

# Agricultural REVIEW

Volume: 101 - No. 1

January 2026

Raleigh, N.C.

## Save the dates! New educational state forest now open in Stanley

- **2026 Ag Development Forum:** Thursday, Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m. N.C. State Fairgrounds in the special events tent near the Commercial and Education Buildings. Lunch will be served following the meeting.
- **Southern Farm Show:** Feb. 4-6, N.C. State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. Free admission and parking.

### Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

Feb. 2 for the March issue  
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.

North Carolina's newest educational state forest is now open to the public. Located in Stanley on an important conservation easement, Mountain Island Educational State Forest (ESF) is a working forest, emphasizing forestry best management practices related to water quality.

"Forests give back to the land by filtering the water we drink, cleaning the air we breathe and sequestering carbon," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Because Mountain Island Educational State Forest is a working forest, it provides an opportunity to demonstrate to the public the advantages of good forest management."

Mountain Island ESF is located in the northeast corner of Gaston County and extends into the southeast corner of Lincoln County. Nearby Mountain



Officials cut the ribbon, opening N.C.'s newest educational state forest.

Island Lake, from which the forest takes its name, supplies water to one out of every 12 residents in North Carolina.

As a way to help protect the water quality of Mountain Island Lake, the idea for an ESF on the site was born more than two decades ago.

Mountain Island ESF is one of six educational state forests that have been developed by the N.C. Forest Service to serve as a living classroom to teach children and adults about the complex, interdependent ecosystems that make up a forest.

"The mission of our educational state forests is to conserve the forest environment while providing working forest demonstrations and offering educational opportunities to the public and especially school children," said Greg Hicks, state forester and assistant commissioner for the North Carolina Forest Service. "We are proud to have this facility finally open to the public."

The 6,400 square-foot facility and more than 2,000 acres of land at Mountain Island ESF will allow the Forest Service to continue delivering on that mission.

The new ESF features a robust forestry education center, indoor and outdoor classrooms, four hiking trails -- including the

(See Mountain Island, pg. 2)

## Large Animal Grants program accepting applications

Large animal veterinarians in North Carolina are eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 in funds to help support their large animal practice.

The funding opportunity is available to veterinarians who practice in one of the 70 N.C. counties with a population of 100,000 or fewer and that spend 30% or more of their patient care involved in large animal veterinary care.

"Since the Large Animal Fund was established, we have awarded funds to

16 different veterinarians from across the state totaling over \$250,000," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "These vets cover 63 different counties across the state, assisting with many different species of animals."

These funds can be used for repayment of educational loans related to the recipient's veterinary degree, to purchase equipment or technology for use in their practice or any additional uses the advisory committee determines

is appropriate to promote and develop large animal veterinarians to practice in the designated counties.

"The field of large animal medicine is in dire need of assistance due to many reasons such as the high student loan debt, slim profit margins and equipment costs," said Troxler. "This has deterred many promising vet students from going into the specialized field of large animal medicine. While we are doing all we can with the

current funds available, I want to stress the importance of growth and development of this fund. Partnerships with agriculture industry leaders will be crucial in the expansion of this program. With increased support from these partnerships, we will be able to assist more vets from across the state and further support the large animal industry."

The application deadline is Jan.

(See Grants, pg. 2)

## From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

The start of the year is always a busy time for agriculture as commodity groups gather to hear the latest updates and projections for the year. I want to put a plug in for the 20th Ag Development Forum being held Feb. 5 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The forum is held in conjunction with the Southern Farm Show.

Each year's program includes an update on the economic outlook for agriculture and that will be part of the program this year as well. We will also have an update on the ag disaster assistance program, and I hope on the USDA Hurricane Helene agricultural

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

block grant, too. As I write this, we are awaiting USDA's approval of our distribution plan for the block grant.

Please mark your calendar for the morning of Feb. 5. Lunch will be served following the meeting. This year we will be meeting in a special events tent inside the gates in front of our Commercial and Education Buildings. The Holshouser Building is currently being renovated so this will be a temporary meeting space this year.

I mentioned an economic outlook report, and I wanted to share that we recently received updated Ag economic impact numbers from Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman at N.C. State University, and they were about what I expected them to be, based on the time period they are calculated from.

The latest economic impact numbers are based off 2023 USDA statistics. If you will recall, that year farmers were facing high input costs of fertilizers and other inputs in part due to the conflict in Ukraine.

While the total number did not grow this year, the good news is that the economic impact of North Carolina's agriculture and agribusiness remains over

\$100 billion, \$102 billion to be exact.

NC State Ag Economist Dr. Mike Walden, who retired several years ago, provided this information for years. This year the baton was handed off to Dr. Dorfman, who prepared this year's report.

The last couple years coming back from the pandemic, natural disasters, droughts and other obstacles, it is not surprising that our growth is flat.

Diving into the numbers more, you will see that ag represents 13% of North Carolina's total economic output, or \$1 in every \$8.

That might be hard to imagine if you live in one of our urban cities, but when you drive across the state, you see plenty of examples of agriculture and agribusinesses across the landscape.

This industry accounts for 965,000 jobs statewide, which represents 19% of the workforce or 1 in every 5 jobs.

Sometimes people only think about farmers when it comes to agriculture, but we have a big agribusiness sector in North Carolina with processing and food manufacturing, plus support industries.

To further break down the economic impact of ag industries:

- Food and related products: \$58.9 billion.
- Tobacco and related products: \$12.7 billion.
- Forestry and related products: \$14.6 billion
- Fiber and related industries: \$3 billion
- Green industry: \$4.2 billion.

I am proud that North Carolina farmers and agribusiness owners not only feed us, but they also power our state's economy.

Food starts somewhere and that is on a farm.

Yes, it eventually makes its way to a grocery store or farm stand or restaurant, but food doesn't START at those places even though that's where most people "get" their food from.

That is a very important distinction.

And, when you really think about that, you realize we ALL need our farms and farmers to be successful because they are the ones growing the food that we all enjoy.

Without farmers, we'd have a lot of empty grocery store shelves. We need to celebrate our farmers and agribusinesses every day.



## Agricultural Review

10,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$824 or 8.2 cents per copy.

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AGRICULTURAL REVIEW (ISSN 07445466) is published monthly by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 2 W. Edenton St., Raleigh, NC 27601. Second-class postage paid at Raleigh, N.C.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes and classified advertising to AGRICULTURAL REVIEW, 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001.  
AGRICULTURAL REVIEW is printed in interest of the farmers of the State and is sent free to residents upon request.

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Steve Troxler  
Commissioner

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## Mountain Island (Continued from pg. 1)



The Laura Shidal Visitor and Interpretive Center.

distinguished Talking Tree Trail -- individual picnic tables located throughout the forest and a large picnic shelter that can be reserved to accommodate large groups with nearby restrooms.

The forest will be open weekly, operating on ESF winter hours through the end of February. The forest is closed on weekends November through February, with weekend hours resuming March 1. Currently, Mountain Island ESF hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visitors can find more information about program options, trail updates and other public use area availability by visiting [www.ncesf.org/mtisland](http://www.ncesf.org/mtisland) or by contacting Mountain Island ESF rangers at 704-601-1060.

The N.C. Forest Service worked closely with several partner organizations to create Mountain Island ESF. Partners



The ESF features hiking trails and a picnic shelter.

include Duke Energy, Trust for Public Land, North Carolina Land and Water Fund, Lincoln County Parks and Recreation, Gaston County Parks and Recreation, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Lincoln County Natural Resources, Catawba Lands Conservancy, Gaston County Natural Resources, Gaston County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Carolina Land and Lakes.

# Golden LEAF Foundation celebrates scholarship recipients

*Contributed by UMO*

The University of Mount Olive (UMO) recently welcomed representatives from the Golden LEAF Foundation for a luncheon celebrating scholarship recipients and reaffirming the shared commitment to developing future leaders in rural North Carolina.

President and CEO of the Golden LEAF Foundation Scott Hamilton commended UMO’s ongoing partnership with Golden LEAF and emphasized the Foundation’s evolving mission to not only provide access to higher education but also to prepare students to lead the transformation of North Carolina’s rural economy.

“Our work is powered by innovation, technology, and a renewed focus on local excellence,” Hamilton said.

He encouraged students to stay connected with the Foundation after

graduation “Your journey is essential to North Carolina’s future, because if rural North Carolina doesn’t succeed, North Carolina doesn’t succeed,” he said.

Scholarship Program Manager Arlena Dongilli highlighted several ways the Foundation continues to support scholars beyond financial aid, including the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative, which offers paid, career-related internships in rural counties across the state. She also spotlighted Golden LEAF Scholars Connect, an online network linking more than 700 current scholars and 2,000 alumni to professional development opportunities.

“We truly believe in this program and in helping you get to that next level,” Dongilli said. “It’s about preparing you for the workforce while keeping you connected to the communities that raised you.”



Golden LEAF scholar Taylor Hall, a UMO senior veterinary bioscience major with an animal science concentration and a minor in chemistry, spoke on behalf of her fellow recipients. Hall shared how her summer internship, made possible through the Golden LEAF program.

“Not only have you assisted us financially, but you’ve also opened the door for us to give back to our rural communities,” Hall said. “Each of us here today is eager to continue our education so that we may serve and strengthen the places we call home.”  
The Golden LEAF Scholarship

Program awards 215 renewable scholarships annually to students from rural and economically distressed counties who demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to return to their communities to pursue meaningful careers.

## Horse Events

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

Jan. 2-4..... Da Bomb Barrel Racing. Contact Josh Smith, 910-639-6387.  
Jan. 17&18 .... IEA Central Carolina. Contact Diane McAlinn, 919-609-8139.  
Jan. 23-25..... Double L Bar Cowboy Mounted Shooters. Contact Pam Lohrey, 540-570-8785.  
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.

*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](mailto:info@serha.org).

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

Jan. 22-25..... Raleigh Indoors Winter I A. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.

*Western NC Agricultural Center, Fletcher, 828-687-1414*

Jan. 9&10..... Youth Extravaganza Barrel Race. Contact WNC Ag Center, 828-687-1414.

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

## Grants (Continued from pg. 1)

31, 2026. Applications are available online at <https://fs4.formsite.com/QopHZM/eri6jjyqie/index>.

More information on the grant program can be found in frequently asked questions or by emailing [largeanimalvetgrants@ncagr.gov](mailto:largeanimalvetgrants@ncagr.gov).

The Large Animal Health Enhancement Advisory Committee will make the determination on grant dispersal based on eligible applications. This committee includes the N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture; the State Veterinarian of North Carolina; the Executive Director of the North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority; one designee from the Food Animal Scholars Program, North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine; two practicing large animal veterinarians; two representatives of the livestock industry; one designee by the Commissioner of Agriculture of North Carolina; and one designee by the State Veterinarian of North Carolina.



# Winners in N.C. State Fair livestock shows announced

## Junior Market Beef – Junior Market Heifer

- Grand champion shown by Brody Coleman of Davidson (Mecklenburg)
- Reserve grand champion and third overall shown by Michelle Hartman of Walnut Cove (Stokes)
- Champion Got to Be NC shown by Hannah Hooker of Mt. Airy (Surry)
- Grand champion junior market heifer shown by Davis Mills of Spring Hope (Nash)

## Junior Market Beef – British Breed

- Grand champion shown by Madelyn Hooker of Mt. Airy (Surry)
- Reserve grand champion and third overall shown by Erica Shutsky of Pinnacle (Stokes)

## Junior Beef Heifer – All Other Breeds

- Grand champion shown by Bryson Ingram of Middlesex (Nash)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)
- Champion Got to Be NC and champion Bred and Owned shown by Schyler Crocker of Selma (Johnston)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Angus

- Grand champion shown by Macie Wood of Benson (Johnston)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Beau Surratte of Sherrills Ford (Catawba)
- Champion Got to Be NC and champion Bred and Owned shown by Maddie Carpenter of Wadesboro (Anson)

## Junior Market Heifer – Commercial

- Grand champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Duplin Lamb Project of Kenansville (Duplin)
- Reserve champion shown by Addison Sprinkle of Weaverville (Buncombe)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Charolais

- Grand champion shown by Cole Williams of Waynesville (Haywood)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Hope Latta of Zebulon (Franklin)
- Champion Got to Be NC shown by Cayte Mitchell of Hiddenite (Alexander)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Gelbvieh

- Grand champion, reserve grand champion, champion Got to Be NC and champion Bred and Owned shown by Molly Kate Anderson of Marion (McDowell)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Hereford

- Grand champion shown by Jordan Mitchem of Vale (Lincoln)
- Reserve grand champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Ansley Gee of Vale (Lincoln)
- Champion Bred and Owned



Brody Coleman shows his champion junior market steer.

shown by Laurel Mitchem of Taylorsville (Alexander)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Limousin

- Grand champion, reserve grand champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Duplin Lamb Project of Kenansville (Duplin)
- Champion Bred and Owned shown by Hope Latta of Zebulon (Franklin)

## Junior Market Beef – Junior Beef Heifer Supreme

- Supreme grand champion, reserve supreme grand champion, supreme champion Got to Be NC and supreme champion bred and owned shown by Shelby Candler of Weaverville (Buncombe)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Red Angus

- Grand champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Hannah Smith of Franklin (Macon)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Abigail Blankenship of Castalia (Nash)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Santa Gertrudis/Star 5

- Grand champion shown by Madeline Allen of Concord (Cabarrus)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Janie Kay of Tryon (Polk)
- Champion Got to Be NC shown by Rhett Perry of Zebulon (Wake)
- Champion Bred and Owned shown by Robbie Sherrill of Concord (Cabarrus)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Shorthorn/ Shorthorn Plus

- Grand champion shown by Ashlyn Houston of Claremont (Catawba)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)
- Champion Got to Be NC and champion Bred and Owned shown by Makenzie Davis of Zebulon (Wake)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Simmental

- Grand champion shown by Shelby Candler of Weaverville (Buncombe)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Cole Williams of Waynesville (Haywood)
- Champion Got to Be NC shown by Georgia Turrentine of King (Stokes)
- Champion Bred and Owned

shown by Montana Boatwright of Franklin (Macon)

## Junior Beef Heifer – Percentage Simmental

- Grand champion, champion Got to Be NC and champion Bred and Owned shown by Shelby Candler of Weaverville (Buncombe)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Allyson Helms of Norwood (Stanly)

## Junior Feeder Calf

- Grand champion overall grand champion Got to Be NC overall shown by Schyler Crocker of Selma (Johnston)
- Reserve grand champion overall shown by Ruby-Ann Pipkin of Sims (Wilson)
- Grand champion prospect and Got to Be NC champion prospect shown by Schyler Crocker of Selma (Johnston)
- Reserve grand champion prospect shown by Wann Hinnant of Kenly (Wilson)
- Grand champion progress shown by Ruby-Ann Pipkin of Sims (Wilson)
- Reserve grand champion progress and grand champion Got to Be NC shown by Adam Braswell of Castalia (Nash)

## Open Beef Cattle Angus

- Grand champion bull and senior champion bull shown by Greyson Peeler of Lawndale (Cleveland)
- Reserve grand champion bull and reserve senior champion bull shown by Trey Mills of Spring Hope (Nash)
- Grand champion female and senior champion female shown by Wood Angus of Willow Spring (Johnston)
- Reserve grand champion female shown by Beau Surratte of Sherrills Ford (Catawba)
- Reserve senior champion female shown by Ashlyn Houston of Claremont (Catawba)
- Junior champion female and intermediate heifer champion shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)
- Reserve junior champion female and reserve senior heifer calf shown by Maddie Carpenter of Wadesboro (Anson)
- Junior heifer calf champion shown by Beau Surratte of

Sherrills Ford (Catawba)

- Reserve junior heifer calf champion shown by Marcie Harward of Richfield (Stanly)
- Senior heifer calf champion shown by Eli Price of Seven Springs (Lenoir)
- Reserve intermediate heifer champion shown by Macie Ledford of Franklin (Macon)

## All Other Breeds Open

- Grand champion female, champion senior yearling heifer shown by Bryson Ingram of Middlesex (Nash)
- Reserve grand champion female, reserve champion senior yearling heifer shown by Karl Holshouser of Castalia (Franklin)
- Grand champion bull, champion bull calf shown by Trey Mills of Spring Hope (Nash)
- Champion senior bull, reserve champion senior bull and reserve champion bull calf shown by Nicholas Vidovich of Midland, Pa.
- Champion heifer calf shown by Hannah Smith of Franklin (Macon)
- Reserve champion heifer calf shown by Nate Bowman of Germanton (Stokes)
- Champion junior yearling heifer shown by Emma Vanhoy of Catawba (Catawba)
- Reserve champion junior yearling heifer shown by Schyler Crocker of Selma (Johnston)

## Charolais Open

- Grand champion female shown by Marcie Harward of Richfield (Stanly)
- Reserve grand champion female and senior champion female shown by Cora Joines of Blacksburg, Va.
- Grand champion cow/calf pair, reserve junior calf champion bull, reserve senior calf champion female and junior champion female shown by Hope Latta of Zebulon (Franklin)
- Reserve grand champion cow/calf pair shown by Chloe Lawson of Union Grove (Iredell)
- Grand champion bull, junior champion bull and junior calf champion heifer shown by Chad Gowing of Ernul (Craven)

- Junior calf champion bull shown by Virginia Tech Beef Center of Blacksburg, Va.
- Reserve junior calf champion female shown by Makayla Davis of Zebulon (Wake)
- Senior calf champion female shown by Marcie Harward of Richfield (Stanly)
- Reserve senior champion female shown by Cayte Mitchell of Hiddenite (Alexander)

## Gelbvieh Open

- Grand champion female, champion junior heifer calf, champion senior heifer calf and reserve champion junior female shown by NCSU E. Carroll Joyner Beef Education Unit of Raleigh (Wake)
- Grand champion cow/calf pair, reserve champion female, reserve champion senior heifer calf and champion junior female shown by Todd Hodges of Yanceyville (Caswell)

## Hereford Open

- Grand champion bull, champion senior bull, champion yearling bull, champion bull calf, reserve champion bull calf, shown by Nora Cave of Elkin (Surry/Wilkes)
- Reserve grand champion bull, champion junior bull calf and reserve champion cow/calf shown by Joy Hinnant of Kenly (Johnston)
- Grand champion heifer, champion intermediate heifer and grand champion cow/calf shown by Jordan Mitchem of Vale (Lincoln)
- Reserve grand champion heifer, champion senior heifer calf, reserve champion senior heifer calf and reserve champion intermediate heifer shown by Roseview Cattle Farm of Goldvein, Va.
- Champion junior heifer calf and reserve champion junior bull calf shown by Courtney Eudy of Harrisburg (Cabarrus)
- Champion yearling heifer shown by Erica Shutsky of Pinnacle (Stokes)
- Reserve champion junior heifer calf and reserve champion yearling heifer shown by NCSU E. Carroll Joyner Beef Education Unit of Raleigh (Wake)

## Miniature Hereford Open

- Grand champion and reserve grand champion bulls, grand champion and reserve grand champion females, champion and reserve champion heifer calf, champion junior bull calf and champion senior bull shown Cow Swamp Creek Farms of Grimesland (Pitt)

## Limousin Open

- Grand champion, reserve grand champion bull, grand champion female, Reserve champion heifer

(See Results, pg. 4)



Results

(Continued from pg. 3)

<p>calf, champion intermediate heifer, champion senior female, champion bull calf and champion intermediate bull shown by Dustin Kendall of Magnolia (Duplin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reserve grand champion female and champion heifer calf shown by Hope Latta of Zebulon (Franklin)</li></ul> <p><i>Percentage Simmental Open</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion heifer shown by Justin Teeter of Cleveland (Rowan)</li><li>Reserve grand champion heifer shown by Charlie Thomas of Winston-Salem (Davidson)</li><li>Grand champion bull shown by Shelby Candler of Weaverville (Buncombe)</li><li>Reserve grand champion bull shown by Alana McDaniel of Kings Mountain (Cleveland/Gaston)</li><li>Champion and reserve champion heifer calf shown by Charlie Thomas of Winston-Salem (Davidson)</li><li>Junior champion heifer shown by Justin Teeter of Cleveland (Rowan)</li><li>Reserve junior champion heifer shown by Allyson Helms of Norwood (Stanly)</li><li>Senior champion heifer shown by Alana McDaniel of Kings Mountain (Cleveland/Gaston)</li><li>Reserve senior champion shown by Abigail Blankenship of Castalia (Nash)</li><li>Champion bull calf shown by Alana McDaniel of Kings Mountain (Cleveland/Gaston)</li><li>Junior champion bull shown by Shelby Candler of Weaverville (Buncombe)</li></ul> <p><i>Piedmontese Open</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion female, reserve grand champion female, champion junior yearling heifer, reserve champion junior yearling heifer, champion senior yearling heifer and reserve champion senior yearling heifer shown by A.J. Strickland of Middlesex (Nash)</li><li>Grand champion bull, reserve grand champion bull and champion Tenderlean bull calf shown by Marina Strickland of Middlesex (Nash)</li><li>Grand champion Tenderlean female and champion Tenderlean heifer calf shown by Michaela Mitchell of Zebulon (Wake)</li><li>Reserve grand champion Tenderlean female and champion Tenderlean bull calf shown by Ava Strickland of Middlesex (Nash)</li><li>Reserve champion heifer calf shown by Luke Johnson of Carlisle, Pa.</li></ul> <p><i>Santa Gertrudis Open</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion bull, reserve grand champion bull and champion senior bull shown by Thomas Benfield of Statesville (Iredell)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reserve champion senior bull shown by Alan Barlowe of Lenoir (Caldwell)</li></ul> <p><i>Simmental Open</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion heifer shown by Justin Teeter of Cleveland (Rowan)</li><li>Reserve grand champion heifer shown by Hannah Vanhoy of Catawba (Catawba)</li><li>Grand champion bull shown by the Silverado Cattle Company of Mineral, Va. (Fauquier)</li><li>Reserve grand champion bull shown by Cooper Joines of Blacksburg, Va.</li><li>Grand champion cow/calf pair shown by Cayte Mitchell of Hiddenite (Alexander)</li><li>Champion bull calf shown by Cooper Joines of Blacksburg, Va.</li><li>Reserve champion bull calf shown by Charlie Thomas of Winston-Salem (Davidson)</li><li>Junior champion bull shown by Silverado Cattle Company of Mineral, Va. (Fauquier)</li><li>Reserve junior champion bull shown by Charlie Thomas of Winston-Salem (Davidson)</li><li>Champion heifer calf shown by Cooper Joines of Blacksburg, Va.</li><li>Reserve champion heifer calf shown by Cullen Joines of Blacksburg, Va.</li><li>Junior champion heifer shown by Justin Teeter of Cleveland (Rowan)</li><li>Reserve junior champion heifer shown by Hannah Vanhoy of Catawba (Catawba)</li><li>Senior champion heifer shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)</li><li>Reserve senior champion heifer shown by Georgia Turrentine of King (Stokes)</li></ul> <p><i>Shorthorn/Shorthorn Plus Open</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion female shown by Ashlyn Houston of Claremont (Catawba)</li><li>Reserve grand champion female shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)</li><li>Grand champion bull shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)</li><li>Champion junior bull calf shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)</li><li>Champion junior yearling shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)</li><li>Reserve champion junior yearling shown by Makayla Davis of Zebulon (Wake)</li><li>Champion heifer calf shown by Rylea Suddreth of Catawba (Catawba)</li><li>Reserve champion heifer calf shown by Greyson Peeler of Lawndale (Cleveland)</li></ul> <p><i>Supreme Open Beef Cattle</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supreme champion female shown by Justin Teeter of Cleveland (Rowan)</li><li>Reserve champion female shown by Jordan Mitchem of Vale (Lincoln)</li><li>Supreme champion bull shown by Silverado Cattle Company of Mineral, Va. (Fauquier)</li><li>Reserve supreme champion bull shown by Nora Cave of Elkin (Surry)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supreme champion cow/calf pair shown by Jordan Mitchem of Vale (Lincoln)</li><li>Reserve supreme champion cow/calf pair shown by Joy Hinnant of Kenly (Johnston)</li></ul> <p><i>Star 5 Open</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion female and champion yearling heifer shown by Janie Kay of Tryon (Polk)</li></ul> <p><b>Junior Dairy Cattle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supreme champion shown by Bryson Baldwin of Statesville (Iredell)</li><li>Reserve supreme champion shown by Reagan Tompkins of Ennice (Alleghany)</li></ul> <p><b>Junior Dairy Show Fitting and Showmanship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Peewee winner (6-8) was Silas McMurry of Shelby (Cleveland)</li><li>Junior winner (9-11) was Issac Schmiesing of Linwood (Davidson)</li><li>Intermediate winner (12-14) was Maggie Mehaffey of Rural Hall (Forsyth)</li><li>Senior winner (15-18) was Soraya Gomez of Burlington (Alamance)</li><li>Costume class winner was Presley Karriker of Staley (Randolph)</li></ul> <p><b>Junior Dairy Cattle – Jersey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion, senior champion and junior champion shown by Bryson Baldwin of Statesville (Iredell)</li><li>Reserve grand champion shown by Barrett Heizer of Snow Camp (Alamance)</li></ul> <p><b>Junior Dairy Cattle – Holstein</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion and senior champion shown by Reagan Tompkins of Ennice (Alleghany)</li><li>Reserve grand champion and junior champion shown by Madeline Branch of Mount Airy (Surry)</li></ul> <p><b>Junior Dairy Cattle – Guernsey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion and senior champion shown by Soraya Gomez of Burlington (Alamance)</li><li>Reserve grand champion</li></ul>	<p>shown by Thatcher Mehaffey of Rural Hall (Forsyth)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Junior champion shown by Anne Horstman of Raleigh (Wake)</li></ul> <p><b>Junior Dairy Cattle – Brown Swiss</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion and senior champion shown by Madeline Branch of Mount Airy (Surry)</li><li>Reserve grand champion shown by Soraya Gomez of Burlington (Alamance)</li><li>Junior champion shown by Calloway Mehaffey of Rural Hall (Forsyth)</li></ul> <p><b>Junior Dairy Cattle – Ayrshire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion and senior champion shown by Mckinley Branch of Mount Airy (Surry)</li><li>Reserve grand champion shown by Carson Ward of Lexington (Davidson)</li><li>Junior champion shown by Colton Oliver of Burlington (Alamance)</li></ul> <p><b>Open Dairy Cattle – Ayrshire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion female, reserve grand champion female, senior champion female and reserve senior champion shown by Kylie Ward of Lexington (Davidson)</li><li>Junior champion and reserve junior champion female shown by Russell Isley of Burlington (Alamance)</li></ul> <p><b>Open Dairy Cattle – Brown Swiss</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion, reserve grand champion, senior champion female, reserve senior champion female, junior champion female and reserve junior champion female shown by Britico Farms of Snow Camp (Alamance)</li></ul> <p><b>Open Dairy Cattle – Guernsey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion female and senior champion female shown by Nelson Brooks of Graham (Alamance)</li><li>Reserve grand champion female and reserve senior champion female shown by Thatcher Mehaffey of Rural Hall (Forsyth)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Junior champion female shown by Sarah Horstman of Raleigh (Wake)</li><li>Reserve junior champion female shown by Goldprint Farm of Linwood (Davidson)</li></ul> <p><b>Open Dairy Cattle – Holstein</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion female and senior champion female shown by Reagan Tompkins of Ennice (Alleghany)</li><li>Reserve grand champion female and reserve senior champion female shown by Christian Cook of Pittsboro (Chatham)</li><li>Junior champion female shown by Shanna Langley of Staley (Randolph)</li><li>Reserve junior champion female shown by Russell Isley of Burlington (Alamance)</li></ul> <p><b>Open Dairy Cattle – Jersey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion female, senior female champion and reserve junior champion shown by Britico Farms of Snow Camp (Alamance)</li><li>Reserve grand champion female and reserve senior champion female shown by Amanda Baldwin of Statesville (Iredell)</li><li>Junior champion female shown by Shylee Brooks of Seagrove (Randolph)</li></ul> <p><b>Open Dairy Cattle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collegiate Showmanship winner was Mia Leathers of Hillsborough (Orange)</li></ul> <p><b>Open Market Barrow</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grand champion purebred shown by Evan Mayo of Battleboro (Nash)</li><li>Reserve grand champion purebred shown by Lillian Griffin of Elm City (Wilson)</li><li>Grand champion crossbred and champion crossbred shown by Daniel Sharp of Sims (Wilson)</li><li>Reserve grand champion</li></ul> <p>(See More results, pg. 5)</p>
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Congratulations to all our participants!



## More results

(Continued from pg. 4)

- crossbred shown by Evan Mayo of Battleboro (Nash)
- Reserve champion crossbred shown by Emma Brinson of Fayetteville (Cumberland)

### Open Breeding Gilt

- Overall supreme champion shown by Riley Ballance of Lucama (Wilson)
- Overall reserve supreme champion shown by Makenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)
- Grand champion breeding gilt shown by Lizzie Griffin of Elm City (Wilson)
- Reserve grand champion breeding gilt shown by Isla See of Raleigh (Wake)
- Champion crossbred and champion purebred shown by Lizzie Griffin of Elm City
- Reserve champion crossbred shown by Isla See of Raleigh (Wake)
- Reserve champion purebred shown by Will Morgan of Franklin (Macon)

### Junior Market Barrow

- Grand champion shown by Dylan Briley of Greenville (Pitt)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Billiefaith Fulcher of Godwin (Cumberland)
- Third overall shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)
- Junior Market Barrow -- Crossbred
- Champion and grand champion Got to Be NC crossbred shown by Dylan Briley of Greenville (Pitt)
- Reserve champion crossbred shown by Billiefaith Fulcher of Godwin (Cumberland)
- Reserve grand champion Got to Be NC shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)
- Lightweight champion crossbred shown by Hannah Cooper of Hertford (Perquimans)
- Lightweight reserve champion crossbred shown by Ella McNeely of Lake Toxaway (Transylvania)
- Lightweight champion Got to Be NC crossbred shown by Halle Taylor of Pink Hill (Onslow)
- Medium weight champion crossbred shown by Cody Formisani of Wendell (Johnston)
- Medium weight reserve champion crossbred shown by Grace Jennings of Camden (Camden)
- Medium weight Got to Be NC champion crossbred shown by Eleanor Smothers of Walnut Cove (Stokes)
- Heavy weight champion and heavy weight Got to Be NC champion shown by Dyland Briley of Greenville (Pitt)

### Junior Market Barrow -- Purebred

- Champion purebred shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)
- Reserve champion purebred shown by Elizabeth Jennings of Raleigh (Wake)

- Champion Got to Be NC purebred shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC purebred shown by Genevieve Pulcini of Richlands (Onslow)
- Lightweight champion and light weight Got to Be NC champion shown by Genevieve Pulcini of Richlands (Onslow)
- Lightweight reserve champion shown by Mason Stallings of Elizabeth City (Pasquotank)
- Medium weight champion and medium weight Got to Be NC shown by Lillian Griffin of Elm City (Wilson)
- Medium weight reserve champion shown by Eli Price of Seven Springs (Lenoir)
- Heavy weight champion and heavy weight Got to Be NC shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)

### Junior Breeding Gilt

- Grand champion shown by Riley Ballance of Lucama (Wilson)
- Reserve grand champion and grand champion Got to Be NC shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by Dylan Briley of Greenville (Pitt)

### Junior Breeding Gilt -- Crossbred

- Champion shown by Riley Ballance of Lucama (Wilson)
- Reserve champion shown by Hannah Cooper of Hertford (Perquimans)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by Charleston Slate of King (Stokes)
- Champion Got to Be NC shown by Dylan Briley of Greenville (Pitt)

### Junior Breeding Gilt -- Purebred

- Champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)
- Reserve champion and reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by McLane Sharp of Sims (Wilson)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- Supreme Junior Ewe Meat Breed Sheep

- Supreme grand champion shown by Zadock Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Supreme reserve grand champion and Grand champion Got to Be NC shown by Kaylee Casper of Enfield (Halifax)
- Third overall and reserve grand champion Got to Be NC shown by Ceily Bledsoe of Dobson (Surry)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- Division 4 Black Face Cross

- Champion shown by Zadock Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Reserve champion shown by Kaylee Casper of Enfield (Halifax)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by Scarlett Denning of Newton Grove (Johnston)
- Champion lightweight ewe lamb shown by Ceily Bledsoe of Dobson (Surry)
- Reserve champion lightweight



Hesston Meadows shows his champion junior market lamb.

- ewe lamb shown by Caitlyn Anderson of Tarboro (Edgecombe)
- Champion Got to Be NC lightweight ewe lamb shown by West Rowan FFA of Mt. Ulla of Rowan
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC lightweight ewe lamb shown by Jacob Meads of Elizabeth City (Pasquotank)
- Champion medium weight ewe lamb shown by Kaylee Casper of Enfield (Halifax)
- Reserve champion and reserve champion Got to Be NC medium weight ewe lambs shown by Scarlett Denning of Newton Grove (Johnston)
- Champion Got to Be NC medium weight ewe lamb shown by Kaylee Casper of Enfield (Halifax)
- Champion and reserve champion heavy weight ewe lambs shown by Zadock Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Champion Got to Be NC heavy weight ewe lamb shown by Kendall Ayscue of Battleboro (Nash)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC heavy weight ewe lamb shown by Darci Boucher of Columbia (Tyrrell)

### Junior Ewe Meet Breeds -- All Other Registered Sheep Breeds

- Champion shown by Charleigh Settle of Mooresville (Iredell)
- Reserve champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Norah Jacob of Knightdale (Wake)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by West Rowan FFA of Mt. Ulla (Rowan)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- All Other Hair Breeds Registered

- Champion shown by Mckinleigh Settle of Mooresville (Iredell)
- Reserve champion shown by Zacariah Gaither of Harmony (Iredell)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- Dorset Purebred

- Champion shown by Meredith Poole of Zebulon (Franklin)
- Reserve champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Zoey Jacob of Knightdale (Wake)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by West Rowan FFA of Mt. Ulla (Rowan)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds --

### Hampshire Purebred

- Champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Lydia Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)
- Reserve champion and reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by Charleigh Settle of Mooresville (Iredell)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- Southdown Purebred

- Champion shown by Carter Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Reserve champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Maddison Wagaman of Washington (Beaufort)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by Mckinleigh Settle of Mooresville (Iredell)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- Division 1 All Other Breeds Non-registered

- Champion shown by Brody Coleman of Davidson (Mecklenburg)
- Reserve champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Maelynn Hartman of Walnut Cove (Stokes)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by Liam Whitney of Teachey (Duplin)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- Division 2 All Other Hair Breeds Non-registered

- Champion, reserve champion, champion Got to Be NC and reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by Laura Jessup of Ramseur (Randolph)

### Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- Division 3 Natural Color -Ewe

- Champion and champion Got to Be NC shown by Ceily Bledsoe of Dobson (Surry)
- Reserve champion shown by Kaylee Casper of Enfield (Halifax)
- Reserve champion Got to Be NC shown by Lydia Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)

### Junior Market Lamb

- Reserve grand champion shown by Zadock Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Third overall shown by Isabel Moore of Scotland Neck (Wake)
- Grand champion Got to Be NC shown by Elizabeth Jennings of Raleigh (Wake)

### Junior Market Lamb -- Division 1 All Other Breeds

- Champion shown by Hattie

- Jo Powell of Four Oaks (Johnston)
- Reserve champion shown by Kennedy Winslow of Roper (Washington)
- Champion Got to Be NC shown by Caleb Davis of Zebulon (Wake)

### Junior Market Lamb -- Division 2 Hair Influence

- Champion and Champion Got to Be NC shown by Mckinleigh Settle of Mooresville (Iredell)
- Reserve champion shown by Caroline Oxendine of Hope Mills (Robeson)

### Junior Market Lamb -- Division 3 Natural Color

- Champion shown by Kennedy Lee of Smithfield (Johnston)
- Reserve champion shown by Zadock Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Champion Got to Be NC shown by Ella Hill of King (Stokes)

### Junior Market Lamb -- Division 4 Blackface Cross

- Champion lightweight shown by Caitlyn Anderson of Tarboro (Edgecombe)
- Reserve lightweight champion and champion lightweight Got to Be NC shown by Addison Maxwell of Brown Summit (Guilford)

### Junior Market Lamb -- Division 5 Blackface Cross

- Champion medium weight shown by Isabel Moore of Scotland Neck (Halifax)
- Reserve champion medium weight shown by Zadock Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Champion medium weight Got to Be NC shown by Elizabeth Jennings of Raleigh (Wake)

### Junior Market Lamb -- Division 6 Blackface Cross

- Champion heavy weight shown by Hesston Meadows of Leicester (Buncombe)
- Reserve champion heavy weight shown by Zadock Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Champion Got to Be NC heavy weight shown by Kendall Ayscue of Battleboro (Nash)



# Field-tested answers at Upper Coastal Plain Research Station

Founded in the earliest years of the 20th century, the Upper Coastal Plain Research Station (UCPRS) outside of Rocky Mount is the oldest of North Carolina’s 18 research stations and remains a cornerstone for agronomic research in the state’s eastern region.

What began as a trial site of about 201 acres in 1902 became an official state research facility in 1903. Over the decades the station expanded. An adjacent tract of about 240 acres was purchased in 1937, bringing the total size to just under 442 acres.

The Fountain Farm has been part of the station’s operation since 1990. It’s just east of Rocky Mount, about 10 miles from the main station, and it brought the station’s total acreage to about 780 acres (460 cultivated acres and 310 woodland acres) across the two sites.

The station’s range of soil textures — from deep loamy sands to sandy clay and silt loams — is a major asset. Those soils allow researchers to evaluate herbicides and weed-management strategies across conditions that represent much of eastern North Carolina, which increases the real-world relevance of the results.

“At the end of the day, the research leaves here, goes to NC State, then Extension and eventually reaches the farmer,” said station superintendent Creig Deal. “That’s really what it’s all about.”

Today, the station’s cotton research is a major part of the activity in the fields.

**Scope and infrastructure**

UCPRS’s research program is focused on agronomic crops, including cotton, peanuts, tobacco, soybeans, corn, sorghum and small grains. The site has also supported work on cucurbits, switchgrass, trees and extensive weed-management trials.

To support the research, the station’s 28 buildings include drying and storage facilities, six tobacco curing barns, a tobacco pack-house, fertilizer and pesticide storage, a maintenance shop and office space. An on-site ECONET tower reports weather data to the State Climate Office at NC State and to the National Weather Service, giving researchers localized climate information critical to field trials.

Deal also pointed out a recent improvement to the station.

“We have a linear [irrigation] system now, and that has really improved as far as irrigation purposes,” Deal said. “This year [it] just made it so much easier.”

The system allows researchers to control water applications consistently across plots, which can improve the quality of yield and pest-response data.

**Research priorities and tools**

UCPRS has an international reputation for its disease nurseries. Long-running tobacco black shank nurseries, a tobacco bacterial wilt nursery and a peanut sclerotinia blight nursery help researchers develop resistant cultivars of crops.

“Our tobacco black shank nursery is perhaps the best in the world, and without the continued breeding and screening research done here for the development of black shank-resistant flue-cured and burley tobacco varieties, the tobacco industry could be devastated,” reads the station’s NCDA&CS webpage.

“The location is close enough to NCSU for project leaders to closely monitor their research projects, apply treatments and collect data within a workday.”

Over half of the tobacco acreage in North Carolina and South Carolina is planted in black shank-resistant varieties that were developed at the station.

In addition to disease research, peanut and tobacco breeding have been among the highest-profile activities on the farm. NC State scientists evaluate breeding lines and varieties for yield and disease resistance. They screen fungicides and plant-growth regulators, and they run crop-rotation and weed-management studies.

Cotton has emerged as possibly the most substantial research on the station.

“One of the NC State University cotton specialists, Guy Collins, his office is here,” Deal said. “Cotton is probably our number one when it comes to tests.”

Deal also likes to joke about how he dislikes seeing the weeds that are part of trials done across several of the station’s crops.

“I grew up farming, and looking at weeds is not my favorite thing, but the tests are necessary,” Deal said. “In the end, it’s about finding solutions that help the farmer.”

Ultimately, the trials performed on the station — whether a new peanut line being evaluated for sclerotinia resistance or a



Agricultural research specialist Dan Mott and Creig Deal in 2014.

herbicide regime tested across the station’s diverse soils — are designed to reach growers through NC State’s research and Extension pipeline.

**People power**

Operating a research farm like Upper Coastal Plane means depending on people just like a commercial farm. Deal described a small core crew of three guys show grew up farming, plus a fourth younger employee who’s become integral to the group. There are a few other newer hires as well.

“They are really excited when something comes along that would help the people we’re trying to help,” Deal said.

However, he worries about who will replace an aging workforce. Younger crew members provide some hope and so does the station’s long history of training students.

**A mission that endures**

More than a century after its founding, Upper Coastal Plain Research Station remains a working laboratory for crop improvement and production practices that matter to growers in North Carolina and beyond. Deal sums up the station’s purpose simply.

“I’m behind research. I’m behind what we do, and every test out here is important,” Deal said. “I take great pride that we are going to do good research, and I also take pride in at the end of the day, we are helping the farmer.”

## Bucolic Briefs

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

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

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

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

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

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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’s 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.

## 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](http://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

#### 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.

**3,000 5-frame nucs & splits,** avail. March-May, from mite resistant stock, \$150 ea. Tim Holt, Siloam 336-710-4904.

**20 beehives** w/treatment-free bees, \$300 ea. Tony Parker, Bolton 910-386-7725 or 655-0741.



### Equipment For Sale

**Kubota GR2100,** good eng, deck, wheels, etc., trans needs work, \$1,200 obo. Glenn Lowrey, Clemmons 336-408-6344.

**JD hay elevator,** 32 ft., \$350. Doug Foster, Concord 704-361-1218.

**JD 120 mower,** doesn’t run, \$450; hd scrape blade, 6 ft., \$450; hd trailer, 5x7, \$500; Purina lick tank, \$350; 3pt cult, \$200. Doug Stancil, Greensboro 336-402-8161.

**Brinly PA-402** BH lawn aerator, pull-behind/plug-type, 40 in., \$200. Duane Kirschenman, Winston-Salem 704 528-9369, call or text.

**Bobcat ZT3000** mower, shed kept, 43 hrs., buyer p/u, \$6,900 cash/certified check. Owen Moore, High Point 336-848-0614.

### FARM EQUIPMENT

**H&H pro sprayer,** 200-gal. tank, 5hp B&S motor, Hi-Pro pump, adjust. pressure, 26 ft. sprung boom, 12v solenoid, spot sprayer, 10 ft. hose, implement tires, \$3,000. Tom Glendinning, Pittsboro 919-545-0880.

**Metal dump utility** box, 4x4x2, 3pt, custom made, EC, \$150. Jack Matthews, Charlotte 704-846-1903.

**Intl tricycle tractor,** fair cond., been sitting, \$2,000 or trade. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

**Blue hawk** aerator plugger for riding mower, 48 in. wide, flat-free wheels, wgt for top, \$200. Gene Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

**Khun GMD 240** disc cutter, new, used less than 10 hrs., \$10,500. Terry Toomes, Randleman 336-944-7344.



## FARM EQUIPMENT

**3 in. irrig piping**, (27) 30 ft. pipes, (2) 20 ft., (1) 17 ft., 4 in. p/u tube, 11 sprinkler heads & bag of misc elbows, no pump, \$1,500. Grant Gordon, Pinnacle 336-749-2890.

**Woods DS10.40** bush hog, 10 ft., LN, \$14,000. Billy Hardin, Julian 336-202-9855 or billy@billyhardin.com.

**1948 Ford 8N**, new front tires, rebuilt eng, runs well, new battery, new PTO seal, \$1,700. William Smitherman, East Bend 336-699-8699.

**10" x73/83 ft.** swing away auger, used one season; 10"x65ft. swing away auger, new flighting & gear boxes; 9510 combine, \$28,500. Don Brooks, Albemarle 704-213-1145.

**MF 40 forklift**, 6,000 lbs. capacity, 12 ft. mask, rebuilt fuel system, \$5,000. Edward Crook, Winston Salem 336-830-7553.

**Sm wire wheat** concaves for JD 9500 STS combines, came off 2007 9560 STS, VGC, \$400. Jerry Hare, Mocksville 336-971-3038.

**1948 JD M**, low hrs., rebuilt eng, new tires, all wheels & wheel wgt, older restoration, \$3,200. David Honbarger, Salisbury 704-636-8208.

**Lincoln AC 225S** welder, \$150. Gene Clemmons, Clayton 919-553-7905.

**Farm Pro** wood chipper, PTO, 3pt, cat. 1, new, on shipping pallet, 8" feed, max 45hp, owner's manual, can load, \$1,100. David Patterson, Burlington 336-684-8391.

**MF 245**, 1,600 hrs., 11 pieces of equip, will not separate, \$10,000. Richard Smith, Charlotte 704-651-3799.

**NH BR7060** rnd baler, twine wrap, around 2,000 rls., \$16,000; NH 163 hay tedder, 1,500 total ac, \$4,000. Jeff Braun, Oakboro 704-984-3726.

**Hay ring**, GC; feed trough, used once, \$350/both. Wayne Dickerson, Ruffin 336-552-6284.

**Offset Bush Hog** disc harrow, 8 ft., hd, \$2,150. Edward Lewis, Gibsonville 336-516-2632.

**8 ft. disc** harrow, \$1,450; 3pt disc plow, \$275. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

**3pt subsoiler**, \$130; cults, \$130; Ford 20-disc harrow, rebuilt, \$575; Little Rhino scrape, \$300; Dannhauser post digger, new auger, \$600; Ford 2-16 plow, \$275. James Isley, Julian 336-263-1958.



## Equipment Wanted

**JD model G**; feed grinder/mixer. Tyler Dunn, Robbins 336-963-4018.

## EQUIPMENT WANTED

**NH 57 hay** rake, 3 pt. Larry Lyerly, Gold Hill 704-213-3272.

**JD 215 forage** wagon, can be a salvage wagon. Norris McConnell, Mt. Ulla 704-663-3828 or 431-9321, before 8 p.m.

**Ford 8N or 9N** tractor, not running. David Arron, Snow Camp 336-512-6682.

**2-row planter**, GC. Martin McLamb, Benson 919-631-1321.

**Tractor tire**, 16.9 x 38. Alex Locklear, Maxton 910-818-4762.



## Farm Labor For Sale

**Elect. fence box** repair, ssc, parmak, \$20. Bobby Nichols, N. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.

**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.



## Hay &amp; Grain For Sale

**Hay**, barn stored, \$30/rl; 10 or more, \$27/rl, cash only. Kent Lambeth, Winston Salem 336-209-8962.

**Spring fescue**, 4x5 rnd, \$60/bale; sm sq bales, \$7 ea. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

**2025 mixed hay**, no rain, min. purchase 25, \$5/sq bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

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

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

**Peanut hay**, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped, baled behind combine, can deliv. 42/load, \$35 & \$40/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

**Fescue**, barn stored, 4x5 rnd, \$40/bale. Chris Wood, Sanford 919-842-2126, call/text.

**Fescue**, 4x5, deliv. avail., \$45/bale. David Lomax, Denton 336-688-5313.

**Fescue**, good quality, clean sq bales, no weeds, dry storage, suitable for horses, easy loading, \$5/bale. Edna Gibson, Climax 336-824-2080.

**2025 fescue** mix, mesh wrapped, no rain, sheltered, stored on pallets, 4x5 rnd, \$50/bale. Richard Ingram, Greensboro 336-420-9253.

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

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

## HAY &amp; GRAIN

**Spring cut** fescue & orchard grass mix, sq bales, \$8; mixed grass, 4x4 rnd, \$25/bale. Dillon Pinnix, Reidsville 336-587-9042.

**Horse quality** mixed grass hay, sq bales, no deliv., \$8/bale cash only. Ardie Peters, Vale 828-290-4560, call/text.

**Rye straw** \$5/bale; wheat grain, \$10; shelled corn, \$8; soybeans, \$13; all grain in 50 lb. bags, qty discount. Max Hoyle, Vale 828-302-4951.

**2025 coastal** bermuda, horse quality, clean, around 900 lbs., 4x5 rnd, \$90/bale; 20"x35" sm bales, \$12/bale. David Gillis, Fayetteville 910-867-6600, Wed.-Sat. morning.

**4x4 hay** rls, kept in barn, deliv. possible, \$30/bale. Ben Venable, Siloam 336-710-5950.



## Livestock For Sale

**SimAngus** herd bulls, blk, polled, bred for calving ease, muscle, growth & disposition, \$3,000-\$4,500. William Pyle, Franklinton 919-215-5677.

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

**Charolais** bulls & heifers, polled, gentle, reg sires, 7 mos & up, \$2,000 & up. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

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

**ND billy** goats, born 10/30/25, (5) avail., \$125 ea.; 2 or more, \$100 ea. Nick Gray, Concord 704-960-5091, call/text.

**SCI bucklings**, 8 m/o, reg SCIGBA, parent verified, CDT, microchipped, \$400. Marguerite Strand, Spring Lake 910-584-5025.

**Savanna/Kiko** buck, 20 m/o, quality & proven bloodlines, \$400. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

**(2) reg** Blk Angus heifers, open, ready to breed Feb, born fall '24, AAA 21061624 & AAA 21138814, pasture raised, EC, \$3,000-\$4,000. Monty Reichert, Fuquay Varina 919-812-0435.

**Young Hereford** bulls, polled, \$3.45/lb. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.



## Poultry &amp; Supplies For Sale

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

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

## POULTRY

**Bobwhite** quail, \$6 ea.; Ringneck pheasants, \$15 ea.; flight pen raised. 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** & scuppernong plants, 5-6 ft., healthy, planting & fert instr. incld, \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

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

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



## Seeds &amp; Plants Wanted

**Lrg green** giants, in the field, \$100. Kenneth Lowe, Lowgap 336-352-4048.



## Supplies For Sale

**Fuel tanks**, 2,000 & 4,000 gal., \$1,600-\$2,500; heart cedar fence posts, \$5 ea.; Miles Little, Midland 704-791-1438.

**Handmade cedar** birdhouse, mite resistant, \$12; gourds, lrg & sm, \$10. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

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

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

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

**Logs** for firewood, 16 ft. dump trailer, deliv. w/in 25 mi, \$125/load. David Lomax, Denton 336-688-5313.

**Water** totes, \$100; totes cages, \$40; burning barrels, \$10; feed barrels, \$20. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

**Coleman** generator, 120v, 2,250w, GC, \$250. Henry Lambeth, Gibsonville 336-697-0510.

## FARM SUPPLIES

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



## Supplies Wanted

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



## Trucks &amp; Trailers For Sale

**Stock** trailer, 6x10, metal sides, wood floor, 205/75 D15 tires, slide gate on rear, title, \$1,000. Jimmy Sasser, Burlington 336-516-5142.

**2007 Dodge** 2500 body parts, bumpers, fenders, doors, other parts; rust can be removed, \$75-\$1,000. Eddie Moretz, Deep Gap 828-963-0883.

**Camper** shell for long bed pickup, w/roof top cross bars, \$150. Ron Peters, Reidsville 336-280-6111.

**Storage** trailers, 40, 45 & 48 ft., \$2,000-\$2,500; Miles Little, Midland 704-791-1438.

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

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

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

**'88 GMC** C7000 flatbed, hyd dump bed, Detroit diesel, 2-spd axle, 144,000 mi, air/heat works, no air brakes, runs well, \$9,000. Bobby Huneycutt, Oakboro 704-485-8434.

**1999 Ford** Dually, 7.3 diesel, manual trans, extend, GC, \$25,000. Mike Davis, Elkin 336-366-9291.

**2007 Ponderosa** horse/livestock trailer, bumper pull, front tack room, \$3,900. Jared Yates, Hickory 828-308-1543.

**Calico** stock trailer, 16 ft., gooseneck, \$8,850; 20 ft. equip. trailer, \$3,200. H. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.



## Trucks &amp; Trailers Wanted

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



# Officials break ground on NCFS Region 1 headquarters

State and local officials gathered in early December to officially break ground on the future home of the North Carolina Forest Service Region 1 headquarters at the Duplin County Airport.

This \$13.1 million project includes an administrative building and a maintenance and storage facility to serve as the headquarters for the NCFS's Region 1 operations. The facility will house the region's forestry and aviation resources and support NCFS personnel as they respond to wildfires and other emergencies.

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, State Forester and Assistant Commissioner Greg Hicks, Rep. Jimmy Dixon, Sen. Brent Jackson, Duplin County Commission Chair Dexter Edwards, architect Paul Sewart of Williard Stewart Architects and Jeremiah Daniels of Daniels & Daniels Construction Co. were joined by other members of the community to mark the beginning of construction.

"A new headquarters for Region 1 has been a long time coming and wouldn't have been possible without strong partnerships



Above: State and local leaders officially began construction at the site. At left: State Forester Greg Hicks speaks at the ceremony.



between state, county and local leaders," Hicks said. "This facility will strengthen wildfire response and forestry management across Eastern North Carolina."

The NCFS has three regional offices across the state. The coastal plains area of the state makes up Region 1. The region is comprised of four districts serving 27 Eastern North Carolina counties. Additionally, the Bladen Lakes State Forest and Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest are in Region 1.

The three regional offices across

the state serve as lifelines for the districts and counties that make them up, storing tools and equipment and supplying them when they are needed during wildfire events or prescribed burning. These facilities also act as a central hub with classrooms used for training employees in the region and across the entire state.

Currently, the Region 1 office is located in Kinston at a building that opened in 1942 as a military facility. The NCFS moved into that building in 1962, and while the facility has served the agency

well for more than six decades, a new home is needed.

"I know our Region 1 staff are looking forward to being in this new facility to serve this part of our state," Troxler said. "We certainly could not have gotten to this point without strong legislative and local support, which I am incredibly thankful for."

The facility will include administrative offices, training rooms, maintenance shops, equipment storage, chemical storage and above-ground fuel storage. Overall, this project includes 10,300

square feet of space for the admin building and 10,000 square feet for a heated shop, plus 12,000 square feet of covered storage.

Additionally, it will have around 2,700 square feet of space for shared training and Emergency Incident Command functions.

"This project has been in the making for a number of years, and is a true testament to patience, perseverance and partnership," Troxler said. "I want to thank the Duplin County leaders for welcoming our Region 1 offices and staff here."

# Meet the family growing holiday traditions in Sims

Since its opening in 1978, Williams Plant Farm in Sims, has become a cornerstone of the state's holiday season, supplying Christmas plants to homes, churches and florists across North Carolina. What began as a small venture has grown into a seasonal tradition that was built on hard work, big dreams and horticulture expertise.

H.C. Williams' path to plant production began with encouragement from his high school FFA teacher and later from a professor at Wilson Tech, who both urged him to explore the ornamental crops program at North Carolina State University. He graduated from NC State University in 1970 and has worked in the plant industry ever since. Today, his two sons, Michael and David, are involved in day-to-day operations of the farm.

The Williams family has been growing Christmas plants for 47 years, long enough to see Christmas traditions and trends come and go. One thing has stayed the same though...their constant commitment to quality. That dedication has paid off as their farm has been able to steadily reach new heights over the years.

"I don't want to sell one time to one customer," said H.C. Williams, owner and founder. "I want my customers to keep coming back year after year for a quality plant that brightens their home long after the holiday season ends."

Inside the family's warm greenhouses, rows of classic Christmas plants stretch end to end. They grow poinsettias, Christmas cactuses and cyclamen. They also offer varieties such as Norfolk Island pine, frosty fern, amaryllis and other



Above: The Williams family. Top right: H.C. Williams and his wife, Bettie, are the owners of Williams Plant Farm in Sims. Bottom right: The nursery sells 24,000 poinsettias annually.



assorted foliage plants.

Williams grew 3,500 poinsettias his first year and sold nearly all of them. Today, the nursery sells 24,000 poinsettias annually.

Your holiday plants may arrive in late November, but the preparations begin much earlier. The Williams family begins planting and planning months to a year ahead of the season. "It takes a lot of attention to detail and focus on the things we can control when growing a quality plant," Williams said.

Warm, sunny days like the ones North Carolina has experienced this season also help produce vibrant plants.

The family's top advice for customers taking home holiday plants:

- Keep them away from heating vents
- Keep them wet, but not saturated
- Keep out of drafts
- Give them bright, indirect light

With a little care, these festive plants can stay vibrant beyond the holiday season.

The family sells holiday plants on their farm in Sims, and to many churches and florists across the state.

Shoppers can also find their plants at Logan's Garden Shop at the State Farmers Market in Raleigh. No matter where shoppers pick them up, each plant carries the care and dedication that make this

family nursery a holiday favorite in North Carolina.

"What means the most to us is knowing our plants help set the stage for Christmas memories," the family shared.

"From decorating churches to storefront windows, to sitting in a family's home, knowing our plants play even a small part in the Christmas season makes all the long hours worth it."