

Agricultural REVIEW

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Raleigh, N.C.

Antique farm equipment wanted \$311 million allocated for ag disaster assistance

Antique farm equipment wanted

The Got to Be NC Festival will take over the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh May 16-18. 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.

For information on how to participate contact: Pat Short at patshort957@gmail.com or 336-706-9796.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

- April 1 for the May issue
- May 1 for the June issue
- June 2 for the July issue
- July 1 for the August issue

The application period is expected to open in early April for the \$311 million ag disaster program recently approved by N.C. lawmakers. The program focuses on crop loss.

"I want to thank the members of the legislature for approving the start of an ag disaster assistance program to help farmers statewide recover from the disastrous 2024 farm season in North Carolina. And, I thank the governor for quickly signing this important bill," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

The funds were allocated as part of a \$524 million spending package outlined in House Bill 47, which was signed into law by Gov. Josh Stein on March 19.

The 2024 Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program will be established by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to administer the funds. \$200 million is dedicated for farmers in Western

North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene, and \$111 million is set aside for farmers impacted by other agricultural disasters in 2024 in the rest of the state.

"I am especially grateful for the timing of this assistance because it will help farmers be able to put crops in the ground this season, something that many farmers were not sure could happen," Troxler said.

Immediately after the law was passed, the department began putting together the framework for the program. The program is anticipated to closely mirror the 2018 program established with relief funding for Hurricane Florence and other tropical storms.

Farmers seeking financial assistance for commodity loss will need to submit a Form 578, which is on file with the USDA Farm Service Agency. Because the bill specifies a 45-day window for reporting, farmers will need to get their materials together



Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler visited areas impacted by Hurricane Helene in 2024.

and apply for assistance quickly.

More information about the program and application process will be posted to the department's main webpage, www.ncagr.gov.

"We will continue to work with the

legislature on additional needs, as the bill noted the intent to consider more ag disaster assistance in the future. We are also seeking funding through a federal block grant through USDA," Troxler said.

Backyard flock in Dare County tests positive for HPAI

A backyard flock in Dare County has tested positive for High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI). The positive sample was identified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Raleigh. The flock has been depopulated to prevent spread of the disease.

This is the first confirmed positive in Dare County. In January, HPAI was found in two commercial turkey operations in Sampson County and a layer operation in Hyde County.

"It is likely that HPAI remains in our resident wild bird population and in migratory waterfowl, so reports of positive backyard flocks will likely happen on occasion," said Dr. Mike Martin, state veterinarian. "I encourage our commercial and backyard flock owners to continue to follow strict biosecurity measures and if your flock is experiencing a sudden higher-than-

normal mortality rate, report it right away to your local veterinarian or to the N.C. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Division at 919-707-3250."

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.

More information on biosecurity and the signs of HPAI can be found at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/AvianInfluenza>. If you have questions about migratory birds, hunting or wild waterfowl found dead on your property, visit the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's website at www.ncwildlife.org.

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

Last month in my column I mentioned the beginning of Spring and some of the on-the-farm activities happening at research stations across the state. The research stations do great work and are focused on the future in their efforts to help farmers produce more with fewer resources.

I'm going to stick to the Spring theme this month by highlighting some of the upcoming consumer-focused activities to look forward to at the nearly 1,000 agritourism farms

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

in the state.

Agritourism continues to thrive. In fact, the state saw a 28% increase in the value of agritourism from 2017 to 2022, according to the most recent Census of Agriculture.

I would guess two of the biggest factors behind that growth are that people are looking to make a deeper connection to where their food comes from, and they want to have experiences that are different than their own day-to-day lives. Agritourism farms offer both, plus you can have a fun time.

Every farm is different and offers different experiences to visitors. Some examples include farm tours, pick-your-own crops, farm-to-table dinners, photography sessions, school field trips, fishing, on-farm stays, flower arranging workshops, week-long summer camps, one-on-one animal interactions such as petting opportunities and goat yoga, and more.

The activities are only limited by the imagination of the owners and

it is interesting to see what different farms offer. To help people find on-farm-activities, you can go online at VisitNCFarmsToday.com or download the VisitNCFarms app to start exploring agritourism farms.

It is a great way for families to get outdoors and experience farm life or for grandparents to share memories and experiences from their childhoods

with their grandkids. I know my grandkids love being at my farm and I am glad they can have experiences like I did growing up. Agritourism farms can be found from the mountains to the coast.

Let this be your year to enjoy on-farm activities and support North Carolina agriculture!



Patterson Farm in Mount Ulla is one of many agritourism farms in North Carolina.

Agricultural Review

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Forest Service urging diligence, common sense when burning outdoors

With the arrival of the spring wildfire season in North Carolina, the N.C. Forest Service is urging residents to be diligent about using best practices and common sense with all outdoor fires, especially yard debris burns.

Western North Carolina counties dealing with significant storm debris from Hurricane Helene are especially vulnerable to wildfires due to increased fuel loading from downed timber.

“We reduce our wildfire risk by working together,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “When it comes to wildfire response this time of year, the N.C. Forest Service is at the ready, prepositioning resources as needed. We need you to be prepared and ready for wildfire. Understand that you’re not powerless when it comes to wildfire prevention and risk reduction. Everyone has a role to play, starting with making good decisions and planning ahead if you intend to start a fire.”

Escaped yard debris burns, often due to carelessness, continue to be the leading cause of wildfires across the state, accounting for nearly half of all wildfires in North Carolina. In general, human activity is responsible for 99% of wildfires, and spring weather tends to draw people outdoors to work in their yards with many choosing to burn as a method to dispose of leaves, limbs and other yard debris.

“Careless behaviors, such as burning on the wrong day, leaving a fire unattended, not staying with a fire until it is fully extinguished, can result in a fire escaping and becoming a dangerous wildfire that quickly threatens lives and property,” said N.C. Forest Service Assistant Commissioner and State Forester Greg Hicks. “Your N.C. Forest Service county ranger is a great resource for recommending best practices and guidance about when, where and how to burn safely outdoors.”

Before starting an outdoor fire, contact your local NCFS county ranger’s office. The N.C. Forest Service also offers the following tips:

- Check local burning laws. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours. Others forbid it entirely.
- Make sure you have a valid permit. You can obtain a burn permit at any N.C. Forest Service office or authorized permitting agent, or online at www.ncforests.gov/burnpermit.
- Keep an eye on the weather. Don’t burn on dry, windy days.
- Local fire officials can recommend a safe way to burn debris. Don’t pile vegetation on the ground. Instead, place it in a cleared area and contain it in a screened receptacle away from overhead branches and wires.
- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning. To control the fire, you will need a hose, bucket, steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Keep a phone nearby, too.
- Never use kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel or other flammable liquids to speed up debris burning.
- Stay with your fire until it is completely out.

These same tips apply to campfires and grills as well. Douse burning charcoal briquettes or campfires thoroughly with water. Drown all embers, not just the red ones. When soaked, stir the coals and soak them again. Make sure everything is wet and that embers are cold to the touch. If you do not have water, mix enough dirt or sand with the embers to extinguish the fire, being careful not to bury the fire. Never dump hot ashes or coals into a wooded area.

To learn more about fire safety and preventing wildfires and loss of property, refer to Fire Safety Outdoors. For information about creating defensible space and a fire-resistant landscape around your home and property, visit www.resistwildfire.org. Contact information for county rangers with the N.C. Forest Service is available online at www.ncforests.gov/contacts.

National Peanut Board accepting applications for research grants

The National Peanut Board is now accepting inquiries for its second annual request for proposals (RFP) for food allergy research grants. The call for applications is open through May 9, 2025.

This year, NPB has increased the total availability of grant funding up to \$550,000, which will be awarded to qualified projects designed to advance food allergy solutions.

Interested applicants can submit a Letter of Inquiry at <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/QdB6Oa>.

NPB prioritizes supporting groundbreaking research that drives significant impact in four key areas of food allergy with an emphasis on peanut: prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management. Health equity is a primary lens through which projects will be evaluated, and early-career researchers are encouraged to apply.

“Research is a critical part of achieving the ultimate goal of ending peanut allergy, for farmers and for families,” said NPB President and CEO Ryan Lepicier. “After the successful inaugural process last year, the Board supports expanded funding to build our knowledge, improve transparency and increase the variety of projects we fund.”

One grant recipient will be further recognized with the Dee Dee Darden Award, honoring the passionate spirit of one of NPB’s early chairmen.

With bold determination, Virginia peanut farmer Darden championed the thinking that if peanuts were part of the allergy problem, then farmers would be part of the solution.

Darden sought out groundbreaking allergy research for the National Peanut Board to fund, including the early work of Dr. Gideon Lack, which led to today’s early introduction guidelines for peanut allergy prevention.

“Since the inception of the National Peanut Board, our farmers have prioritized advancing research, education and awareness related to peanut allergies,” said NPB Chair and Georgia peanut grower Casey Cox Kerr. “We are committed to being part of the solution along with our core partners in the allergy community. As a new mom myself, I am very passionate about this initiative and proud to be part of an organization that has been at the forefront of tackling this challenge.”

Since 2001, the National Peanut Board has invested more than \$38 million in food allergy outreach and research.

NPB’s investment has contributed to landmark discoveries in peanut allergy prevention; the first FDA approvals of peanut allergy treatments; and best practices for allergy management in schools, foodservice and manufacturing.

The National Peanut Board represents USA peanut farmers and their families. Through research and marketing initiatives the Board is finding new ways to enhance production and increase consumer demand by promoting the great taste, nutrition and culinary versatility of USA-grown peanuts.

For more information about the Board, visit www.nationalpeanutboard.org.

N.C. peanut research helps farmers continue profitable production

When it comes to research related to peanuts in North Carolina, there’s a lot of ongoing work and not a lot being left out. That’s at least the viewpoint of Ivy Lanier who is the superintendent of the Peanut Belt Research Station, which is one of 18 research stations the N.C. Department of Agriculture operates in conjunction with N.C. State University.

The Peanut Belt station in Lewiston Woodville hosts several research projects, and Lanier says that research ultimately helps peanut farmers and the peanut industry – making North Carolina the third-highest state in U.S. peanut production.

“Putting our emphasis in peanuts that’s a number-three crop in the nation is a win-win for everybody, and it’s got to be a win for our farmers,” Lanier said. “We’ve got to be able to do the stuff our farmers aren’t able to do so that we can keep them ahead of the ballgame.”

Lanier breaks down the many different types of research into these four categories: breeding trials, agronomic trials, disease trials and entomology trials.

Breeding trials are where a lot of research is centered, Lanier said, and much of the breeding is aimed at increasing yields and/or resisting disease. The station has seed-increase plots, seed-increase nurseries, disease-resistance plots, insect-resistance plots and variety trials, which shows that breeding for new high-yield varieties often overlaps with other interests like



Peanuts from breeding trials at the Peanut Belt Research Station are harvested, bagged and tagged.

testing for disease or pest resistance or the planting and harvesting timeline of the varieties.

Lanier said researchers can work for many years in labs and greenhouses to develop new varieties that have certain desirable characteristics, and once they’ve refined those qualities into a variety, they’ll plant a few in a field on the research station to multiply their seed stock. Then they’ll repeat the planting the next season to increase their stock more.

“You’re looking at four or five years just to get where we’re at, to be able to even think about commercial release of a variety, and that doesn’t include the time that they put into breeding it before the field trials,” Lanier said.

An example is the Bailey II peanut. Researchers first developed a Bailey variety, and then researchers found a way to improve it more, which resulted in the Bailey II that is now a popular variety for North Carolina

peanut farmers.

Agronomic trials can be official variety trials, or they may test planting dates (early vs. late) or planting methods such as whether single row or twin row planting produces better results. Testing the effectiveness or application practices of peanut inoculants would also fall into the agronomic trials category. (Inoculants can help with growth while reducing fungus or root rot.)

Many times the trials involve multiple plantings on the research station and across multiple counties. Official variety trials test the yield of several different varieties to see how each variety performs each year, helping farmers determine which variety to plant.

“It’s to really help farmers see that the yields are there, kind of what they can expect on their farm in the coastal plain or the northeast (See Peanut research, pg. 6)

Enjoy strawberry season on Patterson Farm

Many families use strawberry season as a chance to get out on the farm and spend more time with each other. For 30 years, Patterson Farm Market & Tours in Mount Ulla has been offering agritourism events, including pick-your-own strawberries, that both entertain and educate consumers. Just as the farm continues to grow from generation to generation, so do the plethora of activities for visitors to enjoy.

Since the 1970s, the Patterson family has been growing strawberries on the family farm. Starting at a young age, Doug and his brother Randall worked on the family farm and developed a passion for the agriculture industry.

“The farm has always been hard work, but it has never been unenjoyable,” he said. “In fact, as a kid, we invited our friends to help



The farm has many family friendly attractions.

on the farm as well. Even though we were working, we were also having fun together!”

Today, Doug is the vice president of Patterson Farms, and his wife, Michelle, is treasurer. Randall serves as president and his wife, Nora, as secretary. Doug runs the operation alongside his brother, Randall.

“Farming has always been a family business,” he said. “We are a third-



Patterson Farm is located in Mount Ulla.

generation family farm, and we already have the fourth generation working on the farm with us.” Randall’s son, Taylor, and Doug’s daughter, Victoria, are back helping the family business.

Each year, strawberry season begins for the Patterson family around September or October with planting season. “Strawberries need water, but not on the outside of the berry,” Doug said, “so we plant berries with a drip tape running under the plastic as their water source.” The berries grow from then to late April before harvest begins.

This year, the Patterson family will harvest 75 acres of Camarosa and Ruby June strawberries for their consumers. “The weather plays a big role in strawberry production, both with harvest time and strawberry yields,”

(See Patterson Farm, pg. 4)

Bucolic Briefs

Save the date: Piedmont Regional Forage Conference. When: April 15, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Where: Yadkin County Extension Office, 2051 Agricultural Way, Suite 201, Yadkinville. What: Come learn about pasture herbicides, improved forages/seed mixes, drone technology with a pasture walk/plant species identification. Regardless of the livestock species you raise, this conference will help you better manage your pastures and forages. Register at <https://go.ncsu.edu/prfc25>.

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.

Trail at DuPont State Recreational Forest to see improvements

A popular trail at DuPont State Recreational Forest (DSRF) is undergoing improvements, resulting in a temporary trail closure. Improvements to the two and a half mile trail will accommodate the high level of recreational use while increasing trail sustainability, reducing erosion and protecting the water quality of nearby streams and creeks.

“We are excited to invest in this valuable trail for generations to come,” said Jane Dauster, recreation specialist for DSRF. “New features are being installed to help water drainage and several sections of rock armoring have been implemented to stabilize the trail surface, improving the entire trail.”

Rock armoring is a trail building and repair technique that uses natural stone to cover part of the trail surface, helping to maintain the character of the trails while simultaneously improving sustainability and protecting the environment.

“Improvements to Burnt Mountain Trail will protect the natural areas surrounding the trail while enhancing the

recreational experience for multiple user groups,” said Jason Guidry, forest supervisor at DSRF.

Burnt Mountain Trail will be closed to all users while the work is in progress. Forest officials anticipate work to continue through April 30. Visitors are encouraged to visit www.dupontstaterекреationalforest.com for the latest information about trail closures when planning a visit to DSRF.

Clemmons Educational State Forest (ESF) located in Clayton has entered the peak season for visitation, bringing about the shift to summer hours of operation.

Clemmons ESF has resumed weekend hours of visitation. Summer hours will remain in effect through Oct. 31.

During peak season, forest hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The forest will be open on Good Friday and Independence Day. The forest is closed on Mondays.

From the archives: N.C. strawberries make these desserts sweet

2025 marks the 100th volume of the Agricultural Review, the free newspaper published by the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. To celebrate, we’re taking a journey back in time. We’re digging out some old papers, dusting off their pages and looking back at what has happened in agriculture in the last 99 years. Each month, we’ll share an article, recipe or other piece of content “From the Archives” of the Ag Review. We can’t wait to see what we find!

In our 2025 content series, #DiscoveringNCAgriculture, we’re highlighting 12 commodities grown, or raised, in our state. Strawberries are the focus for the month of March.

Today, North Carolina is one of the nation’s leading producers of strawberries. Fresh North Carolina strawberries can be found at local farmers markets and pick-your-own operations across the state.

For many years, the Agricultural Review featured a recipe column written by the department’s home economist titled Tar Heel Kitchen. A Tar Heel Kitchen column originally published in the June 1, 1983, issue of the Agricultural Review suggests consumers take care in handling and storing strawberries.

“They should be stored for a short period of time, five to seven days maximum if fresh from the field,” wrote then-NCDA Home Economist Cynthia Higgins. “After



Fresh-picked North Carolina strawberries — like these from Patterson Farm in Rowan County — are perfect for these desserts.

a few days in storage, the berries will lose color, shrivel and deteriorate in flavor.”

Here are some other storage tips: do not wash or hull your strawberries until you are ready to use them; cool the strawberries promptly after picking; and keep strawberries stored between 32 to 40 degrees.

While classic strawberry desserts, such as ice cream, shortcake, pies and sundaes have stood the test of time, this 1983 article shared a few lesser-known desserts where strawberries shine.

Strawberry-Brownie Dessert

- Ingredients:
- 1 cup flour
 - ½ cup unsweetened cocoa
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 4 eggs
 - 1½ cups sugar
 - 1 cup butter or margarine, melted
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 2 pints North Carolina strawberries, rinsed, capped and sliced
 - 2 cups sugar
 - 1 small container whipped topping

or 1½ cups heavy cream

- Instructions:
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease two 8” round cake pans. Sift together flour, cocoa and salt; set aside. In a medium bowl, slightly beat eggs; stir in 1½ cups sugar and butter until well blended. Blend in flour mixture and vanilla. Pour into pans and bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Cool on racks. While cake is baking, sprinkle sliced strawberries with ½ cup sugar. Let stand at room temperature. To assemble cake, place one layer on plate, top with half of the strawberries and half of the whipped topping. Add top layer and remainder of strawberries, juices and topping. Serve immediately.

Strawberry Pleasure

- Ingredients:
- 19” graham cracker crust
 - 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
 - ½ can sweetened condensed milk
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 1½ oz. strawberry gelatin
 - ½ cup boiling water
 - 1 (10 oz.) package frozen strawberries
 - Fresh strawberries, optional

- Instructions:
- Beat cream cheese in a bowl until soft and stir in milk until well blended. Mix in lemon juice and spread over crumbs. Dissolve gelatin in boiling water, stir in strawberries and pour over

cream cheese mixture. Chill until firm. Serve topped with whipped cream and nuts, if desired.

Berried Bread

- Ingredients:
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 3 teaspoons cinnamon
 - 2 cups sugar
 - 2 cups fresh, sliced strawberries
 - 4 eggs, well beaten
 - ¼ cups oil
 - 1 cup chopped pecans

- Instructions:
- Sift dry ingredients into a large bowl. Make a deep well in the center. Combine the remaining ingredients and pour into well. Stir just enough to dampen all ingredients. Pour into two large loaf pans. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Strawberry Spread

- Ingredients:
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
 - ½ pint strawberries, washed & capped

- Instructions:
- Beat cream cheese and strawberries until creamy. Chill overnight to develop flavor. Makes 2 cups. Use for sandwich filling, fruit salad topping or on fruit breads.

NCTTFC grant to support UMO educational livestock facility

The University of Mount Olive (UMO) has received a \$1 million grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC) to support the development of a state-of-the-art Educational Livestock Facility. This transformative project will be located on the university's 79-acre farm on Shady Grove Road, just outside of the Mount Olive city limits. The facility will serve as a center for hands-on training, research and community engagement in animal agriculture.

"We are very glad to be able to partner with UMO on this outstanding project," said NCTTFC Executive Director William Upchurch. "It will not only impact the students, but the surrounding agricultural areas by providing transformative education and hands on resources."

The \$1 million grant will enable the completion of Phase 1, which includes constructing a 30,000-square-foot multipurpose training and livestock building. This facility will feature livestock handling areas, a training arena and classrooms to provide a unique multispecies educational environment. Students will gain valuable experience with cattle, small ruminants, equine and poultry, preparing them for careers in animal science, agribusiness, veterinary biosciences and agricultural education.

"The vision for this facility is to create a hands-on, real-world learning environment that benefits students, local farmers, and the

Patterson Farm

(Continued from pg. 3)

Doug said. "We pick to order on the farm, so it is very labor intensive, but worth it to give our customers the freshest product possible. Strawberries are also very perishable, so it's important that they be handled in a manner that preserves their shelf-life as much as possible."



Freshly picked and full of flavor.



Officials with the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and the University of Mount Olive are pictured at the future facility site.

agricultural community at large," said Dr. Sandy Maddox, UMO special projects coordinator. "Thanks to the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, this project will address critical workforce shortages in animal agriculture while promoting economic development in our region."

Shady Grove Farm Initiative: A Multifaceted Approach

The farm will feature infrastructure that emulates a working farm, including rotational grazing systems, wells and advanced fencing. This design supports educational opportunities for students and farmers, focusing on best management practices and farm diversification strategies. The facility will host:

- Certifications and Training: Artificial

insemination (AI), embryo transfer, veterinary continuing education and beef quality assurance

- Research and Demonstrations: Forage and ruminant studies, grazing schools and herd heritability projects

- Youth Engagement: Livestock fitting and showing workshops, FFA and 4-H competitions and hands-on animal care experiences

- Farmer Trainings: Diversification principles and strategies, market development and expansion options; and business models formulated to manage and reduce risk.

Phased Development and Long-Term Vision

Phase 1, expected to be completed by the end of 2025, will lay the groundwork for the initiative. Phase

2, planned for future development, will include a processing and sales facility and a companion animal handling center.

"The facility will not only enhance our current agricultural programs but will also expand outreach efforts to include farmer-focused trainings, applied research projects, and certifications," said Dr. Steve Matthis, dean of the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. "Our students and local producers will gain the skills and knowledge

will act as a hub for agricultural innovation, supporting the transition of farmers impacted by reductions in tobacco production to diversified farming operations. By demonstrating sustainable practices and offering certifications, UMO aims to strengthen the economic vitality of rural communities.

"This investment underscores the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's commitment to advancing agriculture and education in North Carolina," said UMO President Dr. H. Edward Croom. "We are grateful for their partnership in bringing this vision to life."

Established in 2000, the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission



The livestock training facility will serve as a center for hands-on training, research and community engagement in animal agriculture.

needed to adapt to changing market demands and opportunities."

A Model for Economic and Educational Growth

The Educational Livestock Facility

provides grants to support farmers, rural communities and agricultural enterprises transitioning from tobacco-dependent economies.

strawberries for wholesale distribution and consumer convenience, Patterson Farms also offers a variety of events throughout strawberry season to bring families out to the farm, including pick-your-own berries. "We always encourage people that want to pick their own berries to start by washing their hands," Michelle said. "Then we educate them on ways to pick the best berries, like pinching at the stem above the leaves, looking for berries that are red all over, and more. Once they have their berries picked, we always tell them to refrigerate them as soon as they get home and wash them before consumption."

Throughout the season, the farm also has a variety of fun games, rides, and activities for families to enjoy, including farm animals, educational programs, an ag-magination play town, ag-themed games, slides, hayrides and more! "We really take pride in creating a place where families can come and make lasting memories," Michelle said. "Many people make our farm a yearly tradition,

which generates a lot of pride for us as the producers." Make sure to visit the Farmers Market on-site during your visit to stock up on local produce from Patterson Farms, value-added items, ag-themed toys & books, ice cream and more.

Patterson Farms produce can be found on-site at the farm, as well as other retail locations across the state, including Food Lion, Lowes Foods, Walmart and the Hickory Lions Club. Their on-site market and online store are great spots to stock up on value added products like ice cream, jams, and jellies, farm merch, and other delicious items, like salsa. "We take pride in making products that customers across our state, and others, enjoy," Michelle said. "It's a lot of work, but when we see people come out to enjoy the farm and walk away with memories that will last a lifetime, even the hard days become worth it." Mark your calendars to visit Patterson Farms this strawberry season and enjoy local produce and life on the farm!

April AgroTips

Check your crop's sulfur needs.

Before planting, study your soil report carefully. Throughout North Carolina, soil levels of sulfur can be critically low. This plant nutrient moves easily out of the root zone in sandy coastal plain soils or sandy bottom lands in the western part of the state. In the piedmont, heavy clay soils may restrict root growth and limit access to sulfur reserves. Your NCDA&CS soil report indicates whether application of additional sulfur is necessary. If heavy rains occur early in the season, it is advisable to check sulfur levels again.

Use plant tissue and solution analyses to manage fertility of greenhouse tomatoes.

Tomatoes and other greenhouse crops benefit from intensive management. Have source water samples tested before nutrient solutions are mixed so you can identify and correct any potential problems. After mixing nutrient solutions, submit samples to make sure injectors are working properly and target concentrations are being achieved. Finally, collect plant tissue samples weekly to monitor the crop's nutrient status and adjust fertilizer rates accordingly.

Fertilize Christmas trees.

Each spring, apply 1/2 ounce of nitrogen uniformly over a 5x5-ft area around each tree. If trees were transplanted the previous fall and the potassium recommendation was 100 lb/acre or more, apply the remainder of the recommended potassium.

For effective bermudagrass sprayfield maintenance, remove winter annuals.

Harvest on time, even if weather is less than ideal. Remove the overseed at the "boot" stage of growth-prior to emergence of seed heads from the sheath. For rye, this is usually early April but varies with species and weather. In some years, follow-up harvests of the winter annual may be needed.

Early April is seldom a good time to dry hay in the field, so plan to remove the winter annual as chopped or baled silage. Timely harvest of the winter annual permits bermuda to emerge from dormancy and develop leaf area before summer annual grasses and weeds germinate. If annual ryegrass was sown, plan on multiple harvests. A herbicide may be warranted for heavy regrowth.

Submit soil samples for lawns and gardens (and some crops) now.

Now is a good time for horticulturists and homeowners to prepare for their spring gardening and landscape projects by taking soil samples. Warm-season grasses and many landscape plants will benefit from lime and fertilizer applied in the coming months. If you haven't already done so, there is still time to take samples from fields where you intend to plant late spring crops like burley tobacco, cotton, and bermudagrass pastures. In April, the lab can normally process samples within two weeks. When you receive your report, pay particular attention to lime recommendations and make application as soon as possible for maximum effectiveness.

Forest Development Program dollars available

Landowners interested in applying for cost share reimbursement funding through the Forest Development Program (FDP) should contact their local N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) county ranger's office or work with a consulting forester.

The FDP is North Carolina's flagship tree-planting program, helping eligible landowners implement a variety of forest stand improvement, site preparation and tree-planting practices. Applications must be submitted to the local NCFS county ranger's office for initial review. NCFS staff must then send eligible applications to the NCFS Headquarters during two enrollment periods.

Enrollment periods are as follows:

"Base Fund" and "Mountain Fund" enrollment periods will close May 30. "Plant-Only Fund" enrollment period will begin Sept. 1, and will close Oct. 31.

To be considered for funding, all FDP applications must be received at the NCFS Headquarters by the close of business on each of the closing dates. Landowners should apply as soon as possible. Allocation of funding will begin promptly after each enrollment period closes.

The number of FDP cost share funding requests continues to be significantly greater than available funding. To award funding, the NCFS Headquarters will continue to utilize a random-draw lottery. Available funding amounts are anticipated to be \$400,000 from the "Mountain Fund"; \$1.6 million from the "Base Fund"; and \$800,000 in statewide funding from the "Plant-Only" Fund.

Landowners may receive no more than \$10,000 in FDP cost share reimbursement funding per fiscal year, and they are not guaranteed to receive a full \$10,000 reimbursement payment, especially for projects that are completed under budget.

In existence since 1977, the FDP is currently funded by an assessment on primary forest products, along with state appropriations provided by the North Carolina Legislature. This partnership between forest industry, the NCFS and private woodland owners results in thousands of acres of North Carolina forests being improved and planted each year.

To find contact information for your local NCFS county ranger's office, visit <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/contacts>.

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

- April 7 Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
- April 11-13 Four Beats for Pleasure. Contact Roey Mobley, 910-540-8785.
- April 18-20 Cowboy Mounted Shooting. Contact Pamela Lohery, 540-570-8785.
- May 3 BBHA Open Show. Contact Jerry King, 910-237-4525.
- May 5 Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
- May 17-18 Carolina Paint Horse Association. Contact Lori Smith, 336-309-9470.
- May 31 NC Horse Shoers Association Event. Contact Guy Jones, 910-734-6824.

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

- April 3-6 2025 Martinganza Quarter Horse Show & Futurity. Contact Susan Daniels, 919-894-0600.
- April 12-13 NCHJA "C" Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.
- April 18-20 ECMHC Spring Fling Miniature Horse Show. Contact Kelly Joyner, 757-653-4980.
- April 26-27 April's Just Horsin Round Open Horse Show. Contact Elizabeth Tew, btw2@nc.rr.com.
- May 2-4 Southeast Youth Extravaganza. Contact Crystal Hyman, 252-903-9732.
- May 10-11 NCHJA "C" Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.
- May 15-18 NC Highschool & Jr High Rodeo Finals. Contact NC Highschool Rodeo Assoc., nch-srodeo@gmail.com.
- May 22-25 SERHA Carolina Classic. Contact Jesse Chase, 919-961-0440.
- June 7-8 NCHJA "C" Horse Show. Contact Bethanna Perry, 252-675-3017.
- June 12-15 Da Bomb Barrel Racing. Contact Josh Smith, 910-639-6387.
- June 21-22 June's Just Horsin' Round Open Horse Show. Contact Elizabeth Tew, btw2@nc.rr.com.

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

- April 4-6 Region 12 & 15 Arabian Show. Contact Jackie Daughton, 336-509-6113.
- April 11-13 Spring Holiday Classic. Contact Richard Isley, 336-908-3302.
- April 12-13 Finally Farm Horse Show Series (Barn E Ring). Contact Lesley Jenks, 919-280-8087.
- April 15 NCAFWA Equipment Rodeo. Contact Earl Manning, 910-890-9728.
- April 18-20 Spring Fling C Outdoors Show. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.
- April 25-26 Revenge Roughstock Rodeo. Contact Martin Towery, 540-581-4993.
- May 3-4 TWHJA May Days Show (Barn E Ring). Contact Kathy Wood, 770-845-9003.
- May 10-11 North Qualifying 4-H Show. Contact Morgan Maness, 336-342-8230.
- May 17-18 Southern States Academy Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.
- May 21-24 Southern States Regional Morgan Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.
- June 5-8 Tar Heel Summer Classic. Contact Shirley Lombardo, 919-362-4656.
- June 21-22 NCAHA Open Summer Extravaganza. Contact Jackie Daughton, 336-509-6113.

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

Durham organization brings ag back to old plantation site

When Delphine Sellars first saw the land where she'd revive agricultural activity, she felt an immediate connection. At that time in 2016, the old farmstead north of Durham had dilapidated structures tucked within years of overgrowth. It had been decades since the land had seen a plow. The old farm fields were anything but clear, but her vision was.

"I honestly said to myself, 'this is it.' Even with the state of deterioration that it was in. I said, 'this is it.' That was my word. 'This is perfect,'" Sellars recalled.

At the time, the land was part of a larger conservation plot owned by the Triangle Land Conservancy. Sellars was visiting the site with her sister Lucille Patterson, and they were looking to use the land for their organization Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN).

"I said, 'I'm at home. This is perfect,' and she asked me if I had bumped my head," Sellars said. "I said, 'no, I haven't. We're gonna do it. How can we do this and we got less than \$250 in the bank? I don't know, but it's going to be done.'"

That led to UCAN finalizing a land use agreement with TLC in November 2017. UCAN was simply allowed access and, with the help of volunteers, began clearing land and cleaning up in January 2018. Sellars and Patterson founded Catawba Trail Farm and Community Garden, bringing farming back to the land for the first time in more than 70 years, Sellars said.

Along with cleaning up the property, a small UCAN staff and many more volunteers have built and helped tend more than 45 raised bed gardens that are rented to members of the community. An old mill house has been renovated for office, classroom and meeting space. There's a greenhouse, an in-ground planting area, a small orchard, bee hives and a chicken coop. All of it helps UCAN fulfill its mission.

"The goal is to teach people to grow their own vegetables – how to cook them and can them too," Sellars said. "But the overriding benefit is increased wellbeing and health due to access to nutritious foods, outdoor spaces and a caring community and to increase food security."

It's a goal that's rooted in her childhood growing up on a vegetable farm in Washington, N.C. As an adult she became Durham County's first community outreach coordinator where she saw people unable to easily get fresh food. Then she became the county's Cooperative Extension director, which brought her back into agriculture. Her combined experience led to want to do more to help people.

"It occurred to me, if all you do is accept handouts from people, you're being controlled by other people. So you need to do for yourself as much as you can," Sellars said.



(Above) Delphine Sellars and Lucille Patterson are the founders of Urban Community AgriNomics. (Top left) The land is being farmed for the first time in 70 years. (Bottom left) UCAN's first building renovation focused on this old mill house.

"I've always felt personally that from the earth comes it all."

With that in mind, Sellars set out to create UCAN and aspired for it to also provide hands-on education in addition to fresh food.

On Jan. 11, 2024, the Triangle Land Conservancy gifted the land to UCAN, further securing the future of the Catawba Trail Farm. An onsite farmers market was added in 2024, and renovations of an old corn crib building are in the works. It's expected to expand educational offerings to young people while also providing a storytelling, presentation and meeting space for all generations. There are also hopes for a third building that would be a welcome center, museum and event rental space.

As an African American, Sellars said the farm brings feelings of coming full circle. She originally had no idea that the property had been a plantation where enslaved people worked the land prior to the Civil War. It was the Snow Hill Plantation, which was founded in 1763 and later became part of the Stagville plantation that covered 30,000 acres.

"It made this property more valuable to me than I would have ever known when I walked on it [that first time]," Sellars

said. "I look at it as that's where the descendants of enslaved are benefitting from the legacies that were left to us, which is agriculture – not because we have to, but because we want to.

"We see the benefits of the knowledge and skills that are associated with agriculture."

With many more plans on the horizon – additional land clearing, lumber cutting, an expansion of the orchard and the building plans – Sellars can't help but keep an eye to the past as she looks to the future. After all, the first day she saw the land isn't the only time it's spoken to her.

"It's almost like a voice within me, when I found out that enslaved people worked here, a voice pretty much said to me, 'what took you so long?'"

TLC works to permanently conserve land and has worked with NCDA&CS Farmland Preservation Division on some projects. TLC and the division have partnered on 17 agricultural conservation easements in Chatham, Johnston and Wake counties, preserving over 2,000 acres of working farms and forests in the Triangle.

Peanut research

(Continued from pg. 2)

or the southeast or whatever counties they're in," Lanier said."

For other types of agronomic trials like testing twin row methods, the goal is to see what planting methods or other factors may produce better peanut crops.

"It's to see if you can get a yield increase. Is it worth the extra expense? Is it worth the time?" Lanier explained. "For example, depending on which part of the country you're in, I think twin row planting is bigger in some areas than it is others, but you know, that's important to the farmer. [They want to know] 'do I go twin rows? If I go twin rows, is it going to cost me money, and will I get a yield increase?' So that's kind of the reason we do it."

Other agronomic trials aim to answer similar questions. Essentially, will planting, growing or harvesting any particular way produce the best results? The research is helping figure out the answers.

Disease trials may be a bit self-explanatory. They look at application timing of fungicides, application rates, new fungicides, how well fungicides work on different diseases and so forth.

Lanier said some research tests whether disease prevention applications should begin in July or August, for example, or whether six applications are sufficient for a season or whether eight applications are shown to work significantly better.

"Are we better off to have that fungicide in the plant a little bit quicker to stave off some [disease]?" Lanier asked, as he provided examples of questions some disease trials aim to answer. "What is the best fungicide to spray and the timing of



A farmer sprays a peanut field.

application? And does this fungicide go before the next one?"

Lanier explained that peanuts benefit from multiple applications throughout the season, so in addition to figuring out which order to apply the different options, some disease trials also aim to figure out the optimal timing between applications. Others may look at the amount of fungicide that is needed to

prevent or treat problems that could destroy a peanut crop.

Entomology trials focus on bugs or other pests that could eat up a crop and dramatically reduce yields. Some pesticides have been eliminated from use because of regulations while others have become less effective.

So entomology trials aim to figure out which pesticides are current options for effectiveness. They examine whether the peanuts seeds benefit from being pre-treated with an insecticide or what the best method of application may be to target harmful insects. Again, Lanier offered up some examples of questions that the research tries to answer:

"If we have an industry standard but now a new option has been introduced, is it as good as the current standard? Is it better than that? Is the price break okay? If it's a lot more money, does it do a good enough job to say, hey, this one's better than that one?" Lanier said. "And they'll do it across different varieties. You know, a lot of it's also based on varieties and treating them the same. And rates as well. Do we put five pounds out or can we get by with four or three or two? For the ones that we've been using, are they still working as good as we hope they work – is it still working or still better than the new one?"

Ultimately, the research aims to figure out the best options for growing peanuts – doing the testing so that farmers don't have to experiment themselves, which could waste their money and time.

"These are the nuts and bolts that keep our peanuts safe and keep North Carolina ranked third in U.S. peanut production," Lanier said. "If we can keep production up, that's pretty good for the amount of acres we have in eastern North Carolina producing peanuts.

"I think the future is bright for peanuts. I think they're putting a lot of emphasis on peanuts, and I think the next steps will be good. Even just last week we were doing some shelling, and some of the varieties that they're looking at are getting good numbers [for yield]. So we'll see what the future holds, and in the next couple of years we may even have new varieties coming out."

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.

FARM EQUIPMENT

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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.

5-frame nucs, avail around 4/21, \$180 + box deposit; 10-frame colonies in your equip., \$240; all state inspected. Rick Brown, Mooresville 704-310-6553, do not text.

Spring clover honey, pure, \$15/qt. Shelly Carwile, Lincolnton 704-748-3258.

Equipment For Sale

1975 Farmall Cub, 1 pt, cults, GC, paint fair, no decals, new rear tires, \$3,200. Lonnie Owens, Statesville 704-657-4000.

FARM EQUIPMENT

JD 3032E tractor & loader, 260 hrs., \$19,000. Charles Waddell, Lexington 336-309-6603.

NH BR740A rmd baler, EC, stored under shelter, twine-tie, \$12,000. J. Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

9400 combine w/920F header, field ready, low hrs., shed kept, \$22,000. Harden Phipps, Julian 336-446-6817.

80" disc harrow, 20 x 18, iron knuckles w/mods, \$1,600; carry all w/removable Rubbermaid dump cart, \$1,500; Craftman integral single plow, \$200; 9-shank tillage tool, \$800. Steve Yarborough, Lexington 336-225-1301.

King 28-disc harrow, T-T, \$1,400; 3 pt 1-row cult, \$250; 5 ft. bush hog, \$625. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

Tye no-till drill, 7 ft., EC, \$2,725; Lely 3 pt spreader, \$1,025; Bush Hog offset harrow, hvy duty, good discs, \$1,850. Edward Lewis, Gibsonville 336-516-2632.

2018 NH T4-100, 4wd, cab over dual ports, 190 hrs., computer ready, \$50,000. Timothy Rowe, Spring Lake 910-584-0059.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1994 Ford 4630 tractor, EC, 1,653 hrs., new rear tires, \$12,500. Marvin Hill, Lexington 336-764-2244.

1960 MF 35, gas, 3 pt, good motor, \$4,000. Pat O'Brien, Fayetteville 910-488-2777.

(2) Roanoke auto tobacco harvesters for parts, \$2,000 ea.; (4) Roanoke 126 rack barns, \$1,000 ea. David Pace, Archer Lodge 919-553-7593.

Hay spike, 3 pt, GC, \$150; 3 pt scoop pan, GC, \$200; (2) spring tooth harrows, GC, \$200; (6) new plow shares, \$90. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

JD 307 bush hog, 6 ft., \$500; JD 2-14 plow, \$250; 3-16 plow, \$350; IH 3-16 flip plow, \$500; 4 ft. poultry fan, \$250. James Isley, Julian 336-263-1958.

Old, shed kept equip, IH drill, McCormick 3 pt slab saw, JD pull combine, updated w/JD manual, Volta tobacco stringer w/BS gas eng, \$1,800/all. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

Aerator plugger/wgts for riding mower, w/top & wheels for sidewalk, \$200. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

JD 915 moco, flail type, needs repair, \$2,299 obo. Jerry Beatty, Sherrills Ford 828-478-2768.

FARM EQUIPMENT

52" mower deck for Gravely 812-816 model mower, needs new belt & blades, \$125. Dodd Linker, Clemmons 336-712-2484.

JD M frames, \$300; JD 40 frame, \$500; misc. JD M, 40, 420, 1010 parts, \$5 & up; JD 140 H3, \$750. Guy Hiniker, Oxford 919-815-0268.

Pasture drag, 10 ft., \$500. Dale Blackwelder, Mocksville 336-655-9154.

1 set ag tires & wheels for 4 Series compact utility tractor, from 50hp tractor, VGC, \$1,800. Craig Poole, Raleigh 919-801-3661 call/text.

AC D-10 front wheel & tire, \$50. Dale Pardue, Hamptonville 336-468-2038.

Hay spear, 3 pt, \$145. Jan Sawyer, Winston-Salem 336-816-6248.

JD deep subsoiler, 3-shank, hvy duty Cat. 2, VGC, field ready, \$1,950. Bob Lee, Hillsborough 919-819-4482.

Irish potato digger, 3 pt, 1-row, pto, \$1,000; MF 3 pt chisel plow, spring-loaded tine, \$800; 225 gal. flat bottom tank/hoses/pump, \$1,200. Wade Pridgen, Rocky Point 910-512-4408.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Tricycle tractor, fair, been sitting, \$2,000; JD D-170 riding mower, 100 series, 25hp, 185 hrs., not zero cut, \$2,400. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782 or 514-0547.

Track pads, 18 in., may fit Cat., \$25 ea.; 412 scrape parts, \$10-\$500; JD 40/M parts, \$5-\$500. Cecil Lamm, Nashville 252-904-8503.

NH 451 sickle mower, GC, (2) extra sickles, \$1,800; Ford 515 sickle mower, GC, extra sickle & parts machine, \$1,700. Tim Clodfelter, Winston Salem 336-416-0224 or 414-1587.

Berry Hill RB448 plastic mulch layer, used very little, \$1,800. Clay Smith, Burlington 919-671-8744.

Berkeley irrig. pump, model 2-1/2 YP, 15hp, 230V, 3-phase, 3" intake, 2-1/2" discharge, \$2,250. Ted Sherrod, Kenly 919-201-8779, call/text.

Subsoiler, 3-shank, hvy duty, made by Poplarville Mfg., GC, \$1,200. Todd Brown, Ramseur 336-318-5131.

NH 848 rmd baler w/computer box, GC, \$3,000 obo. H.A. Stogner Jr., Norwood 704-438-1169, call/text.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1-row corn picker, \$1,800; 271 sq baler, \$1,200. Wayne Brown, Concord 980-260-9179.

JD 900 HC diesel w/cults & tiller, \$6,500; 20 Gang disc, \$800; 3 pt sprayer w/pto, \$400; 12-panel rnd pen wrt gate, \$1,400. Ed Haley, Siler City 919-357-3702.



Equipment Wanted

IH Cadet 75 riding mower, white fiberglass "bathtub" body, 7hp Briggs eng, must incld 32" mowing deck, no junk pls. Drew Waller, Salisbury 704-213-1587, call/text.

Intl T340 or TD340 track machine, parts or whole machine. David Willis, Elk Park 704-852-2379.

NH 1012 Stackliner, working cond. Brad Embry, Thomasville 336-906-1315.

AC HD6E dozer, must be E series; preferably running or can be running. Larry Hudson, Mebane 919-928-6086.

Skid steer, preferably T870, T770, JD 333, Cat 299, or Takeuchi 12V2, 10,000 lbs. or greater, any cond. Ray Loflin, Greensboro 336-493-6509.

IH 274 offset tractor w/cults; Case IH 265 offset tractor w/cults. Shawn Prater, Kernersville 336-769-6019 or skprater1@gmail.com.

NH 257 hay rake, 3 pt, good working cond. Larry Lyerly, Gold Hill 704-213-0590.

JD 15x34 rim w/8 loop attach., part # AL82377. Bob Lee, Hillsborough 919-819-4482.

Farm wagons, log carts, steel wheel tractors, buggies. Dave Blackwood, Greensboro 336-317-0831.

Flat belt tractor driven farm equip. Randy Hall, Elizabeth City 252-330-2294.



Farmland Wanted

Farmland to hunt feral hogs, will sub-lease current hunting lease just to shoot hogs. Mark Waller, Durham 919-225-4305.



Farm Labor For Sale

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

Will trap or kill ground-hogs in crops or other farm settings, must be w/in 30 mi of Asheboro; trapping requires depredation permit, \$20/trip. Roger Wilson, Asheboro 336-465-3457, farm243@outlook.com.

Elect. fence box repair, \$20. Bobby Nichols, N. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.



Hay & Grain For Sale

Mixed grass hay, 4x5 rnd, stored in barn, \$30. Jim McCuiston, Summerfield 336-580-7999.

Fescue hay, spring cut, horse quality, 4x5 rnd, \$55/bale; sm sq, \$7/bale. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

Coastal Bermuda hay, 4x4 rnd, horse quality, stored under shelter, \$40 & \$45/bale. Dan Lancaster, Pikeville 919-222-6853.

Coastal Bermuda hay, good quality, clean, dry, cut this season, stored under shelter, 4x5 rnd, \$50/bale. Linwood Vick, Wilson 252-885-0819.

Orchard grass/fescue, 4x5 rnd, horse quality, under shelter, no rain/weeds, \$45/bale; mixed grass, 4x5 rnd, under shelter, no rain, \$35-\$40/bale; local deliv avail, 10 or more discount. J. Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

Mixed grass hay, 4x5 rls, around 800 lbs., stored under shed, \$60/rl; stored outside, \$50/rl. Lance Bass, Spring Hope 252-478-3169.

2024 mixed hay, no rain, min. purchase 25 bales, \$6/bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

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

2024 horse quality Coastal Bermuda hay, less than 100 bales left, \$7.50/bale. Gary White, Sanford 919-775-9769.

Orchard grass fescue, rnd bales, \$50; orchard grass, sq bales, \$7; cow hay, rnd bales, \$35; lrg qty discount. Johnny Sowers, Lexington 336-239-3020.

Horse quality hay, deliv avail., \$45/rl. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

Horse quality hay, 5 ft., \$60/bale; 4 ft., \$40/bale. Virginia Rubino, Lincolnton 704-241-3734.



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.

Pasture board, suitable for sr. horses, barn w/sheltered paddocks, run-in, rnd pen, 2 feedings/day, ref. avail., owner/mgr. on premises, \$325/mo. Mary Ann Harville, Siler City 919-742-5053 or 545-4239 cell.

Pony cart & complete pony harness, \$350. Jan Sawyer, Winston-Salem 336-816-6248.



Livestock For Sale

Charolais bulls & heifers, purebred, polled, gentle, reg sires, 7 mos & up, \$1,500 & up. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

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

Fainting goat bucklings & doelings, most MGR eligible, \$300-\$650. Amy Hall, Sanford 919-946-9942, fotwfarm@gmail.com.

Nubian nannies & Nubian x Boer nannies, 2-5 y/o, \$250-\$300 ea.; Pygmy nannies, 2 m/o-4 y/o, \$125-\$150 ea. M. Sharpe, Denton 336-241-2752.

Polled Hereford bull, \$275/lb.; polled Hereford heifer, \$275/lb. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

Reg Nubian buck, ADGA, dob 2/5/24, \$400. Robert Wallace, Charlotte 704-941-0268.

Boer percentage nannies, 2-4 y/o, bred 12/24, \$300-\$400 ea. Jennifer MacDonald, Turkey 910-533-3042 or text 385-6466.

Santa Gertrudis cattle, 6 m/o, \$1,000 & up; breeding bulls, \$2,000 & up; pairs, \$3,000 & up. Charles O'Bryant III, Reidsville 336-908-0276.

Simmental & SimAngus herd bulls, blk, polled, bred for calving ease, muscle, growth & disposition, \$3,000-\$4,000. William Pyle, Franklinton 919-215-5677.

Fainting goat kids, healthy, different colors, bucks, dob 5/17/24, \$100 ea.; does, dob 11/19/24, \$125 ea. Dodd Linker, Clemmons 336-712-2484.

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

(4) Nigerian/dwarf bucklings, 3-4 m/o, blue eyes, vaccs/worming up to date, \$125 ea. Cindy Tucker, Greensboro 336-580-0984.

Open yearling heifers, ready to breed, 1/2 Blk Wagyu x 1/2 Blk Angus, \$3,000 ea.; meat goats, Boer/Spanish crosses, does, kids, young bucks, \$300/up. Martha Mobley, Louisburg 919-495-1305.

Reg Angus bulls, ready for service, bred for calving ease & efficiency, good feet & disposition, recent breeding soundness exam, \$4,000; heifers avail. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 919-444-5307.

(5) Blk Angus heifers, (1) bull, dob 7/8/24, \$1,300 ea. Ed Haley, Siler City 919-357-3702.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

California, silver California, Bluescales, Gambel's; 8 breeds bobwhite; partridge, Philby, chukar, Hungarian, \$6 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-888-0213.

POULTRY FOR SALE

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

Peacocks, males/females/chicks, \$25 & up. Richard Simmons, Tabor City 910-640-7114.

Cedar bluebird houses, handmade, \$12. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.



Poultry & Supplies Wanted

Game chicken hens, good for setting eggs & great mother hens, in Greensboro/Summerfield area. Dan Royster, Greensboro 336-338-2609.



Seeds & Plants For Sale

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.

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

Limber cob corn seed, NC tested, 99.84% pure seed/95% germination, \$8/lb.; purple martin gourds, various sizes, \$2 & up. Roger Brackett, Casar 704-538-8893.

Sorghum cane seed, freezer kept, not treated for weeds or grasses, \$12/lb. Larry Stout, Waynesville 828-400-1550.

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



Supplies For Sale

Cedar poles, 40-60 ft., all heart, \$35; fuel tanks, 2,000 gal., \$1,500; 4,000 gal., \$2,000. Miles Little, Midland 704-791-1438.

New & used water pumps, \$200; water barrel, GC, \$200. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

Generac generator, 6,500w, 13hp, \$500. Dale Blackwelder, Mocksville 336-655-9154.

Walnut slabs, 1 1/2" thick, 8"-20" wide, 10.6' long, \$10/ft.; hickory boards, 1 1/2" x 16-24" wide, 12' & 14' long, some live edges, \$5-\$7/ft. Bobbie LaRue, Kernersville 336-624-6254.

FARM SUPPLIES

Myers shallow well pump, 1hp, w/regulator, EC, \$175; cast iron wash pot, 20- gal., EC, \$125. Jack Matthews, Charlotte 704-846-1903.

Plastic barrels, solid top, 15/35/55 gal., \$10 ea.; water totes, \$75; feed barrels, \$20; burning barrels, \$10. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782 or 514-0547.

3-panel cement fence, approx. +/- 200 ft., \$3/ft. Tommy Sink, Lexington 336-250-4234.

Walk-in cooler, 8x12 ft., free-standing, w/CoolBot controller, ready to assemble, \$10,000. Eva Sigmon, Ellenboro 828-429-2688.



Supplies Wanted

Turner tobacco stick cutter, made in Statesville. Randy Hall, Elizabeth City 252-330-2294.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

2003 cattle/stock trailer, 16 ft., middle gate, rubber mats, plywood on inner side walls, GC, \$5,000. Ron Miller, Vale 828-320-0365.

1994 Ford Ranger, 256,000 mi, auto, 2wd, GC, \$2,500. Wayne Dickerson, Ruffin 336-552-6284.

Willys Jeeps, 2A, 3A, M38-A1, \$500-\$25,000; pto, \$1,000; Allstate 1/2 cab, \$350; 134 eng, \$350 & up. Al Moore, Hamlet 910-417-1756.

1985 Sierra Classic 3500 dump truck, VGC, 8 ft. Fontaine bed, 62,180 mi, 454 eng, new tires, belts, hoses, radiator, \$22,500. Steve Plott, Concord 704-782-2778.

Flatbed gooseneck trailer, 20 ft., 14,000# GVW, low profile, spare tire on rim, compartment btwn gooseneck, toolbox, EC, \$6,400. Craig Poole, Raleigh 919-801-3661, call/text.

2023 Calico stock trailer, 16 ft., gooseneck, never used, \$9,450; equip. trailer, 20 ft., 7 ft. wide, 12,000 GVW, \$5,750. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

2024 Calico stock trailer, bumper pull, 16 ft., cut gate, \$8,750. YD Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

Gooseneck horse trailer, 16 ft., good tires, \$3,000 obo. H.A. Stogner Jr., Norwood 704-438-1169, call/text.

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 X, formerly known as Twitter.

Discovering NC Agriculture: The joy of strawberry season

Discovering NC Agriculture is a year-long series focusing on 12 N.C. grown, raised, caught, and made commodities. Tune in each month to see how an N.C. commodity is grown, harvested, packed for consumer use and more. Learn nutritional value, find fun recipes to try, hear from local chefs who use that product, and other unique commodity facts throughout the series. We look forward to helping you better understand some of our N.C. commodities and how they impact your everyday lives!



Rudd Farm is an agritourism farm in Greensboro run by the Rudd family (left).



Strawberry season is one that brings many North Carolinians excitement and joy! Matt Rudd, fourth-generation farmer at Rudd Farms in Greensboro, shares in the anticipation and buzz around strawberry season each year. Growing 17 acres of Ruby June and Albion strawberries, the Rudd family knows a lot about planting, growing and harvesting the best strawberries for the community.

For many families, strawberry season begins in late March or early April. For a farming family, however, strawberry season begins in late September or mid-October. "The growing season for strawberries works a little differently than other crops across our state," Matt said.

"We begin planting berries around early October. They will grow for a while in the fall, but once winter weather hits, they will go dormant until springtime." Spring weather, specifically warmer temperatures, will trigger strawberry plants to begin blooming and producing fruit. Matt and his family use both drip tape and row covers to ensure their berries are protected from frost and receive adequate water supply throughout the growing season. The time from planting to harvest each year, however, is highly dependent on the weather.

Typically, Rudd Farms will start harvesting strawberries around mid-April each year. An average strawberry season will last eight weeks, according to Matt, but can last longer depending on temperatures and rainfall. "Once

harvest starts, strawberry supply is a lot like a bell curve," he said. "The harvest starts off slow, then picks way up around May and dwindles back down as the season comes to a close." Once temperatures hit the upper 80s and 90s, strawberry plants shut down and stop growing. "Our family has been growing strawberries for many years and we love it because it kicks our season off right at the farm," Matt said. "There is an excitement in the air and buzz around the community as strawberry season approaches. We see many customers out at the farm and get to watch them enjoy the products that we work so hard to grow each year."

Strawberries from Rudd Farms can be purchased at their farm store on-site. In 2024, the Rudd Family

renovated their farm store, so customers can look forward to an all-new layout and design this year! The store will be open Monday through Saturday during the growing season, which for Rudd Farms is typically mid-April until the end of October. In addition to strawberries, they harvest many delicious produce items, including greenhouse tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli and more.

"We take pride in growing a variety of products for everyone to enjoy," Matt said.

Rudd Farms was started in the early 1900s as a tobacco farm in Guilford County. Until the early 2000s, the farm specialized in tobacco and wheat. It

wasn't until the big tobacco buyout that the family decided to diversify their crop production and began growing strawberries. Today, the Rudd Family grows 17 acres of strawberries and 50 to 60 acres of other produce items, and maintains several greenhouses for vegetable production. Be sure to visit them this year and try their produce -- especially their strawberries -- for yourself!

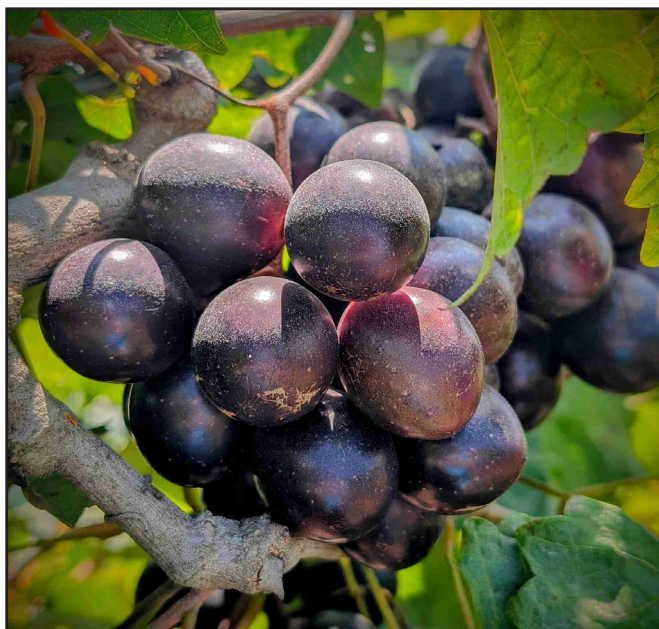
Turning strawberries into wine at Woodmill Winery

Strawberries are used to make many delicious value-added products across our state, including jams, jellies and wines. Since 2001, Larry Cagle has been producing high-quality wines at Woodmill Winery in Vale. Although they are most famous for their muscadine wines, Woodmill Winery produces a variety of blends and seasonal flavors for customers to enjoy each year, including strawberry wine.

In 2001, Larry Cagle started Woodmill Winery with approximately 100 vines of muscadine grapes. "It takes five years to reap fruit from a vine," Larry said, "so, the doors of this winery didn't open until 2006." From then until now, the winery has grown to over 40 acres with approximately 3,500 vines producing 12 varieties of muscadine grapes! "We experiment each year with new muscadine varieties, some that work out in our favor and some that don't," Larry explained. "Today, we harvest 12 varieties, including Ison, Tara, Dixie Red, Nesbit, Carlos, Noble and Scuppernong."

Each of these varieties produce a unique flavor profile that allows Larry and his team to create 49 different wines, including those made with other local fruit products. "We partner with farmers in our area to utilize local blueberries, blackberries and strawberries in season," Larry said. "After purchasing the fruit from them, we bottle and ferment the wine at our facility."

Any wine produced at Woodmill Winery, whether muscadine or other, starts with fermentation for seven to 10 days. Directly following fermentation, the wine is pumped to get the fruit skins out before it is placed outside in containers for three months. "By placing the wine outside to cure for three months, we decrease the amount of tartaric acid," Larry said. After three months, the wine is brought in for racking and set aside for six months. Before it is bottled and sold, the wine will be sent through the racking process two more times and aged for three years. "Our process ensures the best quality wines for our customers," Larry said. From start to finish, the process of planting and harvesting fruit and turning it into wine takes eight years! "People don't understand how patient we have to be throughout this process, and how the wine can change from year to year," Larry said. "No year on the farm is the same, meaning no harvest is the same. We



Woodmill Winery is most famous for its muscadine wines.

get to experiment every year to ensure our customers get to enjoy all their returning favorites, as well as some new ones."

With nearly 50 varieties of wine, Larry and his team created a process to help customers easily decide which one is right for them. "We are the only winery in the nation that keeps all their customers due to the fact that we create four versions of each wine," Larry said. "For example, let's say a customer comes in and really enjoys the Red Muscadine, a sweet red wine. Six months down the road, they



The seasonal strawberry wine is also a favorite among patrons.

may decide that wine is too sweet for them. Instead of going to another type of wine or another winery, we have three other versions (semi-sweet, semi-dry and dry) that they can cycle through from year to year." Even though all of their wines are delicious, the three best sellers at Woodmill Winery are the Red Muscadine, American Jubilee and Golden Scuppernong.

Whether you're after the seasonal strawberry wine or a fresh muscadine wine, products from Woodmill Winery can be purchased at a variety of locations across the state, including on-site at the vineyard, Food Lion, Ingles Markets, Harris Teeter and more.

Also be sure to visit the winery for yourself to enjoy a wine tasting, festival, live music and other fun events! In fact, mark your calendar for the upcoming Strawberry Wine Festival & Vineyard Blessing, taking place on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will feature local vendors, food, live music, bounce houses, and, of course, strawberry wine. See you there and keep drinking local all year long!