

## Bucolic briefs

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 Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Fall Sale, one of the largest in the state, is scheduled for Sept 1-5 at the Holshouser Building at the State Fairgrounds Raleigh. Buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport: saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing for all disciplines of riding, barn supplies, carts, other animal items and more. Horse trailers to sell for representation fee only. Bar code tagging on the exchange's web site allows consignor to view sales from home. Tagging guidelines mandatory. Consignors drop off priced, tagged items Aug. 30 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Aug. 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Special premier shopping night is open to public for \$10 cash only admission, age 12 and under get in for free, Sept. 1 from 5 to 10 p.m. Open shopping with free admission is Sept. 2 and Sept. 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sept. 4 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Some items discounted half off on final shopping day.

Consignors pick up unsold items Sept. 7 from 1:30 to 9 :30 p.m. or they will be donated. Please make arrangements if you want unsold items returned. Refer to our donation page to see how we help our equestrian programs in our community. Consignors earn 70%, donate unsold items to N.C. nonprofit equestrian organizations if desired. Volunteers all ages needed, shop before consignors, consignors shop before public. Sign up on web site. Payment accepted: cash, NC checks with two IDs approved, credit cards with 3 % fee/per card transaction. N.C. Government regulations for COVID followed for everyone's safety. Drop and Go and Pick Up and Go consigning available, see website. Waivers to be signed at drop off. For more, go to [www.EquestrianExchange.com](http://www.EquestrianExchange.com) or contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950.

The N.C. Simmental Association will hold its annual Fall Harvest Sale including bull, cows, bred & open heifers and embryo lots at noon, Sept. 3, at the Shuffler Sale Facility in Union Grove. Call 336-468-1679 or email [ncsa@yadtel.net](mailto:ncsa@yadtel.net) for a sale catalog, or view an online catalog at [parklivestock.com](http://parklivestock.com).

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](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 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 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

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](http://www.ncgourdsociety.org). For more information, call Paul Buescher, N.C. Gourd Society, at 919-696-0744.

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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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