

Agricultural REVIEW

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Raleigh, N.C.

Apply for farmland preservation grants by Jan. 17

The application period for county governments and conservation nonprofit groups to apply for farmland preservation grants from the N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund closes on Jan. 17.

Grant applications, rules and information packets are available online at www.ncagr.gov/divisions/farmland-preservation/applicants. For more information, call the Farmland Preservation office at 919-707-3074.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

Jan. 2 for the February issue
Feb. 3 for the March issue
March 3 for the April issue
April 1 for the May issue

Wooten Rural Leadership Award goes to N.C. FFA

The N.C. FFA Association was recently honored with the 2024 Larry Wooten Rural Leadership Award for its long-time commitment to young people. A special recognition was given to Bruce L. Miller for his 30-plus years of service with N.C. FFA as an agriculture teacher in Rowan County Schools, and the Southern Alamance High School FFA was also recognized for its strong and award-winning programs.

Since 1929, N.C. FFA has helped guide and develop the next generation of leaders who have gone on to strengthen communities and agriculture in the state. That mission and work continues today across 370 North Carolina chapters. There are over 48,000 FFA members in the state and over 83,600 students enrolled in agriculture courses in

North Carolina.

The event took place at the State Capitol on Dec. 3, 2024, with N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, Gov. Roy Cooper and Larry Wooten in attendance.

"I am proud any time we can recognize agriculture and those working in rural parts of our state in our state's capitol," Troxler said. "Agriculture is important to all of us and we need to be sure that message is heard here in Raleigh, too."

Miller was recognized for his incredible legacy of service to the students, school and community for over 30 years.

He continues to be difference-maker in his community serving on the Rowan County Zoning Board, Rowan County Soil and Water District, Rowan County United Way



N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler (third from left) presented the award alongside then-Gov. Roy Cooper at the State Capitol.

and the South Rowan YMCA board.

The Southern Alamance FFA Chapter at Southern Alamance High School in Graham was also recognized.

This is one of the largest and most active FFA chapters in the state and it has been recognized nationally for many years in both

(See FFA, pg. 5)

Editor's note

Discover North Carolina agriculture in new series

Are you ready to discover North Carolina agriculture? In 2025, we're launching our brand-new content series, #DiscoveringNCAgriculture!

In our 2024 series, #NextGenAg, you met dozens of youth and young adults from across North Carolina who are contributing to our state's No. 1 industry: agriculture and agribusiness. In 2025, we'll take a closer look at some of the commodities, the North Carolina farmers that grow them and the food businesses that use them.

Each month we will highlight a commodity grown in our state and share how it is grown, raised and used in value-added products. We'll look at how these commodities present agritourism opportunities and how you can use them in your kitchen at home.

Every Tuesday in 2025 on our website and social media pages, you'll learn more about these 12 commodities from a farmer, agribusiness producer, nutritionist, commodity association or other expert.

We'll begin with peanuts in January followed by peppers, strawberries, poultry, mushrooms, peaches, pork, tomatoes, muscadines, apples, sweet potatoes and, in December, greens.

As an Ag Review subscriber, you'll see many of these stories featured in each month's paper. But to keep up with the latest stories from the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, check out the department's blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog or find us on social media.

The series kicks off Jan. 7 – the first Tuesday of the new year.

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

As we start 2025, I can tell you that 2024 will remain a big part of this new year as work continues to help those impacted by Hurricane Helene. Agriculture across our state took a big hit in 2024.

We have been working with N.C. State University economists, cooperative extension agents, soil and water districts, FSA offices, USDA information and others to determine estimated losses, and that number statewide is over \$4.8 billion.

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

That's the worst agricultural damage that we have experienced in North Carolina. Of that, \$4.23 billion was from Hurricane Helene, and \$696 million was from the summer drought and tropical storms.

That number includes the loss of equipment, buildings, infrastructure and crops. Crop loss alone from Hurricane Helene was \$907.62 million.

These damage estimates in the wake of these storms don't include agritourism, which is also significant for Western N.C. in particular.

Without question 2024 has been one of THE most challenging years for agriculture. We were already facing millions of dollars in ag losses from the summer droughts and heavy rains from tropical storms when Hurricane Helene bulldozed through Western N.C.

Since the storms, I have encouraged our Congressional delegation to push for passage of a Farm Bill that includes disaster assistance. Federal funding will be critical to recovery in Western

N.C. because of the magnitude and scope of damage.

I recently spoke at the legislature to the House Agriculture Committee to talk about the need for disaster assistance for farmers and why agriculture cannot afford to wait.

Representatives and farmers from around a dozen commodity groups spoke first and shared their stories and the impact these losses would likely have in the future if disaster assistance did not come through for agriculture.

As a farmer, it's gut wrenching to hear these stories and realize it could be you facing the loss of your livelihood and everything you have worked hard for.

We heard from farmers whose land washed away down to the bedrock; thousands of Christmas trees, apples trees and nursery stock washed away in a matter of minutes; and silt and sand burying productive farmland.

I have said many times since Helene

hit that recovery is going to be a long road and hearing some of the stories only reinforced that and the need for disaster assistance now.

We know many growers in Western N.C. produce specialty crops with limited federal insurance options.

I have requested over \$1 billion in disaster assistance that would include money for farm losses statewide this year. In that request is \$357.36 million to cover uninsured crop losses from Helene and \$174 million to cover 25% of crop losses in non-Helene counties.

I know that is a big ask in the face of many other needs in Western N.C., but we stand to lose a number of farmers without some assistance to help them get their feet back on the ground.

I am hopeful that the legislature will direct meaningful funding to help offset some of these monumental agricultural losses.

Agricultural Review

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Helene-impacted WNC encouraged to apply for EWP recovery program

N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler encourages communities impacted by Hurricane Helene to apply for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. It is not necessary for a national emergency to be declared for an area to be eligible for assistance.

“The Emergency Watershed Protection program is not as widely known or used historically in Western N.C. communities, but funding is available and this program could be beneficial in ongoing recovery efforts,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “I want to make sure that groups eligible to apply for EWP are aware of this program and the upcoming application deadline and I urge communities to look and see how this program can help.”

EWP is an emergency recovery program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. EWP objectives are to relieve imminent hazards to life and structures/infrastructures caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural occurrences.

With the exception of floodplain easements, USDA-NRCS does not provide EWP assistance directly to private property owners. All projects

undertaken, which include public and private properties, must have a project sponsor.

EWP is available to eligible sponsors; a legal subdivision of the state, such as a state agency, county, city, town, soil and water conservation district, or an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization. Potential sponsors should reach out to their local NRCS office for additional program information including templates for preparing requests for assistance to NRCS.

Sponsors cannot be reimbursed for work done prior to entering into a formal agreement with NRCS. NRCS state conservationist, Tim Beard, is currently accepting requests for assistance through Jan. 31, 2025.

For Tropical Storm Helene, USDA-NRCS may provide up to 100 percent of the construction costs for eligible emergency measures. Sponsors are prohibited from utilizing other federal funds for EWP projects. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.

To get answers to your questions about EWP in North Carolina, contact your local NRCS office or the NRCS State Office at 919-873-2100.

Serving then, serving now: From protecting our nation’s freedom to protecting North Carolina’s forestland

World War II hero and longtime American icon, James “Jimmy” Doolittle, who gained legendary status and personal valor for his long-range retaliatory air raid — commonly referred to as “Doolittle’s Raid” — on Japan four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, ultimately earning him the Medal of Honor, has long been attributed with the well-known phrase, “there’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.” Whether Doolittle actually used those words or if that’s just a great line inserted by Hollywood into the 2001 film Pearl Harbor remains a topic of debate. While serving in the U.S. Armed Forces garners a regular paycheck like any other career path, it’s the calling to service and the willingness to sacrifice where the spirit of volunteering can be found in those who choose to enlist and take up arms.

“I enlisted before 9/11 when enrollment wasn’t as popular,” said Dave Hoffer, N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) Bertie County ranger. “I wanted to serve my country first while gaining valuable life experience and improving myself through education to establish a career after my military career.”

Hoffer gave 20 years of active duty to the U.S. Air Force where he served as a C-130 loadmaster. Hoffer’s responsibilities as a loadmaster included proper balance and weight distribution assessments of cargo and passengers throughout the aircraft, where he was part of a crew that conducted various high altitude, heavy equipment, paratrooper, container delivery and low altitude bundle drops. Pre- and post-flight inspections of aircraft and aircraft systems was a regular as well.

During a career spanning two



Dave Hoffer, N.C. Forest Service Bertie County ranger, served in the U.S. Air Force.

decades, Hoffer was deployed 13 times for nearly six years to countries such as Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan among many others, several of which were places where he made repeat stops.

“During military service, you’re quick to develop a sense of camaraderie and bond with your fellow service members,” said Hoffer. “This is something I’ve experienced during my time with the N.C. Forest Service as well, especially while on wildfire dispatch.”

When ordered as a resource in response to a large wildfire on state- and privately-owned land, NCFS personnel are dispatched physically and mentally prepared to be away from home for as many as three weeks. This means personnel may find themselves sleeping in a hotel, tent or even the back of their vehicles if necessary.

Many members of the NCFS who possess dispatch qualifications also have the opportunity to incident qualify in a field different from their regular jobs. While Hoffer did not operate drones during his tenure with the Air Force, his aviation background and 5,500 flight hours equipped him with the insight

and understanding to be an effective drone operator for the division. He also noted that the high paced, high stress environment during wildfire response is another element consistent with his experience serving in the Air Force. As a county ranger with the NCFS, Hoffer manages multiple employees and equipment resources.

“Serving is something that is engrained in me,” he added. “Fulfillment and a sense of purpose for me comes from helping someone else. Whether it was during my military career, various mission roles over the years with church, or now with the N.C. Forest Service.”

Wildfire response doesn’t always mean being on the other side of the state for an extended period of time. In North Carolina, wildfires are a daily occurrence for personnel who serve in initial attack positions. Initial attack, often referred to as “IA,” are the resources who are on the ground first. County rangers, equipment operators and smokechasers from the local units make up the backbone of the NCFS. These units are found in every county across the state to ensure that forest

protection and forest management needs are met on a daily basis.

“Being a member of the military as well as the N.C. Forest Service is something that I’m grateful to be a part of,” said Richmond County ranger Brandon Van Buren. “Both are dedicated to service.”

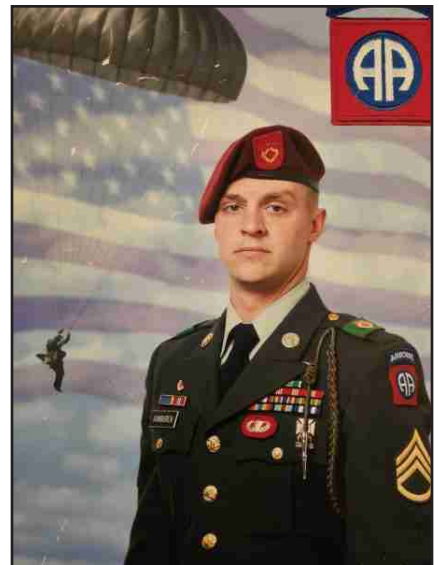
Van Buren served in the 82nd Airborne Division with the U.S. Army for eight years.

“After 9/11 it was time to gear up. I always wanted to be a soldier and I always will be,” he added.

Serving as an Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems

It wasn’t a short run and by the time I arrived, my boogers were frozen. Something that I thought was pretty funny!”

NCFS personnel and other wildland firefighters deal with ever-changing weather conditions throughout the year, sometimes daily. From the frost and freezing temperatures during the winter, heavy heat and thick humidity in the summer, sea breeze ricocheting off the Atlantic Ocean, steep and rocky terrain in Western North Carolina and deep pocosin soil found in the Sandhills. Embrace the suck. A mindset



Brandon Van Buren, N.C. Forest Service Richmond County ranger, served in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division.

Specialist (AFATADS), Van Buren provided ground forces with artillery support where he spent a combined 36 months deployed to Iraq (Baghdad) and Afghanistan. He recalled one particular mission where the objective was to repel the enemy by sending artillery fire down range.

“It was about -30 degrees Fahrenheit, and the snow was heavily packed. The fire mission was scheduled for 0200. When my section was notified about the mission, we quickly grabbed our gear and ran to the designated area.

many service members and field personnel — whether military or wildland firefighters — accept. This is what we do and it’s not always pretty. Whatever it takes for as long as it takes.

“I have no regrets. All the discomfort, confusion, fear and triumph served a purpose. Am I fulfilled? Money was never the object of my intent. I do what I do because I am and want to be of

(See Veterans, pg. 6)

Hard work on full display at 2024 State Fair livestock shows

Following are winners in the 2024 N.C. State Fair livestock shows.

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – Sheep

- Supreme grand champion shown by Carter Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Supreme reserve grand champion and Got to Be NC grand champion shown by Dava Armstrong of Columbia (Tyrrell)
- Third overall shown by Brantley Meadows of Leicester (Buncombe)
- Got to Be NC reserve grand champion shown by Kaylee Casper of Enfield (Halifax)

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – All Other Registered Sheep Breeds

- Champion and Got to Be NC champion shown by Makayla Davis of Zebulon (Franklin)
- Reserve champion shown by Marylynn Overcash of Mooresville (Iredell)
- Got to Be NC reserve champion shown by Hannah Harris of Holly Springs (Wake)

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – All Other Registered Hair Sheep Breeds

- Champion shown by Guy Deal of China Grove (Rowan)
- Reserve champion and Got to Be NC champion shown by Margaret Deal of China Grove (Rowan)
- Got to Be NC reserve champion shown by Abigail Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – Dorset, Purebred

- Champion and Got to Be NC champion shown by Valerie Poole of Zebulon (Franklin)
- Reserve champion and Got to Be NC reserve champion shown by Meredith Poole of Zebulon (Franklin)

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – All Other Breeds (non-registered)

- Champion shown and Got to Be NC champion by Hesston Meadows of Leicester (Buncombe)
- Reserve champion shown by Laken Coleman of Davidson (Iredell)
- Got to Be NC reserve champion shown by Elizabeth Sanner of Statesville (Iredell)

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – All Other Hair Breeds (non-registered)

- Champion, reserve champion, Got to Be NC champion and Got to Be NC reserve champion shown by Laura Jessup of Ramseur (Randolph)
- Junior Ewe Meat Breeds -- Natural Color – Ewe
- Champion shown by Brantley Meadows of Leicester (Buncombe)
- Reserve champion shown by Kennedy Winslow of Roper (Washington)
- Got to Be NC champion shown by Lydia Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)
- Got to Be NC reserve champion shown



The livestock shows at the 2024 N.C. State fair brought out the best of the best.

by Ana Mcauley of Concord (Cabarrus)

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – Black Face Cross

- Champion shown by Carter Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)
- Reserve champion shown by Darci Boucher of Columbia (Tyrrell)
- Got to Be NC champion shown by Brady Moore of Scotland Neck (Halifax)
- Got to Be NC reserve champion shown by Lydia Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – Hampshire

- Champion and Got to Be NC champion shown by Lydia Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)
- Reserve champion and Got to Be NC reserve champion shown by Abigail Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)

Junior Ewe Meat Breeds – Southdown

- Champion and Got to Be NC champion shown by Maddison Wagaman of Washington (Beaufort)
- Reserve champion shown by Ceily Bledsoe of Dobson (Surry)
- Got to Be NC reserve champion shown by Lorelei Coxe of Greenville (Pitt)

Junior Market Lamb

- Grand champion and Got to Be NC grand champion shown by Lydia Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)
- Reserve grant champion shown by Sawyer Hemilright of Columbia (Tyrrell)
- Third overall shown by Kaylee Casper of Enfield (Halifax)

Junior Market Lamb – All Other Breeds

- Champion shown by Brody Coleman of Davidson (Mecklenburg)
- Reserve champion shown by Dava Armstrong of Columbia (Tyrrell)
- Got to Be NC champion shown by Valerie Poole of Zebulon (Franklin)

Junior Market Lamb – Hair Influence

- Champion and Got to Be NC champion shown by Aiden Best of China Grove (Rowan)
- Reserve champion shown by Catielynn Cook of Cleveland (Iredell)

Junior Market Lamb – Natural Color - Lamb

- Champion shown by Sawyer Hemilright of Columbia (Tyrrell)
- Reserve champion shown by Kaylee Dale of Belhaven (Hyde)
- Got to Be NC champion shown by Lydia Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)

Open Dairy Goat – Best in Show Open

- Best Doe in Show shown by Devin Stillwell of Cameron (Moore)
- Best Udder in Show shown by Genevieve Cranford of Asheboro (Randolph)
- Best Dairy Herd in Show shown by Rachel Brown of Zebulon (Wake)

Open Dairy Goat – Saanen Junior Doe

- Grand champion shown by Austin Seitz of Monroe (Union)

- Reserve grand champion shown by Genevieve Cranford of Asheboro (Randolph)

Open Dairy Goat – Nigerian Dwarf Open Junior Doe

- Grand champion shown by Amber Zaratsian of Apex (Wake)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Ruth Ann Murray of Lucama (Wilson)

Open Dairy Goat – Alpine Open Junior Doe

- Grand champion shown by Devin Stillwell of Cameron (Moore)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Cora Noel of New Hill (Chatham)

Open Dairy Goat – Nubian

- Grand champion shown by Austin Seitz or Monroe (Union)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Madison Seitz of Monroe (Union)

Open Dairy Goat – Lamanchas Open Junior Doe

- Grand champion and reserve grand champion shown by Genevieve Cranford of Asheboro (Randolph)

Open Dairy Goat – Oberhasli Open Junior Doe

- Grand champion and reserve grand champion shown by Roslyn Noar of Benson (Johnston)

Open Dairy Goat – Toggenburg Open Junior Doe

- Grand champion shown by Elaine Rider of Cameron (Moore)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Michele Dudley of Dunn (Cumberland)

Open Dairy Goat – Recorded Grades Open Junior Doe

- Grand champion and reserve grand champion shown by Leah Suydam of Middlesex (Nash)

Open Dairy Goat – Nigerian Dwarf Open Senior Doe

- Grand champion shown by Ruth Ann Murray of Lucama (Wilson)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Amber Zaratsian of Apex (Wake)

Open Senior Doe – Nubian

- Grand champion and reserve grand champion shown by Madison Seitz of Monroe (Union)

Open Dairy Goat – Saanens Open Senior Doe

- Grand champion and reserve grand champion shown by Genevieve Cranford of Asheboro (Randolph)

Open Dairy Goat – Toggenburgs Open Senior Doe

- Grand champion shown by Rachel Brown of Zebulon (Wake)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Allison Jacobs of Sanford (Lee)

Open Dairy Goat – Recorded Grades Open Senior Doe

- Grand champion shown by Hosanna Ruhl of New Hill (Chatham)

- Reserve grand champion shown by Cora Noel of New Hill (Chatham)

Open Dairy Goat – Oberhasli Open Senior Doe

- Grand champion shown by Roslyn Noar of Benson (Johnston)
- Reserve grand champion shown by Jeffrey Richardson of Leicester (Buncombe)

Open Dairy Goat – Alpines Open Senior Doe

- Grand champion and reserve grand champion shown by Devin Stillwell of Cameron (Moore)

Youth Dairy Goat – Saanens

- Junior champion shown by Austin Seitz of Monroe (Union)
- Reserve junior champion shown by Genevieve Cranford of Asheboro (Randolph)

Junior Dairy Goat – Toggenburgs

- Junior champion and reserve junior champion shown by Allison Jacobs of Sanford (Lee)

Junior Dairy Goat – Nigerian Dwarf

- Junior champion shown by Ruth Ann Murray of Lucama (Wilson)
- Reserve junior champion shown by Griffin Trafford of Four Oaks (Wake)

Junior Dairy Goat – Recorded Grades

- Junior champion and reserve junior champion shown by Leah Suydam of Middlesex (Nash)

Junior Dairy Goat – Alpines

- Junior champion and reserve junior champion shown by Cora Noel of New Hill (Chatham)

Junior Dairy Goat – Lamanchas

- Junior champion and reserve junior champion shown by Genevieve Cranford of Asheboro (Randolph)

Junior Dairy Goat – Nubians

- Junior champion and reserve junior champion shown by Madison Seitz of Monroe (Union)

Junior Dairy Goat – Oberhasli

- Junior champion shown by Griffin Trafford of Four Oaks (Wake)

- Reserve junior champion shown by Crest High School FFA of Shelby (Cleveland)

Junior Dairy Goat – Senior Champion Nigerian Dwarf

- Grand champion shown by Rachel Brown of Zebulon (Wake)
- Reserve senior champion shown by Ruth Ann Murray of Lucama (Wilson)

Junior Dairy Goat – Senior Champion Recorded Grades

- Grand champion shown by Hosanna Ruhl of New Hill (Chatham)
- Reserve senior champion shown by Cora Noel of New Hill (Chatham)

Junior Dairy Goat – Senior Champion Alpines

- Grand champion shown by India Noel of New Hill (Chatham)
- Reserve senior champion shown by Hosanna Ruhl of New Hill (Chatham)

Junior Dairy Goat – Senior Champion Nubians

- Grand champion and reserve senior champion shown by Madison Seitz of Monroe (Union)

Junior Dairy Goat – Senior Champion Saanens

- Grand champion and reserve senior champion shown by Genevieve Cranford of Asheboro (Randolph)

Junior Dairy Goat – Senior Champion Oberhasli

- Grand champion and reserve senior champion shown by Crest High School FFA of Shelby (Cleveland)

Junior Dairy Goat – Senior Champion Toggenburgs

(See Livestock results, pg. 4)



Youth shows were full of young talent.

Livestock results

(Continued from pg. 3)

- Grand champion shown by Rachel Brown of Zebulon (Wake)

- Reserve senior champion shown by Allison Jacobs of Sanford (Lee)

Open Wool Breed Sheep

Supreme champion shown by Haley Hargus of Zirconia (Henderson)

- Reserve supreme champion shown by Gavin Akers of Creedmoor (Granville)

- Grand champion fleece wool shown by Jaime Deitz of Rupert, W. Va.

Open Wool Breed Sheep – White, Long/Course

- Champion ram, champion ewe and reserve champion ewe shown by Haley Hargus of Zirconia (Henderson)

- Reserve champion ram shown by Ellen Mabry of Albemarle (Stanly)

Open Wool Breed Sheep – White, Fine/Medium

- Champion ram shown by Halle Taylor of Pink Hill (Lenoir)

- Champion ewe shown by Jaime Deitz of Rupert, W. Va.

Open Wool Breed Sheep – Natural Colored, Fine/Medium

- Champion ram, champion ewe and reserve champion ewe shown by Jaime Deitz of Rupert, W. Va.

- Reserve champion ram shown by Ellen Mabry of Albemarle (Stanly)

Open Wool Breed Sheep – Natural Colored, Long/Coarse

- Champion ram, champion ewe and reserve champion ewe shown by Haley Hargus of Zirconia (Henderson)

- Reserve champion ram shown by Onslow County 4-H of Jacksonville (Onslow)

Open Wool Breed Sheep – Primitive, Dual Coated

- Champion ewe and reserve champion ewe shown by Hope Latta of Zebulon (Franklin)

Junior Wool Sheep Breed

- Grand champion and Got to Be NC grand champion shown by Gavin Akers of Creedmoor (Granville)

- Reserve grand champion shown by Haley Hargus of Zirconia (Henderson)

Junior Market Wether Meat Goat

- Grand champion and heavy weight champion shown by Zadock Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)

- Reserve grand champion and medium weight champion shown by Kennedy Lee of Smithfield (Johnston)

- Got to Be NC grand champion, Got to Be NC heavy weight champion and reserve heavy weight champion shown by Taylor Askew of Greenville (Pitt)

- Third overall, Got to Be NC reserve champion, and Got to Be NC reserve heavy weight champion shown by Katelyn Hewitt of Reidsville (Rockingham)

- Reserve medium weight champion shown by Scarlett Denning of Newton Grove (Johnston)

- Got to Be NC medium weight champion shown by Cody Formisani of Wendell (Johnston)

- Reserve Got to Be NC medium weight champion shown by Mylee Ponder of Alexander (Buncombe)

- Reserve light weight champion shown by Carter Jennings of Kenly (Johnston)

- Got to Be NC light weight champion shown by Adelyn Hemilright of Columbia (Tyrrell)

- Reserve Got to Be NC light weight champion shown by Sophie Marshall of Pleasant Garden (Guilford)

Open Wether Dam Meat Goat

- Supreme champion shown by Katelyn Hewitt of Reidsville (Rockingham)

- Reserve supreme champion, grand

champion and junior champion shown by Scarlett Denning of Newton Grove (Johnston)

- Reserve grand champion and reserve junior champion shown by Kennedy Lee of Smithfield (Johnston)

- Senior champion shown by Lydia Wilson of China Grove (Rowan)

- Reserve senior champion shown by Lylah Johnson of Mayodan (Rockingham)

Junior Commercial Meat Goat – Doe

- Grand champion and junior champion doe shown by Katelyn Hewitt of Reidsville (Rockingham)

- Reserve grand champion and reserve junior champion doe shown by Scarlett Denning of Newton Grove (Johnston)

- Got to Be NC champion, senior champion and senior Got to Be NC champion shown by Elizabeth Sanner of Statesville (Iredell)

- Reserve senior champion and reserve senior Got to Be NC champion shown by Olivia Sanner of Statesville (Iredell)

- Reserve Got to Be NC Champion and Junior Got to Be NC champion shown by Tyla Marshall of Pleasant Garden (Guilford)

- Reserve junior Got to Be NC champion shown by Macon Parker of Newton Grove (Johnston)

Open Market Barrow – Purebred

- Grand champion shown by Erin Burns of Clayton (Wake)

Open Market Barrow – Crossbred



Congratulations to all the participants and winners!

- Champion shown by Dylan Briley of Greenville (Pitt)

- Reserve champion shown by Floyd Davis of Wilson (Wilson)

Open breeding gilt – Purebred

- Grand champion shown by Ruby Davis of Albertson (Duplin)

- Champion shown by William Messer of Elm City (Wilson)

- Reserve champion shown by Brenda Cox of Trenton (Jones)

Open Breeding Gilt – Crossbred

- Champion shown by Ruby Davis of Albertson (Duplin)

- Reserve champion shown by Lucas Turner of Wilson (Wilson)

Junior Market Barrow

- Grand champion shown by Billie Faith Fulcher of Godwin (Cumberland)

- Reserve grand champion shown by Riley Balance of Lucama (Wilson)

Crossbred Junior Market Barrow

- Light weight reserve champion shown



The shows concluded with the Livestock Sale of Champions on the last day of the fair.

by Harley Barwick of Deep Run (Lenoir)

- Medium weight champion shown by Travis Cox of Richlands (Onslow)

- Medium weight reserve champion and Got to Be NC medium weight shown by Harley Barwick of Deep Run (Lenoir)

- Third overall champion shown by Ella McNeely of Lake Toxaway (Transylvania)

- Heavy weight champion shown by Billie Faith Fulcher of Godwin (Cumberland)

- Heavy weight reserve champion and Got to Be NC heavy weight shown by Riley Balance of Lucama (Wilson)

Purebred Junior Market Barrow

- Light Weight Reserve Champion shown by Halle Taylor of Pink Hill

- Medium weight champion shown by Travis Cox of Richlands (Onslow)

- Medium weight reserve champion shown by Riley Ballance of Lucama (Wilson)

- Heavy weight champion shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)

- Heavy weight reserve champion shown by William Messer of Elm City (Wilson)

Crossbred Junior Market Barrow

- Champion crossbred shown by Billie Faith Fulcher of Godwin (Cumberland)

- Reserve champion crossbred shown by Riley Balance of Lucama (Wilson)

- Grand champion Got to Be NC barrow shown by Riley Balance of Lucama (Wilson)

- Reserve grand champion Got to Be NC barrow shown by Ella McNeely of Lake Toxaway (Transylvania)

Purebred Junior Market Barrow

- Champion purebred barrow shown by Grace Jennings of Camden (Camden)

- Reserve champion purebred barrow shown by Travis Cox of Richlands (Onslow)

- Champion Got to Be NC purebred shown by William Messer of Elm City (Wilson)

- Reserve Got to Be NC purebred shown by Isaac Linton of Mount Olive (Wayne)

Purebred Junior Breeding Gilt

- Champion purebred and Champion Got to Be NC purebred shown by Mackenzie Cox of Richlands (Onslow)

- Reserve champion Got to Be NC purebred shown by Genevieve Pulcini of Richlands (Jones)

Crossbred Junior Breeding Gilt

- Champion crossbred shown by Faith J. Kennedy of Deep Run (Lenoir)

- Reserve champion crossbred shown by Billie Faith Fulcher of Godwin (Cumberland)

- Champion Got to Be NC crossbred shown by Harley Barwick of Deep Run (Lenoir)

- Reserve champion Got to Be NC crossbred shown by Charleston Slate of King (Stokes)

Showmanship (listed by placement in

each age group)

Junior Beef Showmanship

Junior, 11 and under

- Ruby-Ann Pipkin, Sims (Wilson)

- Beau Surratte, Sherrills Ford (Catawba)

Intermediate, 12-14 years old

- Laithan Blankenship, Castalia (Franklin)

- Peyton Taylor, Lenoir (Caldwell)

Senior, 15-18 years old

- Lydia Crocker, Selma (Johnston)

- Ava Wood, Willow Spring (Johnston)

Senior Plus, 19-21 years old

- Schyler Crocker, Selma (Johnston)

- Hannah M. Smith, Franklin (Macon)

Junior Swine Showmanship

Novice, 8 and under

- Harley Barwick, Deep Run (Lenoir)

- Marker Smith, Kinston (Lenoir)

Junior, 9-13 years old

- Halle Taylor, Pink Hill (Lenoir)

- Arlee Shaye Fulcher, Godwin (Cumberland)

Senior, 14-18 years old

- Billie Faith Fulcher, Godwin (Cumberland)

- Conner Barwick, Deep Run (Lenoir)

Senior Plus, 19-21 years old

- Faith J. Kennedy, Deep Run (Lenoir)

- Erin Burns, Clayton (Wake)

Junior Sheep Showmanship

Novice, 8 and under

- Carter Jennings, Kenly (Johnston)

- Valerie Poole, Zebulon (Franklin)

Junior, 9-13 years old

- Josey Kemp, Scotland Neck (Halifax)

- Isabel Moore, Scotland Neck (Halifax)

Senior, 14-18 years old

- Dava Armstrong, Columbia (Tyrrell)

- Scarlett Denning, Newton Grove (Johnston)

Senior Plus, 19-21 years old

- Hailee Whitehurst, Hobgood (Edgecombe)

- Hope Latta, Zebulon (Franklin)

Junior Meat Goat Showmanship

Novice, 8 and under

- Adelyn Hemilright, Columbia (Tyrrell)

- Carter Jennings, Kenly (Johnston)

Junior, 9-13 years old

- Zadock Jennings, Kenly (Johnston)

- Tyla Marshall, Pleasant Garden (Guilford)

Senior, 14-18 years old

- Scarlett Denning, Newton Grove (Johnston)

- Darci Boucher, Columbia (Tyrrell)

Senior Plus, 19-21 years old

- Hailee Whitehurst, Hobgood (Edgecombe)

- Grace Holshouser, Mooresville (Iredell)

North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association announces new executive vice president



Katie Oskey is the new executive vice president of the NCNLA.

The North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association (NCNLA) is proud to announce the selection of an executive vice president to drive the Association’s vision to promote and protect the interests of the North Carolina Green Industry. Katie Oskey, with over a decade of experience in event management, project management and nonprofit leadership, has been selected to step into this role, bringing a wealth of expertise and a passion for serving NCNLA members.

Since 2021, Katie has excelled as NCNLA’s Director of Events and Education, showcasing outstanding leadership by developing programs that meet member needs, driving engagement and optimizing financial efficiency.

“Katie brings extensive knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to this position and has a great passion and respect for our members,” said Ariel Montanez, president of the NCNLA Board of Directors.

Katie has managed diverse brands and led high-profile events nationwide. Her professional portfolio includes collaborations with non-profits, such as the North Carolina State Florists Association and the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville. Katie holds a bachelor of business administration from Georgia State University in Atlanta and a master of science in management from Troy University in Troy, Ala. This blend of proven leadership skills and a strong educational foundation provides her with a comprehensive approach to team leadership and organizational success.

“As I step into this role, my focus will be on promoting collaboration, implementing strategic planning and enhancing member engagement. I look forward to building meaningful relationships and supporting those we serve,” Katie said.

Under Katie Oskey’s leadership, NCNLA is dedicated to enhancing advocacy for the industry and fostering meaningful partnerships across membership and the broader green industry.

The North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association (NCNLA) is a 501 (c)5 non-profit membership organization of firms interested in the welfare of North Carolina’s green industry, with emphasis on the nursery and landscape industry.

January AgroTips

Test soilless media for annual flowers and vegetable seedling production.

Prior to filling containers and sowing seeds, the analysis of soilless media (substrate) will detect if chemical properties such as pH, electrical conductivity (soluble salts), and nutrient concentrations are ideal for optimum and efficient production of annual flowers and vegetable seedlings. During production, analysis of soilless media is a best management practice that helps to identify if fertilizer has been depleted or if it is excessively high. Also, if a problem occurs during production, this test will help diagnose if the trouble is related to nutrition and suggest appropriate corrective action.

Scout wheat early and plan to tissue test.

Wheat producers need to count tillers in January and follow up with tissue sampling in late February or March. This approach is the best way to optimize fertilizer purchases and application. At the beginning of green-up in January, 50 to 70 tillers per square foot is optimum. If the count is lower, apply half the spring topdress nitrogen right away. This application will help the crop continue to produce tillers on warm days without excessive growth.

Tissue test in February or March (at Feekes growth stage 5 or Zadoks GS 30) to find out if more nitrogen is needed. Contact your regional agronomist if you need additional guidance on how to count tillers or identify the appropriate growth stage.

Test source water for tobacco seedling float beds.

Nearly half of the source water samples taken from tobacco float bed operations in North Carolina and about one in five nutrient solution samples have high alkalinity (sometimes known as total carbonates). Alkalinity values greater than or equal to 100 contribute to high pH and soluble-salt problems. When necessary, the solution report provides recommendations for reducing alkalinity by 80%.

Open burning permit requirement reinstated for 21 Western N.C. counties

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the requirement for open burning permits was waived for many Western North Carolina counties through the authorization of House Bill 149, the Disaster Recovery Act of 2024.

On Dec. 18, the North Carolina Forest Service reinstated the requirement for open burning permits in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey counties.

“North Carolinians never cease to amaze me with their ability to persevere through trying times and overcome great challenges,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Hurricane Helene was nothing short of devastating, but North Carolinians have responded, critical infrastructure has improved and communities are bouncing back. Given the progress made throughout Western North Carolina, we feel the time is right to lift the waiver on burn permits to ensure safe burning practices are applied.”

Permits may be obtained from any open authorized permitting agent, including the N.C. Forest Service.

When burning outdoors, recommended best practices include the following: never burn on a dry, windy day; never leave your fire unattended; keep a water source, shovel, rake and a phone nearby.

#NextGenAg

(Continued from pg. 8)



Breyana Robinson is a senior at N.C. A&T State University studying laboratory animal science and animal science.

and lead Vet Tech for a company. In this role, she plans to research diseases and how we can not only treat those illnesses but prevent them and their variations for livestock in the future.

For anyone seeking a career in the agriculture industry, Breyana challenges you to take every opportunity that comes your way. “Don’t get in your own way,” she said. “Many of the opportunities that I’ve been given simply found me, but I wouldn’t have taken them if I didn’t believe in myself. Don’t be your own worst enemy. If an opportunity comes your way in the agriculture industry, jump out of your comfort zone and say yes because you never know where it might take you.”

FFA

(Continued from pg. 1)

Nursery Landscape and Floriculture. The chapter achieved back-to-back awards in Nursery Landscape in 2023 and 2024. In addition, students took home national awards in 2023 in both Nursery Landscape and Floriculture, marking only the third time a school had achieved this recognition.

The Larry Wooten Rural Leadership Award was established in 2019 to honor exceptional leaders who have made significant contributions to rural communities in North Carolina. The award bears Larry Wooten’s name to commemorate his longtime leadership at NC Farm Bureau where he supported farmers across the state, as well as his service on the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Policy Council, the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, and the Soil and Water Foundation.

The award recognizes individuals and programs whose visionary leadership and unwavering dedication have positively impacted the lives of those living in rural areas.

Horse Events

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

- Feb. 28-Mar. 1..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.

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

- Jan. 17-19 Triangle Winter Indoors I ‘C’. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.
- Jan. 23-26 Raleigh Winter I Hunter. Contact Joan Petty, 919-556-7321.
- 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.
- 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.

Veterans

(Continued from pg. 2)

service. To be part of an effort that is dedicated to helping people in some positive way, I find fulfillment in that and I'm happy to continue doing so," Van Buren stated. "I can say it was certainly worth it."

While the NCFS is the state's lead agency tasked with responding to wildfires on state- and privately-owned land, personnel are also trained and equipped to support all-hazard emergency response. Most recently, the NCFS had an integral role to fill in the state's effort to restore critical infrastructure in the wake of Hurricane Helene. Chainsaw task forces were deployed to help remove storm debris and clear roads for accessibility. Geographic information system specialists (GISS) were dispatched to provide timely and accurate spatial information about the impacted areas to assist incident management personnel. Other critical needs such as building temporary bridges for residents to be able to access their homes and providing them with non-potable water were among some of the other essential functions provided by NCFS personnel.

For Cory Wilmoth, NCFS District 2 equipment operator, Hurricane Helene recovery efforts came from multiple perspectives, not only as a member of the NCFS but also as a member of the Army National Guard.

"While on dispatch with the N.C. Forest Service, I was assigned to a skidder to get roads cleared from downed trees and mudslides following Helene's destruction," explained Wilmoth.

"I was deployed again, this time separate from the N.C. Forest Service, with the National Guard where I was responsible for establishing soldier units who were designated to carry out specific tasks depending on the need. We also prepped equipment resources for deployment on a moment's notice."

Wilmoth comes from a long line of military pedigree. His father was a marine, his grandfather served in WWII before joining the National Guard full-time where he helped establish the Elkin Armory, and his great-uncle was killed in action during the Pacific Theater in the Philippines.

As a forest fire equipment operator (FFEO), Wilmoth



Dave Hoffer responding to the Flare Gun Fire in Bertie County.

installs fire lines for many of the 4,500 wildfires that burn on North Carolina soil each year while operating a tractor-plow unit. He's also responsible for transporting said bulldozer while operating a hauling unit as well as the loading, unloading, cleaning and maintaining of each piece of equipment. Fire lines are also established on private lands for woodland owners who authorize the NCFS to apply prescribed fire on their forested tracts.

"Not only am I a heavy equipment operator for the N.C. Forest Service, it's also what I've done for the National Guard for several years," Wilmoth added. "I've operated bulldozers, track hoes, motor graders, scrapers, compactors and several other construction equipment models."

Like Hoffer and Van Buren, Wilmoth has also spent his fair share of time deployed overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"In Iraq, I was involved in a lot of convoys, grading work, and establishing concrete barriers for hospitals, police stations and checkpoints," said Wilmoth. "While in Afghanistan, we built a base to facilitate equipment shipments through Uzbekistan and Tajikistan."

November is a time where our nation recognizes the



Cory Wilmoth, N.C. Forest Service District 2 equipment operator, continues to serve in the Army National Guard in addition to his NCFS employment.

many sacrifices made by the men and women serving in our armed forces. Many of whom will spend the upcoming holidays away from home, family and other loved ones as they fulfill their commitment to this great country. As a small token of appreciation, the NCFS offered a 20% discount on tree seedling orders through the end of November for all active, honorably discharged or retired military personnel. Many North Carolina woodland owners are veterans or current military members who work tirelessly toward keeping our state's forests healthy and thriving. A goal shared by Dave, Brandon, Cory and the rest of the NCFS as they continue to serve the communities that they live, work and play in.

To all veterans and active military service members, thank you.

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.

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.

BEES

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



Equipment For Sale

1958 Farmall Cub, \$1,300. Woody Starnes, Waxhaw 704-242-4290.

Knieb pop-up hay loader, fits on side of trailer or truck, \$475. Russ Hanes, Ashe 828-406-6365.

(2) wood splitters, \$100-\$500. Phil Zimmerman, Lexington 336-406-6746.

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

Hay spike, 3 pt, \$100. Jim Odette, Apex 919-362-9341.

1974 Farmall 140, front & rear cults, fert distributor, GC, \$6,000. Pat O'Brien, Fayetteville 910-488-2777.

Old Farmall Cub, started 3 yrs ago, may need new carb, good for parts, \$1,500. Christopher Summers, Browns Summit 540-209-2162.

JD 8-bushel hopper, dump from seat, fits X700 series JD garden tractors, used little, \$1,600. Don Whittington, Mt. Pleasant 704-792-5584.

8 ft. tiller, 100 hp, \$1,000; 1948 Farmall H, \$3,000. Richard Burrage, Concord 704-791-3434.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Aerator plunger for riding mower, inclds wgts for top of aerator, \$195; Scotts push spreader, \$30. G. Stowe, Graham 336-675-0466.

2023 JD 3043D compact tractor w/front loader, series 3, 180 hrs., professionally maintained w/annual checks/oil changes/fluid top ups, \$25,000. Maggie Young, Norwood 919-606-9682.

Ford 3600 diesel, 8-spd, \$6,800; Ford 600 gas, Sherman trans, \$3,250; 2-bottom plow, \$275; 6' scrape blade, \$275; NI manure spreader, \$1,950; 5' bush hog, \$575. Dan Cheek, Graham 336-376-9012.

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

Single row mulch layer/fumigation rig, 28" bed, 9" high, up to 60" rls, \$4,750; mulch lifter retrofitted w/transplanter seats, w/3 sets puncher wheels, \$3,500. Ted Sherrod, Kenly 919-201-8779.

JD TW harrow, 36 discs, \$1,800; JD14T hay baler, \$1,800; wood saw for Ford 8N tractor, \$200. Bruce Sizemore, Julian 336-549-0884.

Tricycle tractor, FC, been sitting, \$2,200 obo. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.



Equipment Wanted

Used/scrap harrow discs, 50 pieces needed. Jared Yates, Hickory 828-308-1543.

EQUIPMENT WANTED

AC 333 no till planter or parts w/rnd seed hoppers. Jack Simpson, Todd 704-242-0763.

AC D-10 w/cults, series III, 3 pt, not running ok, reasonable price. David Lloyd, Wake Forest 984-218-2566.

2 front wheels for AC WD-45 tractor, 600 x 16. Eugene Tucker, Denton 336-963-9325 or Ty Trogdon, 336-943-3062.

 **Farm Labor For Sale**

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

Elect./fence box repair, zareba, tsc, afw, ssc, parmak, \$20/hr. Bobby Nichols, N. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.

Lawn mower/tractor repair, garden tillers, other sm eng & outdoor power equip, in Alexander & surrounding co; 45+ yrs. exp., can p/u & deliv, \$30-\$60/hr. William Munday Sr., Taylorsville 828-638-1521.

 **Farmland Wanted**

Hunting land to lease in Guilford or So. Rockingham co, private lease for only me & my family; deer, turkey, coyote & any game birds. Tom Flanagan, Greensboro 336-706-1222, flanagan712@msn.com.

 **Hay & Grain For Sale**

Fescue, spring '24 cutting, 4x4 1/2 rnd, \$40/bale. Kenneth Dobbins, Reidsville 743-244-0388.

2024 fescue/mixed grass, 4x4 rls, barn stored, fields fert & limed, \$30/bale; 10 or more, \$32/bale, cash only. Kent Lambeth, Winston Salem 336-209-8962.

2024 corn silage, 175 tons, deliv avail, \$75/ton. Logan Kluttz, Salisbury 704-680-7196.

Fescue, 4x5 rnd, barn stored, \$40/bale. Chris Wood, Sanford 919-842-2126, call/text.

Hay, 4x5 rls, stored inside, \$40/rl. Larry Hicks, Staley 336-708-0152.

Orchard grass/fescue, 4x5 rl, horse quality, sheltered, no rain/weeds, \$50/rl; mixed grass, 4x5 rl, sheltered, no rain, \$40-\$45/rl; local deliv avail. Jay Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

Fescue, crab grass & rye grass, 4x5 rnd, \$30-\$50; fescue, sq bales, \$4 ea. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

HAY & GRAIN

Alfalfa hay, horse quality, kept dry, \$12/bale, \$60/rl. Phil Zimmerman, Lexington 336-406-6746.

Fescue, orchard grass, clover, timothy, no rain, barn kept, \$6/sq bale; 4x4 rnd, \$35/bale. Russ Hanes, Glendale Springs 828-406-6365.

Fescue/orchard grass, 4x5 rnd, in barn, \$30/bale. Larry York, Staley 336-824-2077.

2024 horse quality Coastal Bermuda hay, \$125 bales left, \$8 ea. Gary White, Sanford 919-775-9769.

Fescue, 4x5 rnd, barn kept, '24 hay, \$45/bale; '23 hay, \$35/bale; '24 sq bale, \$6.50/bale. Don Shew, Harmony 704-662-2640.

Orchard grass hay, '24 cut, sm sq bales, horse quality, \$9/bale; '24 fescue, 4x5 rnd, \$50/bale; small sq, \$7/bale. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

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

Orchard grass hay, no rain, sq bales, 40+lbs., around 500 left, \$9/bale. Kenneth Chilton, Pilot Mtn 336-374-2410 or cell 399-1973.

Peanut hay, rnd bales, net wrapped, can deliv 38 bales/load, \$30/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

Orchard grass/fescue/Timothy/clover mix grass hay, spring '24 cut, horse quality, lrg sq, \$7.50/bale; rnd, \$55/bale. Elizabeth Macdonald, Blanch 336-459-6776.

Hay, 4x5 rnd, fert, weed free, no rain, sheltered, cow quality, \$35/bale; horse quality, \$40/bale. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

Coastal hay, horse quality, 4x5 rnd, \$50/bale. Travis Lookabill, Wadesboro 704-690-0411.

Fescue hay, 4x5 rnd, in barn, \$35/bale. Roger Drum, Statesville 704-880-7006.

Fescue, sq bales, \$6; rnd bales, \$50. Thomas Berrier, Lexington 336-764-1051.

Mixed grass, 20 rnd bales, \$35 ea. B.R. Ferguson, Charlotte 704-591-2944.

'24 fescue/mixed grass, no rain, 4x5 rnd, \$35-\$50/bale. Randy Barringer, Rockwell 704-794-4415.

Fescue/mixed grass, 4x5, net wrap, stored inside, deliv avail, \$45/bale. Frankie Shoffner, Liberty 336-339-5961.

 **Livestock For Sale**

Kiko/Savanna cross doelings & bucklings, dob 4/24; adult does, yearlings to 7 y/o, established, quality bloodlines, healthy, hardy, easy keepers, \$150-\$300. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

Bred Ossabaw Island gilts, 18 m/o, \$600 ea.; OI boars, 1-2 y/o, \$500 ea.; heritage cross open sows, breeding age, \$750 ea.; boars avail. Eliza MacLean, Snow Camp 919-218-4361, text.

LIVESTOCK

Polled Hereford bull, dob 6/2/24, \$1,200. Bill Barkley, Salisbury 704-918-0379, call/text; or 633-5040.

Reg Hereford bull, dob 2/24, \$1,900. Kent Beck, Lexington 336-247-1179.

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.

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

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

(6) Jersey heifers, full blood, 1/1/2 y/o, not bred, had shots, \$2,000 each nego. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

ND goats, bred for great milkers, friendly pets; spring babies, \$125; yearling doe w/ blue eyes, \$150; does, \$150; Wethers, reg bucks & bred does avail. Karey Brindle, Mt. Pleasant 704-960-7342.

Nubians, good blood lines, disbudded, friendly, dob 5/24; bucks, can be ADGA reg, \$250; reg does, \$375. Ken Burton, Pisgah Forest 828-553-2672.

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

Reg Angus bulls, ready for service, calving ease & efficiency, good feet & disposition, \$3,500 & up; reg Angus heifers avail, ready to breed. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 919-444-5307.

Jersey milk cow w/3rd bull calf born 11-7-24, hand milk or machine milk; will sell together or separate, \$1,450 for pair obo. Tim Hochstetler, Salisbury 704-798-9505, call or text.

F1 Blk Wagyu x Blk Angus stocker calves; steers & heifers, weaned, ready to finish for direct beef market; heifers can be breeding stock, \$3,000 ea. Martha Mobley, Louisburg 919-495-1305.

 **Livestock Wanted**

Nubian doe, in milk or kidding soon, unreg ok, clean tested. Chelsea Thomas, Walnut Cove 336-817-1502.

Hereford hogs or pigs; Ossabaw hogs or pigs. Milton Upchurch, Kenly 919-631-8392.

 **Poultry & Supplies For Sale**

Mature breeding stock, Ayam Cemani chickens, \$20 ea.; Serama bantams, \$10 ea. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997.

POULTRY

California, Silver California, Bluescales, Gambel's, 8 varieties of bobwhites; partridge, Philby, chukar, Hungarians, \$6 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-888-0213.

Chore-Time male feeder for 400 ft. house, \$1,000; (2) plastic tanks, 1,200 gal., \$400 ea.; Acme fans, 36/48/50 in., \$150-\$350; nest pads, \$1. William Fox, Hiddenite 828-312-9736.

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

 **Poultry & Supplies Wanted**

Barred rock rooster & 1 or 2 deep keel Rouen drakes, w/in 150 mi of Thurmond. J Haynes, Thurmond 336-466-4993, text.

Poultry breeder house to lease in Alexander or surrounding co, 400 ft. or larger, GC, ready to use; may consider partnership, prefer Mount Aire contract. William Munday Sr., Taylorsville 828-638-1521.

Old style hanging chicken feeder, need 20 or more. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997.

NOTE: Sellers, please be aware of potential scam callers and fake checks. Stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

 **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.

Sunflower seeds, old timey type w/huge 12-14 lb. flower, 15-18 in. diameter, SASE & \$3/25 seeds; \$5/50 seeds. N. Smoot, 6227 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370.

Potted scuppernong & muscadine vines, 5-6 ft., healthy, fert & planting instr incld, \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

 **Seeds & Plants Wanted**

Asparagus crowns, 2 y/o, for early 2025 planting, prefer purple. Linda Stamat, Winston Salem 336-757-6983.

Support N.C. Farmers

got to be **NC AGRICULTURE**

Buy Local!

 **Supplies For Sale**

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

Outside rabbit hutches & inside cages, \$15-\$30 or \$80/all. Nathan Slabaugh, Union Grove 336-468-4933.

Porter 2 head shaper, 3 phase, \$700; Ecco doub shaft flapper sander, 3 phase, \$125; Westinghouse 125 hp 3 phase 1180 RPM 580-S frame, \$700. Eddie Moretz, Deep Gap 828-963-0883.

Train jack, \$100; (2) truck toolboxes, \$100 ea.; metal pipe, 20 in. x 20 ft., \$200. Jim Odette, Apex 919-362-9341.

Water totes, \$75; feed barrels, \$20; solid top metal & plastic, \$10; burning barrels, \$10. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

 **Trucks & Trailers For Sale**

1984 Chevy C-60, 366 eng, 5-spd, hi/lo trans, 20 ft. flatbed, \$2,000. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

96 Kawasaki mule 4x4; (2) Honda 200 4 wheelers, pkg deal, \$5,000. Richard Buraage, Concord 704-791-3434.

2003 Dodge RAM 2500 flatbed truck, 4x4, 4-dr., diesel, deluxe pkg., 4 toolboxes, excel. running cond., 250,000 mi, recently rebuilt trans, \$18,000. Craig Poole, Raleigh 919-801-3661.

Thieman truck lift gate, 3,000 lbs., EC, \$1,250. Eddie Moretz, Deep Gap 828-963-0883.

Calico stock trailer, bumper pull, \$6,895; Ridgeline landscape trailer, \$2,995. Y.D. Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

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#NextGenAg: Changing the world one lab at a time

Agriculture impacts the world in many ways from the field to the fork. Breyana Robinson grew up on a family farm in Texas and immediately fell in love with the agriculture industry. From raising livestock and harvesting produce to research in the lab, Breyana has already gained a vast amount of experience in the industry, and she's just getting started.

Growing up in Garland, Texas, Breyana was surrounded by agriculture. "In Texas, there is a barn and a farm on every corner," she said, "so I was always very aware of the industry, even outside of our family farm." Breyana's family not only raised livestock, including cows and pigs, but also a variety of produce, like peas. "I remember helping around the farm at a very young age," she said. "I've always had a passion for agriculture, especially the animals." Learning at the hand of her father influenced Breyana to become involved with agriculture and FFA as soon as she started her freshman year at Lake View Centennial High School in Garland.

Agriculture and FFA are ways of life for many high schoolers in Texas, including Breyana. "We had our own barn where we could gain hands on experience working with livestock animals, as well as a huge livestock show at the end of the year where we could showcase the skills that we

learned," she said. Breyana was also a member of the Veterinary Assistance Program at the Career Center in her hometown, where she began to develop a passion for veterinary medicine. "I didn't know exactly what path I wanted to take with agriculture in high school, but I was very fortunate to have opportunities in a variety of areas," she said. "Ultimately, it was my work at the career center that pointed me in the direction of a Vet Med degree." Upon graduating high school, Breyana packed her bags for North Carolina and began her college journey at North Carolina A&T State University.

As a senior, Breyana is looking forward to graduating in May with degrees in both Laboratory Animal Science and Animal Science. She is currently applying for master's programs and veterinary medicine programs to continue her education. "I have loved my time at N.C. A&T State University because it has not only given me a well-rounded education in the classroom, but also a variety of hands-on experience at the N.C. A&T Farm and in the LARU Laboratory," she said. "I've learned so much in four years, including how we can positively impact the environment and community through research. I can't wait to continue my education and impact the world through my work." In addition to her education, Breyana has held various internships to further her experience and knowledge, including with the Huntsman Cancer Institute

in Salt Lake City, a nutrition lab, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. "I love to learn new things," Breyana said. "I take as many opportunities as I can because I know that each one will make me grow more as a person and as an agriculture industry professional." Perhaps one of Breyana's most impressive accomplishments is receiving the Astronaut Scholarship with N.C. A&T State University both in 2023 and in 2024. The Astronaut Scholarship is awarded annually to the nation's most academically accomplished students pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degrees. "When I first applied for the Astronaut Scholarship, I really didn't think that I would get it, but decided to take a chance," Breyana said, "and I'm glad that I did! This scholarship has opened so many opportunities for me to educate others on my research, including industry professionals and college professors. I've had the opportunity to speak on TV, radio and more!" As a part of this honor, Breyana conducted a research project that showcased her passion and desire. As a Vet Med major, Breyana embarked on a project in livestock



Breyana Robinson left her home state of Texas to study agriculture in North Carolina.

research. "My research stems around the fact that what happens with the animals that make up our nation's food supply matters," she said. "I did a lot of research with prebiotics and probiotics, including how we can eliminate those things and use natural ingredients/medicines in our livestock to increase their health." As part of the scholarship process, Breyana presented her research to a room of professional researchers and professors, who all loved the unique ideas and fundamental truths shown in her research. "It is such an honor to teach others about my work and see their eyes light up as they see the value in it," she said. "To be awarded this scholarship, and all the amazing opportunities that come with it, not

just once but twice, is a bigger honor than I can possibly put into words."

In addition to her plethora of knowledge and hands-on experience, Breyana also brings a variety of skills to the industry, including public speaking, strong communication skills, determination, adaptability and passion. "I love taking on a challenge and constantly learning new things," she said. "I think that I am an asset for this industry in many ways, and I can't wait to make a mark on this industry that effects everyone equally on a daily basis." In the future, Breyana hopes to work as a Clinical Investigator

(See #NextGenAg, page 5)

Here's how invasive species can overrun our landscapes

Invasive species. It's a term that often sparks debate. The meaning of 'invasive' can be subjective, which further muddies the water and often leads to misuse of the term. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines an invasive species as a nonnative species that, when introduced, causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health in the ecosystem under consideration.

Plants have an innate instinct to spread their seeds over a wide area to prevent seedling competition with the parent plant for resources like water, sunlight and nutrients. By spreading their seeds, plants increase the chances of their offspring surviving and thriving in diverse environments. Natural dispersal mechanisms, such as wind, water, animals and gravity, have played a significant role in plant evolution and native ranges. When seeds are dispersed naturally, plant species that emerge into a new ecosystem are often considered naturalized. When their spread is directly or indirectly linked to human actions, and their introduction harms the existing ecosystem, it's labeled as invasive, or more aptly, a nonnative invasive.

It's important to note that not all introduced species become invasive. Many introduced species successfully integrate into new ecosystems without causing harm. It's also worth noting that although native species like American pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), purple passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) can seem invasive as they aggressively encroach into our landscapes, they are just that—aggressive spreaders, not an invasive species. These plants are part of the natural ecosystem and do not pose the same threats as nonnative invasive species. They are a part of our native forest systems and contribute to the overall biodiversity.

Nonnative invasive plants are typically fast growing, can reproduce rapidly and are able to tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. Often, they are among the first to recolonize an area following a major disturbance like wildfire, major storms, flooding events and land use change. Many have aggressive root systems that can spread long distances and outcompete surrounding vegetation while others produce chemicals in their leaves or root systems that can inhibit the growth of plants around them. Free from the natural competition of herbivores, insects and diseases that normally keep populations in check,



Fig buttercup (left) and winged burning bush (right) are invasive plants that can present a challenge to home gardeners.



nonnative invasive plants can outcompete native species, leading to a decline in biodiversity. Forests are complex systems of interacting organisms. Our understanding of the long-term consequences of nonnative invasive plants is still emerging. Still, it's clear that they can change forest structure, degrade the beauty of our landscapes, disrupt food webs, harbor other invasive insects and pathogens and alter ecological processes such as fire regimes and nutrient cycling.

Increasing global trade and widespread use of nonnative plants for horticultural and landscaping purposes have contributed to the establishment of invasive plants and the challenges they present. Many of these nonnative plants, initially cultivated, have escaped and are now dominating the surrounding environment. According to the North Carolina Invasive Plant Council's Invasive Plant List, there are more than 120 invasive plant species currently in North Carolina and more than 100 more on their watchlist. Many of these can be purchased from local and online garden centers.

The most effective way to combat nonnative invasive plants is through prevention. The N.C. Forest Service strongly urges

folks to utilize native plants in your landscapes, gardens and forests, and to avoid planting species known to be invasive. Secondly, remove invasives when observed. Early detection and rapid response are crucial for controlling small infestations before they spread further. Controlling established nonnative invasive plants can be more challenging and may require persistent effort over multiple seasons. However, the benefits to our native forest systems and human well-being greatly outweigh the effort.

Contact your local NCFS office for assistance with the identification and specific recommendations for managing nonnative invasive plant species on your land. You can also join us during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (Feb. 24-28) for our annual Statewide Weed Out Campaign to reclaim our landscapes from nonnative invasive plants. More information on the Statewide Weed Out Campaign is coming soon.

See the Forest Health Program's Invasive Plants page for more information on invasive plant identification and specifics on treatment recommendations.