

Bucolic briefs

The Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard & Greenhouse in Marshall will offer Mountain Grape School with the following in-person classes/workshops: 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 Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair will be held Oct. 21-23 at the WNC Ag Center in Fletcher. Check out spinning, knitting, weaving and felting demonstrations. Join a workshop or browse and shop with over 100 vendors. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 a day or a three-day pass is \$10. For more information, contact Lorri Helms, 828-680-0677.

The 80th N.C. Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival will be Nov. 5 & 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holshouser Building on the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children 12 and under. This festival features displays of gourds from around the world, special gourd workshops, and vendors of dried gourds, gourd seeds, gourd crafts, gourd art, books, t-shirts and crafting supplies. Great holiday presents! A variety of competitive categories are awarded ribbons and prizes. Details about the festival and a listing of gourd crafting workshops are on the website: www.ncgourdsociety.org. For more information, call Paul Buescher, N.C. Gourd Society, at 919-696-0744.

The N.C. Fresh Produce Safety Task Force is hosting the N.C. Produce Safety Professionals Conference: Proactive Approaches to Strengthening Traceability and Crisis Response Nov. 15 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the N.C. A&T University Farm Pavilion in Greensboro.

This one-day conference will expand your knowledge on the importance of traceability and crisis management programs for produce farms. Speakers include industry representatives, traceability experts, regulators and growers discussing lessons learned when these programs are put to the test during recall or outbreak investigations. Also discussed: What are the basic principles you should follow if your farm is implicated in an outbreak investigation? How do you communicate with regulators and consumers? How does farm insurance work under these circumstances? \

Registration, including lunch is \$20. To register, go to <https://go.ncsu.edu/producesafetyconference2022> or contact Lynette Johnston, N.C. State University, at 919-889-8418 or email lynette_johnston@ncsu.edu

The Cape Fear Poultry Association will hold an APA/ABA sanctioned open double, single junior and junior showmanship poultry shows Dec. 10 at the Johnston County Livestock Arena, 520 County Home Road, Smithfield. Judging begins at 9 a.m. and the event is open to the public. The deadline to enter is Dec. 5. Contact Donna Worthington, at 252-341-8706 or email at donna.worthington@aol.com.

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).

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/>

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.
