

# Agricultural REVIEW

Volume: 101 - No. 2

February 2026

Raleigh, N.C.

## Equestrian Exchange has new location

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Spring Sale is scheduled for March 26-29 at the new Randolph County Agricultural Center at 1880 U.S. Hwy 64 East in Asheboro.

The event offers a space to buy and consign equestrian-related items: saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing, barn supplies, carts, horse trailers and more. More info, page four.

## Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

March 2 for the April issue  
April 1 for the May issue  
May 1 for the June 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.

## Imported fire ant quarantine area expanded

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has expanded a state quarantine for the imported fire ant to include all of Davie, Forsyth and Iredell counties effective Jan. 1. With the expansion, the quarantine now includes portions or entire areas of 81 counties in North Carolina.

The quarantine continues efforts to monitor the spread of this pest and address mitigation or control measures. Under quarantine rules, residents and business owners in these counties will need to obtain a permit before moving plants, sod and related equipment into or through non-infested areas.

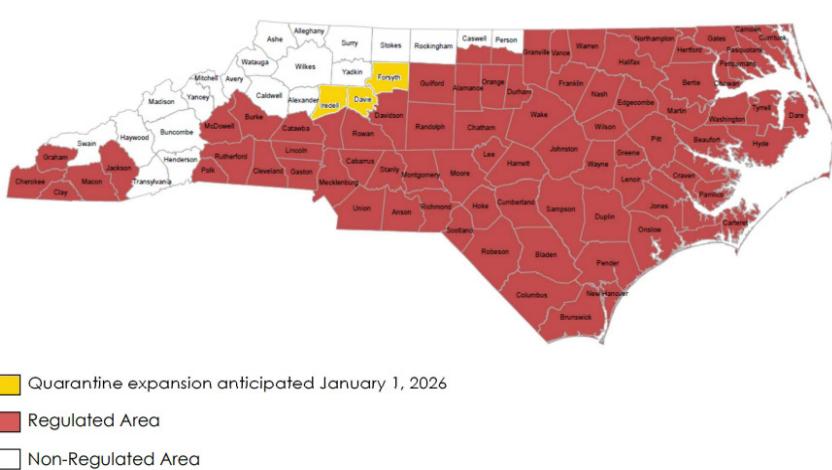
The N.C. Nursery and Landscape Association and nurseries in the newly quarantined counties were notified of the planned quarantine update. Certificates can be obtained

from a local plant protection specialist or by contacting the Plant Protection Section at 800-206-9333 or 919-707-3730.

Items requiring a permit include nursery stock, sod, soil, hay and straw, logs or pulpwood with soil, and soil-moving equipment including construction equipment. The movement of any other products, items or infested materials that present a risk of spread from established IFA areas to non-infested areas is also prohibited.

“Failure to obtain the needed inspections and certifications may result in the issuance of a stop-sale

North Carolina Red Imported Fire Ant Quarantine



This map shows the quarantine area as of Jan. 1, 2026.

notice and rejection or destruction of the regulated article,” said Dr. Bill Foote, director of the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division. “Fire ants

can be harmful to humans and livestock. It is critical we continue

(See Quarantine, pg. 4)

## Franklin Co. backyard flock tests positive for HPAI

A backyard flock in Franklin County has tested positive for High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI). The positive sample was identified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Raleigh.

This is the first confirmed positive in Franklin County and the ninth confirmed positive in North Carolina since Oct. 1. A list of domestic bird

cases of HPAI in North Carolina is online at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/AvianInfluenza>.

“HPAI has been found in wild birds throughout the state so reports of positive backyard flocks will likely happen on occasion,” said Dr. Mike Martin, state veterinarian. “I encourage our commercial and backyard flock owners to continue to follow strict biosecurity measures and if your flock

is experiencing a sudden higher-than-normal mortality rate, report it right away to your local veterinarian or to the NCDA&CS’ Veterinary Division at 919-707-3250.”

This type of HPAI virus is considered a low risk to people according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, but is highly contagious to other birds, including commercial and backyard flocks of poultry. The virus is also

not considered a food safety threat.

More information on biosecurity and the signs of HPAI can be found at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/AvianInfluenza>. If you have questions about migratory birds, hunting, or wild waterfowl found dead on your property, visit the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission’s website at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

## From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

I traveled recently to the N.C. Commodity Conference in Greenville where I was able to visit with a number of growers who were attending the event. It was a good turnout at this new location, and I saw a lot of familiar faces.

As farmers know, the winter months are commodity association season with plenty of annual meetings taking place statewide. I encourage farmers to attend these meetings to hear the latest and get important industry updates for commodities they grow.

A few, upcoming meetings include the N.C. Growers Association annual meeting on Feb. 4, the Tobacco Growers

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Association of North Carolina annual meeting and the N.C. Crop Improvement Association Feb. 6, the N.C. Agritourism Networking Association 2026 Farm Tour and Conference Feb. 22-24 and the 58th annual meeting of the N.C. Tomato Growers and Winter Vegetable Conference Feb. 25 and 26. This is not a complete list by any means, but gives you an idea of how February is shaping up with meetings.

I am also looking forward to seeing more farmers at the upcoming Ag Development Forum and Southern Farm Show in Raleigh Feb. 4-6, where we’ll hear from Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman, an ag economist from N.C. State, and others as we look ahead to the 2026 growing season.

The forum and other commodity meetings offer farmers an opportunity to network with one another and hear important updates, ideas and projections for the upcoming season. We know what challenging times these are right now for agriculture. Commodity prices remain low and input costs high.

A college professor once told our class that good ag policy would be the single largest factor in our success on

the farm. I remember thinking about the weather and what a big influence it has on crops and the impact of marketing, but over the years I have seen that he was indeed correct. Good farm policy is essential to successful farming.

Nationally, especially among other state’s agriculture leaders, we are hearing a recurring call for Congress to pass a new Farm Bill. The last one was passed in 2018 and was set to expire in 2023 but has been extended. A lot has happened since 2018, and the industry needs a new Farm Bill that addresses today’s agricultural climate.

We need to stay engaged as an industry to ensure our voices and concerns are heard and hopefully addressed through good ag policy. That’s why attending annual meetings and being engaged is so important.

I encourage you to follow the department’s social media channels to also stay up on the latest involving continued Hurricane Helene disaster recovery and grant programs that will come available. We are on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) at NCAgriculture and Got to Be NC

on Instagram.

We are anticipating the approval of our \$221 million federal Hurricane Helene Disaster Block Grant soon and will announce the application sign-up period once approval is granted.

If you will recall, this block grant was announced in September during the Mountain State Fair. Since that time, we have put together our proposal on how to distribute these funds, which must be approved by USDA. We continue to meet with them and discuss what can be covered and rules involving the use of these funds. I am hopeful that we gain approval soon and can begin accepting applications for funds.

We intend to use these funds to maximize disaster payments to farmers with Hurricane Helene losses, using state funds for items USDA will not fund and using federal funds for items state funds won’t cover.

During the Ag Development Forum, we will have an update on disaster payments and ongoing efforts to get funds to farmers who experienced losses.

I hope to see you there!

## Agricultural Review

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Steve Troxler  
 Commissioner

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## NCFS Warren County team receives water quality award

N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) Warren County staff have been named recipients of the 2025 Moreland Gueth Water Quality Award. This award is presented annually to the N.C. Forest Service employee or team of employees who demonstrate creativity and dedication toward the protection of North Carolina's water resources.

"A lot of harvesting is done in Warren County throughout the winter and our Warren County personnel understand that finding active logging sites makes it easier to keep a site in compliance with forestry practice guidelines," said Brian Yeich, assistant regional forester-forest management for NCFS Region 2. "This is why developing great relationships with landowners, consultants, loggers and timber buyers is so critical for the protection of water quality."

Established in 2010, the Moreland Gueth Water Quality Award pays tribute to its namesake, who served as the NCFS water quality and wetlands staff forester from 1995 to 2004. Gueth took a firm stance on protecting water quality but remained fair and used a common-sense approach when working with loggers and landowners to keep forests working for North Carolina.

NCFS Warren County personnel includes County Ranger Jim Short, Assistant County rangers Sam Wright



Pictured are N.C. Forest Service Warren County staff.

and Jeremy Seaman, and Glen Garner, forest fire equipment operator. With 108 initial inspections covering nearly 4,600 acres from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, NCFS Warren County staff have consistently been one of the top counties in the Piedmont for water quality accomplishments over the last few years.

"They all contribute to the water quality program by conducting inspections and assisting landowners and loggers, making water quality protection a top priority in a county with busy forest management practices," added Yeich.

To learn more about water quality regulations, laws, guidance and best management practices to help keep forests working for North Carolina, visit <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/water-quality>.

## 2026 IH Collectors Association convention to be held in NC

Tractor enthusiasts and the public are invited to central North Carolina in March for the three-day national convention of the International Harvester Collectors Association.

A celebration of the nearly 125-year-old brand that has supported small farms and large agricultural operations alike, the event officially kicks off March 19 at the Village Inn Hotel and Events Center in Clemmons. The event will feature

informative sessions, a trade show, entertainment, a banquet and a keynote speech from Max Armstrong, producer and host of the "Farm Progress America" and "Max Armstrong's Midwest Digest" daily radio programs.

There are three chapters of the International Harvester Collectors Association in North Carolina – one in the east (Chapter 37), one in the west (Chapter 43) and one in the central part of the state (Chapter 42).

Chapter 42 will host the national event for the first time since 2020, with the other two chapters involved as well.

"International Harvester continues to be an important part of agriculture in North Carolina and is often considered a member of the 'family' for many farmers and enthusiasts," said Chapter 42 President John Moon. "Many collectors still have the equipment and vehicles used by their parents and grandparents, which brings back precious memories."

Will Brinkley, a first-generation N.C. farmer who gained fame as a social media influencer "The



The convention will feature an auction and trade show (bottom right).

Tarheel Farmer," will provide entertainment. Tim Honeycutt, Chapter 24 treasurer, said the convention also looks to support the local tourism industry by organizing trips to nearby attractions. Attendees are welcome to tag along on trips to the Billy Graham Library, Childress Vineyards and Race Shop, and the Andy Griffith Museum.

Free and open to the public, the trade show will feature International Harvester parts, manuals, collectables and wearables, and a tractor display across the grounds. Rogers Auctioneers will also conduct an IH auction on March 20, and IH-related consignments are welcomed. The convention ends with a banquet on March 21.

Honeycutt said there will be "something for everyone" at this year's convention. From classes on carburetor cleaning, quilting and social media, every attendee should be able to find something to do and learn.

"We try to make it applicable to everyone," Honeycutt said. "It's not just a bunch of guys sitting around talking tractors, there should be something entertaining for everyone."

Honeycutt said he hopes the event showcases North Carolina's IH

following and heritage.

"We have a lot of tractors here in North Carolina that have supported tobacco, row cropping, cattle and all kinds of farming, so we really want that support to show," Honeycutt said.

The auction and trade fair are free to the public, while the classes and banquet require registration.

"There are a lot of moving parts with the convention -- with the banquet to the tours to the trade show. It's really all about showing and emphasizing to others that we have good agriculture here in North Carolina and International Harvester is part of that, and CaseIH as well," Honeycutt said.

Honeycutt said the 2020 convention was held just weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted group gatherings. Honeycutt said many in the national organization were looking forward to returning to North Carolina because of the hospitality they were shown at the 2020 convention, as



Chapter 42 of the International Harvester Collectors of North Carolina is based in central N.C.



well as the unique IH machines they will see here.

"We have things here in North Carolina that International Harvester provided that aren't elsewhere in the nation," Honeycutt said. "We have quite a few good collectors. We have quite a few members that have one or two tractors, and we have quite a few members that have 30-plus."

Chapter 42 has about 135 members.

Chapters of the International Harvester Collectors of North Carolina are 501(c)3 non-profit

organizations focused on education and preservation of the International Harvester ("IH") and CaseIH brands. Profits from the convention will support educational and philanthropic efforts of the chapter, including hurricane relief efforts in rural Western N.C., FFA tractor restoration and scholarships.

To register, advertise or learn more, visit <https://ihcollectorsnc42.com/ihc-winter-convention-2026/>, or contact Tim Honeycutt at [thoneycutt@aol.com](mailto:thoneycutt@aol.com).

# Advancing agriculture on North Carolina's eastern edge

In Washington County east of Plymouth, the Tidewater Research Station is part of a unique place in North Carolina's agricultural research landscape. As the easternmost of the state's 18 research stations operated by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), Tidewater provides a research platform unlike anywhere else in the state. It is indeed a fine example of the diverse geography and climate found across the state's various locations for research stations.

The Tidewater Research Station was established in 1943, replacing the earlier Blackland Test Farm near Wenona that was established in 1912. The station now encompasses roughly 1,550 acres, including cropland, pasture, woodland, ponds and research facilities.

"There are about 650 acres between field crops and pastures, and about 50 acres in buildings and facilities, and around 800 acres of timber," explained Rusty Collins, superintendent of the Tidewater Research Station since 2019.

What truly sets Tidewater apart, however, is its soils — some of the most fertile, but also most challenging, soils in the state.

"We're at the edge of the Blackland soils of North Carolina," Collins said. "That's why this station was

put here — to do research and help farmers learn more about Blackland soils."

Those soils, high in organic matter and paired with shallow water tables, once baffled early farmers. According to the station's webpage, "this region of North Carolina has expanded rapidly in agricultural enterprises during the past 35 years. Extensive land clearing and drainage occurred in this region from the early 1960s to the 1980s, and the need for research grew with increased crop acreage."

"Especially when it was created [as the test farm in 1912] they were trying to figure out how to actually grow something in these soils because they were so rich, they'd end up with corn 11-foot tall with just a little nub of an ear on it," Collins said.

Over time, research into drainage, fertility and crop management has transformed the region into one of the state's most productive agricultural areas.

## Signature Research Programs

Although the Tidewater Research Station supports a wide range of projects, Collins pointed to two programs that most clearly define the station's identity.

"One thing that sticks out for us is we have an Irish potato breeding program," he said. "A lot of folks don't realize that we grow Irish potatoes in the state of North Carolina. Everybody thinks about sweet potatoes."

The program focuses on potatoes bred specifically for the chipping industry, supplying raw material for potato chips. The station's location and infrastructure make it ideally suited for this work, and it's something you won't find much of in other regions of the state.

The second defining feature is



Potato plants in pots sit in a greenhouse at Tidewater Research Station.



livestock research — particularly swine.

"The other thing [that is significant at Tidewater] would be the swine unit," Collins said. "I think we're the only station now that has a swine unit."

Currently, the station operates a 200-sow farrow-to-finish research facility dedicated to genetic research in pigs. Plans are underway to replace the existing facility, and the very first on-site work for the project began less than two weeks into the new year.

"It's an updated replacement because the facility we're in now, the majority of the facility dates back to the 1970s," Collins said.

## Field Crops and Large-Scale Research

Beyond potatoes and swine, Tidewater is heavily engaged in field crop research, reflecting the surrounding agricultural economy.

"The other thing that's probably the most prevalent locally is field crop research," Collins said. "We do cotton, corn, soybeans, wheat and even a little bit of sage."

Unlike some stations that focus on small, intensive plot work, Tidewater's research often happens in large scale

fields.

"We get a lot of larger projects, I would say, and when I say that, we don't do a lot of plots," Collins said. "You go to some stations, and they may have 15 plots in a two-acre area. Most of our plots are bigger."

The station has also supported limited rice research in the past, though Collins clarified its scope.

"We've done dry land rice," he said. "We do not actually flood the rice like they do at Tidewater Grain Company [further south in Pamlico County]."

## A Partnership Supporting Producers Today and Tomorrow

One of Tidewater's most distinctive features is the presence of the Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center, located directly on the station. The 32,000-square-foot facility houses N.C. State University faculty and extension specialists working in disciplines ranging from entomology and plant pathology to soils, livestock and aquaculture.

Collins views Tidewater's role as consistent with the broader mission of North Carolina's research

stations: delivering practical, field-tested knowledge directly to producers.

"We're here to advance ag research and to be based so that the research can go back to the people that need it the most, which are the producers," he said.

Recent investments in equipment and infrastructure have strengthened that role.

"In the last four to five years, with the inputs from the legislature we've been able to modernize a lot of our equipment," Collins said. "That has put us back on top, as far as a great research platform to carry forward in the future.

"We should be in the forefront, and producers should be watching to see what we're doing," he said. "To be able to go back and help them become better producers."

With roughly 20 full- and part-time employees and a steady presence of researchers, the Tidewater Research Station continues to evolve. It's grounded in its unique soils, shaped by collaboration and focused on practical solutions for North Carolina agriculture.



Pigs in the swine unit.

# More than a dozen cucumber varieties grow in North Carolina

North Carolina ranks among the top producers of cucumbers in the nation. The state is also home to small- and large-scale processors who pickle the cucumbers grown here. From seeded to pickling varieties, here's what to know about the cucumbers that grow here.

Cucumbers are a type of cucurbit. According to the N.C. State Extension, the Cucurbitaceae family includes four major crops: cucumbers, melon, squash and watermelon. All four are grown commercially in North Carolina, with the largest production in cucumbers and watermelons.

North Carolina grows cucumbers for both processing (e.g. pickles) and fresh market. About two thirds of the state's cucumber crop is grown for processing, while one third is for fresh market, according to the N.C. State Extension.

North Carolina ranks fifth nationally in cucumber production, with much of the crop coming from Eastern North Carolina and some from Western North Carolina.

## Cucumber varieties grown in North Carolina

According to the 2026 Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook produced by extension specialists and researchers across the Southeast, there are 15 varieties of cucumbers that are recommended for North Carolina production.

Those range from fresh market varieties to pickling types. The fresh market types recommended for North Carolina include the Brickyard, Bristol, Cobra, Dasher II, Raceway, Stonewall and SV 4719CL varieties. The pickling and seedless pickling varieties recommended for North Carolina include the Vlassstar, Arabian, Peacemaker, Bernstein, Liszt, Gershwin, Rubinstein and Bowie varieties.

According to the N.C. State Extension, General Lee, Sweet Slice and Olympian are other slicing varieties that grow well in the state. Other pickling varieties grown here include varieties like Fancipak, Calypso and Carolina.

## Growing cucumbers in North Carolina

Cucumbers are a warm season plant, ideally planted when soil temperatures reach 75-85 degrees Fahrenheit. Even a light frost can kill cucumber plants, so it's important not to plant earlier than the recommended time.

Fresh market cucumbers in Eastern North Carolina should be planted in the spring between mid-April and mid-May, or in late summer from mid-July to mid-August, according to the handbook. Growers looking

to produce cucumbers in Western North Carolina should get them in the ground around mid-May to the end of July.

Pickling varieties should be planted in Eastern North Carolina between April 20 and May 20 or July 15 to Aug. 15. Western North Carolina growers should plant between May 25 and July 31 this year.

Cucumbers are 90% water, making irrigation very important. Cucumbers have shallow roots, making them susceptible to even slight



No-till cucumbers at the Horticultural Crops Research Station in Clinton.

drought conditions.

Cucumber vines also take up a lot of space, so it is important to ensure your cucumber plants are spaced appropriately — about 8 to 10 inches apart.

While many of the varieties mentioned are disease resistant, disease and pests remain the most common issues when it comes to growing cucumbers in North Carolina.

## Horse Events

### Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

Feb. 6-8..... Tobacco Road Cutting Horse Show. Contact Southeastern Ag Center, 910-618-5699.  
 Feb. 21..... North Carolina Barrel Horse Association Show. Contact Ashley Sellers, 910-477-7485.  
 March 2..... Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephen, 828-390-0878.  
 March 6-8..... Carolina Ranch Horse. Contact Holly Ball, 252-361-1305.  
 March 13-15.. JR Rodeo. Contact JR, 828-713-3006.  
 March 20-22.. United Horsemen of the Carolinas. Contact Nancy Barbee, 919-619-1786.  
 April 6..... Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.  
 April 10&11.. Four Beats for Pleasure. Contact Roey Mobley, 910-540-8785.

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

Feb. 13&14 ... Old Ford Volunteer Fire Department Survivor Series Rodeo. Contact Frankie Buck, 252-943-4460.  
 Feb. 27-March 1 Mounted Shooters Shoot for Hope. Contact Pam Lohrey 540-510-8785.  
 March 6-8..... Hoppin' into Spring. Contact Travis Alford, 252-450-5438, or Richard Isley, 336-908-3302.  
 March 13&14 NC Barrel Bonanza. Contact Fred Smith, 252-450-9752 or 252-883-1641.  
 March 19-22.. SERHA Slide into Spring. Contact Heather Maxwell, info@serha.org.

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

Feb 6..... Southern National Draft Horse Pull. Contact Calvin Davis, 919-717-0323.  
 Feb. 13&14 ... Raleigh Stampede. Contact 984-290-4029.  
 Feb. 19-22..... Raleigh Winter II Hunter. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.

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

## Quarantine

(Continued from pg. 1)

proactive efforts to slow down fire ant movement into non-infested areas of the state.”

The imported fire ant was first identified in Brunswick County in 1957. As it spread and became established, it was recognized as an aggressive pest of farmlands, pastures, residential areas and wildlife, Foote said. The ant is a nuisance and a health concern to humans,

livestock and wildlife due to its painful sting. For a map of the quarantine area and to learn more about the NCDA&CS Imported Fire Ant program, visit <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/plant-industry/plant-protection/entomological-insect-services/imported-fire-ant>.

## Golden LEAF scholarships available

The Golden LEAF Foundation is accepting applications for its Colleges and Universities Scholarship Program for the 2026-27 academic year.

For 25 years, the Golden LEAF Scholarship Program has provided more than 6,600 scholarships to help rural students attend the state's colleges and universities.

A total of 215 awards will be offered to first-time recipients from qualifying North Carolina counties. Valued at \$14,000, each award offers North Carolina high school students \$3,500 per year for up to four years at participating North Carolina colleges or universities.

North Carolina community college transfer students can

receive up to \$3,500 per year for up to three years, a total of \$10,500.

“For more than 25 years, the Golden LEAF Scholarship Program has been an important component of the Foundation’s workforce preparedness strategy,” said Golden LEAF President, Chief Executive Officer Scott T. Hamilton. “The Golden LEAF Board established the scholarship program to ensure that scholars gain the talent, knowledge and skills needed to help North Carolina’s rural communities thrive by returning home to live, work and lead future generations.”

To be eligible, students must be a graduating North Carolina high school senior or a currently enrolled North Carolina community college

transfer student, enrolling full-time in the fall at a participating North Carolina public or private college or university.

Recipients are selected based upon multiple factors including an intent to return to a rural North Carolina county after graduation. Recipients must demonstrate financial need, have a cumulative GPA above 2.5, and be a North Carolina resident with strong roots in rural NC.

Applications can be found at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) and are due March 1.

Find more information, including lists of qualifying North Carolina counties and participating colleges and universities, visit [www.scholars.goldenleaf.org](http://scholars.goldenleaf.org).

## Equine herpes found in Davidson Co. horse

A horse recently imported from Florida to Davidson County has tested positive for Equine Herpes Virus Type 1. Following additional testing and per USDA guidance, the horse meets the case definition for Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). The epidemiological investigation for this case indicates that it is not related to the ongoing national EHV1/EHM outbreak.

“This horse was assessed by a local veterinarian for being acutely ‘down,’ said State Veterinarian Mike Martin. “A thorough exam was performed, including a neurological exam, and revealed no other clinical signs. The horse was humanely euthanized and submitted to our Rollins Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Raleigh. Histopathological results showed a non-specific encephalitis, and the horse tested positive for Equine Herpes Virus Type 1 (EHV1) on PCR.”

“There are seven additional resident horses located at the same premises as the infected horse that are currently under quarantine. They have not shown any signs

## Bucolic Briefs

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Spring Sale is scheduled for March 26-29 at the new Randolph County Agricultural Center at 1880 U.S. Hwy 64 East in Asheboro. Same sale as previously held at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh relocated due to ongoing construction.

The event offers a space to buy and consign equestrian-related items: saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing, barn supplies, carts, horse trailers and more.

Consignors may drop off priced, tagged items March 24 from 1 to 8 p.m., or March 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special premier shopping night March 26, 4 to 9:30 p.m. - \$10 admission, 12 and under free. Shopping March 27 & 28, free admission, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Free admission March 29, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. with many items discounted on the final day.

Payments accepted: cash, NC checks with two forms of identification approved, credit cards with 3% fee per card transaction.

Consignors earn 70%. Consignors pick up unsold items March 31 from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers needed, all ages, March 23 through April 2. Volunteers shop before consignors, consignors shop before public. Visit [www.EquestrianExchange.com](http://www.EquestrianExchange.com).

Consignors pick up unsold items March 31, 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. Security enforced on site. Only service dogs allowed. Free parking.

Contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950 for more information.

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

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

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

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

# Mt. Olive Pickle Company celebrates a century of pickling

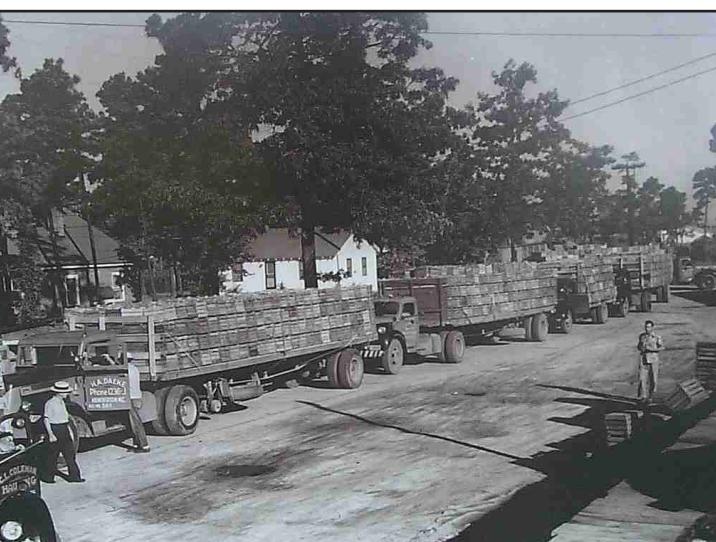
For many people across the United States, when they hear the word pickle they think Mt. Olive Pickle Company, and rightfully so. Currently celebrating its 100-year anniversary, Mt. Olive Pickle Company is a staple in the Mount Olive landscape, as well as on tables across the United States.

From dill, sweet and spicy pickles to pickled veggies and relish, the Mt. Olive Pickle team works hard every year to produce delicious and unique products from farm fresh ingredients.

In the early 1900s, the town of Mount Olive was a small player in a big agriculture industry. Historically, cucumbers have played a big role on North Carolina farms as a rotational crop with tobacco. Due to our state's sandy soil and climate, cucumbers have always grown well here and given farmers a way to diversify their operations. Even though many farmers grew cucumbers in the early 1900s, not very many people bought them. In fact, the market for cucumbers was so small, many of them could be seen rotting in the fields each June. Enter Mt. Olive



2026 marks 100 years of the Mt. Olive Pickle Company.



Pickle Company! On Jan. 2, 1926, 13 community members came together to invest in a company that would open a new market for farmers by purchasing cucumbers to produce pickles. By year-end, 37 people had invested in the new company. These original investors spanned the professional gamut, from physicians and produce buyers to merchants and mechanics. "The original investors of this company represented the town of Mount Olive in the best way," said Lynn Williams, Public Relations Manager for Mt. Olive Pickle Company.

"Our roots have always stood firm in the heart of the community, which can be seen from the very beginning to now."

Today, Mt. Olive Pickle Company has about 475 investors that continue to represent the heart and soul of the company.

"We are not a family-owned business, but we are a family," Lynn said. "Each and every one of us believe in the mission of Mt. Olive Pickle Company and strive to continue the heritage and legacy that has been built here."

Since its inception, Mt. Olive Pickle Company has grown tremendously both in size and variety of products produced. In fact, when the company originally

time. Whether coming out of the brine tanks or being unloaded fresh from farms, cucumbers begin their pickling process with a thorough cleaning in outdoor wet hoppers. Once clean, they are taken into the packing facility for cutting (if needed) and sorting.

After the cucumbers are cut, they are placed into jars, and the cover brine – or pickle juice – is added. The jars of product are then placed in a pasteurizer and heated to just the right temperature before quickly being brought down to cool.

"Pasteurization makes the pickles shelf-stable, which is why our products can be found year-round on grocery store shelves instead of in the refrigerated section," Lynn said. Once pasteurized, the jars are labeled and shipped out to retailers across the United States.

Products from Mt. Olive Pickle Company can be found at most major U.S. retail chains, including Harris Teeter, Walmart, Food Lion and Publix. Fun fact, they can also be found in Alaska and Hawaii!

"It's so much fun to see our products in both large retail chains and small local stores across the country," Lynn said. "We take pride in providing a little bit of home on the grocery store shelves."

Although the company produces a wide variety of pickle flavors and sizes, consumers mustn't forget about all the other delicious, pickled products they create, like relish and veggies. In fact, their newest products, which came out at the end of last year, are red and sweet pickled onions!

"Our pickled onions have become my new obsession," said Digital Marketing Manager, Catey Labban. "I like to make rice bowls for lunch or dinner, and these onions provide the perfect flavor and crunch to compliment any bowl. They also go extremely well on burgers, pizza, and salads!"

Mt. Olive also produces banana peppers, jalapenos, hot okra, roasted peppers and more. Check out the

store locator on their website to find products in your area!

If you're looking for an excuse to visit Mount Olive, look no further than the Mt. Olive Pickle Parlor located in downtown Mount Olive.

"The storefront location of the Pickle Parlor dates back to 1910, and Mt. Olive Pickle Company was founded in the 1920's, so we created a Roaring Twenties vibe with a modern twist throughout the inside of the parlor," Lynn said. "The history of our company is illustrated in photos along every wall, and we use our pickle bar to serve up pickle samples, soft drinks and more."

The Pickle Parlor is part museum, part store and part pickle bar, so make a day of visiting and enjoy all that Mount Olive has to offer. If you attend in April, be sure to catch the 40th annual Mount Olive Pickle Festival as well!

Although both Lynn and Catey enjoy working at Mt. Olive Pickle Company for a plethora of reasons, the history, legacy and community are top contenders. "I have learned,

alongside our customer base, to enjoy and appreciate the little things," Lynn said. "At Mt. Olive Pickle Company, we make your burgers better. We make your pizza better. We make your sandwiches better. It's the little things in life that often bring us the most joy, and being a part of the process that provides joy to people across the United States is a tremendous honor." Mt. Olive Pickle Company has a large and loyal fan base that continues to transcend time and grow through the generations. "As the manager of our social media accounts, I see many stories where the love of our products is passed down from one generation to the next," Catey said.

"I love seeing how our products become part of family traditions, and it's an honor to play even a small role in helping create those moments each year." If you don't already follow Mt. Olive Pickle Company on social media, be sure to do so and stay in the know on all upcoming

events, products, and more. This year will offer especially exciting announcements as they celebrate their 100-year anniversary!

We are so proud of the history, heritage and legacy that exists at Mt. Olive Pickle Company, as well as how they continue to grow and impact the agriculture industry across our state.



# 2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant program application period open

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is accepting grant proposal applications for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which aims to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in the marketplace. Nonprofits, commodity associations, state and local government agencies, colleges and universities wishing to apply have until March 10 at 5 p.m.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is managed by the department and is subject to funding by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Traditionally, the program has

received about \$1.2 million to fund proposals. A list of eligible crops can be found at [www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbpg/specialty-crop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbpg/specialty-crop).

"We are fortunate in North Carolina that our farmers can grow just about any crop, which means specialty crops are a significant part of North Carolina's \$100 billion farm economy and one that we want to continue to see grow," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "We are looking for strong proposals that focus on boosting specialty crop production."

The department will accept grant requests of up to \$200,000 from the eligible groups listed above. Grants are not available for projects that directly benefit or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual.

For grant guidelines and an application, go to [www.ncspecialtycrops.com/apply](http://www.ncspecialtycrops.com/apply). For questions, contact Jenni Keith at 919-707-3158 or by email at [jenni.keit@ncagr.gov](mailto:jenni.keit@ncagr.gov).

## Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type 2 confirmed in Dare County

The first case of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus type 2 in North Carolina was confirmed in a domestic rabbit in Dare County.

RHDV2 is typically a fatal disease affecting both domestic and wild rabbit populations and is primarily found in the Southwestern United States.

"Two deceased domestic rabbits were submitted by the owner to a local veterinarian for examination on Jan. 1," said State Veterinarian Mike Martin. "Upon examination, the vet noted no lesions that would be consistent with RHDV2. The animals were submitted for laboratory testing and preliminary results indicated non-specific hemorrhagic histological

lesions. RHDV2 was then confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory on Jan. 16.

Four rabbits out of the five from the location died from the virus, with the one remaining animal having recovered."

The rabbits were housed indoors with occasional restricted outdoor access. The premises and remaining rabbit have been quarantined since the initial report of concern.

The quarantine will remain in place until the risk of further spread has passed. An epidemiological investigation is ongoing at this time.

RHDV is classified as a foreign animal disease in the United States and is a reportable disease. This ongoing

outbreak began in March 2020.

While there have been isolated cases of RHDV2 in domestic rabbits in the eastern United States, those isolated cases do not appear to be epidemiologically related to the widespread outbreak in the Southwest.

This virus is highly contagious with mortality occurring within nine days after infection. Many times, the only signs of the disease are sudden death and possibly blood-stained noses caused by internal bleeding. Infected rabbits may also develop a fever, be hesitant to eat, or show respiratory or nervous signs such as difficulty breathing, lack of coordination or paralysis.

The virus is very resistant to extreme temperatures. It can be spread through

direct contact with other living or dead rabbits, exposure to an infected rabbit's excretions or blood, or through flea and fly bites. It can also spread from carcasses, food, water, and any contaminated materials.

Rabbit owners are encouraged to source feed and bedding items from non-affected areas. People can spread the virus indirectly by carrying it on their clothing and shoes, but RHDV2 does not impact human health.

"We encourage rabbit owners that observe unexplained deaths in their domestic rabbits to contact their veterinarian or the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 919-707-3250," said Martin. "Domestic rabbit owners are also encouraged to follow proper quarantine protocols

when introducing a new rabbit, as well as keeping domestic rabbits from any potential contact with wild rabbits."

There is currently one approved vaccine for RHDV2 in the United States. Owners are encouraged to work with their local veterinarians regarding RHDV2 vaccination. There is no cure or vaccine for wild rabbits.

Rabbit owners are also reminded that when bringing rabbits from other states into North Carolina an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection is required. Obtaining a health certificate from a veterinarian prior to bringing a rabbit into North Carolina will help protect the rabbit industry and wildlife in our state.

## 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.

**3 lbs. '26 Italian** honeybees w/ marked queen, avail 4/10, \$145; '26 5-frame nucs w/pro nuc box, 4-frames brood, 1 food frame w/over wintered queen, \$225 ea. Keith Elkes, Sophia 336-431-2339.

#### BEES

**3-lb. pkgs** Italian bees, avail. mid-March, \$130; 5-frame nucs, avail. mid-April, \$175; Italian queens, avail. April, \$36. Garry Whitley, Albemarle 704-982-0698.

**Extractor**, variable & reverse spd, 8 med., stand w/wheels, ProVap 110, (4) complete hives, no frames, stand, all other equip., worktable, \$1,000. Miles Jones, Mocksville 919-244-1133.

**5-frame nucs**, \$200; 3 lb. pkgs, \$145; queens, \$40; avail 4/18. Dick Lippard, Statesville 704-682-4018.



#### Equipment For Sale

**ACD-10** front wheel, \$50. Dale Pardue, Hamptonville 336-468-2038.

**2004 JD 750C-II** bulldozer, 8,350 hrs., rebuilt 6-way blade, undercarriage 80% remaining, takes no oil, extended drawbar, new root rake, \$43,000. John Cook, Aberdeen 910-639-1571.

#### FARM EQUIPMENT

**1973 Ford 3000**, 1,200 hrs., orig. tires & paint, EC, \$7,500; Kubota L245H offset tractor, 1,900 hrs., EC, cults & side dresser, \$5,700. Dustin Hill, Madison 336-239-4566.

**Bottom plow**, \$200; sub-soiler, \$130; Ford 7 ft. scrape, \$225; wghts., \$80 ea.; other items. James Isley, Julian 336-263-1958.

**1976 Farmall 140**, front disc, rear cults, good tires, GC, \$6,000. Pat O'Brien, Fayetteville 910-488-2777.

**Alamo hit & miss eng**, 3 1/2 hp, sand blasted & painted, \$600. Bobby Harkey, Albemarle 704-982-2494.

**JD 120 mower**, needs work, \$350; hd 6 ft. scrape blade, \$450; 3pt cult, \$200; manual head gate, \$150; 1,000 gal. plastic tank, \$700. Doug Stancil, Greensboro 336-402-8161.

**1970 Intl 140** tractor, \$500. Thomas Parks, Climax 336-685-0213.

#### FARM EQUIPMENT

**1976 Intl Farmall 140**, key start, cults, fert attach., 1pt, new front tires, orig. paint, \$5,500. Marvin Hill, Lexington 336-764-2244.

**1952 Farmall Super**, runs, 90% restored, \$2,000; 5 ft. bush hog, \$300; T-plow, \$75; disc, \$150; 5 ft. scrape blade, \$300; wheel wghts, \$100; other items. Delbert Sims, Greensboro 336-317-3323.

**Paperc hay chopper**, silo filler, w/extra gears, VGC, stored inside; wheat drill w/ some parts missing, \$650/both. Allen Case, Canton 828-235-1675.

**JD LT133 riding** mower, 13hp Kohler, 38 in. deck, orig. owner, \$750 obo. Greg Graves, Mebane 919-883-7133, [gfgraves65@gmail.com](mailto:gfgraves65@gmail.com).

**Implements for AC snap** coupler, plow, cult for CA, hay rake, scrape blade, ripper, \$250. Joe Hackney, Siler City 919-516-6002.

#### FARM EQUIPMENT

**Loyal brand** manure spreader, utility size, all metal, 5x2.5x1.75 ft. bed, tow behind ATV, Gator or similar, VGC, \$950. Tom Whitley, Cleveland 704-467-1614.

**1945 Case VA** tractor, GC, runs well, \$2,500 nego. Rosemary Burgdoff, Statesville 704-528-0036.

**JD F935** front mount diesel mower, 60 in., new radiator, belts, 2,300 hrs., regular service, \$2,600. Sam Crowder, Lattimore 704-692-2240.

**Cat D5C XL dozer**, early-mid '90s model, PID #9DL02010, 6,300 hrs., 6-way blade, new batteries, GC, \$30,000. Quentin Leonard, Whitsett 336-580-9602.

**3pt scoop pan**, used w/ Ford tractor, GC, \$150. Henry Lambeth, Gibsonville 336-697-0510.

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**Farmall M** wheel wghts, \$50/wgt; JD 40 wide front, \$100; Cub planter drive, \$25. Marvin Hardison, Watha 910-604-0601.

**Gleaner K2**, GC, 3Rn corn head, 13 ft. grain platform, rebuilt, \$7,500; JD 2640, stout tractor, \$8,500. Gerald Coggins, Whittier 828-399-9148.

**Fert spreader**, 2-ton wagon, \$5,500-\$5,600. Leonard Foster, Burlington 336-263-5012.

**JD 1209 moco**, GC, \$1,142-\$1,342. Edward Gann, Yadkinville 704-985-6642.

 Equipment Wanted

**MF 550** or 540 combine, in working cond. Kevin Ray, Nakina 910-840-1178 call/text.

**JD 70 or 71** planters, working order or parts; will take 2 or more to make 1 unit, don't need tool bar. Wesley Black, Peachland 704-272-9295 ext. 102 or 617-1370.

**JD tractor**, 40-80 hp, running or not. C. Johnson, Burlington 336-212-5943.

**Belly mower** for Farmall Cub tractor. Arron Lamar, Snow Camp 336-214-4505.

**Akron or Wade** Rain irrig. pipe & fittings, 4, 5 or 6 in.; diesel irrig pump, 4 or 6 cyl. Cameron Ennis, Garner 919-868-6398.

**Set of forks & mast** to fit MF 1060 loader. Robert Hyatt, Canton 828-648-7538.

**C153 gas eng** from IH combine, model 93, 105 or 203; also used in 210 & 230 IH swathers. J. Killian, Concord 410-707-8984.

**5 ft. bush hog**, Hardee, King Kutter, Titan brand; shelter kept, hd, \$500-\$950. Rick Hall, Gibsonville 336-260-7411.

**2-row corn planter**, field ready. James Davis, Lexington 336-247-1554.

**Manual head gate** or squeeze chute for cattle. W.S. Chandler Jr., Southern Pines 910-690-6953.

**JD 7000** corn planter, 3pt hookup or pull-type, 6-row, 30 in. spacing. Jack Davis, Kinston 252-775-0169.

**Tracks for Intl 175C** track loader, 7.5 in. pitch, 37 links, 16 in. pads, \$500. Paul Bailey, Roxboro 336-504-0634.

 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.



## 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.**

**50 ac for lease**, 30 tillable, 40x110 poultry house, grain bin, barn, shop, outbuildings, home, \$1,500/mo. Lamar Wortman, Shelby 704-477-3537.



## Farmland Wanted

**Land to lease** for deer hunting in Guilford, Rockingham, Alamance, Caswell or surrounding co. Alan Meredith, Jamestown 336-442-0733 or mgm2865@gmail.com.

**Pasture to rent** for cattle in Chatham co. Shawn Petty, Siler City 919-542-8360.

**Hunting lease** in Randolph & Davidson co., \$1,500-\$1,700. Terry Glasscoe, Thomasville 336-239-5131.



## Hay &amp; Grain For Sale

**4x5 rls hay**, stored inside, \$40/rl. Larry Hicks, Staley 336-708-0152.

**'25 peanut hay**, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped, sheltered, can deliv. 38-42/load, \$35-\$40/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

**Hay**, fert & limed, barn stored, \$30/rl or 10 rls for \$27 ea., cash only. Kent Lambeth, Winston Salem 336-209-8962.

**'25 mixed hay**, no rain, min. purchase 25 bales, \$5/sq bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

**Fescue/mixed** grass, 4x5, net wrapped, good quality, stored inside, \$45/bale. Frankie Shoffner, Liberty 336-339-5961.

**Fescue**, 4x5 rnd, no rain, in barn, \$35/bale. Betty Fields, Pleasant Garden 336-707-5812.

**Orchard grass/fescue**, rnd bales, \$50; sq bales, \$7; rnd bales cow hay, \$35; lrg qty discount. Johnny Sowers, Lexington 336-239-3020.

**Hay**, deliv. avail, horse quality, in barn, \$40/rl; cow quality, outside, \$35/rl. H. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

**Fescue/orchard** grass, 1,300+ rnd bales, net wrapped, horse & cow quality, dry storage, \$35, \$40 & \$50/rl. William Moffitt, Asheboro 336-381-3875.

**'25 horse quality hay**, 4x5 rnd, 1st cutting, \$35/bale; 2nd cutting sq bales, \$7/bale. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997.

**Orchard grass**, sm sq, \$8/bale; rnd bales horse hay, \$29/bale; cow hay, \$25/bale. Jim Graham, Linwood 336-382-3972.

**'25 coastal bermuda**, horse quality, sheltered, 900 lbs. of 4x5 rnd, \$90/bale; 20x35 sm, \$12/bale. David Gillis, Fayetteville 910-867-6600, Thurs. & Fri.

## AGRICULTURAL REVIEW

## HAY &amp; GRAIN

**Orchard grass/fescue**, 4x5 rnd, horse quality, sheltered, no rain, \$45; cow/goat mixed grass, 4x5 rnd, sheltered, no rain, \$35-\$40/bale; local deliv. avail. Jay Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

**Rye straw**, \$5.25/bale. Martin Moss, Concord 704-783-8366.

**'25 coastal bermuda**, horse quality, sheltered, rnd bales, around 800 lbs., \$60/bale; cow quality, \$40/bale. David Smith, Fayetteville 910-850-8715.

**Horse quality fescue**, spring '25 cut, can deliv., \$8.25/bale. Allen Moore, Summerfield 336-706-1157.

**'25 fescue mix**, no rain, stored in dry shelter on pallets, 4x5 rnd, mesh wrap, \$45/bale. Richard Ingram, Greensboro 336-420-9253.

**Fescue/orchard** grass, \$8/sq bale; mixed grass, 4x4 rnd, \$25/bale. Dillon Pinnix, Reidsville 336-414-7165.

## LIVESTOCK

**Commercial & reg Blk Angus bulls**, 14-16 m/o, bred for calving ease, BSE tested, \$4,000-\$4,500. Aaron Rumley, Burlington 336-675-1712.

**Red Dexter** bull, 8 m/o, ADCA #058004, polled, easy going, \$1,800. Gene Hundley, Norlina 252-213-1807.

**Savanna/Kiko buck**, kidded 3/2024, proven, quality bloodline, \$300. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

**Reg Angus bulls**, BSE tested, sires Veracious, Fireproof, Crossfire & Vision, \$4,500 & up. Nathan Ireland, Hamptonville 336-428-6974.

**Reg Hereford bulls**, dob 2/25, \$2,500. Kent Beck, Lexington 336-247-1179.

**Reg Angus bulls**, AAA #21110295 & AAA #21037061, BSE passed, Calhood vaccs, \$3,500-\$4,500. Greg Collins, Westfield 336-414-7165.

## Poultry &amp; Supplies For Sale

**California**, Silver California, Bluescales, Gambel's, 8 breeds bobwhite; 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.

**Laying hens**, Golden comets, Ameraucana, brown leghorns; August hatch, started laying Feb., \$20 & up. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997, Saturdays.

**Bobwhite quail**, flight pen raised, \$6 ea. Curtis Meissner, Bostic 609-273-2230.



## Seeds &amp; 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.

**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.

**Potted muscadine** plants, healthy vines, planting & fert instr. incld. \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822.

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



## Small Animals For Sale

**NZ rabbits**, white, red, blk, broken; Tamuk rabbit mixes, \$30-\$35. Isaiah Ring, Elkin 336-200-6080.



## Supplies For Sale

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

**Cedar bluebird** houses, mite resistant, \$12; fresh gourds, several sizes, \$10. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

**Fuel tanks**, 275 gal., \$250; 550 gal., \$400. Alex Vernon, Stoneville 336-207-5730.

**White oak lumber**, 2x6, 2x8, 2x10, various lengths, \$2.50/bd ft. Jeff Carpenter, Lawndale 704-530-1867.

**(3) purlin** commercial hoop houses, (2) 100'x30', (1) 24'x100' w/3' knee wall, \$1,600. Terence Earle, Lewisville 336-399-5246.



## Supplies Wanted

**Windmill**, 27-33 ft., will take down & clean up. Mike King, Warne 706-889-3170.



## Trucks &amp; Trailers For Sale

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

**'24 Calico stock** trailer, gooseneck, 16 ft., \$8,750; landscape trailer, 12 ft., \$2,350. H. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

**2007 Ford 150** King Ranch, 4-dr., many extras, \$6,495. Bob Herndon, Liberty 336-622-1199.

**1961 Willys Jeep** p/u, 3/4-ton, 4x4, runs, good rubber, barn kept, \$18,500. Russ Hanes, Glendale Springs 828-406-6365.

**'25 Calico stock** trailer, bumper pull, 16 ft., \$8,950. YD Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

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

**2018 enclosed trailer**, 7x14 ft., spare tire, EC, 2-axle, barn doors, white, V-shape front, shelves in front, \$2,700. Rex Hovey, Mint Hill 704-545-9760.

**Utility trailer**, 10x6 ft., \$800. Roger Spach, Winston-Salem 336-955-2090.

**Kory 6672 hay wagon**, 4-wheel, steel components, 1.5 press-treated, wood 90 in. width, 14 ft. length, \$1,152-\$2,100. Edward Gann, Yadkinville 704-985-6642.

**Wil-Ro gooseneck** cattle trailer, 16x6, good floor, has mats, \$4,000. Nathan Ireland, Hamptonville 336-428-6974.

# Discovering NC Ag: Growing cucumbers at Strickland Farming

Did you know that North Carolina ranks fifth nationally in cucumber production? From farmers that grow cucumbers to businesses that process them into pickles, cucumbers are a major commodity across our state. Reginald (aka Reggie) Strickland, owner and operator of Strickland Farming Group in Mount Olive, has been growing cucumbers, along with a variety of other crops, for many years, and knows firsthand how much they provide for farmers and the agriculture industry as a whole.

As a seventh-generation farmer, Reggie has always had a strong love for agriculture. "This farm has been in my family for generations," he said. "From my grandfather growing tobacco and my dad operating the warehouse to me coming up in the industry and learning from my grandfather, agriculture runs in our veins and will always be home to me." After graduating high school, Reggie attended N.C. State University where he obtained a degree in Agriculture Business Management. Upon graduation, he worked at N.C. State for 10 years before returning home to take over the family farm. "Working at N.C. State taught me a lot about the business side of agriculture, like accounting and working with numbers," Reggie said. "That experience has helped me be a better farm owner, operator and manager."

Today, Strickland Farming encompasses 3,600 total acres of farmland with around 200 of those acres dedicated to pickling cucumbers. They also raise hogs and turkeys in partnership with Prestage Farms and Butterball.

"We have a lot of partners and contracts on the farm, including those with Prestage Farms and Butterball," Reggie said. "In fact, most of our pickling cucumbers are in contract with Mt. Olive Pickle Company, the largest independent pickle company in the United States." Although they grow multiple varieties of pickling cucumbers on the farm each year, all of them are seedless varieties that produce better quality cucumbers due to less stress on the plant itself during growth.

Starting in mid-April, Reggie and his team begin planting



The Strickland family has been farming for generations.

cucumbers on the farm. "We typically have three to four plantings throughout the season to stage out production," he said. "Our team uses a typical planted for each stage of cucumber planting, which usually lasts through mid-May."

Cucumbers are a 60-day crop, meaning they stay in the ground for about two months from planting until harvest.

"We start harvesting the first round of cucumbers in mid-June and harvest through mid-August or September each year," Reggie said. "All of our cucumbers are harvested by hand, which takes a lot of labor and hard work. I have the best team in the world who not only ensure that the job gets done, but that these cucumbers are harvested in the most efficient way possible."

Once the cucumbers are harvested, they are taken directly to Mt. Olive Pickle Company for sizing, washing and processing.

Although the weather can be a challenge from year-to-year due to the sudden hot and cold snaps that North Carolina can bring, Reggie loves being a farmer because no day is ever the same. "I love the challenge of farming, both good and bad," he said. "No day is the same, whether we are harvesting cucumbers or sweet potatoes. I love being outside, working with the best crew in the



A load of cucumbers in Mount Olive.

world, and seeing the fruit of our labor every year."

If you are interested in trying a cucumber straight from the farm, Reggie recommends you reach out to his team via social media to see if any are available for purchase.

Cucumbers are a special crop for our state's agriculture industry, and they are used in many ways both on and off the farm.

"Cucumbers bring diversity to a lot of farms in North Carolina by offering a strong rotational crop that functions well seasonally with others," Reggie said. "The industry also provides a lot of jobs for people and benefits to the state that would be otherwise missed."

We are so proud of the Strickland Family for all that they do in the agriculture industry. We can't wait to see how their legacy will continue to flourish in the years to come!

## Hobby to career: Fermenting North Carolina cabbage

*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!*

Cabbage has been a staple crop in North Carolina for many years. Not only is it used in many entrees and side dishes, but also in a variety of value-added products, including sauerkraut. Meg Chamberlain, owner of Fermenti, enjoys making fermented products with cabbage,



In her 'homesteading momma' phase, Meg Chamberlain started Fermenti as a stay-at-home mom.

as well as educating the community on its importance.

Established in 2016, Fermenti provides living probiotic rich fermented foods to customers across the state and beyond. In fact, they are currently the largest fermenter in North Carolina! "After working in the education industry for many years, I became a stay-at-home mom where I fell in love with fermenting," Meg said. "You could say I hit my Homesteading Momma phase!"

From hobby to career, Fermenti is a dream born from a love of

fermented foods. Today, Meg and her team produce nine fermented food products for customers, with four of those products featuring local cabbage.

All ingredients used in Fermenti products are either grown by Meg and her family or acquired from local farmers, markets and businesses, including Against The Grain Biodynamic Farm in Boone, WNC Distributors, Olivette Farm in Asheville, Well Seasoned Table in Candler and Selina Naturally Celtic Sea Salt in Arden.

"We love supporting local farmers and using the freshest ingredients available for our products," Meg said. Although Kimchi is their best-selling product, they also produce three types of sauerkraut that customers across the country enjoy: (1) Sauerkraut, a clean and classic featuring cabbage and sea salt, (2) Ginger Turmeric Pink Kraut featuring black peppercorn, cabbage and turmeric, and (3) Apple Carrot Kraut featuring local cabbage, carrots

and apples.

"Sauerkraut is a delicious addition to any meal, and we aim to create a product for all palates to enjoy," Meg said. "My favorite way to eat our sauerkraut is on a poached egg with an avocado slice on a toasted English muffin."

Check out the Fermenti website for recipes and serving suggestions on how to use all their products!

In addition to creating delicious, fermented food products, Meg and her team also offer a variety of educational events, classes and festivals throughout the year. In fact, her team is responsible for creating and organizing the WNC Fermenting Festival, which is celebrating its 10th year this upcoming fall!

"Fermenti is all about the community and teaching others how to create fermented products for themselves," Meg said. "We all need to be eating something fermented with every meal,

so teaching people how to not only enjoy fermented products, but create them is essential."

Be sure to follow their social media platforms for the latest event information and class sign-ups!

As a member of our Got to Be NC Program, Fermenti takes great pride in sourcing local ingredients and encouraging customers to shop locally.

"The Got to Be NC Program has an important mission that I can align with," Meg said. "It's an honor to be a part of this program that supports the economy and encourages the community to buy local."

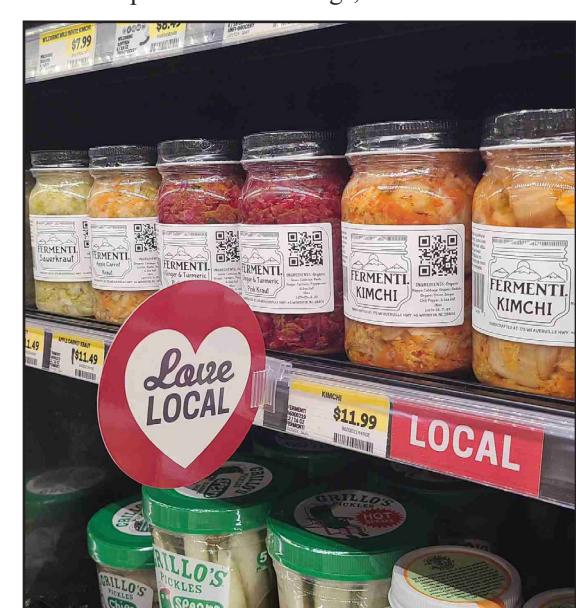
All products from Fermenti come with the promise of a clean and bright taste, healthy ingredients, and living probiotics that are good for your body. Even though Meg encourages customers to try her own products, she is also a huge supporter of other fermenters across the state.

Throughout our state's history, cabbage has been a versatile crop for farmers, product producers, chefs and more.

"Cabbage is a cultural staple in our state's agriculture industry, and has been important throughout our history," Meg said. "It can be used in a plethora of ways, and I encourage everyone to enjoy as much of it as they can every day."

We are so proud of Meg and her team for all that they do to further our state's agriculture industry.

Currently, their products can be found in 50 stores across the United States. Check out their website to search for stores in your area and try their products for yourself today!



Find Fermenti in the grocery store refrigerated section.