

Agricultural REVIEW

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September 2023

Raleigh, N.C.

Come see us at the Mountain State Fair Sept. 8-17

The N.C. Mountain State Fair offers fun for all ages Sept. 8-17 at the WNC Ag Center in Fletcher. Thrilling rides, delicious foods, educational exhibits, livestock shows, free grounds entertainment, music, clogging and crafters are just part of the 2023 fair's lineup.

The Got to Be NC Pavilion featuring North Carolina food companies and offering items for sampling and sale marks its debut this year at the Mountain State Fair. Regular and sugar-free barbecue sauces, spices, fudge, popcorn, candies, canned teas, honey, elderberry products, nut butters, apple butter, wine, snack mixes, pecan brittle, sunflower oil, baked goods, and jams and jellies are among the featured products in the Pavilion. The Pavilion is located in the Chevrolet Davis Event Center.

Fair hours are Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to midnight, first Sunday 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday 3 to 11 p.m. and second Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Tickets for adults 13 to 64 are \$9 in advance or \$12 at the door; \$5 in advance or \$7 at the gate for kids 6 to 12 years old and free for kids 5 and under. Admission for seniors 65 and up is \$5. Buy tickets online in advance at mountainfair.org.

N.C. State Fair seeks farm families to recognize

The N.C. State Fair is looking for 11 farm families to recognize during the fair for its Farm Family of the Day, presented by Tractor Supply Company. Nominations are being accepted through Sept. 15.

If you are proud to be an N.C. farmer, work hard to contribute to the state's No. 1 industry and love both farming and the State Fair, your farm family could be one of the lucky ones selected.

"We are committed to keeping agriculture at the heart of the N.C. State Fair and the Farm Family of the Day program is great way to showcase to a big audience some of the hardworking families who are behind our state's leading industry," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "We can't thank them enough for all they do to help feed us, the nation and the world."

Families recognized as Farm

Family of the Day honorees will be awarded an N.C. State Fair gift basket including fair tickets to use on any day of their choice during the 2023 N.C. State Fair, ride passes and additional swag from Tractor Supply Company and the N.C. State Fair.

This marks the second year of popular program.

"Being a Farm Family of the Day at the 2022 N.C. State Fair was so special to us. It meant that we could help bring awareness to the fact that a lot of N.C. farmers ARE families, not huge corporate entities," said Miller Farms. "We would encourage all farming families to apply, or nominate someone, so that we can continue to put a face on farming."

Families will be chosen by both nomination and application. Applications can be found at www.ncstatefair.org/2023/Attractions/FarmFamilyOfTheDay.htm



The Miller family was a 2022 N.C. State Fair Farm Family of the Day.

Over \$1.25 million awarded for specialty crop grant projects

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announced that 10 specialty crop projects have received more than \$1.25 million in USDA grants for 2023.

Funded projects focus on improving pest and disease management practices for tomatoes, sweet potatoes, apples, Christmas trees and truffles, plus assist with education and outreach for grapes and wines, and work to expand markets for specialty crops and underserved producers.

"Specialty crops offer tremendous opportunities for North Carolina farmers and the over \$1.25 million in USDA grant funding will help continue to fuel growth in specialty crop production in North Carolina," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

NCDA&CS administers the statewide program with project funding coming from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

North Carolina's specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts,

dried fruits, horticulture, turfgrass and sod, Christmas trees and nursery and greenhouse crops. Grant proposals were submitted by nonprofit organizations, commodity groups, government agencies and universities.

Following are 2023 grant recipients and projects through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds:

- Carolina Farm Stewardship – Increasing Competitiveness for Historically Underserved Farmers, \$135,003;
- N.C. A&T State University – Boosting Microgreen Production via Science Driven Approaches, \$124,960;
- N.C. Potato Association – Expansion of NC Potato Markets 2024-2025, \$44,123;
- N.C. State University (multiple grants)
 - Developing Polygenic R Spotted Wilt Virus Resistance (RSWV) (See Specialty crops, pg. 4)

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

Come November, a North Carolina Christmas tree will again be going to the White House to be displayed in the Blue Room ...again!

Tree growers Alex Church and Amber Scott with Cline Church Nursery, in Fleetwood were selected as Grand Champions in the National Christmas Tree Association contest, earning them the right to send the 2023 tree. Scott and Church's parents, Cline and Ellen Church, started the farm in 1974.

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

It will mark the 15th tree from North Carolina that is White House bound. The last North Carolina Christmas tree on display was in 2021 and came from growers Rusty and Beau Estes of Peak Farms in Ashe County. It marked the third time Peak Farms had sent a tree to the White House.

But here's the "rest of the story" as radio broadcaster Paul Harvey liked to say ... we will also send a Christmas tree to the White House in 2024. In both cases, the trees will be Fraser firs, which we grow a lot of in Western N.C.

The 2024 Grand Champion growers are David, Jim and Sam Cartner of Cartner Christmas Tree Farm in Newland. Their tree farm was started by their late father and mother Sam and Margaret Cartner.

I am not surprised North Carolina trees are regularly selected for such a high honor. North Carolina trees are beautiful and fragrant, and fresh trees really add a warm

and inviting touch at the holidays.

My grandchildren would agree. Every year at Christmas we put up a fresh tree in our event space and it is something they always look forward to.

I did little digging to find out previous winners in the national contest. I have to say that judges really seem to like Christmas trees from Ashe, Avery and Alleghany counties. Mitchell County is the only other North Carolina county represented at the White House.

Past winners have been Kermit Smith in 1971 (Avery), Homer and Bruner Sides in 1975 (Alleghany), Hal and Sarah Johnson in 1982 and 1984 (Ashe), R. Bruce and Michael Lacey in 1990 (Avery), Wayne Ayers in 1993 (Mitchell), Ron Hudler and Danny Dollar in 1995 (Ashe), Sanford Fishel in 1997 (Ashe), Earl, Betsy and Buddy Deal in 2005 (Alleghany), Joe and Linda Freeman in 2007 (Ashe), Jesse Davis and Rusty Estes in 2008 (Ashe), Rusty and Beau Estes in 2012

and 2021 (Ashe), and Larry Smith in 2018 (Ashe).

You can read more about this year's winners on pages 2 and 4

I want to congratulate both groups of winners on being selected at the state level and for winning at the national level. You carry on a great tradition of Christmas tree production in North Carolina and I am proud your trees will be up in Washington D.C. representing North Carolina.

I will also put in a plug to shoppers to buy a fresh North Carolina Christmas tree this year. You are supporting North Carolina farmers and our agriculture community when you shop local. You can find pick-your-own tree farms and retail sellers at www.ncfarmfresh.com.

I know we will be sharing more stories about the trees and their journeys in upcoming issues of the Ag Review, so stay tuned!

Agricultural Review

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N.C. Christmas trees going to the White House in 2023 and 2024

The National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) recently hosted the 2023 National Christmas Tree and Wreath Contest where the Christmas tree farmers who will supply the 2023 and 2024 Christmas trees and wreaths to the White House and Vice President’s residence were selected. Both winning growers are from North Carolina.

The 2023 Grand Champion Growers are Alex Church and Amber Scott with Cline Church Nursery, in Fleetwood.

They will provide a North Carolina Fraser fir Christmas tree that will be displayed in the Blue Room of the White House in 2023. White House staff will select the tree at Cline Church Nursery in September or October on a date to be announced. That tree will be presented to the First Lady in November 2023.

Cline and Ellen Church started as teenagers in 1974 preparing land



Alex Church and Amber Scott of Cline Church Nursery will provide the 2023 Christmas White House Christmas tree and wreath as Grand Champion winners in the National Christmas Tree Association contest.

and planting their dreams on family farmland in Fleetwood, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. By 1977 Cline Church Nursery was formed

and the first trees were harvested in 1981. What began as a small operation is now a 700-acre tree (See Christmas trees, pg. 4)

Check elm trees for forest pest larger elm leaf beetle
■ Scorched looking elms being seen in the Central Piedmont region

Elm trees throughout parts of North Carolina have recently begun to appear brown, or dead, as if they’ve been scorched by fire. Having been reported by many counties across the state, these ‘scorched’ elm trees have primarily been seen throughout the Central Piedmont. Upon closer examination, the leaves are skeletonized, meaning the tender green portions of the leaf have been consumed by an insect, leaving the tougher leaf veins intact. What is causing this?

Staff with the N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) Forest Health Branch investigating these reports have found a native forest insect, the larger elm leaf beetle (monocesta coryli). Forest Health staff have also discovered that American elm trees have been the primary target while winged elm trees and slippery elm trees have not been damaged as severely. Although reports have not been received to this point, nonnative ornamental elm trees such as the Siberian elm and lacebark elm may also be infested.

Like many native forest insects, larger elm leaf beetle populations fluctuate depending on environmental conditions and natural cycles, including the animal populations that feed on them. It’s not uncommon for these types of insects to impact large areas as forest health officials have found insect populations, including the larger elm leaf beetle, disturbing elms at various times. Locations observed over the last 20 years include the Roanoke River Basin in eastern North Carolina, the northern part of the Central Piedmont and Wake County. Larger elm leaf beetles emerge during the spring to lay eggs, which later hatch into the larvae causing the defoliation we’re seeing. The larvae then crawl to the ground and overwinter in the soil where numerous insects may congregate underneath affected trees.

The insects can easily be identified. The orange adults with blue metallic stripes running across their backs are one of the largest leaf beetles and the only member of its group in the U.S. The larvae also sport a yellowish orange look, particularly on their underside. Both life forms exude an orange liquid as a defense mechanism when handled.

One of the most common questions NCFS staff are asked with respect to this insect is, “will my elm tree die?” Typically, defoliation in the earlier part of the growing season is more problematic than those late in the season after the tree has had time to establish root reserves. However, repeat defoliations can cause mortality. This insect is typically brought under control by natural predators and often does not lead to tree death. Although, elm trees in the home landscape may be treated with one of several common insecticides, including Orthene and Sevin. Remember, any insecticide must be used in compliance with its label. Some landowners experiencing defoliation have applied sticky bands to their trees to entrap adults emerging the next spring to prevent repeat defoliation.

With the recent emergence of the elm zigzag sawfly (aproceros leucopoda), the continued presence of the nonnative elm leaf beetle (xanthogaleruca luteola) and Dutch elm disease (ophiostoma ulmi), native elms in North Carolina could potentially be impacted by various assailants. Fortunately, the larger elm leaf beetle is part of the common cycle of insect life in our state. People who suspect there’s an infested tree in an area near them should contact their NCFS county ranger. To find contact information for your county ranger, visit <https://www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts>.

State Fair Advance tickets now on sale

The North Carolina State Fair is approaching quickly and it is a great time to start planning your trip and save some money. Advance sales for tickets, wristbands for rides and ride tickets are underway now.

Advance sales will run through Oct. 12 and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 6-12. Unlimited ride wristbands are \$30 each and can be purchased online. Wristbands are for one day only and vouchers can be redeemed at the Ride Ticket Plazas once the Fair begins. They are not valid for the State Fair Flyer or the State Fair SkyGazer.

“Advance sale tickets are the best prices you will see all year for the State Fair,” said Kent Yelverton, State Fair manager. “Prices increase once the Fair begins, so buy your tickets now especially if you’re bringing a big group.”

This year, ride ticket credits will be placed on a chipped card which will be presented at each ride and will automatically debit the ticket count for that ride. Ride ticket credits will carry over year-to-year.

“Like many other big state fairs, we have decided to make the switch to ride ticket cards for our guests

to use,” Yelverton said. “This new system is easy to use and ensures that everyone spends less time in lines and more time enjoying their time at the Fair.”

Other special themed ticket packages offered include: Dizzy Pass – One gate admission ticket and one unlimited ride wristband for \$38

Kegs & Cork Pass – One gate admission ticket, one NC Public House beer + wine ticket for \$17

State Fair Flyer Package – Two gate admission tickets and two round-trip State Fair Flyer tickets for \$34

State Fair SkyGazer – One gate admission ticket and one State Fair SkyGazer ticket for \$14

For more information, visit the State Fair website at www.ncstatefair.org. The 2023 N.C. State Fair will run Oct. 12-22 at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The fair offers an experience unique to North Carolina 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 and Instagram at [@ncstatefair.org](https://www.facebook.com/ncstatefair).

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

Sept. 1..... Keuring. Contact Melanie Harper, 802-233-1591.
Sept. 2..... Barrel Racing Shaun McMillian Memorial. Contact Donald McMillian, 910-374-1483.
Sept. 4..... Horse & Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
Sept. 9..... BBHA Fun Show. Contact Jerry King, 910-237-4525.
Sept. 23..... Da Bomb Barrel Racing. Contac Josh Smith, 910-639-6387.
Oct. 2..... Horse & Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

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

Sept. 8-10 MCQHA-Tarheel Fall Classic. Contact Lynn Bodine, 704-905-6540.
Sept. 15-17 Sunnyside Open Horse Show Produced by Equine Event Planning LLC. Contact Travis Alford, 252-450-5438.
Sept. 23 & 24... United Horsemen of the Carolinas Open Horse Show. Contact Nancy Barbee, 919-619-1786.
Oct. 14 & 15 NCHJA “C” Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.
Oct. 19-22..... SERHA Fall Spooktacular. Contact info@serha.org or Ag Center, 252-792-5111.
Nov. 3 & 4 Williamston Pro Rodeo -Revenge Roughstock Co. Contact Martin Towery, 540-521-3959
Nov. 17 & 18 N.C. Barrel Bonanza. Contact Fred Smith, 252-883-1641.

WNC Ag Center, Fletcher 828-687-1414

Oct. 5-7..... North Carolina Walking Horse Show. Contact Myra Helton, 704-718-4152.
Nov. 17-19..... Good Times Barrell Racing. Contact Stacey Warner, 864-992-8664.

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

Sept. 2 & 3..... Labor of Love Dressage Show. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.
Sept. 9 & 10..... UPHA Chapter 12 Academy Show. Contac Peyton Hamilton, 803-431-1991.
Sept. 13-16 UPHA Chapter 12 NC State Championship Show. Contact Peyton Hamilton, 803-431-1991.
Sept. 23 & 24... TWHFA Fall Fantastic. Contact Kim Moser, 919-201-3606.
Sept. 23 & 24... Finally Farm Horse Show Series. Contact Lesley Jenks, 919-280-8087.
Sept. 29-
Oct. 1..... Triangle Farms Fall Fling Indoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

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

2023-24 Got to Be NC Culinary and Beverage ambassadors

Each year, chef and mixologists from across the state compete in the N.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association’s Chef Showdown to win the titles of NCRLA Chef of the Year, NCRLA Pastry Chef of the Year and NCRLA Mixologist of the Year.

The winners along with the runners up and the People’s Choice Award winners in each category, have the honor of also being named members of the Got to Be NC Culinary and Beverage Ambassador teams for a one-year term. The NCRLA Chef Showdown series wrapped up and winners were named Aug. 14 at the grand finale held at the Angus Barn in Raleigh.

- Following are the 2023-2024 GTBNC Culinary Ambassadors:
- Chef of the Year: Adé Carrena of Dounou Cuisine/ iLéWA Foods, Raleigh
 - Pastry Chef of the Year: Emily Parker of Native Fine Diner and Julep Contemporary Kitchen, Greenville
 - Chef Luke Owens of Native Diner and Julep Contemporary Kitchen, Greenville
 - Pastry Chef Savanna Brodar of Country Club of North Carolina, Pinehurst
 - Chef Bobby McFarland of Wye Hill Hospitality, Raleigh
 - Pastry Chef Jill Wasilewski of Ivory Road Café & Kitchen, Arden
 - 2023-2024 Beverage Ambassadors:
 - Mixologist of the Year: Stephanie Elliott of Merle’s, Wilkesboro
 - Mixologist Ian Murray of Foundation, Raleigh
 - Mixologist Sekani Akunyun of Lavender & Libations, Charlotte

“Our Marketing Division is focused on developing and expanding markets for North Carolina’s food, fiber and forestry industries and works closely with the restaurant and beverage industries to help them source North Carolina products,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “The members of this year’s Ambassador team give local ingredients a key spot on their menus and in their drinks and truly showcase the freshness and flavor of local ingredients.”

The Got to Be NC Culinary and Beverage Ambassadors are the culinary voice of N.C.’s agricultural industry. Advocating and promoting N.C. food and beverage products; assisting in the department’s marketing efforts at live and virtual personal appearances, cooking demonstrations, educational seminars, seasonal recipe development, and the general promotion of N.C.’s food and agriculture industries.



Carrena



Parker



Owens



Brodar



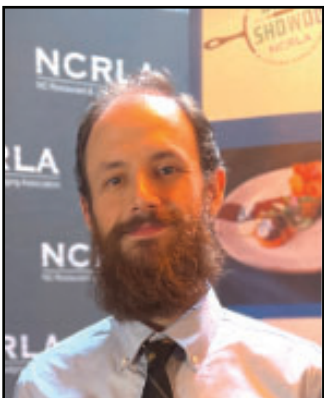
McFarland



Wasilewski



Elliott



Murray



Akunyun

Mike’s Farm is one of the state’s first agritourism farms

We couldn’t host a series on agritourism without highlighting one of our states original agritourism destinations! If you escape to the coast of our state anytime during the year, you’re likely to hear the name Mike’s Farm in your travels.

Since it’s inception in 1986, the farm has expanded from solely growing Christmas trees to a wide variety of produce. It has also become a highly popular agritourism destination for friends and families alike to enjoy. Today, the Lowe family grows pumpkins, strawberries, squash, cabbage, and many other spring vegetables.

Mike’s Farm learned the word “innovation” at an early age. What started in 1986 as a Christmas tree operation slowly expanded to incorporate a bakery, restaurant, barn event venue, gift shop and more!

“Mike and I met in high school and always had a love for agriculture,” said Theresa. “What started here as a simple family farm has evolved through the years to not only become something that we love and enjoy as a family, but also a place that the community wants to be a part of and invest in. Our goal is to provide a family atmosphere that customers of all ages will enjoy.”

In fact, Mike’s Farm is often referred to as one of the original agritourism farms because they began hosting events on-site long before agritourism was trendy or popular.

Mike’s Farm started venturing into the world of agritourism in the 90’s by offering school tours and field trips, which they still provide today.

Since then, the family has broadened the horizon of agritourism on the farm to feature a variety of events each year that welcome the public, including a Christmas light show, Easter egg hunt, pumpkin patch, and Spring Saturdays on the farm. This summer, they have been hosting a monthly dinner series to mix things up.

June spotlighted the love of local products through a farm to fork dinner with Onslow County NC Cooperative Extension. July proved a groovy time through Shaggin’ at the Farm with the EZ Liv’n Band and southern homestyle cooking. The last dinner in the series is taking place this Saturday, August 5th, so don’t miss out!

An Evening of Magic and Illusion is happening on the farm this weekend with the Rockstars of Magic, Chris & Neal! “They have been performing shows in our barn for about 10 years now,” Mike said. “They also provide a good time and bring a lot of new faces out to the farm.”

Enjoy a southern style buffet for dinner, featuring fried chicken, pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes, mac & cheese, and vegetables before the show. Then sit back and enjoy the hour-long show that is full of jaw dropping surprises. The farm is offering both a matinee show at 1:30 p.m. and an evening show at 5:30 p.m. Tickets

are available online for \$45 per adult and \$29 per child aged 7-11 or \$19 for children aged 3-6.

In addition to the special events that they host on-site each year, the barn and banquet room are available to book for private events, such as weddings and birthday parties, on their website.

The barn currently holds up to 200 guests and the banquet room will comfortably seat 100 people. Both venues offer a beautiful and scenic atmosphere for a peaceful and fun-filled event. Find more details, including pricing and contract information, on their website under the Reserve tab.

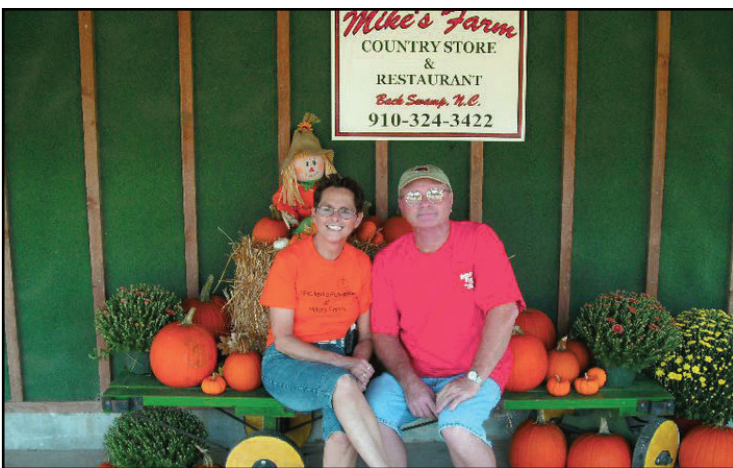
Don’t miss the NC Products Barn upon your visit to Mike’s Farm! Added in 2019, the barn is packed full of local goodies from around the state, including wine, coffee, merchandise, and food items. They even have a stock of pottery from Seagrove.

“Our goal is to eventually have something featured in our store from all 100 counties of North Carolina,” Theresa said. “We love showcasing all the local NC handmade or manufactured products our state has to offer, while teaching people how they are made & where they come from.”

They also have a separate gift shop and bakery on-site with homemade fudge. If you buy one pound of fudge, you get another quarter pound free, so be sure to stop by.

“Seeing our farm become a tradition

(See Mike’s Farm, pg. 6)



Mike and Theresa Lowe, owners of Mike’s Farm.



Mike’s Farm offers fun activities throughout the year.

Apples take center stage at the Orchard at Altapass farm

At the highest altitude that two trains pass in our North Carolina mountains, stands one of the last remaining agritourism destinations in the area, The Orchard at Altapass.

In 1993, Kit Trubey purchased the orchard with the intent of protecting it from future development. Even though she had never farmed before, Kit knew she wanted to keep the history of the orchard alive for the people of Altapass.

“There is a lot of history here at the orchard. From the road going through the farm to the varieties of apples that are raised here,” said Sam McKinney, Mission Coordinator for The Altapass Orchard. “The community stepped up to help preserve that heritage by telling stories of the area and teaching the methods that the previous owners had used to grow some of the best apples.”

Today, the farm is home to 35 varieties of apples, including King Luscious and Grimes Golden, as well as many on-site events that involve the community and continue sharing the Appalachian heritage of the area.

The Orchard at Altapass is open from May through October every year. As one of the only remaining agritourism farms in Spruce Pine since 2005, they saw over 100,000 visitors last year alone! Not only do they host guided u-pick events to ensure families pick the apples that are ripe, but also music jams, “heyride”s, walking trips on the property, school tours, pollination and education events and more. “Education is a big part of what we do,” said Beth Hilton, Executive Director of The Orchard at Altapass. “No matter what event we are hosting out on the farm, our number one goal is to educate visitors about our history, heritage and farming in this part of the state.”

Every Thursday at 1 p.m., The Orchard at Altapass



You can bet ice cream and apple pie are served up at the Apple Core Grill along with hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue and more.

hosts Music Jams on the Pavilion. These events feature local musicians that come out to enjoy the views and play the music that they love for visitors walking by. “The Music Jams feature more of an intimate setting because musicians sit in a circle and play music for the simple fun of it,” Beth said. All the Music Jam events are free to the public. The orchard also hosts live music performances at the Pavilion every Saturday and Sunday where local popular bands take to the stage.

(See Apple orchard, pg. 5)

Christmas trees

(Continued from pg. 2)

farm with Fraser Fir Christmas trees and nursery stock in various stages of growth as well as a garden center open April through mid-December. A second generation is coming up in the company – Cline and Ellen’s children, Amber Scott and Alex Church both have a passion for the industry and have plans to continue planting and harvesting trees for years to come

Amber Scott was selected as Grand Champion for Decorated Wreath.

The 2024 Grand Champion Growers are David, Jim and Sam Cartner of Cartner Christmas Tree Farm in Newland. The Cartners will provide a North Carolina Fraser fir Christmas tree that will be displayed in the Blue Room of the White House in 2024.

The Cartner Christmas Tree Farm has been growing high quality Fraser fir Christmas trees for wholesale and choose-and-cut customers since being founded in 1959 by Sam and Margaret Cartner.

The farm is managed by the Cartner brothers David, Jim and Sam Jr. David is a lawyer and practices in Asheville. On the farm, he is responsible for sales and shipping logistics.

Jim Cartner owns and operates a veterinarian clinic in Statesville. Jim visits the farm throughout the year and assists with order loading during harvest.

Sam Cartner is a veterinarian and director of the Animal Resources Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He makes frequent trips to the farm and visits customers throughout the year. Ronnie Beam is the Field Manager. He implements the production aspects of the farm and is directly responsible for selection and tagging as well as equipment maintenance.

Since 1966, members of the National Christmas Tree Association have presented the official White House Christmas Tree for display in the Blue Room. Each year NCTA hosts a national tree contest at which growers, industry experts and consumers vote to select the grower who will provide the official White House Christmas Tree. To qualify for the national contest, growers must first win their state or regional competitions, so being named National Grand Champion is quite an achievement.

2023 marks the 58th year a member from the National Christmas Tree Association has presented the official White House Christmas Tree.



Jim, Sam and David Cartner of Cartner’s Christmas Tree Farm with their late father Sam Cartner Sr.

Specialty crops

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

- in Tomatoes, \$185,134;
 - Management of *Sweetpotato Southern Blight*, \$106,729;
 - Quantifying Risk of *Colletotrichum* on Apples, \$110,796;
 - Optimizing Truffle Orchard Evaluation for Growers, \$156,505;
 - Development of Vitaculture Extension Resources, \$91,378;
 - Rapid Development of Resistant Fraser Fir, \$199,996;
 - N.C. Sod Association – Understanding Natural Grass Sod Purchasing Decisions, \$58,063.
- For more information on the program, go to www.ncagr.gov/research/scgrant/.

Bucolic briefs

The N.C. Simmental Association will host its Fall Harvest Sale Sept. 2 at Shuffler Farms in Union Grove. Selling Simmental and SimAngus bulls, cow/calf pairs, bred and open heifers, and embryos. For a sale catalog, call 336-468-1679 or email ncsa@yadtel.net. Go to ncsimmental.com for more information.

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Fall Sale will be held through Sept. 4 at the Holshouser Building at the State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Road, Raleigh. This marks the sale’s 20th year of service to the equine community. Sale, buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport, including all types of saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing for all disciplines of riding. Also, for sale are barn supplies, carts, other animal items and horse trailers for a representation fee only. Bar code tagging allows consignor to view sales from home. Tagging guidelines are mandatory. Open shopping with free admission is Sept. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sept. 3 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sept. 4 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Some items discounted 1/2 off on last shopping day. Consignors pick up unsold items on Sept. 6 from 1:30 to 9 :30 p.m. or they are donated to N.C. non-profit equestrian organizations. Please make arrangements if you want unsold items returned. Items cannot be stored or transferred from sale to sale. Items must be clean and tagged properly. Consignors earn 70%. Payment accepted: cash, N.C. checks with 2 IDs approved, credit cards with 3 % fee/per card transaction. N.C. government regulations for COVID followed for everyone’s safety. DROP and GO and PICK up and Go (no wait or scanning in items waived) consigning available, see website. Waivers to be signed at drop off. Passes for consignors given at drop off for early admission. For more details go to www.EquestrianExchange.com or contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950.

The 39th Annual Apple Country Antique Engine and Tractor WNC Fall Harvest Days show will be held Oct. 13 and 14 at the WNC Ag Center in Fletcher. The event features International Harvester brands, antique tractors, hit n’ miss engines, crafters, antiques, toys, parts, tractor pull, tractor parade, food and more. For more information, contact J. Holbrook at 828-435-0413.

The 81st N.C. Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival will be held Nov. 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Holshouser Building, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. The festival features displays of gourds from around the world, special gourd workshops, and vendors of dried gourds, gourd seeds, gourd crafts, gourd art, books, t-shirts, and crafting supplies. A variety of competitive categories are awarded ribbons and prizes. There is a raffle and a free gourd crafting table for kids. Details about the festival, a listing of gourd crafting workshops, and information on how to enter the competitions are on the website at www.ncgourdsociety.org. For more information, call 919-696-0744. Admission is \$5 for adults age 13 and up; children 12 and under are free.

The Veteran’s Farm of NC, Inc. is seeking donations of farm equipment to use with programs to teach veterans how to start a farm. The organization offers access to farm equipment through its usage and grant programs and help network the farmer veteran community with each other and new opportunities in agriculture. This is a 501c (3) nonprofit organization is seeking donations of trucks, tractors, 3-point attachments, and any farm related supplies that we will then make available to the farmer veteran community. Donations are 100% tax deductible and a receipt is provided for tax purposes. Contact Robert Elliott, Executive Director, at vetfarmofnc@gmail.com with questions.

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.

Winners announced in the N.C. Wine Competition

Three North Carolina wineries took home the state's most prestigious award for winemaking in the recent N.C. Wine Competition.

N.C. Governor's Cups were awarded in three categories – Vinifera/Hybrid Grapes, Muscadine Grapes and Fruit/Cider/Mead.

Winners by category were:

-- **Vinifera/Hybrid Grapes** --

Shadow Springs Vineyard – Seyval Blanc – Swan Creek AVA – 2022

-- **Muscadine Grapes** – Sanctuary Vineyards “The Plank” – Noble, Cabernet Franc – Jarvisburg – 2021

-- **Fruit/Cider/Mead** – Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards “Appalachian Ridge Sugarloaf Mountain” – Traditional Cider – Hendersonville – NV

In addition, 16 judges tasted 291 wine, cider and mead entries in the N.C. Wine Competition, eventually awarding 18 Double Gold Medals, 31 Gold Medals, and 192 Silver Medals. From those, a panel of five judges selected the N.C. Governor's Cup winners from 24 wines.

“It was exciting to see new companies entering for the first time and established companies returning to this competition. The judges noted the awarded wines showcased intense aromas and flavors, well-



Judging took place at Surry Community College in Dobson.

balanced acidity, and great length,” said Brianna Burns, a wine marketing

specialist with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

“This represented the most medals ever awarded in the contest and truly signaled the outstanding quality of wines entered.”

This year, the N.C. Wine Competition recognized new “Best of” categories to showcase the highest scores achieved in 12 categories. These following wines scored the highest aggregate score in their category apart from the N.C. Governor's Cup winners:

- **Best Vinifera/Hybrid White** – JOLO Winery & Vineyards “Golden Hallows” – White Blend – 2021
- **Best Vinifera/Hybrid Rose'** – JOLO Winery & Vineyards “JOLO Pink” – Blend – 2022
- **Best Vinifera/Hybrid Red** – Childress Vineyards “Reserve” – Cabernet Franc – 2019
- **Best Vinifera/Hybrid Dessert** – Childress Vineyards “Sun-Kissed Sangria” – Vidal Blanc Blend - NV
- **Best Muscadine White** -- Hinnant Family Vineyards “Carolina Wildflower” – Carlos – NV
- **Best Muscadine Rose'** – Hinnant Family Vineyards “Electric Pelican” – Noble Blend – NV

- **Best Muscadine Red** – Hinnant Family Vineyards “Gimme Some Sugar” – Noble Blend – NV
- **Best Muscadine Dessert** – Hinnant Family Vineyards “Tropicbliss” – Carlos Blend - NV
- **Best Sparkling Wine** – Childress Vineyards “Victory Kiss Rosé” – Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc – NV
- **Best Cider** – Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards “Heritage Ridge Black Bear” – Blackberry Cider - NV
- **Best Mead** – Williamson Mead and Brewing “Gelos” – Metheglin (Spiced) Mead - NV
- **Best Fruit Wine** – Perry's Berry's Vineyard & Winery – Dry Blueberry – 2022

Judging for the N.C. Wine Competition was held at the Shelton-Badgett Center for Viticulture and Enology at Surry Community College in Dobson.

See the full list of results and awards at ncwine.org/competition.

Apple orchard

(Continued from pg. 4)

Many individuals across the state and beyond are familiar with Altapass Orchard because of their guided u-pick events and “heyride”s. Each year, Sam leads the “heyride” out to the fields of over 3,000 apple trees and enjoys educating on the history of the orchard throughout the ride.

“It's an important time for me to share how the orchard came to be and where we are today,” he said. “I push that people not only can be involved here, but that they already are. When you purchase a “heyride” ticket, you become a part of our mission to preserve the history, heritage, and culture of the Blue Ridge Mountains; protect the underlying orchard land with its apples, wetlands, butterflies, and other natural features; and educate the public about the Appalachian experience.”

Many of the trees at the orchard are at least 100 years old, so sit back and breathe in the history of the orchard as you ride along the trails.

Upon the conclusion of the “heyride”, customers can enjoy a meal at the Apple Core Grill and visit the General Store. The Apple Core Grill reopened last season and features a limited, and seasonal, menu.

“The grill really is a service to our customers. We want them to come and spend a full day at the orchard with us,” Beth said.

The grill features a variety of food items, including hot dogs, hamburgers, pimento cheese, and BBQ sandwiches. You can get ice cream and, of course,

apple pie in the store all day. After enjoying a meal, visitors can walk over to the General store to purchase apples, honey, farm merchandise, bee products, local crafts, canned foods and more.

As a member of the one of the earliest families in the Altapass community, Sam takes a lot of pride in events held at the orchard to promote the history and future of the farm. “As a family, we take a lot of pride in saving this place and telling its story” he said. “I love having a hand in protecting something so amazing and watching people make this place a tradition for their families. It not only preserves the legacy of the past but sets up the future of this orchard for years to come.”

When visiting the Orchard at Altapass, visitors will not only learn the history and heritage of the area, but also what it takes to grow apples in the area, how to preserve the land and gain appreciation for something bigger than themselves.

“People leave here and realize how amazing this industry is, how hard we work and what it takes to grow these delicious apples,” Sam said. Beth and Sam agree that “There's something magical about this property that almost can't be put into words, and we are honored to share that with families each and every year at Altapass Orchard”. Start planning your trip today to become a part of the story at the orchard and learn all about the culture of farming and life in the N.C. Mountains!



Altapass guests enjoy a “heyride” through the orchard where they can learn about the history of the farm and its long tradition of apple production in the mountains.

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.**

Mike's Farm

(Continued from pg. 3)



The on-farm store carries a lot of products including their own honey.

for families and watching the generations evolve before our eyes each year is incredibly rewarding,” Mike said. “Some couples will come on their first date here. We’ve had people get engaged on the Christmas hayride. Eventually, they bring their kids back to the farm and we become a destination where the family spends time together. We classify ourselves as a family tradition in all that we do, so to see that mission come to fruition makes all the hard or stressful days’ worth it.”

Mike and Theresa’s daughter and son-in-law currently help on the farm as well and plan to one day take over to keep the tradition going.

In addition to fun events and shops, Mike’s Farm is also home to a variety of farm animals that love attention from visitors, including donkeys, cows, and goats. Start planning your trip today, including the summertime dinner this weekend, and show your support for one of our state’s founding agritourism destinations. We promise that you will not be disappointed.

2023 Advertising Deadlines

Ads are due by:

October -- Sept. 1

November -- Oct. 2

February -- Jan. 2

December -- Nov. 1

January 2024-- Dec. 1

March -- Feb. 1

Classified Advertising



Bees, Supplies & Services For Sale

NOTICE

N.C. law requires a permit to sell honey bees in the state, with the following exceptions: sale of less than 10 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 to gather honey. Contact Don Hopkins, state apiarist, NCDA&CS, 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001.

Wildflower honey, (5) 5-gal buckets avail, 60 lbs., \$300 ea. Dick Lippard, Statesville 704-682-4018.



Equipment For Sale

Intl 784, diesel, needs some work, \$7,500 obo. Bobby Bryan, Garner 919-612-3273.

Intl 766 tractor, \$6,250. Walt Hovis, Bessemer City 980-722-6380.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1948 Farmall Cub, not running, \$825; set of cults, w/ set of rear wheel wgt, \$450; (1) Armstrong tractor tire, 14-9-28, 13 in. rim, 6-ply, \$200. Norris Cutrell, Tobaccoville 336-983-6548.

1950s Ferguson tractor, gas-powered, runs, plows, pulls, needs painting, shelter kept, \$3,000; also, several implements avail for additional cost. Audrey Barker, Westfield 336-593-8413.

3 pt hay spike, \$150; 3 pt scoop pan, \$200; wheat cradle, \$300; boom spray, sprays left & right, \$200. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

Horse drawn middle buster plow, VGC, \$140; handheld tobacco planter, VGC, \$100. Gary Williams, Granite Falls 828-493-2461.

Titan attach FM-5 finishing mower, 60 in., 3 pt, \$1,400; CID X-treme attach hvy duty stump bucket, \$700. Ronnie Calloway, Yadkinville 336-817-0380.

FARM EQUIPMENT

(6) hyd cyl, doub acting, tie rod, 5 in. bore/20 in. stroke, \$200 ea; drag harrow, hvy duty, 7x8, tail wgt, \$400. Charlie Youngblood, Bear Creek 919-214-0534.

2010 JD Z245 lawn mower, 48 in. cut, GC, deck patched up, \$1,800; F725, 54 in. cut, won’t start, used this spring, \$100. Will McCallum, Rowland 910-740-3267.

Farmall 130, GC, comes w/attach, \$2,000; NH 650 rnd baler, field ready, good belts, \$6,500. Robert Burnette, Roxboro 336-583-8776.

Horse-drawn equip, (8) pcs, \$1,325. David Perry, Hamptonville 704-902-5374.

1953 Minn. Moline BG offset tractor, good paint, RG, w/1-row corn planter, \$4,000. Don Bennett, Pinnacle 336-351-2893.

DR field & brush mower, 11.5hp, GC, \$1,900; rear wheel wgt for 28 in. rim, 500 lbs. ea, \$100. Dan Freshwater, Mebane 336-639-9145.

Craftsman garden tractors, (1) 20hp, 50 in. deck; (1) 18hp, 44 in. deck; (1) 18hp w/ equip for parts, \$2,000/all obo. Jesse Underwood, Durham 919-724-5318.

20-disc, 3 pt, \$425. Bob Oehler, Charlotte 704-361-3972.

1955 Farmall Cub, restored, w/cults, breaking plow, show-room ready, \$5,500. Leve Moore Jr., Williamston 252-799-1921.

TaylorWay bog, 11 ft., 30 blades/scrapers, \$1,500; chisel smoothing harrow, on wheels, \$350; hay elevator, 24 ft., adjusts, \$600. C.E. Euart, Faith 980-565-8391.

JD M 2-bottom plow & 8-disc harrow, \$300 ea. Bill Lelekacs, Efland 919-563-3430.

King Kutter box blade, 4 ft., \$700; MF 235 tractor, \$5,500; boom pole, \$125; blade, \$500; plow, \$400; 8 ft. disc, \$750; scoop, \$150. Carl Elliott, Bullock 434-738-8596.

JD 1560 drill, 15 ft. wide, shed kept, EC, \$25,000; milking equip, 6-stall setup complete, Germania take- offs, 10hp vacc pump, \$2,500. Rex Lynch, Maiden 828-428-4611.

JD 272 grooming mower, 6 ft., \$800. Leo Lynch, Mill Spring 864-680-4777.

Cole planter for Sears tractor, 1-row, 3 pt, doub hopper, plates, \$250. John Daniels, Murfreesboro 252-587-7111.

David Bradley Sears walk-behind tractors for parts; disc plows, cults, mowing machine, other, \$25-\$165. Roger Phillips, Westfield 743-999-1465.

6 ft. coulter, 3 pt, used little, GC, \$200. Robert Pardue, Ronda 336-835-2602.

JD RWA leveling harrow, 8 ft., needs tires, \$850. Tyler Dunn, Robbins 336-963-4018.

1971 MF tractor, model 9A115912, w/equip, VGC, barn kept, \$6,000 nego. A.N. Hunter, Wendell 919-612-2658.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Combine gleaner, 15 & 20 ft. grain heads, 630 corn head, header wagon, \$22,000. Guyner Cave, Dobson 336-401-1907 or 972-8184.

Metal utility dump box, 4x4x2, 3 pt, EC, \$175. Jack Matthews, Charlotte 704-846-1903.

JD pull combine, (2) IH steel wheel drills, Volta tobacco stringer w/gas eng, all shed kept, \$250-\$750. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

Kubota M7060HD, pallet forks, 8 ft. bush hog, cab w/ AC/heat, quick attach bucket, \$58,600; Kubota B1750HSD, 4wd, 700 hrs., 5 ft. finishing mower, \$7,600. Gary Hornick, Apex 919-604-0107.

1960 Farmall 140, offset steering, RG, new tires, assorted attach, \$5,000; Wood DHM7 disc, \$900; King Kutter II tiller, 6 ft., \$400. Eric Price, Kannapolis 252-432-6119.

1250 Cub Cadet, hys, 42 in. mowing deck, wheel wgt, good sheet metal, running when parked, \$350. Larry Cain, Hamptonville 336-468-4414.

Killbros 300 grain wagon, holds 300 bu, gravity dump door, sand blasted & painted, good tires, shed kept, w/Syntax roll tarp & hardware, \$2,500 obo. Wave Oglesby, Thomasville 336-210-6611.

1997 BEI blueberry picking machine, made in Michigan, VGC, \$52,000 nego; MM Airblast sprayer, model 41100, 70-gal, lightly used, \$3,500 nego. Michael Crippen, Garland 910-529-1469.

Portable corn elevators, hyd & elect., \$1,250 & up; gravity boxes, \$1,250 & up; repair parts for NI & Uni corn pickers, \$100 & up. Bobby Brannan, Sanford 919-770-1353.

2000 tractor, new rear tires, gas eng, 8-spd, live lift, ps, GC, \$4,700. Dickie Hall, Hickory 828-368-1621.

Rain flow 2550 plastic mulch irrig layer, LN, used little, \$6,500. Richard Burrage, Concord 704-791-3434.



Equipment Wanted

ROP roll bar for JD 4430 tractor, reasonable price. Jeff Creech, Zebulon 919-404-1167.

AC 5050 tractor for parts; NH 68 sq baler for parts, S/N 42636. Lathan Ostwalt, Statesville 704-450-6534 or 872-6892.

Front end loader for JD 5300 4wd tractor. Alexis Mills, Trenton 252-939-7297.

Metal brake, 8 ft. or 10 ft. Guyner Cave, Dobson 336-401-1907.

AC 433 balers, any cond. C.E. Euart, Faith 980-565-8391.

5 ft. bush hog, any brand, solid frame, light rust ok, prefer shelter kept; text pictures. Rick Hall, Gibsonville 336-260-7411.

Tractor tires, 23.1 x 26 & 18.4 x 34 R-1, good shape, usable cond. John Davis, Raleigh 919-772-3007.

Sickle mower for a Farmall 140, GC. Jon Welch, Raleigh 803-238-8416.



Farm Labor For Sale

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

Power washing, homes, bldgs, lrg equip, etc., \$250 & up. John Phillabaum, Franklinton 919-618-5199.

Farm/pet sitting, w/in 15 mi radius of Franklinton, all types of animals, many yrs experience, references avail, initial visit free, \$15/hr. + \$1/mi. Renee Phillabaum, Franklinton 919-618-3409.

Elect. fence box repair, ssc, parmak, tsc, zereba, \$20/hr. Bobby Nichols, No. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.



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.

98 ac for lease Watauga co for hunting, 5-yr lease, NCFA hunt insurance required, \$14/ac/yr for 1st 2 yrs; \$16/ac/yr for next 3 yrs. Eddie Moretz, Deep Gap 828-963-0883.

73.2 ac Surry co, near Pilot Mtn., \$4,800/ac. Larry Blackburn, Advance 336-608-0552.



Farmland Wanted

6-10 house poultry farm in eastern NC/SC. C. A. Lutz, Dallas 704-913-0510.

Land to lease in Johnston, Harnett, Sampson, Wayne, Wilson, Nash, Franklin or surrounding areas for deer & turkey hunting. Caleb Johnson, Selma 704-223-4152.



Hay & Grain For Sale

Fescue hay, horse quality, in barn, sm sq bales, \$7 ea; 4x5 rnd bales, \$60 ea. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

Alfalfa hay, 1st cutting, pesticide & herbicide free, barn stored, no blister beetles, analysis by NC State lab, \$17/sq bale. Robert Woodie, Belville 502-715-1028.

Fescue hay, rnd bales, good quality, stored inside, \$50 ea. Valerie Cockerham, Yadkinville 336-416-2240.

Horse quality hay, Coastal Bermuda, approx 50 lbs., \$7/sq bale; rnd bales, \$60 ea. Timothy/orchard mix, approx 50 lbs., \$11/sq bale. William Sutton, Ernul 252-229-1889.

Orchard/fescue mix, spring '23 cut, no rain, horse quality, \$7/sq bale. Elizabeth Macdonald, Blanch 336-459-6776.

HAY & GRAIN

Wheat straw, \$4/bale. G.T. Underwood, Elon 336-380-5984.

Orchard grass, Timothy, clover, fescue, no rain or chemicals, sq bales, \$6 ea; 4x4 rnd, \$50 ea. Russ Hanes, Glendale Springs 828-406-6365.

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

'23 mixed grass hay, horse quality, no rain, min. purchase of 20, \$6.50/sq bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

Peanut hay, 4x4.5, rnd or sq, net wrapped, can deliv 42 bales, \$35-\$40/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

Coastal Bermuda, deliv avail, rnd bales, \$40; horse quality sq bales, \$7. Jim Newton, Rockingham 910-995-1223.

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

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

Wheat straw, 4x5 rnd, \$25/bale. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

Wheat straw, sq bales, \$4 ea. Roger Huffines, Elon 336-213-6964.

Fescue hay, sq bales, \$6 ea; rnd bales, \$45-\$60 ea. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

Horse quality Bermuda hay, baled 7/1/23, barn stored, 50-55 lbs., clean, no weeds, rain, animal litter or preservatives, \$7.50/bale cash or Zelle; deliv for extra fee. Victoria Rehder, Lillington 910-964-0087.

Coastal hay, sheltered, horse quality, 4x5 rnd, \$60/bale; sq bales, \$8 ea. Phil Hood, Goldsboro 919-689-9798.

Fescue, good quality, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped or string tied, barn stored, \$45/bale. Ray Shew, Harmony 980-266-1819.

Orchard grass/fescue, \$50/rnd bale; orchard grass, \$7/sq bale; cow hay, \$35/rnd bale. Johnny Sowers, Lexington 336-239-3020.

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



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.

(1) doctor's buggy, (1) 4-person Surry, (1) 1887 cart, 2-wheel, \$2,000-\$3,500; other assorted items & tack. James Teague, Boone 828-963-0893.

HORSES

1998 4-horse trailer, 16 ft., enclosed, side, rear & divider doors, tandem wheels, elect. brake, needs paint, \$1,900 cash. Gary Formisano, Shallotte 910-540-1962.



Livestock For Sale

Fainting goats, \$150 & up. Joan Culberson, Snow Camp 919-259-6139.

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

Blk Angus/Simmental cross heifers, dob 2021, ready for service, \$1,500/head. Murray Cohen, Pittsboro 919-742-4433.

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

SimAngus herd bulls, blk, polled, bred for calving ease, muscle, growth & disposition, \$2,750-\$3,500. William Pyle, Franklinton 919-215-5677.

Boer/Kiko cross, does, kids, bucklings, 2-7 m/o, lots of color, traditional, \$150-\$275. Paul Shaver, Salisbury 704-640-6819.

ADGA bucklings, dob 4/23, \$250; ADGA does, dob 5/23, \$350. L.A. Mize, Lexington 336-250-4520.

Nigerian/Pygmy nannies, \$95. Vaughn Parrish, Waxhaw 704-843-7446.

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

Dwarf Nigerian goats, spring babies, yearlings, adults, males, Wethers & females, \$150 & up. Karey Brindle, Mt. Pleasant 704-960-7342.

Reg Santa Gertrudis, calves, \$850 & up; bulls, \$1,200 & up; cow/calf pairs, \$2,500 & up. Charles O'Bryant III, Reidsville 336-908-0276.

Reg fainting goats, pet quality to proven breeding stock does & bucks, all colors & sizes, some bred does, \$175-\$450. Renee Phillabaum, Franklinton 919-618-3409.

Quality YON sired 3/4 Blk Angus x 1/4 Simmental bred heifers, calving mid-October, bred to low bw full blood Wagyu bull, vaccs/dewormed, \$3,950 ea. Martha Mobley, Louisburg 919-495-1305.

Blk Baldy bull, 18 m/o, \$1.40/lb. Roger Huffines, Elon 336-213-6964.

Reg Angus bulls, bred for calving ease & efficiency, good feet & disposition, recent breeding soundness exam, \$3,000; Angus cow/calf pairs & heifers avail. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 336-263-6042.

2 Reg Blk Angus bulls, 2 1/2 y/o & 1 1/2 y/o, gentle, easy calving, bloodlines Baldrige Waylon, KCF Bennett, GAR prediction; BSE tested, \$3,000 ea. Aaron Rumley, Burlington 336-675-1712.

LIVESTOCK

Nigerian Dwarf/Boer billy goat, 6 m/o; (3) 4 m/o Nigerian Dwarf/Boer billy goats, blue eyes, gentle & social, \$150 ea. Melissa Fine, Denton 336-596-0234.

Reg Blk Angus bull, 4 y/o, traditional Angus genetics, sm farm herd temperament & performance, \$3,000. John Oakes, McLeansville 336-697-1502.

Kiko/Savanna cross bucklings, kidded 3/23, established, quality bloodlines, healthy, hardy, excel. breeding stock, avail now, \$175-\$250. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

(7) Cool Air fans, 48 in., \$125 ea. David Gwaltney, Taylorsville 828-850-9543.

White Japanese bantam chickens, black-tail, \$20/pair; trio of Yellow Golden pheasants, \$125. Posie Guthrie, Pfafftown 336-413-0038.

Rhode Island Red & Barred Rock pullets, \$9.50 ea; (2) fantail pigeons, \$17 ea or 2/\$30. Ryan Luthy, Union Grove 336-468-1817.

Rhode Island Reds, hatched May, June & July, \$20 ea. Kevin Graber, Hamptonville 336-468-2671.

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

California, silver California, Blue-scales, Gambels, 8 breeds bobwhite; partridge, Philby, chukar, Hungarian, \$3 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-888-0213.

Rhode Island Red rooster, 1 y/o, \$20. Beckie Yates, Denton 704-603-7309, Farmerswife12@hotmail.com.

(2) Khaki Campbell female ducks, about 1 1/2 y/o, currently laying eggs, \$25. Robert Johnson, Kernersville 336-788-8402.



Poultry & Supplies Wanted

Wheaton Old English bantams, must be the sm variety; also, jumbo white pheasants. Sue McGhinnis, Sugar Grove 336-317-1165.

Silver pheasants. Jack Guthrie, Pfafftown 336-413-0038.



Seeds & Plants For Sale

Potted muscadine plants, 2 y/o, healthy, several varieties, planting & fert instr incld, \$20. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

Rabbiteye blueberry plants, 2 y/o, healthy, vigorous, Climax, Tifblue, Powderblue, Brightwell, \$10 ea. Michael Roberson, Trinity 336-862-3488.

SEEDS & PLANTS

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

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



Seeds & Plants Wanted

(3) Damson plum trees; 1-gal damson fruit. Ronald Copeland, Apex 919-669-9264.



Supplies For Sale

Myers shallow well pump, 1hp, 110v or 220v, EC, \$175. Jack Matthews, Charlotte 704-846-1903.

Taylor brand little sheller, shells peas, beans, etc., LNC, \$500 obo. Steve Parsons, Wilkesboro 336-973-4834.

Clay pots, 6 1/2 in. diameter, 35/\$60; wood for farm bldg repair, fits 6 ft. p/u, \$75/all. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

Water totes, \$75; burning barrels, solid or open, \$10 ea; solid top plastic, \$10; plastic feed barrels, 30 & 55-gal, \$20 ea; other items. Jeff Brittan, Hickory 828-327-4782.

(2) rls new welded wire, 14 gauge, 2x4, 100 ft., 4 ft. tall, \$120/both. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

Hicks water stove, 750-gal, w/8 solar collectors & attached oil burner, \$4,800. Philip Turner, Shelby 704-482-8851.

Martin gourds, \$4 ea. A.S. Manuel, Salisbury 336-239-4942, asmanuel@live.com.

Assorted old tools, several hundred pcs, farm, ranch, logging, other, GC, \$152. David Perry, Hamptonville 704-902-5374.

1985 Mopar 360 eng, 90,000 mi, new 484 lift racing cam, used AC compressor, valve covers, \$950. Harold Adams, Piney Creek 336-359-2979.



Supplies Wanted

Split rails for driveway entrance, 11-12 ft. length, any durable/rot-resistant hardwood old-growth, like cypress, mulberry or blk locust; can p/u. Carlyle Haywood Jr., Ellerbe 910-417-7138, mtnbiker28127@yahoo.com.

Liquid propane gas tank, 100-gal, GC. Charles Morgan, Zebulon 919-413-4806.

SUPPLIES WANTED

Roller bench for sawmill, 10 ft. Hurley Sanders, Seagrove 336-879-5891.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

1951 Ford F6 dump truck, Mercury flathead 8 cyl, motor stuck, 4-spd trans, 2-spd rear end, \$1,700. Rod Tomberlin, Oakboro 704-322-2017.

2014 Ram 4500 crew cab, 11 ft. steel flat bed, toolboxes, diesel, 2wd, 220,000 mi, full strobe pkg, \$28,000. John Davis, Rolesville 919-906-4147.

1967 Ford dump truck, dual wheels, 9 ft. steel bed, good motor & trans, \$1,500. Robert Pardue, Ronda 336-835-2602.

4-wheel trailer, 13x6x6.5, 2-axle, 2 ft. high sideboard, 2 in. ball hitch, GC, \$3,500. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

1965 Chevy truck litter spreader, 14 ft. chandler bed, RG, \$2,500 firm. Kenneth Church, Millers Creek 828-434-6443.

1961 Willys p/u, 3/4-ton, eng rebuilt, good rubber, \$19,000. Russ Hanes, Glendale Springs 828-406-6365.

2000 Chevy 1500, 4x4, GC, \$5,000; 2008 Dodge 2500, diesel, 4wd, \$23,500. Robert Burnette, Roxboro 336-583-8776, call or text.

Bed panels for 1970s model GMC dump truck, grain hauler style, ~8 ft./panel, 4 sides & a back, should fit 16 ft. bed, LNC, \$1,500. Wesley Johnson, Dunn 919-756-0411.

1973 Chevy C60 dump truck, 350 eng, 4-spd, grain sides w/grain gates, (6) tires, \$4,000 obo. Michael Brady, Shelby 704-477-4834.

2006 Dodge 2500, 4x4, 4-dr, flatbed, Cummins diesel, 6-spd trans, gooseneck & bumper hitches, 220,000 mi, \$18,900. A.S. Manuel, Salisbury 336-239-4942.

2023 Calico stock trailer, bumper pull, \$6,850. Y.D. Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

Calico stock trailer, 25 ft., flatbed, gooseneck, doub ramps, \$9,950. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

Equip trailer, hvy duty, 17 ft. long, 80 in. wide, doub axle, \$1,000. Leo Lynch, Mill Spring 864-680-4777.



Trucks & Trailers Wanted

WW2 Halftrack truck, complete or parts, made by White, Autocar, Diamond T & Intl; used postwar in agriculture & forestry. Robert Harrison, Salisbury 704-202-3301.

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.

Robertson Family Farm hosts guests year round

Agriculture is often less about the individual and more about the community. Robertson Family Farm embraces that ideology on their fourth-generation family farm in King.

"My husband, Steven, grew up farming tobacco with his family, and although we have since transitioned to growing strawberries and a variety of other produce, this farm and its influence still runs through our blood and the life of the community," said April Robertson. Today, the farm offers a variety of products direct to the consumer, including watermelons, berries, potatoes, tomatoes, okra, field peas, sweet corn, and pumpkins.

In 2017, the family decided to begin opening the farm to the community through pick-your-own strawberries. Since then, they have expanded to offering three community events each year that not only involve families across the state, but also local businesses.

In May, the farm celebrates Mother's Day with food vendors and local businesses. "Mothers and daughters come out to shop with us and find the perfect gift to celebrate," April said. "It's so good to see the families enjoying time together on the farm, while also supporting local companies, buying local products and celebrating everything that mothers are to our families and communities." The on-site farm store, where Robertson Family Farms sells most of their products, is also open during this event as well as other events throughout the year.

Most recently, the farm hosted their Summertime Bash, which featured live music, local vendors, food, and other products. They also plan to host a similar event in the fall, so mark your calendars to attend. "Our events work to bring the community together for a fun time in support of companies in the area," April said. "We've seen major success through these events and people from as far as Charlotte have come to join us." In addition to these community events and pick-your-own strawberries, April also hosts homeschool days on the farm during strawberry season to educate kids in the community and allow them to get their hands dirty on the farm.

April and Steven homeschooled both of their children, Abigail and Colby, so they understand the value of providing



Steven and April Robertson are pictured with their kids Abigail and Colby at the family farm in King.

experiences that help children learn and get involved.

"We offer these days during strawberry season because that's the best time for kids to come and work on the farm with us," April said. "They come out for the day, get their hands dirty, ask all types of questions and learn about the world of agriculture. This past season we had 250 kids join us for this event!" Homeschool Days are \$8 per person and include pick-your-own strawberries and an ICEE.

"We love teaching the kids about agriculture and watching them grow up as they come back year after year," April said. "It's a privilege to watch them learn about our state's number one industry and discover a new passion within themselves."

Keep an eye on their social media pages next year if you would like to take your kid for a day on the farm.

Although homeschool days always bring joy to her heart,

April's favorite part of co-owning and operating Robertson Family Farm is being around the people within the community that come out each year. "A lot of people don't know what it takes to grow these products, so it's a true honor to be able to educate them and help them learn the value of local products," April said. "Visitors learn a lot about the heart of a farmer when they come to visit us, which is something I hope they will take with them for the rest of their lives."

When visiting the farm, be sure to stop by the farm stand for products from Robertson Family Farm as well as other local products from surrounding farms, including hydroponic lettuce, grilled dishes, and pickles. We are proud of all that they are doing to further the agriculture industry in the Piedmont region of our state, and we look forward to seeing their agritourism continue to grow!

State forests offer educational and recreational opportunities

The N.C. Forest Service sustainably manages state forests across North Carolina. Many of them are open to the public and offer a variety of educational and recreational experiences. All state forests are managed for natural resource conservation with most providing the public access to expansive trail systems. With the N.C. Forest Service ushering in several enhancements and notable additions, the outlook for state forests in North Carolina is bright.

DuPont State Recreational Forest (DSRF), the state's most visited forest, encompasses 10,400 acres in Henderson and Transylvania counties between the towns of Hendersonville and Brevard.

With more than 40 miles of multiuse roads and nearly 60 multiuse trails servicing a variety of user groups, the N.C. General Assembly provided funding for DSRF to create and implement a master recreation plan.

The master recreation plan will include outlining the forest's recreational infrastructure based on input from user groups, trail density analysis, forest and wildlife management and natural resource preservation objectives. Among many upgrades, the master recreation plan will include new and extended trail segments, trail improvements and consolidations and recommendations for trail system management.

For the more than 1 million annual visitors to DSRF, the master recreation plan has been a subject of high anticipation.

The NCFS also operates a system

of seven educational state forests (ESFs) designed to teach the public, especially school children, about the forest environment.

Each ESF features self-guided trails that include exhibits, tree identification signs, a forest education center and the renowned Talking Tree Trail. Rangers who are specially trained in a variety of subject matters are available to conduct programs, compatible with teaching objectives listed in the N.C. Department of Public Instruction science curriculum, for school and other youth groups. Teachers or group leaders may choose from a selection of half-hour programs that cover all aspects of the forest environment including soil, water, wildlife, timber and forest management.

Located in Lincoln and Gaston counties, Mountain Island Educational State Forest continues to expand its education center set to open later in 2023. A picturesque slice of nature featuring abundant plant and animal life, Mountain Island ESF will feature classes and exhibits designed to educate school children, forestry professionals and the public about the importance of North Carolina's forest health.

In addition to the improvements being made to select state forests across the state, the N.C. Forest Service recently acquired an 848-acre tract in Stokes County from the Piedmont Land Conservancy, previously known as the "Shoebuckle" property, that will be known as Dan River Educational State Forest. In addition to its historical significance, Dan River ESF will serve as the home for a future segment of



The pond at Clemmons Educational State Forest in Clayton offers a beautiful and relaxing view.

the Mountains-to-Sea Trail as well as create the opportunity for a new river access on the Dan River State Trail. This acquisition will also protect more than a mile of forested buffer on the Dan River and almost two miles of tributary creeks, benefiting water quality downstream.

Another notable addition to the state forest network was the inauguration of Broyhill State Forest in Caldwell County. The result of a collaboration

among local residents, conservationist groups and state agencies, the more than 400-acre tract will help protect the Yadkin River Watershed and ultimately produce educational and recreational opportunities. With the acquisitions of Dan River ESF and Broyhill State Forest, the N.C. Forest Service now manages 13 forests across the state.

State forests continue to be a popular place for people from all walks of life to drop in, learn something new and

find peace in nature. Whether you're making memories while horseback riding at DuPont, stepping back in time through Tumbull Creek's Naval Stores Exhibit or walking through the enchanted forest at Bladen Lakes, rangers at North Carolina's state forests are ready to teach visitors something new about the natural resources that thrive in their areas while hoping to inspire others to treasure the outdoors.