

Bucolic briefs

The N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer is gearing up for a huge day of tractors, trains and fun April 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exhibits include modern tractors, antique farm equipment, and farm life demonstrations. Kid's activities, music and hayrides will also be featured. A parade of tractors ends the day at 3 p.m. Go to nctransportationmuseum.org, or call 704-636-2889 to enter your tractor or farm equipment or to purchase tickets.

The following free Produce Safety Field Days will be held at research stations in April from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: April 6 at the Horticultural Crops Research Station in Clinton. To register, go to <https://forms.gle/Hbs1p2oih24B6HnB9>. April 13 at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center. To register, go to <https://forms.gle/FUST27PQxvA1cyGV6>.

The Grantham and Brogden N.C. Granges are celebrating their 85th Anniversary by hosting a free event May 7 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Dudley. As part of the celebration, the organizations are teaming up with the Eastern NC Vintage Farm Equipment Club for its 21st annual show. Activities include food and drink vendors; antique tractor/equipment show; wagon rides; toy tractor rides; exhibits on tobacco heritage, gardening, beekeeping, home canning, handmade quilting, antique corn shelling, the N.C. Caisson Unit, and the Ronald McDonald House; displays by the national and local Granges; a pie baking competition and cookie baking competitions for under age 12; gospel music and dance entertainment; and a corn hole competition. For more information or questions, contact Sally Waddell at 252-514-5091.

The Carolina and Dove Association will host its inaugural Spring Pigeon Lawn Show May 28 at Dallas Park, 1303 Dallas/Cherryville Hwy., Dallas. For more information contact Bogdan Pauasyuk, 425-535-7996.

As a way to help farmers and agricultural workers stay safe at work, the N.C. Department of Labor offers safety videos on a variety of topics through its YouTube channel. Video topics include: preventing green tobacco sickness, hazard communication, tobacco harvester safety, heat stress, migrant housing requirements, forklift safety, and information about the NCDOL's Gold Star Growers program. The videos are in English and Spanish to increase understanding of safety hazards and preventing accidents. To learn more about the NCDOL and the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to www.nclabor.com or call 1-800-NC-LABOR (800-625-2267). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

Beekeepers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at www.ncagr.com/beelinked. The site is hosted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the N.C. State University Apiculture Program. Anyone interested in listing their information can do so by filling out an online Submit Your Ad form on the BeeLinked page or by contacting NCDA&CS at 919-233-8214 or by email at NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division regulates the movement of agricultural or related items capable of spreading harmful insects, diseases, and other pests. Beekeepers participating in this program will be required to comply with all honey and bee industry regulations.

The N.C. Ag Finance Authority provides credit to agriculture in areas where financing is not available at reasonable rates and terms. The agency originates, services and finances farm loans, rural business loans, disaster loans and cotton gin loans. It also offers tax-exempt ag development bonds for

agribusiness processing, ag-related manufacturing or ag waste disposal. For more about Ag Finance Authority programs or to request a loan application, call 919-790-3949 or email at RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov.
