

## Bucolic briefs

The Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard & Greenhouse in Marshall will offer Mountain Grape School with the following in-person classes/workshops: Planting, Propagation Tips and Trellis Design – May 7; Training and Mid-Season Canopy Management – May 21; 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](http://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 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 Organic Growers School will host the second summer class in its Gardening Series titled Compost at Home with Patryk Battle May 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith Mill Works Greenhouse, 80 Cowan Cove Road, Asheville. In this workshop, Battle of Living Web Farms, will walk attendees through a comprehensive overview of the requirements, benefits and downsides of various composting methods. Then, he will take a deeper dive into thermophilic and worm composting systems. Participants will have an opportunity to construct a thermophilic pile and set up a worm box during class, as well as evaluate the quality of the finished compost product. For more information, go to <https://organicgrowersschool.org/product/gardening-may/>.

The Leonard-Mobley Small Farms Fund is accepting applications from small North Carolina farmers, including women in agriculture, in Franklin, Nash, Chatham, Person, Granville, Halifax, Durham, Wake, Wilson, Vance and Warren counties, to apply for a \$5,000 grant to assist with projects such as development or expansion of new sources of agricultural income on their farm. Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. June 1. The grant will be awarded Sept. 11 at the 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lmsmallfarmfund@gmail.com). More information on the grant and the dinner can be found online at [www.DinnerintheMeadow.org](http://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.

Franklin County will host the popular and free 5-County Regional BEEF Tour June 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Farms visited will be Springfield Angus, one of the Southeast's premier Black Angus breeders, Perry Cattle Farm with purebred Simmental and commercial cattle), and First Fruits Farm to highlight cool and warm season forage test plot. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Franklin County Center. Program topics include: Tips for Direct Marketing Your Beef, Fire Ant Update and Control, Fly Control in the Herd, NRCS's Rainfall Forage Simulator

Demonstration, and review of a Forage Test Plot. A sponsored ribeye steak sandwich will be served at the last farm stop. The tour concludes with door prizes. Participants will carpool to the sites. Registration required. Go to the Eventbrite link to register :[https://go.ncsu.edu/2022\\_5-county\\_beef\\_tour](https://go.ncsu.edu/2022_5-county_beef_tour) For questions, contact Martha Mobley at 919-496-3344.

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](http://www.nclabor.com) or call 1-800-NC-LABOR (800-625-2267). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

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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](http://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](mailto: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.

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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](mailto:RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov).

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