, the Moore family plants new bushes almost every year based on the age of bushes and current yield. "Blueberry bushes are a perennial plant that can produce berries for anywhere from 15 to 30 years and beyond," Anna said. "We have bushes on this farm that are older than I am and are still producing berries. As the bushes cycle out of production, we plant new ones in the off-season, so we are always growing."

For blueberries, the off-season is typically mid-August to April each year, which is also when the Moore family is doing tasks

like planting or pruning their bushes so they are ready for another season. All varieties grown at the farm ripen at varying times, but harvest season starts on the farm around the second week of May each year. "We will hand harvest the first few pickings of each variety before switching to machine harvest. From mid-May to mid-July, we cycle through each variety on the farm as they become ripe, providing the freshest products for our customers. When a variety has been completely harvested, we typically hedge cut the majority of our bushes allowing for new growth during the summer months," Anna said. Once the blueberries are picked, they are brought into the packing house on-site for packaging and shipping.

The 13,000 square-foot packing facility is where the harvested berries are prepared to ship. "All of our blueberries are brought in from the field and placed into the cooler for at least 24-hours before being packed," Anna said. "This preserves their quality and flavor while also extending their shelf life." Once cooled, blueberries are placed into five processing lines that lead to four clamshell fillers, which then disperse them into the appropriate containers. Blueberries at Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms are mostly packaged into flats of 12 pint, 8 – 18oz, or 12 – 18oz containers based on customers' requirements and specifications.

Products from Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms can be found at most major grocery store chains, including Walmart, Sam's Club, Publix and Whole Foods under various labels like American Blueberries, Alpine Fresh, Carolina Fresh and Sunbelle. The Moore Family also offers pick-up at their farm stands, which are

(See Ivanhoe, page 4)

Centuries of beekeeping in North Carolina, from 1697 to today

North Carolina can trace its beekeeping roots back in state inventories to as early as 1697 and the formation of the N.C. Beekeepers Association to 1917, but surprisingly that isn't the oldest beginnings for either in the United States.

The Colorado State Beekeepers Association was formed in 1880 making it the oldest state association in the country. And honeybees were recorded on the shipping manifest for the British ship Discovery that landed in Jamestown, Va. in 1622.

But North Carolina has one of the largest beekeeping associations in the United States. The association, along with support from the bee programs with N.C. State University and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, underpin a solid foundation for success with beekeeping in North Carolina.

And that foundation has allowed interest in beekeeping in the state to continue to grow, said State Apiarist Don Hopkins.

"Interest is still surging," Hopkins said. "People are still interested in beekeeping and there is still lingering concern about the very poorly named colony collapse disorder. People ask 'where have the bees gone?' There are a lot of people who want to help the bees."

Interest picked up around 2006 when N.C. State University offered a grant program for people interested in beekeeping where each participant received a Russian queen and Italian queen and agreed to monitor their colonies for two seasons for varroa mite loads to compare if one queen's colony fared better than the other. Hopkins said there was a lot of



Learn about beekeeping at the N.C. State Fair.

discussion at the time that Russian bees were more resistant to varroa mites.

The state's roughly 80 active beekeeper clubs help continue to fuel interest, Hopkins said.

"Many of the clubs in the winter months offer short courses, usually done by volunteers in the clubs," he said. "There will be quite a number of people who take these classes. Then by the middle of March, these people are ready to start bees. While there is a fair amount of attrition, every year there is always a new wave of beekeepers."

Bees serve a big role in food production because they help pollinate crops. With agriculture and agribusiness in the state being a more than \$100 billion industry there is plenty of need for bees, so growing interest is welcome.

The state's beekeepers typically fall into one of three categories: Commercial beekeepers offering

pollination services and managing over 300 hives, sideliners with 300 or fewer hives that may also sell honey and bee products, and hobbyists who often have less than 50 hives.

"We probably have fewer than 20 commercial beekeepers, but some of those beekeepers have as many colonies as all of the rest of the hobbyists combined," Hopkins said, noting that many commercial bee hives are transported by tractor trailers across the country to pollinate almonds and other crops in California and later up the East Coast for fruit pollination.

Bees continue to face challenges and having an active beekeeping community helps keep watch over these industrious pollinators for diseases and pests.

Over the past 20 years, beekeepers have had to keep watch and treat their hives for colony collapse disorder and varroa mites.

With the discovery of yellow-

legged hornets in Georgia and South Carolina, beekeepers have a new enemy to watch out for and that is where having a strong association and active beekeepers is especially helpful.

"The very first yellow-legged hornet found in Savannah Georgia, was made through the observation of a brand new beekeeper. He was watching the bees going in and out and noticed a bigger insect was acting like a hockey goalie – intercepting the bees as they would return," Hopkins said.

"And the case in York County, South Carolina was a very similar occurrence," he added. "An observant beekeeper happened to notice this insect was hawking, which is how we describe that behavior. When we go to the upcoming beekeepers meeting, we will be mentioning to look for this hawking behavior around a hive."

The yellow-legged hornet feeds on

bees during its life as its food focus shifts to a more protein-rich diet.

"If you are eating insects as a source of protein, you have a lot of protein in a hive of bees," Hopkins said.

Hopkins and other industry professionals will have the opportunity to share this information at the upcoming association meeting that will be held July 9-11 in Winston-Salem. The meeting will include presentations on possible future pests, something Hopkins acknowledges will be a challenge for the industry.

"There are going to be speakers talking about pests that are not even in the country yet that we have to keep our eye out for," Hopkins said. "This year's lineup is going to be a pretty strong meeting."

For more information on the association, go to www.ncbeekeepers.org/.



Bottled North Carolina honey.