

Agricultural REVIEW

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June 2024

Raleigh, N.C.

Ag Review ad deadlines

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. 4 for the December issue
 Dec. 2 for the January 2025 issue

Deadline reminder

Reminder that the deadline is June 15 to apply for a Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure grant aimed at boosting the middle of the food supply chain.

Grants of up to \$100,000 for equipment only purchases and up to \$2 million for infrastructure projects will be available through a competitive application process. These grants will better position produce, dairy products, eggs, aquaculture and value-added products produced in our state to improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency including additional opportunities for profitability.

Go to www.ncagr.gov/divisions/small-farms/grants/rfsi for more information.

N.C. ag impact jumps to \$111.1 billion

The economic impact of North Carolina's agriculture and agribusiness industry jumped to \$111.1 billion, posting a second straight year of strong growth at nearly \$8 billion Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced today.

"With last year's increase of \$10 billion, that represents over \$18 billion in growth since 2022 when we were coming out of a pandemic and some challenging economic times," Troxler said at the opening of the 2024 Got to Be NC Festival. "It's exciting to see numbers like these because it shows the strength and resiliency of agriculture and agribusiness in this state."

N.C. State University Economist Dr. Mike Walden calculates the economic impact numbers annually using data from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and other multipliers.

"If you remember one thing I say today, I hope you will remember that Agriculture IS our food supply," Troxler said. "It is an important industry because it feeds us. We don't ever want to have to rely on another country to feed us. We want to be self-reliant when it comes to our food supply and that's why it is important that we support our farmers."

Troxler noted that the economic figures were supported by (See Economic, pg. 4)

The latest economic numbers for North Carolina agriculture and agribusiness shows a second year of strong growth.

Now is the time to vaccinate equine for EEE and WNV

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler is encouraging equine owners to have their animals vaccinated against Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis and West Nile Virus.

"Mosquito-breeding season in North Carolina lasts from spring until the first frost and horses are at risk if not properly vaccinated," Troxler said. "EEE is fatal 90 percent of the time in horses and WNV has a fatality rate of 30 percent. However, both diseases are preventable by vaccination."

So far this year we have had no cases of EEE or WNV, but last year there were seven cases of EEE, Troxler added.

State Veterinarian Dr. Mike Martin recommends that equine owners talk to their veterinarians about an effective vaccination protocol to

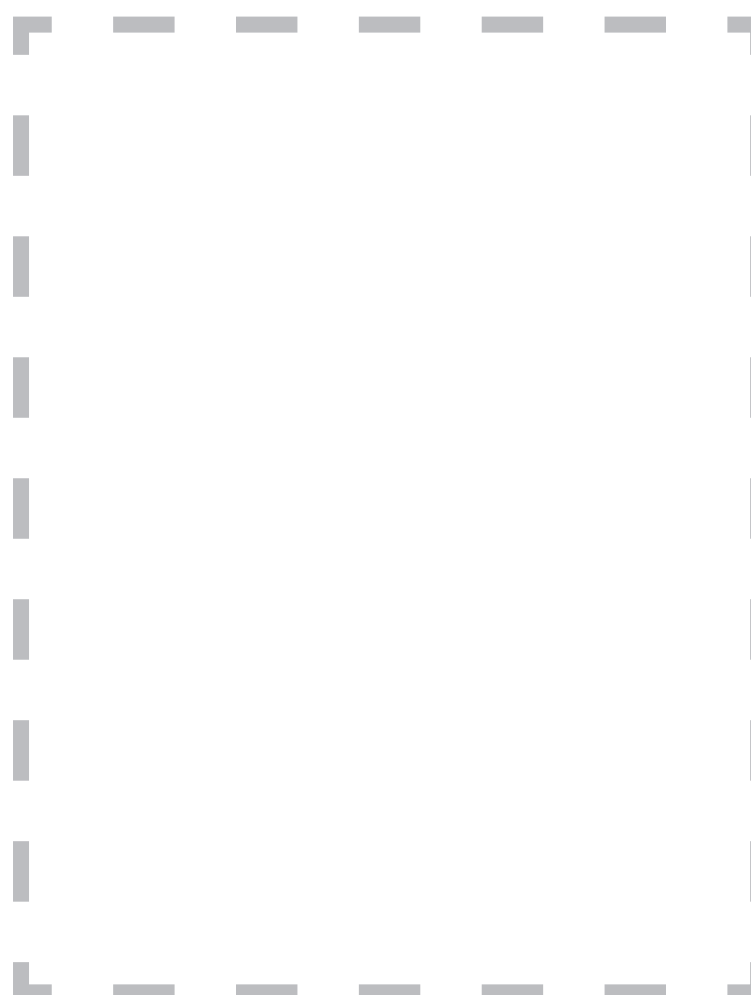
protect horses from mosquito-borne diseases. The combination vaccination initially requires multiple injections for horses, mules and donkeys that have no prior vaccination history.

Mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts for more than four days, so removing any source of standing water can reduce the chance of exposing animals to WNV or EEE. Keeping horses in stalls at night, using insect screens and fans, and turning off lights after dusk can also help reduce exposure to mosquitoes. Insect repellants can be effective if used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Symptoms of EEE include impaired vision, aimless wandering, (See EEE vaccinations, pg. 2)

Don't Miss a Single Issue of the Ag Review!

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It's renewal time again for the Agricultural Review. Subscribers can either mail the card at left, or go to www.AgReview.org.

If you mail the postcard, simply cut along the dotted line, attach a stamp on the back and drop it in the mail. Please do not put the postcard in an envelope, as it slows down our renewal process.

If you need to make changes, please mark those beside the address label, but do NOT cross out the barcode above your account number.

To renew online, you will need your account number (located on the postcard above your name). You can also make address changes at this site.

From the tractor

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Our 2024 Got to Be NC Festival wrapped up with a solid turnout despite the threat of rain each day. Farmers know we can't control the weather, and that you just have to work with it. So, work with it we did, although we did catch a break with several large periods of time each day that were rain free.

People who attended seemed to have a great time and we got a lot of positive feedback on our social media platforms.

There were lots of indoors activities as part of the festival, including the Food Lion Local Goodness Marketplace with around 75 N.C. food and beverage companies. The AgriPlaza, N.C. Forest Service displays and independent vendors in the Jim Graham Building also offered festivalgoers many fun activities.

We kicked off the festival with a brief press event announcing updated economic impact numbers for agriculture and agribusiness. The full story is at



Commissioner Troxler

the top of the page, but I was very pleased that the industry posted a second straight year of strong growth, rising to \$111.1 billion, which is 15.6% of North Carolina's total income.

We remain focused on growing agriculture, securing the natural resources we need to be able to produce food and

(See Troxler, pg. 4)

Agricultural Review

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Livestock scholarship recipients recognized

Thirty-two North Carolina students have been selected recipients of 2024 N.C. State Fair Youth Livestock Scholarships, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced.

The scholarships are designed for high school seniors and students currently enrolled in an institute of higher education who have participated in the junior livestock or market turkey shows at the N.C. State Fair.

The scholarships are funded from a percentage of the total sales at the N.C. State Fair Sale of Champions. The number of scholarships awarded each year is based on qualified applicants and funds available from the previous year's Sale of Champions. Because of strong support of the 2023 sale, 31 scholarships valued at \$2,000 each were awarded this year. One \$2,500 scholarship was also sponsored by Farm Credit Associations of North Carolina.

"I am proud this scholarship program invests in the next generation of agricultural leaders and advocates," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "No matter what career path they choose, they have a solid foundation because of all they have learned showing livestock."

A selection committee evaluated applicants based on their involvement with N.C. State Fair junior livestock shows, academic achievement, extracurricular activities and an essay. Each application was assigned a number and identifying information was removed before evaluation.

Following is a list of scholarship recipients by county. All scholarships are for \$2,000 unless otherwise noted:

Alamance

- Alexis Hester of Graham who attends N.C. State University
- Aiden Kernodle of Graham who attends N.C. State University



Eight of the 32 Junior Livestock Scholarship recipients are pictured with Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler at a special reception during the Got to Be NC Festival.

Buncombe

- Shelby Candler of Weaverville who attends Redlands Community College

Catawba

- Rylea Suddreth of Catawba who is undecided
- Emma Vanhoy of Catawba who attends N.C. State University

Craven

- Hannah Vanhoy of Catawba who attends N.C. State University

Davidson

- Kathryn Dyson of Winston-Salem to attend UNC-Chapel Hill
- Salem Ward of Lexington who attends UNC-Greensboro

Franklin

- Hope Latta of Zebulon who attends N.C. State University

Henderson

- Haley Hargus of Zirconia who attends Mars Hill University

Hyde

- Maggie Glass of Belhaven who attends the University of

Mount Olive

Iredell

- Hannah Loftin of Troutman to attend University of Mount Olive

Jackson

- Abbegail King of Sylva who attends Clemson University

Johnston

- Emily Oberman of Clayton who attends Johnston Community College

Lenoir

- Anna Taylor of Princeton who attends N.C. State University

Wayne

- Ava Wood of Willow Spring to attend N.C. State

Willow Spring

- Charlotte Wood of Willow Spring to attend N.C. State

Farm Credit Associations of NC Scholarship recipient - \$2,500

Wilmington

- Mary Wood of Willow Spring who attends Oklahoma State University

Yamhill

- Emma Raynor of Deep Run to attend N.C. State University

(See Scholarships, pg. 5)

EEE vaccinations

(Continued from pg. 1)

head pressing, circling, inability to swallow, irregular staggering gait, paralysis, convulsions and death. Once a horse has been bitten by an infected mosquito, it may take three to 10 days for symptoms to appear.

Symptoms of WNV include fever, weakness or paralysis of hind limbs, impaired vision, head pressing, seizures and aimless wandering.

People, horses and birds can become infected from a bite by a mosquito carrying these diseases, but there is no evidence that horses can transmit the viruses to other horses, birds or people through direct contact.

Equine care also includes keeping up to date on equine infectious anemia (EIA) testing, commonly referred to as the Coggins test. "Since January there have been three cases of EIA in North Carolina. There is no vaccine and no cure for this disease so testing annually is important," Troxler added.

"It's also a great time to make sure your animal is current on its rabies vaccination," Troxler said. "So far this year we have had two positive cases of rabies in livestock. All livestock are naturally curious animals, which puts them at risk for a bite if a rabid animal gets through their fence line."

Keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the department's blog at <https://blog.ncagr.gov/>

Bucolic briefs

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>

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.

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Meet the Got to Be NC Festival's Young Farmer of the Day

Stephen Jones, Beaufort County Organics

Stephen Jones, owner and operator of Beaufort County Organics, grew up with a strong knowledge of agriculture and appreciation for the hard work of farmers. With many generations of his family working on their farmland in Blounts Creek, Stephen's history is laced with agricultural heritage.

Although his family pursued agriculture for many years, the last person to work on the family farm prior to Stephen taking over was his great-grandfather.

"I worked in the manufacturing and engineering industry until I was twenty-two years old," Stephen said. "My family had been renting the farmland out for the last two generations since my grandparents and parents chose different paths. However, when I turned twenty-two and some of my family started to die off, I saw an opportunity in the farm to reignite a legacy."

As an only child, Stephen saw a way to connect back to his roots through the farm and he hasn't looked back since.

Seven years later, Beaufort County Organics is not only a fully-functioning and success-



Stephen Jones, Beaufort County Organics

ful farm, but also a staple in the community for local produce. Stephen currently grows a variety of plants in the nursery on-site and many delicious produce items, including radishes, tomatoes, lettuce, and spinach.

"It's amazing to look back and see that I got this farm back up and running with less than 10k and a dream," he said. "I take so much pride in growing nothing into something. Watching the

creation unfold and the dream come to life has been the biggest blessing." As many across the agriculture industry know, farming can come with a plethora of challenges, especially when starting an operation from the ground up.

Although Stephen faced a variety of obstacles, his determination and passion for the industry brought him through each one more successful than when he started.



Stephen Jones owns and operates Beaufort County Organics, reinvigorating operations at his family's farm in Blount Creek. Congratulations to Stephen on being the May 19 Young Farmer of the Day sponsored by AgCarolina Farm Credit and AgSouth Farm Credit.

"Agriculture presents many challenges, but with that comes the ability to fail," he said. "Being able to have a rough year and start back fresh the next year brings a sense of rejuvenation on the farm. I enjoy the challenge of it and appreciate how each one makes me stronger."

Products from Beaufort County Organics can be found on-site at the farm in Blounts Creek, at the Harbor District Market in

Washington and at the New Bern Farmers Market. Although Stephen is still young in his career, he has big dreams and plans for the future of the farm.

"I want this farm to become a multi-production farm with a farm store on site run by my family and loved ones," he said. "I would also love to develop ways for people to come and experience agriculture here on the farm through on-site farm dinners featuring local chefs/restaurants in the area, farm tours, and workshops educating on agriculture and mycology (the study of mushrooms and how they are grown/harvested)."

He is currently working to expand his production on the farm to include indoor mushroom cultivation, so keep an eye on his Facebook page for the first steps and harvest in future months! "I will always push for eating local and getting to know your farmer," he said. "I want people to know that I am open and willing to talk about my process and what I grow. I produce trustworthy products not just for my family, but for theirs as well."

Cole Revis, Revis Farms & Flat Rock Fresh

Farming is a family affair for many operations across North Carolina. Cole Revis, fifth-generation farmer with Revis Farms and Flat Rock Fresh in Flat Rock, grew up following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather on the farm. "Some of my earliest memories here were being on a tractor with my dad as we followed my pawpaw around the fields," he said. "I always knew that I wanted to have a place in agriculture alongside them one day." Twenty-six years later, Cole and his family are still working together on the farm growing a variety of produce, like apples, and raising beef cattle.

Growing up on their farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Cole was raised with a knowledge and appreciation for agriculture at a young age. From helping raise cattle for high-quality beef products to learning how to grow a variety of produce, Cole spent many evenings and summers getting his hands dirty and allowing agriculture to seep deeper into his veins. By the time Cole graduated high school, agriculture was such a passion of his that he had no difficulty deciding what his college major would be. Today, with a degree in Agriculture Mechanization from Clemson University, Cole is not only making a difference on the farm for Revis Farms, but also throughout the community through Flat Rock Fresh.

Last fall, Cole and his family opened Flat Rock Fresh to the community in an effort to bring their products to more people. The roadside stand, located directly off I-26 on the Upward Road exit, provides seasonally fresh produce and other locally grown, raised, caught and made products to customers. Cole and his family partnered with other farms in the area to offer a variety of local items in one location. Some of the items people can look for include apples, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and bread. "It has been wonderful to watch the stand grow into a community hub for our family, friends, and neighbors who all farm to sell produce and



Cole Revis, a fifth generation farmer, and his dad with Revis Farms and Flat Rock Fresh.

other local products to our community," said Ellerslie McCue, a family friend who nominated Cole Revis for our Young Farmer of the Day Program. "We have been blown away by the support and excitement for the stand and look forward to watching it grow, supporting more farmers and providing local goods to our area." The farm-stand is open year-round, which means people can experience a variety of fresh products all year long. Stop by today to stock up on all your favorite produce items and help support our local farmers!

Beyond the farm stand, Cole's passion for agriculture further shines through his involvement with local FFA groups, other farms in the area and the Blue Ridge Apple Growers Association. "Cole is a mentor and advisor for our local FFA group where he works hard to educate the upcoming generation of agricultural leaders," said Ellerslie. "He also works closely

(See Cole Revis, pg. 5)

Tate Mayo, Mayo Mills



Tate Mayo was the Young Farmer of the Day at the Got to Be NC Festival on May 17. The special day was presented by AgCarolina Farm Credit and AgSouth Farm Credit.

As a third generation farmer and well-known member of the Tarboro community, Tate Mayo is making a difference at a young age for the N.C. Agriculture industry. In addition to being a full-time farmer and business owner, Tate is also the current mayor of Tarboro, as well as an agricultural teacher and FFA Advisor at North East Carolina Prep School.

From farming to teaching, Tate is doing everything that he can to inspire the community to invest in N.C. Agriculture and educate the next generation on its importance.

In 1932, Mayo Knitting Mill was established in Tarboro by brothers Columbus and Benjamin Mayo. Along with the knitting mill, which is still in operation today, the Mayo family operates Mayo Farm where they grow many acres of cotton and peanuts.

"The farm specializes in growing premium cotton on two separate farms in Eastern North Carolina, Mayo Farms and Piney Grove Farm, a subsidiary of Mayo Farms," said Amy Robinette of Harris-Robinette Beef who nominated Tate for the Young Farmer of the Day program. "Once the cotton is harvested, it is sent to a yarn spinner for further processing and then made into socks at Mayo Knitting."

The knitting company, DBA Mayo Mills, is a member of our Got to Be NC Program. They produce a variety of locally made sock products featuring many fun designs, including flags, sports teams,

(See Tate Mayo pg. 8)

Wilkes County woman working in soil and water conservation

Many family farms in our state have been under operation for several generations, including Makayla Norman's family farm in Wilkes County.

In fact, they are a member of our Bicentennial Farm Family Program, meaning their farm has been under family operation for over 200 years. Falling in love with livestock and agriculture at a young age on the farm led Makayla to pursue a career in the industry where she could continue to make a difference on those around her.

As a little girl, Makayla spent many evenings and summers helping on the family beef cattle farm.

"We are a cow/calf operation with about 40 head of cattle," she said. "My earliest memories on the farm were watching my father and grandfather work in the hayfields. My sisters and I would take them lunch almost every day and I was always fascinated by their hard work."

Makayla has been a cattle lover from a very young age, and that sentiment continues to run through her veins today.

"We used to all work cows together as a family, so I have some very special memories and bonding moments surrounding those times," she said. "However, cows have always been one of my favorite animals. That is one of the very first ways that I knew agriculture was where I wanted to spend my career."

In addition to helping on the farm during the week, when necessary, Makayla also spent every summer working on the farm with and for her family. "When school was out for the summer, I would check cows, bush hogging fields, and bale hay," she said. "Those early experiences really shaped me into the farm-loving girl that I am today."

During her high school years, Makayla decided to get a jump on her ag education and began taking college classes at Wilkes Community College through the Career and College Promise program. She graduated with a degree in Animal Science from there before moving on to Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk where she obtained a degree in Wildlife Biology.

"Originally I thought that I wanted to be a Livestock Vet, and one day I would still love to pursue that, but college at Lees-McRae changed my direction to pursue a wildlife degree," she said. "I always knew that I wanted to be in agriculture, and I enjoy the conservation side of the industry as well as the livestock and animal science side."

Today, Makayla is lucky enough to be utilizing both degrees in her job at the Wilkes County Soil and Water Conservation District.

As a Natural Resource Conservationist specializing in Streamflow Rehabilitation, Makayla oversees the StRAP (Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program) program at their district and all projects associate with its funding from the General Assembly.

"I help farmers and landowners take care of their streams," she said. "With the first batch of money we obtained from the General Assembly, we cleaned up the Yadkin River, which services many farmers and community members in our area. This year, we plan to help small farmers throughout the community to focus more on the needs of the individual."

Not only is Makayla enjoying the conservation side



Makayla Norman works on streamflow rehabilitation through her job as a natural resource conservationist with the Wilkes County Soil and Water Conservation District. She is also pictured on her family's Bicentennial Farm.

of the industry through her job, but she is also excited to be utilizing aspects of both degrees. In fact, she even has the honor to help educate kids in the community about the importance of agriculture and her job at the Soil and Water Conservation District through school visits.

"We are involved with all county school districts in the area," she said, "and we visit periodically to speak on agriculture and the careers available within the industry. We also provide resources to help them learn more and find their way in the industry if they wish."

As a young person with farming experience, Makayla very easily builds relationships with people across the industry. She is technologically efficient and willing to learn new things, which will continue to help her achieve her goals in agriculture.

No matter where the industry takes her, Makayla would love to continue advocating for both wildlife and farmers across the state. Her biggest agricultural dreams are to, one day, take over the family farm and possibly pursue a Livestock Vet career.

"My family farm is a sixth-generation farm," she said. "It means a lot to me and my family. I would love to be the one to take that over one day and keep the legacy of agriculture going for many years to come."

Whether it's working on the farm or networking with other farms in the industry, Makayla simply loves the hands-on aspect of working in agriculture. "People in this industry do more for the community than many individuals realize," she said. "It's an honor to be a part of something that is bigger than myself. There is a lot of pride to be found in this industry."

For anyone interested in pursuing a career in the agriculture industry, Makayla recommends making connections and getting involved to gain hands-on experience.

"Find someone who is willing to show you the industry," she said. "Get involved in ag classes, FFA programs, and farms within your community. Seek out opportunities to gain experience and learn about agriculture for yourself. Through that process you will find what speaks to you."

Don't miss a single issue!

It is the annual renewal time for the newspaper. Clip the card from the front page of the June issue and return to the *Agricultural Review* offices or renew online at www.AgReview.org.

You will need the subscriber number above your name and address to renew online.

Troxler

(Continued from pg. 1)

fiber, and investing in research and value-added infrastructure to increase opportunities for farmers and agribusiness owners.

We also hosted a Young Farmer of the Day each day of the festival and I really enjoyed meeting and talking with them. You can read more about each of the young farmers on page 3. It is

exciting to see young people who have a strong passion for agriculture and carrying on their family's farming traditions. Special thanks to AgCarolina Farm Credit and AgSouth Farm Credit for sponsoring this recognition program.

During the festival each year, we also hold a special reception for the Junior Livestock Scholar-

ship recipients.

Funds for these scholarships come from the State Fair Sale of Champions and go into a fund for scholarships for any student who participates in the youth livestock shows.

A total of 32 students received scholarships this year. Read more on page 2.

Economic

(Continued from pg. 1)

the state's top production rankings nationally, including being No. 1 in the production of sweet potatoes, tobacco, poultry and eggs, second in Christmas trees, turkeys and trout, third in hogs

and cucumbers, fourth in peanuts and broilers, and fifth in cotton.

"This growth is also a result of our continued investment in agricultural research, our continued efforts to expand and attract

new food manufacturing and to create more value-added opportunities, and the continued support of our legislators," Troxler said.

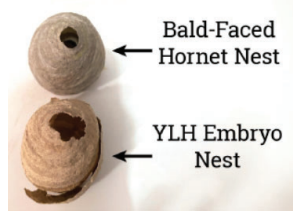
Residents asked to look for early stage nests of yellow-legged hornet

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Plant Industry Division is asking North Carolina residents to be on the lookout for the early-stage nests of the yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*). While this invasive hornet species has not been found in North Carolina, it has been collected in Georgia and the southernmost point of South Carolina in 2023 and 2024.

“The yellow-legged hornet is no more harmful to humans than other hornets, but it can have a devastating impact on both managed and wild bees, especially honeybees,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “That is why it’s a species to watch.”

The yellow-legged hornet is native to Southeast Asia and has established itself in most of Europe and areas of the Middle East. The yellow-legged hornet was first detected in the United States in Savannah, Ga. in August 2023, and was identified across the South Carolina line in Jasper County the following November. The hornet builds egg-shaped paper nests above ground and often in trees. Mature nests can be large and house an average of 6,000 workers.

This exotic hornet may be confused with



several native insects, including the cicada killer wasp, the bald-faced hornet, paper wasps, queen yellowjackets, wood wasps and robber flies, but is distinguished from these other stinging insects by its larger size.

This Spring, embryo nests have been found in both Georgia and South Carolina.

Embryo nests are the brownish color of a paper bag and are relatively small, ranging between the size of a ping-pong ball and tennis ball. These smaller, early season nests are constructed by hornet queens to initiate new colonies and are usually found in protected places such as the eaves of homes and other structures.

Anyone who finds a suspected nest or hornet should report their findings along with photos via a fillable reporting form at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/plant-industry/yellow-legged-hornet-reporting>.

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

June 3Horse & Tack Auction. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

June 8Da Bomb Barrel Racing. Contact Josh Smith, 910-639-6387.

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

June 8 & 9NCHJA “C” Horse Show. Contact Dethanna Perry, 252-675-3017.

June 22 & 23 ...June’s Just Horsin’ Round Open Horse Show. Contact, Beth Tew, btew2@nc.rr.com

June 28-30Four Beats for Pleasure Eastern NC Jubilee. Contact Amanda Twisdale, 4beats4Pleasure@gmail.com.

July 9-14.....SERHA Main Event & North American Reining Stakes. Contact info@serha.org.

July 26-28Little River Circuit. Contact Susan Daniels, 919-894-0600.

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

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

WNC Ag Center, Fletcher 828-687-1414

June 14-16Piedmont 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 23-27Blue Ridge Classic Horse Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

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

June 1 & 2Capital Dressage Classic. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.

June 6-9Tar Heel Summer Classic. Contact Randy Ratliff, 336-339-8773.

June 13-15Capital City Classic. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

June 22 & 23 ...NCAHA Open Summer Extravaganza. Contact Jackie Daughton, 336-509-6113.

July 10-14State 4-H Horse Show. Contact Lori Stroud, 919-515-5788.

July 19-21Triangle Farms Summer Indoors “C.” Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

July 21 & 22TWH July Show. Contact Kim Moser, 919-219-0256.

July 27 & 28Raleigh Summer Dressage I & II. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.

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

Cole Revis

(Continued from pg. 3)



Cole Revis and his wife Emily at the Got to be NC Festival.

with many farmers in our area. His patience for teaching and kindness to others never fails to amaze me in the midst of all that he has to get done on the farm.” Throughout the community, Cole and his family are known for their willingness to help others and their hard work ethic. “The Revis family is made up of the hardest working people I’ve ever known,” said Ellerslie, “but that work ethic doesn’t hold a candle to what they are willing to do to help others. Cole is the first person to lend a helping hand to anyone in need, and that is a trait that has been passed down to

him through the generations.” All of these qualities and more contributed to Cole being chosen as one of the Young Farmers of the Day for the Got to Be NC Festival this year.

Cole’s wife, Dr. Emily Revis, is also heavily involved on the family farm and across the N.C. Agriculture industry. She is currently a small and large animal vet at Animals R Us, the local vet clinic in Flat Rock. “Emily serves as a big supporter of the agriculture community in this region and has a big impact on the industry around here,” Ellerslie said. “Together, she and Cole are a force to be reckoned with!”

AgroTips

Prepare for a fall vegetable garden by soil testing.

Now is the best time to submit your soil samples for planning a fall vegetable garden. Soil samples submitted have faster turnaround times as the lab is less busy. This will allow for plenty of time to plan for liming and fertilizing. There is a belief among some gardeners that lime cannot be over-applied. Well, it can be. Soil pH that is too high from its over-application can adversely affect plant growth by potentially causing problems with micronutrient availability. Lime also works best if incorporated several months prior to planting since its reaction time is not immediate. Unlike fertilizer, however, it can be applied at any time when its recommended. For N-P-K fertilizers as recommended by soil test, their application needs to be timed near the time of planting and during the actual growing season, depending on the plant’s needs. Additional information about timing of fertilizer application is found in this note www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdf/stnote4.pdf. So, begin planning and take the first step, submit a soil sample!

Test source water for irrigation systems.

Before you turn on that drip or overhead irrigation system, it is a good idea to collect samples of your source water and have it tested by the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division. Chemical problems with source water can affect plant growth and quality. By testing water now, you can correct any problems before you start irrigating your crops.

Solution analysis is a service that measures the chemical properties of water that affect plants. In eastern North Carolina, high alkalinity is a potential water problem. Irrigating with highly alkaline water can lead to an increase in soil pH that can limit availability of some essential plant nutrients, especially micronutrients.

The solution report indicates whether alkalinity is a potential problem and, if so, provides helpful advice to correct it. Some other potential source water problems include high soluble salts, iron, boron, sodium or chloride. Once identified, these problems can either be corrected or effectively managed to prevent plant

growth problems.

If crop plants are stunted and/or discolored, check for nematodes.

The best way to find out if nematodes are responsible for an area of poor crop growth is to collect and submit two sets of soil samples: one for nematode assay and one for fertility analysis. An accurate diagnosis of nematode populations during the growing season provides a sound basis for effective management in the future. Knowing the species and numbers present facilitates informed selection of resistant varieties and crop rotation strategies.

Fertilize centipede grass lawns in June.

June is the month to fertilize your centipede grass. Centipede grass differs in rate and schedule of fertilization from other warm season grasses. Centipede requires only 0.5 pound of nitrogen each year. Higher than desired soil pH and phosphorus or inadequate potassium may result in centipede growth problems. If soil sampling was not done in the previous 2-3 years, now is an excellent time to submit samples for faster turnaround times and to determine the rate and best fertilizer to use. Lime will also be recommended if needed.

Important Reminder: Do not fertilize cool-season lawn grasses—fescue, ryegrass and bluegrass—during the summer. Wait until September.

Summer is a good time to submit soil samples from lawns & gardens.

Summer is when the NCDA&CS soil testing lab can process samples most quickly—usually ten days or less. Homeowners and landscapers are urged to submit samples at this time and avoid the peak-season fee (late November through March). Farmers who are maintaining cool-season pastures can also submit soil samples now so they will be ready to apply phosphorus and potassium in late summer or fall.

Scholarships

(Continued from pg. 2)

- Lincoln
-- Adelee Dillon of Vale to attend N.C. State University
- Onslow
-- Travis Cox of Richlands who is undecided
- Randolph
-- Caroline Scarlett of Ashboro to attend N.C. State University

- Richmond
-- Savannah Shepard of Ellerbe who attends N.C. State University
- Rowan
-- Josie Correll of Cleveland who attends Oklahoma State University
- Wayne
-- Talton Correll of Cleveland to attend N.C. State University

- Sampson
-- Shane Kendall of Magnolia to attend Northeastern Oklahoma College
- Stokes
-- Michelle Hartman of Walnut Cove to attend N.C. State University
- Wayne
-- Tara Burnham of Pikeville

- to attend N.C. State University
- Jacob Hinson of Princeton who attends N.C. State University
- Isaac Linton of Mount Olive to attend the University of Mount Olive
- Wilson
-- Abigail Earle-Parker to attend West Texas A&M University
- For more information on how in-

- dividuals and organizations can support the 2024 Junior Livestock Sale of Champions or the scholarship program, contact Neil Bowman, director of N.C. State Fair livestock shows, at neil.bowman@ncagr.gov or 919-270-7094.

EQUIPMENT WANTED

5 ft. bush hog, 3 pt, \$500. Roy Duncan, Greensboro 336-674-5973.

9-shank tillage tool, 3 pt, \$350. Fred Mock, East Bend 336-467-1617.

Ford hay rake, \$350; Ford 2-basket tedder, \$250; other misc. cattle items. Mike Luxton, Lumberton 910-739-2534.



Equipment Wanted

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

Gravely 18-G professional or 16-G; Craftsman DYS 4500 mower. Joe Woody, Morganton 828-334-0473.

NH 472 moco, GC; spring tooth harrow, 7-8 in. wide. Ron Peters, Reidsville 336-280-6111.

AC 5050 tractor for parts; NH sq baler for parts, model 68, any cond. Lathan Ostwalt, Statesville 704-450-6534.

824 corn header or 722 corn header for 718 NH harvester, must be field ready. Norris McConnell, Mt. Ulla 704-431-9321, no calls on Sunday.

MF corn head, 4-row 1144 or 2-3 row, for parts or working cond. Kevin Ray, Nakina 910-840-1178, call or text.

AC-D10 tractor, series III, 3 pt; not running okay, reasonable price. David Lloyd, Wake Forest 984-218-2566.

4-in-1 bucket for front end loader, 60 in. wide. Mark Lowe, Gastonia 704-258-1103.



Farm Labor

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

Tractor & skid steer work in 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.



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 indicate use of land.

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

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

73.2 ac Surry co, water, wildlife, close to Pilot Mtn., \$4,400/ac. Larry Blackburn, Advance 336-608-0552.



Hay & Grain For Sale

Coastal Bermuda hay, 4x4 rmd, horse quality, stored under shelter, \$50/bale. Dan Lancaster, Pikeville 919-222-6853.

Fescue-orchard grass, millet, oats & rye grass, native grasses, sq bales, \$5.50-\$6; rmd bales, \$45-\$50. Kyle Almond, New London 704-463-5988.

2024 fescue, 4x5 rmd, approx. 650 lbs., \$50/bale; 2023 sq bales, \$5/bale; rmd bales, \$35/bale. Ronnie Brogden, Creedmoor 919-528-1767.

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

Fescue hay, approx. 225 sq bales avail., clean, no rain, good quality, \$6/bale. Edna Gibson, Climax 336-824-8544.

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

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

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

Orchard grass-fescue hay, horse quality, soft, no weeds, barn stored, '23 spring, \$9/bale; '22 fall, \$8/bale; fescue, \$7/bale; 4x5 rmd, \$45-\$60/bale; all under shelter. Bettie Carroll, Walkertown 336-414-6845.

HAY & GRAIN

Spring cut fescue & orchard grass mixed hay, in barn, \$7/bale. Dillon Pinnix, Reidsville 336-587-9042.

2024 fescue, sq bales, \$7; 4 ft. rmd, \$30. WD Wood, Denton 919-302-0549.

Fescue, 4x5 rmd, barn kept, \$45/bale. David Lomax, Denton 336-688-5313.

10/23 Coastal Bermuda hay, 120 bales avail, horse quality, out of barn, \$5.50/bale;

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



Livestock For Sale

Midsize Highland bull, naturally polled, dun colored, gentle disposition, curly haired, IMCBR reg #9265, DNA incld, chondro negative, dam is Bella of Cyrus Ridge, \$1,500. Skip Mabe, Asheboro 910-220-0928.

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.

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

Polled Hereford heifer, \$2.50/lb.; bred cows, \$1.50/lb. Randy Davis, Elon 336-263-8163.

Nubian goats, does, \$300; bucks, \$200. Billy Joyner, Midland 704-622-2089.

Kiko/Savanna cross kids, dob 4/24, avail 7/1; adult does, yearlings to 7 y/o, established, quality bloodlines, healthy, hardy, easy keepers, \$150-\$300. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

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 buck 3 y/o, strong build, good color, good herd sire, \$350. R.A. Eaton, East Bend 336-793-6500.

Reg Angus heifers, weaned, vaccs, 10 avail, \$2,000; Angus bulls, ready for service, bred for calving ease & efficiency, recent BSE, \$3,000. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 336-263-6043.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

Chicken crates, 3 wood, 1 plastic, \$50 ea. Bobbie Thomas, Seagrove 336-879-4145.

POULTRY & SUPPLIES

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

Guinea keets, \$3.50-\$4 ea. Charles Moore, West End 910-639-6430, text.

Pair of white peacocks, \$300; pair of blk shoulders, \$250. Posie Guthrie, Pfafftown 336-413-0038.

Chickens, good layers, \$15. Ryan Luthy, Union Grove 336-468-6597.

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

2023 peafowl, 3 females, 1 male, \$130 & up; taking orders for 2024 peacock chicks, \$35 & up. Richard Simmons, Clarendon 910-640-7114.



Seeds & Plants For Sale

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone offering nursery stock for sale in N.C. is required to obtain either a nursery or nursery dealer license. For more, contact the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division at 800-206-9333 or 919-707-3730.

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

Sorghum cane seed, late orange variety, freezer kept, untreated for weeds & grasses, \$10/lb. Larry Stout, Waynesville 828-400-1550.

Blueberry plants, 2 y/o, lrg, healthy, Rabbiteye, Climax, Tifblue, Premier, Powderblue, Brightwell, \$10 ea. Michael Roberson, Trinity 336-862-3488.

Potted muscadine plants, several varieties, 4-5 ft., planting & fert instr incld, \$25. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

Blueberry plants, Premier, Columbus, Brightwell, Powderblue & Tifblue, 1 gl. size, \$4/ea.; 3 gl. size, \$15/ea. Michael Crippen, Garland 910-529-1469.

Small Animals For Sale

Giant Flemish bucks & es, \$30. James Madden, Raeford 910-875-5349.



Supplies For Sale

Worm Cafe vermi-composter, 3-tier, \$100. Bobbie Thomas, Seagrove 336-879-4145.

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

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

FARM SUPPLIES

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

Timber, oak, cedar pine, red oak logs; tobacco sticks, tomato stakes, 14 ft. load split firewood, \$1-\$900. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

Cedar fence posts, 8 ft., \$7. Ben Luthy, Union Grove 336-468-6597.

Diesel tank, 250-gal., stand, hose, nozzle. \$50. Bill Stirewalt, Mt. Pleasant 704-467-0273, bill1929nc@gmail.com.

Flex suction hose & strainer, 4 in. x 25 ft.-5 ft., \$125; fuel tank for truck, 25+ gal., \$75; Hobart irrig. pump, w/Wisconsin eng, VG4D, \$400. Alex Vernon, Stoneville 336-207-5730.

Firewood logs, deliv w/in 25 mi of Denton, \$85. David Lomax, Denton 336-688-5313.

150 ft. of 4 ft. chain link fence, w/posts, top railing, clamps, 4 ft. gate, \$500; 120 ft. of 3-rail vinyl fencing, w/rails, posts, caps, \$500 obo. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

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



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

4-wheel trailer, 13x6x6.5, 2-axle, tilt bed, GC, \$1,800. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

1982 Ford F-350 dump truck, 12 ft. bed, 38,000 mi, shed kept, GC, \$8,500. Steve McCauley, Mebane 336-263-2823.

2023 Calico stock trailer, 16 ft., gooseneck, \$9,850; 12 ft. stock trailer, \$6,750. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

Calico stock trailer, 16 ft., bumper pull, cut gate, \$8,995. Y.D. Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

Livestock trailer, pull behind, 16 ft., \$3,500. Mike Luxton, Lumberton 910-739-2534.

Flat head V8 motor, w/truck frame, cond unknown, \$500. David Lomax, Denton 336-688-5313.



Trucks & Trailers Wanted

Low-boy or car hauler trailer. Joe Woody, Morganton 828-334-0473.

IH 4-door travelette or p/u truck, rear bed not important as I will be pulling gooseneck hay trailer. Duke Harrell, Eure 252-333-0222, text or call.

To keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, check out the department's blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog, and social media links.

Don't miss a single issue!

It is the annual renewal time for the newspaper. Clip the card from the front page of the June issue and return to the *Agricultural Review* offices or renew online at www.AgReview.org. You will need the subscriber number above your name and address to renew online.

Wake County's Farmland Preservation efforts recognized

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently presented the North Carolina Friends of Farmland Award to Wake County for its innovative farmland preservation initiatives that have already preserved 238 acres of farmland.

The award recognizes an individual or group that delivers exemplary service in the preservation of North Carolina working lands and undertakes extraordinary efforts to foster the growth, development and sustainability of North Carolina farms.

"I cannot say enough about Wake County and the innovative ways county leaders have focused on farmland preservation, from revamping its Farmland Preservation Ordinance to hiring a Farmland Preservation Coordinator housed in the Soil and Water Conservation District office," Troxler said in presenting the award at the Wake County Board of Commissioner's meeting.

In terms of innovation, Troxler noted that Wake County has allocated the rollbacks from Present-Use Value to fund the program, meaning it takes the taxes from when land is converted for development and uses it to preserve the re-



Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently presented the North Carolina Friends of Farmland Award to the Wake County Board of Commissioners, Wake County Agriculture Advisory Board and the Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District for their joint efforts to preserve farmland in Wake County. Pictured above is Troxler with the Wake County Board of Commissioners. At top right, Troxler is pictured with the Wake County Agriculture Advisory Board members. And below right, Troxler is pictured with Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District members. Wake County has preserved nearly 240 acres through its Farmland Preservation Program.

maining agricultural lands in the county.

"I would love to see every county in the state implement a similar program, because we can see these efforts paying off here in Wake County," he said.

"I appreciate Commissioner Troxler for recognizing the value and importance of our innovative

Farmland Preservation Program, which has already preserved nearly 240 acres in Wake County," said Wake County Commissioner Vickie Adamson. "We're proud to be a role model for other counties who want to proactively protect land for producing food and protecting wildlife habitat and water quality."



According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, Wake County has 664 farms on 62,323 acres. These farms run the gamut from sales of less than \$2,500 to sales of \$100,000 and up. Of those, 432 Wake County farms are considered small farms, with sales of under \$10,000.

"Farmland matters to every

one of us because it is the foundation of our food production. I know there are a lot of grocery stores in Wake County, but we can't forget that our farms are the source of our food," Troxler said. "Farmland preservation helps ensure we have the natural resources we'll need to continue to feed ourselves and others."

Tate Mayo

(Continued from pg. 3)

farming equipment and more.

"As an owner of Mayo Farms, Tate is actively involved in the day-to-day operations of the farm. His direct participation in planting, cultivating, and harvesting crops demonstrates his hands-on approach to agriculture and his deep connection to the land," Amy said.

Not only does Tate take pride in the hard work that he does on the farm, but also in the socks that are produced through the cotton that they grow and what those products mean to the surrounding community.

"By vertically integrating cotton production with sock manufacturing, Tate showcases a creative and sustainable model for agricultural entrepreneurship," Amy said. Through his hard work on the farm and his agriculture advocacy through teaching, the sock company, and his efforts as mayor, Tate has become a model of sustainable agriculture and community engagement in Eastern North Carolina.

Since the farms conception, the Mayo family has kept a strong focus on sustainability on the farm and innovating where possible. Growing multiple acres of cotton and peanuts can have it's challenges, but the Mayo family always prioritizes a strong crop, healthy harvest and sustainable practice through the process.

"The Mayo family has always maintained a commitment to sustainable farming practices to achieve the highest-quality cotton possible," Amy said. "Today, Tate's stewardship of the land and responsible agricultural management practices contribute to environmental conservation and the long-term viability of the farming industry."

Like many other family farms in North Carolina, Mayo Farms is steeped in agricultural history and legacy that is important to Tate to maintain and preserve for years to come. These sustainable practices are one of the ways that he aims to do that, by not only caring for the land in healthy ways, but also producing products that customers want to invest in over and over again.

"The Mayo family has always been a staple in the Tarboro community, and Tate's efforts to not only maintain that legacy, but also build upon it, are inspiring," said Amy. "By exploring new opportunities and value-added products, such as Mayo Mills socks, Tate demonstrates his willingness to adapt to changing market conditions and explore innovative solutions to agricultural challenges."

Tate not only allows his passion for agriculture to drive him each day on the farm, but he also uses it to educate the community through his work as an agriculture teacher, FFA advisor, and

Mayor of Tarboro.

Growing up in the agriculture industry sparked a passion in Tate that he wanted to share with the world. There's no better way to educate on the importance of agriculture than by aspiring the next generation of leaders to get involved, find their place and start innovating! As an agriculture teacher at North East Carolina Prep School in Tarboro, Tate makes it his daily mission to do just that: educate and inspire. "Tate's commitment to agricultural education as an ag teacher and FFA advisor highlights his dedication to empowering the next generation of farmers and leaders," said Amy. "By educating and mentoring students interested in agriculture, Tate inspires future farmers and cultivates a culture of learning and innovation in the industry." As an FFA advisor, Tate helps students to not only learn about agriculture in the classroom, but gain hands on experience through FFA events, competitions and more. "By providing these kids with both head knowledge and physical experience, Tate is building a knowledgeable and skilled workforce for the ag sector," Amy said.

In 2022, Tate Mayo was elected as the Mayor of the town of Tarboro. In running for Mayor, Tate not only wanted to give back to the hometown that means so much to him, but also advocate for farmers in the area and



Tate Mayo, at right, with socks from his company.

advance agricultural initiatives throughout the community.

"I am very fortunate to call this town my home and hope that I can give back as much to the town as the town has given me over the years," he said on his election website. Over the last two years of service, Tate has gone above and beyond to give back to the community, invest in the local agriculture and promote the interests of agricultural entities and farmers across the community. "Through his leadership and advocacy, Tate actively supports the growth and sustainability of the agricultural sector in Eastern North Carolina," Amy said. "Through his dual roles as mayor

and farmer, Tate showcases his leadership abilities and dedication to serving his community on a daily basis in a way that inspires others to do the same for the things that they believe in."

Overall, Tate's influence across the agriculture industry, especially in the Tarboro community, is what made him a deserving candidate for our Young Farmer of the Day program at the Got to Be NC Festival this year. Not only is he passionate about farming on a full-time basis, but he also works hard to educate the next generation of agricultural leaders and pass down the knowledge and experience he has to help them.