

Bucolic briefs

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Sale will be held Aug. 29- Sept 2 in the Holshouser Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Road Raleigh. Buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport, including saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing for all disciplines of riding, barn supplies, carts, other animal items and more. Also includes horse trailers for representation fee only. Consignors earn 70 percent. Bar code tagging on our web site allows consignor to view sales from home. Consignors drop off priced, tagged items Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale dates are Aug. 29- Sept 2, with special premier shopping night open to public Aug. 29 from 5 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 cash only for adults, free for ages 12 and under. Open shopping with free admission Aug. 30 through Sept 1 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sept 2 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Consignors pick up unsold items Sept 4 from 1:30 to 9:30 p.m. or they are donated to equestrian programs. Volunteers all ages needed, and they shop before consignors. Consignors shop before public. Cash, credit cards with fee/per card transaction accepted. For more details go to www.EquestrianExchange.com, or contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950.

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2020 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 1 p.m. Aug. 7 in conjunction with a Board of Directors meeting of the N.C. Pork Council at the N.C. State University Club in the University Room, 4200 Hillsborough St., Raleigh. All pork producers are invited to attend. Producers, 18 or older, who are a resident of the state and have paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. Eligible producers are encouraged to bring a sales receipt proving hogs were sold in their name and the checkoff deducted. For information, contact the N.C. Pork Council at 919-781-0361.

The N.C. Simmental Association's Fall Harvest Sale, including bulls, bred cows, bred heifers, open heifers and cow/calf pairs, will be held Sept. 7 at noon in Union Grove. Some embryos will also be available. Both Simmental and SimAngus genetics will be available. For information, call 336-468-1679 to request a sale catalog or email ncsa@yadtel.net. Sale catalog can also be found at parkelivestock.com.

The Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard and Nursery hosts a series of workshops focused on grape production and winemaking. Each class/workshop, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. unless noted, is \$45 including lunch. Call Chuck at 828-606-3130 for more information or e-mail chuck@JeweloftheBlueRidge.com or go to www.JeweloftheBlueRidge.com to register and pay in advance by credit card. You will receive directions after you register for the class/workshop. Following is a list of the upcoming workshops: Sept. 18 - Harvesting workshop, where you learn how to harvest muscadines and the type of equipment used. Learn about the various types of equipment needed to harvest properly. Oct. 5 – Winemaking. Learn how to make wine in 5- and 6.5- gallon carboys.

The Macon County Poultry Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss matters relating to raising poultry. Meetings are open to the public and to all ages. For more information, contact the Macon County office of the N.C. Cooperative Extension at 818-349-2046.

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.
