

Agricultural REVIEW

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March 2013

Raleigh, N.C.

Two Voluntary Ag District workshops to be held in March

The N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund will assist in hosting workshops for local governments interested in protecting their communities' agricultural lands.

The Voluntary Agricultural District workshops are for agricultural advisory board members, county representatives, program staff, farmers and anyone responsible for, or interested in, developing and administering voluntary and enhanced voluntary agricultural plans.

Workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Following are dates and locations:

- March 6 - Catawba Agricultural Center, Newton
- March 22 - Cowee School, Franklin

Topics covered at the workshops include state and federal program incentives for participation, farmland protection plan development, working with the N.C. Department of Transportation and updates on hot-button issues, such as voluntary agricultural district programs, the farm bill, estate tax changes and more.

There are 84 counties with active VADS. For more information, or to register for the free workshops, go to www.ncadfp.org/vadprogram.htm.

Boll weevil assessment stays at 70 cents per acre

The board of the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation of North Carolina voted to keep the boll weevil assessment rate at 70 cents per acre of cotton for 2013. That amount is the same as it was for 2012.

The fee supports the foundation's efforts to monitor cotton acreage for any re-introduction of the boll weevil, which was eradicated in the state in 1986, and to respond promptly with eradication treatments if necessary.

"Eradicating this pest was the first step, continuing to keep it out of the state remains our constant goal," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "The trapping and monitoring activity supported by this assessment helps ensure any spot re-introductions of boll weevils are quickly dealt with."

Foundation contractors will install and monitor traps from late summer until after harvest and frost. Because the focus of North

Carolina's program has shifted from eradication to monitoring, farmers should anticipate the number of traps in fields will decrease. As such, each trap will be critical, and farmers are encouraged to contact the foundation if traps are damaged or knocked down.

In 2012, just over 10,000 traps were placed and maintained in North Carolina, with each trap monitoring an average of nearly 47 acres. Farmers in 54 counties grew 429,960 certified acres of cotton last year. The top three cotton-growing counties were Halifax, Northampton and Edgecombe.

To allow for trapping and monitoring, cotton growers are required to certify cotton acreage information with their local U.S. Farm Service Agency office by June 30.

To learn more about the boll weevil monitoring program, go to www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry/plant/entomology/BW.htm.

WNC grants available as part of TVA settlement

Application deadline is March 22

County governments and nonprofit conservation groups pursuing agricultural development and farmland preservation projects in 17 western N.C. counties can apply for funding assistance from the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation-Tennessee Valley Authority grant program.

The N.C. General Assembly appropriated a portion of the state's TVA Settlement Fund to support this grant program, and legislators restricted use of the money to projects benefiting one or more of the following counties: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey.

"The ADFP-TVA grants are designated to support projects

that encourage the preservation of qualifying agricultural, horticultural and forest lands to foster the growth of family farms," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "We're looking forward to helping communities across these 17 western counties preserve working farms and farmland."

Grants can be awarded to secure agricultural conservation easements on lands used for agricultural production; to support public and private enterprise programs that promote profitable and sustainable agricultural, horticultural and forestland activities; and for the development of agricultural plans.

Applications and guidelines for funding are available online at www.ncagr.gov/environmentalprograms/ or by calling 919-707-3071. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on March 22.

Butterball named N.C. Exporter of the Year

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services named Garner-based Butterball as the 2013 N.C. Exporter of the Year.

"From 2009 to 2011, we saw turkey exports nearly double in North Carolina," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

"Butterball makes up a significant percentage of those exports and is deserving of this honor."

Company representatives were recognized at a presentation during the annual Ag Development Forum at the State Fairgrounds Jan. 31. The Exporter

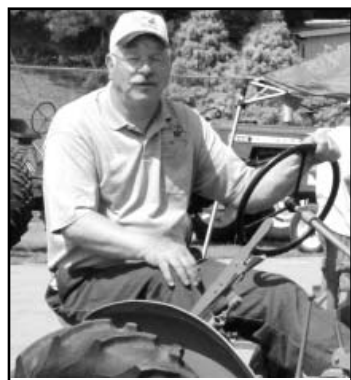
of the Year award acknowledges agribusinesses that have excelled in exporting N.C. agricultural products around the world. Butterball exports more than 100 million pounds of turkey products to more than 50 countries annually. In addition, the company

develops new products that cater to international markets and customs. As a result, Butterball is able to export 15 percent of its annual volume through products the U.S. market cannot absorb.

Joel Coleman, general
(See Butterball, pg. 2)

From the tractor

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler



Commissioner Troxler

I wanted to update readers on some efforts the department has been involved in to improve our ports and increase resources at the ports that I believe will be a great benefit to our state and our farmers.

In early February, fellow members of the Council of State and I, approved a lease that gives the go-ahead for a public-private

partnership seeking to build a state-of-the-art cold storage facility at the Port of Wilmington.

The partnership between the State Ports authority and USA Investco will include an initial investment of \$13 million to build a 75,000-square-foot facility for near-vessel storage of fruits, vegetables, meat and other agricultural products. Long range, this facility could expand to 300,000 square feet.

Some of you may be wondering why I have such an interest in the ports, but you don't have to look any further than ag exports. North Carolina exports more than \$3 billion worth of agricultural products each year, and I hope we will see that number grow in the future through the efforts of future

trade missions, our trade office and these improved port facilities.

Already this year, two businesses have scored their first sales to China. Old North State Winery of Mount Airy and Carolina Native Nursery of Burnsville shipped wine and nursery products, respectively. Hopefully, they represent many more companies to follow.

When we opened the trade office in China in 2011, one of the things I kept hearing from farmers and commodity groups alike was how much we needed to improve our ports so these businesses did not have to transport grain or other commodities to ports in Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia to ship overseas.

At a time when North Caro-

lina, like most states, was trying to keep jobs, North Carolina was losing some agricultural port business to other states. In addition, farmers and co-ops exporting products were paying more to transport their commodities to other states for overseas shipments, eating into their profits.

At that time, we started looking more closely at ports in the state and began advocating for investment in them, making the case that we were losing opportunities at our own ports by not making some improvements. We were joined in these efforts by the Department of Commerce and the Department of Transportation.

A few more pieces of
(See Ports, pg. 2)

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Steve Troxler
Commissioner

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Butterball

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

manager of international sales, and Scott Singleton, international sales manager, accepted

the award on behalf of Butterball. More information about N.C. ag exports, can be found at www.ncagr.gov/markets/international.



Representatives from Butterball, Joel Coleman and Scott Singleton (pictured center) accepted Butterball's award for Exporter of the Year at the annual Ag Development Forum in Raleigh. Also pictured are Peter Thornton, left, and Cathy Ma, right, with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' International Marketing Section, and Bob Ford, right, with the N.C. Poultry Federation.

Ports

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

the financial puzzle must come together before work can begin on the cold-storage project. The deal is contingent on state and local incentives, but I am optimistic about the final results.

Jeff Miles, acting executive director of the Ports Authority, noted that having "a modern, industrial cold-chain distribution center located at one of our state's ports provides a strategic competitive advantage over competing neighboring ports."

I believe our whole state wins when North Carolina's agricultural interests make our state's ports their ports of choice for shipping business.

I have said many times, and will continue to say, that if we are to rebuild our economy, we need to recognize our strengths and build on these strengths. Agriculture is one of our state's strengths, and this industry can be a catalyst for economic growth.

Keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the department's "In the Field" blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog.

Bucolic briefs

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, 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.

Two regional agritourism mini-conferences will be held in March. Following are the dates and locations: March 14 at The Fork Farm in Stanly County and March 28 at St. Paul Mountain Vineyard in Henderson County. For more information on either event, contact Martha Glass, agritourism manager, 919-707-3120.

The Northern Piedmont Specialty Crops School will be held March 1 at the Person County Extension Center in Roxboro. The school will feature presentations by Brianna McAlister of High Rock Farm in Gibsonville, which produces pecans, hybrid chestnuts, blackberries and raspberries for a number of value-added products; Greg Carter of Deep Woods Mushrooms in Horse Shoe, which produces and sells Shitake mushrooms; and Carl Cantaluppi, with Granville County Cooperative Extension. Cantaluppi will provide an update on asparagus and rhubarb research. The cost of the one-day school is \$25 for the first person of a family or a business and \$15 for each additional family member or business associate. Cost includes lunch and pre-registration is required to guarantee a seat and lunch. For a pre-registration form and school program, go to www.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/NPSpecCropSchool2013.pdf or contact Cantaluppi at 919-603-1350 or carl_cantaluppi@ncsu.edu.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will host two workshops focusing on growing local farmers markets in North Carolina. The one-day classes, geared toward market managers and their board members, are scheduled for Smithfield and Fletcher. Following are the dates: March 8 at the Johnston County Cooperative Extension office in Smithfield and March 13 at the Virginia Boone Building at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher. The workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each cost \$20, and covers materials and lunch. Pre-registration is required.

The Piedmont Saddle Club in Colfax will open its lighted arena every Friday night from 5-9 p.m. for horse riders. The cost is \$10 per horse and equine owners must provide proof of Coggins testing and sign a waiver. The events are open to the public. Contact info@piedmontsaddleclub.org for more information.

The North Carolina chapter of Re-Run, a nonprofit organization that places ex-racehorses into adoptive homes, now has thoroughbred racehorses available for adoption. Thoroughbreds are versatile and do well in any number of disciplines including shows, events, fox hunting or pleasure riding, according to Elizabeth Macdonald with Re-Run. For more, go to www.rerun.org or contact Elizabeth Macdonald at hemacd@mindspring.com.

Spring Stocker Sales

- March 19 Sampson County Livestock Arena in Clinton. Contact numbers are 910-592-7455 or 910-596-0008.
March 21 Stanly County Livestock Market in Norwood. Contact numbers are 704-474-7681 or 704-463-5828.
April 4 Wilkes Livestock Exchange in North Wilkesboro. Contact number is 336-838-3442.
All sales begin at 7 p.m.

Horse Events

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, 919-733-4845

- March 1-3 SERA Reining. Contact Jesse Chase, 919-961-0440.
March 8-10 NCHJA "C" Indoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
March 14-17 Raleigh Indoor Spring Classic. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
March 21-23 Raleigh Spring Premier Benefit. Contact Joyce Wilson, 919-365-5149.
March 26 N.C. FFA Livestock Judging. Contact Jason Davis, 919-513-0216.
March 28-30 NCHJA "C" Indoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
April 5-7 Region 12 & 15 Arabian Horse Show. Contact Rory Meachum, 919-906-3510.
April 12-14 Raleigh Invitational Show. Contact Joyce Wilson, 919-365-5149.
April 20 & 21 North Central Open Benefit Show. Contact Richard Isley, 336-908-3302.
April 25-28 Easter Bunny Quarter Horse. Contact Margaret Byrd, 910-892-3221.

Western N.C. Agricultural Center, Fletcher, 828-687-1414

- March 23 & 24 Bullmania. Contact Alan Shepard, 828-254-8681.
May 4 4-H Horse Show. Contact Holly Jordan, 828-255-5522.
May 10 & 11 Asheville Spring Classic Horse Show. Contact Ray Cloninger, 828-252-5706.
May 15-18 Asheville Lions Club Horse Show. Contact Ray Cloninger, 828-252-5706.
June 20 Piedmont Paso Fino Horse Show. Contact Jill Graff, 828-228-5842.

Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center, Williamston, 252-792-5111

- March 9 & 10 EHA Spring Indoor Horse Show. Contact Marlo King, 252-527-3887.
March 15 & 16 N.C. Barrel Bonanza Spring Show. Contact Fred Smith, 252-450-9752.
March 16 Hop Into Spring Dressage Show. Contact Sue Bothern, 252-217-8454.
March 22-24 Slide into Spring Reining Show & Rookie Day. Contact Gail Berghorn, 813-426-5707.
March 29 & 30 N.C. Barrel Bonanza Spring Show. Contact Fred Smith, 252-450-9752.
April 5-7 Spring Break Dressage I and II. Contact Sue Smithson, 910-692-1788.
April 13 & 14 4-H Horsemanship Clinic & Southern Hospitality Open Horse Show. Contact Barbara Davis, 252-341-9475.
April 18-21 Spring Fling Miniature Horse Show. Contact Bobby Bridges, 336-655-5360.

Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Events Center, Lumberton, 910-618-5699

- March 8-10 Jx2 Roping Show. Contact John Johnson, 423-340-0640.
March 29-31 Border Belt Horseman Association Horse Show. Contact Gerald Britt, 910-740-6826.
April 6 & 7 Tar Heel Appaloosa Association. Contact Beth Hardin, 336-402-0095.
April 12 & 13 Southern Stockhorse. Contact Greg Dawless, 843-333-6493.
April 20 Five Star Barrel Racing. Contact Amy Wallace, 843-672-4180.
May 11 Border Belt Team Sorting. Contact Gerald Britt, 910-628-6826.
May 17 & 18 Cowboy Up - Southern Horse Festival. Contact Rose Cushing, 252-235-7645.

*Shows subject to change. Call before attending.

