

# Agricultural REVIEW

Volume: 99 - No. 8

August 2024

Raleigh, N.C.

## Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

Aug. 1 for the September issue  
Sept. 2 for the October issue  
Oct. 1 for the November issue  
Nov. 1 for the December issue  
Dec. 1 for the January 2025 issue

## Mountain State Fair returns Sept. 6-15

### ■ Advance tickets now on sale online

If you are planning to attend the 2024 N.C. Mountain State Fair Sept. 6-15, now is a great time to purchase advance admission and ride tickets to save time and money. Discounted admission tickets are available online only at [mountainfair.org](http://mountainfair.org).

“Having your tickets in hand helps speed up the entry process when you arrive at the fair, plus it saves you money,” said fair manager Sean McKeon. “Buying in advance saves fairgoers \$3 for each adult admission and \$2 per kid admission, which adds up quickly.”

Advance tickets are \$9 for adults aged 13 to 64. Children aged 6 to 12 can get tickets for \$5 in advance.

(See **Advance tickets**, pg. 3)



## Peaches are plentiful, having a good season

Peak peach season in North Carolina is well underway, and many farms are expecting an extended season through October this year. “Due to the warmer winter, many farms didn’t get a freeze after peaches began budding this year,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “That, combined with the sandy soil and good drainage where they grow best means our farmers have plenty of peaches at their farmstands, farmers markets and in the grocery store.”

Between 2017 and 2022, the number of peach farms and total peach acreage

increased in North Carolina. As of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, North Carolina had 356 peach farms on a total of 1,273 acres. “North Carolina grows more than two dozen varieties of peaches. Growers are harvesting clingstone peaches now and will begin harvesting freestone varieties near the end of the month,” said Khaila Daye, marketing specialist with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

To find local peaches near you, download the Visit NC Farms app at [www.visitncfarmstoday.com](http://www.visitncfarmstoday.com).



## From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

I wanted to provide a drought update, although this information changes weekly.

As of press time, drought conditions continue to persist in the majority of the state, although recent rains have allowed 18 counties to move out of dry or drought conditions. To date, five counties are categorized as being in severe drought – Columbus, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes and Yadkin; 30 are experiencing moderate drought

*by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler*

conditions and 47 are now listed as abnormally dry.

The recent rains have been welcomed by farmers across the state, providing some much-needed moisture for crops and helping recharge farm ponds.

I wish I could say crops are out of the woods, but crop conditions continue to remain a big concern despite some of them showing signs of improvement.

We still have a long way to go with this growing season and it is still too early to know the impact weather will have on yields until we get to harvest time.

We know conditions have been highly unfavorable for corn, plus other crops such as hay and pastures are also feeling stress from the current weather situation. I have heard numerous reports of farmers already feeding hay to their cattle.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service’s July 22 report shows 66% of the corn crop in our state being in

poor to very poor condition, with an additional 19% in fair condition.

Soybeans, sweet potatoes, peanuts, tobacco and cotton have benefitted from the rains, and I hope the rainfall over the past few days will continue to provide a boost to crops.

Sweet potato growers are reporting 6% of crops are in poor condition, 33% in fair condition, 55% in good condition and 6% in excellent condition. Those numbers were slightly better than the week prior.

Peanut growers note 3% of crops are in very poor condition, 4% in poor condition, 32% fair, 54% good and 7% excellent.

Flue-cured tobacco posts 7% in very poor condition, 17% in poor condition, 38% in fair condition, 34% in good and 4% excellent.

This is a crucial time in the season for many of the crops to receive adequate water. We are thankful for the recent rains and remain prayerful for more rain as we continue through

the production season.

In late July, USDA Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared a natural disaster for Columbus County based on losses caused by a drought– that’s an area that has seen significant corn losses.

The disaster declaration means Federal disaster assistance including Farm Service Agency emergency loans are available for eligible farmers in Columbus County, plus farmers in the contiguous counties of Bladen, Brunswick, Pender and Robeson.

We continue to encourage producers to report conditions to their local FSA office, take field photographs and to stay in touch with their insurance agents.

I will keep readers updated as the season progresses and if new counties are added to the federal disaster declaration.



## Agricultural Review

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

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PHONE: 919-707-3001

Steve Troxler  
 Commissioner

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## Bucolic Briefs

The 50th NC Simmental Celebration will be held Sept. 6 from noon to 9 p.m. at the Shuffler Sale Facility in Union Grove. Activities begin with a Field Day where attendees can visit vendors, learn about genomics, breeding soundness exams, learn about bull marketing, hear about how Simmental influenced cattle can be beneficial for all commercial cattlemen. Participants can view sale cattle and enjoy a complimentary beef dinner. The keynote speaker for the evening is Dr. Wade Shafer, Executive Director of the American Simmental Association from Bozeman, Mont. To provide enough food, please email with number attending to [nca@yadtel.net](mailto:nca@yadtel.net) or call 336-468-1679.

On Sept. 7, a continental breakfast will be served followed by the 50th Fall Harvest Sale featuring bred cows and heifers, open heifers and cow/calf pairs at Shuffler Sale Facility, Union Grove at 1 p.m. Both Simmental & SimAngus cattle. For information see [www.ncsimmental.com](http://www.ncsimmental.com) or call 336-468-1679 for a sale catalog.

Dinner in the Meadow, a fundraiser for the Leonard-Mobley Small Farm Fund, will be held Sept. 15, in Louisburg. The culinary experience raises money for non-profit organization started in 2014 to nurture and empower small farms across North Carolina.

The Leonard-Mobley Small Farm Grant, named for Marjorie Leonard and Jerry Stephen Mobley, recognizes and supports small farm owners in eastern and central North Carolina who demonstrate exceptional dedication and commitment to their craft. Applications for the \$5,000 grant are being accepted until July 1 from small farms located in one of the following 11 eligible counties: Franklin, Granville, Person, Durham, Vance, Warren, Wake, Nash, Halifax, Chatham and Wilson. Learn more about the Grant Fund at: <https://dinnerinthemeadow.org/about-us>. Apply online at: <https://dinnerinthemeadow.org/grant-application>

N.C. A&T State University is hosting a free interactive forum about Bioeconomy and its impacts on underserved farmers/communities on Sept. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the N.C. A&T University Farm Pavilion (3020 McConnell Road, Greensboro). There will be presentation from USDA and field experts and risk management and crop insurance will also be discussed. To learn more, go to [https://ncat.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0dLz0EOWAi4tq3I](https://ncat.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0dLz0EOWAi4tq3I) Registration is free, but space is limited. Contact Tiffany Slade at 336-285-4653 or email at [sladet@ncat.edu](mailto:sladet@ncat.edu) with questions.

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](http://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](mailto:RequestLoanInfo@ncagr.gov).

# #NextGenAg: Addison plans to become veterinarian

Animals have a special way of speaking to our soul. Molly Addison Jones from Union County fell in love with animals at a young age on her grandparents' hobby farm, but it wasn't until her college years that she fell in love with pigs and her career path was forever changed.

As a child, Molly wasn't immersed in the world of agriculture, but she had some knowledge of the industry due to her grandparents' hobby farm, which was home to many horses and donkeys.

"Even though I didn't grow up working on a farm, I did fall in love with animals on the hobby farm," she said. "That love of animals led me to work on a local farm in high school, and, eventually, the swine unit at N.C. State University."

As a young girl, Molly thought that she wanted to be a doctor, but once she fell in love with animals, that dream morphed into a veterinarian.

"Agriculture is crucial to everyone, even the livestock animals that provide our meat and poultry products," she said. "We all need to understand and appreciate the farmers for their hard work feeding the world, which is one of the reasons I decided to make agriculture my career."

Upon graduating high school, Molly transitioned to N.C. State University where she began pursuing a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. She graduated with that degree in May of 2023 and has been working ever since on pursuing her DMV in the Veterinary School.

"I knew that I wanted to focus on medium to larger animals, but I wasn't specifically sure which veterinary

avenue to pursue until I had classes with Dr. Flowers at NCSU," Molly said. "He got me more interested in the agriculture industry, specifically working with pigs."

For 3.5 years, Molly worked at the Swine Unit at NC State where she gained lots of hands-on experience with pigs.

"It was great to not only learn in the classroom but be able to apply that knowledge at the swine unit," she said. "I love the rewards of seeing a pigs lifecycle and all the ways that they benefit us as a society."

In addition to working at the swine unit, Molly has held a variety of internships throughout her college years to gain experience in her field of interest and make connections, including Porter Farms, Smithfield Hog Production, and the Swine Vet Center in Minnesota.

Molly will graduate with her Veterinary Degree from NC State in 2027 and, hopefully, start a career as a swine production veterinarian. Eventually, she would like to teach at the collegiate level or on farms to ensure the next generation and their parents understand the importance of agriculture and livestock farming.

Molly's skillsets include her passion, leadership, education, and an adaptability to the changes around her.

"Things are always going to change whether we want them to or not," she said, "it's important to be able to adapt to those changes and continue to push agriculture forward in a way that benefits the world for years to come."

Although she loves working in the agriculture industry for many reasons, her favorite parts are the people and



Molly Addison

the pigs.

"The people in this industry are by far some of the most passionate and enthusiastic people, especially the ones who work with pigs," she said. "It's an honor to work alongside them every single day."

Molly occasionally teaches 4th graders about agriculture in her mom's elementary school class. When the kids ask her about a career in agriculture, she always tells them to find what part of the industry interests them and get involved. "I encourage kids and adults to visit farms in their area," she said. "For older kids, I recommend that they take a chance and reach out to a producer who will let them work on the farm. Gain hands-on experience. Get involved and don't look back."



# Whitaker named Sunbelt Ag Expo N.C. Farmer of the Year

■ *Will compete for overall Southeastern Farmer of the Year*

### Article from the SunBelt Ag Expo

Two years after they married, Faylene Whitaker and her late husband, Richard, started their own farm in 1975 on ten acres of rented land, using a 150 International tractor and a \$40 tobacco setter. When the first crop was sold, they applied the proceeds to the purchase of 36.5 more acres. "That winter," Faylene recalled, "my husband, who had a farming background, started a tree-planting business, and I was responsible for growing our plants and preparing the land for planting."



Eventually the Whitaker's bought a larger tractor and actually began working 24 hours a day—one taking the day shift and the other the night shift. They paid back their first hard-won bank loan in one year and overcame drought to begin irrigating their fields. In 1983, they were able to build their house on the original tract and began cultivating vegetables in addition to tobacco. Each year thereafter the couple added a few more acres and continued to diversify crops.

Today Whitaker Farms & Garden Nursery operates at three different locations in and around Climax, North Carolina, on 940 acres of owned and rented land that produces tobacco, garden plants (annuals, perennials, houseplants, trees, and shrubs), field tomatoes, strawberries, organic corn and wheat, and a variety of vegetables. It also features an agritourism business catering to all age groups.

Faylene said, "Our older son, Shane, joined us after he graduated from college; we then converted our row crops and tobacco crops to organic. He is a major partner in our farm business and serves on the local and state Soil and Water Conservation Service boards as well as the NC Tobacco Growers board and the NC Farm Bureau Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee." Shane's wife, Kelly, is a minor partner and a licensed environmental engineer who serves on the NC Farm Bureau's Agritourism Advisory Committee and is the vice-president and past treasurer of Providence Grove High School. Nephew Winston Coley is a minor partner with ten years' experience on the farm, and grandson Chase is also an employee in the family business with future prospects for partnership.

Whitaker Farms & Garden Nursery currently has a total of 69 employees: 28 are H2A workers, 15 are full time, and 26 are seasonal. Faylene noted, "You can never run a successful



Faylene Whitaker, at left, is a member of the N.C. Board of Agriculture and is active in many ag organizations in addition to operating Whitaker Farms & Garden Nursery. Pictured above is flowers in one of the farms' greenhouses. Congratulations Faylene Whitaker for being the N.C. Farmer of the Year for the SunBelt Ag Expo.

business without good, loyal, talented people around you. They are there to do their jobs, but they are also there to teach what we each need to know in order to make the business better. If you go through a day without learning anything, you're not listening to others." Another piece of wisdom Faylene has learned over her many years of farming is, "Work stays at work; we never take it home to the family."

When Travis, the Whitaker's younger son, graduated from college, he also worked on the farm but eventually started his own businesses: Whitaker Waterscapes and Deep River Apparel, which he owns with his wife, Shannon. Faylene added, "Our landscape and design business is expanding to meet the needs of the many new homes and businesses in our area. We are currently adding a camping option at one farm, and we plan to add more in the future."

Another component of Whitaker Farms is Whitaker Equipment, LLC, a company that works on large tractors and equipment and repairs all of its own trucks with one full-time mechanic, three part-time employees, and three licensed CDL drivers. Whitaker-owned trucks haul all of the farm's crops, produce, stone, and landscape equipment.

Crop yields on Whitaker Farms are as follows: at the two garden centers, 5 acres yielding approximately 170,000 plants; 200 acres of tobacco yielding 2420 lbs/acre; 32 acres of field tomatoes yielding 16 tons/acre; 9 acres of strawberries yielding approximately 18,000 lbs/acre; 230 acres of organic corn yielding 160 bushels/acre; 180 acres of organic wheat

yielding 35 bushels/acre; 25 acres of vegetables for retail with varying yields; 5 acres of agritourism receiving 25,000 visitors a year.

Whitaker Farms markets directly to the public by inviting customers to shop at two garden centers and at their produce buildings that sell flowers, fruits, vegetables, bakery items, ice cream, and lunch foods. They also offer educational school tours and feature a picnic area and a playground. Faylene said, "We're passionate about reaching consumers and educating them about agriculture through television ads, our website ([www.whitakerfarm.com](http://www.whitakerfarm.com)), social media, farm tours, and special events like our spring picking of strawberries and our fall pumpkin patch."

Vegetables and tomatoes are shipped on their trucks to the state farmers market where stores from all over the region and Virginia pick up fresh produce. Strawberries and greenhouse tomatoes are all sold retail. Tobacco is sold under contract to three different companies. A local milling company and an organic chicken company buy the wheat and corn.

Faylene recalled, "When I started out, the biggest problem I had was that I was a 19-year-old woman with no farming background or experience. Everyone asked to speak with my dad or husband. But I studied hard, visited farms, took a number of farming classes, and learned accounting, earning the nickname 'book farmer' in my neighborhood." She added, "All through the years I was blessed to have a husband who (See Whitaker Farms, pg. 4)

## Advance tickets

(Continued from pg. 1)

Beginning Sept. 6, prices at the gate and online are \$12 for adults, ages 13 to 64, and \$7 for children, ages 6 to 12. The price for seniors, ages 65 and up, is \$5 regardless of when purchased, and the fair is always free for children aged 5 and under.

Advance unlimited ride ticket that can be used once for any day of the fair are \$25.

In addition to buying admission tickets in advance, fairgoers can

save money by taking advantage of discounts on selected days. Opening day, Friday, Sept. 6, is Student Day with free admission for K-12 students until 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, is "We CAN Fight Hunger Day" where a donation of five canned goods earns free admission. All donations will be collected and distributed by MANNA FoodBank. Friday, Sept. 13, is Senior Day and another Student Day. Admission is free until 6 p.m. for anyone 65 and

older and K-12 students.

The 2024 N.C. Mountain State Fair runs Sept. 6-15 at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher. This year's fair will showcase western North Carolina agriculture, including the people and products that make agriculture the state's top industry. Rides, food and plenty of free entertainment will added to the fun. More information is available at [www.mountainfair.org](http://www.mountainfair.org).

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\*Ads must be typed or neatly printed

## Don't forget to renew your Agricultural Review

Clip the renewal card on the front page of the June issue and mail it in, or go online to [www.agreview.org](http://www.agreview.org) and enter your subscription number. It is listed above your name and address.



# Three new regional agronomists join NCDA&CS

North Carolina is fortunate to have regional agronomists across the state who work one-on-one with growers to help them manage nutrients to improve yield and production efficiencies.

These can be extremely valuable resources for farmers because their science-backed recommendations can help farmers troubleshoot problems before they become bigger problems.

And when you improve yields and reduce inputs, you are making a positive impact on the bottom line, which is something every grower is

sharply focused on these days.

The three new agronomists are:

-- Bright Ofori in Region 2, serving Beaufort, Dare, Halifax, Hyde, Martin, Pamlico, Tyrell and Washington counties.

-- Jeb Smith in Region 3, serving Carteret, Craven, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pitt and Wilson counties.

-- And, Spencer Thomas in Region 6, serving Franklin, Harnett, Johnson, Lee, Nash, Wake and Wayne counties.

Bright earned his PhD in Crop and Soil Environmental Science from Virginia Tech and holds a bachelor's

degree in Zoology from the University of Ghana and master's degree in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Padova, Italy.

He is originally from Ghana and his interest in agriculture and soils grew from helping his grandmother grow corn and vegetables as a kid.

Some of Bright's greatest accomplishments have been built on educating others in the classroom and research in the field. These experiences include three years of teaching high school agriculture, as well as teaching undergraduates while

performing his research and doctoral work. Most recently, Bright worked as a soil scientist at the Soil Health Institute in RTP, where he led a soil sampling survey team working with approximately 300 farms across five states in the Southeast US. He is well versed in providing soil health reports and the ability to assess the impact of a variety of soil health practices.

"I have enjoyed meeting farmers and sharing with them how my expertise could be useful for their farming operations. Speaking to farmers about their diagnostic test results and

answering questions has been very fulfilling, especially, when the call ends with a farmer saying, 'I really appreciate you taking the time to help me understand this,'" Bright said.

Jeb is a multi-generation crop, hog and cattle farmer from eastern North Carolina. Growing up working the family farm gave Jeb first-hand experiences to understand the joys and challenges a farmer faces. These challenges range from adverse weather conditions, nutrient

(See Agronomists, pg. 5)

## Whitaker Farms

(Continued from pg. 3)

was completely supportive of my ideas and efforts. We knew and respected each other's strengths."

As with many in the agriculture industry, the Whitaker's faced labor shortages but managed over the years to build a loyal, long-term, and even multi-generational workforce. Another current challenge is farmland preservation in an area attractive to developers. Faylene noted, "To keep our land in agricultural use, we are continuing to diversify our business to make it relevant to the community and sustainable for the future. A personal challenge in 2023 was the loss of my partner in life and in farming, my husband, Richard. Through faith and the love and support of my family, I am dedicated to carrying on our vision for Whitaker Farms."

On the local level, since 2001 Faylene has served on the Randolph County Farm Bureau Women's Committee and has past involvement with Randolph County FSA and Randolph County Soil and Water Committee. On the state level, Faylene currently serves on the NC Board of Agriculture, the NC Farm Bureau State Board, and the NC Farm Bureau State Women's Leadership Committee. She's also served as a past vice president of the NC Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association, the NC Tobacco Growers Association Board, The NC Strawberry Association Board, and the USDA NC State FSA Board. On the national level, she and Richard worked with members of the US Congress and other tobacco farmers on the tobacco buyout. She and Richard traveled twice to Brazil on behalf of the tobacco industry and the NC Board of Agriculture for various crops.

On the local level, Richard Whitaker was a member of the Randolph County Tobacco Growers Association and served long-term as president of the Randolph County Farm Bureau. On the state level, he was a board member of the North Carolina Farm Bureau and served on its executive board as well as the

board of the North Carolina Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association.

As for environmental issues, Faylene said, "We take our role as stewards of the land very seriously and are always looking for effective, efficient ways to care for our property. We constructed a chemical building that meets soil and water conservation program specifications so that all chemicals are mixed and contained in one area."

The Farm operation plants cover crops on all land after crops are harvested. Water waste is minimized by using drip irrigation on all vegetable and fruit crops. Eighty-five percent of the land is now devoted to organic production, and 110 acres have been placed in a farmland preservation trust. All the Whitaker family members are long-time attendees of nearby Red Cross Baptist Church—a place where, as boys, Shane and Travis used to drive their tractor through the woods to attend Vacation Bible School. When the Whitaker's carve out some leisure time, they enjoy spending it at Shane and Kelly's place on Badin Lake where they boat and fish and just relax. Each Thanksgiving they drive to Cape Hatteras for a family vacation. Faylene added, "Sunday afternoons we have a traditional cookout at the house and enjoy swimming in the pool when the weather's good."

After nearly fifty years of farming, Faylene has learned to surround herself with people she trusts who can step in when times are hard or illness strikes. Cross training key farm personnel is another important part of her management style. She said, "The most rewarding aspect of farming has been working alongside my husband each day and bringing our children up on the farm with a strong sense of responsibility. We let them make their own mistakes so they could learn and grow from them, as we all have. Employees also need to know they are valued." She summed up her priorities: "God is first, family is second, employees and friends are third, and the business comes fourth because without the first three, the farm won't matter."



The Whitaker family, including Faylene's late husband Richard.

Faylene Whitaker was nominated North Carolina Farmer of the Year by Tadashi Totten, District Field Representative at North Carolina Farm Bureau. He said, "The Whitaker family farm began as a dream that came true through dedication and hard work over nearly five decades. When Richard passed away in August 2023, Faylene committed herself to keeping his legacy alive and expanding her own vision for the farm. She now works alongside her older son and other family members to share her love of agriculture and to pass it along for future generations. She is a great voice and advocate for North Carolina and US agriculture and serves in many state and national agriculture organizations that promote its importance."

Harper Family Holdings, the Alabama

Farmers Federation, Arkansas Farm Bureau, Florida Farm Bureau, Georgia Farm Bureau, North Carolina Farm Bureau, Tennessee Farm Bureau, and Virginia Farm Bureau have joined together to generously sponsor the 2024 program.

State winners of the Sunbelt Expo award will receive a \$2,500 cash award and an expense-paid trip to the Sunbelt Expo from the sponsors. A vest from the sponsors will be given to each state winner and nominator. The Moultrie Colquitt Co. Chamber of Commerce will give each state winner a local keepsake.

The state winners are now eligible for the \$15,000 cash prize awarded to the overall winner by the sponsors. Massey Ferguson North America will provide each state winner with a gift

package and the overall winner with the use of a Massey Ferguson tractor for a year or 250 hours (whichever comes first). A jacket from the sponsors will be given to the overall winner. Hays LTI will award the overall winner with a HAYS Smoker/Grill. In addition, the overall winner will receive a Henry Repeating Arms American Farmer Tribute Edition rifle from Reinke Irrigation.

The Sunbelt Expo is coordinating the Southeastern Farmer of the Year awards for the 34rd consecutive year. \$1,324,000 in cash awards and other honors have been awarded to 296 southeastern farmers since the award was initiated in 1990.-687-1414

## Horse Events

*Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699*

No events listed.

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

Aug. 2-4..... Fallin' into Autumn Open Horse Show. Contact Travis Alford, 252-450-5438.

Aug. 17 & 18... Aug. Just Horsin' Round Open Horse Show. Call 252-450-5438.

Aug. 23-25..... NCQHA-D5 Endless Summer Horse Show. Contact Susan Daniels, 919-894-0600.

Sept. 7 & 8..... NCHJA "C" Horse Show. Call 252-378-4474.

Sept. 20-22 ..... Sunnyside Open Horse Show. Call 252-378-4474.

Oct. 3-6..... 9th annual Da Bomb Barrel Racing Finale. Call 910-639-6387.

Oct. 11&12 East Carolina Black Rodeo & Trail Ride. Call 313-231-6775.

*WNC Ag Center, Fletcher 828-687-1414*

Oct. 3-5..... N.C. Championship Walking Horse Show. Contact the WNC Ag Center, 828-687-1414.

Nov. 8-10 Bullmania. Contact the WNC Ag Center, 828-687-1414.

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

Aug. 5&6..... Finally Farm Horse Show Series. Contact Lesley Jenks, 919-280-8087.

Aug. 5&6..... TWH Youth Benefit Show. Contact Aug. 16-19 Wild Horse Adoption event. Contact Demetrius Sanders, 601-919-4742.

Aug. 25-27..... Triangle Farms Summer Indoors II 'C.' Call 919-669-9877.

Sept. 2-3 ..... Labor of Love Dressage. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.

Sept. 9&10..... UPHA Chapter 12 Academy Show. Contact Peyton Hamilton, 803-431-1991.

Sept. 13-16 ..... UPHA Chapter 12 NC State Championship Show. Contact Peyton Hamilton, 803-431-1991.

Sept. 23&24..... TWH Fall Fantastic. Contact Kim Moser, 919-201-3606.

Sept. 23&24..... Finally Farm Horse Show Series. Contact Lesley Jenks, 919-280-8087.

\*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, or @gottobenc on Instagram**



## Agronomists

(Continued from pg. 4)

and fertility issues, diseases, pests or hiccups during harvest. The joy, of course, a successful crop yield.

For the love of agriculture and the joy of helping others, Jeb decided to pursue a career in agriculture. He enjoys working with a variety of field crops, forages and pastureland, and horticultural crops. Some goals include helping devise proactive plans for crop management to aid in healthy crops from the beginning and assisting in “putting the puzzle pieces together” when something may be going amiss.

Jeb is proud to be a Wolfpack Alumnus, earning his bachelor’s degree in agricultural sciences, with a concentration in crop science and animal science, from N.C. State University.

In addition to his education and farming proficiency, Jeb also gained valuable experience working for the Duplin County Soil and Water Conservation District. Additional skills learned through this work include field nutrient management, erosion management, plant and pest id, soil sampling with interpretation, just to name a few. In addition, Jeb became well acquainted working



The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recently hired three regional agronomists to assist farmers with crop nutrient advice and troubleshooting problems. Above is Bright Ofori who serves farmers in Region 2. Top right is Jeb Smith who serves farmers in Region 3. And bottom right is Spencer Thomas who serves farmers in Region 6.



with personnel from various other agricultural agencies.

Spencer is originally from Rowan County where he grew up watching and working with family members to grow, can and preserve their food. This was the inspiration for his desire to work with plants and crops that

provide food for an ever-growing population.

Spencer will use plant and soil science to aid farmers in growing crops effectively and economically. This includes helping growers test nutrient levels in soil, plant tissue, float beds, irrigation solutions, animal

waste and compost that is used as fertilizer. Nematode testing of soil and roots is also used by his growers. Recommendations from our agronomic lab services will then be given based on these test results.

Spencer holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental science from UNC

Pembroke and is currently pursuing a master’s in agriculture education through North Carolina A&T State University. Managing 26 acres of ornamental production at Metrolina Greenhouses, performing turf and ornamental research for Bayer Agricultural, serving as a Horticulture Agent through North Carolina Cooperative Extension Services (NCCES) for six years, are just a small taste of Spencer’s working experience. With these roles, Spencer gained an understanding of pest management, and recording and analyzing data and generating reports. In addition, time was spent educating others in agricultural related subjects such as gardening, bee keeping, and pesticide management. Spencer holds a pesticide license through the NCDA&CS.

“I have a passion for plants and love to help individuals whenever I can. Being a regional agronomist allows me to do both at the same time,” Spencer said.

If you need assistance, you can locate the Regional Agronomist for your area by going to <https://www.ncagr.gov/.../agronomic-services/field-services>

## Century Farm

(Continued from pg. 8)

so cattle can return to the farm.

“Everything has been kept in its initial purpose,” said Robert. “No drastic changes have been made to Payne Meadows to keep the heritage.” Still standing are two farmhouses: one built by Robert’s grandparents and the original house that belonged to William G., residing on an adjacent lot at nearly 200 years old.

Operating Payne Meadows is incredibly rewarding for Robert, and he enjoys reflecting on its standout accomplishments.

“I get gratification from seeing the farm grow and hearing visitors express their positive experience at Payne Meadows,” said Robert. “I have this huge vision of what I want the farm to be and each year I get closer to achieving it.”

When asked about his most memorable achievements with

Payne Meadows, Robert was happy to share the farm’s success with hosting a wedding of over 200 guests.

“We parked over 100 cars, so we’re able to do both large-scale and small-scale events,” he said. “That was a big accomplishment because it squashed all the doubts you constantly have in an industry like this.” By the end of 2024, Payne Meadows will have hosted 107 events in eight years—including COVID years.

Robert has many goals for the farm. He wants to expand Payne Meadows to make room for more guests, hopefully with some minor additions to the barn to increase seating options. Robert also aims to improve the efficiency of the farm by implementing water lines in the barn and electricity to his small farmstand.

“Certain changes are not in the works right now because I face limitations with just me handling the operations,”

he said. “However, I see myself retiring from the school system one day and doing this job, which I am passionate about, as long as possible.”

Robert was eager to express his gratitude on behalf of his ancestors for Payne Meadows’ Century Farm recognition.

“I feel guilty as it seems I’m taking credit for all my family members before me who had huge financial sacrifices and lived hard lives out here in the middle of nowhere,” he said. “The legacy of Payne Meadows is what my family has meant to the community of Cherokee County and their commitment to North Carolina’s promotion. My forefathers were sheriffs and county clerks, and my parents have been local business owners outside the farm, too.”

Check out Payne Meadows’ Instagram page and website for more information on this Century Farm family.



Current owners Linda and Ronnie, and their sons Robert and David Payne.

## August AgroTips

### Turnaround time is optimal for soil samples submitted in August.

The Agronomic Division’s soil testing lab is processing samples quickly now but will be increasingly busy toward the end of the year. Homeowners, landscapers, golf course superintendents and others with flexible schedules are urged to submit samples before the lab’s fall busy season. If cool-season lawn grasses and pastures need to be reseeded, sampling now will make it possible to apply lime well in advance of September or October planting.

### Tissue test now to plan for blackberry fertilization next season.

Collect a plant tissue sample about 10–14 days after harvest. Each sample should include 25–30 most recent mature leaves from the primocane. Sampling the floricanes is not recommended unless it is specifically to diagnose a problem. If you have different varieties, submit separate samples for each one. Now is also an appropriate time to submit a corresponding soil sample.

### Focus on strawberry fertility.

Take soil samples and apply any recommended lime as soon as possible. Generally, strawberries need 100–120 lb of nitrogen per acre per season. Prior to building the

beds and laying plastic, apply 30–60 lb of nitrogen along with any phosphorus or potassium recommended on the soil report. Even when soils are high in phosphorus, an additional application of 30 lb can be beneficial for root growth in the fall. Other nutrients that may have a beneficial effect at this time are sulfur and boron (1 lb/acre).

### Continue to use tissue analysis to optimize timing of flue-cured tobacco harvest.

Collect tissue samples five to ten days before each anticipated leaf harvest to determine ripeness. An appropriate sample consists of 10 to 12 leaves from the appropriate stalk position.

### Get rapid identification of plant-parasitic nematode species with new test.

The Agronomic Division’s Nematode Assay Section offers a new test that identifies plant-parasitic nematodes based on analysis of molecular DNA. The test costs \$10 per sample (instead of \$3), but results are available within a couple of days (instead of weeks), and reports can identify nematodes accurately to species. This is particularly useful information for growers who depend on resistant cultivars and/or crop rotation to suppress nematode populations. For more information on this test and how to sample, contact Dr. Weimin Ye at 919-733-2655 or via e-mail at [weimin.ye@ncagr.gov](mailto:weimin.ye@ncagr.gov).



## NextGenAg

(Continued from pg. 8)

crop for our farm, but also the amazing taste and quality after harvest." Davis's end goal is to innovate and further Williams Produce Farm for future generations. He hopes to one day raise his own family on the farm and allow his children to have the same experiences that he had growing up. "I want to ensure that our family legacy on the farm stays prominent for many generations to come," he said.

Entering the industry as a future leader and farmer, Davis brings many skillsets and talents to the table, including a hard work ethic,

knowledge to operate farm machinery like tractors and forklifts, and the maintenance skills to manage most of the equipment when necessary. "When something breaks with our farm equipment, I am normally able to fix it," he said. "Which I feel like is a big skillset to have this day and time when the machinery is becoming so much more complex with technology and advances." Although he loves running the tractor all day, Davis's favorite part of working in the agriculture industry is seeing the rewards of his hard work at harvest time. "There is nothing more rewarding than putting your blood, sweat and tears into a crop throughout the season and

seeing it come through at harvest," he said. "Reaping the rewards of our hard work generates a lot of pride in myself and our family."

For anyone seeking a career in the agriculture industry, Davis reminds you to be prepared for a lot of hard work and patience. "Agriculture is not for the faint of heart," he said. "Anyone can do it if they set their mind to it, but they need to be prepared to work hard everyday for what they want and have patience when it doesn't exactly go the way they had planned. It's a lot of ups and downs from year to year, but it's 100% worth it at the end of each day."



Davis Williams

# 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 September issue, we must receive it by noon on Aug. 1.



### 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-

**Honey extractor**, 8-frame radial shallow/med., variable spd, stainless, welded, EC, \$1,100; 5-frame nuc, \$150. Ken Medlin, Hurdle Mills 336-364-1915.



### Equipment For Sale

**1997 MF 375**, canopy top, 3,600 hrs., GC, \$14,000 obo. Bob Payseur, Hendersonville 828-551-0434.

**1995 MF 390 cab tractor**, GC, approx. 3,700 hrs., \$16,000 obo. Deb Lyda, Hendersonville 828-388-1866.

**NH 278 sq baler**, 105 SPM, shed kept, GC, field ready, used 2023, \$2,500. Joe Eudy, Midland 704-467-4472.

**2 hay spikes**, GC, front end & 3 pt hitch, \$140 ea.; hay trailer, \$400. Jan Sawyer, Winston-Salem 336-816-6248, sawyerjc100@gmail.com

### FARM EQUIPMENT

**JD 2550 tractor** w/JD 245 loader & bucket, 2,100+ hrs., GC, \$15,000. Phil Burlison, Albemarle 919-795-6507.

**Reddick pull-type sprayer**, 300 gal., sheltered, \$2,950. Murray Cohen, Pittsboro 919-742-4433.

**2016 GP 1300 grain drill**, less than 100 planting ac, LN, sheltered, no sm seed box, used to sow soybeans, \$28,000. Evan Myers, Winston Salem 336-242-3911.

**Lincoln 225-S arc welder**, \$200. Gene Clemmons, Clayton 919-553-7905.

**Ferguson TO35 tractor** & Hardee bush hog, tractor runs well, most of the body of the rotary cutter restored w/stronger metal plates, \$2,000. John Wilson, Hillsborough 919-644-0074.

**2-disc plow**, 3 pt, \$200; 3 pt 1-row cult, \$200; 3 pt sickle bar mower, needs bar, \$250; 1952 Ferguson TO30, 3 pt, \$2,000; other. Noble Hinshaw, Siler City 919-663-0477.

**1994 Troy-Bilt horse tiller**, 7hp Briggs eng, elect. start, selective trans, used little, w/new tiller furrower, manual, EC, \$1,650. Earl Hammock, Eden 336-635-1110.

**Ford 555-D backhoe** & front end loader, 2 ft. & 3 ft. wide buckets, forks, \$13,000. Roy Scarboro, Archdale 336-431-7359.

**Ford 420 industrial loader tractor**, w/litter bucket, box blade, \$5,000. David Gwaltney, Taylorsville 828-850-9543.

### FARM EQUIPMENT

**Farmall Cub tractor**, 12v, cults, new paint, \$1,800. Jimmy Frye, Carthage 910-947-5910.

**JD pull combine**, w/updated manual, \$900; IH 12-disc drill w/seed/fert boxes, \$500; Volta gas tobacco stringer, \$250; McCormick slab saw, 3 pt, \$350. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

**JD 4420 combine**, 4-row corn & green head, AC, GC, \$10,500. Mike Myers, Linwood 336-240-1352.

**NH 853 rnd baler**, 5x5 bales, \$1,000; 18 ft. hay elevator, \$500. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

**Starter & generator** for Farmall H, \$40 ea.; 2345 bush hog loader off Ford 3600 tractor, 48 in. bucket, joystick control, mounting brackets, EC, \$2,500. Steve McCauley, Mebane 336-263-2823.

**Intl 3414 backhoe**, needs motor work, 12x24 in. buckets, \$5,000; NI 484 rnd baler, \$2,000; Ford hay rake on NH 56, belt driven, \$1,500. Lathan Ostwalt, Statesville 704-450-6534, call text.

**JD 1217 moco**, \$1,500; JD 652 hay rake, \$2,000; NH 273 hayliner, \$1,800; NH 156 tedder, \$800; 3 pt, 110 gal. sprayer, \$1,000. Steve Love, Biscoe 910-220-2580.

**Backhoe/excavator bucket**, 18 in., GC, \$175. Bill Eudy, Mebane 919-563-5356.

**NI manure spreader**, runs, but needs work, kept under shelter, \$100. Marti Friddle, Graham 336-516-3835.

### FARM EQUIPMENT

**JD 246 2-row planter**, VGC, 3 pt hitch, 1 set of plates, \$450. Ted Sherrod, Kenly 919-201-8779.

**Ford 3930 tractor**, 20-disc harrow, new tires, \$10,000. David Valentine, Kernersville 336-971-6448.

**JD lawn mower**, 6.75hp, OHV cast iron cyl liner, self-propelled, \$200. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

**NH BR740A hay baler**, EC, always stored under shelter, \$15,500. Jay Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

**4-row no till ripper** for 4-row planters, no planters incld, \$1,800. Layton McPhail, Autryville 910-990-3725.

**2 horse drawn cane mills**, \$300 ea.; other horse drawn equip. RQ Adams, Denton 336-596-9994.

**1943 Ford 2N tractor**, garage kept, \$6,000 obo. David Christenbury, Harrisburg 919-633-0931.

**JD 240 skid loader**, low hrs., 4-way bucket scoop & forks, manuals, sheltered, recently serviced, \$15,000. J. Johnson, Burlington 336-212-5943 or 214-4505.

**Farmall Super A & Cub parts**, pto, pulleys, cults, lift arm (4) shanks, (3) tine clamps, turn plow, \$400/all; (2) hay spears, \$400. Audie Sprinkle, Hiddenite 828-632-7550.

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

### FARM EQUIPMENT

(3) hay rings, \$100 ea.; (6) corral panels, \$100 ea.; (2) mineral feeders, \$50 ea.; 200+ step-in fence posts, \$1 ea.; other cattle/fence items. Mike Luxton, Lumberton 910-739-2534.

**NH 331 manure spreader**, GC, new tires, \$4,200 obo. Raymond Reitzel, Charlotte 704-361-2025.



### Equipment Wanted

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

**AC 333 no-till planter** or planter parts. Jack Simpson, Todd 704-242-0763.

**AC pull-type combine** w/power unit. Reid Ledbetter, Olin 704-539-5353.

**15 x 30 8 loop rear rim** for 5000 Ford tractor. Mary Ellen Williams, Casar 704-466-1879 or 466-1824.

**Suitcase wghts** to fit on front of MF 175 tractor, around 50 lbs. ea. Anderson Baker, Angier 919-291-0381.

**Articulating 6-way scrape blade** for a tractor, Cat. 1, 3 pt. Tim Gentle, Mt. Pleasant 704-224-5012, call or text.

**Steering box** for Ford 601 Workmaster; must be ps box; hood & parts for Jubilee or Ford 601 tractor. J. Johnson, Burlington 336-214-4505.



**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.+ exper., p/u/deliv, \$30-\$60/hr. William Munday Sr., Taylorsville 828-638-1521.

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

**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.**

**25 ac for lease** in Alleghany co, half cleared, half wooded, deer, turkey, \$500/yr. Richard Adams, Glade Valley 919-846-0022 or 830-8470.

**Farmland Wanted**

**Land to lease** to hunt wild hogs. Robert Smith, Lexington 336-243-1841.

**Land to lease** for bow hunting deer, anywhere in NC. Caleb Johnson, Selma 704-223-4152.

**Hay & Grain For Sale**

**Fescue/mixed grass hay,** sq bales, spring 2024 cut, \$5/bale. Nick Gray, Concord 704-960-5091, call or text.

**2024 fescue,** horse quality, 4x5 rnd, \$50; cow quality, \$35; sq bales, \$5; other hay avail. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

**Fescue,** clover, orchard grass & timothy mix, 5x5 rnd, horse quality, barn stored, \$50 ea. H.R. Greene, Glade Valley 828-735-3656.

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

**Horse quality hay,** 4x5 rnd, net wrap or twine, no rain/weeds, stored under shelter, deliv avail, \$45-\$50/rl. Jay Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686.

**2024 Coastal Bermuda hay,** horse quality, out of field, will help load, \$8/bale. Gary White, Sanford 919-775-9769.

**1st cut fescue,** 4x5 rnd, twine-tied, no fert/weeds/rain, sheltered, \$40/bale. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

**Spring '24 fescue,** 4x5 rnd, \$60/bale; sm sq, \$7/bale; spring '24 orchard grass, 4x5 rnd, \$70/bale; sm sq, \$9/bale. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

**HAY & GRAIN**

**2024 mixed grass hay,** horse quality, no rain, min. purchase 20 bales, \$6/sq bale. Vernon Hill, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-5091.

**Peanut hay,** rnd bales, tight, lots of leaves, net wrapped, shelter kept, no rain, can deliv 42 bales anywhere, \$35/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

**Orchard grass hay,** 1st & 2nd cut, square bales, 45 lbs.+ horse quality, \$9/bale. Kenneth Chilton, Pilot Mtn 336-374-2410 or 399-1973.

**Horse hay,** 1st cut, dry, 5 ft. rls, \$60/bale. Virginia Rubino, Lincolnton 704-241-3734.

**Fescue hay,** rnd bales, at barn, \$55/bale. B.R. Ferguson, Charlotte 704-591-2944.

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

**Fescue/orchard grass hay,** spring 2024 cut, 4x5 rnd, stored in barn, \$40/rl. Larry York, Staley 336-824-2077.

**Pure alfalfa hay,** cut 5/24, horse quality, \$12/sq bale; 4x4 rnd, \$60/bale; meadow hay, cut 6/24, 4x4 rnd, \$30/bale. Phil Zimmerman, Lexington 336-406-6746.

**Native grass hay,** 4x4 rnd, stored under shelter/canvas, 54 rls avail., \$30/bale. Tim Francis, Westfield 336-970-0818 or 351-5035.

**Horse quality hay,** deliv avail., \$50/bale. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

**Horse quality hay,** orchard grass/fescue mix, \$50/rnd bale; orchard grass, \$7/sq bale; lrg quantity discount. Johnny Sowers, Lexington 336-239-3020.

**Fescue hay,** sm sq bales, \$6.50/bale for less than 50; \$6/bale for over 50. Brandon Kiger, Greensboro 336-681-6430.

**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.  
\*\*\*

**Western saddle,** TexTan AQHA collection, 16" seat, GC, \$350. Lynn Scholz, Pilot Mtn 336-368-3050.

**Miniature horse cart,** GC, \$350. Kenneth Peeler, Gold Hill 704-223-2361.

**Livestock For Sale**

**(2) ND does,** tri color, blue eyes, dob 4/24; (1) ND buck, blk & white, blue eyes, dob 5/24, \$150 ea. Donald Edge, Hope Mills 910-988-5748.

**LIVESTOCK**

**Reg Katahdin ewes,** \$300-\$400; reg Katahdin ram, 3 y/o, Hound River genetics, \$600. Mark Mills, Peachland 704-254-5724.

**Pygmy goats,** male & female, 2 mos-6 yrs., \$100-\$150 w/discounts on 2 or more. M. Sharpe, Denton 336-241-2752.

**10 SimAngus heifers,** dob 2022, ready to breed, \$2,000 ea. Murray Cohen, Pittsboro 919-742-4433.

**Reg SimAngus bred heifers & young cows** expecting 2nd calves, blk, polled, bred for fall calves beginning in Sept., \$3,500-\$4,000. William Pyle, Franklinton 919-215-5677.

**Santa Gertrudis cattle,** calves, \$900 & up; replacement cows, \$1,800 & up; young bulls, \$1,200 & up. Charles O'Bryant III, Reidsville 336-908-0276.

**Kiko/Savanna cross kids,** dob 4/24; adult does, yearlings to 7 y/o, established, quality bloodlines, healthy, hardy, easy keepers, avail. now, \$125-\$300. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

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

**Charolais bulls & heifers,** purebred, polled, gentle, reg sires, 7 mos & up, \$1,200 & up. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

**½ interest & ½ possession in Blue Q Charolais bull,** sire VPI Free Lunch, dam is best Angus at Blue Q, proven easy calver, gentle, \$3,000. Bud Eanes, Lexington 336-472-2395.

**Nubian buckling,** 4 m/o, \$150; Nubian doeling, 4 m/o, \$200; Nubian doe, 1 y/o, may be ADGA reg, \$300. L.A. Mize, Lexington 336-250-4520.

**Reg Red Angus bull,** 6 y/o, DRF Profit, great demeanor, calving ease, ready for service; calves, bulls & heifers on site, \$5,000. Loretta Batchelor, Bear Creek 919-552-7695.

**Poultry & Supplies For Sale**

**Duck eggs,** free range, \$5/ doz. Chelsea Thomas, Walnut Cove 336-817-1502.

**Bobwhite quail,** \$5.50; Ringneck & Melanistic Mutant pheasants, \$15. Curtis Meissner, Bostic 609-273-2230.

**Baby chicks,** 50 avail., \$2.50 ea. Virginia Rubio, Lincolnton 704-241-3734.

**Game chickens,** butchers, sweaters; radio sweaters, stags & pullets, \$50-\$75. James Coble, Pleasant Garden 336-709-6729.

**Poultry & Supplies Wanted**

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

**POULTRY WANTED**

**Fantail pigeons,** American w/blk body mark; blk or silver American saddleback. Larry Matthews, Warsaw 910-293-7840.

**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.

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

**Green Giants, Alberta Spruce,** Emerald Green Arborvitae, 18-44 in., \$12-\$21. David Gabriel, Elon 336-260-1298.

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

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

**Supplies For Sale**

**3-panel cement fence,** approx. +/- 200 ft., \$3/ft. Tommy Sink, Lexington 336-787-5996.

**Porter 2-head shaper,** 3-phase 240v, \$600; Ecco #18 flapper sander, 3-phase 240v, \$100. Westinghouse 125hp 3-phase motor, \$1,000; Dayton 7.5hp capacitor start, 230v, \$400. Eddie Moretz, Deep Gap 828-963-0883.

**Fairbanks platform scales,** cast iron, EC, \$450. Dale Pardue, Hamptonville 336-468-2038.

**120 ft. of chain link fence,** 4 ft. high privacy screen, 36, 44 & 48 in. gates, all poles & hardware, \$350 obo. David Gwaltney, Taylorsville 828-850-9543.

**200+ NOS Rainbird,** Optima & Water Whiz sprinkler heads & controller, \$100. Duane Kirschenman, Winston-Salem 704 528-9369.

**Custom-built hutches** for rabbits/sm animals, 7 x 4 x 2 ½, stands on removable wooden legs 3 ft. off ground, \$1,200; 2-hutch combo, \$900. Johanna Johnson, Mebane 919-210-6315.

**2 red oak logs** dried on stump, 2 ft. dia. at butt, 40 ft. long, cut, trimmed, on ground, easy access, free. Eli Copeland, Graham 336-290-2200.

**FARM SUPPLIES**

**Water totes,** 275 gal., \$75; metal & plastic drums, \$10; burning barrels, \$10; feed barrels w/lids & rings, \$20. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

**Myers shallow well pump** w/regulator, 1hp, EC, \$175. Jack Matthews, Charlotte 704-846-1903.

**New & used water pumps,** GC, \$300; water barrel, GC, \$100. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

**Trucks & Trailers For Sale**

**Special built trailer** to haul draft team & wagon in the same trailer, 2 winches do all the work, \$12,500. Will Hill, Winston-Salem 336-399-5083.

**1995 Texas Bragg flatbed trailer,** 16 ft., tandem axle, elect. brakes, \$2,400. Duane Kirschenman, Winston-Salem 704-528-9369.

**2014 Polaris RZR800,** \$7,500. David Valentine, Kernersville 336-971-6448.

**36 ft. gooseneck trailer,** \$3,000 nego. Mark Harris, Graham 336-567-5854.

**1999 Star 3-horse trailer,** all alum., GC, new tires & awning; weekend pkg w/shower, toilet & A/C, \$15,000. Kim Lloyd, Graham 336-260-6159.

**2017 JD 835M gator,** 365 hrs., GC, still in use, \$12,900. Ken McDowell, Asheboro 336-302-9225.

**Stock trailer, homemade,** 10x6, 2-axle, hvy duty metal frame, no title; loaded w/35 bales of hay, \$1,250. Audie Sprinkle, Hiddenite 828-632-7550.

**2001 4-Star 2-horse trailer,** slant load, gooseneck, used little, always sheltered, EC, \$9,500. Dan Fritz, Bahama 919-740-5533.

**2024 Calico stock** 16 ft., cut gate, bumper pull, \$8,995. YD Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

**4-wheel trailer,** 13x6x6.5, 2-axle, tilt bed, GC, \$1,700. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

**1990 Ford F-150,** straight drive, 6 cyl., 8 ft. bed, runs well, paint rough, \$2,400. John Post, Vale 704-530-0572, call or text.

**2023 Calico stock trailer,** 16 ft., gooseneck, never used, \$9,850. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

**1992 Intl 4900,** 466 eng, 6 spd, 232,000 mi, used as helicopter batch truck; no herb, 1,500 water, 300 mix, \$19,500. Steve Willis, Elizabethtown 910-876-2519.

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# #NextGenAg: Davis Williams carrying on family legacy

Davis Williams is a name you might recognize from Williams Produce Farm in Autryville. As a fourth-generation farmer, Davis has been immersed in agriculture and always known it was his passion.

Today, he is working hard towards pursuing a future that will not only further our state's number one industry, but also keep the legacy of farming alive on his family farm for many generations to come.

By the time he was six years old, Davis was helping plant, grow and harvest crops on the family farm. Williams Produce Farm is well-known in the community for growing a variety of crops, including sweet potatoes, tomatoes, strawberries, pumpkins, squash, and watermelons.

"I have loved agriculture all my life," Davis said. "I learned a lot about farming and agriculture from my grandparents and parents on the farm. It's an honor to continue to work with them and learn from them every day."

Williams Produce Farm is still very much a family operation. Both of Davis's grandparents continue to help on the farm as well as his parents.

Davis also has a sister who recently graduated from the University of Mount Olive with a degree in Agribusiness. She is now working full-time on the farm and hoping to expand their agritourism business.

"Working alongside my family every day brings me a lot of pride and joy," David said. "I hope it is something that will continue for many years to come and involve future generations."

When Davis began high school at Midway High School in Newton Grove, he immediately became

involved in FFA to continue harnessing his love of agriculture.

"I was a part of FFA all four years of high school and really learned a lot about agriculture as well as solid life skills through the program," he said. "I even competed in the Truck and Tractor competition through FFA for two years. My junior year of high school I won both at the state level, which made me the first person known in FFA history to win both competitions in the same year!"

The tractor is Davis's happy place, whether working on the mechanics or plowing a field. In May of 2023, Davis graduated from Midway High School and started attending college at Sampson Community College.

As a freshman, Davis is learning a lot about agribusiness through his major at Sampson Community College. Once he finishes his associate degree there, he hopes to transfer either to the University of Mount Olive or N.C. State University to continue furthering his education and receive a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness.

"We all need farmers. Without them we won't have the food or resources to care for our families and people across the world," Davis said. "I want to make sure I get as much as I can out of my education so that I can take that knowledge back home to the family farm and use it to better care for the community."

After college graduation, Davis plans to return full-time to the family farm and work on the row crop side of the operation. Although he loves working with all the crops, sweet potatoes are his favorite.

"They are such a strong staple in N.C. agriculture," he said. "I love not only the fact that they are a year-round

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Davis Williams is at home on any of the farm's machinery, whether working on the mechanics of them, or plowing fields. He intends to return to the family farm following graduation.

## Payne Meadows is a proud N.C. Century Farm

Five miles from the western tip of North Carolina sits Payne Meadows, a sixth-generation farm in the prime tourist town of Murphy. Surrounded by lakes, Appalachian Mountains and North Georgia communities, the atmosphere provides the perfect nature getaway.

Previously a cattle farm throughout the years, Payne Meadows has transitioned to the events industry as of 2016. They proudly host affordable weddings and other gatherings, including a newly formed flower-picking experience on advertised days.

The farm has been in the family since Nehemiah Payne settled into Cherokee County from Rutherford County in 1853. This move brought his family and all future Payne generations to the property. Nehemiah passed down ownership of the farm to his son William G., who was also a state representative for the 95th North Carolina General Assembly in 1901. The cycle continued with family members Issac Napoleon, John Milton, Harold Milton and lastly, Ronnie Milton Payne.

William Goshen Payne led quite the life in rural Cherokee County. He was a mason for over 30 years and served in the Civil War. He was also on the county's Board of Elections and served as its sheriff (1881-1886), treasurer and tax collector.

Ronnie and his wife Linda inherited the farm following his mother's passing in 2008. However, the farm is largely operated by his son Robert Milton Payne. He is also a full-time computer science teacher and track coach at Murphy Middle School. Robert typically begins farm duties after the school day, arriving at Payne Meadows around 5 p.m. and often staying until dark.

During the summer, Robert dedicates most of his time to the farm. "It's all about keeping a pristine-looking property so brides can show up and have a beautiful facility," said



Payne Meadows hosts weddings, birthday parties and other events at the 171-year-old farm.

Robert. "A typical day for me includes mowing, planting, cultivating new rows for flowers, as well as ensuring the farmhouse is stocked, cleaned and ready for guests." Robert has planted 700 seeds in this past year alone and they should be ready for harvesting any day now.

Payne Meadows offers an array of flowers—four varieties of sunflowers, three to four varieties of zinnias and 100-foot beds of wildflower mixes. Robert's favorite flowers on the farm are the limelight hydrangeas. "They are stunning showstoppers and

can grow in anything," he said. In the future, Robert hopes to offer gomphrena, snapdragons, bachelor buttons and celosia flowers on the farm, growing them from April to September.

Payne Meadows prides itself on preserving its past through restorations around the property. Most notable is the revamping of the old barn from the 1950s, which is now used for gorgeous wedding receptions. Fencing around the fields has been mended

(See Century Farm, pg. 5)