

Bucolic briefs

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2019 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 1, in conjunction with a board of directors meeting of the N.C. Pork Council at the N.C. State University Club in the University Room, 4200 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh. All N.C. pork producers are invited to attend.

Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of the state and has paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to bring with them a sales receipt proving that hogs were sold in their name and the checkoff deducted. For more information, contact the N.C. Pork Council, at 919-781-0361, or 1401 Sunday Drive, Suite 116, Raleigh, NC 27607.

The Leonard-Mobley Small Farms Fund is seeking small farmers in Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Nash, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren and Wilson counties, including women in agriculture, to apply for a \$5,000 grant to assist with projects such as development or expansion of new sources of agricultural income on their farm. Grant applications are due July 1. The grant will be awarded Sept. 9 at the 5th Annual "Dinner in the Meadow" farm-to-fork feast held at Meadow Lane Farm near Louisburg. The dinner showcases local foods prepared by 10 North Carolina chefs. For more information, please contact Ranell Bridges, board member, at 919-495-1305 or email, lmsmallfarmfund@gmail.com. More information on the grant and the dinner can be found online at www.DinnerintheMeadow.org. The fund was set up in memory of two farm family members, with proceeds from the dinner, and live and silent auctions benefiting the fund. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at the website.

The N.C. Simmental Association will hold its annual meeting Aug. 31 at 6 p.m. at the Shuffler Sale Facility in Union Grove. For information, call the NCSA office at 336-468-1679 or email ncsa@yadtel.net.

The annual N.C. Simmental Association Fall Harvest Sale will be held at noon, Sept. 1, at the Shuffler Sale Facility in Union Grove. Simmental & SimAngus bulls, cows, pairs, bred and open heifers, and embryos will be offered for sale. For a sale catalog, contact the NCSA at 336-468-1679 or email ncsa@yadtel.net. Information is also available online at www.ncsimmental.com.

As a way to help farmers and agricultural workers stay safe at work, the N.C. Department of Labor offers safety videos on a variety of topics through its YouTube channel. Video topics include: preventing green tobacco sickness, hazard communication, tobacco harvester safety, heat stress, migrant housing requirements, forklift safety, and information about the NCDOL's Gold Star Growers program. The videos are in English and Spanish to increase understanding of safety hazards and preventing accidents. To learn more about the NCDOL and the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to www.nclabor.com or call 1-800-NC-LABOR (800-625-2267). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

Beekeepers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at www.ncagr.com/beelinked. The site is hosted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the N.C. State University Apiculture Program. Anyone interested in listing their information can do so by filling out an online Submit Your Ad form on the BeeLinked page or by contacting NCDA&CS at 919-233-8214 or by email at NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division regulates the movement of agricultural or related items capable of spreading harmful insects, diseases,

and other pests. Beekeepers participating in this program will be required to comply with all honey and bee industry regulations.

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.
