

Agricultural REVIEW

Volume: 101 - No. 5

May 2026

Raleigh, N.C.

Strawberry Field Day - May 6

Save the date: NCSU Strawberry Field Day in Castle Hayne.

What: Learn more about NCSU's research on new testing and development, strawberry botrytis control, strawberry insect pest control, and Neo-P tolerant varieties and Neo-P control in strawberry fields.

Where: Horticultural Crops Research Station at 3800 Castle Hayne Road in Castle Hayne, NC.

When: May 6, 9 a.m. to noon
No registration fee.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

June 1 for the July issue
July 1 for the August issue
August 3 for the September 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.

Got to Be NC Festival returns to Raleigh May 15-17

The Got to Be NC Festival returns to the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh May 15-17, bringing a full weekend of free family friendly fun and a celebration of North Carolina's rich agricultural heritage.

Explore the best of the state's food, farming and agribusiness with agricultural exhibits, live music, carnival rides, food, tractors and more.

"I invite you to join us for the 17th annual Got to Be NC Festival as we celebrate the people, products and traditions that make North Carolina agriculture so strong," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "From our farmers and food producers to the families who support them, this festival is a chance to experience the very best our state has to offer."

Inside the Got to Be NC Pavilion at the Agri Supply Expo Center, visitors will discover more than 100 local food



Discover North Carolina products from more than 100 vendors in the Got to Be NC Pavilion.

companies, wineries and breweries. The 50,000-square-foot marketplace showcases North Carolina-made products, including sauces, snacks, beverages, meats, spices and sweets.

Admission to the marketplace is \$3.

Each day of the festival will spotlight a Young Farmer of the Day, presented by AgCarolina Farm Credit and AgSouth Farm Credit. Visitors

can also enjoy displays of antique tractors and farm equipment along the midway, as well as a parade of vintage tractors that travels through the grounds each afternoon at 1 p.m.

The festival offers a range of free entertainment, including several returning acts and three new ones: The Comedy Farm Magic Review; Pirates of the Colombian Caribbean Aerial Highwire Thrill Show; and The Big Bee Transforming Robot Car.

Musical artists will be on the Got to Be NC stage all weekend. Educational opportunities include the N.C. Forest Service exhibit, Southwest Dairy Farmers Mobile Classroom and more.

Admission and parking are free, while food, rides, games and some exhibits require purchase. Festival hours are Friday from noon to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

USDA block grant open for all Helene-related losses

The application period for landowners to apply for assistance for timber losses from Hurricane Helene opened April 20 as part of the \$221 million USDA block grant the state received. It is the last of four categories of assistance that will be provided through this block grant program.

The Timber Loss Relief Program (TLRP) will be administered by the N.C. Forest Service and designed to partially compensate private landowners with at least 10 contiguous acres of moderate to catastrophic timber loss. The deadline for applying is June 12.

The other three agricultural categories of the block grant, focusing on farm infrastructure, future economic loss for perennial crops, poultry and aquaculture operations and market loss for commodities and select value-added products, were announced March 26 and remain open for applications with a May 15 deadline.

"A significant share of the more than 822,000 acres of damaged timber

left behind after Hurricane Helene belongs to private landowners, the majority stakeholder of forest resources in this state," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "While we know TLRP funding will not make these landowners financially whole, we are hopeful it will help with recovery from what was an unprecedented storm."

The TLRP category of the block grant covers eligible timber owners in the 39 federally declared disaster counties due to Hurricane Helene. This disaster assistance will only cover losses associated with Hurricane Helene that were not covered under any other USDA programs.

Interested woodland owners can learn more about the program on the N.C. Forest Service TLRP webpage (www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/managing-your-forest/tlrp). This page provides helpful answers to frequently asked questions, a map of eligible

(See Block grant, pg. 3)

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

I wanted to provide another update on the USDA disaster assistance programs we are working on right now and encourage people reading this to share this information with farmers and landowners/timber owners they know that may be eligible to apply for the federal ag disaster block grant for Hurricane Helene losses.

Farmers in 39 disaster declared counties for Hurricane Helene can apply in four different categories

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

for disaster assistance. Last month I mentioned that we were finalizing the details of part of the \$221 million USDA program and that the application period for the first three categories of assistance would be open by the time readers received their papers.

Specifically, the categories included:

- farm infrastructure
- future economic loss for perennial crops, poultry and aquaculture operations
- and market loss assistance for commodities and value-added products

Now, the final application category for timber losses is open.

To help avoid confusion, I want to be clear that there are two application deadlines: May 15 remains the application deadline for the first three categories that opened on March 30, and June 12 is the deadline to apply for the Timber Loss Relief Program.

The Timber Loss Relief Program

(TLRP) will be administered by the N.C. Forest Service and designed to partially compensate private landowners with at least 10 contiguous acres of moderate to catastrophic timber loss.

We know there were more than 822,000 acres of timber damage in Hurricane Helene and while the disaster assistance won't make landowners whole, we hope it will assist with recovery.

To begin the application process, landowners should contact their local N.C. Forest Service county ranger's office or a district office. Contact information for those offices can be found at www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/contacts.

We also have information and applications on the entire USDA block grant program in North Carolina on our disaster assistance website at www.ncagr.gov/agdisaster.

In a related, but unrelated update, we are continuing to work on the

state disaster assistance program while applications come in for the federal block grant program. Funds are being sent out as we determine more infrastructure payments.

As of press time, we have had 7,855 payments totaling over \$286.3 million cleared and the work continues. Updates are provided on the Ag Disaster Dashboard on the www.ncagr.gov/agdisaster website.

It has been a rough start to the 2026 growing season as drought conditions across the state have already lead to a disaster declaration for 94 North Carolina counties – 43 primary counties and 51 contiguous counties. This declaration opens up emergency loan options for farmers in those counties through the Farm Service Agency.

We desperately need rain across our state, so any and all prayers for rain to offset the drought are welcome.

Agricultural Review

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Study: Expanding N.C. ag manufacturing

A new study found that targeted investments in agricultural manufacturing and processing could help North Carolina farmers access higher-value and more reliable markets if they are designed with a farmer-centric approach and local sourcing strategy.

The study, commissioned by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and led by researchers at the independent scientific research institute RTI International, identifies 11 near-term and four emerging opportunities across nine commodities where expanded manufacturing and processing capacity could deliver greater value to North Carolina farmers while supporting rural economies.

Opportunities highlighted in the analysis include for apples (juice, puree, or cider processing for legacy processing varieties); sweetpotatoes (gluten-free flour and pet food manufacturing for excess and Grade B crop); and red meat (value-added processing of jerky, hotdogs, and smoked meats).

“Value-added investments in ag manufacturing and processing offers great potential to our farm economy, but we want to be strategic with these investments to have the greatest impact,” said Gregory Hoggard, assistant director over NCDA&CS Agribusiness Development. “This study helps us focus our efforts.”

The research team drew on stakeholder interviews, secondary research and participatory workshops to prioritize opportunities that show both near-term investment readiness and potential to deliver meaningful benefits to farmers.

“Across commodities and regions, study participants

emphasized that expanding value-added processing alone does not guarantee success,” said Amanda Rose, agri-food systems lead at RTI and lead author of the study. “A farmer-centric approach, one that prioritizes local sourcing, risk sharing and meaningful partnership across supply chains, is essential to translating expanded manufacturing and processing capacity into real, durable benefits for farmers.”

The analysis was designed as a practitioner reference guide for policymakers, funders and industry leaders working to strengthen North Carolina’s agricultural value chains. It aims to inform the strategic priorities of North Carolina Agricultural Manufacturing and Processing Initiative, which provides grants to private businesses to strengthen the state’s agricultural manufacturing and processing capacity, and other North Carolina-based efforts to strengthen agricultural manufacturing and processing capacity in the state.

Significant variation across commodities, regions and value chain structures were identified, highlighting the need to assess the underlying economics of each opportunity. The report finds that this understanding is critical to longterm viability and to ensuring farmers can capture value from expanded manufacturing and processing capacity. The report also notes that while NCAMPI can enable progress, deeper coordination across state agencies and partners is needed to deliver sustained benefits to farmers.

To date, NCAMPI has awarded 24 grants valued at approximately \$26.6 million across three rounds of grantmaking to support the creation and expansion of agricultural manufacturing and food processing facilities across N.C.

Program receives grant to continue Helene recovery work

A program within the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is expanding its work in western North Carolina thanks to new federal funding tied to Hurricane Helene recovery.

The funding comes through a larger \$61 million grant awarded to the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support hazardous waste, recycling and debris cleanup efforts following the storm. As part of that effort, NCDA&CS received a \$4.3 million subaward to support pesticide collection and disposal work led by the department’s Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program (PDAP).

That subaward is helping PDAP build on more than a year of increased activity in Helene-affected areas.

The storm, which caused widespread damage across western North Carolina in September 2024, created an immediate and ongoing need to safely dispose of damaged, flooded or no-longer-usable pesticides. With extra need for pesticide disposal, there came an extra desire for help from PDAP.

“Typically, our goal is to be in a county every other year or an adjacent county every six to eight



Pesticides are bagged and boxed on pallets for disposal at a collection event.

months,” explained program director Derrick Bell.

So beyond that normal schedule, there have been special requests made and particular needs identified in the months following Helene. For example, Bell said Buncombe County leaders requested a special collection day in the fall of 2024 to coincide with some cleanup efforts after the storm.

“[Along with our regular statewide collections schedule] we’re paying particular attention to western North Carolina,” Bell said. “If we don’t get calls from them, we’re reaching out to see how affected counties could benefit from pesticide collections.”

That approach started immediately after the storm. In addition to Buncombe County, special collection events were held in Swain and Polk counties too. It has continued ever since, with PDAP responding to requests and working with local partners to identify

additional needs.

Now, with grant funding in place, those efforts are expanding.

Since receiving the funding, PDAP has hosted 35 collection events in 19 Helene-affected counties, collecting more than 51,400 pounds of pesticides. The need is expected to continue for years. Bell said that after Hurricane Floyd he remembered people five years after the storm using PDAP to dispose of pesticides that had been flooded.

“It can take a while for people to recover and clean up and really realize what they have,” Bell said. “We’re going to see pesticides from Helene-affected areas for years.”

The grant supports not only additional collection events, but also the infrastructure and resources needed to handle a higher volume of material safely and efficiently. That includes funding for contractor services to properly dispose of collected pesticides. It’s one of the program’s largest expenses.

The grant will also pay for additional equipment, travel and staff support. PDAP is also planning to add a third staff member to help meet increased demand, while continuing to rely on coordination with pesticide inspectors,

Extension agents and agricultural retailers to identify collection needs.

Some of the most significant work involves materials PDAP does not typically handle.

Through the grant, the program is expanding its ability to collect and manage mini-bulk pesticide containers. Those tanks – sometimes called “tote” or “IBC” tanks – are about 200-to-300-gallon tanks. These containers are often found on farms or at dealer sites and may have been damaged, partially emptied or left exposed during the storm.

The funding will support a contractor-led effort to identify, collect and properly dispose of or recycle those containers, while also providing education and training to help prevent similar issues in the future.

The grant is also allowing PDAP to invest in new tools to improve how sites are identified and assessed. That includes the use of drones to evaluate hard-to-reach areas, particularly in places where roads or infrastructure were damaged.

In addition, the program is building out its disaster response capacity with equipment such as portable generators,



Hurricane Helene caused widespread damage.

trailers, satellite communication devices and strategically placed storage buildings that can serve as staging areas during future emergencies.

“If you can remove a troublesome tank before an event, it’s not there to create a problem in the future,” Bell said, pointing to the program’s growing focus on prevention as well as response.

Based on past hurricane recovery efforts, PDAP anticipates collecting as much as 100,000 pounds of pesticides per year from Helene-affected areas over the next five years. The grant is structured to support that long-term need, with funding available for up to five years.

Ultimately, the work is about more than cleanup. It’s about protecting people, agriculture and the environment during a long recovery process.

“People need the help, and we’re providing it,” Bell said. “We’ll see the extra need for a while.”



Safely disposing of damaged, flooded or unusable pesticides is an ongoing need.

Crop This! Photo Contest — Generations on the Farm



This month's winner of the Crop This! Photo Contest comes from Melissa Kilpatrick of Wayne County, capturing three generations on their Seven Springs farm.

From left, Trey Kilpatrick (father), Tuck Kilpatrick (son) and Sonny Kilpatrick (grandfather) are pictured with a baby goat at Sonnydale Farms. The three are Thomas Franklin Kilpatrick II, III and IV.

Our new 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.

Do you want to have your photo featured in the Ag Review? 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. The Photo of the Year winning photographer will receive a prize pack of NCDA&CS and Got to Be NC goodies!

June theme: We all Scream for N.C. Ice Cream **Deadline for submission:** May 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.

By submitting a photo, you grant permission for the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to reproduce, publish and use your photo in department publications, online and on social media.

Looking ahead...

July theme: Farmers Market Finds, deadline June 15

August theme: Farm Weddings, deadline July 15

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



Bucolic Briefs

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has issued a stop-sale order for the Ignik TapRack 4 Refillable Propane System. This device failed to meet several safety standards enforced by the department's Standards Division.

Manufacturers and distributors will have six months to remove these products from retail locations. Online sales shall include a note that these products are not legal in North Carolina.

The Hand Clutch Tractor Association of Moore County to hold its Antique Tractor Show June 19 & 20 at the Carthage Fairgrounds. Antique tractors, lawnmowers, antique cars and trucks. Bring your antique. Pedal pull for all ages. Under 12, free admission. \$5 admission, 12 and older. Food vendors on site. Contact Misty Atkinson, 910-340-5455, or Jamie McKenzie, 910-528-2293.

The 2026 N.C. Mountain State Fair is accepting applications for food and commercial vendors, heritage crafters, wholesale vendor suppliers and Got to Be NC members for the annual fair which runs Sept. 11-20 in Fletcher.

The deadlines to submit applications for outside food vendors has passed, but applications for outside and inside vendor spaces, outside and inside Got to Be NC food vendors, inside Got to Be NC non-food vendors and wholesale vendor suppliers close July 24. The deadline to apply to be an inside food vendor or a heritage crafter is June 26. Applications can be found at www.eventeny.com/events/north-carolina-mountain-state-fair-2026-22260/.

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.

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

- May 2 BBHA Open Show. Contact Jerry King, 910-237-4525.
- May 16&17 ... Carolina Paint Horse Association. Contact Lori Smith, 336-309-9470.
- May 23 Da Bomb Barrel Racing. Contact Josh Smith, 910-639-6387.
- June 1 Horse & Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
- June 5-7 Carolina Ranch Horse. Contact Holly Ball, 252-361-1305.

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

- May 9&10 NCHJA "C" Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.
- May 14-17 North Carolina High School and Junior High School Rodeo Finals. Contact nchsrodeo@gmail.com.

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

- May 2&3 TWH May Days Open Horse Show. Contact Dana Coste, 919-390-8126.
- May 20-23 Southern States Horse Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

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

Block grant

(Continued from pg. 1)

counties, program application forms and links to lists of private consulting foresters who may be able to assist landowners with completion and submission of the required TLRP timber damage assessment report. Registered, licensed and/or Society of American Foresters-certified foresters who intend to assist landowners with completing their timber damage assessment report may request TLRP technical assistance funds to help cover associated expenses.

The deadline for landowners to apply for TLRP funds is June 12, and the submittal deadline for the associated timber damage assessment report is July 10.

To begin the application process, landowners should contact their local N.C. Forest Service county ranger's office. If staff are unavailable in that office, the N.C. Forest Service district offices overseeing county offices can be contacted. Contact information is available online (www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/contacts).

The TLRP is a new program for North Carolina, and it presents a significant opportunity to help support North Carolina's woodland owners who are critical stewards of our state's forestland.

An application and information on the previously announced federal ag disaster block grant categories can be found at www.ncagr.gov/agdisaster.

NCDA&CS agronomists help growers with tissue sampling

The countdown is on to strawberry season with farmers working hard to protect the emerging blossoms and berries from cold nights that always follow what has come to be known as “false spring” in North Carolina.

Jonathan Godfrey, who grows over a half-acre of organic strawberries with his dad and brother at Olde Carthage Farm in Moore County, anticipates berries being ready for first picking around the first full week of April. The farm also offers organic cut flowers, blueberries and grapes seasonally during the year.

But right now it's about to be strawberry season, so nestled under rows of protective low plastic tunnels, plants are already heavy with green strawberries and the white blooms of strawberries to come. Organic production means Godfrey and his family do some things a bit differently than conventional strawberry farmers but protecting them from a cold snap is a universal concern among growers this time of year.

Lost blooms and berries are missed opportunities for customers and missed sales potential in a season that is fleetingly short.

Godfrey's organic bare root strawberry varieties went in the ground in late October. After a short growing period, they go dormant to survive the coldest winter months.

With temperatures recently dropping into the high-20s to low-30s several nights in a row, the Olde Carthage Farm team has had to focus on covering each row with blankets to give them protection from the below-freezing temperatures.

“You want the plant to grow a little bit when you plant them in the fall. A lot of your decisions about numbers of berries are decided the fall before. For example, the amount of crown set is made with that initial growth,” Godfrey said. “Once it warms up a bit, they wake up. And once they wake up, there's no going back to sleep. Once they wake up and start pushing new growth, if it gets really cold, then you start doing damage to the plant.

“At that point it's all about the blooms and the berries. The blooms are susceptible, depending on humidity a bit, but we look at 32 to 30 degrees – 30 degrees being a scary point for blooms. Pollinated blooms, flowers and fruit, maybe even up to 32 is scary for them,” he said. “I want some way to protect them from the cold so that's part of covering them up in the spring.”

The word blanket brings to mind a thick, warm material to snuggle under on a cold day. But for Godfrey, the blanket he is talking about is geotextile product that weighs around an ounce to an ounce and a quarter per yard.

“It's not real heavy, but it is trying to hold some of that thermal mass/heat that builds in the ground during the day in at night when temperatures drop,” Godfrey said. “Each blanket is 250 feet long and goes over four rows. On a cold night my brother and I pull them over the rows and secure them with bags of rock to hold them down. In about an hour, we can get the field covered up.”

For NCDA&CS regional agronomist Brad Thompson, it is also a busy time as he works with strawberry growers to fine tune the nutrient needs for their crops. This time of year, that means taking plant tissue samples every few weeks to be analyzed.



NCDA&CS Agronomist Brad Thompson (right) talks with strawberry growers Jonathan Godfrey (left) and Nolan Smith (center) about collecting tissue samples at this time of year.

Taking tissue samples and having them analyzed helps head off problems before they arise and keep plants producing efficiently through the season, Thompson said.

On a recent visit to his farm, Thompson showed Godfrey and neighboring strawberry grower Nolan Smith what to look for when taking a tissue sample.

“You take the most recent mature leaf. So, you look for the leaves that aren't glossy. That's too young, and you don't want them too dull looking either. That's the oldest leaves,” Thompson said. “You are looking for those in between. You will take the whole leaf and the petiole or stem, too. Take everything because we're going to analyze the petiole nitrate as well as the leaf nitrate.

“The petiole nitrate will tell us how much nitrogen is in the plant and much is going to continue. So, if you are too high, you can back off. If it's too low, you need a bump.”

Thompson advises taking around 25 representative leaf samples from around the field or from an area of concern if you suspect a problem. Cut the leaf from each stem and place all the leaves in one brown paper bag. The petioles removed from the leaf will go together in a separate paper bag.

Growers can mail those into the lab or take them to their local cooperative extension office to be transported to the NCDA&CS Agronomic Services lab or get them to their regional agronomist. Lab results are typically ready in about two days and recommendations are emailed to growers.

As an organic producer, working with Thompson has been especially helpful for Godfrey.

“He's come out and helped us on the strawberry tissue samples. We've looked at blueberries and blackberries when we had those

and had issues with them,” Godfrey said. “It has been beneficial for us to be able to bounce ideas off him and to be able to say, ‘Hey, is this crazy?’ Because we've thought crazy thoughts.



These green strawberries must be protected from the cold.

“But as an organic grower in this area, I don't have a lot of other people to ask. I don't have neighbors to bounce ideas off.

Thompson agreed.

“They keep me on my toes because there is a whole different set of challenges. It's a completely different ball game,” Thompson said.

Growers interested in working with a regional agronomist in their area can find a list and contact information on the website at www.ncagr.gov/divisions/agronomic-services/field-services

For more information on strawberry availability at Olde Carthage Farm, follow them on Facebook for updates and announcements.

Forest Service charges two

Evergreen man arrested on timber theft charges in Columbus County

On April 10, Lennon Colt Hinson, 42, of Evergreen, NC was arrested and charged with one felony count of larceny of timber (N.C.G.S. 14-135) and five misdemeanor counts of wood load tickets (N.C.G.S. 14-135.1) in Columbus County. N.C. Forest Service law enforcement officials, with assistance from the Columbus County Sheriff's Office, arrested and charged Hinson, owner of Evergreen Logging, following an investigation into a timber theft complaint filed April 2 by a private landowner.

Hinson has additional larceny of timber charges pending in Robeson County.

In December 2021, the N.C. Forest Service was legislatively mandated to investigate and enforce North Carolina timber theft laws. This case highlights the responsibility of the N.C. Forest Service to protect, manage and promote the forest resources for the citizens of North Carolina. If you believe you are the victim of timber theft, please contact your N.C. Forest Service county ranger.

Marion woman charged with causing wildfire in McDowell County

The cause of the Jumping Branch fire that burned in McDowell County in late March was determined to be the result of improperly discarded smoking material.

Hilary Brooke Inman, 38, of Marion, NC, was cited and charged with North Carolina General Statute 14-138.1 as a result of starting a fire upon grassland, brushland, woodland without fully extinguishing the same. The Jumping Branch fire burned approximately 420 acres before it was contained on April 3.

Guide looks to help growers maximize nutrient value of cover crops

In response to rising fertilizer costs and increasing grower interest in soil health practices, the NCDA&CS Agronomic Services Division has released a new step-by-step guide to help farmers measure the nutrient value of their cover crops and reduce fertilizer inputs.

The guide provides instructions on how to collect cover crop biomass samples, submit them for analysis, and calculate nutrient value on a per acre basis. The resource was created to give growers clear, practical steps they can apply immediately in the field. Prior to terminating their cover crops each spring, growers can follow the sampling guidelines to determine nutrient content and adjust fertilizer plans accordingly.

“There has been a growing interest in the nutrient value of cover crops in recent years,” said Dr. Kristin Hicks, lab director of the Plant/Waste/Solutions/Media Lab. “With recent spikes in fertilizer prices, we expect that interest to increase significantly. We created this quick guide with the goal of making it as easy as possible for growers to determine how much a cover crop could offset the need for fertilizer inputs.”

A key recommendation in the guide is for growers to submit samples through the Waste and Compost Analysis service instead of the Plant Tissue Analysis service — a directive that can be surprising to some.

“In the case of cover crops, you aren't growing it for

harvest but as a fertilizer for eventual land application or incorporation, similar to manure or compost,” Hicks said. “The Waste Analysis is designed to report nutrient concentrations on a per acre basis for this purpose.”

Hicks emphasized that enabling growers to quantify the nutrient value of cover crops enhances their ability to make informed fertilizer decisions.

“Growers want to get the most out of the cover crops they invest in,” Hicks said. “By giving them straightforward sampling methods and quick nutrient calculations, we hope to empower them to reduce input costs while improving their soil's long-term productivity.”

Cover crops provide a range of agronomic benefits. Legume species such as crimson clover, hairy vetch and Austrian winter peas fix atmospheric nitrogen, reducing the need for synthetic nitrogen fertilizers. Cereal species like barley, oats and rye scavenge leftover nutrients from previous crops, keeping them in the rooting zone for the next planting. Cover crops also help increase soil organic matter, suppress weeds, reduce erosion and improve water holding capacity.

Step-by-step guidelines and a printable field guide are available on the Agronomic Services website at www.ncagr.gov/Agronomic-Services.

Fuel quality inspectors ensure safety, quality at the pump

Some days, Valerie Thoms feels like she's living in the arcade game "Frogger." In the 1980s game, players guide frogs across a busy road to their homes, avoiding traffic and other hazards.

Thoms is a fuel quality inspector with the NCDA&CS Fuel Quality Program. Watching closely for moving vehicles, she safely maneuvers her way from pump to pump, gathering samples of fuel. She'll take the samples back to her mobile laboratory and conduct fuel quality tests while still at the retail location. If she finds a problem, she'll order the station to stop the sale of the product until it can be remedied.

Whether gas prices are high or low, inspectors with the NCDA&CS Fuel Quality Program are inspecting gas stations each day to ensure the gas you're paying for is a quality product.

"We're here to make sure people get a good quality product when they're coming to the gas pump," Thoms said. "Regardless of what price they have to pay that week, we're making sure they're always getting a safe, quality product."

Field inspectors across the state conduct unannounced, routine inspections at gas stations in their coverage areas to check the labeling of the products, the quality of the fuel from the gas pump and the quality of the fuel in the storage tanks.

First, they check the labels on



Fuel Quality Inspector Valerie Thoms collects fuel samples for testing.

fuel pumps to verify the product that the consumer is purchasing is clearly identified and that any additional labeling is present when applicable.

As they are checking those labels, inspectors are also gathering small samples of fuel from several of the pumps at the station. Inspectors collect samples of the station's regular, mid-grade, premium and diesel fuel to be tested.

Then they take those samples to their mobile laboratory for testing. Regular, mid-grade and premium gasoline are tested for octane, distillation, ethanol, water and sediment, and phase separation.

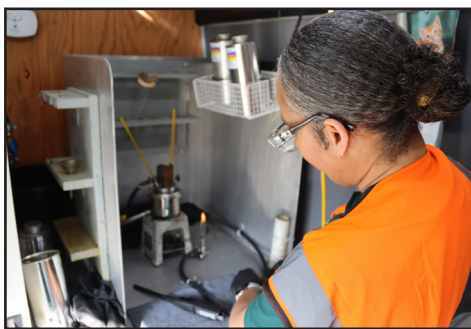
The octane number is a measure of the gasoline's ability to withstand autoignition. In the field, inspectors use a portable octane screener that uses infrared light to analyze fuel samples. Some engines might require

higher-octane gas, so this test confirms the gas being sold as "premium" or "plus" meets those specifications.

Testing the fuel's distillation end point allows inspectors to determine whether the fuel has been contaminated with diesel or kerosene, which can damage an engine. By law, the percent ethanol by volume must be displayed on the dispenser and is limited to specific volume ranges based on engine types. Inspectors in the field test gasoline products to verify these fuels meet the required specifications.

Diesel, biodiesel blends and kerosene are also tested for flashpoint – which would indicate whether the fuel is safe to use or if it has been contaminated with a fuel that has a lower boiling point, such as gasoline.

Samples are also routinely tested



Diesel fuel is tested to determine its flashpoint.

at the central laboratory in Raleigh. If a test in the field or at the lab finds a problem with the fuel quality, a Notice of Violation is issued and the retailer must stop the sale of the product.

Fuel quality inspectors also test for the presence of water and sediment and phase separation in the fuel samples from the dispenser as well as the fuel sitting in storage tanks. If fuel is contaminated with water, it can result in poor engine performance and possible failure. Sediment in fuel can clog fuel lines and reduce engine performance.

Excess water in gasoline causes phase separation, which is when the ethanol attaches to the water

molecules and sinks to the bottom of the tank. This ethanol and water mixture is caustic and can lead to engine damage. If water or phase separation is detected in a storage tank during a routine inspection, the retailer is issued a Notice of Violation and ordered to stop the sale of that product immediately.

When the station has had remediation work done for the product, an inspector reinspects the product. Once it meets specifications, the station can resume sales of that product.

The Fuel Quality Program is made up of 11 field inspectors who are stations across the state in designated territories consisting of several counties each. Typically, gas stations are inspected at least once a year.

Inspectors also conduct complaint investigations when suspected poor fuel quality is reported by consumers. In 2025, 300 complaints were filed and 63 of them were found to have fuel quality violations. If you think you've purchased bad gas, you can file a complaint by calling the laboratory at 984-236-4770 or online at www.ncmhtd.com/NCDA/Standards/FuelComplaint.

While NCDA&CS doesn't control the price you pay at the pump, inspectors work daily to ensure the product you're paying for is safe for your car, boat or lawn mower.

Get a behind-the-scenes look at an animal shelter inspection

Last year, the Animal Welfare Section of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services conducted 2,089 inspections across more than 900 animal shelters, boarding kennels and pet shops in North Carolina.

Chris Bradley, program coordinator and inspection supervisor with the section, oversees the inspection of nearly 100 facilities in his region. Most facilities receive two inspections per year to maintain their license. Facilities are also inspected if a complaint is received and a complaint investigation is initiated.

"Each time we visit a facility, we spend two to three hours reviewing everything," Bradley said. "I review physical conditions including walls, floors, animal enclosures, outdoor play areas and feed storage. I also review records, including veterinary care, movement of animals and documentation that each animal is receiving enrichment as outlined in the Animal Welfare Act."

Shelters and boarding kennels generally receive unannounced inspections from Animal Welfare Section staff. Recently, we followed Bradley and Wake County Animal Shelter Director Dr. Jennifer Federico on a courtesy inspection of the Wake County Animal Shelter. This visit was not part of the shelter's regular inspection schedule but was conducted to demonstrate what inspectors look for during an evaluation.

The inspection began in the cat enclosure. Bradley visually inspected each kennel to ensure cleanliness, access to water and the absence of safety concerns such as cracked or non waterproof surfaces that could be hard to sanitize or sharp edges that could injure an animal. He also reviewed the paperwork attached to each kennel, which included updates on time spent with the cats, feeding and cleaning schedules and any medication requirements. He then moved on to inspect the dog enclosures.

"Shelters are busy places and can experience a lot of wear and tear," Bradley said. "Staff who work here every day may not notice issues like cracked flooring or other safety concerns. An inspection can point out problems that need immediate attention, as well as wearandtear issues that will eventually need repairs to maintain compliance."

Bradley inspected the outdoor play areas, checking for cleanliness, potential hazards such as broken concrete or holes



Left: Chris Bradley, program coordinator and inspection supervisor. Right: Clean water bowls and toys at the shelter.



in fencing, and ensuring animals have access to water and shade.

His inspection continued with feed storage, which must be kept in airtight containers in areas inaccessible to animals. "I also check laundry facilities for cleanliness and safety and inspect the cleaning area for toys, bowls and other equipment," Bradley said. "Cleaning solutions and other chemicals should be stored safely and away from animals."

Bradley concluded his inspection by reviewing shelter records. Depending on the size of the shelter, this can be one of the most timeconsuming portions of the visit. Records include intake forms, veterinary documentation and details on any movement of animals in the shelter's care.

The Wake County Animal Shelter consistently earns high

marks for its commitment to animal care. "Shelter staff are genuinely happy to see me," Bradley said. "They want to show off their improvements since my last inspection. Shelters and inspectors ultimately want the same thing: to care for the animals and ensure their welfare. Animals should always have an advocate, and our role as inspectors is to serve as that advocate."

Bradley says the best part of his job is witnessing families reunite with lost pets. "I love seeing happy animals reunited with their owners."

All inspection reports from the Animal Welfare Section are posted on the agency's website: www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/awv.

Standards: 11 N.C. retailers fined for price-scanning errors

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Standards Division collected fines from 11 stores in 10 counties for price scanning errors during the first quarter of 2026.

"Inspecting price-scanner systems is one of the more direct ways our department protects shoppers across our state," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Even small discrepancies can add up. When a shopper picks up an item, they deserve to have confidence that the price they see is the price they'll pay."

The department conducts periodic, unannounced inspections of price-scanner systems in businesses to check for accuracy between the prices advertised and the prices that ring up at the register. If a store has more than a 2% error rate on overcharges, inspectors discuss the findings with the store manager and conduct a more intensive follow-up inspection later. Undercharges are also reported, but do not count against a store. Consumers who would like to file a complaint about scanner errors they encounter can call the Standards Division at 984-236-4750.

Penalties are assessed if a store fails a follow-up inspection. In addition to the penalties paid, the store will be subject to reinspection every 60 days from the last inspection until it meets the 2%-or-less error rate. Additional penalties may be assessed if a store fails reinspection.

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

- (Beaufort County) Dollar General at 1810 Live Oak St. in Beaufort paid a \$915 fine after failing two inspections. An initial inspection in January found a 12% error rate for 6 overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in February found a 3.33% error rate for 10 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in the fine. The store will be reinspected
- (Brunswick) Dollar General at 1745 Southport Supply in Bolivia passed inspection in March after nearly a year of violations. The store was initially inspected in April 2025 and failed four follow-up inspections in 2025, resulting in \$13,245 in fines. The store was reinspected in January and found to have an error rate of 3% for 9 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$2,900 fine. In March, the store paid the final fine and passed inspection
- (Chowan) Dollar General at 1503 Virginia Road in Edenton paid a \$3,125 fine in January that followed a failed December 2025 inspection. The December inspection found an error rate of 8.33% for 25 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in February.
- (Chowan) Dollar General at 413 West Queen St. in Edenton paid a \$5,000 fine in January after failing an initial inspection in October 2025 and a follow-up inspection in December. The first inspection found an error rate

of 20% for 10 overcharges on a 50-item lot. The follow-up inspection found an error rate of 16% for 48 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in January.

- (Hertford) Family Dollar at 1216 East Memorial Drive in Ahoskie was fined \$3,595 after failing a follow-up inspection in February. The inspection found an error rate of 5.33% for 16 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.
- (Mecklenburg) Family Dollar at 4500 North Tryon St. in Charlotte was fined \$5,235 in the first quarter of 2026. The store failed a follow-up inspection in January with an error rate of 4.67% for 14 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$2,090 fine. A March inspection found an error rate of 7% for 21 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store was fined \$3,145 following that inspection. The store will be reinspected.
- (Montgomery) Dollar General at 176 South Wadesboro Blvd. in Mt. Gilead paid a \$1,020 fine after failing two inspections. An initial inspection in January found an error rate of 6% for three overcharges on a 50-item lot. A follow-up inspection in March found an error rate of 4% for 12 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.
- (Richmond) Family Dollar at 1002 East Broad Ave. paid a \$3,525 fine after two failed inspections. An initial inspection in February found an error rate of 12% for four overcharges on a 50-item lot. A follow-up inspection in March found an error rate of 8.67% for 26 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.
- (Union) Circle K at 1071 Chestnut Lane in Indian Trail paid \$780 after failing two inspections this year. An initial inspection in January found an error rate of 22% for 11 overcharges on a 50-item lot. A reinspection in March found an error rate of 9% for nine overcharges on a 100-item lot, resulting in the fine. The store will be reinspected.
- (Vance) Family Dollar at 112 Raleigh Road in Henderson paid a \$2,820 fine after failing two inspections. An initial inspection in January found an error rate of 20% for 10 overcharges on a 50-item lot. A follow-up inspection in March found 17 overcharges on a 300-item lot, an error rate of 5.67%. The store will be reinspected.
- (Watauga) Staples at 1275 Blowing Rock Road in Boone passed inspection in November. In January, the store paid an outstanding \$1,025 fine from a failed September inspection.

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.

5-frame nucs in waxed cardboard nuc box, \$200. Sam Bolick, Concord 704-900-4580.



Aquaculture, Supplies & Services

Mosquito fish, \$100/1,000. Bobby Irving, Madison 336-613-5294.



Equipment For Sale

JD MC 519 leaf bagger trailer, \$50. Keith Andrews, Graham 336-684-3483.

JD D170 riding mower, \$2,000; L100, 5-spd, \$800; Intl tricycle tractor, fair cond., been sitting, \$1,500. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Rebuilt bottom plows, MF 3-14, \$350; MF 3-16, \$300; IH 3-14, \$300; Ford 3-14, \$375; IH 3-16 rollover, \$500; Ford shear pin, \$325. James Isley, Julian 336-263-1958, no texts.

FARM EQUIPMENT

NH 275, rebuilt, \$2,500; 7 ft. disc cutter, \$3,000; NH rake, \$800; (2) basket rakes, \$400-\$500. David Tevepaugh, Taylorsville 828-632-4429.

Galfre 8 ft. disc mower, used 2 yrs., \$4,500; 20-ton wood splitter, new Honda eng, \$700. Nancy Barlow, State Road 336-874-2166 or Joe McKnight, 276-296-4130.

(2) Farmall Cubs, \$2,500/both; 1951 Ford Red Belly, \$1,800; set of cults, for Farmall Cub, \$375; (2) wheels for Ford 800, 12x28, \$200. Donald Yountz, Clemmons 336-764-0748.

Bulk barns, (4) 22-box Roanoke; 18-box Roanoke; 18-box Powell; (3) 20-box Powell, \$1,000 obo. James Ellis, Rougemont 336-504-1124.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Pull leveling harrow, 28-disc, \$1,250; 3pt 1-row cult, \$275. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

NH backhoe, 4wd, ext. boom, 1,700 hrs., \$25,000; Super A w/5 ft. Woods mower, \$1,000; AC-G tractor w/4 ft. mower, \$2,600; JD 690-A excavator, \$3,000. Claude Hamlett, Leasburg 336-694-6874.

1957 Farmall Cub tractor, w/ disc plow & 1-row cult, \$2,700. G.E. Brittain, Connelly Springs 828-368-0656.

MF 245 tractor, 40 hrs. on new eng, \$8,000; MF 253 tractor, 1,200 hrs., \$14,000; Bobcat 763, 2,700 hrs., (2) sets of tires, \$15,000; other equip. William Fox, Taylorsville 828-312-9736.

FARM EQUIPMENT

IH drill, w/seed & fert. boxes, steel wheels, GC, extra drill for parts, \$600 or trade. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

1971 MF 135, #9A115912, GC, \$4,500; 1974 Intl Farmall 140, key start, cults, fert. attach., 1pt, bush hog, orig. paint, \$3,500. Alvin Hunter, Wendell 919-612-2658.

Long 445 tractor, 2,773 hrs., needs repair, w/subsoiler, turning plow disc, \$3,000. James Smith, Salisbury 704-645-1450.

(2) clamp on dual rims, 18.4 x 34, \$800. Roy Watts, Trinity 336-382-2744.

JD 71 planter, 4-row, \$1,000; IH 574 diesel tractor, \$3,000. Herman Crumpler, Goldsboro 919-273-6614.

FARM EQUIPMENT

FARM LABOR

HAY & GRAIN

LIVESTOCK

NH hayliner wagon, sq bales, \$2,000. Charles Jones, Bessemer City 704-718-4998.

NH TN65(D), 4wd, w/ frt. loader, new Tomahawk bucket, \$21,000; 740 Hess-ton 4 ft. rnd baler, \$5,000; NH sq baler, reworked, \$4,500; other equip. John Farthing, Sugar Grove 828-297-3740.

NH 477 haybine, \$2,500; NH 847 auto-tie baler, \$3,000; NH 56 rake, \$1,500; 2- basket tedder, 3pt, \$800. Delbert Wrenn, Siler City 919-742-2516.

Used Agco 4-basket tedder, hyd. fold, needs work on folding mechanism, could be 2- basket w/some work, \$1,500. Mike Smith, Harmony 704-785-0038.

Hay elevator, 18 ft., \$650. Donna Barry, Franklinton 919-426-3406.

(30) 30' sections of 3" & 4" Akron irrig. pipe + riser & spray heads, \$2,500. Patrick Florence, Cedar Grove 919-732-5152.

1941 Oliver 70, sheet metal was taken off to re-paint; 3-row trail-type plow, needs tires, GC, \$1,500. Michael Greer, Rockwell 704-223-1261.

1998 NH 4630 turbo w/ canopy, 2,025 hrs., paint faded in places, GC, \$9,500. Kathy Myers, Lexington 336-225-4194, call/text.

Agri-Fab leaf vacuum, elect. start, LN, used 3 times, always garaged, \$1,995. Benson Jones, Marion 828-803-0011.

JD 318, ps, hys. trans., \$2,500. Kent Davis, Clemmons 336-766-7607.

Goat dehorner box & (2) dehorning irons, \$150/all obo. Donald Schroyer, Rockwell 704-857-2044.

JD combine w/915 header, \$20,500; JD F935 60" front mount mower, \$2,600; IH hay baler w/2-cyl Wisconsin, \$1,000; Oliver 13-disc drill w/ seed & fert. boxes, \$1,000. Samuel Crowder, Lattimore 704-692-2240.

6' scrape blade, 3pt, GC, \$300. Richard Adams, Raleigh 919-830-8470.

NH 68 baler, needs minor repair, w/extra knotter, \$400; NH 271 for parts, \$200; (2) NH 467 haybines for parts, \$400; other equip. Errol Long, Hamptonville 336-244-8756, no texts.

Titan 18.4-38 tractor tire, about 50% tread left, \$250; Case IH grain elevator chain, in box, never used, fits 1420 & 1620 combines, \$190. Will McCallum, Rowland 910-740-3267.

Mathieson irrig. pipe, 560' 4" & 1,400' 3", numerous fittings, \$700. Mark Hardy, Browns Summit 336-339-0626.

JD 1219 haybine, \$1,475 obo; 3pt dirt pan, \$175; wet lines, Ford NH controller & lines, \$325 obo. Kent Bell, Cherryville 704-477-0462.

Scissor lift hay spear, 3pt, w/cyl., \$500. Terry Martin, Seagrove 336-521-0084.

JD 457 rnd baler, twine only, 4x5 bales, GC, replaced all belts last yr., w/ monitor, extra set of belts & owner's manual, \$8,000. Wade Marshburn, Chadbourn 910-641-1037.

1975 Intl 140, 12v, GC, \$5,500. Ernest Pinnix, Eden 336-432-4960.



Equipment Wanted

AC D-10 or D-12 for salvage; 3pt or snap coupler hitch ok. David Lloyd, Wake Forest 984-218-2566.

Power King 1616 tractor for parts. Keith Andrews, Graham 336-684-3483.

Wheel wghts. for Farmall Cub tractor. Arron Lamar, Snow Camp 336-214-4505.

Sm grain drill. William Fox, Taylorsville 828-312-9736.

Corn silage cutter, maybe a wagon. Bobby Hice, Lowgap 336-325-9907.

Fordson Super Dexta diesel tractor, not restored, prefer in working cond. Jackie Brown, Denton 336-953-6027.



Farm Labor For Sale

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



Farmland For Sale

Land for sale must consist of at least 3 acres and be used for agricultural purposes. Advertisers must indicate use of land.

5.56 ac Surry Co., (2) parcels, natural spring, sm cabin in need of repair, \$60,000. Verler Smith, Kannapolis 704-796-3018.



Farmland Wanted

Pasture &/or hay land to rent, Davie Co. or surrounding areas, for cow/calf operation; will maintain fences & land. Kenneth Lankford, Mocksville 704-241-5058.



Hay & Grain For Sale

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

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

Fescue/orchard mix, rnd bales, net wrapped, horse & cow quality, dry storage, 700+ rls. avail., \$35-\$50. William Moffitt, Asheboro 336-381-3875.

Summer grasses & fescue, rnd bales, great for cattle, pick up only, \$40/bale. Brandon Oxendine, Sanford 919-434-7908.

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

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

Boer goats, healthy & stocky, \$200-\$300. Heather Davis, Greensboro 336-420-7470.

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

Young Hereford bulls, polled, \$4.55/lb. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

Fainting goats, all healthy, tri colored buck, dob 8/24, very tame; younger does & bucks avail., bucks, \$100; does, \$125. Dodd Linker, Clemmons 336-712-2484.

34 heifers, exposed to heifer bull for 90 days, Angus, Hereford & Angus/Hereford mix, \$3,500-\$4,300. Willam Vernon, Milton 336-504-1174.

Katahdin sheep, ewes & rams, 3 m/o, \$200. Nathaniel Adams, Lexington 336-250-7258.

Katahdin lambs, born 1/26, weaned early April, NSIP bred for parasite resistance & maternal traits, 50+ ewes, \$200-\$300; 5-10 top rams, \$300 & up. Aaron Snider, Liberty 336-317-2341.

Sim-Angus bull, \$2,500. Brian Payne, Madison 336-423-2881.

Miniature Hereford, reg., 6 m/o, \$2,500 obo. Cindy Tucker, Browns Summit 336-580-0984.



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.

Peacock chicks, avail. mid-May, \$30 ea. & up. Richard Simmons, Tabor City 910-640-7114.

12-15 laying hens, around 1 y/o, Rhode Island Red, Barred Rock, Delaware, Buff Orpington & Easter eggers, good layers, \$10 ea. Dan Royster, Greensboro 336-338-2609.

Coturnix quail, Pharaoh, Wild, White, Rosetta, Tuxedo mix, adults & chicks; hatching eggs avail., \$6-\$8 ea. Austin Hathcock, Norwood 704-984-3787.

Bobwhite quail eggs, \$35/100; Bobwhite quail chicks, \$55/100, cash only. George Parker, Lumberton 910-374-8176.

DB-1 Housekeeper, bought new, used 3 times, still new cond., \$22,000. Donald Skeen, Denton 336-857-2961.



Poultry & Supplies Wanted

Ducks ready to put on pond. Jerry Beckom, Burlington 336-260-4824.



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

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

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, fert. & planting instr. incld., \$25 ea. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.



Supplies For Sale

Cedar fence posts, all heart, \$5; fuel tanks, 2,000 gal., \$1,500; 4,000 gal., \$2,000. Miles Little, Midland 704-791-1438.

Water totes, \$100; burning barrels, \$10. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Gourds, different sizes, \$10; handmade cedar bird houses, mite resistant, \$12. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

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

Tomato stakes, tobacco sticks, \$1 ea. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

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

Earthway garden seeder, VGC, \$65. Gary Williams, Granite Falls 828-493-2461.

Steel fuel tanks, oval, 275 gal., \$125 ea. Richard Ingram, Greensboro 336-420-9253.

Glass canning jars, mixed brands, 81 pints, \$0.50 ea.; 112 quarts, \$0.65 ea.; other items. Donald Sloan, Winston-Salem 336-765-1457.

Band sawn lumber, 8' long, 7/8" thick, oak & maple avail., air dried 2 yrs., \$4/bd ft.; pecan lumber, \$10/bd ft. James Allen, Mount Gilead 910-576-4886.

(2) pressure washers, need repair, ran when put in storage; generator, needs repair, ran when put in storage, \$100. Edsel Wooten, East Bend 336-971-0612.

Farm trailer w/mobile home axle, 4'x9', \$300. Richard Adams, Raleigh 919-830-8470.

Fuel drum w/stand, 150 gal., \$50. Terry Martin, Seagrove 336-521-0084.



Supplies Wanted

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



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

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

Farm trailer, 8' x 16', \$250. Roy Watts, Trinity 336-382-2744.

1961 Willys Jeep pickup, 3/4 ton, \$12,500. Russ Hanes, Glendale Springs 828-406-6365.

Living out an elementary-school dream of being a farmer

Jonathan Morgan, owner of Morgan Farms in Laurel Hill, knew in second grade that he wanted to be a farmer. Today, he is living out that dream by raising a variety of produce, livestock and row crops, including soybeans.

As a young boy, Morgan spent many hours at his grandfather and father's side learning the ins and outs of farming.

"My grandfather and grandmother both grew up around farms during the Great Depression and worked on them shortly thereafter, so I heard countless stories about their experiences on the farm, how crops were grown and even how mules were used in production," he said. "My dad has also worked for many years on a nearby farm called ZV Pates, a 12,000-acre operation, so I've seen first-hand how a real farm functioned from one season to the next since I was young."

Not many adults get to experience the dream job they wrote down on an elementary-school assignment. Morgan, however, made his dream a reality in 2023 by establishing Morgan Farms, a farm in Laurel Hill of a few hundred acres.

"It's unreal that this dream of mine has become a reality and it's better than anything I could have even imagined," Morgan said.

Morgan Farms grows a variety of produce, including collards, tomatoes, cabbage, sweet corn, okra and peppers. The farm also grows row crops like wheat, soybeans and oats, and raises pigs and cattle.

Soybeans have been a cornerstone in North Carolina agriculture for centuries, and Morgan is honored to bring his knowledge and experience to the crop at Morgan Farms. Each year, he produces anywhere from 80 to 150 acres of soybeans that are used for animal feed, both through partner companies like Smithfield Foods and for his own livestock.

"Ninety-seven percent of soybeans grown in our state are used as a protein source in animal food," Morgan said. "The other three percent is used for human consumption in proteins, cooking oil, soy sauce, tofu and other items that we use every

day. That's why this crop is so important to our state's agriculture industry, because it touches our life every day either through the meat products we eat or other products we use."

Morgan has a strong partnership with Smithfield Foods as well as C&M Hog Farm, a hog operation in South Carolina, that he sells a large portion of his soybean crop to. The other part of his crop is ground in his own hammer mill with other ingredients grown on the farm, like corn, to feed his pigs and cattle. In mid-April, Morgan and his uncles will plant early soybeans on the farm.

"For our operation, soybean planting always follows our harvest of wheat and oats," he said. "Soybeans are a great rotational crop, allowing our fields to be used all year long."

Soybeans are drilled into the ground, ideally after a rainfall for ease of planting. Throughout their growing season, soybeans need weed management and fungicide control, keeping Morgan and his team busy.

Typically, soybeans are ready for harvest around October or November each year, although they can harvest earlier depending on the weather.

"Like all farms in our state, our operation is heavily reliant on the weather," Morgan said. "Soybeans are heavily affected by the weather because their growing season coincides with hurricane season in North Carolina, not to mention other issues, like droughts, we can experience during that same time. So, one year we may harvest in September and the next year not harvest until November just depending on the weather." All soybeans produced at Morgan Farms are used for animal food.

Products from Morgan Farm can be found at produce stands and hardware stores in Scotland County and surrounding areas. Jonathan is currently in the process of setting up his own produce stand at the farm to offer on-farm sales to customers. "Many people in our community know who we are, so I'll often get calls or just have people drop by and pick up items they know that we have," Jonathan said, "but I want that opportunity to be



Jonathan Morgan owns Morgan Farms in Laurel Hill.

open to people all across this state, so we are working on building the produce stand for customers both in-town and out-of-town to come and visit."

Growing up surrounded by farmers and learning from many across the industry, Jonathan is excited to leave his mark on our state's agriculture industry. "Being a farmer is one of the best feelings in the world," he said. "There have been so many incredible farmers before me who have helped shape me into who I am today and given me the confidence to chase after my dreams on the farm. I look forward to building my legacy here and, hopefully one day, inspiring the generation of farmers that will come after me."

Discovering NC Ag: Researching soybeans in Salisbury

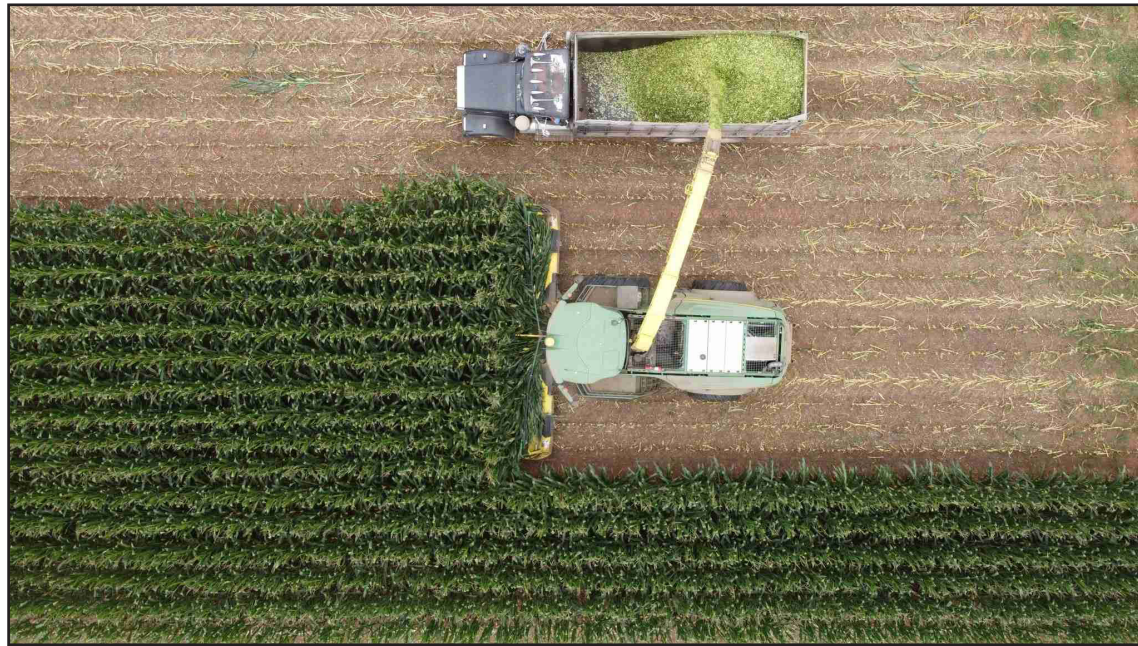
Discovering NC Agriculture is a social media series focusing on N.C. grown, raised, caught and made commodities. Originally started in 2025, this series has been renewed to run for another year! Tune in each month to see how an N.C. commodity is grown, harvested, packed for consumer use and more. Learn 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!

Although soybeans have been a cornerstone of our state's agriculture industry for many years, research is still being conducted on new variety trials, fungicide studies and more at the Piedmont Research Station in Salisbury. From the field to the lab, our research station is working hard to further the soybean industry of North Carolina for years to come.

The Piedmont Research Station in Rowan County was originally established as the Piedmont Test Farm in 1904 near Statesville.

"In 1954, this station was moved to its present site in Salisbury on 1,044 acres of farmland," said Brad Graham, superintendent of the Piedmont Research Station. "Today, we grow around 75 to 100 acres of soybeans each year, in addition to many other commodities, including sweet corn, green beans, blueberries, dairy cattle and small ruminants."

Graham came to work at the station in 2003 and has worked in all four units during his time. According to Graham, the Piedmont Research Station is currently the most diverse of our 18 research



The Piedmont Research Station in Salisbury grows 75 to 100 acres of soybeans each year.

stations across the state. "We have four dedicated units at this station: field crops, horticultural crops, dairy and poultry/small ruminants," he said. "Within those units, we run a plethora of trials, research and studies each year to help farmers across the state improve their production and yields." In fact, all crops grown at the Piedmont Research Station this year will undergo variety trials, disease trials and fertility trials, including soybeans.

As our state's largest crop by acreage, soybeans play a vital role as a top food source for animal production across North Carolina, reducing the need to import grains from other states.

"Soybeans have one of the largest economic footprints among all row crops in our state," Graham said. "In fact, North Carolina produces 1.4 to 1.6 million acres of soybeans each year, according to recent statistics." So how does the Piedmont Research Station contribute to that number and benefit

the soybean industry each year? By hosting the Official Variety Testing program to study fungicide products, optimal planting dates, maturity group selection, new and emerging soybean varieties, a double-crop planting system, and so much more.

"The program plants 150 to 160 soybean varieties from public and private institutions across 17 locations in North Carolina, including the Piedmont Research Station, to identify specific variety fits for each environment," Graham said. "They then communicate those fits to growers to help with variety selections for the next growing season."

From planting to harvest, soybeans at the station receive optimal care to produce the best research results to benefit farmers across the state.

Soybean crops at the Piedmont Research Station begin each year in the fall with pulling soil samples to determine the fertility need for each

crop.

Between planting and harvest, Graham and his team will care for the soybeans in the field by spraying weeds and monitoring plant nutritional needs. "Some years we are finished with the crop until it's ready to be harvested, but others we have to make an in-season herbicide pass depending on conditions," Graham said. "Honestly, that's the biggest challenge with growing soybeans because they are very weather dependent and the weather in North Carolina is consistently unpredictable."

According to Graham, too much or too little water during the growing season can affect soybean growth, pod set and seed fill, while hot and humid weather in August and September can lead to a poor soybean seed quality at harvest or to green-stem soybeans.

"It takes a lot of faith to work in agriculture because there are so many factors outside of our control," Graham

said, "but soybeans are truly the perfect crop for North Carolina in a variety of ways, so I would say that the good far outweighs the bad." All soybeans at the Piedmont Research Station are harvested in the fall.

Although the Piedmont Research Station does not offer on-farm trials for farmers across our state, North Carolina farmers do benefit from the research being conducted at the station in a variety of ways.

"The work being done at our station can be directly applied to a grower's management process to make changes or additions based on replicated, unbiased data," Graham said. "For example, a grower near Salisbury can use the Official Variety Trial variety selection tool to make variety selections specific to their operation and region based on data generated locally. That's not just specific to Salisbury, either, but any grower in the Piedmont region of our state."

The research station also hosts field days throughout the year for farmers to come and learn about current research being conducted, ask questions and get involved. In addition to benefitting farmers and agriculture industry workers across the state, the research station also offers educational opportunities for the public each year.

"We host tours here at the station for school groups, office groups or any interested individual to come and learn about what we do," he said. "Individuals can request a tour of all four units or specific units based on their interests."

If you're interested in touring the research station, Graham can be contacted through email at brad.graham@ncagr.gov.