

Agricultural REVIEW

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Raleigh, N.C.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

The following are deadlines to submit ads for the Agricultural Review newspaper.

March 1 for the April issue
April 1 for the May issue
May 1 for the June issue
June 3 for the July issue
July 1 for the August issue
Aug. 1 for the September issue
Sept. 2 for the October issue
Oct. 1 for the November issue
Nov. 1 for the December issue

HPAI found in commercial turkey flock

A commercial turkey operation in Lenoir County has tested positive for High Path Avian Influenza. The positive sample was first identified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Raleigh and confirmed by the USDA APHIS National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa.

This is the first case of high path avian influenza in commercial poultry in North Carolina since 2022 when HPAI was found at nine poultry farms in Johnston and Wayne counties.

"It is unfortunate that we have this outbreak in a North Carolina poultry farm at this time," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, "but we have handled this before, we have trained, and we have good partners. I am confident that we are as prepared as any state in the country to handle this."

This type of HPAI virus is considered

a low risk to people according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, but is highly contagious to other birds, including commercial and backyard flocks of poultry. The virus is also not considered a food safety threat and infected birds do not enter the food supply.

"With HPAI in the wild bird population and other cases around the country, commercial operators and backyard flock owners have remained on heightened watch for any signs of the virus in their flocks," said State Veterinarian Mike Martin. "Under HPAI protocols, we will be actively testing other flocks within the 10-kilometer zone or about 6.2 miles in collaboration with our federal and industry partners.

"The threat of high path avian influenza is statewide," said Martin. "Our poultry population is at high risk. Commercial operations and backyard



flock owners should continue to follow strict biosecurity measures including keeping birds enclosed without access to wild birds or other domestic flocks. If your flock is experiencing a sudden higher-than-normal mortality rate, report it right away to your 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 on HPAI in general and a listing of all N.C. cases since 2022 is online at www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/AvianInfluenza.

Boll weevil assessment stays at 75 cents

The board of the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation of North Carolina has set the 2024 boll weevil assessment at 75 cents per acre of cotton. The amount remains the same as in 2023.

The fee supports the foundation's efforts to monitor cotton acreage in North Carolina for any reintroduction of the boll weevil and to respond promptly with eradication treatments if necessary.

"Ongoing monitoring and trapping for the boll weevil helps ensure we stay on top of any reintroduction. The program has and continues to serve cotton growers in North Carolina and the South well," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "North Carolina has been a long time leader and champion for the regional trapping program, understanding that boll weevils do not recognize state lines and can easily move from nearby states if not monitored."

Foundation contractors will install the green-colored traps and monitor from late summer until after harvest and frost. Because the focus of North Carolina's program has shifted from eradication to monitoring, the number of traps in fields has decreased. As such, each trap is critical, and farmers are encouraged to contact the foundation if traps are damaged or knocked down.

More than 6,433 traps were placed and maintained in North Carolina last year, with each trap monitoring an average of 58 acres. To allow for trapping and monitoring, cotton growers are required to certify cotton acreage with their local U.S. Farm Service Agency office by July 15.

Farmers in 47 counties grew 375,188 certified acres of cotton last year. This acreage represented a 17.3 percent decrease from 2022. The top three cotton-growing counties were Halifax, Edgecombe, and Bertie.

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

A couple of items recently caught my eye and I thought I would share with readers.

The first I wanted to mention was the Department of Environmental Quality's newly released numbers regarding carbon sequestration from agriculture that was included in the state's Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Specifically, the report noted that "forests, natural lands, and agricultural lands sequestered an estimated 34% of the state's gross greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, a much higher

amount than reported previously." The previous amount was 26%.

Additionally, the net emissions of greenhouse gases have fallen 38% between 2005 and 2020 in North Carolina.

The other recent release is the 2022 Census of Agriculture from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This nationwide Census also includes agricultural information from North Carolina producers. Before you think that is a typo, the Census is conducted every five years and it is intended to provide a snapshot of the state and nation's agriculture industry.

A few things stood out to me as positive points, but the ongoing loss of farm and forest lands that we continue to see in the numbers, only reinforces the fact that farmland preservation must remain a focus for our state and our ag industry.

Farm and forest land loss and its greater impact on our environment is where the two reports come together to paint a powerful picture of lost

potential.

The American Farmland Trust ranks us second in the country in projected land loss by 2040, estimating that development of farm and forest lands will result in the loss of 1.1 to 1.6 million acres.

If we lose over a million of our 8.1 million acres of farm and forestland as is project by 2040, it will significantly change the complexion of our state. And, that change will also reduce the environmental benefits gained from farm and forestland including carbon sequestration, watershed protection and water quality, and erosion control just to name a few.

Seeing what I see in terms of development when I travel around the state, I know we need to really dig in on farmland preservation efforts and investments in agriculture's future.

The Census numbers showed we have the largest number of farms in Randolph, Chatham, Buncombe, Johnston and Duplin counties. What it doesn't show is the major development

plans and building taking place right now in Randolph, Chatham and Johnston counties.

Some of the well-known projects plan to occupy 1,800 acres in Randolph County, a 2,500-acre site in Chatham County and another 8,500-acre site in Chatham County. And that is just the beginning as additional growth will likely take off around these megasites.

Farmland preservation helps ensure we have the natural resources we'll need to continue to feed ourselves and others, but it also helps us maintain the green, lush landscapes we are known for. The benefits extend significantly beyond that by filtering and recharging ground water, improving soil health, reducing erosion and sequestering carbon.

These two reports show we need to be strategic in investing for the future when it comes to farm and forest lands. We shouldn't lose sight of the fact our state and our farmers are feeding people.

Agricultural Review

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Steve Troxler
 Commissioner

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Three honored with water quality award



Healthy forests yield clean water. Water quality regulations, laws and guidance, coupled with education and proactive outreach on best management practices help keep working forests healthy.

Actions for protecting the quality of water resources can include encouraging effective streamside management zones (SMZs), working to advance the implementation of erosion and sedimentation control measures and ensuring N.C. Forest Service wildfire control efforts are carried out in a manner that protects our streams and waterbodies.

For their passion for clean water and dedication to improving logging jobs in Surry County, N.C. Forest Service rangers Janet White and Elizabeth Edwards are the recipients of the 2023 Moreland Gueth Water Quality Award.

Established in 2010, the Moreland Gueth Water Quality Award pays tribute to its namesake, who served as the NCFS's water quality and wetlands staff forester from 1995 to 2004. Gueth took a firm stance on protecting water quality but remained fair, and used a common-sense approach when working with loggers, woodland owners and other forestry stakeholders. Gueth epitomized what it means to be a public servant and was a well-respected member of the N.C. Forest Service family.

"Moreland was a great man with a kind heart and a passion for water quality," said White. "Receiving an award for water quality protection is a privilege but to have an award with Moreland's legacy attached to it is a great honor. I am truly humbled to have been chosen alongside Elizabeth for this award."

White graduated from Western Carolina University in 2000 with a degree in parks and recreation, concentrating

on recreation resource management. She joined the N.C. Forest Service as assistant county ranger for Surry County in October 2019 and was promoted to county ranger just three months later. Shortly after White's promotion, Edwards, a 2019 graduate of Appalachian State University, assumed the role of assistant county ranger. Over the next three-and-a-half years, the number of water quality inspections in Surry County increased significantly. In 2023, White and Edwards conducted 65 initial inspections for 1,697 acres.

"Water quality sustains the entire ecosystem, impacts all species in that environment and supports human communities," said Edwards. "Not only does water quality impact the animals and plants that live within the water, but humans rely on water in forested areas to provide ecosystem services like maintaining water storage that is accessible for human use and keeping it clean for consumption."

Equally as important as the extensive knowledge, advice and technical assistance that White and Edwards share with the Surry County forestry community, both alluded to the relationships they've developed with private woodland owners, logging contractors and other cooperators as critical components to seeing forestry best management practices being effectively used to keep Surry County's waters clean.

"I enjoy helping landowners reach their goals," said Edwards. "There is no better feeling than when you're discussing a forest management practice with a landowner, who might be unsure of how to go about reaching their forest management goals, and seeing them light up and say, 'that's exactly what I need and want to do with my woodlands.'"

Not that they need an additional source of devotion
 (See Awards, pg. 4)

Vendors wanted for the Got to Be NC Festival May 17-19

Plans are underway for the Got to Be NC Festival May 17-19 at the State Fairgrounds and organizers are looking for vendors, Got to Be NC member companies, and antique tractors and farm-equipment owners to be part of the activities.

Collectors of antique tractors and farm equipment and collector clubs can join a display of more than 1,000 pieces of farm machinery at the festival. Tractors in working order also can participate in the daily tractor parade through the fairgrounds. Participation is free, but pre-registration is required.

Spots are available for independent vendors and concessionaires at the festival. Applications for food vendors are due by April 1. Registration forms and vendor applications are online at <https://www.gottobenfestival.com/Vendors.htm>

In addition, registration is open for Got to Be NC members who are interested in sampling, showing and

selling their products in the 50,000 square foot Food Lion Local Goodness Marketplace in the Agri Supply Expo Center. The marketplace draws nearly 100 North Carolina food and beverage companies, promoting their products to thousands of consumers. The deadline for members to apply is March 22.

Only food and beverage products made, processed or grown in North Carolina are featured in the Marketplace. A limited number of approved N.C. made crafts may exhibit, but priority for space will be given to food and beverage products.

Marketplace exhibitors must be part of the Got to Be NC program to be eligible for a Got to Be NC member booth. For more information, go to <https://gottobenfestival.com> and click on the Food Lion Local Goodness Marketplace application link.

The Got to Be NC Festival is a family-friendly event that highlights the best of North Carolina agriculture.

Settlements

(Continued from pg. 4)

improper application of a soil fumigant pesticide near Coats, which lacked required buffer zones, signage and a fumigation management plan.

(Robeson) Samuel Walton, a licensed private pesticide applicator in the Lumber Bridge area, agreed to pay \$800 because his pesticide application to a cotton field along N.C. Highway 87 drifted, damaging sweet corn and other garden vegetation at a nearby home. Walton also did not complete required training prior to applying the restricted-use pesticide.

(Rowan) Related to the above case in Caldwell County, Clyde A. McBride, a licensed commercial pesticide applicator at McCanless Golf Course in Salisbury, agreed to pay \$800 for applying a restricted-use pesticide after his license expired.

(Union) Russell Cox, private pesticide applicator for Cox Brothers Farms in the Monroe area, agreed to pay \$1,200 because his pesticide application to a soybean field drifted, damaging trees and other vegetation at a nearby home. N.C. law states that no person shall apply pesticides under such conditions that drift from pesticide particles or vapors results in adverse effects.

(Wake) Richard J. Jenks Jr., a private pesticide applicator for Po Hous Farm west of Apex, agreed to pay \$800 for applying a restricted-use pesticide without being certified.

Bucolic Briefs

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Spring Sale returns March 21-24 to the Holshouser Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. This sale to buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport is one of the largest in NC. Shoppers will find: all types of saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing for all disciplines of riding. Barn supplies, carts, other animal items and more. Horse Trailers to sell for representation fee only. Bar code tagging on our web site allows consignor to view sales from home. Tagging guidelines mandatory, no exceptions. Consignors can drop off priced, tagged items March 19 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and March 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale runs March 21-24, with a premier shopping night March 21 from 5 to 10 p.m. that is open to the public for \$10 cash for adult admission, age 12 under free. Open shopping with free admission is March 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and March 23 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Many items discounted 1/2 off on last shopping day. Consignors pick up unsold items March 26 from 3 to 8 p.m. or March 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or they will be donated. Sellers should make arrangements if they want unsold items returned. Items will not be stored. Consignors earn 70% and unsold items can be donated to NC nonprofit equestrian organizations at pick up, if desire. Volunteers all ages needed March 18-28, shop before consignors, consignors shop before public. Payment accepted: cash, NC checks with 2 ids approved, credit cards with 3 % fee/per card transaction. DROP and GO and PICK up and GO service (no wait or scanning in items waived) consigning available, see web site. Waivers to be signed at drop off. All items must be as clean as possible. For more information, go to www.EquestrianExchange.com or contact Lynn Beeson 336-362-6248 Tanya Wright 540-977-1950.

The N.C. Quarter Horse Association will host its District III Carolina Spring Ranch Show April 13 & 14 at Lone Hickory Arena, 1950 Bethel Church Road, Yadkinville, Go to www.ncqha.com for more information. Other show dates listed in Horse Events.

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).

The N.C. Ag Finance Authority provides credit to agriculture in areas where financing is not available at reasonable rates and terms. The agency originates, services and finances farm loans, rural business loans, disaster loans and cotton gin loans. It also offers tax-exempt ag development bonds for agribusiness processing, ag-related manufacturing or ag waste disposal. For more about Ag Finance Authority programs or to request a loan application, call 919-790-3949 or email at RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov.

Year-round food hall to be built at State Fairgrounds



Drawings from HH Architecture show what the new Midway Event Center could look like on the State Fairgrounds. The building is part of a 3-to-4-year modernization project for the fairgrounds. The old Lunch Stand Building has been removed and construction on the new building is slated to begin after the 2024 State Fair. It is expected to be a multi-year project.

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently announced plans to add a year-round food venue at the State Fairgrounds that will be able to offer new food options for the growing West Raleigh area.

Plans are still in the development stage and have not been finalized, but the Midway Event Center is projected to be a two-tiered building offering a multi-vendor destination food hall for year-round food options,

indoor and patio seating options year-round, fair food options during the Fair and multiple event spaces that would be suitable for meetings and smaller events outside the State Fair.

“We believe once the Midway Event Center is completed, it will become a hub for lunch options and after work gatherings, weekend brunch dates and quick business meetings,” Troxler said. “It will become a neighborhood meeting spot and a place where friends

can enjoy time together before heading out to another event in the area.”

In addition to the planned new building, Troxler also announced a 3-to 4-year fairgrounds improvement project that will focus on refreshing the Flower and Garden area to integrate it with Heritage Circle and upgrading infrastructure throughout the grounds.

“We are embarking on a modernization of the fairgrounds, ensuring it’s long-term ability to meet the needs of

fairgoers and fairgrounds visitors and renters,” Troxler said. “The Midway Event Center will bring life to the Fairgrounds 365 days a year and will keep it relevant to the citizens of our state as the neighborhood around us grows into a thriving entertainment district.”

The State Fair hosts around 350 events annually, renting out the grounds and buildings as part of its business model. Receipts from rentals and

revenue from the State Fair and Got to Be NC Festival fund staffing, repairs and renovations, infrastructure upgrades and construction of new facilities.

The Midway Event Center will replace the 70-year old Lunch Stand Building. It has been part of the Fairgrounds Master Plan that was developed in 2009.

#NextGenAg: Educating others, research motivates Barco

Next Gen Ag is a year long series that will run on our In The Field blog, Facebook page, Instagram page and Twitter account. Each Wednesday, we will highlight a young person pursuing a career in the agriculture industry. Individuals can be in high school, college, or recent graduates who are working to establish a career in agriculture. Stay tuned each week to meet some of our industry’s future leaders!

Growing up in New Mexico, Isaiah Barco was surrounded by agriculture at a young age. Where most kids wanted to be a rockstar, doctor or veterinarian, Isaiah always told his parents that he wanted to be a farmer or a bull rider when he got older.

“I grew up watching the ranchers near our home and was mesmerized by the work that they did,” he said. Although his family has a background in agriculture, Isaiah is the first in a couple generations to pursue our state’s number one industry as a career.

In his middle school years, Isaiah attended a science camp at N.C. State University where they explored the art of science and agriculture.

“I fell in love with all that agriculture can do while attending that camp,” he said. “I didn’t realize how deep agriculture’s roots run. It is in everything that we do as humans. Everything that we depend on, from clothes and food to supplies and materials, is rooted in agriculture.”

In high school, Isaiah was involved in a project that furthered his passion and love for the industry by utilizing agricultural materials to create a product that people need. “Through this project, I made band-aids from the fiber found in tree bark,” he said. “It truly opened up my eyes to all that I could do in agriculture, the possibilities that were open to me, and how I can make an impact on this vast industry.”

That passion and intention to change the world led Isaiah to pursue a degree at North Carolina A&T State University. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies a few years ago and recently received his master’s degree in Agriculture Education.

Today, Isaiah works as a 4-H Extension Agent with Cooperative Extension in Mecklenburg County. “In our county, I work a lot with horticulture, livestock and the STEM program,” he said. “My job is to help meet the demand of kids in our county that want to pursue careers in these areas and help them reach their future goals.” Throughout his work with Mecklenburg County Extension, Isaiah brings a variety of skillsets to the table including passion, drive, perspective, innovation, modern ideas, and social media skills. “Many people who work with extension were raised on a farm,



Isiah Barco is a graduate of N.C. A&T State University and now works as a N.C. Cooperative Extension agent in Mecklenburg County. In photo above, his studies included field research work.

which gives them a great understanding when working with farmers or aspiring agriculture leaders,” he said. “However, I feel like I bring something unique to the table because I didn’t come from a farming background, but I can present a modern point of view and a unique perspective on the industry because of my past experiences.”

Although Isaiah loves many aspects of his job at extension and being a part of the agriculture industry in general, his favorite things is helping to educate students and adults alike on our state’s number one industry. “Many people are so far removed from the agriculture industry today that they don’t understand the depth or importance of it,” he said. “I love to reconnect people with the industry and see their eyes light up as they learn about agricultural concepts like pollination, harvest, crops and more. It’s incredibly rewarding to know that I play a role in helping to educate the next generation through my work with extension.”

In the future, Isaiah simply hopes to continue impacting and growing the agriculture industry no matter what he does. He is currently contemplating pursuing his PhD but has big

aspirations for a career in agriculture either way. “With my background in research, I would love to be involved with agricultural research some day or hold up a high position with extension where I can impact more people on a daily basis,” he said. “However, I have also contemplated becoming an agriculture teacher since I am so passionate about educating people on this industry and it’s importance to the state and the world.” No matter what path he chooses to take, Isaiah’s biggest goal is to remain in agriculture and continue impacting the world through his work.

For those seeking a career in agriculture, Isaiah recommends doing some research to determine which area of the industry speaks to you. “The agriculture industry is so vast that it can reach a variety of interests, from farming and technology to marketing and computer science,” he said. “Discover what lane fuels your passion and get involved. Educate yourself, get hands on experience and make connections.” We are so proud of Isaiah’s work in the industry and look forward to seeing where the future takes him!

Pesticide settlements announced

The N.C. Pesticide Board recently approved the following settlement agreements in Beaufort, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Harnett, Rowan, Robeson, Union and Wake counties. Settlements involved instances of improper handling or application of pesticides, applying pesticides without the proper license or certification and making restricted-use pesticides available to unlicensed people.

Settlements are listed by county below:

(Beaufort) Paul R. Sasnett, a private pesticide applicator east of Washington, agreed to pay \$1,200 because an employee on his farm burned plastic pesticide jugs, which is improper disposal, violating the pesticide's label and provisions of state law.

(Beaufort) Keith Waters, a licensed private pesticide applicator in Beaufort County, agreed to pay \$900 because his pesticide application to a soybean field along U.S. Highway 17 south of Chocowinity drifted, damaging trees at the nearby N.C. Department of Transportation rest area. N.C. law states that no person shall apply pesticides under such conditions that drift from pesticide particles or vapors results in adverse effects. Waters also failed to wear a required respirator and failed to obtain a respirator medical clearance prior to making the pesticide application.

(Buncombe) John Wilcox, a licensed pesticide dealer for Southern States in Asheville, agreed to pay \$2,400 for selling a soil fumigant restricted-use pesticide to a private pesticide applicator who did not have the required fumigation subcategory on his license.

(Cabarrus) Shawn W. Heater, a licensed commercial pesticide applicator and the owner of Trugreen in Kannapolis and Mooresville, agreed to pay \$600 for applying a pesticide in a faulty, careless or negligent manner because an employee made an application at the wrong residential address in Concord, damaging and killing vegetation.

(Caldwell) Donald E. Norris, a licensed pesticide dealer for Southern States Cooperative's Lenior Turf Division, agreed to pay \$1,600 for two instances in which an employee sold restricted-use pesticides to individuals with expired pesticide licenses.

(Forsyth) David N. Atterbury, licensed pesticide dealer for Green Resource in Winston-Salem, agreed to pay \$1,600 for selling a restricted-use pesticide to someone with an expired license.

(Forsyth) Related to the above case in Forsyth County, Wiley E. Nifong Jr., the owner of Karana Landscapes in Winston-Salem, agreed to pay \$1,200 for engaging in the business of a pesticide applicator and applying restricted-use pesticides after his commercial pesticide applicator license had expired.

(Gaston) Related to the above case in Caldwell County, Richard A. Duffie, the superintendent of Catawba Creek Golf Club in Gastonia, agreed to pay \$800 for applying a restricted-use pesticide after his licensed and certification expired.

(Guilford) Aaron Hairston of Yard Expressions in Oak Ridge agreed to pay \$1,200 for engaging in the business of a pesticide applicator and applying pesticides after his commercial pesticide applicator license had expired.

(Guilford) Randy McKinnon, owner of Carolina Green Lawn Care based in High Point, agreed to pay \$1,200 for engaging in the business of pesticide applicator without a license. Employees applied pesticides for the business although no one with the business had a commercial pesticide license. McKinnon had previously been issued a Notice of Non-Compliance for the same violation.

(Harnett) Sandy A. Langdon, a private pesticide applicator north of Dunn, agreed to pay \$600 for

(See Settlements, pg. 2)

March AgroTips

Test for nematodes before planting vegetables.

Nematodes pose a major threat to nearly all vegetable crops in all soils. Unless you intend to apply a preplant fumigant, it is a good idea to collect soil samples for nematode assay before seedlings are planted and mulched. Any steps to prevent nematode problems must be taken long before the crop is established. For information on collecting and submitting samples for nematode assay, visit www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrmem.htm.

Now is the time to collect tissue samples from wheat.

Depending on where you live, you may need to sample now (eastern counties) or wait until late March (western counties). The best time to take tissue samples is when the wheat is at Zadoks Growth Stage 30 or Feekes Stage 4-5. At these growth stages, stems are upright and tillering has stopped. To collect a sample, break wheat plants off about 1/2 inch above the ground. Each sample should consist of about two handfuls of wheat—a composite gathered from 10 to 20 areas throughout the field. A pictorial guide to tissue sampling is available online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pictorial.htm. Be sure to read the new wheat sampling and fertilization guidelines from NCSU.

When growing peanuts, use agronomic tests to monitor zinc levels in the soil.

Growers who value the prime farmland where peanuts are produced should consider using alternate sites for waste application. Peanuts are very sensitive to certain metals found in waste, particularly zinc. Soils with NCDA&CS zinc index (Zn-I) values as low as 300 can be toxic to peanuts, even though other crops can tolerate levels up to Zn-I=2000.

In some areas, soil test data for peanut land already appear to show increases in zinc levels, indicating that waste is being applied to these fields. An important aspect of managing sites where waste is applied is to maintain a pH of 6.0-6.5. Low soil pH increases the availability and toxicity of metals.

Apply lime now if recommended by your soil report.

By now, you should have already submitted soil samples and received your report. If lime is recommended, go ahead and apply it as soon as possible. For lawns, you may want to aerate the ground before application to maximize the ability of the lime to move into the soil profile. Liming soils to the target pH of the intended crop increases availability of plant nutrients already in the soil and supplies additional calcium and/or magnesium. Since liming can take up to 6 months to adjust pH, it is important to apply lime as far in advance of planting as possible.

NextGenAg: Espino

(Continued from pg. 8)

we are putting in our bodies and be grateful to those who produce the things that we need to survive.”

As a new leader in agriculture, Elizabeth brings many skills to the table including an outgoing and very passionate personality, the ability to speak two languages and a variety of hands-on experience due to previous internships. She

is excited about the industry and her passion shines through all that she does as a teacher, FFA advisor and agriculture industry worker. Although she loves many aspects of working in agriculture, her favorite part is meeting the people that make the industry what it is today. “Agriculture is a tight knit community that stays connected no matter where you go in your career,”

she said. “People in this industry are always so willing to help one another. It’s a community that I am honored to be a part of.”

The advice that Elizabeth gives her students and any other individuals interested in pursuing the agriculture industry is to take ag classes, educate yourself, take any opportunity presented to you and utilize the people in your

life as mentors that can help build your connections across the industry. “Educate yourself on all aspects of the agriculture industry to find which area you want to specialize in,” she said. “Once you have figured that out, get as much hands-on experience as you can in that area. Also, build relationships with people across the industry and ask questions to get you to where you

need to be. Get involved in agriculture groups like FFA, 4H and Farm Bureau to build your network, gain experience and establish relationships that will last a lifetime.” We are so proud of Elizabeth and excited that she is already living out her dream in the agriculture industry. We can’t wait to see how she will continue to impact agriculture in the future!

Award

(Continued from pg. 2)

to the county in which they serve, but as Surry County residents themselves, White and Edwards have one anyway.

“I have the privilege of working in my home county and it provides me the opportunity to serve the people in my own community,” said White.

“It means a lot to make a difference and protect the land in the place you call your stomping grounds. This allows me to help those in the area where I was raised,” added Edwards.

Surry County is one of the busiest counties in terms of the number of logging sites that occur in the NCFS District 10 area, which includes a total of 10 counties.

Just as Moreland Gueth did before them, White and Edwards have embraced close working relationships with forestry stakeholders that can help achieve successful water quality protection. Their passion for retaining high quality water, particularly in the headwater portions of many of the region’s notable waterways, has enhanced the water quality not only for Surry County but for all of North Carolina.

“I have seen the water quality program in Surry County improve drastically through Janet’s and Elizabeth’s dedication to ensuring the streams in Surry County are protected,” said Nancy Blackwood, district forester for NCFS District 10.

To learn more about forestry-associated water quality regulations, laws, guidance and recommended best management practices to help keep forests working for North Carolina, visit www.ncforestservation.gov/water_quality/water_quality.htm.

To keep up with the latest NCDA&CS news, follow the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on Facebook or on Twitter @NCAgriculture.

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

March 2 & 3 Cowboy Mounted Shooting. Contact Pamela Lohery, 540-570-8785.
March 4 Horse & Tackle Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
March 4 Horse & Tackle Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
April 1 Horse & Tackle Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

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

March 2 Hook & Book Horse Pull. Contact Travis Alford, 252-450-5438.
March 8-10 Hoppin’ into Spring. Contact Travis Alford, 252-450-5438.
March 15 & 16 MC Barrel Bonanza. Contact Fred Smith, 252-450-9752.
March 21-24 SERHA Slide into Spring. Contact info@serha.org.
April 4-7 2024 Martinganza Quarter Horse Show & Futurity. Contact Susan Daniels, 919-894-0600.
April 13 & 14 .. NCHJA “C” Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.
April 19-21 ECMHC Spring Fling Miniature Horse Show. Contact Katie Pulley, 757-334-6016.
April 27 & 28 .. April’s Just Horsin’ Round Open. Contact the Ag Center, 252-792-5802.

WNC Ag Center, Fletcher 828-687-1414

March 1-3 National Barrel Horse Association. Contact WNC Ag Center, 828-687-1414.
May 10-12 Saddlebred Classic Horse Show. Contact Liz Holmes, LizHolmes1957@gmail.com.

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, 919-821-7400

March 2 & 3 Raleigh Winter Dressage. Contact Kevin Bradbury, 734-426-2111.
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 20-23 Raleigh Spring Premier Benefit. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-365-5419.
April 5-7 Region 12 & 14 Arian Show. Contact Jackie Draughton, 336-509-6113.
April 11-13 Raleigh Invitational Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.
April 13 & 14 .. Finally Farm Horse Show Series. Contact Lesley Jenks, 919-280-8087.
April 19-21 Spring Holiday Classic. Contact Richard Isley, 336-908-3302.
April 19-21 Spring Fling Outdoors “C”. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
April 26 & 27 .. Revenge Roughstock Rodeo. Contact Zack Towerly, 540-581-4993.
April 27 & 28 .. United Horsemen of the Carolinas- Show Series Opener. Contact Nancy Barbee, 919-619-1786.
May 6 & 7 Dr. Gerd Heuschmann Symposium. Contact Michele, 919-608-8225.
May 6 & 7 TWHA May Days Show. Contact Kim Moser, 919-201-3606.
May 13 & 14.... North Central Qualifying 4-H Horse Show. Contact Morgan Maness, 336-342-8230.
May 13 & 14.... Raleigh Spring Dressage. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.

***Show dates are subject to change. Call ahead to confirm.**

Southern Distilling named Exporter of the Year

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently recognized Southern Distilling Company of Statesville as the 2024 Exporter of the Year. The announcement was made at the Annual Ag Development Forum in Raleigh.

"We are proud to recognize Vienna and Pete Barger and Southern Distilling Company as the 2024 Exporter of the Year," Troxler said. "They are committed to reviving Statesville's rich distilling history and supporting local farmers. Southern Distilling sources 80 percent of the ingredients used in its products from local growers."

The company, which produces high quality and award-winning local bourbon, rye whiskey and brandy, has actively worked with the NCDA&CS International Marketing section and SUSTA export programs for a number of years and currently sells its products internationally in Germany.

The company participated in NC and Tennessee Spirits

Week and the NC and Tennessee Spirits Sample Box activities in Berlin in 2023. They have also exhibited at the Pro-Wein Trade Fair in Dusseldorf, which is the world's largest trade fair for wines and spirits.

Southern Distilling Company has become one of the largest, privately owned distilleries in the country, and employs 50 people in their operation. The company also works with over 100 contract distilling clients providing such contact services as new fill barrel production, barrel warehouse aging and co-packing.

The Bargers are also active in North Carolina's distilling industry. Pete has served as the president of the Board of Directors of the Distillers Association of North Carolina and Vienna has been instrumental in lobbying for the N.C. spirits industry to be able to sell liquor in retail locations on Sundays and the legalization of bottle sales at distilleries.



Pete and Vienna Barger of Southern Distilling with Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

Forest health

(Continued from pg. 8)

Cruising altitude to the coast was at a cool and comfortable 5,500 feet. Upon reaching our destination, we descended to an elevation between 800 and 1,000 feet for a closer look and better prospect for accurate mapping, significantly increasing the temperature within the cabin. Most days, air begins to cool roughly 4 degrees Fahrenheit per 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Using a digital mobile sketch mapper, Jim traced our steps and recorded current forest health conditions to determine how circumstances had improved, deteriorated or plateaued.

These surveys are intended to monitor forest pest populations and associated damage to ensure they remain at or below acceptable thresholds in the forest environment. Should forest health conditions exceed these thresholds, the N.C.

Forest Service will respond to actively control or manage the outbreak. Surveys also act as an early warning system for forest threats. It's essential that the arrival and establishment of forest threats are detected as quickly as possible to allow for quarantines, eradication, or other management efforts to be enacted to minimize impact of these invaders.

We observed a few isolated pockets of tree defoliation, symptoms of an ongoing beetle incursion. This was clear because the impacted area displayed deep orange and red colored leaves as you would see in the later stages of fall. However, this flight took place in early September and the surrounding area was a blanket of green forestland. Most of the data Jim recorded was of "ghost forests" that pepper our coastline due to saltwater intrusion. These "ghost forests" were once

vibrant woodlands, but as seawater gradually pushes inland and begins to mix with the fresh water that these trees depend on, the saltwater leads to mortality, leaving behind dead or dying timber.

The USDA Forest Service Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Program is a national program designed to determine the status, changes and trends in indicators of forest conditions on an annual basis. The N.C. Forest Service is a cooperator and participant in the FHM Program, and the data collected from this flight, among other flights, is used to develop approaches to address forest health issues. The FHM Program helps provide more complete and accurate information on which to base decisions and responses.

As we circled over the ocean to begin our return flight to our regular duty stations, our route offered a unique

opportunity to view the rich history and aesthetic beauty found throughout Eastern North Carolina from sea turtles off the shore near Jockey's Ridge State Park, the location of history's first flight attempts at the Wright Brothers National Memorial, to a rumored final resting place of Blackbeard's treasure. The mission lasted between five and six hours. Phil and Jim provided expert analysis about the flight, navigation measures, mapping strategies, future outlooks and possible courses of action to what was observed that day. My job was to ask questions, not heave into an air sickness bag and explain my experience from the backseat to help readers learn something new and understand why these surveys are necessary for the future health of North Carolina's woodlands. I hope I have held up my end of the deal.

Insects and diseases claim more

timber each year than any other forest menace. Some of this loss occurs as part of the forest's natural life cycle. However, overall forest health can decline if this natural cycle is thrown out of balance. We value and rely on forests for a wide variety of resources that are subject to threats from forest pests, and it's imperative that we relentlessly monitor the condition of our forest's health and intervene when those resources are at risk. Timely and proper forest management, early detection and protective measures can reduce, or even prevent the impacts of insects and diseases on this critical natural resource that we all depend on. Routine forest health monitoring is just one way that the N.C. Forest Service works to keep North Carolina's forests healthy.

Classified Advertising

General rules for advertising in the Ag Review

- Advertising is a free service to North Carolina residents only. A North Carolina address and phone number are required for submitting ads.
- The editor or advertising manager reserves the right to accept or reject any ad and to edit ads to meet requirements or space limitations.
- Priority will be given to ads that are strictly related to agriculture.
- Advertisements are limited to 30 words or less. This includes first & last name of advertiser (NOT farm name), complete address and phone number w/area code.
- Ads will be published in one issue only. Ads that are to be repeated must be submitted for each issue.

- Only two ads per family per issue will be accepted. Family refers to all individual sharing the same residence, mailing address or home telephone number. These ads must be under separate classifications.
- All "For Sale" and "For Rent" ads must have a price or price range. Stud service must also include a fee.
- The ad deadline is the first working day of the month prior to publication at noon. For example, if you want your ad to be published in the May issue, we must receive it by noon the first working day of April 3.



Equipment For Sale

Case 8520H sq baler, GC, shed kept, \$7,000. Daphney Hayes, Lumberton 910-618-7294.

Farm/nurse tank, 2,835 gal., white, poly leg, hvy duty, clean, sealed, inclds retaining legs, new valves, fittings; deliv avail. for extra fee, \$6,500. John Cook, Aberdeen 910-281-5950, after 12 p.m.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Kubota L185 tractor, w/ L59 Woods belly mower, GC, \$3,900. Henry Lambeth, Gibsonville 336-697-0510.

Sitrex finishing mower, 3 pt, 6 ft. cut, works but has rust spots, not used last yr., \$500. Marvin Dalton, Walnut Cove 336-337-7021.

1968 Oliver 550 tractor, w/ King Cutter 5 ft. bushhog, GC, \$3,500 obo. Charles Whicker, Walkertown 743-216-2975.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Mechanical transplanter, 2017 model, 2-row, less than 60 ac, w/fert, skis, \$8,900; W & A bedders, 2-row, \$500; 4-row, \$750. Will McCallum, Rowland 910-740-3267.

Vat pasteurizer, w/recorder/controller, 50 gal., \$10,000; 35 gal. pasteurizer, w/ recorder/controller, \$7,000; \$15,000/both. Adam Jernigan, Black Mtn. 828-774-7050.

FARM EQUIPMENT

JD 40 tractor, yr. unknown, ran well when parked, pics avail., \$3,500 obo or trade. Forrest Ross, Graham 919-602-7898.

Fella 4-basket tedder, \$5,000; NH 616 disc mower, Kuhn Sr110 GII w/kicker, \$9,000. G. Rayle, Pleasant Garden 336-382-3732.

NH 320 sq baler, w/10-bale Hoelscher accumulator & 10-bale grapple, shed kept, field ready, \$7,500. Mark Sloan, Olin 704-880-8892.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1994 Belarus 530 tractor, 2wd, w/Dunham Lehr 2x2 front end loader, 1,670 hrs., material bucket & pallet forks, front wghts, GC, \$7,500. Tom Taylor, Burlington 913-645-0834.

NH 850 rnd baler, \$800; NH 851 rnd baler, \$1,000; NH 498 haybine, \$500; Sitrex tedder, \$2,000; Befco V-rake, \$2,000. Tom Carter, Reidsville 571-220-9381.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Ford 2N tractor, Sherman trans, new tires on front, w/ Dearborn dirt pan, \$2,500. Reid Ledbetter, Olin 704-539-5353.

1996 Ford NH 4630, 2,250 hrs., EC, \$12,500; 1975 IH 140, w/5 ft. belly mower, runs great, VG tires, \$3,500. Dustin Hill, Lexington 336-239-4566.

Case Intl 8430 hay baler, shelter kept, GC, \$5,000; Green Climber LV300 remote control slope mower, \$58,000. Larry Hudson, Mebane 919-928-6086.

Ford 6610 tractor w/ Dunham loader, motor stuck, \$4,500. Bennett Bradley, Tarboro 252-230-0460.

Ross scale, mill & vert 1-ton mixer, single phase motors, w/controls & starters, \$3,000. Dallas Miller, Morganton 828-228-6965.

JD sq baler, maybe model #24, \$250; 300 gal. pull-behind sprayer, 26 ft. booms, \$50; both worked when parked. Richard Adams, Raleigh 919-846-0022.

Case IH 485 diesel tractor, w/2250 loader, GC, good tires, kept under shed, \$13,500. Robert Blake, Mt. Gilead 704-242-3028.

Krone moco, AMT 323 CV, 9 discs, 11 ft. cutting width, flail cond, 2 pt quick swivel hitch, EC, \$12,500. Jeff Carpenter, Lawndale 704-530-1867.

1994 JD 9400 combine, w/920f header, recent upgrades w/quality equip, EC, \$45,000 nego. Harden Phipps, Julian 336-601-9031.

PTO driven generator, Winco 240V, phase 1, 104 amps, used for 8 yrs. w/no issues, drive shaft incld, model #25PTOC-3/1, covered, \$2,000. Kathy Davis, Mt. Pleasant 704-984-6488.

WoodMaxx backhoe attach, model WMX 6600 w/ clam bucket, 3 pt, pto hookup, min. 30hp tractor, LN, used once, \$6,000. Charles Hurst, Statesville 704-924-7414.

Hay spike, 3 pt, GC, \$150; 3 pt scoop pan, GC, \$200. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

Case Intl 8420 rnd baler, \$2,750; Vermeer 5030 disc mower, \$5,750; post hole drill, \$550. H. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

NH 853 baler, makes 5x5 rnd, \$1,500. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

9-shank tillage tool, \$450; 5-shank chisel plow, \$500; boom pole, \$130; 3-bottom plow, \$350; reversible scoop pan, \$225; cult & Cole corn planter, \$175. James Isley, Julian 336-263-1958.

3 pt fert spreader, \$150; 3 pt scrape blade, 6 ft., \$150; scoop pan, \$150; Long disc, 5x7 ft., \$400; chipper/shredder, 3 pt, pto, \$2,050 cash. Gary Formisano, Shallotte 910-540-1962.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Ford 555-D backhoe, w/2 ft. & 3 ft. quick connect bucket & forks for front, \$14,000. Roy Scarboro, Archdale 336-431-7359.

Ferguson hay rake, 3 pt, \$600; 1955 Ford 740 row crop, restored, \$7,100; 1963 AC D-10, \$800; 1965 Ferguson 50 diesel, \$4,900; 1953 Super A, \$500. Frank Hamby, Pinnacle 336-325-2425.

Farmall 100 tractor, for parts or restore, \$1,200. Charles Burton, Watha 910-789-7845.

Oliver Super 55, repainted, rebuilt generator & carb, \$4,500; portable headgate on wheels, \$4,500; NH 411 discbine for parts, 1,000 rpm, \$1,000. Buck Hart, Statesville 704-880-5439.

2006 NH 575 sq baler, sheltered, GC, LN, \$15,000; NH 1069 bale wagon, very clean, sheltered, 466 gas eng, 5,280 hrs., 8-spd, \$20,000. RG Hammonds, Lumberton 910-734-2991.

Caroni finish mower, 60 in.; 3 pt lifting boom, \$75 ea. Wayne Turner, Wilson 252-292-5915.

Old equip, JD combine, IH drill, wood saw; GC, shed kept, \$300-\$750. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

MF 135 gas tractor, boom pole, Bush Hog RC 104, 5 ft. disc, 3 pt PFS20 spreader, \$7,000. Donnie Barham, Thurmond 984-204-0173.

1988 Kubota B1750HSD, w/5 ft. finishing mower, dirt pan, boom pole, 6 ft. blade; 702 hrs., GC, \$7,800. Gerald Hornick, Apex 919-604-0107.

Long 2510 tractor, GC, \$3,000; NI 4x5 rnd baler, \$1,200; 3 disc Gehl mower, \$400; JD hay wagon, \$150. John Naile, Cleveland 704-278-9674.

Intl 444 tractor, serial #501, gas, orig cond, runs well, good tires, \$5,000. Tyler Brown, Woodleaf 704-310-0849.

Vermeer disc mower, VGC, \$7,000; BCS walk-behind tiller, \$4,500; Hustler 2000 chainless bale feeder, series 3, LN, \$6,000; Case 75 tractor, 813 hrs., LN, \$55,000. Teresa Greene, Boone 828-773-0178.

Disc, 22 in., \$900; 6 ft. Ford sickle mower, \$400; Ford 3-14 low clearance plow, \$300; 7 ft. tiller w/vert springs, \$800. Frank Corriher, China Grove 704-202-8249.

863 Bobcat, approx. 2,500 hrs., 40% tires, air-cooled diesel eng, still in use, does not use oil, \$15,900. Barry McSwain, Norwood 704-985-3751.

Super Gill pulverizer & Gill rollover blade, both 72 in., GC, \$500. Don Martin, Matthews 704-534-3291.

NH BR740 baler, 4x5 rnd bales, GC, \$7,500; hayrake, CEAL 418, 4 wheels on ea. side, GC, \$1,500. Bill Lea, Carthage 910-420-8814.

Cat box blade, 6 ft., \$975; hiller w/plow, new, \$550; new boom pole, 18016, 3 pt, \$600; pulverizer, 6 ft., 3 pt, \$1,300. Chris Witherspoon, Valdese 828-381-6857.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Old horse drawn Irish potato planter, 1-row; horse drawn potato harvester, converted to pto, \$400 ea. Boyce Anthony, Forest City 828-305-8200.

Aerator for riding mower, plugger type, w/wheels & wgt for top, LN, \$225; Craftsman spreader for riding mower, pull type, \$60. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

1975 MF 235 diesel, 1,914 hrs., ps, 3 pt, 6-spd, 540 pto, new tires, owned 10 yrs., \$6,500. Harold Wright, Shelby 864-838-4763.

IH 430 hay baler, makes sq bales, hitch & loading chute for loading wagons, pto, field ready, \$3,300; NH 256 hay rake, field ready, \$2,200. T.C. Hege, Lexington 336-247-2824.

Land Pride S1572 over-seeder, \$3,500; landscape rake, 7 ft., new, \$900; JD 1209 hay mower, field ready, \$2,500. Connie Tutor, Fuquay Varina 919-815-1179.

NH 850 rnd baler, used 2022, \$750. Hal Garmon, Davidson 704-363-6050.



Equipment Wanted

Ford 309 corn planter plates; corn, beans, sorghum & filler plates; Ford 309 corn planters for parts. Charles Chamelin, Kernersville 336-769-4418.

Snapper riding lawn mower, rear eng, elect. start, must be in good working order. Anderson Baker, Angier 919-291-0381.

Tires for AC tractor, size 12.4-24, GC. Albert Eddleman, Salisbury 704-232-1670.

IH 274 offset tractor w/cults. Shawn Prater, Kernersville 336-769-6019 or skprater1@gmail.com.

Hay Express 3-bale hay hauler. Scott Rivers, Wadesboro 704-694-8248.

Used truck tires, 9.00 R 20; gleaner F3 or M3 combine; used combine tire, 23.1x26; 4-row no-till planter. Jefferson Smith, Asheboro 336-736-4205.



Bees, Supplies & Services For Sale

NOTICE
N.C. law requires a permit to sell honey bees in the state. A permit is not required for: The sale of less than 10 bee hives in a calendar year, a one-time going-out-of-business sale of less than 50 hives, or the renting of bees for pollination purposes or their move-

2024 nucs, p/u early April in Concord, VSH genetics & Italians, \$195; will trade bees or pollination for land to hunt. Bryan Fisher, Concord 980-521-8642.

5-frame nucs, \$185. Olivia Penny, Beulaville 910-290-4186.

3 lb. pkgs Italian bees, avail. 3/15, \$125; queens, avail. throughout season, \$30; honey supers/w frames, \$40. Garry Whitley, Albemarle 704-982-0698.

BEES

30 beehives & 5-frame nucs, avail. 4/24, \$175 ea. & up. Tony Parker, Bolton 910-655-0741 or 386-7725.

3 lb. honeybee pkgs w/mated queen, Italian & Russian, p/u 3/31, \$120 ea. James Fogleman, Pittsboro 919-542-3157.



Farm Labor For Sale

Elect. fence box repair, tsc, ssc, parmak, zereba, \$20/hr. Bobby Nichols, N. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.

Vert & horiz mowing, ponds, dams, shooting lanes, reclaiming property, fence lines, \$85/hr. + deliv of equip. Roger McKenzie, Jackson Springs 910-528-2293.



Farm Labor Wanted

Tractor work to cultivate & seed 6 acres. Cheryl Preston, Greensboro 336-907-4122.



Farmland For Sale

Land for sale must consist of at least 3 acres and be used for agricultural purposes, i.e. cultivation, raising livestock and/or other farm commodities. Advertisers must state land use.

11 ac Alexander co., paved rd frontage, co. water, presently forestry & ag crops, perfect for mini-farm, deer hunting, \$160,000. Henda Price, Greensboro 336-404-0594.

Hay land for rent, 18 ac, 4x4.5 rnd, \$6/bale. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.



Farmland Wanted

Turkey & deer hunting land to lease, 50-100 ac., Davidson, Rowan, Davie, or Yadkin co. Brad Griggs, Lexington 336-479-0645.



Hay & Grain For Sale

Fescue hay, clean, horse quality, 4x5 rnd, in barn, \$80/bale; cattle & goat hay, 4x5 rnd, in barn, \$60/bale. Justin Ridenhour, Salisbury 704-239-4032.

Fescue orchard grass, 4x5 rnd, horse quality, sheltered, no rain/weeds, \$45-\$50; mixed grass hay, 4x5 rnd, sheltered, \$40; local deliv avail. Jay Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

Fescue hay, 4x5, tight, string wrapped, fert, stored in barn, 20 bales avail., \$50/bale. Mark Mauldin, Salisbury 704-202-0112, text or call.

1st cut fescue, horse quality, 4x5 rnd, \$60/bale; sm sq, \$7/bale. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

Fescue hay, \$6 ea.; rnd bales, \$50 ea. T.C. Berrier, Lexington 336-764-1051

HAY & GRAIN

Fescue hay, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped, barn stored, \$40-\$50/bale. Gene Bailey, Siler City 919-742-3765.

Spring '23 fescue, horse quality, tight 4x5 rnd bales, no rain/weeds, sheltered, string tied, \$65/bale. RW Ferguson, Mint Hill 704-678-8236.

Fescue/orchard mix, barn kept, \$7/bale. Jeff Thompson, Norwood 704-244-2103 or Haley Thompson, 704-467-0987.

Coastal hay, 4x5 rnd, sheltered, horse quality, \$50/bale; cow hay, \$35/bale; sq bales, \$7 ea. Phil Hood, Goldsboro 919-689-9798.

Fescue/orchard grass, stored in barn, 4x5 rnd, \$50/bale; sq bales, \$6/ea. Hayden Willett, Bear Creek 919-930-4191.

Coastal Bermuda hay, 4x4 rnd, horse quality, stored under shelter, \$50/bale. Dan Lancaster, Pikeville 919-222-6853.

Grass hay, 2023 cutting, 4x5 rnd, in barn, no rain, \$45/bale. Katie Wise, Vale 980-241-6148.

Coastal hay, 4x5 rnd, \$45/bale in field; \$50/bale in barn. Travis Lookabill, Wadesboro 704-690-0411.

2023 fescue, sq bales, \$6.50/bale. Marvin Hill, Lexington 336-764-2244.

Fescue mix hay, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped or twine, barn stored, \$50/bale. Joel Church, Wilkesboro 336-957-6508 or Terry Church, 336-984-0179.

Spring '23 fescue, no rain, horse quality, can deliv, \$6.75/bale; some rnd bales, \$40 ea. Allen Moore, Summerfield 336-706-1157.

2023 mixed grass hay, horse quality, no rain, min. purchase 20 bales, \$6/sq bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

Spring cut fescue & clover mix, sq bales, \$8; 4x4 rnd fescue mix, \$35. Dillon Pinix, Reidsville 336-587-9042.

Fescue hay, 4x4 rnd, good quality, stored inside, \$40 ea. Valerie Cockerham, Yadkinville 336-416-2240.

Coastal Bermuda hay, approx. 200 bales, horse quality, out of barn, \$8/bale. Gary White, Sanford 919-775-9769.

Hay, 4x5 rnd, fert, no rain, sheltered, 1st cut fescue, horse quality, \$40/bale; 2nd cut fescue & pasture grass, cow quality, \$35/bale. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

Horse quality fescue, sq bales, \$6/bale; fescue, rye grass & crabgrass, 4x5 rnd, cow quality, \$35/bale. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

Horse quality hay, deliv avail, \$50/rl. H. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

2023 hay, from seeded fescue, sq bales, at barn, \$5/bale. L. Harpe, Mocksville 336-909-2182.

HAY & GRAIN

Rye straw, \$5.25/bale. Martin Moss, Concord 704-783-8366.

Spring '23 fescue, 4x4 rnd, in barn, no rain, horse quality, \$45 ea.; cow quality, \$35 ea. Lee Briles, Asheboro 336-301-0843.

Horse quality fescue, sq bales, \$7/bale. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997.

Fescue hay, 4x5 rnd, stored in barn, \$40/rl. Chris Wood, Sanford 919-842-2126, call or text.

Peanut hay, from this season, rnd bales, net wrapped, can deliv anywhere, stored outside, \$25/bale; shelter kept, \$40/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

MaxQ fescue, rnd bales, horse quality, \$50 ea.; horse quality orchard grass, \$10 ea.; MaxQ fescue/orchard grass, \$8 ea. Fred Lowry, Statesville 704-880-5031.



Horses & Supplies For Sale

PLEASE NOTE: All equine 6 mos. or older must have a current negative Coggins test. Advertisers must supply the accession number of test, the name of lab doing the test, the date of test and results for each equine advertised. The following advertisers have provided proof of a negative Coggins test.

Western saddle, 15 in., LN, \$300. Tammy Morris, Cameron 910-704-9992.

Red Roan Paint quarter horse, gelding, 5 y/o, 15 hands, quiet, willing, responsive, shown in working western, great on trail rides, doesn't spook, \$12,000. N. Hobson, Pittsboro 336-684-2240.



Horses & Supplies Wanted

Gelding or female donkey, or horse or pony, halter trained, good temperament, w/Coggins test; will pay up to \$1,000, depending on the animal. Robin Faison, Charlotte 704-564-5607.



Livestock For Sale

Quality Yon sired 3/4 Blk Angus x 1/4 Simmental bred heifers, calving now, bred to low bw, fullblood Wagyu bull, vaccs/dewormed, 5 head groupings, \$3,950 ea. Martha Mobley, Louisburg 919-495-1305.

Santa Gertrudis cattle, bulls & replacement cows, \$1,500 & up. Charles O'Bryant III, Reidsville 336-908-0276.

LIVESTOCK

Simmental & SimAngus herd bulls, blk, polled, bred for calving ease, muscle, growth, disposition, \$3,000-\$3,500; select group of coming 2 y/o avail. William Pyle, Franklinton 919-215-5677.

Reg Blk Angus bull, 16 m/o, BSE tested, bloodlines Yon Hazel, Yon National, Deer Valley Patriot, Connealy National, Basin Payweight, Ellza of Conanga, \$3,500. Aaron Rumley, Burlington 336-675-1712.

Purebred Charolais bulls & heifers, polled & gentle, out of reg sires, 7 m/o & up, \$1,000 & up. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

Reg Angus bulls, 16 m/o, Man in Black, Patriarch, & Rampage bloodlines, \$2,700. Kim Starnes, Salisbury 704-640-5875.

American guinea hog, intact male, 8 m/o, needs his own herd, docile heritage breed, \$75. Marguerite Strand, Spring Lake 910-584-5025.

Hampshire boar, 1 1/2 y/o, piglets on site, \$175; piglets, Hampshire/ipp/kunekune mix, males are cut, \$75 ea. or \$50 ea. for 3 or more. Michelle Loggins, Wentworth 336-399-1881, text please.

Small cattle herd dispersal, 6 bulls, 10 heifers, buyer must take all, \$15,000 firm. Carla Peterson, Clinton 910-592-7458.

Reg Blk Angus bulls, 16 m/o, calving ease, good disposition, high growth, maternal, good feet; BSE AAA#20502930 sire BJ Surpass, AAA#20502931 sire 44 Brigade, \$3,000 ea. Gentry Hinson, Biscoe 910-571-2042.

(2) heifer & (2) bull calves, 8 m/o, \$950 ea. Scott Penny, Bahama 919-471-6093.

St. Croix ewes, reg, \$450 ea.; St. Croix rams, \$350 ea. Valerie Cockerham, Yadkinville 336-416-2240.

1 polled Hereford bull, dob 7/18/23, \$750. Bill Barkley, Salisbury 704-633-5040 or call/text 704-918-0379.

Reg Blk Angus bulls, Cowboy Up bloodlines, weaned to breeding age, \$1,000 & up. Danny Dennis, Mt. Gilead 910-571-1114.

(4) female ND goats, dob spring '22, multicolored, \$185 ea., \$700/all; (1) older breeding Pygmy doe, \$80; (1) older breeding ND doe, \$150. Ann McLaurin, Mt. Gilead 910-280-2491.

American guinea hogs, starting at \$50 ea., depending on age. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997.

Kiko/Savanna cross bucklings, kidded 3/23, established, quality bloodlines, healthy, hardy, excel. breeding stock, avail now, \$250-\$300. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

Reg Angus cows, due spring '24, bred to reg Angus bull, bred for calving ease & efficiency, good feet & disposition, \$2,700. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 336-263-6042.



Livestock Wanted

Ram hair sheep, Blackbelly, Barbados. Donnie Shoaf, Salisbury 704-640-3607.

(2) Jersey female calves for family cows, reg, just off the bottle, for spring or this summer; will p/u anywhere in the southeast. John Valle, Stony Point 704-742-6429, text.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

2023 peafowl, (3) females & (1) male, \$125 & up; 2024 peachicks, \$35 & up. Richard Simmons, Clarendon 910-640-7114.

California, Silver California, bluescales, Gambels, 8 breeds of bobwhite; partridge, Philby, chukar, Hungarians, \$6 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-888-0213.

Heritage turkeys, Blue Slate, Royal Palm, Bourbon Red, 1 y/o, \$25 ea. Frank May, McLeansville 336-621-4095, after 5 p.m.

1 pair white peacocks, \$275. Posie Guthrie, Pfafftown 336-413-0038.

Australian Blk swans & Mute swans, \$600 & up; Cape Barren geese, \$600 & up; Ruddy shelducks, \$150 & up. Jim Simpson, Indian Trail 704-361-6497.

(6) roll seal doors, 12 ft. wide x 10 ft. high, sides, winches, bottom track, all GC, used as chicken house doors, \$500 ea. or \$2,500/all. Shawn Marlowe, Hiddenite 828-217-1358.



Seeds & Plants

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals or business selling seed in North Carolina are required to obtain a Seed License (Retail or Wholesale). For more information contact NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division at 800-206-9333 or 919-707-3739.

Old timey cockscomb seeds, huge blossom head, rich crimson color, sturdy 18 in. stalk, about 200 seeds, SASE & \$3 cash. Barry Cox, 6225 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370.

Sunflower seeds, old timey type, 12-14 lb. flower, 15-18 in. diameter, SASE & \$3/25 seeds; \$5/50 seeds. N. Smoot, 6227 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370.

Lednum white watermelon seeds, 2023 crop, SASE & \$3 cash/24 seeds. Ronnie Buckner, 921 Plainfield Church Rd, Siler City, NC 27344.

Limber cob corn seed, \$8/lb.; purple martin gourds, various sizes, \$1 & up. Roger Brackett, Casar 704-538-8893.

Blueberry plants, mature, strong producers, will dig but buyer must help load, \$60 ea. Robert Campbell, Richfield 704-661-0232.

SEEDS & PLANTS

Bowling ball shrub, sm, rnd, matures in 2 yrs., gal. containers, \$10 ea.; limelight hydrangea plants, 1 gal. containers, \$20. Sonya Whitaker, Mocksville 336-941-7721, text.

Muscadine & scuppernong plants, potted, 5-6 ft., several varieties, planting & fert instr incld, \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

Blueberry plants, Premier, Columbus, Brightwell, Powderblue, Tiff Blue & New Hanover, varieties limited, 1 gal. size, \$4 ea. Michael Crippen, Garland 910-529-1469.

Sorghum cane seed, freezer kept, late orange variety, untreated for grasses & weeds, will ship by USPS, \$10/lb. Larry Stout, Waynesville 828-400-1550.

Wildlife tree seedlings, sawtooth oak, 2-5 ft., \$2-\$5. Glen Parker, Olin 704-677-3458.

Tuberose bulbs, lrg order discount avail., \$1-\$3, shipping extra. Cathy Reynolds, Salisbury 980-234-2515.

Small Animals For Sale

Tennessee Redback rabbits, \$12 ea. Mark Hinson, Goldsboro 919-734-7800.



Supplies For Sale

4 ft. chain link fence, 150 ft. total, w/hardware, posts, top railing, clamps, 4 ft. gate, etc., \$600. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

3-panel cement fence, approx. +/- 200 ft., \$3/ft. Tommy Sink, Lexington 336-787-5996.

Liquid fertilizer, Texas Pasture Plus 15-10-5, Texas Pasture Plus Organic, Texas Pasture Plus C&C, \$15 ea./ac. Wesley Hulin, Denton 336-250-2941.

Burning barrels, \$10; plastic feed barrels & rings, \$20; solid top plastic & metal, \$10; totes, \$75. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Ferguson power jacks, (2) w/tags, (1) w/o tag, \$175-\$225. William Hunter, Burgaw 910-604-1799.

Fuel tanks, 2,000 gal., \$2,000; 7,000 gal., \$3,000; free pump w/tank; 8 ft. water wheel, new block bearing, \$4,200. Miles Little, Midland 704-791-1438.

Water pumps, new & used, \$250. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

Aeromotor windmill, 8 ft. mill, 40 ft. tower, will pump water, \$6,300. Hal Garmon, Davidson 704-363-6059.

FARM SUPPLIES

Timber, logs, firewood, \$100 & up. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

Wood paddocks, 300 avail, sheltered, \$5 ea./all. RG Hammonds, Lumberton 910-734-2991.

AC generator, 60 kw, 6-cyl, indoor/outdoor, new starter, radiator redone, new water pump, block heater, batteries, turbo replaced, runs/loads great, used for chicken houses, \$3,000. Shawn Marlowe, Hiddenite 828-217-1358.

Hyd rams, (1) Homart Thirty; (1) A.O. Smith Corp, overhauled in 1984 & never used after that, \$30 ea. Elaine Arrowood, Marion 828-659-2921.

Myers shallow well pump, 1hp, w/regulator, EC, \$175. Jack Matthews, Charlotte 704-846-1903.



Supplies Wanted

Older Buck wood stove, free standing or insert, GC, reasonable price/distance. Glenn Cawthorne, Henderson 252-432-7524, cawthorneglenn@gmail.com.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

2003 Exiss XT/300 trailer, 3-horse slant, mats, divider/pads, storage, reg. bed, a/c, cabinet, wired for 110v, awning, fold down windows w/bars, rear tack, covered, \$16,000. Dale Blackwelder, Mocksville 336-655-9154.

1981 Chevy C-30, 350 manual trans, good cond & working order, 10 ft. stake body dump bed, \$4,000. Brett Scantlin, Boone 828-773-5575.

Hudson Brothers trailer, 19 ft., tailgate, 7,000 lb. Dexter axles, pintle hitch, 8 tie-downs, 2 in. white oak deck boards, toolbox, \$5,500. Calvin Evans, Graham 336-229-5696.

4-wheel trailer, 13x6x6.5, 2-axle, tilt bed, GC, \$2,000. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

Ford rear wheels & tires, 16.9x30, 3/4 tread, loaded, \$750. Kathy Hamby, Pinnacle 336-325-2425.

2023 Calico stock trailer, 16 ft., bumper pull, cut gate, \$8,995. Y.D. Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.



Trucks & Trailers Wanted

Long bed for 1999 Ford pickup, no rust or dents, clean bed. Del Ray Wilson, Ramseur 336-963-9850.

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

Bird's-eye view helps Forest Service monitor forest health

In the more than two years that I've held the role of public information officer for the N.C. Forest Service, I've yet to see or experience any form of free time, down period or boredom as others may occasionally encounter in their respective careers.

It's been wide-open and gung-ho since day one. And that's no exaggeration. Nov. 29, 2021, my first day with the division, I walked into an agency that was enacting a statewide ban on open burning in the midst of an active fall wildfire season where multiple incidents were ongoing.

Since that day, I've been able to sample most of the programs and services that we offer by serving on a handful of incident management teams for wildfire response, assisting with prescribed fire operations, meeting with private landowners to learn about their long-term forest management plans and goals, visiting staff at our state forests and nursery to learn the daily operations and observe flight demonstrations while witnessing the opening of our newest aviation hangar in Duplin County. One area of service that I've had little to no involvement with, is our Forest Health Program.

N.C. Forest Service Forest Health staff monitor all forest health issues across North Carolina. They conduct specially designed surveys for forest pests which pose unique risk or high hazard to our state's forest resources. These surveys target forest pests that are currently present in North Carolina as well as exotic pests that are not currently found in the state, but whose arrival could have catastrophic consequences. The N.C. Forest Service continually monitors all forest health threats through aerial and ground surveys, permanent monitoring plots and communication and interaction with private landowners. To get a better understanding of what lengths our forest health staff go to ensure the most accurate data is recorded, I volunteered myself as a passenger on an upcoming aerial forest health survey.

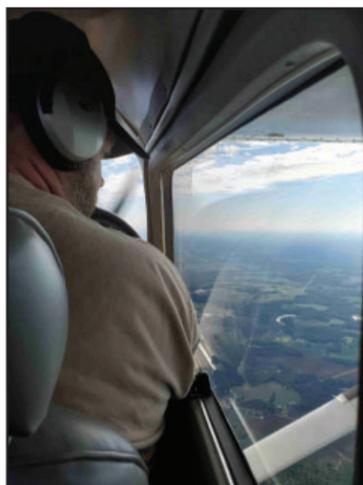
I arrived at a local airport early on a Tuesday morning where I linked up with seasoned forest health specialists Wayne Langston and Jim Moeller — who are basically responsible for half the state — covering portions of the Piedmont to the North Carolina coast. I received a download of what the day's objective would entail as we waited for Phil Owens, a N.C. Forest Service pilot stationed out of our central aviation base in Sanford, to touchdown in a Cessna 182 just long enough



Top photo: Phil Owens (left), a pilot with the N.C. Forest Service Aviation Program, and forest health specialist Jim Moeller (right) utilize the digital mobile sketcher to pinpoint forest health pests.

Photo below right: An aerial view shows forest damage from saltwater intrusion.

Flying over forestland helps the N.C. Forest Service monitor forest health.



for us to pile in and head east. With the strict weight limits for this type of aircraft, carrying roughly 528lbs. of fuel, there was about 582lbs. remaining for passengers. I'm certain that there's a collection of four grown men somewhere out there who do not exceed that weight limit, but we were not them. Wayne proceeded with ground surveys for the day while Phil,

Jim and I were wheels up.

This was one flight in a series of flights where the goal was to survey 20% of the state to detect forest health disturbances by identifying areas of tree defoliation and mortality, beetle attacks, storm damage and saltwater intrusion.

(See Forest health, pg. 5)

Espino leaving her mark on youth through ag education

As the first Hispanic officer for the FFA, Elizabeth Espino has already made quite an impact on the agriculture industry. Although she did not grow up on a farm, she was raised with knowledge of the industry and experience that led her to pursue a career of lifelong passion and education.

As a child, Elizabeth remembers her parents' telling stories of working on the tobacco farm or in the blueberry fields, but she didn't truly understand the importance and depth of the industry until her sophomore year of high school.

"My father has worked at Worthington Farms for over 20 years," she said. "When I was in high school, he decided that it was time for me to get my first job, so I spent spring break pruning trees on the nursery side of the operation." Although not the ideal spring break situation, Elizabeth grew to appreciate and enjoy the work being done across the farm.

"I came back every spring and summer break after that," she said. "Then, once I got to high school, I took my first agriculture class, which was Agriscience Application, and that changed my life forever."

During her Agriscience Application class, Elizabeth's teacher showed the 2050 video, which talks about the importance of our state's agriculture industry and how many workers and food we need to produce by 2050 to

feed the world's growing population.

"Watching that video was like a lightbulb moment for me," Elizabeth said. "Immediately I knew that I was meant to spend my life in agriculture and be a part of the solution."

After that day in class, Elizabeth signed up to join FFA at her local chapter and served as a Chapter Officer her junior and senior year, as well as Chapter President her senior year.

During her college years, Elizabeth also served as the North Carolina FFA State President from 2021-2022, where she was the first Hispanic state FFA officer in North Carolina. "I learned a lot through my time in FFA that was valuable and helped me build connections in the industry," she said. "I also established my life's mission statement through my work in the FFA. Being the first Hispanic officer made me realize the platform that I have, which allows me to ensure that future leaders have a place. My goal in life is to teach and create a path for kids in agriculture to feel comfortable in their own skin and find their calling in the industry." Although her time serving in the FFA has ended, Elizabeth is now an FFA advisor, where she continues to impact kids on a daily basis.

After obtaining her bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education with a minor in Agribusiness at N.C. State University, Elizabeth took a job at Lenoir County Public Schools, teaching Horticulture classes to ninth through twelfth grade students. She recently



Elizabeth Espino

began her second semester of teaching and is loving every minute. "I knew as a kid that I wanted to be a teacher, but it took me a long time to figure out what I wanted to teach," she said. "As a horticulture teacher, I have found my place. I have about 70 students that I get to impact daily by teaching them about the agriculture industry and how they can make a difference." Elizabeth teaches three classes each day: Horticulture I, Horticulture II and Horticultural Landscaping. "I tell my students every day that we are going

to learn something together, because even though I am a teacher, I learn just as much from my students as they do from me," she said. "The reality is that some of these kids may be the upcoming generation of agriculture leaders, so I have a very important job teaching them about their options in the industry and how to find their passion."

Elizabeth loves being an agriculture teacher because of the impact she has on the lives of her students. No matter where the future takes her,

she always plans to educate others on the importance of agriculture in North Carolina and around the world. "Agriculture feeds us three times a day and puts the clothes on our backs," she said. "Many people don't know where their food comes from or who produces it. I have family members overseas that are migrant workers. They literally rely on the agriculture industry to feed their families, but so does the entire world. We need to understand what

(See NextGenAg: Espino, pg. 4)