

Bucolic briefs

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2023 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 1 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 4, in conjunction with a Board of Directors meeting of the N.C. Pork Council at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center, 4400 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC, 27607. All North Carolina pork producers are invited to attend.

Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of North Carolina and has paid all assessments due since August 2021 may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to have available a sales receipt proving that hogs were sold in their name and the checkoff was deducted. For more information, contact Amy Cave at 919-781-0361 or amy@ncpork.org or the N.C. Pork Council, 4000 Westchase Blvd, Suite 330, Raleigh, NC 27607.

Landowners with farms for sale or lease and farmers seeking land can also post their information at the NC FarmLink website hosted by the N.C. Cooperative Extension at <https://www.ncfarmlink.ces.ncsu.edu/>

The Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard & Greenhouse in Marshall will offer Mountain Grape School with the following in-person classes/workshops: Harvesting Workshop – Sept. 10; Muscadine Home Winemaking – Oct. 1; and Entertaining With Wine – Oct. 15.

Class times are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays All classes are \$40 per person and includes a catered lunch. Register online at www.JeweloftheBlueRidge.com. Registration cutoff is 48 hours prior to the class/workshop. Call Chuck Blethen, Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard & Greenhouse Walapini, at 828-606-3130.

The Leonard-Mobley Small Farms Fund grant for small North Carolina farmers, including women in agriculture, in Franklin, Nash, Chatham, Person, Granville, Halifax, Durham, Wake, Wilson, Vance and Warren counties will be awarded Sept. 11 at the 7th Annual “Dinner in the Meadow” farm-to-fork feast held at Meadow Lane Farm near Louisburg. The dinner showcases local foods prepared by 12 North Carolina chefs. For more information or questions, contact Dr. Francesco Tiezzi or Tammy Manning at lmsmallfarmfund@gmail.com. More information on the grant and the dinner can be found online at www.DinnerintheMeadow.org. Proceeds from the dinner and silent auction will benefit the fund, which was set up in memory of two farm family members. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at the website.

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.
