

Agricultural REVIEW

Volume: 101 - No. 10

October 2026

Raleigh, N.C.

Apply for 2027 NRCS funding by Oct. 30

Ag producers interested in receiving funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for the 2027 fiscal year should submit their applications by Oct. 30.

Programs include the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Regenerative Pilot Program.

Learn more about these programs and how to apply at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

Oct. 1 for the November issue
Nov. 2 for the December issue
Dec. 1 for the January 2025 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.

2026 N.C. State Fair offers blend of old and new

The N.C. State Fair has a history of blending tradition with fun new additions and that continues with the return of the 2026 N.C. State Fair, Oct. 15-25.

This year's lineup of new additions includes the 230-foot-tall America 250 Wheel, two new spectacular midway rides, an Americana 250 Band Organ, over 80 new and creative food items, and the return of the One-Man Band musical performer and country ham competitions.

In addition, this year marks the completion of the new Midway Events Center and major renovations to the Flower Show Building and Holshouser Building. The Village of Yesteryear, which is housed in Holshouser Building, will celebrate its 75th anniversary of



Heritage Circle will see improvements and additions at the 2026 N.C. State Fair.

heritage crafts at the fair.

"This marks a big year for the N.C. State Fair and completing some

much-needed improvements on the fairgrounds," said Kent Yelverton, State Fair director. "The State Fairgrounds

at its present location will mark 100 years in 2028 and with these investments we are preparing for the next 100 years."

America 250 Wheel

The America 250 Wheel, themed to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, will take fairgoers to new heights with its debut this year. The America 250 Wheel stands 230 feet tall and features 45 presidential themed gondolas that seat six riders. It will take the place of the Skygazer wheel behind Dorton Arena and stands 75 feet taller than the Skygazer with views for 14 miles. It is the largest portable observation wheel in the world. This is an independent ride that is not included in the unlimited

(See State Fair, pg. 2)

Submit soil samples now to avoid peak-season fees

Fall is a time for planting and preparing for the upcoming growing season. It is also a good time to submit soil samples to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for agronomic recommendations specific to what you are growing.

Now is also the time to submit soil samples for faster turnaround times and to avoid peak-season testing fees. Soil testing is free for North Carolina residents from April 1, 2026, through Nov. 30, 2026. During peak season, the fee is \$5 per sample. For 2026-27, peak soil testing season begins Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026, and runs through March 31, 2027.

Samples must physically arrive at the Agronomic Services Division at 4300 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC 27607, by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, 2026, to avoid the peak-season fee. The date of shipping, delivery to a local Cooperative Extension office, or postmark does not determine whether the fee applies. The samples must physically arrive at the Agronomic Services

facility before the fee goes into effect.

"The peak-season fee has helped us spread the sample processing time out, which benefits our farmers and residents," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Before it was initiated in 2013, turnaround time to receive test results was often greater than 12 weeks, and the lab was incredibly busy until mid-April. The fee encouraged early sampling, which enabled the lab to do a lot of analysis in the fall rather than in the winter.

"Another important aspect of the fee is that all revenue is invested back into the lab. This plays a critical role in helping the lab operate at high capacity," Troxler said. "The lab hires temporary employees with these funds and uses additional revenue to maintain equipment and, in some cases, replace equipment."

For the best service, it is critical that the lab receives all essential information along with a good-quality sample.

(See Samples, pg. 3)

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

We open the N.C. State Fair Oct. 15 at the state fairgrounds in Raleigh, and this year will mark the return of country ham competitions at the Fair. I believe the last country ham competition was held here in 1999.

In addition to these commercial and amateur contests, we will also be having demonstrations on the process of curing hams and how to cook different cuts of country ham.

Country ham judging will take place on opening day (Oct. 15), starting at 1 p.m. in the Got to Be NC Pavilion in Dorton Arena. Activities and demonstrations will take place throughout the afternoon, concluding with two presentations on the Got to

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Be NC Cooking Stage at 5 and 7 p.m.

Then on Monday, Oct. 19, there will be more demonstrations and activities in Heritage Circle beginning at noon with country ham and sweet potato biscuit cooking on a wood stove. Demonstrations highlighting the ingredients, techniques and salting process and more will be held at noon and 2 p.m. We will be joined by the cure master for Goodnight Brothers Country Ham in Boone, a commercial country ham producer.

In addition, there will be antique equipment used in the ham making process. For some people, I expect seeing this will bring back a lot of good memories and for others, it may be the first time they learn more about this Southern food tradition.

I can remember very well participating in hog killings with neighbors and family and learning how to cure ham from my granddaddy. Growing up, I spent a lot of time at my grandparents house and the lessons I learned from them I have shared with my sons.

One of the things I am most excited about showing is cooking ham and biscuits on a wood-burning stove. I have five wood-burning stoves in my

personal collection and we even use a couple of them at my house. I appreciate how these stoves changed the lives of families from cooking over open fires to having something that could accommodate multiple pans, bake and even heat water at the same time.

When we first started talking about bringing the competitions back, I knew that having ham curing demonstrations in Heritage Circle would be a good fit with the type of educational displays that take place there.

We have worked hard to update and expand Heritage Circle so we could showcase more examples of farm life skills and old-time traditions and provide a space that offers educational opportunities for families in a relaxed environment.

Refurbishing the tobacco barn so we could cure a barn of tobacco during the fair with wood fires, adding the tobacco stringing/looping contest on the first Friday, opening up the blacksmith shop to allow people to see the work of the smithy, building the Tobacco Pavilion where we hold a mock tobacco auction on the second Friday, expanding into the wooded area up the hill with more N.C. Forest Service and Soil and

Water Conservation displays and activities, building a dog-trot style log building that will host a variety of North Carolina wineries and a wine garden has breathed new life into Heritage Circle.

Some fairgoers may remember that work started last year on rebuilding the Flower Show building with the demolition of the existing buildings. For 2025, the flowers and plants were displayed in a temporary tent and I appreciate everyone's patience with the building process.

We expect the new Flower Show building to be complete and in use this year. It will be a big change for the area, carrying the log building feel of Heritage Circle through to the Flower and Garden area. Our goal is to improve the experience for fairgoers and invest in the fairgrounds so it will continue to serve North Carolinians for the next 100 years. I think fairgoers will like the new space and it will be a better space to see all the flowers, plants and arrangements entered.

As you can see, we have a lot planned for you. I look forward to seeing you in Raleigh Oct. 15-25.

Agricultural Review

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Andrea E. Ashby Editor
Jamey Cross Managing Editor
Jackie Bullock.....Ads & Circulation Mgr.
Heather Overton..... Staff Writer
Brandon Herring Staff Writer
Taylor Harris Social Media

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PHONE: 919-707-3001

Steve Troxler
Commissioner

DIVISIONS

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Emergency Programs.....Kelly Nilsson
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Food Distribution..... Walter Beal
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Biochar

(Continued from pg. 8)



A carbonizer is used to heat organic biomass material and convert it into biochar.

told,” Buchanan said. “Without the paper mill, they can’t get a market for the pulpwood, and without the money for the pulpwood, the value in the timber alone is not enough to justify cutting out pulpwood if it can’t be sold.” Biochar could also help build back soils. As a soil amendment, it can help improve some of the characteristics that make soil productive. So it’s not just fertilizer.

The porous nature of biochar means it can help soil hold water and nutrients. For farmers, that can have several potential benefits. Biochar can improve soil structure, provide habitat for soil microorganisms and help keep water and nutrients from moving out of the soil and into waterways. Creating biochar also creates a demand for woody material that might otherwise be burned, mulched, landfilled or left to decompose. That could be particularly significant in western North Carolina. “One of the things that helped kick this off was a lot of the woody debris coming from Hurricane Helene. It is readily available to be used for biochar,” Vetter said.

However, the long-term goal isn’t to require farmers to use biochar made from Helene debris. Rather, the program creates demand for qualified biochar from a variety of sources. That could include clean pulpwood once the supply of Helene debris diminishes. Other parts of the state may have other sources, including biochar made from agricultural or animal waste. “The only mandate is that whatever the biochar is made from meets testing standards that are set forth at NRCS to be sure that material is clean and uncontaminated,” Vetter said.

Getting biochar to farmers

Ultimately, the goal of the program is to help farmers across the state use biochar as a conservation practice. “You’re talking soil health. The more organic matter in the form of biochar that you add to the soil, the more nutrient-holding capacity and the more water infiltration you’re going to get. And so if there’s more water going in, there’s going to be less water running off,” Vetter said. “Our intended use of this grant is to get agricultural producers applying this as a soil amendment to help water quality and then benefit agricultural production also. That’s the idea here.”

The process will work much like other conservation cost-share programs. A farmer works with their local Soil and Water Conservation District to determine whether biochar is appropriate for their farm and how much should be applied.

(See Biochar, pg. 6)

State Fair

(Continued from pg. 1)

ride wristband and requires a separate ticket. **Duke Energy Military Appreciation Day, Wednesday, Oct. 21**

To honor the service of U.S. Military and National Guard members past and present, Duke Energy Military Appreciation Day will offer free admission on Wednesday, Oct. 21, to military and guard personnel (including veterans) plus three guests with proof of identification.

Activities throughout the day include a parade through the grounds starting at 10 a.m., a military program and performances by the 440th Army Band on the Live and Local Music Stage presented by Curtis Media Group.

Two spectacular new midway rides – Twin Twister and Casino

Powers Great American Amusements, the midway provider, is adding two new spectacular rides to its lineup for 2026, promising high-energy, high-flying excitement with the Twin Twister and a Vegas-themed spinning thrill ride called Casino.

Twin Twister features two platforms of seats (think the Rainbow ride times two) on back-to-back arms that rotate clockwise and counterclockwise, lifting riders up and around completing a full 360-degree rotation.

The platform for the new Casino ride looks like a giant Roulette wheel with brightly colored cars spinning riders around in different directions while the base also spins.

New entertainment – One-Man Band, Americana 250 Band Organ and Patriotic Light Show

Marc Dobson, the popular One-Man Band, will perform four shows daily near the Scott Building. His musical setup and ability to play “9.1 instruments” is unique and impressive and his song selection includes hits from the 60s to today. Look for a crowd because the One-Man Band draws fairgoers in with his witty banter and musicianship.

Carrying on the patriotic theme, the Americana 250 Band Organ is an ornate mechanical musical organ that will fill the air with the classic sounds of upbeat, carnival-themed music. Band organs were once regular features of fairs providing music for merry-go-rounds and carousels.

In addition, a Patriotic Light Show will be held nightly



The Casino ride will make its N.C. State Fair debut this year.

near Kiddieland in Cotton Park featuring music and dancing lights. The show starts at 6 p.m. and repeats at the start of each hour until 11 p.m.

Country Ham competitions and demonstrations sponsored by the N.C. Farm Bureau, food

After a 27-year break, country ham competitions will return to the State Fair with judging of hams taking place Thursday, Oct. 15, starting at 1 p.m. in Dorton Arena. In addition, demonstrations on how to cure a ham and how to cook this Southern delicacy will take place in Dorton Arena on Oct. 15 at 5 and 7 p.m. and in Heritage Circle on Monday, Oct. 19, from noon to 4 p.m. in cooperation with Goodnight Brothers Country Ham.

Fairgoers say food is the No. 1 reason they attend the fair and as is tradition, a number of fair vendors are bringing delicious originality to the menu this year with over 80 new food items making their debut at the fair. The full list will be released in early October on the N.C. State Fair’s Facebook page. Hint: Biscoff cookies, Hawaiian rolls and international flavors are trending among this year’s new foods.

Building improvements

The new Midway Event Center will be the site of the opening ceremony to be held Friday, Oct. 16, at 11 a.m. This year, the multi-use facility will host several food vendors during the State Fair and offer seating in and around the building. Eventually, plans call for year-round food options in the building plus a large conference facility for rent.

The Flower Show will move into the newly rebuilt log-covered building that replaced the temporary tent that hosted flower entries in 2025. In addition, air conditioning has been added to the Holshouser Building as part of its remodel and roof replacement.

Make your plans to attend the N.C. State Fair Oct. 15-25. Advance tickets are on sale now through Oct. 15. The fair offers an experience unique to North Carolina for all who attend, and is an unparalleled value with free entertainment, thrilling rides and games, thousands of animals, endless activities, competitions, vendors and creative deep-fried delights. For more information, visit www.ncstatefair.org.



Ag company opens facility in Sampson County

Montauk Renewables, Inc. and its subsidiary, Montauk Renewables Ag, LLC, recently announced that Sampson County leaders joined Montauk’s Chief Executive Officer, Sean McClain, and members of its board of directors to celebrate the official opening of the company’s Turkey, NC facility.

The project represents a \$200 million capital investment and commitment to rural North Carolina.

“As of the end of August, we have entered into long-term agreements with over 80 separate farming locations, providing us access to more than 415,000 of the hog spaces we are targeting for our first phase of development. Farmers are the backbone of the North Carolina economy, and

we are thankful to partner with them and Sampson County,” said Sean McClain, Montauk Renewables CEO.

State and local officials worked with the company to transform the former Bay Valley Foods Distribution Center into a major investment providing excellent jobs and expanding the tax base in Sampson County.

The company has developed technology that allows them to transform swine waste into electricity.

“I am grateful that agriculture and agribusiness continue to invest and grow in North Carolina. Montauk’s capital investment is great news for Sampson County. This is not only good news for the pork producers, but the biochar produced here will also improve nutrient and water retention,

supporting healthier soil and stronger crop yields,” said Sen. Brent Jackson, a Sampson County farmer and leader on agricultural issues in the General Assembly.

Senator Jackson serves as chairman of the Appropriations Base Budget Committee and chairman of the Agriculture, Energy and Environment Committee in the NC Senate. Agriculture has an annual economic impact of more than \$100 billion for the North Carolina economy, according to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It is the state’s top industry, supporting roughly one in five jobs and spanning more than 42,000 farms across 8 million acres.

Contributed by Montauk Renewables and edited for brevity.

Samples

(Continued from pg. 1)

The following steps can help prevent delays that may occur when samples are submitted without the required information:

Use only official NCDA&CS soil sample boxes. Soil sample boxes and submission forms are available at local county Cooperative Extension offices and at the Agronomic Services Division, 4300 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC 27607. Fill the soil box to the red line on the outside of the box. Required information on the box includes the client’s name, address and sample ID.

Complete the soil submission form. Required information includes the client’s full name and address, a crop code, a valid email address and a phone number. The crop code is important because it allows the lab to provide crop-specific recommendations. Reports are delivered by email.

Make sure the information on the soil submission form matches the information written on the soil sample boxes.

Keep a copy of your submission form. Save a copy or photo of the completed form for your records.

Package samples securely. Tightly package soil sample boxes in a sturdy shipping container to prevent damage. Do not use padded mailing envelopes, as the boxes may be crushed.

For faster delivery, private carriers such as UPS or FedEx deliver directly to the Agronomic Services facility. USPS deliveries go through an off-site mail center which adds time to delivery. Some county Cooperative Extension offices also collect samples for delivery to the division. Clients should confirm that the delivery schedule meets their needs and allows samples to arrive before the peak-season deadline.

Consider using the public portal, PALS, for online submission. This feature allows clients to enter submission information online and helps ensure that accurate information is provided for the sample. If using PALS, make sure the submission is completed and enclose a printed copy of the submission form with the soil samples.

Remember: the dates of online submission, shipping, postmark, or drop off at a local Cooperative Extension office do not determine the fee. Whether the cost is \$0 or \$5 is based on the date the samples physically arrive at the Agronomic Services facility.

Following these guidelines will help the Agronomic Services Soil Testing Lab provide efficient and timely service to its customers.

For more information, contact the NCDA&CS Agronomic Services Division at 919-664-1600

Bucolic briefs

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Fall 2026 Sale is scheduled for Oct. 22-26 at the Randolph County Agricultural Center at 1880 U.S. Hwy. 64 East in Asheboro. This is the same sale previously hosted in Raleigh since 2003.

Huge sale to buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport: saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing, barn supplies, carts, other animal items and more.

Consignors drop off priced, tagged items Oct. 20 from 1 - 9 p.m. and Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sale dates are Oct. 22-26, offering an extra day for shopping. Special premier shopping night (open to public \$10 cash admission - age 12 under free) on Oct. 22 from 4 - 10 p.m. Open shopping free admission Oct. 23-24 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Oct. 25 from 11a.m. - 8 p.m. and Oct. 26 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. - new added day (many items discounted 1/2 off on last day).

Consignors pick up unsold items on Oct. 28, 3 - 8 p.m. or Oct. 29, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Note: Items not picked up will be donated. Please make arrangements if you want unsold items returned.

Consignors earn 70%. Volunteers all ages needed Oct. 19-29. Shop before consignors, consignors shop before public. Sign up on website. Payment accepted: cash preferred, credit cards and/ or debit with 3% fee per card transaction. NO checks accepted. Only Service Dogs allowed in this facility. Parking is free.

Details: www.EquestrianExchange.com

Lynn Beeson, 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright, 540-977-1950

The N.C. Veterinary Medical Association and Friends of NCVMA will host an Equine Vaccination Clinic at the Ashe County Agriculture Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10. Each horse will receive protection against Eastern and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE & WEE), tetanus, influenza, rabies and receive a seasonal dewormer. Coggins testing will be optional and included in the \$25/horse fee. RSVP at <https://members.ncvma.org/page/AsheEquineVaccinationClinic>

\$65 million invested in forest recovery

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service and the North Carolina Forest Service recently signed a nearly \$65 million, 10-year Good Neighbor Agreement to support Hurricane Helene recovery efforts in Western North Carolina.

Under the comprehensive agreement, the NCFS will reduce hazardous fuels across areas of wildland-urban interface impacted by the storm, as well as develop strategies to address non-native and invasive species that can potentially thrive in the aftermath of a landscape-scale disturbance. The agreement will also increase the pace of forest restoration while bringing new job opportunities to the impacted area.

“This is a significant investment in Western N.C. and in helping protect homes, property and timber resources in the region from the increased fire risk of downed trees and debris that remains on public and private lands following Hurricane Helene,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “The Good Neighbor Agreement and funding will allow work to remove these potential fire fuels to also take place on private lands in disaster impacted counties that meet shared management goals, which I know will be especially beneficial.”

NCFS estimates that Helene impacted more than 800,000 acres of forestland in Western North Carolina, including tens of thousands of downed timber across the Nantahala and Pisgah national forests, creating an unprecedented level of fuel for wildfires that continues to pose a significant safety risk to neighboring homes and communities.

Downed debris and changes to the landscape following the storm have also created access issues in certain areas of the forest, potentially placing firefighters’ lives at risk—a serious concern for response agencies as the

region prepares to enter a potentially busy fall fire season.

“In the two years since Helene, we’ve already experienced substantial wildfire activity in areas with some of the heaviest amounts of blowdowns, but thanks to the close cooperation between federal and state responders, these fires were quickly contained,” said Forest Supervisor James Melonas with the National Forests in North Carolina. “That’s what makes this Good Neighbor Agreement so important. Despite the amount of work that has been completed to reduce hazardous fuels, an unacceptable level of risk remains for families living in vulnerable communities. This agreement is a major step forward toward mitigating those risks.”

With four national forests across North Carolina, the USDA Forest Service and NCFS have worked closely together through the two agencies’ decades-long partnership. After Hurricane Helene struck, NCFS leadership locally and in Raleigh quickly reached out to the National Forests in North Carolina to begin coordinating response efforts.

“When disasters like Hurricane Helene impact our communities, our agencies are trained to respond, to protect the public and the forest resources we all benefit from and

depend on,” said NCFS Assistant Commissioner and State Forester Greg Hicks. “After Helene, we knew we were looking at years of recovery and mitigation work to reduce increased wildfire risk across Western North Carolina. We knew the needs would require substantial funding and manpower. The Good Neighbor Authority and strong agency and community partnerships are critical tools for not only restoring forests and communities but for preparing them for wildfire.”

What is the Good Neighbor Authority?

First approved by Congress in 2001 and later expanded by the 2018 Farm Bill, the Good Neighbor Authority allows the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements with state agencies, county governments and federally recognized tribes to engage in critical management work to keep forests healthy and productive. These cross-jurisdictional agreements provide federal funding to address issues such as watershed management, invasive species mitigation and fuel reduction. More information on the Good Neighbor Authority is available on the USDA Forest Service website.



From left: State Forester Greg Hicks, Forest Supervisor James Melonas and Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

Crop This! Photo Contest — Agriculture at the Fair

This month's winner of the Crop This! Photo Contest comes from Kady Gantt of Yancey County. Pictured is her son Sam Gantt with his Market Turkey that earned placement at the N.C. State Fair!

Our monthly photo contest looks to highlight agriculture across North Carolina. Through your images, we hope to tell the story of our state's diverse and rich agricultural roots.

Each month, we announce a theme focusing on a scene you might find on a working farm, agritourism destination or agribusiness venture. We challenge you to find or take a photo that fits the theme and submit it!

The winning photo of the month will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Ag Review and on our NCDA&CS social media channels. Each month's winner will also be considered for the 2026 Crop This! Photo of the Year.

November theme: Fall Hayride Fun Deadline for submission: Oct. 15

Send your photos to us at ncdablog@gmail.com. Include your name, county and a brief description of your photo. Full terms and conditions are online.



N.C. Mountain State Fair wraps successful 2026 run

The North Carolina Mountain State Fair wrapped up its 10-day run at the WNC Agricultural Center on Sept. 20, capping a year that saw strong attendance, a successful canned food drive benefiting the MANNA FoodBank and competitive livestock and horticulture shows highlighting some of the best of Western N.C. agriculture. The fair drew 153,260 fairgoers over the 10 days.

“The Mountain State Fair has become such a special tradition for so many families, and that was evident by the smiles you could see on people’s faces and the laughter you would hear walking around,” said fair manager Jeff Barham. “Being able to provide an opportunity for families and friends to come together, learn about agriculture, share delicious fair food and enjoy some of the music and entertainment on the grounds is one of the greatest rewards of putting on the fair each year.”

Competition entries filled the Oakwood Homes Expo Building with 5,688 entries in exhibits on display. In addition, there were 3,270 entries in livestock competitions.

The horticulture competition saw the largest jump in entries, with a 66% increase over last year.

Other highlights from the 2026 Mountain State Fair include:

- Guests brought 21,971 pounds of food donations on Ingles & MANNA Food Day, as the Fair continued its commitment to support the community and the food bank. The generosity of fair visitors will create more than 18,310 meals for area neighbors in need.

- The Fair continued its tradition of honoring longtime livestock supporters and growing future leaders. Mark Mills, the assistant superintendent of Mountain State Fair livestock shows, and Cameron Greene, who recently retired as assistant manager of the WNC Agriculture Center, were inducted

into the fair’s Livestock Hall of Fame. Adelee Grace Dillon, who is pursuing an animal science degree at the University of Tennessee, and Ellie Shuping, who is studying poultry science at NC State University, received the Edith Vanderbilt Youth Livestock Endowment.

- The Moo-ternity Ward welcomed 12 calves during the fair and provided local FFA students the opportunity to apply their skills and answer questions

from visitors. The momma cows on display were again provided by a local Mills River dairy.

- Knitters, crocheters, and quilters from across the mountains created 1,042 caps and 140 warm covers for cancer patients through Caps & Covers for Cancer, supported by the Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair and Novant Health. Yarn is provided by Asheville Radiology Associates, and

the finished products are distributed to patients through Messino Cancer Center.

Planning is now underway for the 2027 N.C. Mountain State Fair, coming to the WNC Agricultural Center Sept. 10-19.



Animals, food, rides, live entertainment and music made for a fun-filled week!

Winners announced in 2026 Mountain State Fair livestock shows

FLETCHER – The 2026 N.C. Mountain State Fair featured nearly 3,300 entries in competitive livestock events. Following are winners in this year’s livestock shows:

Youth Poultry Shows

Poultry Standard and Commercial Egg Layer

- Overall Champion - Poultry Standard & Commercial Egg Layer – Benjamin Gaddy, Buncombe County
- Overall Reserve Champion – Poultry Standard, Commercial Egg Layer, and Guinea Show – Wyatt Merrell, Henderson County

Youth Standard Poultry

- Champion – Benjamin Gaddy, Buncombe County
- Reserve Champion: Wyatt Merrell, Henderson County

Youth Commercial Class Egg Layers

- Champion – Gabriella Baldwin, Buncombe County
- Reserve Champion – Wyatt Merrell, Henderson County

Youth Poultry Egg Show Best of Show

- White Shelled Eggs – Wyatt Merrell, Henderson County
- Brown Shelled Eggs – Rory Raymer, Polk County
- Blue/Green Shelled Eggs – Rory Raymer, Polk County

Youth Poultry Show Champions

- Overall Champion – Bantams & Guineas – Genevieve Marshall, Buncombe County
- Overall Reserve Champion – Eli Davis, Buncombe County
- Youth Bantam Poultry Champion – Genevieve Marshall, Buncombe County
- Youth Bantam Poultry Reserve Champion – Eli Davis, Buncombe County
- Youth Guinea Show Champion and Reserve Champion – Aubree Coggins,



Henderson County
ARBA Youth Rabbit Show
Best Rabbit in Show

- Show A – Aubree Coggins, Henderson County
- Show B – Harper Drum, Alamance

Best Reserve Rabbit in Show

- Show A – Brooke Cunningham, Caldwell County
- Show B – Emma Arble, Randolph County

Showmanship Champions

- Junior Youth 8 and under – Keegan Capps, Henderson County
- Intermediate Youth 9 – 13 years old – Emma Arble, Randolph County
- Senior Youth 14 – 18 years old – Shiloh Breeding, Wilkes County

ADGA Dairy Goat Show
Showmanship Champions

- Junior Fitting and Showing, 9-12 years old – Hannah Walker, Surry County

• Senior Fitting and Showing, 13-18 years old – Abigail Whitney, Oglethorpe County, Ga.

Open Junior Doe Show Champions

• Best of Show – Terri Sines, Alamance County

Nigerian Dwarf Junior Doe

• Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion – Tina Washburn, McDowell County

Oberhasli – Junior Doe

• Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion – Roslyn Noar, Johnston County

Recorded Grades – Junior Doe

• Grand Champion – Genevieve Cranford, Randolph County

• Reserve Grand Champion – Jessica Bell, Anderson County, SC

Saanens – Junior Doe

• Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion – Christine Owen, Madison County

Toggenburgs – Junior Doe

• Grand Champion – Jessica Bell, Anderson County, SC

Alpines – Junior Doe

• Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion – Christine Owen, Madison County

LaManchas – Junior Doe

• Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion – Terri Sines, Alamance County

Nubians – Junior Doe

• Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion – Marianna Harrison, Cabarrus County

Open Senior Doe Show Champions

• Best Doe in Show Overall,

Best Udder in Show Overall and Best Dairy Herd in Show Overall – Christine Owen, Madison County

• Nigerian Dwarf – Senior Doe Grand Champion and Champion Challenge – Teri Pryor, Greenville County, SC

• Nigerian Dwarf – Senior Doe Reserve Grand Champion – Amber White, Newberry County, SC

• Nigerian Dwarf – Premier Exhibitor – Abigail Whitney, Oglethorpe County, Ga.

• Oberhasli – Senior Doe Grand Champion, Senior Doe Reserve Grand Champion, Champion Challenge and Premier Exhibitor – Roslyn Noar, Johnston County

• Recorded Grades – Senior Doe Grand Champion, Senior Doe Reserve Grand Champion, Champion Challenge and Premier Exhibitor – Jessica Bell, Anderson County, SC

• Saanens – Senior Doe Grand Champion, Senior Doe Reserve Grand Champion, Champion Challenge and Premier Exhibitor – Christine Owen, Madison County

• Alpines – Senior Doe Grand Champion, Champion Challenge and Premier Exhibitor – Ellynor Dowd, Surry County

• Alpines – Senior Doe Reserve Grand Champion – Jessica Bell, Anderson County, SC

• LaManchas – Senior Doe Grand Champion, Senior Doe Reserve Grand Champion, Champion Challenge and Premier Exhibitor – Terri Sines, Alamance County

• Nubians – Senior Doe Grand Champion and Champion Challenge – Emberlynn Dowd, Surry County

• Nubians – Senior Doe Reserve Grand Champion and Premier Exhibitor – Hannah Walker, Surry County

Youth Junior Doe Show Champions

• Nigerian Dwarf – Junior Doe Grand Champion – Elizabeth Dowd, Surry County

• Nigerian Dwarf – Junior Doe Reserve Grand Champion – Abigail Whitney, Oglethorpe County, Ga.

• Oberhasli – Junior Doe Grand Champion and Junior Doe Reserve Grand Champion – Andrew Harris, Cleveland County

• Recorded Grades – Junior Doe Grand Champion and Junior Doe Reserve Grand



Congratulations to all our talented exhibitors!

(See Results, pg. 5)

Results

(Continued from pg. 4)

- Champion – Genevieve Cranford, Randolph County
 - Saanens – Junior Doe Grand Champion and Junior Doe Reserve Grand Champion – Genevieve Cranford, Randolph County
 - Alpines – Junior Doe Grand Champion and Junior Doe Reserve Grand Champion – Ellynor Dowd, Surry County
 - LaManchas – Junior Doe Grand Champion and Junior Doe Reserve Grand Champion – Evelyn Dowd, Surry County
 - Nubians – Junior Doe Grand Champion – Arlie Smith, Cleveland County
 - Nubians – Junior Doe Reserve Grand Champion – Hannah Walker, Surry County
- Youth Senior Doe Show Champions
- Nigerian Dwarf – Senior Doe Champion – Abigail Whitney, Oglethorpe County, Ga.
 - Nigerian Dwarf – Senior Doe Reserve Champion – Elizabeth Dowd, Surry County
 - Oberhasli – Senior Doe Champion – Andrew Harris, Cleveland County
 - Oberhasli – Senior Doe Reserve Champion – Charlotte Towell, Cleveland County
 - Recorded Grades – Senior Doe Champion – Arlie Smith, Cleveland County
 - Saanens – Senior Doe Champion – Anson Cranford, Randolph County
 - Saanens – Senior Doe Reserve Champion – Genevieve Cranford, Randolph County
 - Alpines – Senior Doe Champion – Ellynor Dowd, Surry County
 - Alpines – Senior Doe Reserve Champion – Ellynor Dowd, Surry County
 - LaManchas – Senior Doe Grand Champion – Genevieve

- Cranford, Randolph County
 - LaManchas – Senior Doe Reserve Champion – Ellynor Dowd, Surry County
 - Nubians – Senior Doe Champion – Emberlynn Dowd, Surry County
 - Nubians – Senior Doe Reserve Champion – Hannah Walker, Surry County
 - Best Doe In Show Overall – Ellynor Dowd, Surry County
 - Best Udder in Show Overall – Abigail Whitney, Oglethorpe County, Ga.
 - Youth Herd – Emberlynn Dowd, Surry County
- Junior Meat Breed Sheep Shows**
- Junior Meat Breed Sheep Showmanship Champions*
- Novice Youth 8 years old and under – Ella Hill, Stokes County
 - Junior Youth 9 – 13 years old – Meredith Poole, Franklin County
 - Senior Youth 14 - 18 years old – Scarlett Denning, Wayne County
 - Senior Plus Youth 19 - 21 years old – Hattie Jo Powell, Johnston County
- Junior Market Lamb Show Champions*
- Grand Champion – Zadock Jennings, Johnston County
 - Reserve Grand Champion – Brantley Meadows, Buncombe County
 - Got to Be NC Grand Champion – Zadock Jennings, Johnston County
 - Got to Be NC Reserve Grand Champion – Brantley Meadows, Buncombe County
- Junior Meat Breed Ewe Show Champions*
- Grand Champion Jr. Meat Breed Ewe (Overall) – Scarlett Denning, Wayne County
 - Reserve Grand Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe

- (Overall), Got to Be NC Grand Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe (Overall) and Got to Be NC Reserve Grand Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe (Overall) – Lydia Wilson, Rowan County
- Dorset Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Meredith Poole, Franklin County
- Dorset Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe, Dorset Got to Be NC Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe and Dorset Got to Be NC Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Valerie Poole, Franklin County
- Hampshire Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe and Hampshire Got to Be NC Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Lydia Wilson, Rowan County
- Hampshire Reserve Champion Jr. Meat Breed Ewe and Hampshire Got to Be NC Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Charleigh Settle, Iredell County
- Southdown Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe and Southdown Got to Be NC Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – McKinley Settle, Iredell County
- Katahdin Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe, Katahdin Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe and Katahdin Got to Be NC Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Margaret Deal, Rowan County
- Katahdin Got to Be NC Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Guy Deal, Rowan County
- Dorper Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe and Dorper Got to Be NC Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Emily Hernandez, Davie County
- Dorper Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe



These young exhibitors have bright futures ahead!

- and Dorper Got to Be NC Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Lyla Sapp, Davie County
 - Other Purebreds Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Scarlett Denning, Wayne County
 - Other Purebreds Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe and Other Purebreds Got to Be NC Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Meredith Poole, Franklin County
 - Other Purebreds Got to Be NC Reserve Champion – Payton Hand, Rowan County
 - Commercial Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Scarlett Denning, Johnston County
 - Commercial Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe and Commercial Got to Be NC Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Lydia Wilson, Rowan County
 - Commercial Got to Be NC Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Kharter Payne, Buncombe County
 - Commercial Hair Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe – Elizabeth Sanner, Iredell County
 - Commercial Hair Reserve Champion Junior Meat Breed Ewe and Commercial Hair Got to Be NC Champion Meat Breed Ewe – Zachariah Gaither, Iredell County
 - Commercial Hair Got to Be NC Reserve Champion Meat Breed Ewe – Maddie Young, Iredell County
- Find more results listed in the October Ag Review!

Mountain State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame inducts two

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler inducted two longtime N.C. Mountain State Fair employees into the N.C. Mountain State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame. Mark Mills of Peachland and Cameron Greene of Fletcher were inducted for their decades of support to the fair and the livestock industry in Western North Carolina.

“The N.C. Mountain State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame is a prestigious group of folks who have given so much of their time and energy to support the Mountain State Fair livestock shows. Both Cameron Greene and Mark Mills are deserving of this honor,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Both men have gone above and beyond the duties of what was required in their jobs. Their work reflected a true dedication to livestock programs at the fair. While much of their work was behind the scenes, countless youth and adult participants have benefitted from the results of their efforts.”

Mark Mills has been a fixture at the N.C. Mountain State Fair since 1999. That year, he was responsible for checking in livestock coming to

the fair. In 2000, he began his role as assistant superintendent of livestock shows. In this role he assists with everything from class set up, weigh ins, show set up, ribbons and more.

“A lot of what Mark does is behind-the-scenes work,” said Troxler. “But it is this work that ensures the livestock shows at the Mountain State Fair run smoothly. These shows are successful in large part because of his dedication and hard work. Giving youth great memories in the show ring leaves a lasting impact. The lessons they learn showing animals not only teaches them about our state’s No. 1 industry but can also help them be successful with any future career path they choose.”

Mills and his wife, Melissa, were both raised on cattle farms. They live in Peachland and have two sons, Clint and Mason. They also farm and have 150 cows and around 100 sheep.

Cameron Greene served as the assistant manager of the WNC Ag Center for 30 years, retiring this past February. When Greene first started, there was a single livestock arena. Now, the Ag Center has grown into one of the largest event venues in Western North Carolina.



From left: Cameron Greene, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and Mike Mills.

“For nearly 30 years, Cameron was a big part of the growth of the Ag Center,” said Troxler, “and he dedicated himself to making it a great place to work, visit and host events. He’s been a big part of maintaining standards and making improvements whenever and wherever possible.”

Greene put in many 14- to 16-hour days going above and beyond the normal tasks of his job to ensure the fair was operating well and that people had what they needed.

“Cameron has a passion for service and for the Mountain State Fair. In his three decades of service,

his work made a difference for our fair attendees and to our livestock exhibitors” said Troxler.

Greene’s hometown is Fletcher. He’s the son of David and Millie Greene. He and his wife Desiree have three children, Devan, Dawson and Caden.

2026 Got to Be NC Whole Hog Cookoff crowns champion

FLETCHER — The smoke has cleared and a champion has been named at the 2026 Got to Be NC Whole Hog Cookoff at the N.C. Mountain State Fair. Showtime’s Legit BBQ of Benson, captained by Kevin Peterson, took home first place and the \$2,000 grand prize, earning bragging rights as this year’s champion.

Grate Sauces & Rubs of Goldsboro, captained by Ralph LeGrand, finished second, earning \$1,500, while Killing Time Grilling Crew of Clinton, captained by Tim Walters, took third place and \$1,000.

For Peterson, the cookoff was about more than taking home the top prize. “It’s a beautiful atmosphere for this competition here at the Mountain State Fair and to be allowed to be part of this competition that gives back to the local FFA is just awesome,” said Peterson. “I do want to give a special shout out to the sponsors,



The winners of the 2026 Got to Be NC Whole Hog Cookoff.

judges and event coordinators who worked so hard. Without them, this wouldn’t be possible.”

The Got to Be NC Whole Hog

Cookoff celebrates a North Carolina tradition while connecting the people who raise the hogs, the pitmasters who cook them and the communities that

support agriculture.

The barbecue prepared during the competition will continue giving back after the last coals have cooled. Meat from the cookoff was donated to the Pisgah and Tuscola high school FFA chapters, which sold it to raise money to help send FFA students to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis this October.

“At Champion Credit Union, supporting the communities we serve has been at the heart of what we do for more than 94 years,” said Tina Lance, market executive at Champion

Credit Union. “We’re proud to be a sponsor of the Got to Be NC Whole Hog Barbecue Cookoff, a competition that celebrates North Carolina barbecue, agriculture and community. This event also supports the students of Pisgah and Tuscola FFA, giving them valuable hands-on experiences and opportunities to learn, grow and prepare for their futures.”

The Got to Be NC Whole Hog Cookoff was made possible with support from Bone Suckin’ Sauce, Champion Credit Union and the N.C. Soybean Producers Association, along with partners Looper Family Farms and Apple Brandy Prime Cuts.

From North Carolina hog farmers to the pitmasters tending the fire to FFA members preparing to become the next generation of agricultural leaders, the cookoff brings North Carolina agriculture full circle.

NCFS Stanly Co. team recognized



Deputy State Forester Kevin Harvell (left) pictured with the Stanly County team.

N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) Stanly County staff members Josh Hawley, Cody Hartsell and Wade Blalock are the 2026 recipients of the State Forester’s Prescribed Burning Award, which honors individuals committed to expanding the use of prescribed fire in North Carolina.

Presented each year during the N.C. Prescribed Fire Council’s annual meeting, the State Forester’s Prescribed Burning Award recognizes an NCFS employee or team that demonstrates leadership and excellence in prescribed burning across North Carolina’s forests.

“The Stanly County team completed 11 prescribed burns that treated a total of 1,306 acres in Stanly County during state fiscal year 2025-2026,” said Keith Money, regional forester for NCFS Region 2. “Six of these operations were hazard reduction burns, two of which were conducted at Morrow Mountain State Park as part of an active prescribed fire program to reduce wildfire hazards and support safe, effective wildfire control in the future. This work has reduced wildfire impacts for the park and

surrounding communities and has helped maintain overall ecosystem health.”

NCFS Stanly County Ranger Josh Hawley demonstrated exceptional leadership and coordination during the year, serving as burn boss for eight of the 11 prescribed fire operations. From communicating objectives and coordinating resources to executing each burn plan on the ground, Hawley played a critical role in a successful year of prescribed fire in the county.

Wade Blalock, NCFS Stanly County forest fire equipment operator, has been an invaluable asset for the county’s prescribed fire program. His strong working relationships with partners, including Morrow Mountain State Park, and his expertise in constructing quality fire lines while minimizing impacts on natural resources have been central to sustaining the county’s success with prescribed fire.

As the newest member of the Stanly County team, Assistant County Ranger Cody Hartsell provided critical support on every burn, serving in various roles for training value and often patrolling and monitoring burn sites for several days after operations were completed.

“Prescribed fire is a critical tool for landowners and land managers in the state,” said NCFS Assistant Commissioner and State Forester Greg Hicks. “Josh and his team in Stanly County carried out safe and effective prescribed burn operations, despite short burn windows caused by persistent drought and wildfire response needs. Achieving that requires a deep commitment to serving citizens and upholding the agency’s mission to protect, manage and promote North Carolina’s forest resources. We’re proud of these guys and the example they set for how prescribed fire can and must be used to keep forests healthy and productive while preparing our communities for wildfire.”

Prescribed fires are low intensity fires intentionally set in a defined area to achieve specific management objectives such as improving wildlife habitat, reducing wildfire risk and promoting healthier forestland. This important, low-cost forest management tool is used throughout North Carolina.

To learn more about the benefits of prescribed fire and how it may help keep your woodlands healthy and resilient, visit our website.

Biochar

(Continued from pg. 2)

Once the application is approved, the farmer purchases biochar from a qualified supplier and has it applied to the field. The program then reimburses the producer based on the approved payment scenario.

The program also establishes standards for the biochar itself. Suppliers must have their product tested to ensure it meets NRCS requirements, helping ensure that farmers are receiving a material appropriate for agricultural use.

Conservation district staff and other partners will receive training on biochar, allowing them to help farmers determine when and how the practice can be used. That training is being built into the program for the long term so they understand how to implement the program locally long after the grant ends.

The Division also plans to work with NC State Extension, NCDA&CS agronomists and other partners to reach producers through outreach events and demonstrations.

By the time the grant period is over in three years, the goal is to have moved biochar from an emerging possibility into a full statewide cost-share conservation program just like other Division programs. It could help keep nutrients and sediment out of waterways, provide another market for material from forest management, offer a productive use for some woody storm debris and give farmers another tool for building resilient soils.

Classified Advertising

Ads are run free for N.C. residents & can be submitted by mail to 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1001; by e-mail at www.AgReview.org; or by fax to 919-733-5047. Ads **must** include name, address including zip code, phone number including area code, and **price or price range for every item** being sold.

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



Bees, Supplies & Services For Sale



Equipment 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.

(2) stainless steel honey settling tanks, 1,000 lbs., 2 in. brass cutoff valves, \$700 ea. Dick Lippard, Statesville 704-682-4018.

King Kutter bush hog, 3pt, 5 ft., \$1,100; 3pt scrape blade, 6 ft., \$600; 3pt dirt pan, \$125. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

Intl tricycle tractor, fair cond., for parts or restore, \$1,200 cash. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

(3) Ford 8N tractors, (2) w/ new motors, \$5,500; Farmall Cub, \$1,200; (2) rims for Farmall Super A-140, 10-24, \$200; other items. J. Yountz, Clemmons 336-764-0748.

Grain header for MF 300 combine, \$200. James Plowman, Matthews 704-574-8816.

Disc cutter, 7 ft., \$3,000; (2) basket rakes, \$400 & \$500; Lilly 500 lb. fert. spreader, \$500. David Tevepaugh, Taylorsville 828-632-4429.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Woods belly mower, 6 ft. wide, will fit Farmall A & Cub tractor, \$200. DS Knox, Huntersville 704-677-2612 or 677-4408.

1953 Ford Golden Jubilee tractor, restored, 3pt, new tires, parade cond., \$3,900; 1937 JD-A, restored, new tires, spoke wheels, parade cond., \$3,900. Judy Holland, Wilson 252-237-3470.

NH 1069 bale wagon, 460 gas eng, 5,280 hrs., 8-spd, ps, ac, sheltered, \$15,000. RG Hammonds, Lumberton 910-734-2991.

McCormick Intl 100 balanced sickle mower, 7 ft. cut, working, \$875 cash. Charles McPherson, Mebane 919-830-0878, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

JD pull combine; IH steel wheel drills, shed kept, \$500-\$750. Neil Lee, Advance 336-998-8922.

2012 NH 185 skid steer, new tires, bat, 1,450 hrs., garaged, \$23,500. Brian Sapp, High Point 336-870-7280, text.

JD mounted planters & cults, 2-row, seed & fert hoppers GC, mounting hardware incld., \$1,000. Jody Phillips, Whispering Pines 919-770-2996.

1952 Ford Red Belly, Sherman trans, scrape blade, plow, sub soiler, runs well, good tires, \$3,200 obo. Timothy Lambeth, Winston Salem 336-475-5059.

NI 1-row corn picker, fair cond., \$500; Super A parts, hyd., front axle, rear wheels, starter, hyd. pump/line, \$100-\$200 ea. Glenn Koepp, Zebulon 252-230-1352.

1936 JD model A, un-styled, runs great, flat spoke rear w/ Firestone on rear, \$4,500. Travis Mckay, Belmont 704-678-0350.

JD 704 v-rake, GC, works well, \$3,000. Elizabeth Macdonald, Blanch 336-459-6776.

2024 Bad Boy 4025H tractor, 60 hrs., 4wd, loader & BBH400 backhoe, GC, \$24,000 obo. Aaron Howard, Robersonville 252-268-8255.

1954 Ford 600 Series tractor, ran 3 yrs. ago, gas line leaks, w/doub. bottom plow, drag harrow, single row cult, broken disc, \$1,900. Jeff Ritchie, Salisbury 704-798-3967.

Woods HB80-X backhoe, manual thumb attach., 8' depth, works great, low hrs., 3pt, seat, 17" wide bucket, \$4,450. Bill Wey, Mt. Gilead 910-573-5282.

Older bush hog, \$100; Farmall wheel wghts., \$50 ea.; model 22 Cub sickle mower, \$200; JD 40 wide front for parts, \$100. Dale Hardison, Watha 910-604-0601.

(6) Nelson F100 full circle big gun sprinklers; (1) part circle; (3) 30hp Berkeley irrig. spray pumps, \$300. Steve Brown, Oakboro 704-438-2484.

JD 2840, \$6,500; Intl 364, \$3,200. Paul Myers, Blanch 336-459-6258.

JD 5525, LN, \$38,000-\$40,000. Lynda Simmons, Supply 910-612-6470.

EQUIPMENT WANTED

Old sickle mower, can be used for a yard ornament, \$1-\$250. Timothy Gentle, Mt. Pleasant 704-224-5012.

NH 718 silage cutter, 2 heads, GC, \$2,000; NI 1-row corn picker, GC, \$1,800; NH 56 hay rake, shed kept, GC, \$2,200. Tommy Singleton, Advance 336-399-2894.

Oliver 1610 front end loader, GC, complete, \$750. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

DR XLT weed trimmer, pulls behind most anything, kicks back around fence posts, \$900. Mark Greene, Thurmond 336-341-7008.



Equipment Wanted

Old JD tractor that is cranked w/fly wheel. Ronald Copeland, Apex 919-669-9264.

Elect. motor to pull Chattanooga Plow #13 molasses mill, 7hp, 110v; also, flat belt pulley. Randall Smith, Gold Hill 704-279-4001.

Manure spreader, sm-med. size, GC, \$200. Buddy Hege, Iron Station 704-236-6070.

Front grill & hood for 1970 IH 140 tractor, good/fair cond., \$200. Danny Langley, Staley 336-549-6893, call/text.

Intl 3200 industrial skid steer, yellow/white, w/Wisconsin motor, \$1,500. Kirby Frank, Denton 336-905-0257.

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

Used no-till/sod grain drill, 8 or 10 ft., around Anson, Union, Stanly co. area. Joseph Coble, Polkton 980-734-9447, text.



Farm Labor For Sale

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

Remote control hill side/slope mowing, tracked machine, will mow slopes up 50 degrees, farm ponds, banks, etc., \$150. Newell Montgomery, Winston Salem 336-399-0588.



Farm Labor Wanted

5 +/- ac pasture grass, w/ periodic mowing & baling, free. Walt Johnson, Spring Hope 252-292-1816.



Hay & Grain For Sale

Coastal bermuda hay, 4 x 5.5 bales, 2025 hay, \$40/bale; 2026 hay, \$60/bale. RG Hammonds, Lumberton 910-734-2991.

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

Peanut hay, 4 x 4.5 rnd, net wrapped, can deliv. 42 bales/load, \$40 field; \$50 sheltered. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

HAY & GRAIN

2026 horse quality coastal bermuda hay, out of barn/shelter, \$9; out of the field, we load, \$8.50; quality rnd bales, \$75. Gary White, Sanford 919-775-9769.

Coastal bermuda hay, 4x5, sheltered, horse quality, \$60; cow quality, \$40. Philip Hood, Goldsboro 919-689-9798.

Orchard grass/fescue & seasonal grasses, rnd bales, fert. fields, sprayed for weeds, 2nd cutting, \$60; some sq bales, \$6/per bale. Elizabeth Macdonald, Blanch 336-459-6776.

Bermuda hay, horse quality, stored in barn, no weeds/rain/litter/preservatives, 50-55 lb. sq bales, \$10/bale; 750-850 lb. 4x5 rnd, \$85. Victoria Rehder, Lillington 910-964-0087.

Corn silage, \$75/ton; sorghum stover hay, 4x6 rnd, \$55/bale; mixed summer annual haylage, lrg sq, \$90/bale; deliv. avail. Stuart Beam, Rutherfordton 828-429-3574.

Fescue grass mixed hay, spring cut, dry, min. 20 bales, \$6/bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

Orchard/fescue mix, 200 sq bales, 2025/2026 spring cutting, trailer stored, buyer picks up, 25 bale min., \$6.50/bale. Kent Whicker, Kernersville 336-207-9593, evenings before 9 p.m.



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.



Livestock For Sale

Fainting goats, from established herd, healthy, tame, different colors, bucks, \$100; does, \$125. Dodd Linker, Clemmons 336-712-2484.

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

(2) Wether Boer goats, 10 m/o, 90-100 lbs., show quality, \$450 ea. David Latta, Hillsborough 919-612-6927.

(2) mini Zebu cows, (1) 7 m/o bull, (1) 1 y/o steer, \$500 ea. Pete Wildeboer, Castle Hayne 910-675-0059.

LIVESTOCK

Reg Hereford bulls, dob 2/26, \$3,000. Kent Beck, Lexington 336-247-1179.

(2) Highland bulls, (1) dun colored, (1) red, 3 y/o, proven breeders, \$3,500. Carol Coulter, Crumpler 828-773-8319.

Senepol bulls, full blood, 16 mos -2 y/o, heat tolerant, very gentle, grass fed, poly wire trained, current on vaccs, \$3,000-\$4,000. John Redding, Roaring River 336-928-0571.

Hereford heifers, 12-14 m/o, \$2,500 ea. Robert Blake, Mt. Gilead 704-242-3028.

Charolais bulls, purebred, polled, gentle, 7 mos & up, \$2,500 & up. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

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

Guinea fowl keets & 3 m/o, \$8. Cody Baxter, Sanford 252-619-9999.

Hatching eggs, Ameraucanas, Ayan Cemani, whiting true green/blue, Indian runners, silver spangled Hamburgs, other breeds; laying hens seasonally & hatched chicks to order, \$5-\$35. Andrew Kubinski, Spindale 828-375-9875.

Pullets & cockerels, Buff Orpington, hatched 4/26, \$20-\$30. Nancy Hobson, Pittsboro 336-684-2240.

Bobwhite quail & Ringneck pheasants, flight pen raised, quail, \$6 ea.; pheasants, \$15 ea. Curtis Meissner, Bostic 609-273-2230.

Chicks, Dominique, Ameraucana, & Golden comet, 10 chick min., \$5 ea.; breeding stock trio of Ayam Cemani chickens, \$75. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997.



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.

Healthy, potted muscadine & scuppernong vines, 5-6 ft., 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.

Sunflower seeds, 12-14 lb. flower, 15-18 in. diameter, SASE & \$5 cash for 50 seeds. N. Smoot, 6227 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370, 336-823-5911.

SEEDS & PLANTS

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.

Heirloom little white cucumber seeds, 3"-4" long, 50 seeds, SASE & \$5 cash. Elizabeth Smith, 701 Chippenham Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, 336-813-7996.

Morris Heading collards, \$6.50/bundle of 50 plants. Stewart Morris, Maxton 910-276-0515.



Supplies For Sale

Metal barrels, hd, \$25 ea. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Home grown gourds, many choices, \$5; handmade cedar bird houses, mite resistant, \$12. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

Miller Blue Star 6000 welder generator, 121 hrs., dry storage, EC, welding leads, \$2,500. Mark Carico, Ennice 336-469-3915.

Molasses cook pans, (1) copper w/baffles, 4x8 ft., \$400; (1) stainless steel, 240 gal., 4x8 ft., (4) LP 8 ft. burners w/tanks, metal stand, \$1,200. Leonard Stafford, Oak Ridge 336-643-4990.

Split firewood, 14 ft. load, seasoned, \$400. Neil Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

Scaffold block pulley, 12 in., takes up to 1" rope, 1,000 lbs. max. load, \$125; Bluegrass grass sling, \$45. Gary Williams, Granite Falls 828-493-2461.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

1974 GMC 4x4, 3/4-ton, rebuilt eng & trans, auto, flatbed dump, dual wheels, \$3,000. David Tevepugh, Taylorsville 828-632-4429.

Flatbed trailers, 45 ft., good tires, \$2,000 ea. RG Hammonds, Lumberton 910-734-2991.

Farm trailer, 14 ft., doub. axle, hd, dove tail, \$500. DS Knox, Huntersville 704-677-2612 or 677-4408.

Trailer frame, can be used for hay rolls, 54 ft. long, 11 ft. wide, no axle, no springs, \$500. Bobby Harkey, Albemarle 704-982-2494.

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



Trucks & Trailers Wanted

WW2 Halftrack truck, complete or parts, made by White, Diamond T, Autocar or Intl; used postwar in forestry & agriculture. Robert Harrison, Salisbury 704-202-3301.

Growing a variety of N.C. potatoes at Pamlico Shores Produce

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!

Thanks to a new seed program at Pamlico Shores Produce in Swanquarter, North Carolina potatoes are not only being grown across our state, but in other parts of the world as well. From Hyde County soil to countries overseas, red and yellow N.C. potatoes are in high demand!

In 2008, Hunter Gibbs and Dawson Pugh, co-owners of Pamlico Shores Produce, started growing red, yellow, and a few russet potatoes. “Originally we packed our potatoes in the facility at Nash Produce, a sweet potato farm in Nashville,” Hunter said. “In 2012, we opened our facility in Swanquarter and have been growing and packing here ever since.” Both Hunter and Dawson grew up in farming families and have been best friends since childhood. “We grew up a quarter mile from each other and always had a love for farming,” Hunter said. “One day, I mentioned that the potato business would be a good industry for us and that was the start of Pamlico Shores.” Today, the farm produces a variety of potatoes, including red and yellow, as well as Mattamuskeet sweet onions, broccoli and cabbage.

In 2026, Pamlico Shores Produce grew 375 acres of potatoes, with about 75 of those acres being certified seed potatoes. “We have good soil here in Hyde County, which contributes to the high-quality and growth of our potatoes,” Hunter said. “To date, we produce red potatoes, yellow potatoes, a few russet potatoes, and certified seed potatoes.” Pamlico Shores Produce is currently the only seed potato grower in North Carolina. “Our seed potato program all started when Potatoes USA was looking for a North Carolina grower to conduct seed trials for Cuba,” Hunter said. “We were about the only potato farm in our state that had the capacity to take on this project at the time due to our refrigeration technology and storage on-site.” This is the third year that Hunter and his team at Pamlico Shores Produce have exported containers

of seed potatoes overseas. Through the program, they have shipped to Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, France, Senegal, Honduras and South America.

The seed potato program takes potato varieties that are grown in our state, specifically red and yellow, and allows them to be shipped and grown overseas. “It’s a really unique opportunity to expand the market of our state’s potato farmers, as well as fill a gap found in potato industries in other parts of the world,” Hunter said. “Many potato farmers in countries overseas are losing acreage and experiencing a decline in seed production, so if we can get people on board with this program it will save farmers money and expand a market for North Carolina potatoes.” In addition to international expansion, the seed potato program also has the potential to increase domestic seed sales in future years. “We are still in the very beginning stages of the program, so there are a lot of things to figure out still, but we believe this is going to innovate the potato industry in a variety of ways,” Hunter said. “It’s exciting to see N.C. potatoes feed customers across the world, and we hope it is a market that will only continue to expand in the years to come.”

In addition to co-owning and operating Pamlico Shores Produce, Hunter is also the President of the North Carolina Potato Association where he serves as the spokesperson for N.C. potato growers, attends trade shows for market awareness and expansion, and more. “Our state’s potato association has been serving the potato industry for nearly 100 years,” Hunter said. “In my role as president of the association,



Hunter Gibbs and Dawson Pugh (left) operate Pamlico Shores Produce out of Swanquarter.

I attend trade shows to help our growers get in front of potential buyers, board meetings to speak on behalf of the industry, and overall spread the word on how the association benefits potato growers in our state.” To learn more about the North Carolina Potato Association, visit its website and/or follow along on its social media channels.

Although growing potatoes takes a lot of patience and hard work, Hunter and Dawson wouldn’t trade anything for the joy that they feel during planting and by providing meals for families across the world. “We are actually feeding people with the products we produce here on the farm and that generates a lot of pride,” Hunter said. “Potatoes have always been a major player in our state’s agriculture industry, and we are honored to produce them each year for customers both inside and outside of the United States.” Potatoes from Pamlico Shores Produce can be found at all Walmart and Sam’s Club locations in North Carolina.

New biochar program makes the most of WNC challenges

A new biochar program in the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services traces its roots to a trifecta of problems affecting Western North Carolina, but it ultimately aims to improve soil and water on farms across the state.

Biochar is a carbon-rich soil amendment made by heating organic material in a very low-oxygen environment. The material is not burned, but the heat drives a thermochemical conversion process known as pyrolysis.

“It’s made from organic waste [like wood or manure],” explained Dalton Buchanan, a soil scientist in the department’s Division of Soil and Water Conservation. “Once it’s heated, you end up with very carbon-stable tiny chunks of what looks like charcoal. It’s very similar to charcoal — that you can then use for ag purposes.”

What prompted a biochar program

The three Western N.C. problems that led to the new biochar program date back to 2023 and 2024. The Canton paper mill closed in 2023, which dropped the price that regional landowners could get for pulpwood and also lowered timber values. Then in 2024, Hurricane Helene’s floodwaters damaged farmland, washing away soil or burying fields and leaving them in need of significant restoration. Helene also caused the third problem — damage to hundreds



Crews collecting storm debris after Helene. Contributed by Buncombe County.

of thousands of acres of forest left enormous amounts of woody debris on the ground.

Those problems led to exploring biochar as a possible solution, eventually resulting in the department’s new biochar program.

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) ran a pilot program to test biochar applications on Helene-affected farms. The \$300,000 program provided an opportunity to begin learning how the process could work under North

Carolina conditions.

“NRCS has sort of set the stage and demonstrated the applicability of biochar as a best management practice,” said Joshua Vetter, chief of the Soil and Water Conservation Division’s Environmental Services Section. “We’re trying to expand off of what they did with their pilot with significantly more funds available in this.”

That funding is a \$12.8 million grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD),

funded through NRCS. About \$10.9 million of the grant is going directly to farmers through incentive payments. The remainder is for staff, training and technical assistance.

Over the next three years, the biochar program is expected to reach at least 400 farmers and 6,500 acres across all 96 soil and water conservation districts in the state. The goal goes beyond the three-year grant, however. The Division of Soil and Water Conservation is working toward making biochar a full statewide cost-share

conservation practice, much like the other practices offered through its Agriculture Cost Share Program. As part of that effort, the Division is developing North Carolina’s first best management practices for biochar and training conservation district staff to implement them.

How biochar helps now and later

Biochar is seen as not only a solution for those three problems facing Western North Carolina but also as a long-term tool for land management and soil improvement across the state.

There’s hope that biochar can create a new market for pulpwood and timber in Western North Carolina, which would help with a current and future concern in the area. The smaller or lower-quality trees removed during forest thinning are commonly referred to as pulpwood because they historically could be sold to paper mills. The closure of the Pactiv Evergreen paper mill in Canton removed an important market for that material.

Without a market for that lower-value wood, the economics of forest thinning and management can become more difficult, and that means the general timber market has been negatively affected, too.

“Without having a market for the pulpwood, landowners may just stop logging it altogether because the cost goes upside down, I’ve been

(See Biochar, pg. 2)