

Two new regional agronomists hired

Two new regional agronomists recently joined the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Agronomic Services Division. Brandon Poole serves Alamance, Caswell, Durham, Guilford, Granville, Orange, Person, Rockingham and Stokes counties. Tyler Whaley serves Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender and Sampson counties.

Poole earned a bachelor's degree in plant and soil sciences with an agricultural business concentration from N.C. State University, and an associate's degree in field crops technology from N.C. State. He worked as a horticultural crops research operations manager at the Central Crops Research Station in Clayton, and as a research specialist with the N.C. State Small Grains Extension and Breeding programs.

"Poole's experience with field crops, horticultural crops and pasture management gives him a great background to work with the diversity of agriculture in this region," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "I know he will be a valuable resource for area farmers."



Brandon Poole

Whaley grew up on a family farm in Kinston that produced corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, sweet potatoes and tobacco. He earned a master's degree in crop science from N.C. State University and a bachelor's degree in agriculture science also from N.C. State, with minors in crop science and agricultural business management. He previously served as an agriculture extension agent for Wayne County.

"Tyler's hands-on experience on the farm, plus his work with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will serve farmers well," Troxler said. "I know he will be a knowledgeable resource for growers seeking to optimize crop nutrients and manage plant-parasitic nematodes."

Regional agronomists are part of the Field Services Section of the department's Agronomic Services Division. They provide advice on crop fertilization, nutrient management, lime needs, soil testing, plant tissue analysis, use of animal wastes and composts, nematode analysis, and testing of source water and nutrient solutions. To see the Field Services Section map, visit

<http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/documents/RAMAP.pdf>.



Tyler Whaley

Poole can be reached to arrange a consultation at 919-706-7000 or brandon.poole@ncagr.gov, and Whaley can be reached at 919-614-0240 or tyler.whaley@ncagr.gov.