

Agricultural REVIEW

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Raleigh, N.C.

Peak-season fees waived for WNC counties

REMINDER: Peak-season soil testing fees will be waived for growers and homeowners in Hurricane Helene-impacted Western North Carolina counties.

The peak-season fee of \$4 per sample is implemented annually to encourage growers to submit samples early to help spread out the testing time frame and to invest in equipment and temporary staff to decrease turnaround times. This year, the peak laboratory season runs through March 31, 2025.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

March 3 for the April issue
April 1 for the May issue
May 1 for the June issue
June 2 for the July issue

Integra Foods named 2025 Exporter of the Year

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently recognized Integra Foods of Bladenboro as the 2025 Exporter of the Year at the annual Ag Development Forum hosted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

This award honors the company's exceptional achievements in international trade, market expansion and contributions to North Carolina's agricultural exports.

"The work Vladimir Stepanian and Eugene Korniychuk are doing at Integra Foods reflects the critical role that N.C. agribusinesses play in feeding the world," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "They exemplify the innovation, commitment, and global reach that make our state a powerhouse in food and agriculture exports, and I am proud to recognize Integra Foods as the 2025 Exporter of the Year."

Established in Bladen County in 2019, Integra Foods is a leader in the production of fully cooked and smoked poultry products for both domestic and international markets. Their state-of-the-art facility is certified in Good Manufacturing Practices and Organic Standards and serves industries such as amusement parks, foodservice and retail outlets in the USA, Japan, Korea, China, Singapore and beyond.

"North Carolina is home to some of the country's most dedicated and innovative farmers, and it's truly a privilege to represent our state in the global stage," said Korniychuk, vice president of Integra Foods. "We are excited about our future and grateful for the continued opportunities to serve as ambassadors of North Carolina agriculture."

Integra Foods is a member of the NCDA&CS's Got to Be NC program and has been actively assisting the NCDA&CS International Marketing



Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, left, named Integra Foods as the 2025 Exporter of the Year.

Team, Southern United States Trade Association and USA Poultry and Egg Export Council on promotions in foreign markets. Stepanian and Korniychuk have been instrumental in recruiting buyers for the upcoming 2025 NCDA&CS Trade Mission to Japan.

With plans for continued global expansion, Integra Foods remains committed to providing high-quality, sustainable food solutions while promoting North Carolina's agricultural excellence on the world stage. To learn more about Integra Foods, visit them online at www.integrafoods.net.

Sampson turkey operation tests positive for HPAI

A commercial turkey operation in Sampson County has tested positive for High Path Avian Influenza. The positive sample was first identified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Raleigh and confirmed by the USDA APHIS National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa.

This is the second case of high path avian influenza in commercial poultry in North Carolina this year. The first case was in a commercial layer operation in Hyde County. Prior to this case, North Carolina has had 12 affected commercial flocks and eight backyard flocks.

"Since 2022, HPAI has impacted more than 141 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

This is one of my favorite times of year as preparations for a new growing season get under way. There's always equipment to get ready and planting decisions to make. We are seeing that at our 18 state-operated research stations as well as plans for this year's research efforts taking shape.

I have talked many times about the importance of ag research and how every dollar invested in research returns \$20 on average. With a growing global population, we need research to figure out how farmers can produce more

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

food with fewer resources – whether that is improving yields, developing better production practices or using new technology and equipment to improve efficiencies.

Across the state, our research stations have updated some equipment, including tractors, sprayers, skid steers, excavators and other pieces. Irrigation platform upgrades are also being made, including adding new linear irrigation, traveler irrigation and updating some old control systems. Drones have also been added to the research stations and some stations are working to install fiber optics to increase internet capabilities.

Three of our research stations will be using a new Vytelle Sense livestock feeding system. When these three are fully operational, we will have a total of four of these systems engaged in livestock research across different stations.

They are located at the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville, the Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs, the Upper Piedmont

Research Station in Reidsville, and the Umstead Research Farm in Butner.

This technology will passively collect feed, water and weight data on every cow or small ruminant to track the growth of the animals and see which ones are the most efficient at converting feed into muscle.

The system uses an individual radio frequency tag that is read when a cow comes up to the feed trough and water trough. The system can track the amount of food the animal eats and captures its weight when it drinks water.

This technology saves labor by collecting data automatically, and the biggest return is expected to be its ability to help producers identify livestock that can more efficiently and quickly be ready to market.

And that is important if we are going to be able to produce more food with fewer resources to meet the growing global demand.

I am grateful for the continued support of the N.C. General Assembly in funding improvements and additions

to our research stations.

Investing in research will pay off for producers in the long run and will help North Carolina remain competitive in the global marketplace.

And finally, as of press time, I am continuing to work on disaster recovery funding with the N.C. General Assembly. We have nearly \$5 billion in uninsured losses in agriculture and in using a formula we put together following Hurricane Florence to figure what it will take to get farmers back to where they can borrow money for this season and get growing again, we are looking at \$357 million for Western N.C. for recovery from Hurricane Helene and \$174 million for other areas of North Carolina for recovery from the drought, Hurricane Debby and another unnamed storm that created wet conditions.

I am hopeful that proposed legislation passes that will help us get funding out to growers for crop losses in 2024.

Agricultural Review

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N.C. Pesticide Board announces case settlements

The N.C. Pesticide Board recently approved the following settlement agreements. Settlements involved cases of pesticide applications without a license and improper applications and sales of pesticides in Columbus, Onslow, Union and Wake counties.

Settlements are listed by county below:

(Columbus) Hugh Cundiff, a licensed aerial pesticide applicator apprentice for Moore's Aerial Applicators in Clinton, agreed to pay \$1,200 because an application targeted at a farm field in Columbus County drifted onto a nearby road and residential yard.

(Onslow) Mark A. Capitano, the manager of H&H Landscaping in Swansboro, agreed to pay \$1,200 for

engaging in the business of pesticide applicator without a license.

(Union) Davis Truesdale, a licensed pesticide dealer for Ewing Irrigation Supply in Indian Trail, agreed to pay \$600 for selling a restricted-use pesticide to a pesticide applicator with an expired license.

(Wake) Peter Hawkins, a licensed commercial pesticide applicator for Mosquito Authority in Raleigh, agreed to pay \$600 for applying an insecticide to the wrong residential property in Cary.

(Wake) Gail Rogers agreed to pay \$600 for using mothballs outside in her residential yard, which violates the product's label and state regulations, including the provision that pesticides cannot be used in a faulty, careless or negligent manner.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program dollars available

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is accepting grant applications for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which aims to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in the marketplace. Nonprofits and government agencies wishing to apply have until March 10 at 5 p.m.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is managed by the department, through anticipated funding by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Eligible projects must involve fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, culinary herbs and spices, medicinal plants, nursery, floriculture or horticulture crops.

"We are fortunate in North Carolina that our farmers can grow just about any crop, which means the production of specialty crops continues to grow and add to the state's \$111 billion ag industry," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "This \$1.2 million in grants helps support and grow specialty crop production."

The department will accept grant requests of up to \$200,000 from nonprofit organizations, academia, commodity associations, state and local government agencies, and colleges and universities. Grants are not available for projects that directly benefit or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual.

See <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop> for a comprehensive listing of qualifying specialty crops. For grant guidelines and an application, go to www.ncspecialtycrops.com/apply/ For questions, contact Jenni Keith at 919-707-3158 or by email at jenni.keith@ncagr.gov.

2025 boll weevil assessment rate set

The Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation of North Carolina Board of Directors has set the 2025 boll weevil assessment at 75 cents per acre of cotton. This marks the eighth year where the rate has remained the same.

The fee supports the foundation's efforts to monitor cotton acreage in North Carolina for any reintroduction of the boll weevil and to respond promptly with eradication treatments if necessary.

"The boll weevil trapping and monitoring program is vital to ensuring North Carolina's cotton crops are safe from the destructive impacts of this pest," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "This program allows us to move quickly to eradicate the boll weevil when reintroductions are found. It is a valued investment for farmers across our state."

Foundation contractors will install green-colored traps and monitor from late summer until after harvest and frost. Because the focus of North Carolina's program

has shifted from eradication to monitoring, the number of traps in fields has decreased. As such, each trap is critical, and farmers are encouraged to contact the foundation if traps are damaged or knocked down.

More than 7,125 traps were placed and maintained in North Carolina last year, with each trap monitoring an average of 57 acres. To allow for trapping and monitoring, cotton growers are required to certify cotton acreage with their local U.S. Farm Service Agency office by July 15.

Farmers in 48 counties grew 403,388 certified acres of cotton last year. This acreage represented a 7.5 percent increase from 2023. The top three cotton-growing counties were Halifax, Bertie and Northampton.

To learn more about the boll weevil monitoring program, go online to <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/plant-industry/plant-protection/entomological-services/boll-weevil-program>.

Ag Development Forum focuses on recovery, policy needs for 2025



Left: The 2025 Ag Development Forum was held Feb. 6 in the Holshouser Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. Right: Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, left, presented Barry Partlo, president and CEO of Agri Supply, with an Ambassador of Agriculture award.



Left: Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, right, delivers his State of Agriculture Address in a conversation with radio host Dann Miller. Right: Troxler presented an Ambassador of Agriculture award to Publix Super Markets, Inc.



Farmers, lawmakers and agriculture industry leaders gathered last month for the 2025 Ag Development Forum where conversation centered around recent natural disasters and continued recovery efforts.

The morning began with an Oath of Office Ceremony for Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, who was re-elected to the position for a sixth term in the 2024 election. North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Trey Allen officiated the oath.

Commissioner Troxler presented his State of Agriculture Address in a conversation with radio host Dann Miller. Commissioner Troxler said 2025 will be a year of recovery for North Carolina farmers, adding that he requested \$1 billion from the North Carolina legislature to help farmers recover from drought, excessive rain and Hurricane Helene.

Commissioner Troxler said he's gearing up to face other challenges in 2025, such as ongoing staff shortages in the department. Continued farmland loss and HPAI outbreaks are also top concerns at the start of 2025, he said.

"We have a lot of challenges to face this year, but we also have a lot of determined and resilient farmers," Commissioner Troxler said. "I am proud to say that I am even more energized to work to pull ag through this."

Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman, professor of agriculture and resource economics at N.C. State University, presented his 2025 economic outlook. His forecast for the year shows prices stabilizing in the agriculture industry, and Dorfman encouraged farmers to try to make the most

money out of their crops this year.

"If you want to be in business growing as much as possible next year, you have to make money, so make sure you're farming for value and not volume," he said.

A roundtable discussion with farmers and industry leaders from weather-impacted parts of North Carolina was moderated by Commissioner Troxler and Chief of Staff Zane Hedgecock and focused on the continued effects of 2024 storms and drought.

RJ Karney, director of policy at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), presented a 2025 Policy Outlook. Karney emphasized the need for a new federal farm bill, and said he is optimistic. NASDA is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, among other agencies, to secure disaster relief funding, Karney added.

Commissioner Troxler presented the Exporter of the Year award to Integra Foods of Bladenboro.

Troxler presented two Ambassador of Agriculture awards at the forum. First, Barry Partlo, president and CEO of Agri Supply, was honored with the award for his continued support of North Carolina farmers and agriculture, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene last year.

Publix Super Markets, Inc. was the second recipient of the Ambassador of Agriculture award. Publix's Greensboro distribution center was instrumental in providing supplies and aid to Western North Carolina following Helene.

Bucolic Briefs

The Equestrian Exchange Tack Consignment Spring Sale returns March 20-23 to the Holshouser Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. This sale to buy and consign anything related to the equestrian sport is one of the largest in NC. Shoppers will find: all types of saddles, tack, driving equipment, show clothing for all disciplines of riding, Barn supplies, carts, other animal items and more. Horse Trailers to sell for representation fee only. Bar code tagging on our web site allows consignor to view sales from home. Tagging guidelines mandatory, no exceptions. Consignors can drop off priced, tagged items March 18 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and March 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sale runs March 20-23, with a premier shopping night March 20 from 5 to 10 p.m. that is open to the public for \$10 cash for adult admission, age 12 under free. Open shopping with free admission is March 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and March 23 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Many items discounted 1/2 off on last shopping day. Consignors pick up unsold items March 25 from 3 to 8 p.m. or March 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or they will be donated. Sellers should make arrangements if they want unsold items returned. Items will not be stored. Consignors earn 70% and unsold items can be donated to NC nonprofit equestrian organizations at pick up, if desired. Volunteers all ages needed March 18-28, shop before consignors, consignors shop before public. Payment accepted: cash, NC checks with 2 IDs approved, credit cards with 3% fee/per card transaction. DROP and GO and PICK up and GO service (no wait or scanning in items waived) consigning available, see website. Waivers to be signed at drop off. All items must be as clean as possible. For more information, go to www.EquestrianExchange.com or contact Lynn Beeson 336-362-6248 Tanya Wright 540-977-1950.

As a way to help farmers and agricultural workers stay safe at work, the N.C. Department of Labor offers safety videos on a variety of topics through its YouTube channel. Video topics include: preventing green tobacco sickness, hazard communication, tobacco harvester safety, heat stress, migrant housing requirements, forklift safety, and information about the NCDOL's Gold Star Growers program. The videos are in English and Spanish to increase understanding of safety hazards and preventing accidents. To learn more about the NCDOL and the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to www.nclabor.com or call 1-800-NC-LABOR (800-625-2267).

The N.C. Ag Finance Authority provides credit to agriculture in areas where financing is not available at reasonable rates and terms. The agency originates, services and finances farm loans, rural business loans, disaster loans and cotton gin loans. It also offers tax-exempt ag development bonds for agribusiness processing, ag-related manufacturing or ag waste disposal. For more about Ag Finance Authority programs or to request a loan application, call 919-790-3949 or email at RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov.

Vendors wanted for the Got to Be NC Festival May 16-18

Plans are underway for the Got to Be NC Festival, running May 16-18 at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, and organizers are looking for vendors, Got to Be NC member companies, and antique tractors and farm-equipment owners to be part of the activities.

Collectors of antique tractors and farm equipment and collector clubs can join a display of more than 1,000 pieces of farm machinery at the festival. Tractors in working order also can participate in the daily tractor parade through the fairgrounds. Participation is free, but pre-registration is required.

Spots are available for independent vendors and concessionaires at the festival. Applications for food vendors are due by March 1. Registration forms and vendor applications are online at <https://www.gottobenfestival.com/Vendors.htm>.

In addition, registration is open for Got to Be NC members who are interested in sampling, showing and selling their products in the 50,000 square

foot Local Goodness Marketplace in the Agri Supply Expo Center. The marketplace draws nearly 100 North Carolina food and beverage companies, promoting their products to thousands of consumers. The deadline for members to apply is March 14.

Only food and beverage products made, processed or grown in North Carolina are featured in the Marketplace. A limited number of approved N.C. made crafts may exhibit, but priority for space will be given to food and beverage products. More information and registration forms can be found at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-state-fair/got-be-nc-festival/vendorsfood/got-be-nc-pavilion-local-goodness-marketplace>.

The Got to Be NC Festival is a family-friendly event that highlights the best of North Carolina agriculture.

From the archives: Planting 40 acres of bell peppers in Cedar Grove

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

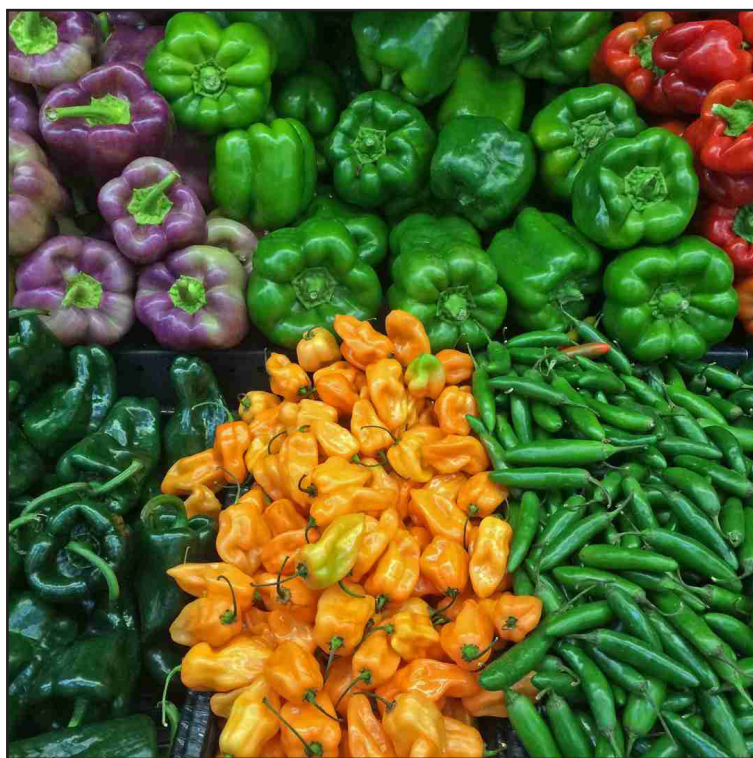
Today, North Carolina ranks fifth in pepper production in the country, but 59 years ago, the crop was new to the Old North State.

According to the N.C. State Extension, only California, Florida, Michigan and New Jersey top North Carolina in pepper production today. The majority of the state's pepper industry is focused on bell pepper production, with some 7,300 acres grown across the state.

That's a massive increase from the 40 acres of bell pepper plants planted in the Cedar Grove area in 1966. An article in the June 1, 1966, issue of the Agricultural Review records this planting and suggests it was the first planting of bell peppers for processing in North Carolina.

According to the article, the planting was part of a project through the Cedar Grove Ruritan Club. A group of 17 farmers came together to start a pepper-for-food processing operation in the Orange County and Alamance County area. According to the archive article, marketing specialists with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services worked with the group to pilot the project.

The 40 acres were expected to yield some \$20,000 in income, after accounting for production costs, the article said. Today's crop makes up an estimated total industry value of



North Carolina is fifth in pepper production in the United States.

\$21 million, according to the N.C. State Extension.

Today, much of the state's pepper crop is produced in the central East Coast region, with Sampson, Duplin, Wayne, Johnston, Pender and Columbus counties among the top producers. Western North Carolina also produces some peppers, according to the N.C. State Extension.

Here's the full story from 1966. *Bell Peppers Are New Cash Crop*

The Cedar Grove Community is getting into the bell pepper business, marketing specialists say.

Planted recently, the bell peppers will be produced for processing, Euris A. Vanderford, N.C. Department of Agriculture fruits and vegetable marketing specialist says.

The markets division man said the pepper plantings were made in a radius of 2½ miles of the community center.

Forty acres are planted in the Orange-Alamance County area.

Vanderford said the individual farm acreages average about 2 to 2½, with

the largest producer planting 5 acres. The planting was finished May 12, and the bell-type pepper production coming from the acreage will be sold under contract to H.P. Cannon, processors in Dunn.

Hugh Martin, in charge of fruit and vegetable service for the division, pointed out that the group of 17 farmers engaged in the pepper-for-food processing operation were interested in the project through the Cedar Grove Ruritan Club.

Marketing specialists met with the group in late January of 1966 to lay plans for the project.

The specialists said some \$20,000 income, after production expenses, would be realized by the enterprising group.

Martin said the group will carry the project through, and the processor is interested in increasing the acreage the following year.

In other areas of the state, cucumbers are working well, among other vegetables, in the diversification projects being carried out by the department.

Defend against wildfires with these action steps

Now is the time for North Carolinians to act on wildfire mitigation practices and Firewise principles. By taking appropriate action, residents can help protect their homes and communities from wildfires by creating a defensible space while reducing risk.

"Even though we're still a few weeks from the official start of spring wildfire season, now is the time for homeowners to be thinking about simple steps they can take to reduce risk in the home ignition zone by creating a defensible space," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Wildfires that occur in the wildland urban interface can be extremely dangerous and destructive to lives and property."

The wildland urban interface (WUI) -- the area where structures and other human development blend with undeveloped wildland, forest or vegetation -- is a notable threat for increased wildfire impacts due to rapid population growth and people moving into formerly rural areas, resulting in an increase in WUI acreage. This trend is significant due to the nearly 13 million North Carolina acres classified as WUI. North Carolina is the top state for WUI area, with more than half of the state's residents living in WUI areas. The dangers of the WUI mean that homeowners must take the initiative in working to protect their property and neighborhoods before a wildfire occurs.

For those living in the WUI, especially those in Western North Carolina experiencing excessive fuel loading from Hurricane Helene storm debris, here are some easy steps to protect your home from wildfires:

Clear off pine needles, dead leaves and anything else that can burn from your rooflines, gutters, decks, porches, patios and along fence lines. Falling and windblown embers will have nothing to burn.

Trim back any shrubs or tree branches that come closer than 5 feet to your house along with any overhanging branches.

Walk around your house and remove anything within 30 feet that could burn such as woodpiles, spare lumber, vehicles, boats and anything else that can act as a large source of fuel.

Instead of landscaping with flammable mulches, consider using crushed stone or gravel.

Rake out any landscaping mulch to at least 5 feet away. Embers that land in mulch that touches your house, deck or fence is an easy fire hazard.

Store furniture cushions, rattan mats, potted plants and other decorations from doors, decks, porches and patios. These items can catch embers and help ignite your home if you leave them outside.

Assess your house to see what openings you can screen or temporarily seal. Windblown embers can get into homes easily through vents and other openings, burning the home from the inside out.

Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios and decks.

For more information and tips to help create a defensible space around your home and protect your property from wildfire, visit www.resistwildfirenc.org. To learn more about fire safety and preventing wildfires and loss of property, visit www.ncforestservice.gov.

Animal Welfare Section marks 20 years of improving animal care

In North Carolina, almost 1,000 shelters and boarding facilities are inspected annually by the Animal Welfare Section of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. This year, this section marks 20 years of upholding the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act at public and private shelters, boarding kennels and pet shops.

Prior to 2005, NCDA&CS Veterinary Division Livestock Inspectors performed their normal duties and additionally inspected boarding kennels, pet shops and private animal shelters. The public animal shelters were not part of the inspection process.

“There were not rules governing municipality-run animal shelters and boarding facilities across the state,” said Joe Blomquist, supervisor with the Animal Welfare Section. “Some counties would house animals in unheated/unairconditioned sheds. The passing of the Animal Welfare Act gave counties and shelters uniform standards that they had to follow and ultimately improved conditions for these animals. In fact, there are only a handful of counties that haven’t built entirely new shelters since coming under inspection by the section.”

Blomquist has been with the Animal Welfare Section since its inception and he has seen a lot of changes. While once responsible for inspecting shelters and boarding facilities in half the state, Blomquist now supervises a team of nine inspectors that cover the state. Blomquist also inspects the 135 shelters and boarding kennels in Johnston and Wake counties.

“The Animal Welfare Act was revised in 2005 to include public shelters from a desire from the

community to have improved and consistent standards of care at county animal shelters,” said Blomquist. “Because of the poor conditions and euthanasia practices at some county-owned shelters, a committee was formed consisting of legislators, veterinarians, NCDA&CS Veterinary Division employees and citizens from across the state to work on rewriting the Animal Welfare Act to include inspection of public shelters and euthanasia standards.”

In the Animal Welfare Act, humane care is defined as the provision of adequate heat, ventilation, sanitary shelter and adequate food and water, consistent with the normal requirements and feeding habits of the animals, size, species and breed. The new law also established euthanasia protocols to ensure facilities complied with the rules that govern euthanasia established by the Act. It required that county and municipal animal shelters comply with the same standards of care of private facilities.

The new inspection program also included the hiring of a director, outreach coordinator, inspector and administrative assistant to form the Animal Welfare Section of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

In May of 2006, the four employees started in animal welfare. Being there was only one inspector to cover all 100 counties, Commissioner Troxler gave approval for the outreach coordinator to be reassigned to the field to perform inspections and supervise the other inspector. The two inspectors covered 50 counties apiece with Forsyth County being the dividing county of the state.

As the workload continued to increase three additional inspectors



The NCDA&CS Animal Welfare Section turns 20 years old in 2025.

were needed. In 2007, three livestock inspectors transferred into animal welfare. In the 2010 budget, the section was allocated an additional three positions.

Each shelter and boarding facility in the state receives an unannounced inspection on an annual basis. Inspectors also inspect facilities if a complaint is received about conditions or animal care. Additionally, the section administers the Spay Neuter Program, which reimburses counties and municipalities for direct costs of spay/neuter procedures performed on dogs or cats owned by low-income individuals. In 2023, this program supported 5,855 procedures and reimbursed more than \$341,000 to county and town governments.

Last year, through funds appropriated by the General Assembly, the Animal Welfare Section offered shelter support fund grants to municipal

shelters from improvements to their facilities to help them better comply with the Animal Welfare Act. Up to \$50,000 was available per shelter to assist with veterinary costs, animal housing, capital improvements and sanitation. Twelve shelters received one-time grants from this \$250,000 appropriation.

The section also supports the shelter community during disasters. Division staff assist in coordinating resources such as food, water and vaccines, and assists in locating alternative housing in and out of state for shelter pets. All employees of the section assisted with disaster response for Hurricane Helene last year. Staff went into the affected counties and assisted with relief efforts including animal relocation efforts, coordinating veterinary care volunteers and supply runs.

“The growth in the number of

facilities is one of the biggest changes for the Animal Welfare Section, with the number of facilities almost tripling in the last twenty years,’ said Dr. Patricia Norris, Animal Welfare Section Director. “Technology also offered its own challenges and opportunities. Online inspection reports makes it easy for everyone to access information about boarding kennels and shelters. However, technology has also made it easier for organizations or individuals to knowingly, or unknowingly, violate the animal welfare act.”

“The Animal Welfare act was before the explosion of the internet and social media,” Norris said. “It was written not anticipating online boarding services or doggie daycare. With the large number of individuals offering their services online it can be hard to locate them and make them aware of the need to be licensed and inspected until there is an issue such as a death of a pet or an injured animal. While the internet and social media are great resources for shelters to help promote their adoptable animals, it also grants more access to good-hearted people.”

Norris is proud of the work of the Animal Welfare Section and the role it has played in improving companion animal care in the state. As our population grows, she foresees an exponential growth in the number of facilities catering to the dog and cat population. “As we reach a 20-year milestone my hope is that communities will have compassion and grace for animals and the people taking care of them.”

Recipe: Habanero Pepper Jelly



Use North Carolina peppers to spice things up with this Habanero Pepper Jelly. Here’s the recipe:

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup diced dried apricots
- 3/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1/4 cup finely chopped red bell pepper (seeds removed)
- 1/4 cup finely chopped habanero pepper (seeds removed)
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 pouch of liquid pectin (3 oz.)

Instructions:

1. Place the apricots and vinegar in a large stainless-steel stockpot or enamel Dutch oven.
2. Let the apricots soak for at least four hours at room temperature.
3. Add the red onion, peppers and sugar. Stir.
4. Bring the mixture to a hard boil.
5. Add the liquid pectin, bring back to a boil and cook for one more minute.
6. Pour the jelly into hot, sterilized jars, leaving a 1/4 inch head space.
7. Load the jars into a boiling bath canner, heat to boiling and process for 10 minutes once boiling.

N.C. farmer receives Livestock Conservancy microgrant award

Richard Broker of Robbins has received a microgrant award from The Livestock Conservancy to support his work with Ankole-Watusi cattle, an endangered agricultural livestock breed. Ankole-Watusi are listed as “Recovering” on The Livestock Conservancy’s Conservation Priority List.

Originally imported from Africa, Ankole-Watusi cattle with their extra-large horns were once dismissed as a novelty breed. However, they have much to offer the U.S. beef industry. Adaptation to harsh environments, excellent maternal abilities, high butterfat milk and lean beef are among the advantages held within this heritage breed’s genetics. The Recovering classification indicates the breed population is slightly less endangered today but still requires monitoring by conservationists to prevent possible extinction.

Broker will use Microgrant funds to improve forage diversity on his farm which will support a more efficient rotational grazing program, ultimately reducing feed costs and increasing profitability.

“Our goal is to maintain and improve the genetics of this majestic breed whose ancestry can be traced back over 6,000 years,” he said.

He is one of 15 Livestock Conservancy Microgrant award winners nationwide, including three awards to aid heritage breed associations and four Microgrants for youth under 18.

“Richard is among our most important conservation partners,” explained Allison Kincaid, executive director of The Livestock Conservancy. “He’s on the front lines in America’s fight to save breeds like the Ankole-Watusi from extinction. He does the hard work day in and day out to raise and promote these cattle while advocating for how



Richard Broker of Robbins received a microgrant award from The Livestock Conservancy.

important they are to the earth’s biodiversity. We simply couldn’t accomplish our conservation mission without members like Richard. Awarding him this Microgrant is a great investment in saving this breed and I’m excited to see the difference it will make in the years to come.”

Since launching the Microgrants program in 2018, nearly \$135,000 has been awarded to help each of the 11 species the organization serves, including cattle, chickens, donkeys, ducks, geese, goats, horses, pigs, rabbits, sheep and turkeys. Microgrants are completely donor and sponsor funded.

Applications for the next round of Microgrants open in May 2025. The Livestock Conservancy is a membership-based organization that promotes, protects and preserves rare-breed livestock and poultry across America. Learn more at www.livestockconservancy.org.

Agronomic Services implements new technology to assist growers

A little over two years ago, what started as a personal interest in flying drones, combined with the innovative and curious mind of someone who loves agriculture, turned into discussions on how drone use would be beneficial for Agronomic Services regional agronomist in helping the growers they serve.

Regional Agronomist Willie Howell who serves Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, and Sampson counties began collaborative discussions with Joe Hudyncia, field services manager, Dr. Colleen Hudak-Wise, former division director, and fellow regional agronomists.

Discussion topics that arose started with an awareness of multi-spectral imaging. In other words, could agronomist use the color spectrum to identify issues such as nutritional deficiency, drainage problems, areas of nematode and disease pressure, patterns showing spray application issues and a myriad of other challenges using images from the drone. Another area of discussion was if the agronomist would be able to determine associations between the imagery from the drone combined with the lab results from field sampling.

With research, explanation and justification, the idea came

to fruition. Willie was the first regional agronomist to complete the FAA required course and receive certification.

The maiden flight took place on July 24, 2023.

After that flight, some of the above issues that came up in discussion were quickly answered as a resounding YES!

Since the chlorophyll in plants reflects green light, it shows up well on this type of imagery. Therefore, any areas of the field that lack chlorophyll will be apparent. Yellowing could come from nutrient deficiency, nematode issues, and poor drainage, so the next step is for the grower and agronomist to get to that area of the field to put their eyes on the plants and take appropriate samples such as soil, plant tissue and nematode for submitting to the Agronomic Services lab for testing. This aids in finding problem spots quicker instead of just walking the fields, giving the agronomist the ability to be more efficient.

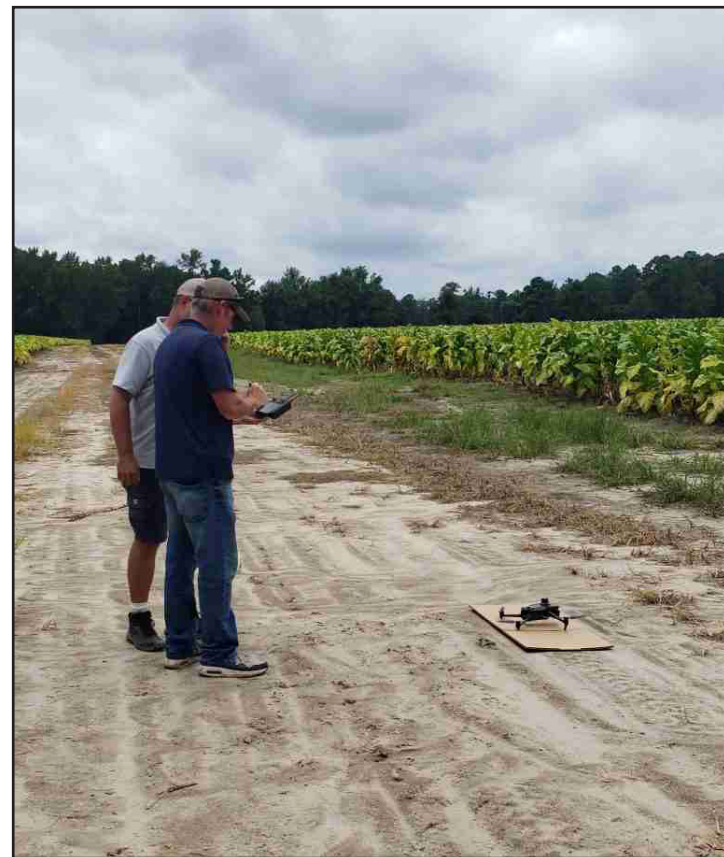
With image processing software and RTK GPS precision, areas can be



geo-referenced for diagnostic testing, determining issue, size and scope, and tracking problem areas if they persist into future crops. Also, the GPS precision allows for site specific corrective actions.

In addition, the aerial view gives the ability to see any patterns that aren't easily seen from the ground, including where vehicles or tractors have driven or where spray applications have been made. The aerial view also gives the ability to survey areas after disasters to give an idea of the scope of damage.

While more research is being done to answer the correlation question, some of the testing that has been completed since last year is starting to show those results. Due to the amount of time it takes for set up and flight, currently regional agronomists are



Regional agronomists are using drone technology to help the growers they serve.

being selective as to which fields to fly.

Since Willie started flying the drone in mid-2023, another regional agronomist, Brad Thompson in the Sandhills counties, earned his certification. Chris Leek, our regional agronomist in the far west region of North Carolina, is currently studying to become certified. "The potential

uses of the drone are almost unlimited," said Brad. "From being able to identify problem areas in the field to potentially being able to diagnose nutrient deficiencies or toxicities from the drone imagery, this is a really exciting tool to have in the agronomic toolbox."

Assistant county ranger honored

N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) Assistant Alleghany County Ranger Russell Choate has been named recipient of the 2024 Moreland Gueth Water Quality Award. This award is presented annually to the N.C. Forest Service employee or team of employees who demonstrate creativity and dedication toward the protection of North Carolina's water resources.

"Russell has been a huge asset, especially when it comes to water quality," said Brandon Keener, NCFS Alleghany County ranger. "He has focused on inspections and has worked tirelessly to grow the program. With his consistent and diligent approach, Russell has elevated the water quality program in Alleghany County to another level."

Established in 2010, the Moreland Gueth Water Quality Award pays tribute to its namesake, who served as the N.C. Forest Service's water quality and wetlands staff forester from 1995 to 2004. Gueth took a firm stance on protecting water quality but remained fair and used a common-sense approach when working with loggers and landowners to keep forests working for North Carolina.

Choate has consistently provided high quality service inspections relative to forest practice guidelines (FPGs) by conducting numerous inspections as well as developing strong relationships with loggers and timber buyers and sellers. Over the last four years, Choate has conducted 345 inspections while working to improve stream crossings throughout Alleghany County by meeting with



Assistant Alleghany County Ranger Russell Choate received the 2024 Moreland Gueth Water Quality Award.

loggers before stream crossings are constructed and providing recommendations on how and where to properly establish them. As a result, there has been an increase and better use of bridgemats, temporary culvert installations and bumper trees to prevent and minimize sedimentation at the crossings.

"Russell has continually proven himself to be dedicated to water quality, striving to build a water quality reputation for Alleghany County," Keener said. "His consistent presence on logging operations, giving sound recommendations and being readily available to assist forestry partners has greatly improved the program and reputation of the N.C. Forest Service in both the county and district."

Tobacco transplant producers should test water

Successful production of tobacco transplants starts with good water quality and with getting the right nutrient levels in the float solution. Growers preparing for transplant production should begin by having their source water tested by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"Alkalinity, pH, sodium and chloride issues are the most common water quality problems we see with float bed source water in North Carolina," said Dr. Kristin Hicks, Plant/Waste/Solution/Media Lab Director of the Agronomic Services Division. "By getting the source water tested, growers can address any of these issues early on before they have a chance to impact transplant quality. The results from testing and making adjustments can be quite significant."

After fertilizers have been mixed in to the bays, growers should send in a sample of their nutrient solution to verify that target nutrient concentrations have been achieved. Testing of source water and nutrient solutions is available as a solution analysis through the Agronomic Services Division.

The test measures total alkalinity, pH, electrical conductivity (soluble salts) and the concentration of 12 essential plant nutrients including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, and chloride plus sodium. The NCDA&CS Solution Analysis Report provides this information as well as nutrient management recommendations by an agronomist.

Collecting & submitting nutrient solution samples

To collect a sample, use a clean, plastic bottle such as a 16-ounce soda or water bottle. Before filling the bottle, rinse it with the water being collected.

For source water—before sampling, run water 5 to 10 minutes and collect sample from the tap or emitter. Use the "ST" code for source water.

For nutrient solutions—Make sure fertilizer has been thoroughly mixed and is completely dissolved. Collect the sample from the emitter NOT the stock tank. Use the "NT" code for nutrient solutions. Please specify if you are using an organic nutrient solution.

Label each sample with a sample ID and fill out the Solution Analysis Submission form. Printed forms are available from the Agronomic Division office in Raleigh, regional agronomists, county extension centers and agribusiness outlets. They also are available on the Agronomic Division Solution Analysis website at <https://www.ncagr.gov/agronomic/solution-analysis-client/submit-samples>

The turnaround time for results is typically two to four business days from the receipt of samples. Cost is \$5 for samples collected in North Carolina. Samples should be mailed to the NCDA&CS Agronomic Services Solutions Section at either:

Mailing address (USPS): 1040 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

Physical address (UPS, FedEx): 4300 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh NC 27607

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

- 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

- 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

- 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.

March AgroTips

Test for nematodes before planting vegetables.

Nematodes pose a major threat to nearly all vegetable crops in all soils. Unless you intend to apply a preplant fumigant, it is a good idea to collect soil samples for nematode assay before seedlings are planted and mulched. Any steps to prevent nematode problems must be taken long before the crop is established. For information on collecting and submitting samples for nematode assay, visit www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrnm.htm.

Now is the time to collect tissue samples from wheat.

Depending on where you live, you may need to sample now (eastern counties) or wait until late March (western counties). The best time to take tissue samples is when the wheat is at Zadoks Growth Stage 30 or Feekes Stage 4-5. At these growth stages, stems are upright and tillering has stopped. To collect a sample, break wheat plants off about 1/2 inch above the ground. Each sample should consist of about two handfuls of wheat—a composite gathered from 10 to 20 areas throughout the field.

A pictorial guide to tissue sampling is available online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pictorial.htm. Be sure to read the new wheat sampling and fertilization guidelines from NCSU.

When growing peanuts, use agronomic tests to monitor zinc levels in the soil.

Growers who value the prime farmland where peanuts are produced should consider using alternate sites for waste application. Peanuts are very sensitive to certain metals found in waste, particularly zinc. Soils with NCDA&CS zinc index (Zn-I) values as low as 300 can be toxic to peanuts, even though other crops can tolerate levels up to Zn-I=2000.

In some areas, soil test data for peanut land already appear to show increases in zinc levels, indicating that waste is being applied to these fields. An important aspect of managing sites where waste is applied is to maintain a pH of 6.0-6.5. Low soil pH increases the availability and toxicity of metals.

Apply lime now if recommended by your soil report.

By now, you should have already submitted soil samples and received your report. If lime is recommended, go ahead and apply it as soon as possible. For lawns, you may want to aerate the ground before application to maximize the ability of the lime to move into the soil profile. Liming soils to the target pH of the intended crop increases availability of plant nutrients already in the soil and supplies additional calcium and/or magnesium. Since liming can take up to 6 months to adjust pH, it is important to apply lime as far in advance of planting as possible.

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.

5-frame nucs in waxed cardboard nuc box, \$200. Sam Bolick, Concord 704-900-4580.

5-frame nucs & splits, avail 3/15, consists of 4 frames of brood & 1 frame of food & full of bees, \$150 ea. Tim Holt, Siloam 336-710-4904.

5-frame nucs, avail April-May, home grown, state inspected, transport box avail, \$200 + \$20 deposit. Libby Mack, Charlotte 704-953-0565, mack.bees@gmail.com.

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



Equipment For Sale

Yetter 71 planter, LN, new hoppers, EC, manual, \$4,500. Martin Grinstead, Hurdle Mills 919-971-5149.

FARM EQUIPMENT

JD 8 bu grass collector, fits X700 series mowers 54-60 in., dumps from seat, LNC, \$1,600. Don Whittington, Mt. Pleasant 704-792-5584.

1-row tobacco setter for sweet potatoes or collards, w/water barrel, \$650; 1-row disc hillier/fert hopper, \$650; IH 140 tractor w/cults, fert/hopper, restored, \$7,500. Michael Nardo, Jackson Springs 910-281-3522 or 992-1405.

NH bale wagon, 10-spd, 460 eng, sheltered, \$10,000. RG Hammonds, Lumberton 910-734-2991.

Case 580-C backhoe, w/2 ft. bucket & 7 ft. bucket on front end, \$10,000. Jerry Green, Franklin 828-342-1698.

F-C tricycle tractor, been sitting, \$2,200 obo or trade; JD D-170 riding mower, 185 hrs., 25 hp, \$2,400 cash. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

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

King Kutter rotary cutter, 5 ft., rated for 40hp, no leaks, no rust, sheltered when not in use, \$1,100. Bruce Gragg, Newton 828-465-3715.

Befco GTR 266 seeder, 72", will level, till, drop seed, cover & pack seed, LN, stored inside, \$6,500. Dale Anderson, Greenville 252-531-2399.

FARM EQUIPMENT

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

220 spray coupe, GC, \$7,000 obo. Logan Tucker, Monroe 704-507-2500.

2000 NH TC29D, 1,531 hrs., turf tires, mid-mount PTO, canopy, 33hp, hys, 1 owner, \$8,800 obo. Sandy Yokeley, Winston Salem 336-345-7333, yokeleyfarms@gmail.com.

JD 8' offset, model WH76, 22" rear disc, 20" front disc, GC, field ready, \$950; JD 8250 grain drill, GC, used 2024, 8' wide cover, \$950. Gary Proctor, Trinity 336-688-2695.

1990 Ford 3930, 1,700 hrs., new tires, EC, \$10,500; 1974 IH 140, fast hitch, cults, side dresser, new tires, EC, \$5,700. Dustin Hill, Madison 336-239-4566.

1941 JD H, restored, \$4,000; 1961 JD 1010 RS, w/all options, needs fuel tank, \$3,500; Ford 6 ft. scraper blade, \$500. Bill Russell, Vass 910-690-2918.

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

Leinbach yard tool pulverizer, 6 ft., 3 pt, VGC, \$1,100. Kevan Barringer, Salisbury 704-640-3590.

FARM EQUIPMENT

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

Bush Hog box blade, 6 ft., hy teeth, \$1,250; King 28-disc harrow, pull type, \$1,425; 2-disc plow, 3 pt, \$250. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

(2) clamp-on duals, 18.4 x 34, \$800/both; NH 252 rake hitch for 2 hay rakes, \$2,000. Daniel Watts, Archdale 336-362-0290.

5 ft. root rake, \$425; doub drag harrow, 3 pt, \$400; JD 6 ft. bush hog, \$450; 4 ft. bush hog, \$300; big wghts, \$80; 20-disc harrow, \$425. James Isley, Julian 336-263-1958.

3 pt Gill yard tool, \$650; Lely 3 pt spreader, \$750; 7 ft. no-till drill, GC, \$2,650. Edward Lewis, Gibsonville 336-516-2632.

3 pt scoop pan, GC, \$250; 6 ft. angle blade, GC, \$550; Mike Crosby, Olin 704-546-2434, after 6 p.m.

Ford 3-16 bottom plows, new points, \$500; 12 corral panels, \$600. Thomas Roberts, Lenoir 828-729-0078.

AC 7000, 6-cyl, cab, needs batteries & service, \$5,500 cash or trade, L.M. Parrish Jr., Selma 919-965-5129.

Coleman corn & bean planter, w/cults & plates, \$250; 2004 Ford tractor, 4-cyl gas, ps, \$1,600. Joe Carpenter, Nebo 828-317-0244.

(2) IH flywheel gas eng, 1 1/2 hpm, \$700 ea. Bobby Harkey, Albemarle 704-982-2494.

FARM EQUIPMENT

MH manure spreader, power takeoff, field ready, \$700. Henry Wagner, Hickory 828-256-2165.

2003 NH BR 740 baler, string only, used little, \$9,000; JD hay rake, new parts, needs work, \$75. Tim Brooks, Burlington 336-512-1139.

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

Landscape rake, 7 ft., new, \$900; JD 1209 hay moco, \$2,500; drag harrow for arenas, \$500. Connie Tutor, Fuquay Varina 919-815-1179.

(3) hay rings, \$100 ea.; (6) corral panels, \$75; 3 pt hay spear, \$150; 9 ft. chain harrow, \$500. Mike Luxton, Lumberton 910-739-2534.

Golden molasses mill, w/gears, pulleys, wheels, \$1,000. David Burris, Albemarle 704-918-6464.



Equipment Wanted

Ford 7610 or 7810 tractor, or NH. Larry Hales, Autryville 910-624-4147.

4-bottom plow, semi-mount only, 4-16 or 4-18, GC; 3 pt lift bale wrapper for 4x5 haylage. Blair Burrage, Concord 704-606-2040.

A set of pallet forks that pin onto a JD 158 loader. Danny Toney, Ellenboro 704-473-4642.

EQUIPMENT WANTED

Working or non-working skid steer, preferably a T870, T770, Cat 299, or JD 333. Ray Loflin, Greensboro 336-493-6509.

Ford 309 corn planter plates; corn, beans, sorghum & filler plates; Ford 309 corn planters for parts. Charles Chamelin, Kernersville 336-769-4418.



Farmland For Sale

Land for sale must consist of at least 3 acres and be used for agricultural purposes. Advertisers must indicate use of land.

15 ac for rent for Coastal Bermuda hay, \$1/ac. Marty Britt, Orrum 910-618-7902.



Farmland Wanted

Deer hunting land for lease in Randolph & Montgomery co, 50-100 ac. Terry Glasscoe, Thomasville 336-762-2964.



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.

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.

Sm eng repair, lawn mowers, tillers, weed eaters, chainsaws, etc., Lexington, Thomasville & surrounding area; p/u/deliv avail, \$30. Tony Burge, Lexington 336-819-0835.

Electric fence box repair, AFW, TSC, SSC, Parmak, \$20/hr. Bobby Nichols, N. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.

Farm fencing, \$1. Benjamin Glasscoe, Thomasville 336-762-2964.



Hay & Grain For Sale

Orchard grass/fescue, 4x5 rl, horse quality, sheltered, no rain/weeds, \$45/rl; mixed grass, 4x5 rl, sheltered, no rain, \$35-\$40/rl; local deliv avail. Jay Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

'24 orchard grass, clover & oat mix, 4x5 rnd, tight bales, \$55/rl. Blair Burrage, Concord 704-606-2040.

Fescue, 4x5 rnd, horse quality, \$50/bale; crabgrass, 4x5 md, \$30/bale; 2023 spring cut fescue, sq bales, \$3/bale. Ronnie Brogden Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

HAY & GRAIN

Cow hay, 30 4x4 rls, \$30/bale; 20 rls alfalfa hay, horse quality, 4x4, \$60/bale. Phil Zimmerman, Lexington 336-406-6746.

'23 fescue, 4x4 rnd, sheltered, no rain, \$28/bale. Reuben Raber, Hamptonville 336-468-2903.

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

Orchard grass/fescue/Timothy/clover mix grass, spring '24 cut, horse quality, lrg sq bales, \$7.50; rnd bales, \$55. Elizabeth Macdonald, Blanch 346-459-6776.

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

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

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

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

Peanut hay, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped, lots of leaves, some peanuts, can deliv 38 bales/load, \$25-\$35/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

Orchard grass, horse quality, sq bales, 40+ lbs., no rain, in barn, \$9/bale. Kenneth Chilton, Pilot Mtn 336-374-2410 or cell 399-1973.

Fescue, 4x5 rnd, fert, lime, no weeds, spring cut, \$75/bale; fall cut, \$50/bale. Aaron Rumley, Burlington 336-675-1712.

Horse quality hay, \$45/rl; cow quality hay, \$35/rl; deliv avail. H. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

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

2024 fescue, 4x5 rnd, in barn on pallets, \$35/bale. Doug Stancil, Greensboro 336-402-8161.



Horses & Supplies For Sale

PLEASE NOTE: All equine 6 mos. or older must have a current negative Coggins test. Advertisers must supply the accession number of test, the name of lab doing the test, the date of test and results for each equine advertised. The following advertisers have provided proof of a negative Coggins test.

Tucker-Cheyenne western trail saddle, w/breast collar, EC, \$1,550. P.L. Arant, Monroe 704-290-8758.



Livestock For Sale

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.

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

JSF Jaremco 176K, reg shorthorn *x4338214, dob 3/23/22, calving ease, lrg ribeye, \$4,000 neg. Sandy Yokeley, Winston Salem 336-345-7333, yokeleyfarms@gmail.com.

F1 Blk Wagyu/Blk Angus stocker calves, steers, heifers, weaned, ready for direct beef market, \$3,000 ea.; Boer/Spanish x meat goats, does, kids, young bucks, \$300 up. Martha Mobley, Louisburg 919-495-1305.

Kiko/Savanna x doelings & bucklings, dob 4/24; adult does, yearlings to 7 y/o, established, quality bloodlines, healthy, hardy, easy keepers, \$200-\$300. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

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

Polled Hereford bull, \$2.85/lb.; polled Hereford heifer, \$2.85/lb. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

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

Reg Angus bulls, bred for calving ease, efficiency good feet & disposition, recent breeding soundness exam, \$3,500-\$4,000; Angus heifers ready to breed avail. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 919-444-5307.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

California, silver California, bluescales, Gambel's, 8 breeds bobwhite; partridge, Philby, chukar, Hungarians, \$6 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-351-5654.

(1) insulated quail hutch, suitable for 6-8 birds; false bottom for clean-out, \$50; (1) incubator for hatching eggs, inclds accessories, quail egg cartons, \$30. Trip Renn, Chapel Hill 919-608-4564.

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

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



Supplies For Sale

Red oak lumber, 14'x7"x1.75", dressed, 15 boards, \$25/board; other assorted reclaimed lumber avail. Charles McPherson, Mebane 919-830-0878, noon-8 p.m.

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

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

Cedar fence posts, \$5. Ben Luthy, Union Grove 336-468-6597.

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

200+ new Rainbird, Optima, Water Whiz sprinkler heads & controller, \$100. Duane Kirschenman, Winston-Salem 704 528-9369, call or DM.

150+ step-in fence posts, \$1.50 ea.; (30) 2x16 5V metal, \$10 ea.; (2) 180 gal. water tanks, \$100 ea. Mike Luxton, Lumberton 910-739-2534.



Poultry & Supplies Wanted

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.

1-2 male nun pigeons; 1-2 male deep keel Rouen ducks; 1 pair silver auburn turkeys; prefer w/in 150 mi of Statesville/Winston-Salem area. William Riley, Thurmond 336-466-4993, call/text.



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.

Yellow dragon fruit climbing cactus plants, in 6 in. pots, \$15 ea. Kevin Campbell, Harmony 704-775-2425.

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

Sawtooth oak wildlife tree seedlings, 2-6 ft., produces acorns quickly, \$3-\$6. Glen Parker, Olin 704-677-3458.

SEEDS & PLANTS

Potted muscadine plants, 5-6 ft., planting/fert incld, \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.



Seeds & Plants Wanted

Tall, single hollyhock seeds, grows up to 6 ft.; summer poinsettia seeds. Jeffrey Gray, Thurmond 336-466-4993.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

Miller 20-ton tilt top trailer, w/lights & air brakes, \$8,000. Tommy Sink, Lexington 336-250-4234.

Utility trailer, 4x8, no title, \$400. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

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

2023 equip trailer, 18 ft. x 7 ft., 2 ft. drop, brakes, dual 3,700 lb. axles, clear title, tag along, \$3,300. Harry Partridge, Indian Trail 704-668-9272.

2014 Shadow 3-horse trailer, gooseneck, slant load, 7'6" hgt, used twice, carpeted dressing room w/saddle storage, drop down windows, \$17,000. Philip Blue, Pleasant Garden 336-362-8414.

Calico stock trailer, 16 ft., gooseneck, \$9,450; equip trailer, 20 ft., 12,000 lb. tandem axle, \$5,950. H. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

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.

1995 Featherlite trailer, 3-horse, alum., lrg dressing room, factory bath, heat, air, king size bed, oak, cab., generator, EC, \$15,500. P.L. Arant, Monroe 704-290-8758.

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

1999 Dodge Commons, 350 diesel, club cab, 116,000 mi, good tires, GC, \$20,000. Henry Wagner, Hickory 828-256-2165.

Cattle trailer, bumper pull, 20 ft. tandem, inside gate, \$2,000. Doug Stancil, Greensboro 336-402-8161.



Trucks & Trailers Wanted

WW2 Halftrack truck, complete or parts, made by White, Diamond T, Auto-car or Intl; used postwar in ag & forestry. Robert Harrison, Salisbury 704-202-3301.

To keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, check out our blog at blog.ncagr.gov, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X, formerly known as Twitter.

Discovering NC Agriculture: NC peppers spice up your plate

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!

Have you ever wondered how N.C. peppers are grown and harvested? A passion for peppers has been a part of Randy Bailey's identity since he was twenty-one years old.

Growing up on a family farm, Randy learned at the hands of his father what it was like to work hard producing something that you love. As a lover of spicy food, it wasn't hard for Randy to decide that he wanted to grow a wide variety of peppers. In 1989, Randy bought a portion of the family farm for himself and the journey to Bailey Farms, Inc. began!



Bailey Farms, Inc., is based in Oxford and grows peppers year-round.

Bailey Farms, Inc. based in Oxford, currently grows 18 different varieties of peppers year-round. With facilities in both North Carolina and Florida, they are able to keep a strong pepper supply available during the winter months. For the North Carolina grown and harvested peppers, Randy and his team begin each year by starting pepper seeds in the greenhouse.

"Laying plastic mulch with a drop tube in the middle is the very first thing that we do each season," he said. "Then we punch holes where the plants should go and hand-plant the transplants in each hole. These plants are started in our greenhouses, and it typically takes about six weeks to make a transplant."

After the transplants are moved to the outdoor fields, they are left to grow until harvest season begins in early July.

All peppers grown at Bailey Farms are hand-harvested! Randy

and his family work with a team of H2A workers to ensure the peppers are picked at the perfect time. Harvest season typically runs from early July to mid-October.

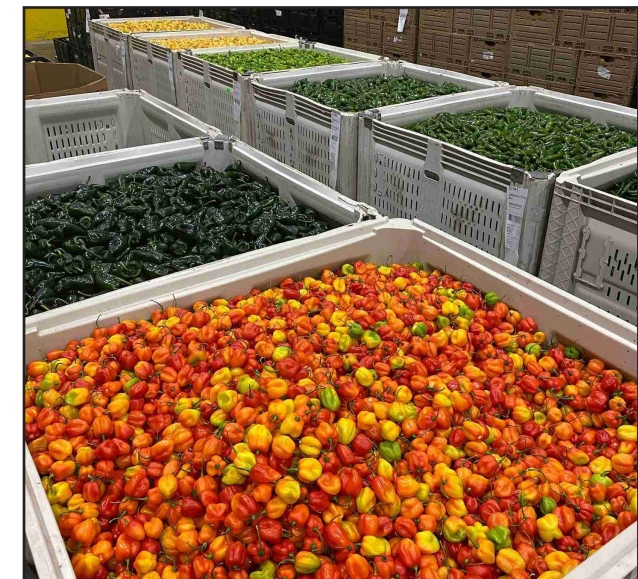
"Many people think that peppers, especially spicy peppers, have to be harvested with gloves, but they don't because all the heat is trapped inside the pepper," Randy said. "Once peppers are harvested from our fields, they are brought to our refrigerated packing facility, stored until needed, and then run across the various lines to bag or place in bulk containers."

One fun fact that Randy shared with us about pepper harvest and varieties, is that the heat levels in peppers can vary based on the growing conditions. For example, a hot jalapeño in the summer may be only half as hot in the winter!

From jalapeño and poblano peppers, to mini sweet and bellafina peppers, Bailey Farms offers a variety of products for all customers to enjoy. Bellafina peppers, also known as baby bell peppers, are sold in bags, as well as Dulcefina peppers (a sweet, crispy pepper) and Shishito peppers (a mild pepper). Bailey Farms also offers a variety of mini hot and sweet peppers called Hotties, Sweeties and Sidekicks. In addition to their bagged peppers, they also sell fresh peppers, dried peppers, hot sauces and tomatillos.

"Our products can be found in most major retailers along the East Coast, including Food Lion," Randy said. "We encourage our customers to purchase a variety of peppers and try them as snacks, side dishes, entrees and desserts. Each type of pepper has a specific flavor profile that will add a unique twist to just about any dish."

Although jalapeño peppers, poblano peppers, mini sweet peppers and bellafina peppers are the top sellers at Bailey Farms, Randy's favorite are the Serrano peppers because of his strong love for spicy food. Stock up on peppers from Bailey's Farm at a retailer near you and enjoy locally grown flavor today!



Keepin' it flavorful with Durham's Bull City Pepper Co.

Peppers are the spice of life and add culinary creativity to just about any dish. Alec and Clay, owners of Bull City Pepper Co. in Durham, have a passion for all things pepper related. In fact, they fully embody the persona of "pepper dorks." From a garden and a dream to a full-time hot sauce operation, these guys have seen the potential of N.C. peppers and continue to harness that power through their products.

For as long as they can remember, Alec and Clay have loved adding spices to their food. "Nothing quite adds flavor to food like peppers and hot sauce," Clay said. "Alec and I have been growing our own peppers for over fifteen years, simply to satisfy our own cravings." Alec grows a variety of peppers in his garden today, from jalapeño and fatalii to fatal death. Bull City Pepper Company was born in 2017 as a classic case of hobbies gone wild! "We started out making hot sauce simply as a way to add flavor to our own dishes," Alec said. "We would make the sauce and give it to friends and family as holiday gifts. Eventually, we had so many people telling us to start a hot sauce company that we decided to take the leap of faith and do it." Today, Bull City Pepper Company is well-known across the Triangle, by consumers and chefs alike, for their delicious variety of mild and hot sauces.

Each year, Alec and Clay start planting pepper seeds in March. "We start indoors and then move the seeds outside, typically in May, to finish the growing process at Maple Spring Gardens in Cedar Grove,"



Bull City Pepper Co. of Durham produces hot sauces from NC-grown peppers.

Alec said. "The peppers grow from then throughout the majority of the year. Typically, our first harvest is around July and runs through Thanksgiving." Once the peppers are harvested, they are taken to the FDA Kitchen at the Piedmont Food Processing Center, where they are blended down, mixed and bottled into hot sauce. "Pepper is the first ingredient in all of our sauces, because the pepper is the hero in every bottle," Clay said. "When we started this adventure with Bull City Pepper Co., our goal was, and still is, to make something approachable yet premium in flavor for our customers."

Today, Bull City Pepper Company offers four sauce options, from mild

to hot. "Our first produce was the Rambunctious Red hot sauce, which resembles a Texas Pete mild style sauce," Alec said. "From there, we have expanded to include our Good Gracious Green Verde sauce, Golden Hurricane sauce, and Death Rides a Bull sauce."

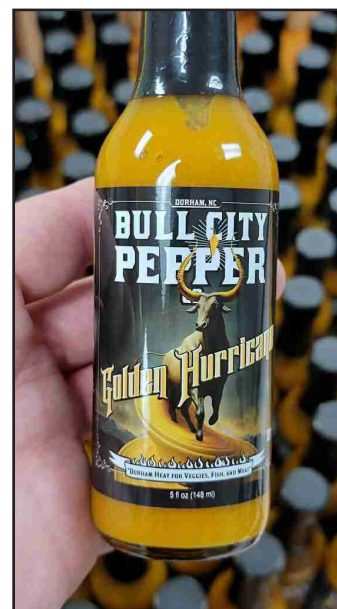
The Golden Hurricane sauce is a Yellow Fatalii sauce that is on the hotter end of the spectrum. Death Rides a Bull, however, is their hottest sauce to date and features both Carolina Reaper and Yellow Fatalii peppers. "We have a sauce that is sure to please any customer, whether they love spicy food or not," Clay said. "Start with our Rambunctious Red sauce. If you like

it, give the other ones a try. All four sauces offer a premium experience that we are proud to offer our customers year after year." In addition to their sauces, Bull City Pepper Company also sells peppers from the garden, hot halves and more.

Don't just take Alec and Clay's word for it! Bull City Pepper Company sauces have been awarded and recognized around the state. In fact, in 2023, the Rambunctious Red sauce won first place in the 2023 N.C. Hot Sauce Contest! They have also been featured by Bill Oakley, a producer of The Simpsons and face behind the Steamed Hams Society, for the flavor and quality of their products.

Products from Bull City Pepper Company can be purchased online through their website, at any of the four Weaver Street Market locations, the Common Market in Durham, New Hope Market in Chapel Hill, the Durham Co-op Market, Lapin Blue Bar & Art Gallery in Chapel Hill, Lowes Foods in Pittsboro, and Franklin Motors in Chapel Hill. They also recently began working with Publix and Lowes Foods, so keep an eye out for their sauces on your weekly shopping trip!

No matter which product you try, this Got to Be NC member is sure to please you and your family with their hot sauces. Whether you like mild or hot, enjoy the flavor of N.C.



Golden Hurricane is one of the company's hotter sauces.

peppers by purchasing some Bull City Pepper sauce this week and supporting the hard work of their team, our state's pepper farmers, and other N.C. agriculture industry producers!