

Agricultural REVIEW

Volume: 101 - No. 7

July 2026

Raleigh, N.C.

It's time to get your fair entries ready!

Are you ready to let your creativity and talents shine at the 2026 N.C. Mountain State Fair and N.C. State Fair? From livestock to handicrafts to canning and so much more, there is a competition for everyone!

The 2026 Mountain State Fair runs Sept. 11-20 in Fletcher. Registration deadlines vary by category, ranging from Aug. 14-28. Find the 2026 Catalog online by visiting www.wncagcenter.org/p/mountainstatefair and clicking Competitions.

The 2026 N.C. State Fair runs Oct. 15-25 in Raleigh. The 2026 Premium Book will be published online by July 1. For more information, visit www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-state-fair/competitions.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

July 1 for the August issue
Aug. 3 for the September issue
Sept. 1 for the October issue
Oct. 1 for the November 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.

New World Screwworm detected in U.S.; no cases in N.C.

Due to the detection of New World Screwworm in the United States, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will enforce additional interstate movement health requirements for warm-blooded animals, including livestock, horses, dogs and cats, entering North Carolina from states affected by a New World Screwworm Infested Zone.

“The positive cases in Texas and New Mexico are disappointing but not surprising considering the close proximity to Northern Mexico,” said State Veterinarian Mike Martin. “The restrictions on interstate movement of animals from these affected areas is one of the tools we are using to help our state be in a better position to prevent and control the spread of New World Screwworm.”

All warm-blooded animals imported into North Carolina from an Infested Zone must have an accredited veterinarian complete the normal importation requirements and comply with the NWS National Continuity of Business Standardized Animal Movement Guidance. The Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection shall be valid for no more than seven days from the date of inspection and must include the statement, “All animals listed have been inspected and found free of evidence of NWS infestation.” An entry permit number must be requested at least 48 hours prior to movement.



Permit numbers can be requested Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by emailing NC-ICVI@ncagr.gov.

All warm-blooded animals entering North Carolina from outside an Infested Zone but within (See Screwworm, pg. 3)

N.C. Forest Service tree seedlings go on sale July 1

The N.C. Forest Service will begin accepting orders July 1, for its annual tree seedling sale. With an average annual production of 10 million seedlings, and a reliable supply of more than 40 tree species, the NCFS Nursery Program produces enough native and genetically improved tree seedlings to plant roughly 18,700 acres of land.

“Our nursery program continues to provide affordable native tree seedlings that are geographically suitable for the state’s diverse forestlands,” said

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “By offering seedlings in different quantities, the program can help customers of all sizes whether the need is as few as 10 seedlings, or as many as several thousand. The annual seedling sale is just another way that the forest service strives to keep North Carolina’s woodlands healthy, growing and thriving.”

The program offers quality conifer and hardwood seedlings. Genetically improved stock is available for Fraser fir, loblolly, longleaf, shortleaf,

Eastern white pine and Virginia pine. These seedlings offer better volume growth, tree form, disease resistance, straightness, and other characteristics needed to produce beautiful Christmas trees, healthy woodlands and quality forest products. Customers interested in knowing more about specific tree species and available inventory can speak with NCFS Nursery staff, as well as reference the ordering website or seedling catalogs.

How can you order tree seedlings from the NCFS Nursery Program?

Tree seedlings can be ordered from the online seedling store at www.buynctrees.com.

Tree seedlings can also be ordered by phone at 1-888-NCTREES (1-888-628-7337) or 919-731-7988.

Tree seedlings can be ordered using the order form in our FY26-27 Nursery Seedling Catalog. Complete the form and mail to Seedling Coordinator, 762 Claridge Nursery Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

A user-friendly online catalog (See Seedlings, pg. 2)

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

Recently the United States had its first detection of New World Screwworm in a calf in Zavala County, Texas.

Some of us that have been around long enough may remember our parents or grandparents dealing with New World Screwworm in the 1950s and earlier. It was not eradicated from the Southeastern United States until 1959.

This is a serious pest that affects livestock, pets, wildlife, and, less commonly, people and birds. Adult NWS flies can look very similar to houseflies, and the maggots (larvae)

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

look similar to our native fly larvae. It requires laboratory identification to identify larvae accurately.

The NWS larvae feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals and cause extensive damage to wounds by feeding on this healthy tissue. While this pest can infect any warm-blooded animal, 60 to 70% of reported cases from the outbreak in the US and Mexico so far are in cattle. Of those cases, umbilical infestations are very common depending on the time of year and calving season.

NWS can infect the smallest lesion – as small as a needle stick or tick bite. An infestation can be fatal within one to two weeks if left untreated but if discovered early then it is highly treatable.

The best cure is prevention – this includes routine inspection for maggots, fly and tick prevention strategies, and management changes for birthing season. We’ve put a link at www.ncagr.gov which has additional ways to monitor for New World Screwworm.

The current outbreak has been a problem in Mexico the past couple

years and we have been monitoring the outbreak very closely.

The most promising intervention strategy for New World Screwworm is the release of sterile flies. Female flies mate only once in their lifetime so mating with a sterile male fly helps fight the population growth and it is how we pushed this pest out of our country in the 50s and 60s.

Currently there is just one sterile fly production facility located in Panama but many of these flies are being dispersed from a facility in Texas. The Panama facility can produce about 100 million flies per week, which, is not enough to control this outbreak.

This summer we anticipate another sterile fly production facility opening in Chiapas, Mexico that will add to the sterile flies for dispersal. As this facility comes online and production ramps up, it is hoped this facility will also be able to produce 100 million flies per week by the end of the year.

By the end of 2027, a third facility should be producing 100 million more sterile flies per week at Moore Air Base

in Edinburg, Texas and it will ramp up to 300 million per week by the end of 2028.

This means that by the end of 2028 there is the potential production of 500 million sterile flies a week, which is what it took to help eradicate this pest the last time.

Our Veterinary Division is working with other states and our federal partners to monitor New World Screwworm and we are hopeful that with animal movement restrictions we can keep this pest from progressing East and North. We will need our producers, veterinarians, and federal and state officials working together to help us monitor our livestock and companion animals and most importantly report any suspected cases.

We don’t know the odds of this making it to North Carolina. My hope is that the knowledge we gained from the 1950s and 1960s and our continued collaboration and vigilance will help us eradicate New World Screwworm before it has the opportunity to spread further.

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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Steve Troxler
Commissioner

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Throwback: Stanley Cup visits 2006 N.C. State Fair



In June, the Carolina Hurricanes clinched the Stanley Cup - the National Hockey League's championship - for the first time in 20 years. Following the team's last championship victory in 2006, the Stanley Cup made a short trip from the Hurricane's home ice to the N.C. State Fair.
The visit on opening day included the Cup's first-ever ride on a Ferris wheel. The Cup was also on display for fairgoers to see and admire. Pictured above is Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and Hurricanes mascot Stormy the Ice Hog with the Cup at the fair in 2006.
Congratulations to the Carolina Hurricanes! Perhaps it's time for a return visit to the fair.

Peanut inspectors wanted

Each year, the Cooperative Grading Service of the NCDA&CS Marketing Division holds a number of job fairs to hire temporary employees to grade peanuts.
The job pays \$15.50 to \$16 an hour. Paid training is provided, so no experience is needed. All the job fairs are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A valid ID and social security card are required. Following are the job fair dates for 2026:
July 10 – Williamston Office, 901 East Blvd., Williamston
July 13 – Williamston Office, 901 East Blvd., Williamston
July 14 – Edgecombe County Admin Building Carmon Auditorium, 201 St. Andrew St., Tarboro
July 16 – Bertie County Cooperative Extension, 104 Lancaster Ave., Windsor
July 17 – Lenoir County Cooperative Extension, 1791 NC-11, Kinston
July 17 – 4 County Peanuts, 232 West Park Drive, Warsaw
July 20 – Chowan County Cooperative Extension, 730 N Granville St., Suite A, Edenton
July 21 – Ahoskie Fire Department, 301 Dr MLK Jr Drive South, Ahoskie
July 22 – Weldon Town Hall, 109 Washington Ave., Weldon
July 23 – Enfield Town Hall, 630 South Railroad St., Enfield
Aug. 5 – Powell-Melvin Ag Center, 450 Smith Circle, Elizabethtown

Help Desk team earns recognition



The NCDA&CS IT Support Help Desk team earned the Excellence in Team Accomplishment Award.

When a computer won’t start, a device won’t work, an employee can’t access a program or a major event needs internet service, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services turns to its Information Technology Support Help Desk Team. That’s the team that helps ensure the department employees have the technology needed to do their jobs and serve North Carolinians.

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently recognized that team with NCDA&CS’ 1st Quarter 2026 Excellence in Team Accomplishment Award.

The award honors teams that demonstrate exceptional teamwork and service in support of the department’s mission.

The eight-member team includes Todd Langley, David Mitchell, Jason Reed, Walter White, Tim Sarpolus, Jeff Wheat, Charles Baines and Dylan Poythress.

“These employees play a critical behind-the-scenes role that supports employees and operations across the entire department every single day,” Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said during the award presentation on May 27. “Their work ensures that staff across all divisions can stay connected, productive and responsive in serving the people of North Carolina.”

Over the past year, the Help Desk Team has balanced a heavy workload

while supporting some of the department’s largest events and initiatives.

The team was responsible for setting up and maintaining technology systems used during the Got to Be NC Festival, Mountain State Fair and N.C. State Fair. Those events rely on dependable internet, computer and communications systems to operate.

At the same time, team members have worked through a department-wide effort to replace aging computers. Over the past year alone, they have set up more than 300 new computers as part of the department’s transition to Windows 11. Those updates will help maintain security and compliance standards.

Krystal Moody with the IT Division nominated the team, noting the team focused heavily on improving how they responded to employee needs. They reduced response times, solved more problems during the first interaction with employees and increased user satisfaction. She also wrote that one of the team’s greatest strengths is a willingness to work together. Team members routinely share knowledge, help one another solve problems and step in wherever needed to make sure issues are resolved quickly.

“The Help Desk Team has consistently demonstrated an exceptional cooperative spirit and a strong sense of unification,” Moody wrote. “They communicate openly, share knowledge freely and step in to assist one another without

hesitation — ensuring that no issue is ever faced alone.”

The nomination also noted that the team’s collaborative approach has helped maximize state resources by improving workflows and reducing downtime. Their work has also extended the life of technology equipment through preventative maintenance and proactive support. All of that helps keep the department running smoothly, whether employees are working at the state fairgrounds, in laboratories, at research stations, in county offices or in the field.

Troxler said that work has had a direct impact on the department’s ability to serve citizens across North Carolina. It clears the way for services that North Carolinians need.

“By keeping critical systems running, they help support divisions involved in forestry operations, inspections, law enforcement activities, emergency response efforts and many other public services people depend on every day,” Troxler said.

Although most people may never see the work being done behind the scenes, department leaders say the impact is felt across the department.

“This team exemplifies what it means to be reliable, innovative and service-driven,” Moody wrote. “Their behind-the-scenes efforts are the backbone of our daily operations, and their impact is felt across every corner of the organization.”

Seedlings

(Continued from pg. 1)

will soon be available at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/nursery-tree-improvement-program>. Seedling catalogs will also be available at local NCFS offices beginning in July. Within the catalog, landowners can find information about the types of tree species, quantities and cost to order. Each species description includes information about ideal planting locations and whether a species is typically used to benefit wildlife, restore forest habitats or as marketable timber.

Accepted methods of payment are check, money order, Mastercard and Visa.

Most containerized seedlings are available

and used November through March while most bare root seedlings are available and used January through March. Seedling orders can be shipped to one of 13 distribution centers statewide for a small fee or via UPS for a charge. Seedling orders are also available for pickup from the NCFS Claridge Nursery in Goldsboro or the Linville River Nursery near Crossnore.

For information on planting trees, customers are encouraged to contact their local NCFS county ranger. Contact information for NCFS county office and nursery locations is available at www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts.

Crop This! Photo Contest — Farmers Market Finds



This month's winner of the Crop This! Photo Contest comes from Jessica Motsinger of Forsyth County. Pictured is Cat Ralston dressed like a bee to advertise Jessica's honey at a neighborhood farmers market in Walkertown.

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

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

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

August theme: Farm Weddings **Deadline for submission:** July 15

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

Upcoming themes

August theme: Farm Weddings, deadline July 15

September theme: Catch of the Day (Eating, catching, cooking N.C. seafood), deadline Aug. 15

October theme: Ag at the Fair, deadline Sept. 15

November theme: Hayrides, deadline Oct. 15

Celebrate North Carolina produce at our state farmers markets

The Charlotte Regional Farmers Market recently celebrated Blueberry Day! Commodity days are held at the four NCDA&CS-run farmers markets across the state to celebrate our state's diverse agriculture. Mark your calendars for these upcoming festivities:

- July 9 - Peach Day at the Robert G. Shaw Piedmont Triad Farmers Market in Colfax
- July 10 - Peach Day at the State Farmers Market in Raleigh
- July 23 - Watermelon Day at the State Farmers Market in Raleigh



Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

- July 7-12SERHA Main Event & North American Reining Stakes. For more information, visit www.serha.org.
- July 24-26NCQHA-District 4 Little River Circuit. For more information, visit www.Martinganza.com/events/schedule/littleriver.

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

- July 6-12SERHA Main Event & North American Reining Stakes. Contact 252-792-5111.
- July 24-26NCQHA - District 4 Little River Circuit. Contact 252-792-5111.

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

- July 8-12State 4-H Horse Show. Contact Lori Stroud, 919-515-5788.
- July 17-19Triangle Farms Summer Indoors I 'C'. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.
- Aug. 15&16 ..TWHHA Beat the Heat Open Show (Barn E Ring). Contact Dana Coste, 919-390-8126.
- Aug. 21-23Triangle Farms Summer Indoors II 'C'. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.
- Sept. 4-6.....NCQHA Tar Heel Fall Classic. Contact Shirley Lombardo, 919-362-4656.
- Sept. 12-13TWHHA Fall Fantastic Show. Contact Dana Coste, 919-390-8126.
- Sept. 16-19UPHA Chapter 12 NC State Championship Show. Contact Heather Boodey, 919-215-1221.
- Sept.30-Oct.1 NC State Fair Hunter Jumper Show. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.

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

- July 13-18Summer Fun Horse Show. Contact 828-687-1414.
- July 20-25Blue Ridge Classic Horse Show. Contact 828-687-1414.

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

Screwworm

(Continued from pg. 1)

a Surveillance Zone must have an accredited veterinarian complete the normal importation requirements and be accompanied by an ICVI including the statement, "All animals listed have been inspected and found free of evidence of NWS infestation." The ICVI shall be valid for no more than seven days from the date of inspection.

New World Screwworm was detected in Zavala County, Texas on June 3, 2026. Additional cases have since been detected in other Texas counties and in New Mexico. This is a serious pest that affects livestock, pets, wildlife, and, less commonly, people and birds. Adult NWS flies can look very similar to houseflies, and the maggots (larvae) look similar to our native fly maggots. Laboratory identification is needed to identify maggots accurately. The NWS larvae feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals and they cause extensive damage to wounds by feeding on this healthy tissue. If you suspect New World Screwworm maggots in a wound call your local veterinarian or NCDA&CS at 919-707-3250. New World Screwworm is considered a reportable disease in the United States.

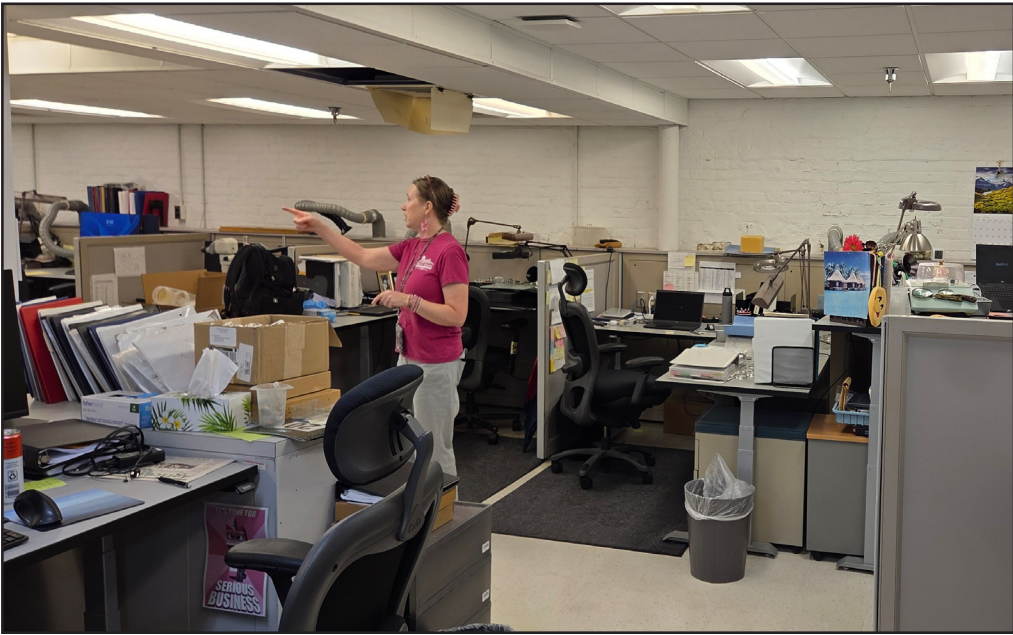
New World Screwworm is not a food safety concern and the food supply is safe. For more information on the current outbreak visit www.screwworm.gov. For NC specific information visit: www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/livestock-health-programs/cattle-health/new-world-screwworm.

A look inside the NCDA&CS North Carolina Seed Lab

“We want to not only help and protect those who plant the seed, but the ones who produce it, too,” said Dr. Dianne Farrer, the Seed & Fertilizer Administrator of the Plant Industry Division. With the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the N.C. Seed Laboratory’s mission is to ensure the truth in labeling with seeds. Located in Raleigh, the lab provides germination percentage, seed quality and purity tests for homeowners/consumers, farmers and seed production companies.

Within the Plant Industry Division, there are two major sections: Plant Protection and Seed and Fertilizer. The N.C. Seed Laboratory focuses on seed regulation and services. The process all begins when someone sends seeds to the lab. “There are two types of seed samples that come to us,” said Farrer, “official seed samples and service seed samples. Official seed samples are collected by our field inspectors and are regulated according to state laws and rules, including issuing a stop sell. With service seed samples, that comes from just about anyone including seed companies, farmers, seed processors and small hardware stores. All we can do for them is offer recommendations about germination or purity of their seed.

“A stop sale order is triggered when the seed label or the germination test results or test date are not in alignment with the state statutes, rules and regulations,” said Farrer. The reason these state regulations exist is to ensure all those who use the seed know what seed they are putting in the ground and how well they will germinate, which helps ensure a good product for farmers and consumers. If a seed had a low germination rate, that would not be beneficial to anyone planting that seed. That is why N.C. Seed Lab offers services to help determine



Plant seeds from all across the state are sorted in the lab. At right, germinated soybeans on a paper towel.

the germination for not just farmers, but all various seeds across the state of North Carolina.

Regardless of seed sample type, there are many different tests they can go through. The most common test for these seeds is germination. Germination is when a dormant seed begins to grow into a new plant,” said Farrer. “Instead of planting the seed in soil, we simulate growing conditions by putting seeds onto moistened paper towels and letting them grow. That way, it keeps the seed free from diseases and fungi that might be present in soils, while providing the optimum growing conditions for each kind of seed.”

To grow a seed this way, the seed goes through a careful preparation process to equally distribute the seeds across the paper towel used. Some smaller seeds, such as grass seeds, require a petri-dish to grow on instead of a paper towel environment.

Once carefully placed and rolled into the paper towel, the seeds are placed into large machines that are essentially reverse refrigerators called germinators. Instead of keeping things cold, these machines keep

things warm. In addition to keeping the plants warm, germinators provide light for the plant and keep air flow constant to have the seed in the best environment possible for maximum growth or germination.

Once fully germinated, the expert seed analysts look at the strict criteria for germinated seeds to see which pass the test and which do not. When they find the ones that do not work, they list the reasons why on a criteria sheet. Once the results are in, they carefully package and store the leftover seed within a climate-controlled room to keep the remaining seeds viable in case there is a requested retesting of the seed. “Our service seed samples we get are stored for around three to four months while our official seed samples usually stay for up to a year,” said Dr. Farrer. “The reason why they are kept so long is to have enough seed for additional tests or if customers request retests.”

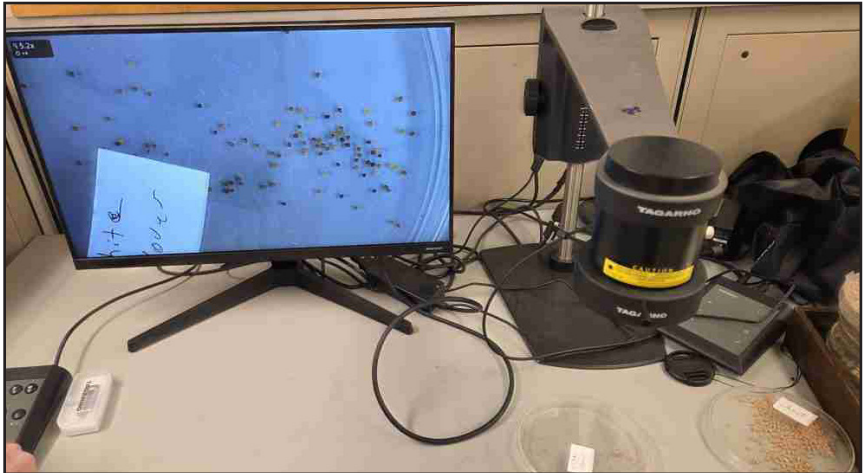
Besides the germination test, there are several other

tests conducted at the lab including purity tests. This test shows the quality of the seed via physical inspection under tools such as microscopes. For reference in identification of these seeds, seed analysts use a herbarium, or a collection of preserved and labeled seeds.

N.C. Seed Laboratory staff are highly experienced and have very keen eyes and skills to identify seeds and to process them.

With the help of the N.C. Seed Laboratory, stores, farmers, processors and consumers can have their seeds

tested to find the optimum germination percentage the seeds will have, the quality and the purity of their seed. “During the summer, since most agriculture seeds are in the ground, we try to focus on homeowners or consumers more,” said Farrer. “We do this by checking on the seeds of popular stores such as Lowes, Tractor Supply and Walmart. After all, we want to help not only farmers, seed companies and producers, but homeowners or avid gardeners as well.”



A microscope is used to zoom in and inspect the quality of seeds.

State lawmakers celebrate dairy industry with milk chugging

The North Carolina Senate and North Carolina House of Representatives recently faced off in the Annual Legislative Milk Chugging Contest. Defending their four-time win streak, the Senate calmly claimed its fifth consecutive win against the House of Representatives. This event was sponsored by the N.C. Dairy Producers Association to help spread awareness about the dairy industry across the state of North Carolina.

Held at the back entrance of the legislative building, this friendly contest included four members from the House and four from the Senate. The members of the House present were Reps. Jeffery McNeely, Ben Moss, Allen Chesser and Mike Schietzelt. The members of the Senate present were Sens. Danny Earl Britt Jr., Ralph Hise and Eddie Settle, and legislative assistant James Von Canon.

The contest was a milk relay race, with each team member depending on the other. Once the first person finished their bottle of milk, then the next teammate could start theirs. This process continued until one team finished and was deemed the winner.



The House of Representatives team poses for a post-duel picture.

Although a close call this year, the Senate team was ultimately declared the winner after one bottle of milk on the House's side of the table was judged to be not completely finished. That secured the Senate’s bragging rights for another year.

The milk chugging event has been held annually since 2009 as a fun way to highlight the importance of dairy farming in North Carolina.

With June being National Dairy month, what better time could it be to bring awareness to dairy? N.C. has 95 dairy farms, each of which has around 368 milking



Howling Cow ice cream was served after the competition!

cows. That’s around 35,000 dairy cows, producing about 8.91 gallons of milk per day. The total amount of milk produced in 2025 equaled 95.1 million gallons. That’s a lot of cheese, ice cream and drinking milk.

After the chugging event, the crowd enjoyed Howling Cow ice cream. In fact, following cheese, ice cream is the second most consumed dairy product in North Carolina.

Both sides of this competition had a great time this year in chugging milk and are looking forward to the competition next year.

Meet the blue ribbon winning family at Carrigan Farms

Just 30 minutes north of Charlotte, Carrigan Farms, a fifth generation family farm, is growing blue ribbon winning produce, flowers and gourds. First founded in the 1750s and settled in its current spot in Mooresville since 1902, Carrigan Farms is well-known for growing apples, strawberries, pumpkins and various other commodities. For the past two years, they have also submitted blue ribbon winners in the N.C. State Fair’s flower show and horticulture department.

“I’ve always had a strong passion for agriculture,” said William Carrigan. Graduating from N.C. State University in May of 2022 with a bachelor’s degree in horticulture, he now assists his family farm full time with crop management and agricultural operations.

Carrigan began submitting entries for the N.C. State Fair two years ago. He has been entering fair competitions since he was a child and has always had a strong passion for competition. “To me, the N.C. State Fair is all about agriculture,” he said. “My very first year, I submitted various gourds and produce pieces, winning around five blue ribbons in total for all my submissions. The next year, I submitted even more entries, winning around 10 blue ribbons.”

His winning process is as simple as planting seeds in the ground and letting them grow. However, Carrigan added that there was also more to it. “The plants that make

blue ribbon winning produce must be given delicate care with certain amounts of daily care including water and fertilizer,” he said. “Much of the growing process includes genetics with the seed planted. Starting with the right seed to plant is what makes award winning produce from these plants. Otherwise, it is skill and luck on how the plant is made.”

When choosing which piece to enter at the N.C. State Fair, Carrigan notes it is specific to the competition. For example, you would enter your biggest piece for a competition based on the size of the item. “For most other categories, the most important factors are how pretty the piece looks and how similar they are to each other,” he said. “For instance, if entering a contest where five peppers are needed, they would have to look nice while looking relatively the same. What makes a blue-ribbon winning piece varies depending on the competition.”

For people who are submitting entries at the State Fair for the first time, he’d advise them to grow plants with high quality seeds and to study the information packet provided by the N.C. State Fair to ensure you understand all of the competition rules and how they will be judged.

Altogether, the Carrigan Family has won around 50 blue ribbons from the N.C. State Fair. Or, as Carrigan likes



The Carrigan family had a truckload of entries for the 2025 fair.

to put it: “A desk drawer’s worth.” Each year, he goes to the Fair with his sister and some friends. Sometimes, they drive to Raleigh, other times they take the train from Charlotte. “We like to make a day of it,” he said.

One of the greatest rewards that he gets from entering the fair is getting first place for a job well done. Carrigan is excited to submit more entries to this year’s State Fair and to do all that he can with each competition. Be sure to check out his entries at the 2026 N.C. State Fair!

It is also a great time to start planning your own entries for the N.C. State Fair. The competition handbook for

this year’s fair comes out in July.

Carrigan Farms is open year-round to visitors, hosting weddings, company picnics, proms and many other various seasonal attractions. Some of these seasonal attractions include its October “Scarrigan Farms Haunted Trail” and a natural granite swimming quarry.

At Carrigan Farms, you can pick strawberries, pumpkins and apples. The



farm also sells lettuce, sweet corn, asparagus and a rotating selection of seasonal vegetables.

Keeping the N.C. State Fair home canning contests safe

As fresh fruits and vegetables arrive at farmers markets, it’s a great time to start thinking about your home canning and food preservation entries for the State Fair. The home canning contests are always among the most popular N.C. State Fair competitions each year. In 2025, there were 1,266 entries, the sixth largest competition category.

Walking through the Education Building, which houses the display cases of canned good entries, you will see lots of examples of dried mushrooms, salsas, meats, pickled vegetables and pickles, conserves, preserves, jams and jellies. Some of the entries bear the coveted and colorful ribbons that distinguish the best of the best in each category.

To pick the winners, it takes a dedicated group of 20 to 30 judges who can tell the sticky, sweet difference between conserves and preserves or what makes a jam different from jelly.

“Many of our judges have been judging for years, and me being from the world of science and preservation, I don’t want our judging to be just on

what jam tastes the best. That’s a different competition, but we are focusing on home food preservation,” said Ben Chapman, superintendent of the home food preservation competitions at the State Fair and department head of Agricultural and Human Sciences at North Carolina State University. “We want to have the best. Is it packed well? Is the color good? Like do they address all of the stuff that matters in home food preservation. And we want to incorporate all of those things into the judging process. So, we have been very systematic and scientific about it. At the end of the day, it is a food preservation competition, so it should hit all those marks of good food preservation. It’s not a taste test.”

The North Carolina State Fair is one of just a handful of fairs across the country where judges still taste acidified and dried food products submitted for competition. That is a source of pride for Chapman and the group of food science students who review recipes submitted with each entry to see whether the process submitted will adequately and safely preserve the food.

“We don’t actually taste the low-acid canned foods because they are the highest risk. We do taste almost everything else that’s acidified or dried,” Chapman said. “Our students are evaluating the recipes. They have gone through a series of



Ben Chapman is the superintendent of the home food preservation competitions at the State Fair.

training sessions around this. These are students who are food scientists and who have a background in pH and how to preserve foods or in microbiology. And the same with our panel of judges. They are all professionals within the world of foods.

“But before those judges even taste some of these things we think might be on the borderline, we will open them up and check the pH of that food.

“The pH is the indicator of how acidic the food is and it’s not magic, but there is a cutoff for us. We want to see that foods are below a pH of 4.1, which is pretty acidic. But that ensures to us that the acid is controlling any of the pathogens that might be a problem.

“We don’t test the pH of every single item that comes through. Like with things like jams and jellies, for example, if it is a strawberry jam, there’s so much sugar, it’s already a very high acidic food, so not a big deal. But when we get into pepper jelly or pear, those are a little more borderline.”

You often overhear fairgoers and contestants alike remark that some jars of canned goods don’t even look like they were tasted and that is because of many factors.

“Not every entry might get tasted because we may eliminate some based on all the other standards that are there,” Chapman

said. “I think about jams as an example. There are certain definitions of jam. You know there is a certain consistency of the blended product that is different from a preserve, that is different from a conserve. We have explicit definitions for things, so some may get eliminated because they didn’t make the definition.”

To a casual observer or non-foodie, these categories can be confusing. Here’s what defines each category of these tasty and spreadable fruit-based delicacies.

Jelly – made from cooking strained fruit juice and sugar. For the competition all juices for jellies must be home prepared, not commercial juice.

Jam – made from crushed fruit cooked to a smooth consistency that will mound up on a spoon but not jelly firm

Marmalade – contain small pieces of fruit or citrus peel evenly distributed in a transparent soft jelly.

Butters – pureed fruit cooked to a smooth consistency.

Preserves – contain whole fruits or fruit pieces that retain their shape and are clear, shiny, tender and plump suspended in a clear syrup that is the consistency of honey or soft jelly

Conserves – are fruit mixtures of jam consistency often containing citrus. A true conserve contains nuts and raisins.

Because judging is based on a set of food preservation criteria, attention to detail is important. With products like salsa, consistency and uniformity are key, he said. Plus starting with good quality products to begin with is important to the food preservation process.

“Whatever you start with, and this is a tenet of home food preservation, there is nothing that I’m going to do in the process that is going to make that food as good as it is from a sensory standpoint as when it’s fresh,” Chapman said. “Everything I do is going to make a change. If I’m adding vinegar, it’ll impact the cell structure a little bit. I’m cooking it and that’s absolutely going to change it. So, if I start with poor or mushy cucumbers for example, they are only going to get mushier. So, if I really want crispy pickles, I’ve got to select cucumbers that are really, really crisp at the start.”

Celebrating wine in the foothills

Cattlemen's Assoc.

(Continued from pg. 8)

In North Carolina, when it comes to the wine industry, there's plenty to celebrate. North Carolina is the 10th-largest producer of wine in the country, supporting more than 45,000 jobs and contributing more than \$7 billion to the state's economy.

Recently, Shelton Vineyards in Dobson hosted an event celebrating N.C. Wine Month and promoting the industry. Gov. Josh Stein, First Lady Anna Stein, NCDA&CS's Assistant Commissioner Dr. Joe French and Visit N.C. Executive Director Wit Tuttell attended the tour and press event. The press conference wrapped up a month of dozens of events highlighting North Carolina wine, cider and mead.

"North Carolina wineries attract visitors and puts our state on the map," said Gov. Josh Stein. "And the vineyards cement our state's agricultural reputation. I encourage



Assistant Commissioner Dr. Joe French speaks at the event.



Gov. Josh Stein and First Lady Anna Stein on a winery tour.

North Carolinians and others to consider visiting a North Carolina winery."

"Twenty years ago, the state had around 50 wineries. Today, we have 400-plus vineyards and 200 producers," said Dr. Joe French. "Those numbers show how much this industry has grown. No matter where you are in North Carolina, you are never more than 45 miles away from a wine, cider or mead producer."

North Carolina is home to seven distinct, federally recognized American Viticultural Areas: Appalachian High Country, Crest of the Blue Ridge Henderson County, Haw River Valley, Swan Creek, Upper Hiwassee Highlands, Yadkin Valley and the Tryon Foothills. The state has three distinct grape growing regions – the

Mountains, Piedmont and Coast. Each AVA and region offers unique features and growing conditions for grapes.

The development of today's wine, cider and mead industry is not surprising given our long history of commercial winemaking in North Carolina that dates back to the first commercial winery in Halifax County in 1835. Before Prohibition, North Carolina produced more wine than any other state in the nation.

Today you will find quality North Carolina wines produced from scuppernon, vinifera and hybrid grapes.

North Carolina's wineries, meaderies and cideries are also great agritourism destinations, drawing over a million visitors annually and contributing significantly to local economies.

grow, which is something we are very proud of," Lewis said. "Students must have some type of experience within the cattle industry to apply, but they don't have to be focused on an agriculture career."

For producers and allied industry members, the NC Cattlemen's Association provides immense support each year through research, legislative lobbying, and industry marketing/promotion. "We partner with land-grant universities and state extension to conduct research projects that look into current issues our producers are facing," Lewis said. "These projects look for ways to make our producers more successful in their operations. Once a research project is concluded, our team works with the University to compile the information and distribute it to producers across the state for education and implementation." In addition to building for the future, the association also helps cattle farmers through disaster assistance and response when needed. "Our association is unique in that we have representation in all 100 counties of our state," Lewis said, "which means, regardless of when or where a disaster occurs in our state, our industry will likely be impacted, and we will be there to help our producers." Following the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the NC Cattlemen's Association not only received financial donations and supported impacted producers, but they also coordinated volunteers to help repair fences, rebuild barns and supply food/hay. "One of the best things about this industry is how we all band together to support one another when times get tough," Lewis said. "We take a lot of pride in being there for our beef farmers whenever and wherever they need us." In addition to following their social media channels, North Carolina beef farmers should sign up to receive their monthly publication, The Carolina Cattle Connection, to stay in the know on association projects, research, events and more.

As executive director of the association, Lewis' job responsibilities can change from day to day, but they always aim to support and strengthen the beef cattle industry in our state. "The beef industry complements our state's economy and the overall agriculture industry in so many ways, and our producers are some of the most unique and diverse people you will ever meet," she said. "Beef is a lifestyle for farmers, as well as a food source for consumers, making it an important piece of the puzzle for future generations. I take pride in knowing, alongside my staff, that the work we do here at the association is not only making a difference in the here and now, but also setting us up for a strong future."

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.

Complete honey extracting setup, good from a doz. hives to several hundred, \$5,000. Alan Cannady, Newton Grove 910-990-3057, alancannady62@gmail.com.

Equipment For Sale

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

JD combine, pull type, kept in shed, \$900. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

1963 utility tractor w/mowing deck, 9 or 12 hp, needs restoring, \$800. Raymond Dimmette, Jonesville 336-244-6960.

AC 72 combine, \$500; Dearborn 14-15 sickle mower, 6 ft., \$200; Ford 201 harrow, 3pt, \$400; 3pt spike tooth harrow, \$350; (2) hay wagons, \$1,000 ea. David Elliott, Kernersville 336-345-8644.

Aerator for riding mower, drum type, 36 in., spiker, \$195. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

FARM EQUIPMENT

King Cutter bush hog, 6 ft., needs metal, \$300; Ford scoop pan, \$100; NH 845 baler for parts, \$250; JD 260 disc mower, needs repair, \$350. Mike Luxton, Lumberton 910-739-2534.

Super A parts, complete tractors, rims/tires, trans, sheet metal, \$5-\$100; 6 ft. scrape blade, fast hitch, \$350. Jimmy Frye, Carthage 910-947-5910.

Horse drawn potato plow, wide sweep, \$30; 5 ft. disc harrow, 2 in. pull coupling, (2) adjust. handles, \$75. Dan Owens, Gibsonville 336-285-8471.

JD hay wagons, (1) 6 ton & (1) 10 ton, sheltered, \$800 ea. Martin Miller, Salisbury 336-480-1619.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1947 Gibson tractor, Wisconsin eng., missing parts, \$700; Fairbanks Morse Y diesel eng., 20hp, 56 in. fly wheels, hand clutch pulley, steel wheel wagon, \$6,000. Bobby Harkey, Albemarle 704-982-2494.

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

5 ft. seeder, 3pt, LNC, sheltered & used very little, \$2,000. Gerald Cashwell, Fayetteville 910-850-1870.

(2) Detroit diesel eng., 3-53, for parts or rebuild, \$2,800. C.L. Nunn, King 336-983-9538.

Intl tricycle tractor, fair cond., been sitting, \$1,500. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1936 JD-A, not running, but not stuck, \$3,000; 1939 JD-A, not running, & stuck, \$2,600. Warren Helms, Concord 704-788-4777.

AC D15, needs rear rim fixed & new tire, kept in shed, \$2,100; 1955 AC CA, was running when parked, \$650. Jerry Daves, Lawndale 980-329-9416.

JD manure spreader, model L, series 5, dry storage, \$800; H Farmall tractor, not cranked in a while, stored in shed, \$800. Ann Williams, Mocksville 336-909-3790.

2012 NH 185 skid steer, garage kept, new tires, battery, quick attach bucket, tracks incld., 1,400 hrs., \$25,000. Brian Sapp, High Point 336-870-7280.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Vicon CM2400, \$4,500 nego; 470 Case tractor w/ loader, \$5,500; 1975 MF 135 diesel, 2,000 hrs., \$2,000; Waylan Durand orchard sprayer, \$3,500; 1998 Intl CX 70, 1,200 hrs., \$11,000. Johnny Pace, Hendersonville 828-243-1877.

Palco cattle handling system, 985 Cattleboss headgate/squeeze chute/palpation cage, 8' adjust. alley, 16' dia. crowding tub, corral panels, swing gates, sheltered, \$14,750. Richard Ingram, Greensboro 336-420-9253.

Ford 501 sickle mower, 6' cutter blade, \$500. Frank Hager, Statesville 704-929-8586.

JD 318, ps, hys. trans, \$2,500. Kent Davis, Clemmons 336-391-4801.

(2) Ford 8N overhauling kits, (1) thick sleeve & (1) thin, crankshaft, main rod bearings, gaskets, valves & oil pump kit, \$500. Bill Way, Gibsonville 336-312-8329.

NH 469 haybine, \$1,500. Wayne Brown, Concord 980-260-9179.

Bushwhacker hd cutter, 72 in., GC, in shed, \$3,000. Frank Garner, Seagrove 336-460-0012.

1949 Farmall C tractor, restored, elect. ignition, new rubber, \$5,900; MF 39 2-row corn planter, rebuilt fert. box & auger, GC, \$1,500. Doug Shoffner, Burlington 336-260-2260.

Johnson boom sprayer, pull type, 500 gal., ground driven pump, \$2,500. Kevin Carland, Mills River 828-691-6397.

Gleaner E3 combine w/10 ft. grain head, \$1,500. Lee Kinley, Lexington 336-247-1319.

LS tractor, 4wd, 70 hrs., front loader, mid/rear pto, \$10,800. Larry Garrison, Lexington 336-250-6270.

Frontier 6 ft. finishing mower, EC, \$3,200. Bennie Madden, Burlington 336-213-2849, do not text.

Ford 3930 tractor, 2,000 hrs., GC, early '90s model, muffler modified for poultry house use, \$8,500. Kevin Burroughs, Mt. Gilead 910-439-5137.

Oliver Super 44 & 440 tractors, both restored & running, \$10,000 ea. Julie Brock, Pinebluff 910-690-4179.

7' scrape blade, 3pt, GC, \$250. Richard Adams, Raleigh 919-846-0022.

Mahindra 5570 tractor, 70hp, 7 ft. bucket loader, 1,200 hrs., VGC, field ready, \$29,500; rnd hay bale un-roller, \$1,650. Adrian Hobbs, Mt. Ulla 704-663-9417.

FARM EQUIPMENT

AC 185 w/front bucket, parked 8 yrs., needs repair or parts, \$2,500 ea. Lloyd Mitchell, Creedmoor 864-979-8804.

MF 3680 tractor, 160hp, \$11,000. Carl Buckland, Burlington 336-228-8516.



Equipment Wanted

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

JD 4630 or 4640, w/4-post top, no cab, reasonable price. Jeff Creech, Zebulon 919-404-1167.

Belly disc plow for Farmall Cub, GC. Michael Harrill, Lincolnton 828-855-8340.

All terrain forklift, diesel or gas. Davis Coffey, High Point 336-688-9261.

3pt hiller for making rows, single or double. Mark Oglesby, Cedar Grove 919-259-9599.

Sherman trans for 8N Ford tractor, GC. Denny Barney, Mocksville 336-909-5180.

(2) vert. lift arms for D-15 tractor; 3-bottom AC plow, prefer 1961 D-15 AC diesel. Doug Shoffner, Burlington 336-260-2260.



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.

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



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.

55 +/- ac in Lawsonville, 1,400 ft. + on Dan River, bear, deer & turkey hunting, \$525,000-\$585,000. Michael Josey, Lawsonville 336-414-3312.



Hay & Grain For Sale

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

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

HAY & GRAIN

Orchard grass/fescue/clover, sq bales, no rain, \$7.50/bale. Russ Hanes, Glendale Springs 828-406-6365.

Straw, \$6. Michael Norwood, Norlina 252-432-9956, call/text.



Horses & Supplies For Sale

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

Pasture board, suitable for older horses, barn w/sheltered paddocks, run-in, rnd pen, 2 feedings/day, up nightly, quality pasture, ref. avail., owner/mgr. on premises, \$325/mo. Mary Ann Harville, Siler City 919-545-4239.



Livestock For Sale

Belted Galloway bull, dob 6/11/24, blk & white, gentle, reg; dam is red & white, \$2,500. A. Furr, Rockwell 704-798-3460, text.

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

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

SCI goat bucklings, (3) yearlings, (4) 2 m/o, CDT, DNA verified, reg., microchipped, \$400. Marguerite Strand, Spring Lake 910-584-5025.

(2) ND goats, healthy bucks, (1) w/spiral-splayed horns, (1) w/ blue-eyed gene, gentle, good breeders, \$200. Donald DeLancey, Eden 336-552-9702.

Mini Zebu herd, (1) bred, not reg., \$800. Amy Ramos, Asheboro 336-460-1198, text.

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

(8) American White/Duroc cross piglets, born 5/16/26, \$75-\$100. Pam Davidson, Carthage 910-783-5321.

Reg. Hereford bull, dob 8/25/25, \$3,500. Kent Beck, Lexington 336-247-1179.

Hereford bull, 8 y/o, gentle, good breeder, no calving issues, \$3/lb. David Holt, Rockwell 704-202-1672.

Myotonic fainting goat kids, (7) females, (4) males, CD&T vaccs, males can be wethered, some females w/marbled eyes, \$175-\$250. Gracie Williamson, Liberty 336-646-3433.

LIVESTOCK

Dorper/St. Croix/Katahdin cross lambs, weaned, 40-50 lbs., pasture raised, rams, \$250; ewes, \$275. Brian Laney, Monroe 704-361-3948.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

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

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

Cool Air fans, for chicken house or others, 48 in., \$200. David Gwaltney, Taylorsville 828-632-3286.

Bantam dark Cornish, hatched spring '26, from exhibition stock, cockerels, \$40; pullets, \$60. John Thornburg, Raleigh 336-302-3838.

Birmingham roller pigeons, 6 m/o, from exceptional flyers & stock, \$10 ea. Jerry Allen, Whitsett 336-202-9092.

Lewis Brothers #2 crusting machine, EC, \$5,500. Kevin Burroughs, Mt. Gilead 910-439-5137.

Eggs, some for hatching, guinea, \$20; chicken, \$5; newly hatched guineas, \$20; chicks, \$10; hens, \$15; roosters, \$10. Christopher Flanagan, Mocksville 336-225-4567.



Seeds & Plants For Sale

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

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

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

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

Potted muscadine plants, 5-6 ft., healthy, fert. & planting instr. incld., \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.



Seeds & Plants Wanted

Old fashioned horse apple trees & dolgo crabapple trees, can pick up. Robert Burns, Holly Springs 919-422-7023.



Supplies For Sale

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

Cypress posts, 8 ft., \$20 ea.; commercial hand truck, used on farm, \$90. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

Metal roofing, 5-V, \$10 ea.; cattle water tank, 180 gal., \$125; alum. fence wire, \$150; (2) spools used barbed wire, \$75 ea.; other items. Mike Luxton, Lumberton 910-739-2534.

Water totes, \$100; tote cages, \$40; burning barrels, \$10; feed barrels, \$25; solid top plastic or metal, \$10. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Tomato cages, \$8; handmade cedar bird houses, \$12; Martin gourds, different sizes, \$10. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

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

Ball & Kerr canning jars, wide mouth & reg., in cartons, several doz. avail., quarts, \$5; pints, \$4. Mildred Wall, Madison 336-548-6605.

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

3" irrig. system, 23 sprinklers, no pump, \$500; Speeding greenhouse frame, 48'x30', \$400. Timothy Vernon, Eden 336-392-5925.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

Set of 4 steel wheels, off 1951 Chevy pickup, 15 in., 5 lug, GC, \$100 obo. Raymond Dimmette, Jonesville 336-244-6960.

2025 Calico stock trailer, 16 ft., bumper pull, \$8,950. YD Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

Benthall peanut trailer, single axle, \$200. Brent Wilson, Washington 252-809-2315.

1953 Ford F-500 dump truck, \$2,200. Carl Buckland, Burlington 336-228-8516.

1989 Ford F-150, 4wd, 160,000 mi, \$2,500 obo. Wayne Dickerson, Ruffin 336-552-6284.

1962-1966 GMC hood, no rust in corners, \$550; 1962-1966 inner-fenders, \$300/pair. Jerry Taylor, Clemmons 336-766-9409.

1978 F700, no bed, running when parked, 2-spd trans, \$800. Johnny Pace, Hendersonville 828-243-1877.

4' x 8' farm trailer, mobile home axle, GC, \$200. Richard Adams, Raleigh 919-846-0022.

Stock trailer, 7x15, all steel, 2 axles, cut gate, \$1,400. Sonny Howard, Selma 919-524-5669.

Elevated Apiary offers local honey and beeswax candles

In 2016, Stoney Berry decided to pursue a dream he had been considering for years by purchasing a few bee hives and establishing Elevated Apiary in Colfax. “My grandfather grew up with bees, but he died when I was very young, so I never got the chance to learn from him,” Berry said. “However, the more I learned about him growing up, the more I wanted to follow in his footsteps and raise bees of my own.”

Since then, Berry has grown his operation to house over 100 bee colonies, producing on average 2,000 pounds of honey each year. “Starting out was difficult since I am a self-taught, first-generation beekeeper, but my friend and mentor Bryan Fisher helped a lot in the beginning by stopping by the apiary once a week to train and educate me,” he said. “Once I started to get the hang of things, I got involved with my local bee club, the Guilford County Beekeepers Club, where I learned from the hands of many experienced beekeepers. I wouldn’t be where I am today without these mentors.”

In addition to operating the bee farm, Berry is also currently the president of the Guilford County Beekeepers Club where he works with other beekeepers across the state to further advance the industry, as well as mentors upcoming beekeepers.

Elevated Apiary produces wildflower honey and sourwood honey each year, as well as a Habanero Hot Honey and several types of creamed honey with locally sourced flavors. “All wildflower honey tastes a little different based on the region you are located in and the flowers the bees pollinate from,” he said.

“Sourwood honey, however, comes straight from the Appalachian Mountains and has a more buttery flavor as opposed to the sweet flavor of wildflower honey.” In addition to honey, Berry also produces bees wax for candles and cosmetics, pollen and propolis, and wax foundations for the bees themselves.

Every April, Berry sets out his honey supers to start the season. Honey supers are boxes placed on top of the brood

box above the queen excluder where the bees store their honey. They typically consist of eight to 10 frames. “Each hive is different based on the genetics and behavior of the queen, so I could have one honey super that produces a large amount of honey while another may produce less,” he explained.

Once the honey is ready to harvest in mid-June, Berry has several fume boards that he uses to extract the honey while ensuring the safety of the bees. Once the honey is harvested, the honey supers are set out for the bees to clean up every last bit and then are stored until the next honey flow.

Harvested honey must be strained and given time to settle before it can be sold for public consumption. “Straining the honey removes any wax particles and debris from the hive from the final product,” Berry said. “The strainer is then placed over clean buckets so the purified honey can be put into jars. From there the buckets are sealed and stored in a cool, dry place until they are sold.”

On average, the settling process takes 24 to 48 hours. Products from Elevated Apiary can currently be purchased on Etsy or through their social media channels and website.

According to Berry, bees will fly at temperatures of 45°F but anything much lower they will huddle together inside the hive to stay warm. “Bees cuddle together inside the hive when winter arrives,” he said. “In fact, they will often rotate between the inner part of the huddle and the outside to ensure everyone gets warm. In the huddle, bees vibrate and hum to create warmth in addition to body heat.”

As a beekeeper, Berry also has a responsibility to give extra care to his bees during the winter months by treating them for mites directly following honey harvest and ensuring they have enough food to last through winter. “Many beekeepers will feed their bees either honey or sugar syrup,” he said. “After filling a hive with food, you pick it up to feel how heavy it is. The heavier the better because that means they have enough food to last a while in the hive.”



Stoney Berry

In addition to providing extra care to bees in the winter months, Berry faces many challenges each year with weather, heat and bee stings. In fact, he can receive 70+ bee stings on average each week! “My body reacts pretty well to a bee sting, even though they still hurt,” he said. “At this point, I’d rather have a bee sting than a mosquito bite.”

Despite the hard work and challenges faced, Berry wouldn’t change anything in the world for the joy he feels each day operating the apiary.

“It’s an honor to be a part of our state’s number one industry,” he said. “I take a lot of pride in what I do, especially when I hear from customers that enjoy my products. It makes all the hard moments worth it to know I am contributing something to society that people enjoy.”

Berry is so proud to be a part of this industry, he even got a part of the Got to Be NC logo on his arm!

For anyone interested in beekeeping, Berry suggests first getting involved with your local bee club to learn from others in the industry.

Discovering NC Ag: Supporting North Carolina's beef industry

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!

The beef industry in North Carolina plays a vital role on farms and in the lives of consumers across the globe. The North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association aims to advance sustainability and profitability of the industry through partnerships, research, advocacy and more.

In 1951, a group of cattle producers saw a need for the NC Cattlemen’s Association, or a group like it, that would help support and advocate for the industry. In the beginning, these producers met on a regular basis to hold meetings and started what is now known as the annual NC Cattle Conference. As the need began to grow, the NC Cattlemen’s Association was formally established in 1956 with the mission to advance sustainability and profitability of the cattle and beef industry in North Carolina. “Our mission at the association remains the same today and is the heart behind everything that we do,” said Milo Lewis, Executive Director of the NC Cattlemen’s Association. “From producer identified industry research, unbiased educational



Milo Lewis

programming, and beef promotion efforts to supporting youth programs and legislative and regulatory advocacy, each section of our organization is anchored in the goal of further advancing the industry for years to come.” According to Lewis, the NC Cattlemen’s Association is producer led and producer focused. “We rely on partnerships for a lot of things, whether that’s with cattle farmers across the state, land-grant universities, or the NCDA&CS,” she said.

The NC Cattlemen’s Association is governed by an Executive Committee made up of producers and ex-officio members representing our partners networks including the NCDA&CS and N.C. State Universities College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “When we think of representation for the beef industry in our state, it all starts at the county level,” said Lewis. “Our county representatives elect regional representatives to fill out our executive committee seats. Every

single person on that board works with the beef industry on a day-to-day basis, so they know the current events within the industry itself on a personal level.” The Executive Committee members offer a fully representative perspective of the industry in our state. “We could not support and represent the industry as well as we do without the work of our Executive Committee and our partners,” Lewis said. “This group helps make our core decisions each year, and I am thankful to work alongside them to make our state’s cattle industry stronger.”

As a membership-based organization, the NC Cattlemen’s Association offers an easy way for producers, allied industry members, and even an interested consumer to become a member of the association. “To become a member, simply visit our website (www.nccattle.com), fill out the application online and submit your membership dues,” she said. “Even if you aren’t involved with the cattle

industry and you just like to eat beef, you should become a member of the association. It’s not just for producers and we have many ways for the public to get involved as advocates for the industry.” From supporting producers on the farm to educating the public off the farm, the association benefits and supports our state’s beef industry in a variety of ways each year.

As detailed above, the NC Cattlemen’s Association is focused on five main areas within the beef industry, but what does that entail on a daily basis? “We rely heavily on our partnership with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the N.C. Department of Agriculture to help us achieve many of our objectives, like educational outreach and research initiatives,” Lewis said. “Alongside these dedicated partners, we host events, or participate in events, throughout the year that help educate the public on the importance of our state’s cattle industry, allow them to meet their farmers, and more.” Follow

all the NC Cattlemen’s Association social media pages to stay in the know on upcoming events, like Farm Animal Days, that you can get involved in! The association also supports a variety of youth programs to support students within the agriculture industry and allow them to gain further education on N.C. beef. “Whether attending a class job fair or providing scholarships, one of the best ways we can secure a future for our state’s cattle industry is by educating the next generation,” Lewis said. “These students are not only our future farmers and agriculture industry workers, but they are also the ones that will be shaping policy and legislation in the years to come, which makes their understanding of the importance of N.C. agriculture all the more vital.” In fact, the NC Cattlemen’s Association supports scholarships each year to further students’ education within the industry. “Due to the foresight and strong support of past Association leadership, our scholarship program continues to

(See Cattlemen's Assoc., pg. 6)