

Agricultural REVIEW

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Raleigh, N.C.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

April 1 for the May issue
May 1 for the June issue
June 3 for the July issue
July 1 for the August issue
Aug. 1 for the September issue
Sept. 2 for the October issue
Oct. 1 for the November issue
Nov. 1 for the December issue

Calling all Century Farms for 2024 reunion

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Century Farm Program is looking for farms that have been in continuous family ownership for 100 years or more to join the more than 2,000 farms in the program. The program exists to honor farms for their longstanding contributions to North Carolina's rich agricultural heritage. Every four years, the N.C. State Fair hosts a reunion to recognize Century Farm families. This year's reunion will be held on Monday, Oct. 21.

"The Century Farm program was first held at the 1970 N.C. State Fair as part of the fair's Salute to Agriculture theme," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Our longtime farm families have been the backbone of North Carolina's No. 1 industry and I am looking forward to celebrating them this year."

"Being part of our Century Farm program is something to be very proud of, as it speaks to the hard work and dedication families invest in keeping their farmland," Troxler said. "I encourage anyone who is eligible to apply to this program, and I encourage all members to plan to attend this year's reunion."

There are 2,006 member farms in the program, with 97 of the state's 100 counties represented. "We'd love to have Century Farms in all 100 counties, so if you have a qualifying farm in your family or know of one in Dare, Graham and Swain counties, please fill out an application," Troxler said. Johnston County has the most Century Farm members at 84, Sampson County comes in second at 73 farms and Robeson County rounds out the top three at 70 farms in the program.



Century Farm family members had the opportunity to visit with one another and share stories at the last Century Farm Reunion.

Century Farms represent a small fraction of the total 42,817 farms in North Carolina. The Buie Family is one of the most recent additions to the

program. The farm is owned by 16 grandkids and great-grandkids of the late Sampson Buie of Robeson (See *Century Farm*, pg. 4)

Grants available for value-added production

Applications are now being accepted for the N.C. Agriculture Manufacturing and Processing Initiative, which has been created to fund and promote the establishment of value-added agricultural manufacturing and food processing facilities in North Carolina.

"This program will help create new opportunities for farmers and agribusiness owners and will also benefit consumers with locally produced foods and products," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Value-added opportunities help farmers capture more returns from their raw commodities and this program continues our efforts to increase food production capacities locally."

The new initiative was established by the N.C. General Assembly in the 2023 session and will be administered by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Potential applicants are invited to contact NCDA&CS to discuss proposals prior to applying to determine fit and for other guidance. Potential applicants

are asked to email the Marketing office at ncampi@ncagr.gov.

The program is intended to:

Provide support for agricultural processing opportunities that increase jobs and local property tax bases across the state and/or reduce costs and increase profit options for North Carolina farmers and growers.

Identify and assess opportunities to increase value-added processing of commodities produced in the state and fill geographic and commodity gaps across the state.

Market and recruit facilities to fill such gaps and meet such opportunities.

Support eligible entities with funding for eligible costs necessary to create or expand North Carolina agricultural manufacturing facilities and projects related to increased demand for agricultural products.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The guidelines, application and supporting documents for NCAMPI can be found at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/marketing/ncampi>.

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

After being inside during the winter, I appreciate being able to get outdoors and work in the dirt.

It is also when seasonal farmers markets make their return and when shoppers will find early season crops such as strawberries, greens, nursery plants and flowers at markets and in retail grocery stores.

The department operates four regional farmers markets year-round – the WNC Farmers Market in Asheville, the Charlotte Farmers Market near Greensboro and the State Farmers Market in Raleigh. But we are fortunate to have local farmers markets, farm stands and roadside stands across the state, too.

If you are looking for locally grown produce, fruits and meats, there are a lot of options, which means consumers have easy access to the freshest fruits

and vegetables available in season.

Many markets also host special events highlighting the seasonal offerings available. For example, on April 19-21, the WNC Farmers Market will host its Spring Festival & Growing in the Mountain Plant Sale. This event brings together the best of spring in the mountains, with produce and products from farmers, growers and makers, plus music, food, kids' activities, demonstrations of heritage skills and a Local Cloth Fiberfest.

On May 5, the Charlotte Farmers Market will celebrate its 40th Anniversary of serving farmers, agribusinesses, consumers and restaurants in the area. There will be free strawberry ice cream and cake to enjoy, plus local breweries, distilleries, wineries and meaderies will be on site offering samples for adults 21 and over, plus pairing beverages with a variety of

cheeses. There will also be activities for the kids.

Forty years is quite a milestone, but I learned recently that the Henderson County Curb Market goes back even longer, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Congratulations!

I want to encourage shoppers to buy local when they can. Buying local directly benefits North Carolina farmers, which in turn helps the local and state economy and ensure we maintain access to a safe and affordable food supply. Supporting our farmers means they are there to support us with food and fiber as well.

Whether you shop at farmers markets, farm stands or grocery stores, remember when you want the best, it's Got to Be NC Agriculture!

Agricultural Review

15,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$686.44 or 3.9 cents per copy.

Andrea E. Ashby Editor & Mng. Editor
Jackie Bullock.....Ads & Circulation Mgr.
Heather Overton..... Staff Writer
Brandon Herring Staff Writer
Michael Manganello Staff Writer
Taylor Parrish..... Social Media

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PHONE: 919-707-3001

Steve Troxler
Commissioner

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Emergency Programs Kelly Nilsson
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Bucolic Briefs

The N.C. Quarter Horse Association will host its District III Carolina Spring Ranch Show April 13 & 14 at Lone Hickory Arena, 1950 Bethel Church Road, Yadkinville. Go to www.ncqha.com for more information. Other show dates listed in Horse Events.

The N.C. Tomato Growers Association is offering a \$3,000 merit/need-based scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year. Any North Carolina resident who pursues a horticulture or agribusiness undergraduate or graduate degree at a four-year North Carolina college or university is eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting an application is May 31.

The award will be based on a student's demonstrated scholastic achievement, initiative, leadership, financial need, and extracurricular activities. The scholarship is contingent on the recipient maintaining at least a 2.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 on all course work during the scholarship period.

The recipient must be enrolled for the entire school year to receive the full scholarship. Scholarship funds will be distributed through the financial aid office of the attending student's college or university. The scholarship will be paid in two installments, \$1,500 per semester.

Applications are available with additional information at www.ncmatatoes.com.

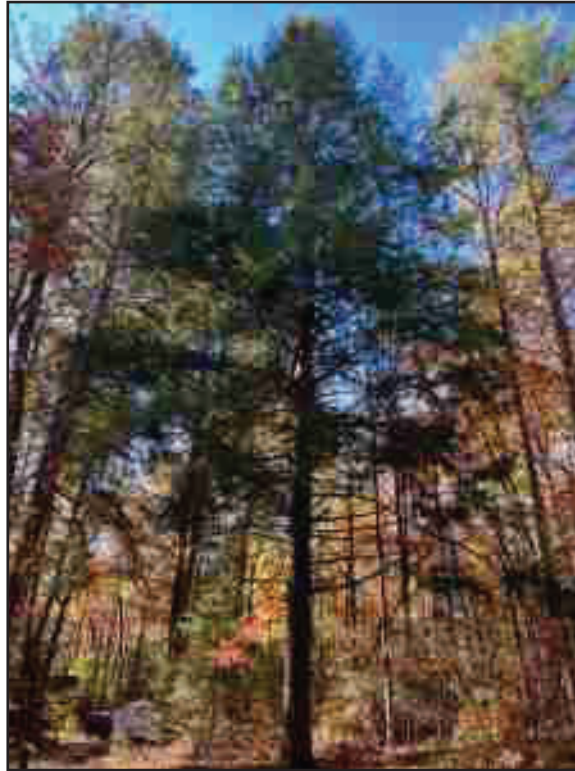
If you need additional information, contact Melinda James, at 828-526-3989, or by e-mail at osagem@msn.com. Completed applications should be mailed to: N.C. Tomato Growers Association, c/o Melinda James, 1604 Hale Ridge Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775

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). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).

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.

To keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, check out our blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter or @gottoBeNC on Instagram.

Is there hope for the hemlocks?



As of 2023, more than 120,000 hemlocks across our forests have been treated or are within areas with biocontrol releases through efforts of the Hemlock Restoration Initiative. This effort is a partnership program between the NCFS, N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, U.S. Forest Service, WNC communities, local government agencies, university researchers and conservation organizations.

In the years following the introduction of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) (*Adelges tsugae*), a sap-sucking insect native to Asia, hemlocks have steadily declined across their native range, leaving behind the skeletal remnants of what was once a prominent overstory tree dominating the forests of the Appalachian Mountains. The question on many minds is whether hope exists for our 'redwoods of the east' or if they've reached a tipping point, leaving them unable to rebound.

The native hemlock range extends from Canada into the southern Appalachian Mountains, spreading westward into parts of Minnesota and descending eastward into the foothills. Two species of hemlock occur in North Carolina: the eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and the Carolina hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*). Eastern hemlocks are long-lived, overstory trees towering heights up to 100 feet, with the oldest known trees exceeding 800 years old. In the Piedmont, more than 200 miles east of the edge of their natural range, a relic population of eastern hemlocks exists in Cary, North Carolina, on a series of north-facing bluffs along Swift Creek. Sustained by a cooler, moist microclimate than the surrounding area, these trees have been able to persist long after the last ice age, or glacial maximum.

Carolina hemlock is a southern Appalachian endemic, restricted to elevations between 2,100 and 4,000 feet along the rocky slopes and ridges of the Blue Ridge Mountains. North Carolina is home to around 80% of the naturally occurring Carolina hemlock, with smaller populations in Virginia and Georgia. They are less common than the eastern hemlock. With the onset of the HWA invasion, combined with other environmental stressors, their dwindling numbers are a cause for concern, prompting the species to be under review for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

If you are wondering what all the fuss is about, dead hemlocks scattered across the Western North Carolina landscape are not only an eyesore, but they play an important ecological role in the health of our forests in the Appalachian Mountains.

If you have ever hiked in the mountains during summer, you have probably noticed the cool reprieve once under the canopy of a hemlock forest. In the southern Appalachians, hemlocks primarily grow near streams. The shaded cove environment they create maintains the cool temperatures conducive to the survival of our native brook trout and several species of salamanders, including the eastern hellbender. Hemlock forests provide critical stopover sites during migration for several neotropical bird species such as the blackpole warbler, and they provide habitat for over 90 species of bird, including the Blackburnian warbler, blue-headed vireo, black-throated green warbler and northern saw-whet owl. Young hemlocks in the understory provide thermal cover and a vital food source for various game species including ruffed grouse, wild turkey, white-tailed deer and the eastern cottontail rabbit during our cold winter months. American black bears commonly use hemlock tree cavities for denning. The microclimate created by hemlocks also supports a myriad of plants, some of which are listed as threatened

or endangered at the state or federal level like the pirate bush (*Buckleya distichophylla*), a hemiparasitic shrub found nowhere else in the world but a small region of the southern Appalachians. Hemlocks are an essential component of the forests of the Appalachian Mountains.

So, you may be asking yourself, how did HWA get here and why is such a tiny insect so destructive?

HWA is native to Asia and was introduced to the Pacific Northwest in the 1920s, where it feeds on western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*). An adapted suite of natural predators has prevented the species from becoming a pest in both regions. Unfortunately, hemlocks in the east were not as lucky. Since its introduction in 1951 near Richmond, VA through infected hemlocks imported from Japan, HWA has continued to spread across much of the native hemlock range from wind or hitchhiking on birds and other wildlife. HWA was first discovered in North Carolina in 1995 in Stokes and Surry counties.

Adelgids are aphid-like insects that feed exclusively on conifers. HWA settles at the base of hemlock needles on branch tips and uses their piercing-sucking mouthparts to deplete their host of stored nutrients. In their native range, HWA is subjected to heavy predation, potentially leading to their complex life cycle having two overlapping generations a year. The spring generation, or progredien, is active from early spring through midsummer. The second, known as the sistens generation, is the overwintering generation, present from summer to early spring of the following year. To further complicate things, only females exist in Eastern North America where and are parthenogenic, meaning they reproduce asexually. In Asia, male HWA feed on tiger-tail spruce (*Picea torano*) and fortunately, North Carolina's native red spruce (*Picea rubens*) does not seem to support their development, leading to an abbreviated life cycle.

With no natural predators to keep their populations in check and the ability to reproduce without a mate, HWA can rapidly multiply and overwhelm trees, starving them of vital nutrients. Heavy infestations cause premature needle drop and branch dieback, beginning at the lower branches and progressing to the crown. If left untreated, trees can die in as little as four years, but typically die within 10 years following an initial infestation. Environmental stress, such as heat and drought, can further exacerbate their decline.

Is there hope for North Carolina's redwoods of the East?

In the mid-1900s, Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) was seemingly met with a similar fate by the invasive balsam woolly adelgid (*Adelges piceae*). However, it still prevails today in our red spruce—fraser fir Forests. Fortunately, with continued research leading to more advanced integrated pest management programs (IPM), there is hope and many researchers and forest managers remain optimistic about the future of hemlocks and their recovery to our forests.

IPM is an approach that uses the knowledge of a perceived pest's biology with a combination of techniques including chemical and biological control, habitat manipulation, and the use of resistant plant varieties in a

(See Hemlock treatments, pg. 3)

South Mountain Distilling is sharing its family legacy

The legacy of moonshine in North Carolina dates back generations, long before the Civil War. Growing up in the South Mountains, Don Smith was surrounded by the heritage of moonshine and learned about the process of making it at a young age. Today, he is not only continuing his family legacy of making liquor in the South Mountains, but he is also carrying that legacy across the country and the world.

South Mountain Distilling, located in Connelly Springs, opened its doors on Dec. 31 of 2016, but its history and legacy date back long before then. Don Smith's family has inhabited the South Mountains since the early 1700's and his family has been in the moonshine making business for as long as he can remember. In fact, in 1828, his ancestors were involved in the first U.S. Gold Rush, which is when they not only discovered gold, but also a more efficient way to get some of the gold through making moonshine and whiskey. From the time he was ten years old, Don remembers hearing stories from his grandfather and great uncle on the family history of moonshine, how to make moonshine and other liquor products, and the importance of moonshine to the state of North Carolina.

"I was always around my great uncle and grandfather growing up, so I constantly heard the talk of how to make whiskey and moonshine," he said. "At the age of ten, my great uncle took me under his wing and started teaching me how the process worked. He also allowed me to help in small ways, like bringing the mason jars to them when needed." Although he diverted from the family liquor business for a few years in early adulthood, Don began looking back to his roots of distilling in 2015 and has



South Mountain Distilling is a Got to Be NC member, sourcing local farm products when possible to make its spirits and sporting the Got to Be NC logo and its packaging.

been fully immersed in it ever since.

After a year of paperwork and preparation, Don opened the doors to South Mountain Distilling in 2016. "The South Mountains used to be a mecca for liquor production, so I am proud to be carrying on the legacy, not only of my family, but of all the families who have a history of distilling in this area," Don said. "Ever since we opened the doors to South Mountain Distilling, our business and clientele has been growing. People from all across the country come to buy our products and learn about our heritage of moonshine, and that means more to me than they will ever know."

Although they were well-known in the area from the moment that they opened, South Mountain Distilling truly took off once Don and his team got the opportunity to be involved with the Moonshiners TV Show on the Discovery Channel.

"Being a part of Moonshiners was an incredible opportunity that really

opened the doors for us to expand our product line beyond the North Carolina border," Don said. In fact, one of their best-selling products, JB Rader's Honeycrisp Apple Moonshine, gives credit to one of the show's main characters, JB Rader, and his longtime history of moonshining.

All the products made at South Mountain Distilling are taken through a unique process and prepared with both time and intention. Don works with local farmers as much as he can to obtain the ingredients for his products. In fact, the corn that they use comes entirely from farms in the area. Barley, honey, and oak barrels are also products that Don and his team seek to source locally wherever possible. "I like to support local businesses as much as I can, but sometimes it becomes difficult when looking for products like barley," he said. The process for each product begins by grinding the grains in the hammer mill on-site. Then each product is taken

through the mashing process where the starches are loosened before being cooled down. Once the cool down process begins, Don and his team add in malts and enzymes to convert the sugars to alcohol. Then each product typically sits for five days before being sent through their still for distilling. The still that Don and his team use is incredibly unique to the moonshine industry because of the materials it is made out of and the way that it runs. "When we first started seeking out a still, I drew up on a piece of paper exactly what I wanted," Don said. "I found a guy in Missouri that was just starting to build his own still made out of copper and stainless steel. After talking with him, we partnered with him to build the still that we have today." The very first spirit to ever run through the still was Table Rock Rum, which is still sold at South Mountain Distilling today. "It is a slow, oil-bathe process that makes each spirit with time, intention and love," Don said.

"We wanted to replicate the triple distillation process that was used by our ancestors, while also allowing the full flavors of each product to shine through. Ole' Bessie, named after my grandmother, produces a high-quality product every time." Once the distilling process of each product is finished, the liquid alcohol is produced and final ingredients are added to complete the process.

Today, South Mountain Distilling offers a variety of products that both men and women alike enjoy. Don's favorite is their Sinister Whiskey because it replicates his family recipe. "It means more to me than just another product sold, or another dollar made," he said. "It's about heritage, legacy and love, which are all things that this whiskey encompasses." He also has a special place for the JB Rader Honeycrisp Apple Moonshine because it was the first product that got the South Mountain Distilling name outside of the United States. In addition to those best sellers, South Mountain Distilling also produces the following spirits for purchase: Master Distiller Big Nick Calo's Peanut Butter Banana Moonshine, Triple Chocolate Cold Brew Sipping Cream, Chocolate Cherry Sipping Cream, Jesse's Honey Gold Commemorative Spirit, Patti's Peach Pie Moonshine, Killer Beez Appalachian Ambrosia, Penny's Pecan Pie Moonshine, Kelly's Pineapple Upside Down Cake Moonshine, Colt Ford's Mr. Goodtime Southern Sweet Tea, Sally Janes Sin A Shine, JB Rader's 103 Proof Straight Moonshine, Cherry Bounce Whiskey, Jasper's Shine, Kelly's Moonarita, Cherry Bounce Moonshine, Dignified Single Malt Whiskey, Purple Jesus, and Table Rock Rum. As members of our Got to Be NC (See South Mountain, pg. 4)

Hemlock treatments

(Continued from pg. 2)

way that makes it more difficult for a pest population to thrive while also minimizing risk to human health, wildlife and the environment. The N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) implements an IPM strategy incorporating chemical and biological control while tracking the program's progress through annual surveys and monitoring. Hemlocks are treated with a systemic insecticide, providing protection for up to five years. Biological control agents are employed in infested areas that are too close to streams for treatment and along steep cliffsides.

Laricobius beetles or Lari beetles as they are sometimes referred to, are predator beetles native to the Pacific Northwest. Adults and larvae have a voracious appetite for the overwintering generation of HWA that feed on western hemlock. The beetles are released in select areas under the guidance of the USDA Forest Service (USFS) Forest Health Protection Program and APHIS, and in cooperation with the NCDA&CS Beneficial Insects Program. The goal is to keep hemlocks alive through temporary insecticide protection while simultaneously establishing predator populations in nearby untreated areas. This approach allows Laricobius beetle populations to increase as chemical treatments wear off, reaching a predator-prey balance our native hemlocks can tolerate, ultimately reducing the need to treat hemlocks over time chemically.

Treating hemlocks and the biocontrol release program began at DuPont State Recreational Forest in 2007 and South Mountains State Park the following year. In 2009, the NCFS assisted the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) with treatments on several state game lands. These combined efforts resulted in approximately 5,000 hemlocks treated in the first few years.

In 2014, restoring hemlocks in our state became a prime objective for Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, prompting the formation of the Hemlock Restoration Initiative (HRI). HRI is a partnership program between the NCFS, N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), USFS, WNC communities, local government agencies, university researchers and conservation organizations working under the common goal of minimizing the damage caused by HWA and restoring hemlocks to our southern Appalachian Mountain forests. Together, they identify and establish conservation areas, provide education and guidance to landowners and oversee the HWA integrated pest management program.

In 2018, the NCFS B.R.I.D.G.E Program was recruited to help treat hemlocks and has since become one of the most powerful assets for treating hemlocks in the Appalachian Mountains. To date, NCFS B.R.I.D.G.E crews have treated more than 60,000 hemlocks and helped preserve our highest priority hemlock conservation areas across Western N.C. As of 2023, more than 120,000 hemlocks across our forests have been treated or are within areas with biocontrol releases.

During annual surveys, Laricobius beetles are consistently found near release sites and sometimes miles from the nearest release area, suggesting they are surviving and spreading. Since they only feed on the overwintering generation, it is unlikely the beetles alone will be enough to save our hemlocks. In the Pacific Northwest, two species of silver fly (genus *Leucotaraxis*) are known predators of HWA and are commonly associated with Laricobius beetles in western hemlock forests. Both are promising candidates and are currently being evaluated as potential biocontrol agents to tackle the spring generation of HWA (Dietschler, 2021).

New hope is on the horizon for hemlocks, and predatory insects and insecticides are not the only tools at our disposal. Silviculture prescriptions have long been used to alter forest stands to provide timber and related forest products for human benefit (Gottschalk, 1995). It has also proved to be an innovative approach for transforming forest structure and composition to mitigate the impacts of insects and diseases and improve forest health. A new study published in *Forest Ecology and Management* by Albert E. Mayfield III, research entomologist with the USFS, and Robert M. Jetton, associate professor of Forest Health at N.C. State University, concluded that creating gaps in the forest canopy around eastern hemlocks may give them the upper hand against HWA infestations. The study found that the reduced competition and more available sunlight resulted in increased new shoot growth and annual basal area with significantly less branch dieback despite being infested with HWA. Increased shoot growth is especially encouraging because one of the first responses to an HWA infestation is that the tree stops producing new shoots.

Although they did not see a decline in HWA populations with elevated sunlight levels as seen in a previous study (Brantley, 2017), trees were healthier, leading researchers to believe hemlocks not limited by competition and resources can better tolerate HWA infestations. Jetton sees silviculture as another tool in the IPM toolbox. He is optimistic that it will benefit biological control efforts by allowing trees to hold on long enough while predator populations are established, thereby reducing the need for chemical treatments. Mayfield and Jetton's end goal is to develop a stand-level prescription that forester managers can utilize as part of their IMP program to minimize the impacts of HWA.

Century Farms

(Continued from pg. 1)

County, who purchased the land on the eve of the Great Depression in 1923. "My grandfather took pride in ownership of the land," said Debra Decker. "The primary cash crop was tobacco and other crops sold were cotton, peanuts, soybeans, corn, cucumbers and pecans." The family still operates a small produce operation on the farm, managed by a great-grandson, Kevin Buie. Kevin is also an ag teacher at Fairmont High School in Robeson County.

"There would be tremendous joy and pride by my grandfather to know that we have maintained the farm he started long enough to be a Century Farm Family," said

Decker. "The sign and certificate we received recognizing this milestone is important to our family and we look forward to our first Century Farm Reunion this fall."

The Century Farm Program is a free recognition program managed by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. To be eligible, the farm must be in continuous ownership by your family for 100 years or more. Additionally, the Bicentennial Farm recognition program recognizes farms with 200 years or more of continuous family ownership.

Eligibility for both can be determined from an abstract of title or original records such as original deed or land patents. Other authentic land records may be acceptable in certain cases.

Title to the property today must reside with a blood relative of the original owner, or a legally adopted child of the descendant. Continuous residence in the state or on the property is not required.

Applications can be found at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/public-affairs/public-affairs-century-farms> and are accepted continuously throughout the year. You can download and print an application to fill out or contact the NCDA&CS Public Affairs office at 919-707-3002 to have an application sent to you. Proof of land ownership must be submitted with the application. To be eligible to attend this year's Century Farm Reunion and be included in the Century Farm booklet, applications must be submitted by Monday, Aug. 12.



Century Farm families are invited to the reunion held every four years at the N.C. State Fair. The reunion draws nearly 2,000 people.

South Mountain

(Continued from pg. 3)

to Be NC Program, they also offer a line of flavored moonshine products, including Blackberry, that features our Got to Be NC logo.

Recently, Don and his team at South Mountain Distilling embarked on a new and exciting journey that aims to take the brand, name and legacy of moonshine in our state across the world. Through a \$15 billion partnership with Moonshine International/Bahamas Inc., South Mountain Distilling will begin expanding their products globally to areas such as the Bahamas and India. In fact, in the Bahamas they have already launched a deal with Graycliff Hotel and Restaurant, a major contributor to the success of this partnership and a historic landmark in the area. "Graycliff is a high-end hotel that offers unique dining and drinking experiences, which is what they will be offering

with our products as well," Don said. "We are very excited about this partnership to expand not only our name but the knowledge and legacy of moonshining in North Carolina to others across the world. The Bahamas has ties back to the U.S. through the days of rum running and moonshining, so it's also a neat aspect to be starting the partnership there and bringing that history back to life in a new way."

Although the partnership is launching in the Bahamas, Don and his team have big dreams for entering many other areas overseas and continuing to further the name of South Mountain Distilling and N.C. moonshine. "It brings excitement and meaning back into the liquor industry," he said, "and we are honored to be a part of this process alongside our wonderful partners."

So, what does the future look like for South Mountain Distilling? It looks

bright and full of life! "I am a very goal-oriented person, so my dreams are always growing and evolving," Don said. "I want to bring moonshine to people across the world. We will always be making new products to appeal to a variety of tastebuds. Most of all, I always want to be someone who provides jobs and creates opportunities for people to better themselves and the liquor industry."

We know one thing is for sure, Don and his team will not rest until the name of moonshining in North Carolina has reached its full potential not only in the U.S. but all across the world. We are so thankful for their contributions to our state's liquor industry and our Got to Be NC Program. Follow along on their social media channels to receive the latest updates on their partnership in the Bahamas, new product launches and more.



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*Ads must be typed or neatly printed

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

April 1 Horse & Tackle Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

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

April 4-7 2024 Martinganza Quarter Horse Show & Futurity. Contact Susan Daniels, 919-894-0600.

April 13 & 14 .. NCHJA "C" Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.

April 19-21 ECMHC Spring Fling Miniature Horse Show. Contact Katie Pulley, 757-334-6016.

April 27 & 28 .. April's Just Horsin' Round Open. Contact the Ag Center, 252-792-5802.

WNC Ag Center, Fletcher 828-687-1414

April 27 4-H Horse Show. Contact Shannon Coleman, 828-837-2210.

May 3 & 4 Asheville Spring Warm Up. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

May 8-11 Saddlebred Classic Horse Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

June 14-16 Piedmont Paso Fino Horse Show. Contact Milda Minter, 336-225-0214.

July 17-20..... Asheville Summer Fun Horse Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

July 23-27..... Blue Ridge Classic Horse Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

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

April 5-7 Region 12 & 14 Arabian Show. Contact Jackie Daughton, 336-509-6113.

April 11-13 Raleigh Invitational Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

April 13 & 14 .. Finally Farm Horse Show Series. Contact Lesley Jenks, 919-280-8087.

April 19-21 Spring Holiday Classic. Contact Richard Isley, 336-908-3302.

April 19-21 Spring Fling Outdoors "C". Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

April 26 & 27 .. Revenge Roughstock Rodeo. Contact Zack Towery, 540-581-4993.

April 27 & 28 .. United Horsemen of the Carolina- Show Series Opener. Contact Nancy Barbee, 919-619-1786.

May 6 & 7 Dr. Gerd Heuschmann Symposium. Contact Michele, 919-608-8225.

May 6 & 7 TWAH May Days Show. Contact Kim Moser, 919-201-3606.

May 13 & 14.... North Central Qualifying 4-H Horse Show. Contact Morgan Maness, 336-342-8230.

May 13 & 14.... Raleigh Spring Dressage. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.

May 20-21 Southern States Academy Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

May 24-27 Southern States Regional Morgan Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

June 3 & 4 Capital Dressage Classic. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.

June 8-11 Tar Heel Summer Classic. Contact Randy Ratliff, 336-339-8773.

June 15-17 Capital City Classic. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

June 24-25 NCAHA Open Summer Extravaganza. Contact Jackie Daughton, 336-509-6113.

July 5-9..... State 4-H Horse Show. Contact Lori Stroud, 919-515-5788.

July 21-23..... Triangle Farms Summer Indoors "C." Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

July 22&23 TWAH July Show. Contact Kim Moser, 919-219-0256.

July 29 & 30 Raleigh Summer Dressage I & II. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.

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

To keep up with the latest NCDA&CS news, follow the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on Facebook or on Twitter @NCAgriculture.

\$1 million awarded for 13 ag research projects

Thirteen agricultural research projects are receiving a total of \$1 million in grants from the N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative and the New and Emerging Crops Program – programs of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The projects aim to boost bioenergy opportunities and crop production in the state.

“These grants are smart investments, and this research is forward focused on expanding opportunities for N.C. farmers and agribusinesses,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Agriculture and agribusiness remain North Carolina’s largest industry, and agricultural research has been the foundation of the new advances, improved plant varieties and the latest production techniques that have increased the efficiency, yields and competitiveness of the industry.”

The Bioenergy Research Initiative began in 2013, with the allocation of funds by the North Carolina General Assembly. The initiative’s grants of \$500,000 support the development of energy production from N.C. agricultural and forest-based products.

The New and Emerging Crops Program began with General Assembly approval in 2018. Through \$500,000 in grants, the program advances its mission of identifying potential new crops, value-added products and agricultural enterprises, and providing the agricultural research, marketing support and education necessary to make these crops commercially viable and profitable for North Carolina’s growers and agribusinesses.

In addition to grant funding, NCDA&CS provides support with the state’s 18 research stations, which are operated in coordination with N.C. State University. The stations provide a place for researchers to conduct all or part of their projects, and most, if not all, of the projects make use of the stations.

Below is a list of grant amounts, recipients, titles and descriptions for each of the projects awarded through the 2023-2024 Bioenergy Research Initiative:

– \$100,000 to NCSU’s Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering for a 2-year project titled “Carbon-neutral Energy and Nutrient Recovery from Solid Manures.” An autothermal updraft

gasification system will be used to convert dried manures/litters into combustible syngas which can be directly burned for heat or power generation, or further catalyzed into liquid fuels. Additionally, a nutrient and mineral-rich solid co-product containing ash and biochar will be generated. This project will generate crucial new knowledge regarding converting N.C. manures into energy and fertilizer in a carbon-neutral manner.

– \$85,000 to NCSU’s Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources to fund a 2-year project titled “Sycamore SRC: Connecting Producers and Markets.” This project will connect research, farmers and the bioenergy industry to catalyze bioenergy farming. It will focus on (1) Improving farmer understanding of American Sycamore (AS) as a Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) crop; (2) Accounting of the carbon sequestration potential of AS; (3) Creation of technology-driven automated information systems and (4) Coordination and collaboration among researchers, farmers and industry to develop a continuous supply of bioenergy feedstocks to local mills.

– \$86,000 to Appalachian State University for a 2-year project titled “Slaughterhouse Waste-to-Nutrient Conversion via Bioenergy Technologies” that seeks to close the loop on organic waste management of decentralized animal processing facilities. The purpose of this project is to combine bioenergy technologies to efficiently convert non-marketable organic wastes into high value nutrients and soil amendments through Appalachian State’s biochar combined anaerobic digestion process in conjunction with aerated static composting.

– \$129,000 to NCSU’s Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering for a 2-year project titled “Lemnaceae Selection for Fuel Butanol Production.” Lemnaceae, known as duckweed, grows well on wastewater and accumulate high amounts of starch, making them excellent candidates for biofuel production through fermentation. This study will apply modern selective breeding approaches to produce advanced varieties of *L. gibba* and study the potential of the species to produce fuel butanol.

– \$100,000 to NCSU’s Department of Horticultural Science for a 2-year project titled “Quantum-Enhanced Bioenergy Grasses.” *Miscanthus* and *trididium* are ideal bioenergy grass

feedstocks due to their high biomass yields, broad adaptability and low input requirements. The project will develop new bioengineering and bioprocessing technologies to improve biofuel conversion efficiency and value-added products from these crops. These approaches will include non-GMO gene editing to improve desirable traits and novel bioprocessing methods to enhance bio-butanol conversion efficiency. Combined, these integrated efforts will serve to enhance yields, efficiency and profitability of the entire bioenergy supply chain, from sunlight to biofuel, while helping to grow and diversify N.C. agriculture.

Below is a list of grant amounts, recipients, titles and descriptions for each of the projects awarded through the 2023-2024 New and Emerging Crops Program:

– \$30,000 to NCSU’s Department of Horticultural Science to extend the project titled “Adapting Bambara groundnuts to North Carolina” for a year. The Bambara groundnut is a grain legume originating in West Sub-Saharan Africa. It has an underground growth habit similar to a peanut. Bambara nuts are rich in carbohydrates, proteins and oils and have been sourced by companies as an ingredient for alternative protein products. The objectives of this proposal are to use selected materials from the 2023 trial for a breeding program, while studying efficacy and crop safety of Bambara nut to herbicides.

– \$70,000 to NCSU’s Department of Crop and Soil Sciences to continue for a year a project titled “De-risking Early Adoption of Sesame Production for NC Farmers.” Previous research was responsible for about 5,000 acres of sesame being contracted in N.C. in 2023, which generated significant agronomic knowledge and interest from growers, seed companies and processors. This year’s project goal is to continue to de-risk farmer early adoption of sesame production by investigating challenges experienced by farmers. The project will investigate plant populations, evaluate the feasibility of sesame production in a double-cropping system, identify and evaluate herbicide options for sesame, conduct a statewide variety trial and expand sesame-related extension activities and materials.

– \$20,000 to N.C. A&T State University to initiate a one-year project titled “Cultivating Knowledge

to Produce/Use Medicinal Crops.” This project aims to conduct variety trials using organic and conservation practices for bitter melon, specialty gourd and specialty radish. Goals of this project are to advance variety trials, establish a rigorous research-based guide for crop production, create market and financial analysis and conduct cooking demonstrations. Workshops, tours and field days with subject matter experts will be offered to support farmers and communities to learn about medicinal crops.

– \$70,000 to NCSU’s Department of Crop and Soil Sciences to extend for a year a study titled “Refining Heirloom Rice Production in NC.” There is a growing client base for artisan and heirloom agricultural products. Carolina Gold Rice, grown on several plantations in southeast N.C. from the late 1600s to the mid-1800s, is one of the specialty crops sought by this growing market. Objectives for year four of this project are:

1) Determine optimum planting dates for heirloom rice; 2) Develop drone spray application methods that are economical and time efficient for flooded rice production and 3) Evaluate flooded rice for sequestration of nutrients found in aquaculture wastewater. These goals will be accomplished in partnership with Tidewater Grain Company with locations in Pamlico and Washington counties.

– \$100,000 to NCSU’s Department of Horticultural Science to fund “Canary Melon, a NC Crop Option” for two years. Canary melons are prized for their mild yet unique flavors, intense sweetness and lack of musky aroma and flavor. Key objectives of this research are to: 1) Evaluate adaptability of canary melon cultivars to North Carolina; 2) Characterize key attributes such as yield, fruit size and time to optimum harvest; 3) Evaluate internal qualities such as sweetness and flesh firmness; 4) Determine sensory attributes such as unique flavors and juiciness; 5) Trial adapted cultivars on commercial farms to facilitate their presence in the market place and 6) Share information at grower and professional meetings.

– \$50,000 to NCSU’s Department of Horticultural Science to fund for the first year a project titled “Carolina Super Teas.” Caffeinated drinks, including tea, yaupon and yerba mate (collectively called teas), are the most widely consumed beverage on the planet. There is considerable

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

– \$80,000 to NCSU’s Department of Horticultural Science to fund a 3-year project titled “Discovering VSD-resistant Redbuds for Nurseries.” Redbud production contributed \$3.27 million in economic value in N.C. in 2019. Vascular Streak Dieback (VSD), a new widespread disease, caused 50-100 percent Eastern redbud plant loss in N.C. nurseries in 2022. VSD has also been discovered in 22 other important nursery crops. Therefore, it is urgent to evaluate VSD-resistant plants for the nursery industry. Breeding resistant plants takes decades. Preliminary observations indicate that some Asia redbud species showed strong VSD resistance and could be used as alternative redbuds. The project proposes to build a VSD-resistant testing field to screen 22 ready-to-use redbud relative plants.

– \$80,000 to NCSU’s Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources for a 1-year project titled “Disease Resistant Exotic Fir Christmas Trees.” *Phytophthora* root rot (PRR) is a major threat to North Carolina’s multi-million-dollar Fraser fir Christmas tree industry. The goal of this project is to establish PRR resistant Turkish and Trojan fir seed orchards that produce 100% disease-resistant fir. The major project objectives are: 1) Evaluate post-harvest needle retention and insect tolerance of existing progeny tests and PRR survivor trees; 2) Analyze and compare seed sources (i.e., provenance) and predict breeding values of families and individual trees for selection of elite Turkish and Trojan fir genotypes and 3) Establish elite Turkish and Trojan fir clone banks and seed orchards in collaboration with NCDA&CS research stations in Laurel Springs and Waynesville.

April AgroTips

Check your crop’s sulfur needs.

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

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

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

For effective bermudagrass sprayfield maintenance, remove winter annuals.

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

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

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

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

Fertilize Christmas trees.

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

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. For example, if you want your ad to be published in the May issue, we must receive it by noon the first working day of April 3.



Bees, Supplies & Services For Sale

NOTICE

N.C. law requires a permit to sell honey bees in the state. A permit is not required for: The sale of less than 10 bee 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 their move-

2024 nucs, VSH genetics & Italians, \$195 ea.; will trade bees or pollination for land to hunt. Bryan Fisher, Concord 980-521-8642.

30 beehives & 5-frame nucs, w/healthy bees, \$175 ea. & up. Tony Parker, Bolton 910-655-0741 or 386-7725.

5-frame nucs, in waxed cardboard nuc box, \$195; 3 lb. pkgs, \$140; queens, \$40. Sam Bolick, Concord 704-795-3900.

5-frame nucs, in a wax-coated nuc box, \$195; 3 lb. pkgs, \$140; queens, \$40; NCDA&CS inspected. Dick Lippard, Statesville 704-682-4018.



Equipment For Sale

1946 AC WC tractor, runs well, GC, \$1,450. Larry Perrell, Woodleaf 704-278-4247.

Kuhn disc mower, 6 discs, EC, \$4,000. Dale Pardue, Hamptonville 336-468-2038.

(2) Van-Dale liquid manure tanks, 3,300 gal., \$5,000 ea., 32 ft. Van-Dale liquid manure agitator-pump, \$5,000. Dale Blackwelder, Mocksville 336-655-9154.

NH 320 sq baler, w/10-bale Hoelscher accumulator & 10-bale grapple, shed kept, field ready, \$7,500. Mark Sloan, Olin 704-880-8892.

JD hay spear, fits 500 series loader, \$275. Diane Sawyer, Apex 919-452-4317.

FARM EQUIPMENT

2019 Frontier bush hog, hvy duty, 5 ft., LN, used twice to mow between planted pines, stored under shelter, \$1,400. Bill Stirewalt, Mt. Pleasant 704-467-0273.

AC sod planter, 2-row, dry fert box, corn & bean plates, \$2,500. Leroy Speer, East Bend 336-682-7180.

Krone moco, AMT 323 CV, 9 discs, 11 ft. cutting width, flail cond., 2 pt quick swivel hitch, EC, \$12,500. Jeff Carpenter, Lawndale 704-530-1867.

2010 Kubota RTV 1100 diesel, heat/air, 1,329 hrs., 4x4, new tires, dump bed, 3-range trans, \$13,500. Darrell Layton, Mt. Pleasant 704-701-1528.

816S Gravely mower for parts, no eng., 52 in. deck, hyd lift, good trans, 2-spd transfer case, 4-spd, \$100. Dodd Linker, Clemmons 336-712-2484.

Ford 6610 tractor w/Dunham loader, motor stuck, \$4,500. Bennett Bradley, Tarboro 252-230-0460.

7710 Ford tractor, cab, air, 1,562 hrs., 1 owner, \$35,000. Gary Mastin, Hamptonville 336-469-8961.

JD 420/430 side cult frames, \$250; JD 1010 trans, \$200; other M,40,1010 parts. Guy Hiniker, Oxford 919-815-0268, guyhiniker@embarqmail.com

Wisconsin 4-cyl motor, irrig pump, VF4D 3-1/4"x3-1/4" hp 25.0@2400, hasn't run in a while, \$750 obo; Filtomat 1000 irrig filter, \$950 obo. Patrick Florence, Cedar Grove 919-593-6737.

Goossen Industries bale chopper straw blower, GC, trailer mounted, \$1,700. Bill Eudy, Mebane 919-563-5356.

NH 630 rnd baler, EC, good belts, new bearings, needs 40 pto hp to operate, baled approx. 7,000 bales, \$7,000. Jeff Greene, Lenoir 828-493-2448.

Cole spring shank cult feet, lrg assort. cult parts, new set drag chains for drill, \$100-\$200. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Ford 4630, 2,400 hrs., 50hp, \$12,000. Grady Draughn, Yadkinville 336-468-7889 or 468-2336.

Intl C tricycle tractor, has been sitting, \$2,500. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Newton-Crouch fert spreader, ground driven, tandem wheels, \$12,000. Don Ritchie, Mt. Pleasant 980-521-1772.

JD 285, V-twin water cool Kawasaki eng, 18hp, 48 in. deck, \$1,250. Chris Davis, Clemmons 336-705-0239.

Mule plow grain drill, \$200 obo. Ja Greene, Kings Mtn. 704-259-3981, call or text.

Ford 5000 wheels & tires, 30x16.9, 3/4 tread, \$750; parade wagon, dual axle, seats 30, new top, handrails, steps, \$800; Ford 51 red belly, \$700. Kathy Hamby, Pinnacle 336-325-2425.

1955 Ford 740 row crop, restored, \$7,200; 1963 AC D-10, \$875; 1964 Ferguson 50 diesel, \$4,900; 1953 Farmall Super A, \$500. Fred Hamby, Pinnacle 336-325-2425.

Hay spike, 3 pt, GC, \$150; 3 pt scoop pan, GC, \$200. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

8 ft. blade, \$350; 7 ft. blade, \$250; subsoiler, hook type, \$225; assorted tractor wghts, \$40-\$80; 140 bumper, \$100; pair of Cub rear tires, rims, \$400. James Isley, Julian 336-263-1958.

Unstyled AC tractors, WC's & parts, \$1,500; U's, UC's, restore or parts, \$400-\$2,000; WD's, restore or parts, \$400-\$1,000. Timothy Mabe, Troy 910-572-3539.

3 ac irrig system, Hale pto pump, pipe risers, trailer, \$1,500 obo. Gary Bell, Salisbury 704-633-1797 or 984-256-9749.

NH 850 rnd baler, working cond, \$500. Lindsay Tapp, Efland 336-260-5415.

Hay & pallet fork, 3 pt, \$425. Lonnie Wilson, High Point 336-882-9550.

Gehl 2345 moco, 9 ft. cut, shed kept, GC, \$5,500. Bill Scotton, Staley 336-215-5651.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Corn elevators, \$1,200 & up; gravity boxes, \$2,000 & up; NI uni-pickers, \$20,000 & up. Bobby Brannan, Sanford 919-770-1353.

Ford 309 2-row corn planter, w/5 sets of plates, \$800. Cyrus Bowman, Colfax 336-420-0986.

NH 853 baler, \$3,500; NH 660 baler, \$4,800; MF 848 loader, fits 3000 series tractors, \$2,200; NH 256 hay rake, \$2,000; NH 260 hay rake, \$5,000. Frankie Shoffner, Liberty 336-339-5961.

(5) hay wagons, \$500 & up; elect. hay elevator, 26 ft., \$750; fert spreader, \$700. Roy Watts, Trinity 336-382-2744.

Intl 370 disc, \$700; NH 258 hay rake, \$3,000; (2) 18.4 x 34 snap on duals, \$800. Daniel Watts, Archdale 336-362-0290.

Case Intl 8420 rnd baler, \$2,250; Vermeer 5030 disc mower, \$4,950. H.O. Davis, Reidsville 336-260-7606.

Cult & shields, 3 pt, LN, \$150; draw bar, LN, \$30; pine straw rake, 5 ft., LN, \$300. Bruce Myers, Lexington 336-787-4902.

1973/74 Ford F-1000 tractor, diesel, GC, sheltered, low hrs., w/9 implements, \$4,750. James Wilson, Valdese 828-439-2807.

Brinly plow w/hitch for IHC Cub Cadet, \$275. Jerry Taylor, Clemmons 336-971-3873.

1950 Ferguson T020, eng rebuilt, runs well, needs other work, \$1,500. John Yow, Liberty 336-622-1611.

NH 853 baler, 5x5, \$1,200. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.



Equipment Wanted

JD A or G tractor; Farmall M or H tractor. Tyler Dunn, Robbins 336-963-4018.

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

EQUIPMENT WANTED

3-shank sub soiler ripper; pull-type field cult, 10 or 12 ft.; single bale wrapper 3 pt hitch for 4x5; 185 AC tractor; AC G tractor. Blair Burrage, Concord 704-606-2040.

Ford 801 or 601 tractor for parts only; loader for a Case 95 4wd tractor. Roger Poarch, Lenoir 828-850-1377.



Farmland For Sale

Land for sale must consist of at least 3 acres and be used for agricultural purposes, i.e. cultivation, raising livestock and/or other farm commodities. Advertisers must state land use.

Hay land for rent, 19-20 ac, sm bales, \$5/bale; lrg bales, \$6/bale. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

11 ac Alexander co, co water, paved rd frontage, presently ag crops & forestry, good hunting, perfect for mini farm, \$160,000. Hendal Price, Greensboro 336-404-0594.

150 ac +/- Hoke co, presently timbered, can be used for farm stead, bldg. lots on rd frontage, \$200,000 cash or finance for \$400,000 w/20% down payment. James McCarty, Parkton 910-858-3842.



Farmland Wanted

Land to lease to run rabbits w/beagles in Mecklenburg, Stanley, Union, Cabarrus & Anson co. Matthew Clontz, Charlotte 704-907-9227, text.

Land w/house or no house, in Alamance, Person, Caswell, Chatham, Granville or Wake co, for relocating family w/sustainable gardening practices. Kim Sowle, Durham 440-940-6077.

Small farm/house for long term lease, Guilford co area or adjacent. SJ Martin, Greensboro 336-478-7059.

**Farm Labor For Sale**

Cattle artificial insemination, no farm too small, \$50-\$150. Keith Parson, Sanford 919-410-6046, Cowbreeder1022@outlook.com

Tractor/skid steer work, Gaston, Cleveland, Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Union & Cabarrus co; bush hogging, clearing, plowing, planting, hunting lease upkeep & improvements, shooting lanes, \$60/hr. Mark Lowe, Gastonia 704-258-1103.

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, tsc, ssc, parmak, zereba, \$20/hr. Bobby Nichols, N. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.

**Hay & Grain For Sale**

Orchard grass/fescue mix, spring '23 cut, horse quality, sq bales, no rain, \$6.50/bale; rnd bales, in barn, \$45 ea. Elizabeth Macdonald, Blanch 336-459-6776.

Fescue hay, 4x5 rnd, net wrapped, barn stored, \$40/bale. Gene Bailey, Siler City 919-742-3765.

Hay, 4x5 rnd, free deliv w/ in 20 mi, \$40/rl. Danny Slade, Burlington 336-514-0485.

Fescue hay, horse quality, 4x5 rnd, in barn, clean, \$80/bale; cattle & goat hay, 4x5, in barn, \$60/bale. Justin Ridenhour, Salisbury 704-239-4032.

Oats & ryegrass mix, 4x5 rnd bales; 4x5 fescue & orchard grass dry; Sudan grass & millet mixes, \$55-\$60/bale. Blair Burrage, Concord 704-606-2040.

Coastal hay, 4x5 rnd, sheltered, horse quality, \$40/bale; cow hay, \$25/bale; sq bales, \$7 ea. Phil Hood, Goldsboro 919-689-9798.

4x5 rnd bales, fert, no rain, sheltered, 1st cut fescue, horse quality, \$40; 2nd cut fescue & pasture grass, cow quality, \$35. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

Fescue hay, spring 2023, horse quality, tight 4x5 rnd, no rain/weeds, sheltered, string-tied, \$65/bale. RW Ferguson, Mint Hill 704-678-8236.

2023 spring cut fescue, horse quality, no rain, can deliv, \$6.75/bale; some rnd bales, \$40. Allen Moore, Summerfield 336-706-1157.

2023 horse quality fescue, no rain, min. purchase 20 bales, \$6/sq bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

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

HAY & GRAIN

Peanut hay, 4x5.5 rnd, net wrapped, can deliv, sheltered, \$40/bale; outside, \$25/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

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

Fescue hay, sq bales, \$6 ea.; rnd bales, \$50 ea. T.C. Berrier, Lexington 336-764-1051.

Fescue hay, horse quality, sq bales, \$5 ea. Grady Draughn, Yadkinville 336-468-7889 or 468-2336.

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

Wheat straw, rnd bales, \$20/bale. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

Fescue hay, 4x4 rnd, good quality, stored inside, \$40 ea. Valerie Cockerham, Yadkinville 336-416-2240.

Coastal hay, 4x5 rnd, \$45/bale in field; \$50/bale in barn. Travis Lookabill, Wadesboro 704-690-0411.

Coastal Bermuda hay, approx. 200 bales, horse quality, out of barn, \$7.50 ea. Gary White, Sanford 919-775-9769.

Bermuda horse hay, clean, barn stored, no weeds or rain, no animal litter or preservatives, 50-55 lbs., \$7.50/bale cash or Zelle; deliv extra. Victoria Rehder, Lillington 910-964-0087, call or text.

Fescue mixed grass, 1st cut, 4x5 rnd, excel quality, can deliv, volume discount, \$60/bale. Frankie Shoffner, Liberty 336-339-5961.

Fescue & orchard grass, sq bales, \$6 ea. Sylvia Reid, Welcome 336-731-4015.

Wheat straw, \$20/rl; horse quality hay, \$50/rl. H.O. Davis, Reidsville 336-260-7606.

Fescue, 4x5 rnd, \$35 ea.; sq bales, \$5 ea. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

**Livestock For Sale**

Simmental & SimAngus herd bulls, blk, polled, bred for calving ease, muscle, growth & disposition, \$3,000-\$3,500; select group of coming 2 y/o avail. William Pyle, Franklinton 919-215-5677.

Hereford bull, polled, dob 7/18/23, \$750. Bill Barkley, Salisbury 704-633-5040 or call/text 704-918-0379.

ND goats, ADGA reg, 1 y/o old billy, polled, blue eyes; adult does, polled, debudded, moonspots, \$200-\$300. Tracy Hardin, Forest City 828-248-2125.

Reg Blk Angus bull, 16 m/o, BSE tested, bloodlines Yon Hazel, Yon National, Deer Valley Patriot, Connealy National, Basin Payweight, Ellza of Conanga, \$3,500. Aaron Rumley, Burlington 336-675-1712.

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

LIVESTOCK

Water buffalo, AI bred for dairy production, Italian sires, calf, \$1,350; AI bred cow/heifer, \$3,800. David DiLoreto, Salisbury 704-633-3888.

Boer kids, dob 1/24, (6) male, \$150; (4) female, \$200. Melani Lippard, Mount Ulla 704-798-1529.

St. Croix hair sheep, reg, ram, dob 2/22, \$400; (4) ewes, dob 2/22, \$450 ea.; (6) ewe lambs, dob 11/23, \$400 ea.; \$3,950/all. Nathan Ehresman, Sanford 919-925-2160.

Kiko/Boer cross kids, young nannies, & bucklings, traditional & tri-colored, established proven bloodlines, SRQA certified, \$175 & up. David Deatherage, Gibsonville 336-201-4355.

Red Angus herd, 3 bred cows, 6 heifers, bull calf, 3 y/o bull, all quality & gentle, \$11,000. Colin MacNair, Vass 919-795-0328.

Nubian doe, dob 5/23, can be ADGA reg, \$300. L.A. Mize, Lexington 336-731-2888.

Reg Angus cattle, heifers, cows & pairs; bred for calving ease, efficiency, good feet & disposition, \$2,000 & up. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 336-263-6042.

Kiko/Savanna crosses, kidded 3/24, avail 6/24, \$150-\$225; Kiko/Savanna cross bucklings, kidded 3/23, \$250-\$300; all healthy, hardy, established, quality bloodlines, excel. breeding stock. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

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

Kiko & Kiko Savanna cross, all young mothers, 12 weaning 1st kid this spring; 2 Kiko doelings, exposed to Kiko buck, \$350-\$400. Mark Walton, Mocksville 336-477-4389.

Santa Gertrudis cattle, bulls & replacement cows, \$1,500 & up. Charles O'Bryant III, Reidsville 336-908-0276.

Polled Hereford bulls, \$950 & up; Blk Baldy bulls, \$950 & up. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

**Poultry & Supplies For Sale**

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

2024 peacock chicks, \$35 & up; 2023 peacock males & females, \$130 & up. Richard Simmons, Clarendon 910-640-7114.

2023 peacocks, \$100 ea. Posie Guthrie, Pfafftown 336-413-0038.

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

**Seeds & Plants**

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.

Cockscomb seeds, huge blossom head, rich crimson color, 18 in. stalk, about 200 seeds, SASE & \$3 cash. Barry Cox, 6225 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370.

Martin gourds, \$5 ea. Courtney Shepard, Albemarle 704-985-0555.

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

2023 Lednum white watermelon seeds, SASE & \$3 cash/24 seeds. R. Buckner, 921 Plainfield Church Rd., Siler City, NC 27344, 919-663-3505.

Potted limelight hydrangea plants, 1 gal. containers, \$20; bowling ball shrubs, in gal. containers, matures in 2 yrs., \$10. Sonya Whitaker, Mocksville 336-941-7721.

Potted muscadine & scuppernon plants, 5-6 ft., several varieties, planting & fert instr incld, clean environment, \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

Little white cucumber seeds, SASE & \$1 cash/tsp. Jim Bostian, 6235 Riverbend Rd, Claremont, NC 28610, 828-459-9276.

Limber cob corn seed, NC tested, 99.84% pure seed/95% germination, \$8/lb.; Purple Martin gourds, various sizes, \$1 & up. Roger Brackett, Casar 704-538-8893.

Blueberry plants, Premier, Columbus, Brightwell, Powderblue, Tiff Blue, New Hanover; varieties ltd., 1 gal. size, \$4 ea. 3 gal. size, \$15 ea. Michael Crippen, Garland 910-529-1469.

Wildlife tree seedlings, sawtooth oak, 2 ft.-5 ft., \$2-\$5. Glen Parker, Olin 704-677-3458.

**Seeds & Plants Wanted**

Green Giants, in field, 10 ft.-22 ft., we will dig. Kenneth Lowe, Lowgap 336-352-4048.

**Supplies For Sale**

Lumber, poplar, pine, oak, 1 in. & 2 in., 8-16 ft., dried for 5 yrs., \$1/bd ft. obo. Richard Hice, Pleasant Garden 336-674-6230.

150 ft. of 4 ft. chain link fence, w/posts, top railing, clamps, 4 ft. gate, etc., \$600 obo. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

FARM SUPPLIES

Predator 9000 generator, gas powered, elect. starter, \$700. Tom Carter, Reidsville 571-220-9381.

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

Generac gen set, 80kw, 100hp Ford diesel, 939 hrs., 200 amp auto switching gear, alum. enclosure, GC, \$11,000. William Thomas, Pittsboro 919-930-7401.

New & used water pumps, GC, \$300. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

Red Jacket well pump motor, foot valve, used 4 yrs., EC, \$250. Timothy Mabe, Troy 910-572-3539.

Firewood, logs, timber, \$200 & up. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

7 corn shellers & cutters; 5 pump jacks; 2-3 hp JD hit & miss eng; 1 INTL, 1 buggy, \$100-\$2,500. Cyrus Bowman, Colfax 336-420-0986.

Used barn metal, 48 pieces, 20 ft. long, color green, \$1.50/ft. Charles Mode, Lexington 336-480-5668.

Used T-posts, 180 pieces, GC, \$3 ea. Donald Ellison, Madison 336-669-7035.

**Supplies Wanted**

Working kitchen grain mill, to grind sm family quantities of corn & wheat. Terry Stutts, Yadkinville 336-467-1786.

**Trucks & Trailers For Sale**

Northside flatbed trailer, 8x30, gooseneck, 3-axle, \$4,500. Paul Wells, Hamp-tonville 336-244-7333.

Theiman truck lift gate, 3,000 lbs., EC, pics avail., \$2,500. Eddie Moretz, Deep Gap 828-963-0883.

Flatbed trailer, 30 ft., \$9,500. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

4-wheel trailer, 13x6x6.5, 2-axle, tilt bed, GC, \$2,000. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

1982 Ford F-350 dump truck, 12 ft. bed, 38,000 mi, shed kept, GC, \$9,500; 2004 JD HPX gator, 2-cyl, water-cooled Kawasaki eng, 375 hrs., EC, \$8,500. Steve McCauley, Mebane 336-263-2823.

Hudson Brothers trailer, 19 ft., tailgate, 7,000 lb. Dexter axles, pintle hitch, 8 tie-downs, 2 in. deck boards, toolbox, \$4,800. Calvin Evans, Graham 336-229-5696.

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 Twitter.

#NextGenAg: Emily Langley is a first generation farmer

Next Gen Ag is a year long series that will run on our In The Field blog, Facebook page, Instagram page and Twitter account. Each Wednesday, we will highlight a young person pursuing a career in the agriculture industry. Individuals can be in high school, college, or recent graduates who are working to establish a career in agriculture. Stay tuned each week to meet some of our industry's future leaders!

Agriculture has a way of speaking to people through a variety of means, including farming, horseback riding, science and more.

For Emily Langley, growing up riding horses sparked a passion for animals and livestock that led her to a career in agriculture. As a first-generation farmer and Food Safety Manager, she isn't afraid to get her hands dirty and be involved with various parts of the industry.

From the time she was three years old, Emily Langley could be found in a barn cleaning stalls, riding horses or completing other farm chores.

"My mom grew up riding horses and even had a few of her own for many years, so she is the one that got me into riding," Emily said. "Little did we know at the time, it would lead me to a future career in the agriculture industry."

Throughout her middle and high school years, Emily worked her afternoons, breaks and summers at a barn in her community. Whether completing farm chores, tending to the animals, or training horses, she loved every second spent on the farm.

"After graduating high school, I started college at N.C. State University where I thought, initially, I wanted to become a veterinarian," she said. "However, college opened my eyes to the countless careers available in the agriculture industry and changed my direction to focus more on the farming and industry side."

Emily recently graduated college with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and a minor in Agriculture Business.

During her time at N.C. State, Emily met her husband Boone, who already had a farm operation in Selma. "It's funny how it all came together," Emily said. "My husband was operating Ashlan Meadows in



Emily and Boone Langley operate Ashlan Meadows Farm in Selma, growing a variety of vegetables, plus hogs and beef cattle. The farm also offers agritourism activities and has an on-farm market selling their products, plus items from neighboring farms. Emily Langley is a first generation farmer who developed a love of agriculture from riding horses as a child .

Selma at the time, which has now become our family farm. We met while putting diapers on horses, and our passion for agriculture has grown both separately and together ever since."

Ashlan Meadows produces a variety of produce, including tomatoes, squash, and cabbage, as well as raises hogs and beef cattle. They have recently begun venturing into agritourism by offering haunted hayrides, a pumpkin patch, farm tours and market visits.

Their on-farm market is open to the public and not only features products from their farm, but other surrounding farms as well. Her biggest goal is for the family farm to continue to grow both in production and in agritourism.

"I love the community that we have built here and how we can help others through the work done on the farm," she said. "I would like to continue expanding in the future by adding more animals, producing more produce and inviting people on the

farm through other events."

Emily and Boone also have two young sons that they are raising on the farm. They hope to instill the same passion for agriculture in them through the years!

In addition to her job at Ashlan Meadows, Emily also works at the Food Safety Manager at Komegay Family Farms in Princeton.

"I handle a lot of the food safety paperwork, both for international and domestic sales, through my position at Komegay Farms," Emily said. "It has really helped open my eyes to other sides of the industry and given me confidence in my abilities on the farm."

Through her position, Emily completes the GAP and Global GAP audit for the farm each year. It involves a lot of record keeping, processing customer requests, maintaining paperwork and patience!

"Agriculture is our state's number one industry, so I am proud to have

two positions where I can make a difference," Emily said. "The world relies on agriculture. This industry provides jobs, income, food, clothing, fiber and more. It's the best industry in the world and an honor to be a part of."

As a first-generation farmer, Emily brings a fresh set of eyes and a new perspective to the industry.

"I think anyone who is just starting out in this industry can bring fresh ideas to the table," Emily said. "As a beginning farmer, I have learned about new techniques and technologies that can be incorporated in this industry to make practices more effective and efficient."

In addition to her fresh perspective, agricultural knowledge and new ideas, Emily also brings a strong passion for agriculture and a lot of patience to the table.

Although she loves many aspects of being in the agriculture industry, Emily says the best part is the community. "Our community is small but

big at the same time," she said. "Everyone in agriculture acts like good friends and are always there to support and help one another. It's a passion-based industry that leads to a heart of generosity and kindness that is unmatched in other industries."

For anyone seeking a career in the agriculture industry, Emily's advice is to dive in headfirst and just do it!

"Many people will try to talk you out of pursuing a life of agriculture and farming, but this industry is growing and moving forward," she said. "If you have a passion for agriculture, then seek out any and every piece of information and opportunity that you can. Find what speaks to you, dive in headfirst and never look back."

We are so proud of everything that Emily and her family are doing for the agriculture industry, and we look forward to seeing their family farm continue to grow in the future!

Nine shelters receive Animal Shelter Support Fund grants

The Animal Welfare Section of the Veterinary Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recently awarded nine community shelters grants as part of the Animal Shelter Support Fund program. These funds will be used to help shelters improve their facilities to better comply with the Animal Welfare Act.

"Many local government-run shelters have been faced with staffing shortages, an increased number of animals from the community and limited funding for repairs," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "The Animal Shelter Support Fund was once used only for emergencies from hurricanes and other natural disasters. I appreciate the change in legislation that allowed us to also award funding to shelters needing upgrades and other repairs. We know these funds will be beneficial to the shelters receiving them and help to better serve the animals in their care."

The following shelters received funding from the Animal Shelter Support Fund

-- Anson County: \$8,660 for replacements and/or upgrades to the shelter's lighting system.

-- Davidson: \$12,000 for replacement of outdoor primary enclosures.

-- Greene County: \$50,000 for administrative costs and improvements/upgrades to the fencing, flooring and painting in the animal housing facility.

-- Halifax County: \$36,500 for upgrades to the flooring of the animal housing areas, repairs and/or replacement of the 36 dog primary enclosures, and replacement of cables to the run doors.

-- Person County: \$5,600 for improvements to the outdoor exercise areas.

-- Robeson County: \$50,000 for upgrades to the flooring of the animal housing areas.

-- Rowan County: \$3,500 for upgrades to the animal transport enclosures.

-- Stokes County: \$25,000 for improvement and/or

upgrades to the primary enclosures flooring and fencing of the enclosure gates.

-- Washington County: \$12,500 for replacements and/or upgrades to the primary enclosures, ventilation, and indoor facility ceiling.

Applicants to the Animal Shelter Support fund had to submit copies of their AWS facility compliance report citing specific violations or a date and description of an incident and the damage incurred. Applications also included an itemized listing of the costs for which funding is sought.

The Animal Welfare Section inspects more than 900 facilities annually for compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, including local government-run shelters. Facilities receive unannounced inspections on an annual basis or more often if needed. More information on the Animal Shelter Support Fund and the Animal Welfare Section is available online at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/aws>.