State Veterinarian Mike Martin recently announced that the suspension of North Carolina poultry shows and public sales will be lifted as of Wednesday, June 1. All exhibitions, farm tours, shows, sales, flea markets, auction markets, swaps and meets pertaining to poultry and feathered fowl in North Carolina can resume.

On May 12, the last High Path Avian Influenza control area was terminated, since there have been no additional positive cases of HPAI in North Carolina since April 11.

“Poultry owners are still encouraged to follow strict biosecurity measures and monitor their flocks for signs of illness,” said State Veterinarian Mike Martin. “This HPAI outbreak has affected 35 states and remaining on alert should be a priority. I would like to thank our poultry producers and those in the state that were impacted by the suspension for their cooperation as we worked to keep the poultry industry in North Carolina healthy. With warmer temperatures we hope the threat of HPAI is minimized for now.

“National trends show a decrease of new cases,” Martin said. “HPAI is still a threat to our domestic poultry and so it is still encouraged to practice strict biosecurity including keeping flocks away from wild birds whenever possible.”

Poultry owners can report sick or dying birds to their local veterinarian, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division, 919-707-3250, or the N.C. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System 919-733-3986.

More information about High Path Avian Influenza is online at https://ncagr.gov/avianflu.

Poultry shows and sales can resume in the state after no new HPAI cases found.

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**IMPEC Phase 4 offers $15 million in grants**

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has opened the application period for the fourth phase of its Increasing Meat Production, Efficiency and Capacity (IMPEC) grant program, which is geared to independent state meat and seafood processing facilities.

“The COVID pandemic showed us vulnerabilities in the food supply chain and the need for local products to meet consumer demand,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

We are already seeing benefits to agribusinesses, farmers, and consumers from phases one, two and three of this program, and we want to build on that momentum. A total of $15 million in grants will be available in this fourth phase.

Funding for this cost-share program was approved by the N.C. General Assembly and comes from federal American Rescue Plan Act money earmarked for North Carolina. In addition to increasing production, efficiency and/or capacity, projects can also include value-added processing. Project categories can include equipment and infrastructure, contractual/consultation, labor; training and retention, and other identified needs.

To be eligible for funding grants, applicants must contract with independent livestock producers or seafood harvesters to process animals or seafood and must be state or federally inspected, or it must produce further processed meat products under state or federal inspection or be a USDA inspected processor of shelf-stable meat or meat products. Proposals can be for beef, pork, small animal, seafood, and catfish processing facilities. Recipients must match $1 in funds or services for every $2 in grant funding. Cash or services must come from non-federal and/or state sources, and matching funds cannot be used as a match for any (See IMPEC, pg. 2)

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**From the tractor**

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Dr. Mike Walden, professor emeritus and a retired William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist at North Carolina State University, recently released his latest agriculture and agribusiness economic impact numbers. While they were not what I had hoped for, they were certainly not unexpected.

The figures are factored on 2020’s agriculture numbers and reflected the impact of the pandemic.

The figures are factored on 2020’s agriculture numbers and reflected the impact of the pandemic.

We did not top $100 billion in economic impact, but agriculture and agribusiness continued to account for one-sixth of the state’s income and employment. And agriculture and agribusiness remain North Carolina’s No. 1 industry.

Dr. Walden’s figures pointed to over $92.9 billion in economic impact. That is down around $3 billion from the previous year.

Agriculture and agribusinesses continued to work and work hard throughout the pandemic, but there were challenges along the way, and those challenges were reflected in the overall impact numbers.

To be a farmer, you’ve got to be pretty optimistic when you put the first seed in the ground. Throughout the season, you work to manage the risks – not enough rain, too much rain, late frosts, plant pests, crop nutrient needs and many others. I know I always went into the season thinking it was going to be a good one. I had hoped this would be the year we saw the economic impact top $100 billion, but it is not.

Regardless, I am undeterred in my belief that we will reach the $100 billion mark.

Employment numbers in agriculture and agribusiness remained steady at 687,000 of the state’s 4.7 million employees and agriculture’s percentage of the state’s income remained about the same.

Without question farmers are facing significant challenges right now - very different than those faced during the pandemic.

Input costs across the board have seen shocking increases - 200 to 300% in some cases. Farmers are also not immune to supply chain issues.

Even with higher prices being paid for commodities, farmers will have to pinch pennies and manage crops and inputs very closely.

Farming has always had its risks, but this year the risk is even greater, because of how much farmers have had to invest just to get started.

In times like these, you work hard to produce a good crop and you pray for the best.

We need every farmer to be successful because we all depend on them for our food supply.

I am proud of the diversity of North Carolina agriculture and I am proud of the resiliency of our farmers. Our agriculture industry makes us a better state for it.

I want to thank everyone who came out to the Got to Be NC Festival after a two-year break due to COVID-19. Attendance was good despite the very warm weather, North Carolina food and beverage vendors showcased and sold their products, tractors drove through the fairgrounds and we celebrated North Carolina’s farmers and agricultural industry.
**Whitt inspects sleep products**

We Are Agriculture is a year-long series on our social media platforms that will highlight the hard-working employees of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the services they provide residents of this state. Parker Whitt, Environmental Specialist II with the Sleep Products Section of our Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division, has been monitoring and inspecting manufacturing facilities and retail stores across the state to make sure only the best products are being sold to you.

As a young man, Parker did not expect to end up in the agriculture industry. “When I graduated from Appalachian State University with a Master’s degree in Biology, I had no idea where my career was going to take me but I didn’t think it would be agriculture,” he said. “However, a few years out of college, I ended up working with Forsyth County where my journey to N.C. agriculture began.”

In 1987, Parker started working with the environmental health section of Forsyth County. He worked for many years as a mosquito and tick inspector, helping a variety of individuals across the industry identify and manage these pests.

In fact, he continues to educate people about the services they provide residents of this state. Parker Whitt inspects sleep products and Leadership & Pest Identification guide that he uses throughout his training. “Ticks and mosquitoes not only fascinate me and have been a huge foundation of my adult career, but all of that work and research also helped prepare me for my adult career, but all of that work and research also helped preparing me for my current role.”

**Bucolic briefs**

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2023 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 1 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 4, in conjunction with a Board of Directors meeting of the N.C. Pork Council at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center, 4000 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC, 27607. All North Carolina pork producers are invited to attend.

Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of North Carolina and has paid all assessments due since August 2021 may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to have available a sales receipt proving that they were sold in their name and the checkoff deducted. For more information, contact the N.C. Pork Council, 4000 Westchase Blvd, Suite 330, Raleigh, NC 27607, telephone 919-781-0361 or any@ncpork.org.

Landowners with farms for sale or lease and farmers seeking land can also post their information on the NC FarmLink website hosted by the N.C. Cooperative Extension at https://www.ncfarmlink.ncsu.edu.

The Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard & Greenhouse in Marshall will offer Mountain Grape School with the following in-person classes/workshops: Harvesting Workshop – Sept. 10; Mountain Home Winemaking & Entertaining With Wine – Oct. 15.

Class times are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays all classes are $40 per person and includes a catered lunch. Register online at www.jeweloftheblueridge.com. Registration cutoff is 48 hours prior to the class start.

Call Chuck Bletchley, Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard & Greenhouse Walapini, at 828-606-3130.

The Leonard-Mobley Small Farms Fund grant for small North Carolina farmers, including women in agriculture, in Franklin, Nash, Chatham, Person, Granville, Halifax, Durham, Wake, Vance and Warren counties will be awarded Sept. 11 at the 7th 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 more information or questions, contact Dr. Francesco Tiezzi or Tammy Manning at lmsmallfarmfund@gmail.com. More information on the grant and the dinner can be found online at www.dinnerintheMeadow.org. Proceeds from the dinner and silent auction will benefit the fund, which was set up in memory of two farm family members. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at the website.

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.).

Beeketers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the Bee.Linked website at www.ncaemc.com/beelink. 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 Bee.Linked page or by contacting NCDACs at 919-233-8214 or by email at NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDACs Plant Industry Division regulates the movement of agricultural or related items capable of spreading harmful invasive insects, flies, and other pests. Beeketers 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 ag business 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.

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**IMPEC**

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

other federal or state cost-share project. (Cont’d from pg. 1)

**Agricultural Review**

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PHONE: 919-707-3001
Steve Troxler Commissioner

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**Don’t forget to renew your Agricultural Review**

The renewal card was on the front page of the June issue of the newspaper. Just cut it out and mail it in, or go online to www.agreview.org.

**IMPEC**

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

other federal or state cost-share project.

The grant application and required forms can be downloaded from the NCDACs website at www.ncagr.gov. Please note that grant proposals are due by the close of business on Sept. 1.

For questions about the program in general, please contact Joe Hampton at 704-880-2488, Teresa Lambert at 828-321-0012, or Brad Batch at 919-707-3236. For more information on the application process, please contact ncaprogram@ncagr.gov.
Residents and visitors looking for farms that offer outdoor experiences and local food will have plenty of options as many farms across the state offer special summer events for families that prove true when the cobra got loose. I was honored to be a spokesperson for our community through that.”

Although he loves most aspects of his job, Parker really enjoys educating people about the work done across his division and why it is important. “In my position, I have the opportunity to give presentations across the community to educate people on what we do,” he said. “Going out and sharing that information is rewarding because it helps people understand why this job is important and how it keeps them safe on a daily basis.”

When he is not in the office, Parker can often be found at schools or other events around the community educating the public on different species of snakes, ticks, mosquitoes and bed bugs. “Even since I was a little boy I have been fascinated with snakes,” he said. “In fact, I’ve had them as pets ever since I was ten years old!” The most Parker has ever had at one time is 37, although today he only has four -- a corn snake, a copperhead, a moly snake and a baby rust rat snake.

“I’m very knowledgeable about snakes, how to distinguish one from another and how to handle them,” he said, “so it is a lot of fun for me to travel and teach children and adults alike about these reptiles.” Last year when the cobra got loose in Raleigh, news stations in Winston-Salem and other surrounding areas contacted Parker for interviews. “I have done several interviews for news stations to talk about specific snake as well as other snakes,” he said. “People want to know about them even if they are a bit scared of them and that proved true when the cobra got loose. I was honored to be a spokesperson for our community through that.”

Parker also enjoys playing with his dog Bentley, watching sports on TV and playing golf. In fact, every day Parker and Bentley have play time where they play ball and then come in to watch sports on TV if there is a game on. “I’ve always been an animal lover and Bentley is definitely my best friend,” he said. Join us in thanking Parker for all of his hard work to ensure that we sleep safe and sound!

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Sleep products
(Continued from pg. 2)

me for the role that I hold today with the NCDA,” he said.

In 2011, Parker started working for the Sleep Products section of Structural Pest Control & Pesticides as an Environmental Senior Specialist II. Since then, he has grown to become a highly-trusted environmental specialist in the division. “Bedding includes mattresses, sofas, recliners, outdoor furniture pads, travel neck pillows, decorative pillows and more,” he said. “Our job in this division is to monitor and make sure the fraternities and sororities are using the fraternities and sororities that are on the school lunch menu throughout our Farm to School program, everything they have learned about farming comes full circle.”

The N.C. Farm to School program is a cooperative effort of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Food Distribution and Marketing divisions. These divisions secure orders from school nutrition directors, and source and deliver locally grown fruits and vegetables for school lunch programs. To date, the N.C. Farm to School program was delivered around $1.1 million of produce to 79 school systems across the state.

Winning entrants are:
Daniel Garcia Flores, a third-grader at Magnolia Elementary in Currituck County, Teacher Valerie Thomas; Samuel Burleson, a fourth-grader at Olin Elementary in Caswell County, Teacher Kathy Thomas; and Produce of Olin is open with we-pick or pick-your-own blueberries and blackberries. The farm will also have blooming perennial beds for sale in the spring. Call Debbie for pickling appointments at 704-880-8284.

13 students are winners in Farm to School calendar contest

The artwork of 13 elementary school students will be featured in the 2022 AGRICULTURAL REVIEW school calendar in honor of National Ag Day, which is observed every year on the last Wednesday of March. This year, the calendar is dedicated to School Calendar. This is the 11th year for the calendar, which features daily agricultural facts and highlights of the N.C. Farm to School program and agriculture’s role in daily food production. The calendar is a fun educational tool for kids to learn that their foods start on a farm, and in creating artwork for the calendar and using the calendar during the year, they gain a better understanding that all food begins with farmers.

Although he loves most aspects of his job, Parker really enjoys educating people about the work done across his division and why it is important. “In my position, I have the opportunity to give presentations across the community to educate people on what we do,” he said. “Going out and sharing that information is rewarding because it helps people understand why this job is important and how it keeps them safe on a daily basis.”

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Eastern NC
Visit Gregory Farms and Vineyard of Currie on select weekends for Saturday wine, music and food events. Check their website for dates and times.

-- Defeรม Farm of Clinton is open to the public via a farm membership program. The farm is open to members for an intimate, safe and unique get-away experience including new trails. Guests can also enjoy the blooming flower gardens, fire pits, wide open spaces, streaming jazz music, plus a retail shop offering unique gifts and edibles. Adults only. http://www.twistiedfolkfarm.com/

-- Twiddle Dee Farm of Clinton is open to the public via a farm membership program. The farm is open to members for an intimate, safe and unique get-away experience including new trails. Guests can also enjoy the blooming flower gardens, fire pits, wide open spaces, streaming jazz music, plus a retail shop offering unique gifts and edibles. Adults only. http://www.twistiedfolkfarm.com/

-- Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of La Mil Vineyard of Elizabethtown and indulge with an afternoon at Doc’s Deck, take a walk through the golf cart, pedal kart, or bike, browse the antique museum in the Barrel Room, enjoy a few minutes admiring God’s creations, or spend the night in one of the vineyard cabins. http://www.lamilvineyard.com/
Like any other farmers, Christmas tree growers in western North Carolina are always looking for ways to grow a better product. One challenge to that effort is a root rot that’s affecting swathes of Christmas trees, particularly the Fraser fir that’s the top seller and predominant Christmas tree variety grown in North Carolina.

The name is Phytophthora root rot, and it’s caused by fungus-like organisms in the genus Phytophthora. That may sound complicated, but the bottom line is that these organisms sometimes called “water-molds” can cause significant damage to Fraser firs. Phytophthora infects many woody plants through the roots. It can lie dormant in the soil for several years, waiting for a susceptible host such as Fraser fir and the right environmental conditions, including warm soil temperatures (above 54°F) and saturated soils to infect plant roots. Due to this persistence, once Phytophthora becomes established on a site, the area is typically no longer able to be used for Fraser fir production, making this disease one of the major limiting factors for Christmas tree growers.

—from NC State Extension Publication “Management of Phytophthora Root Rot in Fraser Fir Christmas Trees”

“If you’re a Christmas tree grower and you have this problem in a section of your land and you lose 20 percent of your trees, that’s a huge profit loss at the end of the cycle,” said Tracy Taylor, the superintendent of the Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs.

So Taylor was happy for the research station to host a tree grafting workshop in April in an effort to help tree growers with one way to combat the problem. The workshop aimed to help growers understand the process of grafting Fraser fir scions— the top sections—onto other varieties of fir rootstocks that are more resistant to Phytophthora root rot. The hope is that the workshop helps local growers become more familiar with grafting as a way to increase their land’s tree production. The grafting option isn’t a new idea by any means, but as more land is blighted, interest has grown. Taylor said there are now some companies interested in doing grafting on a large scale.

“But wait! There’s more…”—Taking N.C. Christmas trees to the next level

Grafting has also been an integral part of research to improve Fraser firs. For a few decades now, researchers have been working on a not-so-secret weapon—improving Fraser fir genetics. Those improvements can bring more characteristics that Christmas tree buyers like and more characteristics that growers like too.

Thanks to those efforts with genetics, plans are in the works to create a Fraser fir seed bank at the Upper Mountain Research Station. The hope is that the workshop helps local growers become more familiar with grafting as a way to increase their land’s tree production. The grafting option isn’t a new idea by any means, but as more land is blighted, interest has grown. Taylor said there are now some companies interested in doing grafting on a large scale.

“Phytophthora-resistant. Ashe County Extension Director Travis Birdsell led the workshop along with N.C. State Extension Forestry Specialist Jeff Owen and local tree grafting expert Doug Hundley.

“If you can plant something that won’t die, it may cost you more to get it planted, but you can still keep that ground productive,” Taylor said. “The infected land is growing year to year. You can’t just spray for it. If you have infected ground you can’t treat that ground with anything to kill it.”

Several non-Fraser varieties of fir can be used as the rootstock, and the workshop covered resistance, grafting success rates and several other factors to consider when selecting a rootstock.

One practical consideration is which rootstock growers have access to, so Canaan fir is often used. It’s not the most resistant to Phytophthora root rot, but it fares better than Fraser fir roots, and it’s more readily available than some other firs. In addition to explanations and statistics, the workshop provided a grafting demonstration and an opportunity for those in attendance to get hands-on grafting practice.

A new Got to Be NC logo

Consumers can look for a new Got to Be NC logo with the official roll-out of the latest branding campaign by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Marketing Division.

“Got to Be NC is designed to promote top-quality fresh produce, processed foods, fiber and nursery products that are grown or manufactured in North Carolina,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Our new streamlined logo of the state outline with the Got to Be NC wording inside is intended to help consumers find local North Carolina food products easily wherever they shop.”

The branded marketing campaign began in 1985 and was originally titled “Goodness Grows.” In 2004 the program was renamed, Got to Be NC. Because Goodness Grows was well known and recognized, the two logos were combined. The new logo marks the transition to a standalone Got to Be NC brand.

Got to Be NC members can use the logo on their packaging, labels, signs, etc. to identify to the public that they are selling items grown, raised, caught or made in North Carolina. The Marketing Division sells Got to Be NC branded merchandise at the Got to Be NC Festival, N.C. Mountain State Fair, the N.C. State Fair and the Southern Farm Show to help promote North Carolina agriculture.

July AgroTips

Mulch to prevent blossom-end rot of tomatoes.

If garden soils have adequate moisture and a pH in the range of 6.3 to 6.5, tomatoes are not likely to have blossom-end rot. Although this common problem is largely due to calcium deficiency, fertilization is not usually the answer. Any soil with a pH of 6.3 to 6.5 will contain enough calcium. However, during dry periods, plants cannot take up the calcium that is there. If your soil pH is good, you can optimize calcium availability by managing soil moisture. Make sure your plants get an inch of water each week, but be careful not to overwater! Apply 2 to 4 inches of mulch (pine bark, straw, leaf compost or other organic material) to help the soil retain moisture.

Collect cotton tissue samples.

Collect other agronomic samples as needed.

Forages:

Note: Forage samples for animal feed analysis should be sent to the NCDACS Food & Drug Protection Division. The plant tissue analysis service offered through the NCDACS Agronomic Division provides nutrient information relevant to crop fertilization not animal nutrition.

Home & Garden

Tobacco

Collect pour-thru leachate solution samples to monitor pH, electrical conductivity (EC) and nutrient levels.

Collect tissue samples five to 10 days before each anticipated leaf harvest to determine ripeness. An appropriate sample consists of 10 to 12 leaves from the appropriate stalk position.
Calendar winners
(Continued from pg. 3)

Tuner Lewis, a fourth-grader at Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary in Craven County, Teacher Rachel Roccuzzo.

Evelyn Cheshire, a fifth-grader at Dilworth Elementary School in Mecklenburg County, Teacher Jamie Speice;

Jack Swift, a first-grader at Cove Creek Elementary in Watauga County, Teacher Donna Martin;

Billy Croft, a fifth-grader at Copeland Elementary in Surry County, Teacher Hank Whitaker;

Andrew Davis, a third-grader at Hopewell Elementary in Randolph County, Teacher Cori Cagle;

Audrey Bailey, a kindergartner at Hurley Elementary in Rowan County, Teacher Cathy Bellows;

Joesph Savarese, a third-grader at Jesse Mac Monroe Elementary in Brunswick County, Teacher Theresa Reiter;

Alexa Perez, a kindergartner at Hurley Elementary in Rowan County, Teacher Michelle Allen;

Jaelynn Sutherland, a second-grader at Meadow Lane Elementary in Wake County, Teacher Lisa Woodside.

The station has applied for a grant to help make the Fraser fir center a reality. It could help many growers expand their network of agriculture and get involved with the best Fraser fir genetics in the world.

“We want to be a turnkey Fraser fir operation from start to finish, which means we want to collect the pollen. We want to make the hand crosses. We want to collect the seed. We want to extract the seed. We want to grow the seed in our nursery. We want to put those seeds into field trials. We want to harvest those trees and do the post-harvest research, Taylor said.

The station has applied for a grant to help make the Fraser fir center a reality. It could help many growers expand their operations or get more farmers into the Christmas tree growing business. With less tobacco being grown, the center could help make Christmas trees a more viable option for farmers.

“In the weeds” of getting good seeds
The effort to get the finest Fraser fir seeds possible began mostly with professor John Frampton, Ph.D., of N.C. State University. He retired in 2019, but his work began many years ago to find great Fraser fir seeds like what he was growing in his 305-tree plot.

By 2015, Frampton told Taylor that the research station should start a seed orchard because growers couldn’t easily find great Fraser fir seeds like what he was growing in his 305-tree plot. Few seed orchards existed for various reasons, so seed stock often came from the wild where each tree’s genetics were hit or miss.

Seeds of curiosity
To create the new seed orchard, Frampton identified the best 25 trees in his 305-tree plot — roughly the best tenth of one percent of the original 28,000. He then took 45 clippings from each of those “best-of-the-best” 25 trees. Those clippings were then grafted into a plot in a different area, creating a seed orchard of 1,125 trees. Even the placement of those grafted trees got scientific with the help of mapping guidance from the Czech Republic, which has the most sophisticated seed orchard software available. Once the time comes, the seeds will be clipped from the trees so their seeds can be harvested and planted in a nursery. Which tree the seed comes from will be documented so the genetics and tree characteristics can be tracked.

“The trees, we know through our research they hold the genetics were hit or miss. So seed stock often came from the wild where each tree’s genetics were hit or miss. We want to be a turnkey Fraser fir operation from start to finish, which means we want to collect the pollen. We want to make the hand crosses. We want to collect the seed. We want to extract the seed. We want to grow the seed in our nursery. We want to put those seeds into field trials. We want to harvest those trees and do the post-harvest research, Taylor said.

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 deprecated

Harward sisters
(Continued from pg. 8)

Mattie and Marcie Harward encourage getting started as early as possible because showing livestock teaches so many different and valuable skills, like a hard work ethic and how to be responsible – both to yourself and to animals, and that no matter if you stay in it for the rest of your life or only for a couple years, those skills will follow you and benefit you throughout your career.

In addition, the girls dream of one day opening up a facility in the community where they can offer fresh produce, meats and specialty products as well as teach customers about agriculture and the importance of farming. “Growing up, we were one of two families in our school that was raised on a farm,” involved in agriculture and showed livestock,” Marcie said. “Our parents always told us that if we have the opportunity to better ourselves or the community to go for it. This is one way that we aim to do that. We can provide others with a path and teaching the community about the importance of agriculture in our state and helping people get involved.”

When they are not showing livestock, Mattie and Marcie are heavily involved in our state’s agriculture industry in a variety of other ways, including the family farming operation. Marcie is currently serving her first term on the National Junior Angus Association Board of Directors and Marcie is serving on the American International Junior Charolais Association Board of Directors as the Area 8 Director. Through their positions on each board, they are able to give back to the industry and expand their network of agriculture industry professionals as well as educate people across the state and beyond about N.C. agriculture. We are proud of all their hard work and we look forward to seeing where the future takes them.

To keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, check out our blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
**LIVESTOCK**

**Reg Blk Angus bulls,** Cowboy Up bloodline, gentle, weaned to breeding age, $800 & up. Allen T. Gillard, Mt. Gilead 910-571-1114.

**Heifer & bull calves,** 3-17 mos, mostly Simmental, VG dispositions; (1) yearling Angus bull calf, $1600. Alonzo Stuckey, 336-790-5050. Ken Manfredi, Hickory 382-220-3822.

**Reg Santa Gertrudis calves,** $850 & up; bulls, $1,200 & up; cow/calf pairs, $2,600 & up. Charles & Company III, Reidsville 336-926-0276.

**Reg Hereford bull,** 21 m/o, polled, dark red, long body, gentle, $200. Danny Blake, Forest City 828-248-2125.

**Nubian bucking** blk w/ white spots, $250. Tony E. Mize, Lexington 336-731-2888.

**Young bull,** ½ Guernsey, ½ Jersey, docile, $900. Paula Leettie, Winnabow 910-845-2506 or 910-398-2223.

**Bucks ½ Kiko,** (2) y/o does, Alpaca bucks & does, reg, milkers avail, $350 ea. W. Ruth, Pittsboro 919-542-4542.

**Nubian bucking** blk w/ white spots, $250. Tony E. Mize, Lexington 336-731-2888.

**Cow quality** fescue, sq bales, in field, $5 ea; horse quality, sq bales, out field, $8. Sanford 919-775-9769.

**Blue eyed kids; some spotted,** dob 4/22, bucks & does, (7) 336-865-2719, before 8 p.m. Adelia Thal, Walnut Cove 336-263-6042.

**Highly pathogenic avian influenza alert**

In January 2022, HPAI was found in the wildfowl population in the eastern United States including North Carolina and those South Carolinians. This disease represents a significant risk for all poultry owners. Poultry owners are encouraged to re-consider their birds for any signs of illness and to contact a veterinarian if they deal with sick birds. Growers can also contact one of four NCDAS&CS regional veterinary diagnostic labs for further information. This disease can spread by infected wildfowl; therefore it is important to eliminate opportunities for your birds to come in contact with wild birds. Please keep your birds indoors at this time. Owners are also urged to be extra mindful of biosecurity measures to prevent the threat of this disease. This includes quarantining any new bird additions to your existing flock for at least 21 days to observe for signs of sickness, have a dedicated pair of shoes and clothing for working with sick birds on your property, and avoid or be careful when visiting other poultry as the disease can spread not only on you and your clothing, but by vehicles as well. More information can be found at www.ncagr.gov/avian.

**Poultry & Supplies Wanted**

**California,** silver California, bluebells, Gambreel; 8 breeds booberide; partridge, Philby, chukar, Hungarian, $3 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-892-3933.

**1600 started pullets, vaccs, debeaked, $8 & up. E.D. Snider, Staley 336-708-2998.**

**American black swans & mute swans, $600 & up. C. Barone Derriens, $600 & up.**

**Buff Orpington, day old chicks, pullets & roosters up to 6 mos, $6 & up. J. Timm, South River 336-641-9677.**

**Homing pigeons,** blue & white, dump bed, 4 cyl, Liberty 336-685-4790.

**Truck & Trailers For Sale**

**Utility/ферменный вагон,** 35 ft., dump bed, 4 & 8 in. chain, 18 ft. box, scriptures & floor wood, front & back gates, 2 in. ball hitch, safety chains, title, $350. David Alford, Taylorsville 828-455-9679.

**1500 ft. tall, 7-ton w/ 5-in. pipe hitch, $3,000.**

**Denny Rollins, Mocksville, NC 336-252-9843.**

**14 ft. snow plow, 21 ft., for bird houses & crafts, some extra lrg, $1.25 ea. E. Moretz, Deep Gap 336-816-5948.**

**3,000 or 619-2432.**

**For Sale**

**Sawmill logs,** hacky, pecan, white oak & red oak; no sweet gum, pine or poplar. Bill Green, Angier 919-567-5040.

**Plastic pallets.** Jimmy Hargrove, Snow Camp 336-277-9356.

**Barn tractor,** 18 ft. Beaver tail, 2-axle, 7-ton w/ 5-in. pipe hitch, $3,000. Paul Wells, Hampton 336-244-7333.


**2022 Calico stock truck,** 16 ft. goosneck, $9,950. Y.D. Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

**1986 Dodge Ram 1500 SE, single cab, 1/2-ton, 2wd, no bed, several new parts to restore, RG, $1,500.**

**Harold Adams, Piney Creek 336-359-2979.**

**Tennessee redback hogs,** driven back, 12/16 m, Mark Kinon, Goldsboro 919-734-7800.

**NH hogs,** dob 3/7, $40. Linda Johnson, Madison 336-210-0656 or 402-0356.

**Cow/calf pairs,** $2,600 & up. Denny Rollins, Mocksville, NC 336-234-7333.

**Trucks & Trailers Wanted**

**WW2 halftrack made by White, Autocar, Diamond T or Intl; used in agriculture & forestry, part or complete truck.**

**Robert Hone, Mocksville 336-202-3301.**

**Dennis Hone, Mocksville 336-202-3301.**
Harward twins love showing livestock

Each year, the N.C. State Fair Junior Livestock Scholarship program awards a number of college scholarships to students for higher education expenses generated from a portion of the sales of winning animals in the N.C. State Fair Junior Livestock Auction. In addition, the Farm Credit Association of North Carolina sponsors two scholarships for students. These scholarships are open to students who have previously competed in the livestock shows at the N.C. State Fair, regardless of final show placement. The 2022 winners were recognized recently including this year’s Farm Credit Association scholarship winners, twin sisters, Mattie and Marcie Harward.

Mattie and Marcie grew up surrounded by agriculture and livestock, specifically cattle, on their families farm in Richfield.

“Agriulture is all that we have ever known,” said Marcie. “Our dad started out by raising cattle, so we have always been around them. In fact, we started showing them ourselves around five or six years of age.”

The twin sisters are the youngest of five. Their older sisters, Brooke, Catherine and LeAnn, also showed livestock growing up, giving Mattie and Marcie an excellent example to follow in the arena. “We loved showing livestock at a young age,” Mattie said. “We have always had a passion for agriculture and what it stands for, which has only grown throughout our time and experience in the industry. Although the Harward sisters grew up showing livestock together, according to Mattie and Marcie, they usually tried to show different breeds of purebred cattle so that they were not competing against one another. “It’s fun to do shows alongside one another,” Mattie and Marcie said, “and thankfully our farm raises a variety of cattle so most of the time we weren’t in competition with each other but could cheer one another on.”

In addition to cattle, Mattie and Marcie have shown goats, lambs and pigs. “The first animal we ever took into the arena was a goat and, funny enough, that is the only one we have ever shown,” Marcie said. “Recently, though, we have become really interested in showing pigs due to their different personalities that give us more of a variety and challenge in the show arena.” Even though they prefer not to compete against one another, Mattie and Marcie have occasionally enjoyed tripping out the judges by showing the same breed and color of animal in the same show outfit. “It’s always fun to watch them do a double take with a confused look on their face until they realize we are not the same kid, but are indeed twin sisters,” Mattie laughed.

As you can imagine, Mattie and Marcie have participated in a variety of livestock shows since the age of five years old, including multiple shows at the N.C. State Fair each year. Marcie enjoys many aspects of showing around the state, but her favorite part is creating connections with other agriculture individuals across the state. “From travelling to shows around the country to working in the barn at home, preparing for and being a part of livestock shows not only creates deeper relationships with my family and loved ones, but it allows me to meet a variety of other people involved with this industry,” she said. “It’s like one big family and you never know when those connections will come in handy.”

Mattie, however, enjoys the many opportunities presented to her through livestock shows. “When you participate in a livestock show, it’s so much more than showing up and parading your animal around the arena,” she said. “These shows include many competitions that teach a variety of skills, including communications, public speaking, networking, marketing and more.”

This year, Mattie and Marcie were fortunate enough to each be recognized with Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, pictured at left, are: Josie Correll, Allison Hartman, Jacob Hinson, Hope Latta, Hannah Loftin, Regan Mitchem, Emma Vick, Salem Ward and Louis Williard.

Jr. Livestock Scholarship recipients honored at Got to Be NC Festival

Several N.C. State Fair Junior Livestock Scholarship recipients were recognized during the Got to Be NC Festival and rode in the May 21 tractor parade. Those recognized with Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, pictured at left, are: Josie Correll, Allison Hartman, Jacob Hinson, Hope Latta, Hannah Loftin, Regan Mitchem, Emma Vick, Salem Ward and Louis Williard.

Several N.C. State Fair Junior Livestock Scholarship recipients were recognized during the Got to Be NC Festival and rode in the May 21 tractor parade. Those recognized with Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, pictured at left, are: Josie Correll, Allison Hartman, Jacob Hinson, Hope Latta, Hannah Loftin, Regan Mitchem, Emma Vick, Salem Ward and Louis Williard.

Forest Service asks folks not to fly drones around wildfires

With dry conditions across the state, the USDA Forest Service and N.C. Forest Service are reminding the public to keep drones away from wildfires. Flying drones near wildfire activity is not only extremely dangerous, but illegal.

“Flying a drone near or around a wildfire compromises the safety of pilots and ground crews and interferes with firefighting efforts,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “It’s important to remember that if you fly, we can’t.”

Firefighters use a variety of tactics when containing and suppressing wildfires from the air and on the ground. Unauthorized drone flights hinder all of them. Helicopters, planes and other aircraft that deliver hundreds of gallons of water and fire retardant to a burn site are already flying low, with minimal visibility and under smoky and windy conditions. When drones and firefighting aircraft share the same airspace, the risk of a midair collision increases.

To avoid the threat of midair collisions, all aerial wildfire operations are suspended when a drone is present, delaying wildfire suppression response and allowing the wildfire to grow larger. “The longer an unchecked wildfire burns, the greater the risk for loss of life to residents and firefighters, property and valuable resources and increased cost,” said State Forester David Lane. “There’s also the possibility of a drone malfunctioning while in flight, only to fall onto responders and members of the public below.”

According to the USDA Forest Service, 172 drone incursions took place between the years of 2015 and 2020. Since there is no centralized system to report these situations, the actual number is believed to be much higher. The Federal Aviation Administration implements a temporary flight restriction around wildfires to protect aircraft engaged in firefighting operations. Individuals in violation of this law will be subject to civil penalties, including fines up to $25,000 and criminal prosecution.

It’s important to remember if you fly, we can’t. To learn more, go to www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/how-to-fly-unmanned-aircraft.