

## Bucolic briefs

The N.C. Pork Council will hold its annual meeting, conference and awards luncheon March 11 at the Raleigh Hilton North Hills. Conference registration is free, but the cost for the awards lunch is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. To register or for more information, go to [www.ncpork.org](http://www.ncpork.org) or call 919-781-0361.

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The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Spring Sale will be March 26-29 at the Holshouser Building at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. This is the state's largest equine and tack spring sale, where visitors can buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport, including tack, driving equipment, show clothing, training needs for all disciplines of riding, barn supplies, carts, other animal items and horse trailers. Bar code tagging on our web site allows consignors to price items and view sales from home. Consignors should drop off tagged items from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. March 24 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 25. A premier shopping night open to the public is March 25 from 5 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 cash and free for ages 12 and under. Open shopping with free admission is March 27 and 28 from 10 a.m. -10 p.m., and March 29 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Some items may be discounted up to a half-off on the final day. Consignors should pick up unsold items March 31 from 3 to 8 p.m., April 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or items can be donated to N.C. non-profit equestrian organizations. Consignors earn 70 percent, except for trailers, which are sold with a representation fee. Volunteers needed and can shop before consignors. Consignors can shop before public. Cash and credit cards accepted. For more information, go to [www.EquestrianExchange.com](http://www.EquestrianExchange.com) or contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950.

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The Leonard-Mobley Small Farms Fund is seeking small North Carolina farmers in Franklin, Nash, Chatham, Person, Granville, Halifax, Durham, Wake, Wilson, Vance and Warren counties, including women in agriculture, 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 April 1. The grant will be awarded Sept. 13, 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 additional information, please contact Tammy Manning at 919-495-1305 or email, [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 benefit the fund. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at the website.

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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.

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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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