

# Agricultural REVIEW

Volume: 100 - No. 2 February 2025 Raleigh, N.C.

## On the Horizon

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Spring Sale is scheduled for March 20-23 at the Holshouser Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

In its 22nd year, the event offers a space to buy and consign equestrian-related items: saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing, barn supplies, carts, horse trailers and more.

Consignors may drop off priced, tagged items March 18 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., or March 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact Lynn Beeson at 336-362-6248 or Tanya Wright at 540-977-1950 for more information.

## Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

- Feb. 3 for the March issue
- March 3 for the April issue
- April 1 for the May issue
- May 1 for the June issue

## Recovery at center of 2025 Ag Development Forum

The 19th Annual Ag Development Forum is slated for early February and will feature Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler's annual State of Agriculture address, an economic and policy outlook, and disaster panel discussions.

The forum will be held at the Governor Holshouser Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6. The event occurs annually in conjunction with the Southern Farm Show, a free event that will be held at the fairgrounds Feb. 5-7. For more information, visit [www.southernshows.com/sfs](http://www.southernshows.com/sfs).

At this year's forum, leaders will reflect on the challenges 2024 brought for agriculture and look toward the future of the industry.

Hurricane Helene caused significant damage in the western part of North



Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, right, speaks at the 2024 Agricultural Development Forum.

Carolina, and Eastern North Carolina was affected by drought and storms like potential Tropical Storm 8. A

roundtable discussion will focus on recovery efforts and feature farmers and industry leaders from across the

state who have seen the impacts of these disasters firsthand.

The panel is set to feature Kirby Johnson of Flavor First Farms in Henderson County, Jimmy Cowan of N.C. Farm Bureau and WNC Communities, Jerry Moody of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Avery County Center, and Steve Griffin, a farmer from Eastern North Carolina. Commissioner Troxler will lead the conversation.

This talk will underline the scope of the hurricane's impact on agriculture in the mountains of North Carolina and explore how communities and organizations can best support farmers through the long recovery process.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information and to register, go online to <https://www.ncagr.gov/agforum>.

## Commercial layer operation tests positive for HPAI

A commercial layer operation in Hyde County has tested positive for High Path Avian Influenza. The disease was first identified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Raleigh and then confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

This is the first case of high path avian influenza in commercial poultry in North Carolina since February 2024. Prior to this case, North Carolina has had 11 affected commercial flocks and eight backyard flocks.

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.

"Since 2022, HPAI has impacted more than 130 million birds across all 50 states," said State Veterinarian Mike Martin. "With HPAI being pervasive in some wild bird populations and the recent cases around the country, all flock owners, commercial and backyard, should remain vigilant with their biosecurity. If your birds are sick or dying, report it right away to your local veterinarian, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division, 919-707-3250, or the N.C. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System 919-733-3986."

More information on HPAI in general and a listing of all N.C. cases since 2022 is online at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/AvianInfluenza>.

## From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

I am hopeful this will be a better season, but I know many farmers across the state are hurting right now and some are facing really tough business decisions.

At the forum, Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman, the Hugh C. Kiger Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at N.C. State University, will provide his take on the economic outlook for 2025. We will also hear from a panel of North Carolina farmers and extension staff to talk about the current state of recovery in Western NC and in Eastern NC.

It is important that we keep attention focused on recovery and the statewide agricultural losses if we are going to be able to secure any kind of disaster assistance, which is one of priorities this year.

We will also announce the 2025 Exporter of the Year during the program, which is a highlight for me.

And, to wrap up the program,

I will provide my take on the state of agriculture and top priorities for 2025 through a Q&A conversation with Dann Miller, host of the Ag In NC podcast.

For anyone who attended in 2024, you may remember we switched up the format a bit for the State of Ag address and we are keeping that format this year. At the end of the program, lunch will be served.

Please go to our website to register to attend. It is free to attend, but we need to know how many to expect.

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The start of the year is when many commodity meetings are held, and I encourage you to make plans to attend yours to get the latest updates and information. We have seen a number of announcements from EPA and FDA that could have big industry impacts.

This year is off to a fast start already – a layer operation in Hyde County tested positive for high path avian

influenza, FDA released a proposal to limit the amount of nicotine in cigarettes, EPA announced a study on PFAS findings in sludge used for fertilizer, and a new USDA Agriculture Secretary will be sworn in.

Staying up to date on the latest in agriculture is always important, but it will be especially important for everyone involved in agriculture today.

We desperately need Congress to pass a new Farm Bill that includes disaster assistance and I would encourage you to contact your Congressional representatives asking them to help get this done.

Support N.C. farmers.

Buy Local!

# Agricultural Review

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Steve Troxler  
 Commissioner

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# Dozens of flood-reduction projects to launch in 2025 through StRAP

With about 280 projects approved across the state, the new year will bring visible on-the-ground progress in the effort to reduce flooding in North Carolina communities. The projects remove stream debris and sediment, restore eroding stream banks and repair dams and other flood-control structures through the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP), which is overseen by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The N.C. General Assembly allocated nearly \$19.5 million to the NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation to oversee the program. An additional \$4.7 million in funding has come from the Department of Environmental Quality's Flood Resiliency Blueprint.

"This fall we awarded grants to 111 local governments, Soil and Water Conservation districts and nonprofits for these projects, and I know these communities will be better for it," said Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler. "Some of them were awarded funding for multiple projects, which brought the total planned projects to around 280. Work on 25 projects is already complete, and our Soil and Water Conservation Division is currently in the process of finalizing the remaining contracts so we can help the local entities move forward with engineering and stream work in the coming year."

This is the second round of funding for StRAP – with the initial allocation in the budget appropriations bill for

the 2021-2022 fiscal year – and projects completed from the first round have already proven beneficial. From Hurricane Helene in the west to Tropical Storm Debby in the east, local leaders reported improved drainage and less flooding in areas where StRAP projects were completed.

"No amount of preparation would have prevented Helene's catastrophic impact. However, stream debris removal completed through StRAP had a positive impact during this event," said Mark Byrd, the director of the Mitchell Soil and Water Conservation District. "The district is now moving forward with StRAP funding to further remove debris located in other streams and floodways of Mitchell County."

The planned projects are in 72 counties and 15 of the state's 17 river basins. A count of projects by county is below. More details about StRAP and a complete listing of projects can be found at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/programs-initiatives/strap>.

"We look forward to working with our partners in Soil and Water Conservation districts, local governments and other entities to make this second round of StRAP another success," said David Williams, director of the NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation. "We are committed to making their communities more resilient to flooding."

# \$1.5 million in grants awarded for agricultural research

The N.C. Department of Agriculture's Research Stations Division recently awarded \$1.5 million in grants for agricultural research. The funded projects aim to boost new crop production or involve innovative research to advance the agricultural economy in the state.

Since 2013, the General Assembly has allocated funding for special agricultural research – first through the Bioenergy Research Initiative and then later with an expansion to include the New and Emerging Crops Program in 2018.

The program's mission is to identify potential new crops, value-added products and agricultural enterprises and provide the agricultural research, marketing support and education necessary to make the new crops or products commercially viable and profitable for North Carolina's growers and agribusinesses.

This year the program mission expanded again to include Innovations to Advance the Agricultural Economy.

"I continue to be impressed by our state's agricultural researchers, and I'm happy to support their projects with these grants," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "I'm also happy that our state's research stations provide a platform for most, if not all, of these projects to move off of the page and into the dirt. By investing in these research projects, we are investing in possibilities for this state that could pay dividends for our state's farmers for many years to come."

Below is a list of grant amounts, recipients, titles and descriptions for each of the projects awarded through the 2024-25 New and Emerging Crops Program:

•\$51,511 to N.C. State University's Department of Horticultural Science to fund the project titled "Carolina Peas – Double -cropping Enablers" for two years. An increase in demand for livestock and pet food creates an opportunity for farmers to ramp



**Sesame research recieved funding through the newly formed Innovations to Advance the Agricultural Economy program.**

up production of legume grains. The project goal is to improve farm income by enabling a double-cropping system based on peas (the main ingredient in plant-based foods) grown during the winter. Researchers will be testing varieties that could fit that production system, generate economic analysis of that double-cropping system and develop new genotypes for early harvest, disease resistance and high yield potential.

•\$75,000 to NCSU's Department of Horticultural Science to continue a project titled "North Carolina Grown Chinese Medicinal Herb" for two years. Phase One of the project demonstrated that high quality annual and perennial herbs can be grown in western North Carolina and that there was strong interest from several herb buyers in the area. In Phase Two, the project will engage more farmers in growing the herbs in highest demand and facilitate the selling of those herbs to the developing network of buyers. Goals are to expand propagation and field production studies and help growers refine post-harvest handling and packaging techniques. With an emphasis on quality, research will assist the farmers in creating a reputation among buyers as the source for high

quality, domestically produced Chinese medicinal herbs.

quality, domestically produced Chinese medicinal herbs.

•\$125,936 to NCSU's Department of Crops and Soil Sciences for a new two-year project titled "Expanding Alternative Grains in North Carolina." To support North Carolina farmers who are looking for grain markets to diversify their on-farm earnings, research will evaluate seashore black rye production as an alternative grain for the food and beverage market, plus develop certified seed production avenues for this and other potential cover crops. Goals are to develop an education program to include heirloom rice, seashore black rye, sesame for food use and malting barley grown on salt-water intruded soils. As cover crops and alternative grains expand in acreage, it is important to be ready with best management practices for each crop, have certified seed production and provide education to end users to keep the markets of these grains strong and growing.

•\$118,303 to continue the project titled "Carolina Super Teas" for two years. Caffeinated drinks, including tea, yaupon and yerba mate (collectively called teas), are the most widely consumed beverage on the planet. There is considerable potential for the

genetic enhancement and development of both yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) and tea (*Camellia sinensis*) as improved specialty crops for North Carolina. Recent work on developing cold hardy tea has been successful, surviving 0 F. Next steps are to systematically evaluate selections and hybrids for cold hardiness, regional adaptability and metabolic profiles (including caffeine and theacrine). The overall goal of this project is to develop new North Carolina crops (*Ilex* and *Camellia*) for next-generation super teas and extracts, with traits for both commercial production and landscape plants.

•\$100,000 to NCSU's Department of Horticultural Science to fund "Advancing Tea Production in North Carolina" for two years. This project is complimentary to Carolina Super Teas with the theory that with North Carolina's favorable climate, similar to tea-growing regions in Asia, there is a great opportunity to grow tea locally. Researchers will study how to propagate, grow and fertilize different types of tea plants and explore environmentally friendly ways to manage pests. By the end of the project, growers will have access to information on how to grow high-quality tea while using sustainable farming practices.

•\$100,000 to NCSU's Department of Crops and Soil Sciences Science to fund "Hemp Grain and Seed Production" for one year. Fiber hemp acreage is steadily increasing in North Carolina, and farmers have voiced concern over high input costs. This project will develop fiber hemp seed production practices that will bolster local seed supply and reduce farmer input costs. Additionally, this project will develop preliminary grain hemp production recommendations.

Listed below are the projects awarded funding through the 2024-25 newly formed Innovations to Advance the Agricultural Economy:

•\$119,459 to NCSU's Electrical &

Computer Engineering Department's project titled

"Automatic AI-based Nematode Counting System" for one year. Traditional methods for nematode detection and identification are labor-intensive and time-consuming, as lab staff members manually count these pests under a microscope. Automating this process would enhance efficiency, reduce the workload for technicians and provide farmers with timely and precise information for crop management decisions. The goal of this project is to create a fully automated artificial intelligence counting system that integrates seamlessly into the existing technician workflow. Results from scanning will be integrated into the technicians' databases, streamlining their processes without adding additional steps to their workflow.

•\$147,415 to NCSU's Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering for a two-year project titled "Cooling Mat Evaluation on Sow Performance." Farrowed sows are comfortable in a temperature range of 61 to 72 F. High temperature reduces the sow's reproductive performance, lactation, and hence, the weight gain and future performance of her litter. However, her piglets need a cozy 77 F or higher during farrowing. The NCSU Sow Mat is a stand-alone, closed-loop system that uses Peltier modules to cool the recirculating water that cools the sow without cooling the atmosphere for the piglets. Three sows on functional mats will be compared to three sows on dummy mats over three farrowings on a farm in eastern North Carolina. The sows and their litters will be monitored until weaning. Mat performance (temperature, electricity use, coefficient of performance), sow performance (respiration rate, core temperature, feed consumption, weight change, body condition) and litter weight gain will be compared between the two treatments.

(See Research, pg. 4)

# Fourteen stores pay fines following price scanning errors

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Standards Division fined 14 stores in 12 counties for price scanning errors during the final quarter of 2024.

"Our Standards Division remained committed to protecting consumers across the state," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Our inspectors continue to find errors among price scanners at stores in the state, and consumers should be mindful. Take time to check your receipts and notify store managers if you find an error."

The department conducts periodic, unannounced inspections of price-scanner systems in businesses to check for accuracy between the prices advertised and the prices that ring up at the register. If a store has more than a 2% error rate on overcharges, inspectors discuss the findings with the store manager and conduct a more intensive follow-up inspection later. Undercharges are also reported, but do not count against a store. Consumers who would like to file a complaint about scanner errors they encounter can call the Standards Division at 984-236-4750.

Penalties are assessed if a store fails a follow-up inspection. In addition to the penalties paid, the store will be subject to reinspection every 60 days from the last inspection until it meets the 2%-or-less error rate. Additional penalties may be assessed if a store fails reinspection.

Following are civil penalties recorded in the fourth quarter of 2024:

(Wake) Advance Auto Parts at

7201-100 Glenwood Ave. in Raleigh paid \$1,005 in the fourth quarter after failing two inspections earlier in the year. A January 2024 inspection of the store found a 30% error rate for 15 overcharges in a 50-item lot. A follow-up inspection in March 2024 found an error rate of 8.33% for 25 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in May 2024.

(Scotland) Advance Auto Parts at 1216 South Main St. in Laurinburg paid \$420 after inspections in February 2024 and March 2024 found error rates of 5% and 4%, respectively. The store passed inspection in May 2024.

(Forsyth) Circle K at 1400 Union Cross Road in Kernersville was fined \$1,895 after failing inspection in October 2024. The inspection found an error rate of 9% for nine overcharges on a 100-item lot. An initial inspection in May 2024 found a 12% error rate for three overcharges on a 25-item lot, and an August 2024 inspection found a 6% error rate for six overcharges on a 100-item lot. The store will be reinspected.

(Lee) Dollar General at 2650 Lee Ave. in Sanford was fined \$1,305 after failing inspections in October 2024 and November 2024. The initial inspection in October found a 14% error rate for seven overcharges on a 50-item lot. The November follow-up inspection found a 3% error rate for nine overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.

(Hyde) Dollar General at 34230 U.S. Hwy. 264 in Engelhard was fined \$1,710 after failing inspections in September and October 2024. The initial inspection in September found an error rate of 14% for seven overcharges on a 50-item lot. The follow-up inspection in October found

an error rate of 4% for 12 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in December 2024.

(Forsyth) Family Dollar at 1425 Woughtown St. in Winston-Salem paid \$5,000 after failing an inspection in September 2024. An initial inspection of the store in November 2022 found an error rate of 22% for 11 overcharges in a 50-item lot. Follow up inspections in January, April, June, August and October 2023 and January, March, May, July and September 2024 found error rates ranging from 4.33% to 13.33% on overcharges in 300-item lots. The store passed inspection in November 2024.

(Union) Family Dollar at 7907 Idlewild Road in Indian Trail paid a total of \$15,000 in fines in quarter four of 2024 for failed inspections. The store has previously paid fines in 2023 and early 2024 following failed inspections. An inspection in June 2024 found an error rate of 6.33% for 19 overcharges on a 300-item lot. An inspection in August 2024 found an error rate of 6.67% for 20 overcharges on a 300-item lot. An inspection in October 2024 found an error rate of 5.67% for 17 overcharges on a 300-item lot. Fines for these failed inspections – \$5,000 each – were paid by the store in October and December 2024. The store will be reinspected.

(Mecklenburg) Family Dollar at 4005 Sunset Road in Charlotte paid \$8,070 in fines in quarter four of 2024 following two failed inspections. A July 2024 inspection found an error rate of 4.33% for 13 overcharges on a 300-item lot, and the store was fined \$4,070. A September 2024 inspection found an error rate of 4% for 12 overcharges on a 300-item

lot, and the store was fined \$4,000. The store paid both fines in October 2024. The store passed inspection in December 2024.

(Alamance) Family Dollar at 2206 West Webb Ave. in Burlington paid \$6,965 in fines following two failed inspections. The store paid thousands of dollars in penalties in 2024 following multiple failed inspections dating back to November 2023. In July 2024, an inspection found an error rate of 5% for 15 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store paid the \$3,360 fine in October 2024. Another inspection in October 2024 found an error rate of 3.33% for 10 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store was fined \$3,605, which it paid in December 2024. The store will be reinspected.

(Mecklenburg) Family Dollar at 4455 Central Ave. in Charlotte paid \$4,575 following two failed inspections. A September 2024 inspection found an error rate of 4.67% for 14 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store was fined \$1,895 following that inspection, which it paid in October 2024. A December 2024 follow-up inspection found an error rate of 4.33% for 13 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store paid a \$2,680 fine following that inspection. The store will be reinspected.

(Camden) Family Dollar at 115 U.S. 158 in Camden paid \$2,430 after failing inspections in 2024. An initial inspection in July 2024 found an error rate of 10% for five overcharges on a 50-item lot. A follow-up inspection in August 2024 found an error rate of 3.67% for 11 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in October 2024.

(Columbus) Family Dollar at 1138

South Madison St. in Whiteville paid \$6,320 in fines after failing inspections. An initial inspection in July 2024 found an error rate of 14% for seven overcharges on a 50-item lot. An August 2024 inspection found an error rate of 8% for 24 overcharges on a 300-item lot, resulting in a \$2,385 fine. An October 2024 inspection found an error rate of 6.67% for 20 overcharges on a lot of 300 items. The store paid a \$3,935 fine following that inspection. The store will be reinspected.

(Gaston) Family Dollar at 2559 West Franklin Blvd. in Gastonia was fined \$3,665 after failing inspections in September, October and December 2024. The initial inspection found overcharges on five out of 50 items – an error rate of 10%. The follow-up inspection in October 2024 found an error rate of 8% for overcharges on 24 items on a 300-item lot. An inspection in December 2024 found an error rate of 3.67% for 11 overcharges on a 300-item lot. The store will be reinspected.

(Surry) Speedway at 912 East Atkins St. in Dobson was fined \$1,905 after a failed inspection in November 2024. An initial inspection in October 2024 found an error rate of 36% for nine overcharges on a 25-item lot. A follow-up inspection in November 2024 found 11 overcharges on a 100-item lot – an error rate of 11%. The store will be reinspected.

# From the archives: Peanuts add a crunch to these cheesy dishes

2025 marks the 100th volume of the *Agricultural Review*, the free newspaper published by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and 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, Discovering NC Agriculture, we're highlighting 12 commodities grown, or raised, in our state. Peanuts are the focus for the month of January.

North Carolina ranks third in U.S. peanut production. According to the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association, there are more than 650 peanut growers in the state.

In 2024, more than 127,000 acres of peanuts were planted in North Carolina, largely across central and eastern counties. In 2022, Martin, Edgecombe, Halifax, Pitt and Northampton counties ranked highest in peanut production in the state. That year, Martin County alone produced more than 46.6 million pounds of peanuts.

For many years, the *Agricultural Review* featured a recipe column written by the department's home economist titled Tar Heel Kitchen. Flipping back through some old issues of the paper, there are a number of interesting (if not entirely questionable) peanut recipes.

Originally published in the Feb. 15, 1977, issue of the *Agricultural Review*, is a Tar Heel Kitchen column featuring an odd combination: peanuts and broccoli. The peanut broccoli casserole recipe was fitting for the year as former President Jimmy Carter had just taken office. The 39th president of the



A recipe for Peanut Broccoli Casserole was featured in a 1977 issue of the *Agricultural Review*.

United States, who died in late December 2024 at 100 years old, was a peanut farmer from Georgia.

### Peanut Broccoli Casserole

- 2 packages (10 ounces each) frozen chopped broccoli, cooked and drained (\*\*or use fresh if in season)
  - 1 can cream of chicken soup
  - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
  - 1 cup chopped N.C. salted peanuts
  - ¼ cup mayonnaise
  - ¼ cup onion
  - 2 N.C. eggs, beaten
  - 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- Mix together all ingredients except cheese. Pour mixture

into greased casserole dish. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

The April 1, 1989, issue of the *Agricultural Review* also featured a peanut recipe.

"Regardless of how you eat your peanuts, they are full of nutrition – from protein, thiamine, riboflavin and phosphorus to iron, potassium, niacin, fiber and no cholesterol!" wrote then-NCDA Home Economist Barbara Minter.

It would seem the combination of peanuts and cheese stood the test of time, with this issue listing a recipe for homemade cheese sticks with peanuts.

### Hot Peanut Cheese Sticks

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (half a 17 ¼ oz. package)
- 1 ½ cups grated sharp cheddar cheese (about 6 ounces)
- 1 ¾ teaspoons crushed red pepper
- 1 egg white
- 1 ¼ cup finely chopped roasted peanuts

Let sheet of pastry thaw for about 20 minutes. Unfold pastry sheet onto a lightly floured board; roll into a 15 x 18-inch rectangle. In a small bowl, stir together cheddar cheese and crushed red pepper. Sprinkle mixture onto pastry, lightly pressing mixture into pastry. Cut sheet lengthwise into three strips, 5 x 18 inches each. Cut each strip horizontally into pieces about 1-inch wide. Holding each piece at opposite ends, twist into spiral. In a small bowl, beat egg white until frothy. Brush each twist with egg white and roll in chopped peanuts. Place on ungreased baking sheet and bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes or until brown. Yields: 54 twists.t

# UNC-Chapel Hill's live mascot lives on this Bicentennial Farm

As of Nov. 8, 2024, Rameses, the live animal mascot for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been around for 100 years, but that's relatively recent history for the farm where he lives. When Rameses debuted at a VMI vs. UNC football game in 1924, Jimmy Carter was five weeks old. Ace Hardware had just been founded in Chicago two weeks earlier, and commercial radio broadcasting was still in its early days with the first radio program broadcast from a presidential convention taking place just months earlier in June 1924.

It may not have been clear at the time, but UNC's live mascot would become part of a farm northwest of Chapel Hill that has been in the Hogan family for 252 years – since 1772. That's nearly two decades before the university or the town of Chapel Hill were even founded, and it easily makes the farm part of the N.C. Department of Agriculture's Century Farm and Bicentennial Farm programs.

How Rameses came to be UNC's mascot living at the Hogan farm is an interesting, but somewhat murky, origin story. The obvious connection is that a Hogan family member was on the football team in the 1920s and/or another Hogan was still involved with the team after graduating. There are plenty of places to find summaries of the story, but the most researched yet succinct explanation may come from a UNC University Communications article published in 2020, which gathered details from university archivist Nicholas Graham.

There's certainly more to the history of the Hogan farm though. So, here's a brief story of how the farm came into the Hogan family, followed by a few other interesting



**When Rameses XXII isn't on the sidelines of a UNC football game, he's in his barn on the Hogan farm.**

facts from the farm's history:

According to county deeds and an online NCPedia.org summary, in the 1750s, Major Thomas Lloyd acquired 2,655 acres of land in Orange County through various means, including two land grants from Earl Granville, the purchase of land and a land grant from the state of North Carolina. Beginning in 1772 and then later during the American Revolution (1775 – September 3, 1783), he sold hundreds of acres to two of his sons-in-law who were Hogan brothers Colonel John Hogan and Daniel Hogan. Since Lloyd remained a loyalist to Britain, he found himself in an uncomfortable position following the Revolution, and he feared his land and property would be confiscated. So three years after the Revolution ended, he conveyed the rest of his remaining land and property to the Hogan brothers who in turn leased it back to him for “an annual rental of sixpence silver.”

“Since he must have been worried his land was going to be taken away, he basically gave it to his daughters and

their husbands so they could keep it in the family,” explained Chris Hogan, a descendant of Daniel Hogan who grew up working on the farm.

1. The evolution of the Hogan family farm included a dairy and a sheep herd. (And yes, Rameses was part of the herd – sort of.)

A summary of the farm timeline compiled by Chris Hogan and his wife Jane says, based on a will in 1786, the Hogans' farm had hogs, horned cattle, horses, sheep, chickens and goats. The summary also mentions corn, tobacco, cotton and other crops. Essentially, just like many other people in that time, farming was about subsistence for the family for more than a century.

The farm took on a more official feel after another descendant Henry Clay Hogan died in a farm accident in 1926. His four sons – Glen, Jack, Henry Saunders and Hubert – and his brother Arthur decided to pull together and form Lake Hogan Farms. They began a dairy in 1930, and that dairy became the main operation for the family farm, continuing until 1995.

Along with the dairy, there were various farm animals including a small sheep herd, Chris Hogan and his cousin Don Basnight said. When Rameses came to live on the farm – possibly as soon as 1924, but certainly by 1936 – he just became part of an already varied collection of farm animals.

“I think what's happened over the years is the land has shifted or pieces have been sold, but the core of the family has basically held it together through these various permutations of business model and land design and whatever, and it's still shared land. It's undivided interests in a lot of ways – so still joint family effort,” said Ann Leonard who was married to Chris and Don's cousin Rob Hogan Jr.

Rob died in 2010, three weeks after he fell off his tractor and was seriously injured. After the dairy closed in 1995, a residential community was developed on most of the dairy farm

live mascots came from a state agricultural research farm, but it's unclear if it lived at the Hogan farm.

According to that University Communications article from 2020, the first Rameses mascot died “before making a return to Kenan Stadium for 1925.” (By the way, a 2024 video from the university points out that the first mascot was labeled “The Battling Ram” or “Buckaneer.”) “While some reports say that Rameses lived with the Hogan family – the current caretakers – others say he was living in Caldwell Hall under the care of students,” according to the article. The second mascot also died after a year, and there was no live mascot for several years after those two deaths.

In 1933, Carolina got Rameses III from a state test farm in the Pender County community of



**From left, Don Basnight, Chris Hogan and Ann Leonard sit at the farm.**

land, but Rob had spent time and attention raising grass-fed beef cattle on some of the remaining land. The farmland now is mostly leased out for hay production.

2. Records show that one of the

Willard, according to the article. (The official name of the test farm was eventually established as the Coastal Plain Research Station.

**(See Rameses, pg.5)**

## Millions awarded to NC manufacturers, processors

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced the second round of awards from the North Carolina Agricultural Manufacturing and Processing Initiative. These \$6.6 million in awards focus on the expansion of current operations to use more North Carolina farm products and reduce costs and burdens for North Carolina farmers and growers. These six projects benefit peanut, rice, barley, and cucumber farmers and livestock growers.

These awards bring the total of NCAMPI grants awarded to \$19 million, exhausting funds available for the program.

“Our farmers and growers need more options close by to process and distribute their products,” Troxler said. “These NCAMPI products will increase farmer opportunities, reduce their costs, and result in more North Carolina jobs and private investment. I'm appreciative of the confidence the General Assembly placed in the department to administer this new initiative and look forward to continuing support to meet the strong demand and obvious need for the program.”

NCDA&CS administers the NCAMPI program with funding provided by the General Assembly to increase North Carolina agricultural manufacturing and food processing capacity.

Following are the December 2024 grant recipients and projects, in alphabetical order by county:

- Mt. Olive Pickles of Duplin County -- \$3 million for pasteurizer
- Sandy Land Peanut of Hertford County -- \$1,319,652 for peanut processing
- Tidewater Grain of Pamlico County -- \$180,000 for grain storage bins
- Harpley's of Randolph County -- \$642,000 for meat processing
- Carolina Malt House of Rowan County -- \$750,000 for malting barley
- Phinite of Sampson County -- \$750,000 for fertilizer manufacturing

For the latest information on NCAMPI, go to <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/marketing/ncampi>

## Research

(Continued from pg. 2)

-\$100,000 to NCSU's Department of Horticultural Science for a three-year project titled “Evaluation of Novel Native Nursery Shrubs.” Recently, North Carolina passed the Native Plants Policy, which requires that native plants be used for landscaping state-owned or funded landscapes. However, nurseries frequently struggle with limited options of marketable cultivars and no propagation or production protocols. This proposal aims to evaluate and pre-breed four under-domesticated North Carolina native shrubs to be the next native nursery crops.

-\$149,376 to NCSU's Department of Animal Science for a three-year project titled “Generating Populations of Feed Efficient Cattle.” Utilizing an electronic feed and water monitoring system (Vytelle Sense) to determine nutrient intake, residual feed intake can be calculated to select offspring that eat less without sacrificing growth performance. The goal of this proposal is to develop genetic parameters and reproductive tools for generating feed-efficient cattle in North Carolina. Data collected during this project will allow us to identify a means to advance the efficiency of propagating superior animals within a herd and enhance the sustainability of the beef industry.

-\$150,000 to NCSU's Department of Horticultural Science to fund the project titled “Innovation to Manage Invasive Strawberry Disease” for two years. A new invasive pathogen, *Neopestalotiopsis* sp, called Neo-P for short, causes severe disease and significant losses to strawberry crops where the disease occurs. This proposal has three goals. First, field experiments will be conducted to evaluate the relative susceptibility or resistance of 32 lines. This will offer short-term information on lines suitable to grow in North Carolina. Second, the state's strawberry breeding program has identified 288 lines that

will be screened using a marker for resistance developed in Florida. Resistant selections will be incorporated into a breeding program to develop a long-term solution. Finally, strains will be collected and characterized to enhance knowledge of the pathogen and identify strains best suited to screen plants bred for resistance.

-\$150,000 to NCSU's Department of Crops and Soil Sciences to fund a two-year project titled “Using Sesame to Reduce Nematode Populations.” In addition to being drought tolerant, unappealing to deer and requiring low input, a preliminary on-farm study showed that sesame can result in in-field nematode populations reducing by 81% to 97%. Researchers will investigate sesame's impacts on nematode populations more rigorously to determine impacts within a season compared to a susceptible control as well as if these impacts carry over to the subsequent year's crop. Ultimately, this project will help develop crop rotation guidelines that include sesame as a means to sustainably manage soil nematode populations.

-\$93,000 to OsRostrum, Inc. for a two-year project titled “Validation of iPhone Hoof Phenotyping Platform.” The PhIT platform is a fully automated mobile phenotyping technology that provides objective measurements of the structural traits of livestock to inform breeding and management decisions. Lameness is pervasive within U.S. dairy and beef herds and has massive consequences on the health and profitability of these cattle. To help breed and manage sounder cattle, hoof traits are the first morphometrics module on the PhIT platform. The goal of this project is to conduct validation work needed to further the adoption of this technology in genetic evaluation pipelines. Researchers will conduct statistical measurement system analyses to show that PhIT traits are more accurate and repeatable than visual scoring scales.

# Rameses

(Continued from pg. 4)

Archive photos and documents can be found here, here and here. The Willard station is no longer in operation, but it's less than ten miles from the Williamsdale Farm Extension Research Center.) Rameses III lived for three more years. It's not until 1936 that solid records confirm UNC's live mascot lived on the Hogan family farm. By that time at least, there was likely the aforementioned herd of sheep to join. Perhaps the live mascots had been splitting time between students on campus and the Hogan farm since 1924. It's just hard to say without solid records on the topic.

3. The Hogan farm brought electricity to the area, plus establishments to support the rural community.

"I think one story that shows the richness of our history is what Granddaddy [Henry Saunders Hogan] did with the rural electrification grant. My understanding is that he secured the first federal rural electrification grant in the nation – to pull electricity from what UNC was producing on Cameron Avenue and bring it up to here on Lake Hogan Farm," said Basnight.

The running of electricity into the area helped get the dairy into significant production. It led to a great expansion of electricity. By 1950 more than 1,500 farms in Orange County had received electricity thanks to the Hogans' initial efforts, according to the book



A silo stands in the residential development that was once the Hogan family dairy.

Orange County, North Carolina 1752-1952. Then Henry Saunders Hogan worked to start a local livestock market and processor, a bank, a farmers co-op and a dairy cooperative.

"They formed a co-op because they needed a place to buy material for the farm, so they started Central Carolina Farmers exchange, which eventually became FCX and is Southern States today," Basnight explained. "They needed a place to get financing, so they started what became Central Carolina Bank. They also needed a place to sell the milk, so they started Long Meadow Farm dairy company."

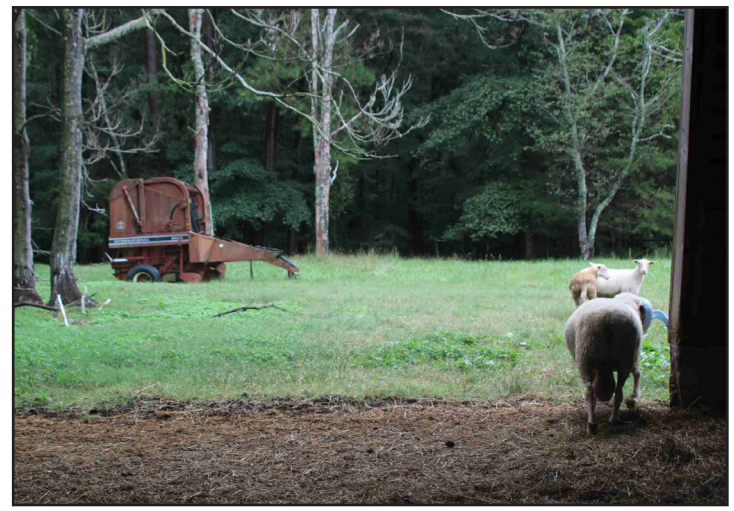
Leonard added more perspective. "It was a market for what they were producing. It was financing for what they were producing. It was a co-op to process the animals, and then the farmers exchange co-op to be able to get supplies. It was sort of a full-court

press to build up and help maintain farming and the rural community."

4. The family that cares for Rameses and donated land to establish UNC also has graduates from N.C. State University and Duke University.

According to Chris and Jane Hogan's summary, in 1792, Col. John Hogan donated 200 acres of land to help with the building of Carolina. Nine other landowners also donated similar-sized plots to form the university's original campus footprint. Col. John Hogan also contracted to deliver 150,000 bricks for the university's first building, Old East. The bricks were made of clay from the farm.

While the Hogans' connections to UNC are strong, they didn't keep Chris Hogan and his cousin Rob Jr. from going to N.C. State University. Having grown up on a dairy farm, they had interest in expanding their



Rameses XXII joins a few other farm animals in the pasture.

knowledge and each earned a degree in animal husbandry. With what they learned, they were able to incorporate newer fertilization techniques with the dairy herd.

For Chris, it was a natural progression from a rural farm life just outside the university community.

"We had horses and ponies and all sorts of animals – pets, cats and dogs – big gardens. We were canning and preserving food and killing hogs – all of those things. We would sometimes kill beef cows for butchering. That was all part of growing up," Chris said. "One thing I grew to appreciate as I got older was growing up on the farm but also attending the Chapel Hill-Carboro city schools. It was just a wonderful place to grow up and feel fully connected to a broad range of the community."

More recently, Chris's daughter graduated from Duke. Athletic rivalries

don't seem to have an undue influence over the Hogans. Just as they've progressed and evolved over the years to adapt on the farm, their choice of school has been based on their own needs and wants. No matter what, they all seem to want to come home to the farm where Rameses is waiting.

"The farm is still a gathering place. For example, we have Thanksgiving here with 60 to 75 people," Leonard said. "I am constantly amazed and have so much appreciation for the fact that this sort of diaspora of cousins wants to come back for Thanksgiving on the farm because it means something to them to gather and to come to this place and to be connected to the farm, and of course the ram is part of that too, but it's a very enduring legacy, which is very very interesting."

# Tobacco Trust Fund: Grants available for agricultural projects

The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission is requesting applications from qualifying organizations that support the agricultural industry, impact rural communities and stimulate economic development. Online applications are due March 7, 2025.

The guidelines for applying and the application can be found at [www.tobacotruffund.org](http://www.tobacotruffund.org). Funds will be awarded in the fall of 2025 for selected projects.

"This past year was tough for our agriculture community. We anticipate that the 2025 grant awards will increase farm incomes and keep NC agribusinesses and farmers thriving," said William H. "Bill" Teague, NCTTFC Chairman. "Applications will be accepted online for projects within North Carolina until March 7, 2025. Selected projects should expect to start in November of 2025."

The NCTTFC was established in 2000 by the N.C. General Assembly to help members of the tobacco community including farmers, tobacco workers and related businesses. Its original funding was established through tobacco industry annual payments as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement. Funding is now appropriated through the state budget to the NCTTFC which then reviews, selects, and disperses the funds to grant projects.

Past NCTTFC projects include farmers market improvements, cost-share grant programs for farmers, commodity marketing, researching alternative crops and support of various agricultural education programs. The 2025 grant application and additional information including a list of past grants is available at [www.tobacotruffund.org](http://www.tobacotruffund.org).

# Mackey's Ferry (Continued from pg. 8)



Mackey's Ferry Peanuts and Gifts is located in Jamesville.

unsweetened peanut butter. Trust us, it's a crowd pleaser!" All products, as stated above, are hand-made and hand-dipped in the kitchen on-site. "Many of our employees are from the Eastern NC community, and have been here for 10 to 15 years, so they fully know these products," Lawson said. "Our promise, is that once you've tried one of our products, you will want to try them all!" Mackey's Ferry products can be purchased online through their brand-new website, on-site at the facility in Jamesville, or at the gas station off I-95 in Kenly.

So why should you purchase N.C. peanut products from Mackey's Ferry? Lawson says they are a delicious snack and perfect gift packed with love and pride. "Our products are made with such intention, dedication and pride, that I fully believe shines through in their presentation and taste," she said. "Our products communicate love, care and enjoyment, which makes a perfect gift for a loved one, or a treat for yourself." Mackey's Ferry is a member of our Got to Be NC program as well as the NC Peanut Growers Cooperative. In the future, Lawson hopes to launch even more local products with the company that please customers across North Carolina and teach them all about the importance of our state's peanut industry. Enjoy some of their products today and remember to thank our state's peanut farmers when you do!

## Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

- Feb. 1..... NC Barrel Horse Association. Contact Justin Hill, 910-705-6900.
- Feb. 3..... Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
- Feb. 8..... Roping Event. Contact Coltin Nobles, 803-671-3775.
- March 1-2..... Cowboy Mounted Shooting. Contact Pamela Lohery, 540-570-8785.
- March 3..... Horse and Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
- March 7-9..... NC High School Rodeo. Contact Marc Green, 252-286-9497.
- March 29..... BBHA Open Show. Contact Jerry King, 910-237-4525.

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

- Feb. 28-Mar. ... Draft Horse Pull & Hook-N-Book. Contact Travis Alford, 252-450-5438.
- March 7-9..... Hoppin' Into Spring Horse Show. Contact Travis Alford, 252-450-5438.
- March 14-15..... NC Barrel Bonanza. Contact Fred Smith, 252-450-9752.
- March 20-23..... SERHA Slide Into Spring. Contact Chris Schmanke, 919-260-1228.

WNC Ag Center, Fletcher 828-687-1414

- Feb. 21-23..... Southern Rodeo Association Finals. Contact 919-795-7722.

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

- Feb. 7..... Southern National Draft Horse Pull. Contact Calvin Davis, 919-812-0831.
- Feb. 14-15..... Raleigh Stampede Rodeo. Contact Jeff Mullen, 919-796-8375.
- Feb. 20-23..... Raleigh Indoors II A Horse Show. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.
- March 1-2..... Raleigh Winter Dressage. Contact Kevin Bradbury, 734-426-2111.
- March 7-9..... Triangle Spring Indoors I 'C'. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.
- March 13-16..... Raleigh Indoors Spring Classic. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.
- March 19-22..... Raleigh Spring Premier. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

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

## February AgroTips

**Tobacco transplant producers should doublecheck the nutrient content of their float-bed water by submitting a sample for solution analysis.**

Visit [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdffiles/2013FloatBed.pdf](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdffiles/2013FloatBed.pdf) for details.

**Gear up for spring gardening by checking the quality of your compost.**

Everyone knows that the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division analyzes soil samples, but most people are surprised when they find out that it tests compost too. Putting out compost is a good way to improve the physical properties of the soil and increase its moisture-holding capacity. However, compost also contains organic fertilizer nutrients. For this reason, you really ought to know ahead of time how much "fertilizer" you are applying.

To determine the fertilizer value of compost, collect a good, representative sample and send it in for waste analysis. Results will tell you the concentrations of nutrients that are available to your plants the first season the compost is applied as well as the compost's pH and electrical conductivity (a measure of soluble salts). The report also provides the ratio of total carbon to nitrogen, which helps commercial compost producers decide how to best mix feed stocks to optimize decomposition rate.

Visit [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrwaste.htm](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrwaste.htm) for instructions on how to collect and submit samples. Additional information is available in our Waste and Compost Analysis Guide.

**Familiarize yourself with wheat tissue sampling guidelines.**

Dr. Randy Weisz of N.C. State University has refined wheat fertilization guidelines for North Carolina conditions. Visit [www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/\\_Pubs/PG/Nitrogen.pdf](http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/_Pubs/PG/Nitrogen.pdf) for details. These guidelines tie recommended fertilizer rates to wheat biomass measurements and tissue test results. Growers who want to use these guidelines must submit both types of samples (biomass and tissue) to the Agronomic Division. For more information, contact your regional agronomist or other agricultural advisor.

**Monitor strawberry nutrient status by tissue sampling.**

The Agronomic Division recommends monitoring the nutritional status of strawberries and the efficiency of fertilizer programs by submitting a plant tissue sample at least once

a month, preferably every two weeks. Sampling should begin with the first flush of growth in the spring and continue throughout the flowering and fruiting season.

Plant tissue samples should be representative of conditions in the field. A good sample includes the most recently mature trifoliate leaves (leaf blades and petioles) from 20 to 25 locations in the field. Detach petioles from the leaves as you collect them but include them in the sample. Information on collecting and submitting strawberry tissue samples is available online at [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pictorial.htm](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pictorial.htm).

soil pH and nutrient levels,  
environmental conditions such as rainfall and temperature,  
disease and insect pressure, and  
plant appearance and stage of development.

**Check source water used in greenhouse and nursery operations and correct any SAR (sodium adsorption ratio) problems.**

Water used in plant production, including greenhouse-grown tobacco transplants, should have an SAR value of 4 or less. For ornamental plants in a nursery setting, SAR values of 10 or greater are cause for concern. High SAR values are most common for water samples from coastal areas.

A high SAR value on a solution report indicates an imbalance among sodium (Na), calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) cations. This imbalance can cause leaf burn due to foliar uptake of Na. In mineral soils, this imbalance can also lead to poor soil structure, which hinders infiltration of water. In soilless container media, however, this effect is negligible.

The best way to reduce SAR to the desired level is to add calcium from a source such as gypsum. To calculate the amount of gypsum needed to reduce SAR to 4, follow these steps.

1. Calculate the amount of calcium required in parts per million (ppm).

$Ca \text{ needed} = 0.004725 Na^2 - 1.64 Mg - Ca$ ,

where Na, Mg and Ca are the ppm concentrations listed on the solution report.

2. Calculate the appropriate rate of gypsum (22% Ca) to apply by inserting the Ca needed value from step 1 into the following equation.

$Ca \text{ needed} \times 0.0607 = \text{ounces gypsum per 100 gallons of water}$

# 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.



### 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.

**Italian 5-frame nucs**, avail 4/1, \$170; 3# pkgs., avail 3/25, \$125; Italian queens, avail 3/25, \$32. Garry Whitley, Albemarle 704-982-0698.

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

### BEES

**Shallow supers w/frames**, \$10 ea. Charles Winesett, Pinnacle 336-368-2519.

**Honeybees**, 5-frame nucs & splits, Italian & Carniolian, avail March through 4/15, p/u Yadkin co, \$150 ea., discounts for 100 or more. Tim Holt, Siloam 336-710-4904.



### Equipment For Sale

**80" disc harrow**, 20x18 iron knuckles, w/mods, \$1,600; carry all w/Rubbermaid dump cart, \$1,500; Craftman integral plow, \$200; 9-shank tillage tool, \$800. Steve Yarborough, Lexington 336-225-1301.

**Manual pine straw baler**, custom made, never used, mounted on 2 car wheels, \$275. Bill Mintz, Iron Station 704-905-6623.

**(2) Brock 18-ton feed bins**, \$500 ea. Michael Lanier, Burgaw 910-616-5884.

### FARM EQUIPMENT

**MF 300 combine**, 2-row corn head, for repair or parts, \$500; MF 300 combine, 3-row corn head, for repair or parts, \$500. David Shepherd, Wilkesboro 336-984-1435.

**Berry Hill plastic mulch layer**, model RB448; plastic mulch lifter w/center coulter, both used for less than 1 ac total, \$2,000 ea. Clay Smith, Burlington 919-671-8744.

**Old JD sq hay baler**, needs work, tires, etc., \$100 obo. Richard Adams, Raleigh 919-846-0022 or 830-8470.

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

**Wheel Horse lawn tractor**, model 417-8, 2 cyl. Kohler eng, GC, \$750. Denny Barney, Mocksville 336-909-5180.

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

### FARM EQUIPMENT

**Operators manual** for Case tractor models 220, 222, 224, 444, 446, new cond, \$15; parts catalog for Case 580D & 580 Super D, \$15. John Huskey, Hillsborough 919-644-0136.

**2-disc plow**, \$250; 5 ft. bush hog, \$650; 8 ft. harrow, \$1,100. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

**Bush Hog offset harrow**, hvy duty, EC, \$1,850; 9-shank tiller, 3 pt, \$350. Edward Lewis, Gibsonville 336-516-2632.

**Cub belt pulley**, \$50; A-140 belt pulley, \$75; Cub fert kit, \$200; JD H, \$1,800; seats for Ford 800, Farmall M, \$50. Tommy Coble, Liberty 336-264-0402.

**Tricycle tractor**, needs work, has been sitting, \$2,000 obo. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

**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.

### FARM EQUIPMENT

**3 pt equip**, cults, \$140; 2-bottom plows, \$250; subsoiler, \$140; 6 ft. Rhino scrape, \$275; boom pole, \$130; rippers, \$425. James Isley, Julian 336-263-1958.

**Frick sawmill**, doub 00, on steel; Frick edger & Detroit 371 power unit, \$8,000. Swanson Joyce, Pinnacle 336-529-2950.

**Kid holding box** for de-horning, 2 irons, \$200 obo. Donald Schraye, Rockwell 704-857-2044.

**Purina liquid lick tank**, \$500; Behlen Country 3-piece rnd bale feeder, \$1,000; feed silo, 3.5 tons, \$1,500. Doug Stancil, Greensboro 336-402-8161.

**JD 3032E tractor & loader**, 260 hrs., \$20,000; bush hog, \$500; plugger, \$500; sprayer, \$200. Charles Waddell, Lexington 336-309-6603.

**1975 IH Farmall 140**, cults, layoff plow, recent overhaul, \$2,800. Jimmy Frye, Carthage 910-947-5910.



# Discovering NC Agriculture: Peanuts pack power, flavor

*Discovering NC Agriculture is a year-long series focusing on twelve 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!*



**Above: The Perry Family runs Mackey's Ferry. Right top: The storefront in Jamesville. Right bottom: Peanut butter is just one of the more than 50 products Mackey's Ferry offers.**



arrive at Mackey's Ferry facility in Jamesville, they are placed in a cooler and kept at specific temperatures until use. "We have over 50 products here at Mackey's Ferry, and our kitchen staff are some of the best workers in the business," Lawson said. "There is so much you can do with just one little peanut! Each day, our kitchen staff takes the peanuts they need for product out of the cooler and starts work." Final products are placed in a separate cooler until shipping or purchase.

With over 50 products available, Mackey's Ferry has something for

A lot of power and variety is packed into one N.C. peanut, and no one knows that better than Lawson Perry, owner of Mackey's Ferry Peanuts and Gifts in Jamesville. From roasted and salted peanuts to peanut butters, brittle, and clusters, Mackey's Ferry uses all N.C. grown peanuts to create a variety of delicious products for their consumers.

In 1983, Mackey's Ferry was started by Merlin and Linda Chesson inside their home kitchen & adjoining country store. "Merlin was a peanut farmer in Jamesville, so his wife Linda had to figure out a way to use those peanuts in the kitchen," Lawson said. "That's when Mackey's Ferry was born!" Over 40 years later, Lawson and her family are honored to be

carrying on the legacy and heritage of the company. "My father worked for the original owners as a tender of their peanut farm for nearly 15 years," Lawson said, "so, for our family to now operate the company is a huge honor and blessing." Since her parents bought the company in August of 2023, Lawson has taken over many of the day-to-day operations, including facility management, social media, marketing, and sales. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication with

a minor in Business Marketing from East Carolina University, Lawson is living her best life and fully utilizing the skills she learned in college. Lawson's parents, Rene and Kevin, and brother, Coleman, also work at Mackey's Ferry in addition to operating their family farm, Perry Family Farms, LLC. "Agriculture is a full-on family operation for us, and we wouldn't have it any other way," Lawson said.

All peanuts used in Mackey's Ferry products are sourced from Severn Peanuts, an extension of Hampton

Farms. "We are fully North Carolina through and through," Lawson said. "We are proud to use peanuts from local farmers and showcase the hard work that they do for our state." When the peanuts arrive at the Severn Peanut facility, they are stored, cleaned and dried before being picked up by Lawson's father, Kevin. "They really take care of all the preparation for us," Lawson said. "So, when the peanuts arrive at our doorstep, all we have to do is put them in a cooler until we are ready to use them." As soon as the peanuts

everyone! For the snack lovers, they have everything from dry roasted and spicy peanuts to trail mix. Anyone with a sweet tooth, however, can enjoy their chocolate dipped clusters, peanut brittle and cookies. "We are very well-known for our peanut brittle and peanut butter, which happen to be my two favorite products," Lawson said. "We use all natural ingredients to make crunchy, creamy and

(See Mackey's Ferry, page 5)

## Follow NC peanuts from field to table to sporting events

Hampton Farms is a name that rings out across North Carolina from retail chains to baseball fields. Did you know that Hampton Farms also takes on a different name in the agriculture industry? Severn Peanut has been owned and operated by the Barnes Family since 1917. From working with peanut farmers across the state to packing, roasting and more, Severn Peanut touches the industry in many ways to ensure the best local products get into the hands of consumers.

From the field to the table, Severn Peanut takes pride in playing a direct role throughout the process of growing, harvesting and processing NC peanuts. In fact, Severn Peanut currently partners with nearly 400 N.C. peanut farmers each year to ensure the best quality peanuts are grown and distributed not just in North Carolina, but across all fifty states. Farmers can partner with Hampton Farms by contacting one of 25 buying stations



**Several varieties of peanuts grow in North Carolina.**

in the state, where peanuts are graded, stored, or shipped to locations like Severn Peanut. From selling seed at the start of the season, to purchasing peanuts after harvest, Severn Peanut works with farmers to ensure they produce the best peanut crop each year for consumers to enjoy.

Beginning in April, Severn Peanut sources and sells pure NC Certified Foundation Virginia-type peanut seeds to contracted growers. These growers

then plant the seeds purchased from Severn Peanut to produce registered seed, which is returned to the growers and multiplied into certified seed that will be sold to peanut farmers for crop production. After Severn Peanut sells the seed to their partnered farmers, Meherrin Agricultural and Chemical Company provides crop protectants & fertilizer specially formulated for growing conditions. By working with these trusted companies and farmers, Hampton Farms can ensure the best quality product for their consumers. Currently, the seed team at Severn Peanut



is working to treat seeds and bag them to prepare for planting season in May.

Peanut farmers grow four different types of peanuts: Virginia, Runner, Valencia and Spanish. The most common variety, especially for use at Hampton Farms, is the Virginia peanut, which is the largest and most recognizable peanut variety grown in our state. This variety is grown primarily in N.C., S.C., Va, Texas and Okla. Runner peanuts are smaller, rounder and the primary peanut used to make candy and peanut butter. This variety of peanut produces the largest volume across the U.S., which leads to a generally less expensive product. Valencia nuts, grown primarily in N.M., frequently have more than one peanut per shell and are ideal for boiling. Lastly, Spanish peanuts are small and reddish brown in color. They have a high oil content, making them perfect for extracting peanut oil. This variety is also used frequently in peanut brittle and other candies. Although farmers across North Carolina can and do harvest all four of these varieties, the Virginia and Runner are the most common.

Once peanuts are harvested from partnered farms, they are sent straight to Severn Peanut Company for processing. Severn Peanuts has more than 30 separate storage warehouses, spread out across four states, where peanuts are stored until being delivered to Hampton Farms shelling facility for cleaning and sizing. From there, Hampton Farms roasts to order to ensure



**From baseball to hockey, you can find Hampton Farms peanuts at your favorite sporting events.**

freshness and delivers product using contracted carriers and its fleet of company-owned trucks, ensuring product arrives on time. As the number one in-shell peanut company in America, and the only company to roast peanuts with flavor inside the shell, Hampton Farms takes great pride in their products, with in-shell varieties being their main focus.

From fancy to jumbo, Hampton Farms offers a variety of flavors and sizes of their in-shell peanuts. Whether you prefer salted, unsalted, Cajun or Hatch Chile, they have a flavor and product fit for your palate. Although you can find Hampton Farms in-shell products in retail chains across the country, they are most popular at baseball fields, including MLB stadiums, and other sporting events, like Carolina Panthers and Carolina Hurricanes games! "Summer just wouldn't be the same without baseball and roasted in-shell peanuts," Mikayla Pittman, Brand Manager at Hampton Farms, said. "We are proud to be an official licensee of Major League Baseball and have our products as a centerpiece of such a strong American tradition, as well as other sporting events each year." In addition to their in-shell peanut products, Hampton Farms also offers shelled and flavored peanuts, tree nuts, nut butters, peanut brittle and more. Shop today online or in the produce section of grocery stores across our state to support your N.C. peanut farmers!