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September 2022

From the tractor

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

As I have gotten older and especially as I have been blessed with grandchildren, I see how true the saying “time flies” is.

It seems like it was about a year ago that we were talking about the last Census of Agriculture, which is taken every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. But it is a list of September Field Days.

Field Days are being held at research stations across the state. Following is a list of September Field Days.

- Sept. 8 -- Peanut Field Day, Peanut Belt Research Station, Lewiston-Woodville
- Sept. 12 -- Farmer Appreciation Social, Piedmont Research Station, Salisbury
- Sept. 13 -- South Eastern Peanut Field Day, Border Belt Tobacco Research Station, Whitesville
- Sept. 14 -- Short-Rotation Woody Crop Field Day, Williamsdale Biofuels Field Lab, Wallace
- Sept. 17 -- Pollinator Field Day, Cawell Research Farm
- Sept. 28 -- Soybean Field Day, Piedmont Research Station, Salisbury

## Mt. State Fair

State deemed HPAI-free, poultry exports can resume

North Carolina has been designated High Path Avian Influenza-free by the World Organization for Animal Health. This designation means that the state can resume exports and international trade for poultry products.

Under WOAH guidelines, HPAI-free status can be declared after the disease has been eliminated on all affected farms and no new infections are detected during a 28-day waiting period.

"Beginning in January, when migratory birds traveling through the state tested positive for HPAI, we have been on high alert," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Our Veterinary Division, poultry companies, commodity organizations and several other federal and state agencies worked together to communicate the threat of this disease and minimize the impact on our poultry farmers and backyard flock owners. Nine of our poultry farms tested positive for HPAI in March and April, resulting in a statewide ban on poultry shows and sales from April through June. Our swift response quickly controlled the outbreak. Achieving HPAI-free status is the last step we needed as a state to put this outbreak behind us."

"Poultry owners are encouraged to continue to follow strict biosecurity measures and monitor their flocks for signs of illness," said Troxler. "Steps should be taken to minimize exposure to wild birds as much as 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 919-733-3986.

This HPAI outbreak affected 400 poultry farms in 38 states since February. In North Carolina, more than 110,000 turkeys and 371,000 broilers were depopulated on the six turkey farms and three broiler farms in Johnston and Wayne counties that tested positive. Avian influenza is not a food safety risk and carries a low risk of human infection.

Broilers, or chicken raised for meat, are the top agricultural commodity for North Carolina, representing more than $3.6 billion in cash receipts for farmers annually. More than 916 million broilers are raised each year in the state. North Carolina also ranks first in the nation in poultry and egg cash receipts and is the second-largest turkey-producing state in the nation, raising more than 31 million turkeys annually. North Carolina exported over $417 Million worth of poultry and poultry products in 2021.

Information about HPAI is online at www.ncagr.gov/avianflu.

Blending of new fair attractions and favorites keep fairgoers coming

The excitement is building with less than three weeks to go until the opening of the 2022 N.C. Mountain State Fair Sept. 9-18 in Fletcher. An adorble otter water show, an alligator show and a thrilling high-wire act will join the fairgrounds entertainment lineup, along with a dozen new food and merchandise vendors.

"People love coming to the fair for the mix of traditional and new, and this year’s lineup has both," said fair general manager Sean McKoon. "It’ll be hard to resist the cuteness of the Otter Adventure show sponsored by Chick-fil-A Airport Road or the excitement and daring of the High Flying Pages (See New at the Fair, pg. 4).

Be sure to check out the livestock shows at the Mountain State Fair. Livestock will be on display for the full run of the fair in Barns B, C & D. Competitions kick off Sept. 9 with youth poultry shows and Sept. 10 with youth shows in market lambs/ewes, beef cattle, dairy goats and rabbits and cavies.

## Upcoming Field Days

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## Mountain State Fair takes place Sept. 9-18

### Blend of new fair attractions and favorites keep fairgoers coming

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Agricultural Review

Agricultural fairs happening across the state

From now until late October, agricultural fairs will be happening in North Carolina. If you have never been to an agricultural fair, make this the year to check one out. Agricultural fairs highlight the state’s leading $92.9 billion industry, drawing attention to the farmers and agribusinesses that produce food, fiber and fuel for the world.

Following are upcoming fair dates.

- Sept. 2-10..... Iredell County Agricultural Fair
- Sept. 2-11..... Cumberland County Fair
- Sept. 3-11..... The Great Americas Alamance County Fair
- Sept. 7-10..... Avery County A&H Fair
- Sept. 9-17..... Cabarrus County Fair
- Sept. 13-18..... Lee Regional Fair
- Sept. 13-17..... Stokes County Agricultural Fair
- Sept. 19-24..... Davidson County Agricultural Fair
- Sept. 20-25..... Union County Historical Fair
- Sept. 20-25..... Wilson County Fair
- Sept. 27- Oct. 1..... Chowan County Regional Fair
- Sept. 28- Oct. 1..... Moore County Agricultural Fair
- Sept. 29- Oct. 9..... Cleveland County Fair Association
- Sept. 29- Oct. 8..... Waynesboro Regional Agricultural Fair
- Sept. 29- Oct. 9..... Carolina Classic Fair
- Sept. 30-Oct. 8..... Robeson Regional Agricultural Fair
- Sept. 30-Oct. 9..... Carolina Classic Fair
- Oct. 4-8..... Lenoir County Fair
- Oct. 5-9..... Haywood County Fair
- Oct. 11-15..... Columbus County Agricultural Fair Inc.
- Oct. 13-16..... Richmond County Agricultural Fair
- Oct. 21-23..... Duplin County Agricultural Fair

ADFP Trust Fund protects 4,377 acres in latest cycle

The N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund recently awarded more than $10 million to help communities across the state protect farmland and promote agricultural enterprises.

More than $9.5 million went towards obtaining conservation easements on 629 acres of farmland. This includes over $600,000 in funding for 316 acres of easements in priority areas in the Upper Cape Fear River Basin for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

“Recent study conducted by the American Farmland Trust shows that North Carolina could lose over one million acres of farmland by 2040 if development continues at its current rate,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Thanks to Tractor Supply Company, this year’s generosity can be doubled to aid our agricultural heritage and the farm families that keep families on the farm, but we have a lot more work to do to curb agricultural land conversion.”

The following is a list of awarded projects:

- Alamance County received a total of $565,684.50. With that, $241,980.50 will be used to help purchase a conservation easement on a 116-acre farm, $131,590.50 to preserve 62 acres of a farm and $192,113.50 to preserve 106 acres of farmland.
- Brunswick Soil and Water Conservation District received $373,331.80 to help purchase a conservation easement on 67 acres of farmland.
- Buncombe Soil and Water Conservation District received a total of over $1.1 million. With that, $172,500 will be used to help purchase a conservation easement on a 38-acre farm, $129,000 to preserve 29 acres of a farm, $440,778.80 to preserve 113 acres of farmland and $376,171.91 to permanently protect 95 acres of farmland.
- Conserving Carolina received $111,562.63 to preserve 66 acres of farmland.
- Foothills Conservancy of NC serving Cleveland County received a total of $275,931.31. With that, $189,256.31 will be used to help purchase a conservation easement on a 171-acre farm and $86,675 to preserve 52 acres of a farm.
- Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District received a total of $534,428.80. With that, $467,785 will be used to help purchase a conservation easement on a 39-acre farm.

(See Trust Fund awards, pg. 3)

N.C. State Fair looking for 11 farm families to recognize during the fair

Deadline to apply is Sept. 16

Has your farm family got what it takes to be one of the 11 families recognized this year at the N.C. State Fair as a Farm Family of the Day? If you are proud to be an N.C. farmer, work hard to contribute to our state’s No. 1 industry and love both farming and the N.C. State Fair, you could be one of the lucky ones selected.

The “Farm Family of the Day” program, sponsored by Tractor Supply Company, is returning for its second year to recognize and celebrate more of our state’s rich agricultural heritage and the farm families that keep our $92.2 billion agriculture and agribusiness industry.

“The State Fair’s earliest beginnings sought to elevate the understanding of new agricultural practices and technology. Helping people make the connection between farming and the food they enjoy is one of our top missions at the NCDA&CS each year,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Thanks to Tractor Supply Company, this program can help tell the story of and celebrate our farm families. Farmers are out there every day working to grow the food, fiber and fuel that we need to survive.”

Families recognized as Farm Family of the Day will be awarded an N.C. State Fair gift basket including fair tickets to use on any day of their choice during the 2022 N.C. State Fair, ride passes and additional swag from Tractor Supply Company and the N.C. State Fair. Families will be chosen by both nomination and application. Applications can be found at https://ncstatefair.org/2022/Attractions/FarmFamilyOfTheDay.

At right, the Lineberger Family of Dallas were recognized in 2021 as a Farm Family of the Day. This program, sponsored by Tractor Supply Co., returns for its second year. Apply now to be considered.

Pesticide agreements recently announced

The N.C. Pesticide Board recently approved the following settlement agreements for cases in Alamogordo, Guilford, Orange, Pender, Pittsylvania and Robeson counties. Settlements involve cases of pesticide drift damage and a worker protection violation. Settlements are listed by county below:

(Alamogordo) Christopher D. Gamson, a Winston-Salem-based pilot with Blue Ridge Helicopter Service in Lawrenceville, Ga., agreed to pay $2,600 for an aerial application of restricted use pesticides near Ennico without a valid license in North Carolina and violating several other provisions of the state’s pesticide law and/or regulations. The other violations related to drift and improper location of deposited pesticides.

(Blount) Cadonio V. Bustoos, the holder of a commercial pesticide applicator license for Progressive Solutions in Bean Station, Tenn., agreed to pay $1,000 for applying a pesticide in a utility company right of way in Gibsonville, in which the pesticide appeared to have drifted onto a nearby tobacco crop. The application violated requirements of the product’s labels related to preventing drift and application and/or drift to water.

(Orange) Brenda Wallen, the holder of a pestcide applicator license for Laughing Goat Botanicals in Siler City, agreed to pay $800 for applying pesticides without a valid pesticide applicator’s license.

(Pender) Doyle Rutherford, the holder of a commercial pesticide applicator license for High Water Farms in Atkinson, agreed to pay $1,300 after an employee was exposed to a soil fumigant. The investigation cited Rutherford for not following provisions of the Worker Protection Standard, which calls for protection for handlers and training in safe handling of fumigants. These violations also indicated pesticide use in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

(Pittsylvania) Colton Wyatt, the holder of a pesticide aerial application license for Crabbe Aviation near Elizabeth City, agreed to pay $1,200 for a pesticide application that drifted onto nearby non-target property, a road and its right of way south of Woodville.

(Robeson) Austin P. Locklear agreed to pay $1,200 for applying a pesticide in the Lumberton area without the proper license and the required additional training for pesticide application. The application resulted in drift damage to plants in a nearby residential yard, which violates the law stating pesticides should not be applied under such conditions that drift from pesticide(s) particles or vapors results in adverse effect.
A program that helps low-income seniors get nutritious food has been expanding in North Carolina, thanks to the work of the NCDA&CS Food Distribution Division and its partner agencies.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is available to seniors (aged 60 and over) in 72 of North Carolina’s counties. It’s a USDA program created by Congress in 1969, but in North Carolina it was only in one county – Halifax – until it started to expand in 2016.

By 2019, 50 counties were served by the program. With the increase of 22 counties since 2019, the number of individuals served has grown up by 3,155 people – from 11,031 to 14,186. That's what the program refers to as the "caseload" in the state.

"We’ve come from one county in 2016 to 72 in 2022. We've made great strides to expand this program in North Carolina, and it couldn't be more pleased," said Melissa Ayscue, the Food Distribution Division’s Household Programs Administrator.

"It doesn’t happen overnight, and we can’t do it without the caseloads awarded by USDA, but we’re working to show that need and justify our request."

Ayscue was referring to the way the USDA assigns caseloads. The Food Nutrition Service of USDA considers a state’s participation rates and the supporting documentation provided with a request for a caseload increase. If North Carolina can show that more seniors could use the assistance, the USDA may increase the caseload in the state, which essentially means expanding the number of people who qualify to get a food box through CSFP.

The coronavirus pandemic has created some challenges in getting the food boxes to the current seniors who qualify. The program depends on food banks and partnering community food pantries to be the final link in getting food into the hands of seniors. Many of the volunteers who pack, prepare and distribute the CSFP boxes in those local organizations are seniors themselves, which has put them at higher risk for complications from COVID-19. So volunteers declined as they chose to steer clear of gatherings of people.

One way the food distributions have continued is through an increase in drive-through food pick-ups. That model has helped protect the health of volunteers and participants receiving food. Ayscue expects distribution volume will get back to pre-pandemic levels this year, and foresees the program could continue to expand because there’s certain there are more seniors who need food assistance in the state.

"There is a senior right now in need in every county across the state. All seniors deserve to have access to the program,” Ayscue said. “With the cost of living, this is an urgent need. The Food Distribution Division’s goal is for seniors to have access to this program in all 100 counties.”

Ayscue points out that CSFP is truly a supplement – not meant to meet a person's entire need for food – but she knows it's a valuable helping hand. For example, some seniors don’t get everything they need through SNAP (previously called “food stamps”), so CSFP can fill the gap with nutritious foods.

"Nutrition is essential to a senior’s health. Some health problems that seniors may have could have been traced back to poor nutrition,” she said. “It’s all about helping to support the nutritional needs of our seniors in the state of North Carolina. They need so much more than this box of food, but this does help.”

For counties that aren't currently served, the division's CSFP contracting agencies (such as food banks) will continue to promote this program and gather the supporting documentation needed to support a caseload increase. If there's enough interest and need shown, it could be the first step in expanding the program into those counties.

The Food Distribution Division’s field services team is always available to help partnering agencies with the logistics of the program.

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Here are ways to save at the N.C. Mountain State Fair

The 2022 N.C. Mountain State Fair will offer several promotional days to help fairgoers save on gate and ride tickets during the fair’s 28th annual run Sept. 9-18 at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher.

“In addition to saving money by buying your admission and ride tickets to the Mountain State Fair in advance, we are offering other great deals for fairgoers during the fair,” said general manager Sean McKeon. “Whether you’re a kid, adult or senior, there are money saving opportunities for everyone, with special promotions being held just about every day of the fair.”

The fun deals begin Friday, Sept. 9, with Student Day and Unlimited Rides, when the fair offers free admission for students in grades K-12 until 6 p.m. In addition, that day fairgoers pay just $25 plus gate admission for unlimited rides between 10 a.m. to midnight.

On Monday, Sept. 12, and Thursday, Sept. 15, fairgoers can enjoy unlimited rides from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m for $20 plus gate admission.

Student Day
- on display at the fair: Harry Potter books – make their debut at the Mountain State Fair. At right, the chairlift provides a colorful and entertaining view of the fairgrounds.

New foods
For those looking for a food adventure, dill pickle lemonade and butterbeer – a butterscotch flavored, ice cream delight popularized in the Harry Potter books – make their debut at the Mountain State Fair.

Other new food vendors are Appalachian Sow, Carolina Tea & Soda Company, Grips Grill Catering Concessions, J & Y Sales, Kettle Corn King, Konlee’s Kones, Little Red Grill and Now That’s Fudge!

Bucolic briefs
The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Fall Sale will be held Sept 1-5 at the Holshouser Building at the State Fairgrounds Raleigh. Buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport: saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing for all disciplines of riding, horse supplies, other farm animals, equestrian clothing. Make an offer. All consignors are responsible for representation fee only. Special premier shopping night is open to public for $10 cash only admission, age 12 and under get in for free. Sept. 1 from 5 to 10 p.m. Open shopping with free admission is Sept. 2 and Sept. 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sept. 4 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more, go to www.equestrianexchange.com or contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1958.

The N.C. Simmental Association will hold its annual Fall Harvest Sale including bulk, cows, bred & open heifers and embryo lots at noon, Sept. 3, at the Shuffler Sale Facility in Union Grove. Call 336-468-1679 or email ncssa@yedtel.net for a sale catalog, or view an online catalog at parkelvestock.com.

The Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard & Greenhouse in Marshall will offer the following in-person wine and grape classes/workshops: Harvesting Workshop – Sept. 10; Muscadine Home Winemaking – Oct. 1; and Entertaining With Wine – Oct. 15.

Class times are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays All classes/workshops are $40 per person and includes a catered lunch. Register online at www.JewelofttheBlueRidge.com. Registration cutoff is 48 hours prior to the class/workshop. Call Chuck Blethen, Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vineyard & Greenhouse, at 828-606-3130.

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The Leonard-Mobley Small Farms Fund grant for small North Carolina farmers, including women in agriculture, will be awarded Sept. 11 at the 38th Annual “Dinner in the Meadow” farm-to-fork feast held at Mobley Farm near Louisburg. For more information or questions, contact Dr. Francesco Tizzio or Tammy Manning at lunchsmallfarmfund@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.

The 80th N.C. Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival will be Nov. 5 & 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Piedmont Home Museum in Eden. Call 919-606-4633 for more information.

The Mountain State Fair is well known for showcasing the best of mountain crafts and entertainment and fairgoers can see that through a number of competitions throughout the fair.

The Carolina Farm Credit Mountain Music Festival, featuring performances by talented local bluegrass bands, will take place daily at 6 p.m. except on Sundays when it will start at 2 p.m. Rest your feet and enjoy the music.

The Clogging Competition draws top performers from the area to this United Clogging Association sanctioned event. The show comes alive Sept. 9 and 10 with performers competing for $6,600 in prize money.

The N.C. Mountain State Fair Pageant returns Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. on the Mountain Music Stage in Heritage Circle.

On Sept. 13 the fair will host an Ice Cream Eating Contest that you can sign up for that day. The competition is open to the first 20 competitors to sign up in the youth classes and the first 25 in the adult classes. Competitions are divided by age groups, with five categories: 5-7 years old; 8-12 years old; 13-17 years old; adults 18 and up.

Round out the music competitions with the Gospel Singing Contest on Sept. 17, beginning at 9 a.m. Individuals, duos and groups will compete for up to $2,100 in premiums.

The Mountain Fair runs Sept. 9-18. The fair celebrates the people, agriculture, art and traditions of Western North Carolina. In addition to these promotions, discounted tickets are now available at participating Ingles stores and online at https://www.mountainfair.org. More information about the fair is also available at www.mountainfair.org.
State Fair has a variety of advance ticket packages to save

The North Carolina State Fair returns to the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh Oct. 13 - 23, and fairgoers can save money on admission and ride wristbands by buying tickets online in advance now.

“Buying in advance can save you up to 45 percent off prices compared to buying when you arrive at the fair,” said Kent Yelverton, state fair manager. “It’s the most economical way to visit — especially if you’re bringing the whole family, plus you can bypass the ticket lines when you arrive at the fair and head straight to the gates.”

Advance tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for youths ages six to 12 and $5 for senior adults ages 65 and over. Ride wristbands are $30 per wristband or a sheet of 18 ride tickets is $10. Discounted advance tickets are available Aug. 15 through Oct. 13. Also available in advance are online ticket packages designed for every type of fairgoer.

“We offer packages tailored to a variety of fair experiences,” Yelverton said. “If you love the carnival there is a package for that. Want to try out one of our attractions like the State Fair SkyGazer, State Fair Flyer or NC Public House for craft beer, wine, cider or soda? We’ve got packages for those, too.”

Dizzy Pass
Includes one FastTrack gate admission ticket and one unlimited ride wristband for $38. (Limited ride wristbands do not include State Fair Flyer or SkyGazer).

Kegs & Corks Pass
Includes one FastTrack gate admission ticket and one N.C. Public House admission ticket with your choice of two eight-ounce N.C. craft beer or cider samples or two three-ounce N.C. wine samples for $17.

Chair lift tickets and admission can be purchased in advance with the State Fair Flyer Package.

State Fair SkyGazer Package
Includes two FastTrack gate admission tickets and two round-trip State Fair Flyer tickets for $32. State Fair SkyGazer Package includes one FastTrack gate admission ticket and one State Fair SkyGazer ticket for $14.

More information about advanced ticket sales can be found online. The North Carolina State Fair will run Oct. 13-23 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The fair offers an experience unique to North Carolina for all who attend, and is an unparalleled value with free entertainment, thrilling rides and games, thousands of animals, endless family activities, competitions, vendors and creative deep-fried delights. For more information, visit www.ncstatefair.org or connect on Facebook, Twitter, TikTok and Instagram @ncstatefair.

Still time to enter competitions at the N.C. State Fair
Entry deadline to apply for most competitions is Sept. 15

If you are headed to the beach for one last weekend of summer this Labor Day, you might want to pick up a shell or two. One of this year’s new competitions is seashell art. It joins the line up with traditional fair competitions like artwork, photography, livestock, cooking, canned food, flowers, woodworking, decorated cakes and more.

“It is exciting to announce new competitions to go along with categories that are always so popular, like decorated cakes and quilts,” said John Buettner, competitive exhibits coordinator. “We have competitions to appeal to a wide variety of individuals from painted rocks, terrarium building, shoe decorating and even coloring sheets. I encourage everyone, and all ages, to check out the competitions because just like the N.C. State Fair itself, there is something for everyone.”

In 2021, more than 36,000 items were entered in fair competitions. While the 2022 N.C. State Fair might not start until Oct. 13, most entry deadlines are Sept. 15. Exhibitors must have registered prior to the entry deadline. Entry forms can be mailed in or exhibitors can enter online using the ShoWorks app, an online application system used at fairs across the country.

How to Use ShoWorks
Exhibitors can enter at the website or by downloading the ShoWorks app. This will help streamline the process, report results quicker and be a way that exhibitors can manage multiple exhibits at a fair or even several fairs,” Buettner said.

When fairgoers click “https://ncsfge.fairwire.com/Enter a Competition” at the “https://www.ncstatefair.org/2022/Competitions/Entering/index.html” N.C. State Fair’s website, they’ll be asked to create an account with ShoWorks. You’ll have to choose a password and enter your contact information, including social security or EIN number. The social security number is optional but those who choose not to enter one will be ineligible for prize money should they win.

Next you will complete a W-9 form, which is a new step this year. Finally, you’ll choose the class and division you wish to enter by a drop down menu of choices. Once you check out, a summary of your order will be emailed to you. After entries close on Sept. 15, entry tags and a handout with drop-off times and a map of drop-off locations will be sent to those who have entered a competition.

The Story of the Seashells:
“People send me contest ideas over the course of the year,” Buettner said. “Someone sent me a magazine article mentioning ink-pen decorated seashells (kinda like doodle art). So, I included decorated seashells in the long list of competitions in Handicrafts.

“An I want of a seashell picker upper when I go to the beach and over the years, I’ve amassed a large collection of shells. Others here in the office have the same affliction,” Buettner added. “So, we have pooled our unwanted shells and have them in a large box for people to pick from if they don’t have a shell to decorate. We don’t want them back. I don’t think we will run out of shells — ever!”

We also have a coastal-themed contest to counterbalance the mountain-themed decorated trees (Christmas trees but they can be decorated in any holiday theme).

Art and photography-inspired flower arrangements
For those who are big fans of the N.C. Art Museum’s Art in Bloom exhibit held each spring, here’s your chance to try floral arranging to complement a piece of art on display.

“Every year we produce themes for the flower arrangement competitions in the Flower Show, now known as just ‘Flowers’. We have a lot of flower arrangement categories, and it can be exhausting to come up with unique themes for each of the THREE shows during the fair,” said Buettner. “We don’t have the extensive art collection of the museum, so (See Competitions, pg. 6)

September AgroTips
Test your bulk soils' potting media before planting greenhouse crops.

Before planting greenhouse crops, propagating woody plants or beginning seasonal flower production, commercial producers should sample and test the bulk soils media they plan to grow their plants in. The procedure, known as saturated media extract (SME), measures nutrient concentration, electrical conductivity and pH. The cost per sample for North Carolina residents is $25 for out-of-state residents, and test results are available online two working days after samples are checked in to the laboratory. Sampling instructions and sample information forms can be found online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrmedia.

Prepare gardens for fall/winter
First, if you haven’t had your soil tested in the last three years, do it now! Instructions for collecting samples are online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrmedia/sampling. All samples should be collected before October the lab will begin receiving end-of-season samples from farmers, and the wait for reports will be longer.

If your report indicates that lime should be applied to raise soil pH, don’t delay. Winter soil is usually moist and helps lime neutralize soil acidity before spring planting. However, don’t add lime unless the soil report recommends it! Excess lime can make some nutrients unavailable to plants.

Second, consider protecting garden soils by planting a cover crop or putting out mulch. Legumes—such as crimson clover, hairy vetch, Austrian winter pea—add nitrogen to the soil as well as organic matter when they decompose in the spring. In addition, crimson clover is a beautiful sight when it blooms! Another option is to plant green such as mustard or kale and enjoy eating the small leaves as they grow.

If you don’t plant a cover crop, you should apply a 2-inch layer of mulch, such as composted leaf material, shredded or chipped pine bark, or pine needles. Straw can also be used if it is good quality without weed seeds.

The mulch should be thick enough to reduce weed seed germination and retain soil moisture without impeding adequate water and air movement.

Once you have made these preparations, do not apply fertilizer until spring unless you are planting a fall vegetable garden. In that case, you can still follow these suggestions (even sowing a cover crop around the vegetable bed), but you will also need to apply fertilizer as recommended on your soil report.

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Competition...

...next year.

...from 30 to 300 words, editor reserves right to shorten.

...not enter. Here’s your reminder, entries are open until Sept. 15 - this year.

...online at https://www.ncstatefair.org/2022/Competition/guidelines.

...will sit behind to gather honey.

...movement to gather honey.

...for pollination purposes or their renting of bees for pollination purposes.

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...equipment for sale.

...and return.

 Arboricultural Society.

...new, used twice, $950.

...in 30-day period.

...tall, 8 ft., $5,000. Joe Williams, Walnut Cove 336-407-2826.

...214-4600.

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...intended for use of bees in the state.

...will use smaller pieces of framed art and photographs that will sit behind the shelf. It’s more like small flower arrangements to complement a keepsake on a person’s fireplace mantle. The blending of flower arranging and fine art have proven to be crowd pleasers in art museums across the country, so I thought we would try it.

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...the renting of bees for pollination purposes.

...all or will separate grain to sell.

...for NH sq baler, $4,000. Johnny Harrison, 704-215-9968.

...336-391-5958.

...336-358-3009.

...1976 Int'l diesel tractor,pto, 1,000 rpm, $550; 1951 JD A tractor, disk seat, $320.

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...never enter. Here’s your reminder, entries are open until Sept. 15 - this year may be your time to shine!

...and return.

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**Property land**

- **Property Land mgmt**, bush hogging, property clear, hay scalping, price negotiable.
- **Landscape**, refuse cleaning, $100 & up.

**Self-care pasture**

- **Greensboro**, 30 acres, $150,000.
- **Brownfield**, 10 acres, $100,000.

**Real Estate**

- **Linwood**, 336-752-2886.

**Livestock**

- **Reg Angus** bulls, do $200,000.

**Horses & Supplies**

- **PLEASE NOTE**: All equine items must have a current negative Coggins test. Advertisers must supply the name of the lab doing the test, the date of test and results for each equine advertised.

**Self-care pasture bordering on sm family farm, ea pasture appx 1 ac, $200/mo.**

**Circle Y** saddles, $300 ea; horse, $2,500; harness, $100 & up.**

**Livery stable**, 10 acres, 200 stalls, $1,000/head; **Ralph Myers**, 336-362-4592.

**Circle Y** barn, 180 stalls, lounge & wash rooms, riding ring, 6 ac, pasture, $300/ea; horse, $1,000/mo; **David Waterson**, Lexington 336-899-8829.

**Western saddle**

- **Bk Arizona**, 290 sqf, $100.
- **K. Downs**, Wake Forest 919-411-3108, call or text.

**Diller Equine**

- **Western saddle**, 48 in., $3,800.
- **Earl Cupp**, Darlington 910-968-7440.

**Western style**


**Saddle**

- **Shirley Chafee**, 910-245-2633, text only.

**Seeds & Plants**

- **PLEASE NOTE**: Individuals or business offering nursery stock for sale in North Carolina are required to obtain either a nursery or nursery dealer license for more information, contact the NCDCA & PS Plant Law 910-209-6033 or 910-773-3707.

**Blueberry**

- **Babys**, 2+ y/o, potted, large, vigorous, $200; **Danny Pierce**, Vass 910-245-2633, text only.

**Cockcomb seeds**, huge head, crimson color, 300 seeds, $3.50; **Bob Whicker**, Madisonville 336-469-2022, no text.

**Garden plant**

- **Shirley Chafee**, 910-245-2633, text only.

**Hay & Grain**

- **Straw**, $1.00 & up. **Bob McFarland**, B settimer City 704-462-3213.

**Farms & Supplies**

- **Greensboro**, 336-404-0594.
- **Lichtman**, High Point 336-687-4248.

**Livestock**


**Reg Angus**


**Brooks**

- **Larry Bull**, 336-374-2254.

**Bantams**

- **Babys**, 3/$10; **Fred Fox**, Hiddenite 828-312-9736.

**Brownfield**

- **Reg Angus** bulls, do $200,000.
- **Brownfield**, 336-362-2298.

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Carolina’s wine and grape industries and can feed and cause damage on over 70 species of plants, including apples, roses, maples and other landscape plants. Prior to this discovery, the Plant Industry Division’s focus was on detecting SLF early enough for it to be managed quickly to prevent spread. Now that a well-established breeding population has been confirmed, the strategy must shift somewhat, said NCDAC&CS Plant Pest Administrator Joy Goforth.

“We had a citizen report in Kernersville on July 23, and we immediately deployed a team to investigate and found a large population of leaf miner larvae and adult spotted lanternflies. Years of training have been fully prepared for spotted lanternfly to arrive in North Carolina, so we were able to react quickly and targeted treatments to control the pest began just five days after the initial report,” she said. “We’ve had dedicated NCDAC&CS teams out there surveying and treating every day and plan to continue until fall when the treatments will no longer be effective. It’s been hard work, especially in the high heat we’ve had recently, but it’s important that we get our work in the ground now so we can be ready when the adults emerge next spring.”

NCDAC&CS responded to the spotted lanternfly in just eight years. It continues to take a stronghold across the border in Virginia increasing the likelihood that this pest will be found in other locations in North Carolina. The insects are adept at hitchhiking on vehicles, and can lay eggs on any flat surface, making them difficult to track. Goforth said that the population found near Kernersville has been there for an estimated two to three years, which makes it all the more important that Plant Industry stays active in searching for infestations.

So far NCDAC&CS has surveyed 3,905 acres surrounding the initial reported location for the pest and has successfully treated 1,371 acres, which puts North Carolina in a far better place to combat this highly invasive insect than the previous states who have infestations. “It is likely that this is not the only established breeding population here in North Carolina. With so many pathways for entry and an abundance of host plants statewide, it believes it has the potential to spread and is established elsewhere,” Goforth said. “Although Plant Industry division is surveying known vulnerable potential points of entry for this pest statewide, we need all citizens to be on the lookout now. This time of year, the insects would be in their very distinctive adult life stage.”

The natural first step in finding spotted lanternfly is to look where their favorite food is found. The insects prefer to feed on Tree of Heaven – itself another invasive species – and Plant Industry division has targeted these trees as likely places to find them. Chinaberry is also a preferred host, and our forests are filled with native grapevines which increases the likelihood that spotted lanternfly could be found anywhere in the state. Later in the summer, however, the adults are more mobile and could be seen anywhere.

In searching the known infested area in Forsyth County, Plant Industry is using the Spotted Lanternfly Detector Dog which is the first plant in the world to be trained specifically to detect the pest. The dogs have been incredibly effective. When survey teams find spotted lanternfly on Tree of Heaven, they can follow up by applying an insecticide to the base of the trees, which is then brought up through their trunks and eventually consumed by the lanternflies. Treatment teams also have a contact insecticide than can be used when large populations of lanternflies are found to eradicate them more quickly.

Plant Industry also has a relatively new tool when searching for Spotted lanternfly – their two detector dogs, named Goose and Kita.

While Plant Industry has many strategies for dealing with SLF, the threat they pose is still very real. Trying to wipe out a pest as resilient and mobile as Spotted lanternfly is no easy task and will take time. We plan on working on the Kernersville area to be ongoing, and we know this will not be a one-year treatment,” Goforth said. “This will be a multi-year effort to continue survey, treat and look for pathways that it could spread to new locations and follow up with surveys to ensure we are reducing and eliminating those populations.”

As with any invasive species, public involvement is crucial to letting regulators know about potential new populations. NCDAC&CS maintains a website with information on Spotted lanternfly and�www.ncagr.gov/SLF�, which also includes photos of the insect in its different life stages and an online forum for reporting sightings.

2022-23 class of Got to Be NC Culinary Ambassadors selected

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has announced the following the 2022-23 Got to Be NC team of Culinary Ambassadors, representing restaurants across the state.

The chefs are determined from the winners of the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association’s Annual Chef Showdown. The finals for this competition was held at the Angus Barn in Raleigh. These chefs each placed as statewide title winners in the six-month long culinary competition. The chefs, the restaurant they represent, and their winning title are listed below.

- Oscar Johnson of Jimmy Pearls in Charlotte – Chef of the Year
- Lydia Greene of Machete in Greensboro – Pastry Chef of the Year
- Kevin Cottrell of Machete in Greensboro – First Runner Up Chef
- Gerald Hawkins of Seabird in Wilmington – Second Runner Up Pastry Chef
- Myles Scaglione of PARA in Charlotte – People’s Choice Chef
- Savanna Broder of The Ballantyne Hotel in Charlotte – People’s Choice Pastry Chef

Other Awards from the 2022 Chef Showdown.

- Mixologist and Distillery of the Year: David Bowen of Ginger Fox representing Broad Branch Distilling in Winston Salem.
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The chefs welcome the chance to help spread word about North Carolina’s agricultural products and promote the state’s culinary culture. The chefs were crowned at the annual Culinary Ambassador Awards Gala, which will be held in November.

For more information on the Got to Be NC Culinary Ambassadors, visit www.gottobenc.com/ambassadors.

Pictured at left are the six 2022-23 Got to Be NC Culinary Ambassadors. Top left to right is Gerald Hawkins of Seabird in Wilmington, Kevin Cottrell of Machete in Greensboro, Lydia Greene, also of Machete. Pictured bottom left to right is Myles Scaglione of PARA in Charlotte, Oscar Johnson of Jimmy Pearls in Charlotte and Savanna Broder of The Ballantyne Hotel in Charlotte.