

Bucolic briefs

The N.C. Sheep Producers Summer Field Day will be held June 9 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Shepherds Gate Fiber Mills in Youngsville. The event features a mill tour, shearing demonstration and a vet presentation on raising sheep. Cost is \$10 per person or \$20 for a family. For more information, go to www.ncsheep.com.

The Catawba Valley Harvest Association will host its annual Harvest Show June 9 beginning at 10 a.m. at Sigmon Farm Park, 420 East N. St., Newton. The event features a working wheat harvest with vintage equipment that was common 75 to 100 years ago. The club will show visitors farming history in action. Activities include old-time harvest and farm demonstrations, wagon rides, pony rides and displays of threshing, draft horses, antique tractors, a steam tractor, steam engine, baler, binder, grist mill, Model TT truck and combines. For more information, go to catawbavalleyharvestassociation.com or contact Kim at 828-850-5808. The rain date for the event is June 16.

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.

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.
