

Bucolic briefs

The Southern Farm Show will be held Feb. 1-3 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. This is the largest annual agricultural exposition in the Carolinas and Virginia. Filling the NC State Fairgrounds, the show hosts over 400 exhibitors, agricultural meetings, workshops and training, and everything farmers need to prepare for the coming growing season. In conjunction with the Farm Show, the Southern National Draft Pull and Coon Mule Jump returns to the Hunt Horse Arena Feb. 3. Watch giant teams for Percheron and Belgian draft horses match their strength to determine this year's winners. Starting at 6 p.m., pre-pull entertainment includes a parade of antique farm equipment and the ever-popular Coon Mule Jump. For more details, visit [Southern National Draft Horse Pull](#)

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.
