

Bucolic briefs

Johnston Community College is offering Beekeeping Class for Beginners on Thursdays, March 9 through May 11 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the JCC Arboretum, 1024 E. Market St., Smithfield. Cost is \$110 for class; books are provided by the college. Contact Robbie Carver at Rfcarver@Johnstoncc.edu or 919-209-2127 for more information.

The Corn Growers Association of North Carolina will hold a referendum vote of corn producers March 14 during regular business hours at county Cooperative Extension offices. Farmers currently engaged in the production of #2 yellow dent corn intended for livestock feed, including tenants, sharecroppers or other persons sharing in production income from corn are eligible to vote on a voluntary assessment of .30 % of settlement of corn marketed. The assessment will be used to promote all phases of marketing, promotion and market development, research and education benefitting all growers. For more information on the referendum, contact your county Cooperative Extension office, Rhonda Garrison with the Corn Growers Association at 919-803-4778 or Karla Frizzell at N.C. State University at 919-515-3252.

The Equestrian Exchange Spring Tack Consignment Sale will be held March 23-26 at the Holshouser Building at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, 4285 Trinity Road. Buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport including all types of saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing for all disciplines of riding, barn supplies, carts, other animal items and more. Sell horse trailers for representation fee only. Bar code tagging on the Equestrian Exchange web site allows consignor to view sales from home. Tagging guidelines mandatory. Consignors drop off priced, tagged items March 21 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and March 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Special premier shopping night open to public for \$10 cash only on March 23 from 5-10 p.m. Kids age 12 and under are free. Open shopping with free admission is March 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and March 26 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Some items are discounted half off on March 26. Consignors pick up unsold items on March 28 from 3 to 8 p.m. or March 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or they are donated. Consignors should make arrangements if they want unsold items returned. We cannot store or transfer consignors items from sale to sale. Consignors earn 70%, donate unsold items to NC nonprofit equestrian organizations if desired. Volunteers needed March 21-March 30 and shop before consignors. Consignors shop before public. Sign up on web site. Payment accepted: cash, NC checks with 2 IDs approved, credit cards with 3 % fee/per card transaction. N.C. government regulations for COVID followed for everyone's safety. Waivers to be signed at drop off. For more details, go to www.EquestrianExchange.com or contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950.

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.
