

Bucolic briefs

The Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard and Nursery hosts a workshop focused on grape production and winemaking. The class runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 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. 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.
