

Agricultural REVIEW

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September 2024

Raleigh, N.C.

WARNING:
Sellers beware of requests from buyers to have a shipper pick up an item on their behalf. These can be scams targeted at higher priced tractors and equipment.

Upcoming Ag Review ad deadlines

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

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

Come enjoy the Mountain State Fair Sept. 6-15

■ Advance tickets now on sale online

Organizers with the N.C. Mountain State Fair sponsored by Ingles Markets are busy preparing to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fair with the new entertainment and an expanded Got to Be NC Pavilion featuring 22 new outdoor vendors.

New entertainment

Two new fair acts have been added to the entertainment lineup – Hillbilly Bob and Magician T.J. Hill. Hillbilly Bob roams the fairgrounds with “Old Ruthie,” a Ford Model A adorned with antique items and decorations to spark conversations and attract a crowd. Through storytelling and humor, Hillbilly Bob offers up an entertaining and inspirational show

Magician T.J. Hill warns fairgoers

to prepare to be “ma-jished” by his interactive and humorous magic show. Hill promises a different and highly entertaining show every time as audience members assist with the magic.

Hillbilly Bob and Hill are joined by such popular returning acts as Chase’s Racing Swimming Pigs, Sea Lion Splash, Cartoon Headquarters with popular kid characters, Brad Matchett’s Comedy Hypnotist Show and piano player Leon Jacobs.

Expanded Got to Be NC Pavilion

The Got to Be NC Pavilion showcases some of the best N.C. made food and beverage products, giving visitors an opportunity to sample and buy a variety of specialty products and support N.C. businesses. This year, the Pavilion expands on its space in

(See What’s New, pg. 3)



An expanded Got to Be NC Pavilion will be host to more member companies offering samples and products to sell inside and outside the Chevrolet Davis Event Center.

Pesticide collection program tops 5 million lbs.

The North Carolina Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program recently marked a significant milestone, collecting more than five million pounds of banned, outdated or unwanted pesticides in the state since the program began in 1980.

This milestone is a highlight in the 44-year effort of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which aims to keep the unwanted or banned pesticides from being accidentally released or disposed of in landfills or other improper manners.

Collection events in Columbus, Sampson and Wake counties garnered 20,000 pounds of pesticides in one week, putting the program over the five-million mark.

“It took us nearly 40 years to collect four million pounds of pesticides, and now the program has been so utilized that we collected another million pounds in just the last five years,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “It is a not a regulatory program, but instead is a voluntary way for farmers or other homeowners and citizens to safely dispose of pesticides. We were the

first in the country with such a program, and I’m proud that we continue to lead the way in protecting our people and natural resources in this way.”

Prior to 2019, the program averaged about 160,000 pounds of pesticides collected each year. In the last five years, that average has been 196,509 pounds per year, with 2022 setting a record of 217,476 pounds collected. This year, PDAP has collected about 170,000 pounds of pesticides.

“Essentially, the program aims to help protect human health and the environment,” said PDAP manager Derrick Bell. “It’s really rewarding to know that people want to do the right thing, and we’re helping them do that.”

PDAP averages 35 to 40 pesticide collection events across the state each year. Events are located so that people in each of the state’s 100 counties can access a collection in their county or a nearby county about once a year. More information, including the collection schedule, can be found at www.ncagr.gov/PDAP.

From the tractor

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler



Commissioner Troxler

Back in July, we hosted government and military leaders from Malawi and Zambia to North Carolina as part of a state partnership between the African countries, the U.S. Department of Defense, N.C. National Guard and the department.

During their visit, they were able to meet with campus leaders at N.C A&T University, Cooperative Extension staff and members of my team here at the department to

learn more about research projects conducted by the university and the outreach work of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service.

The team was able to tour the University Farm’s dairy unit including an automated milking system, a high tunnel horticultural space, plus beef and poultry units as part of their visit.

Members of my marketing division as well as our executive team visited these African countries earlier this year as part of the partnership and during the exchange they were able to see how important agriculture is to their countries. The African leaders are interested in being able to increase production to be able to feed their citizens.

In meeting with their leaders, I was reminded of how we are more alike than different and how important being able to feed yourself is to your national security.

Agriculture is vital for the rural livelihoods of both nations. In both



Zambia and Malawi, agriculture is a major source of employment and economic driver. Both countries are implementing policies and initiatives to enhance ag productivity; however, the governments implementing these policies will face many challenges. That’s where assistance is needed and where we have been asked to help.

Sharon and I were proud to host the visiting delegation to a special

dinner at our farm, where our commodity groups and Got to Be NC members provided some of North Carolina’s best food and beverage products. It was a good evening, highlighted by a very moving performance of Amazing Grace where attendees joined with the Wells Family of Johnston County in singing this special song.

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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Steve Troxler
Commissioner

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To keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, check out the department’s blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog, where you can also find social media links for Facebook and Twitter.

Ford’s Gourmet Foods honored



Members of the Ford family with their Marketer of the Year award for Ford’s Gourmet Foods.

Ford’s Gourmet Foods, the master distributor for North Carolina-produced brands including Wine Nuts, Fire Dancer Jalapeno Peanuts, Earth Family Organics and Naturals and acclaimed Bone Suckin’ Sauces, was recently awarded the 2024 North American Agricultural Marketing Officials (NAAMO) Marketer of the Year Award.

Nominated by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Got to Be NC program, the annual award recognizes an agribusiness company in North America who has demonstrated industry leadership, stand-out creativity and innovation in brand development and marketing.

“Lynn and Sandi Ford have been bringing quality products to market since 1946 at the old city market of Raleigh,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Their gourmet line really took off in 1992 when the entire family got involved and they began selling Bone Suckin’ Sauce at local retailers and at the State Farmers Market.

“Ford’s Gourmet Foods was built on hard work, service to customers and quality products. They embraced international marketing and worked closely with our staff

to broaden their customer base. You can now find their products in over 80 countries,” Troxler said. “International markets hold tremendous growth opportunities for food businesses and farmers and we are committed to helping them get there.”

Ford’s Gourmet Foods is a fourth-generation, Raleigh, North Carolina-based family business with a focus on making and distributing only the best. “The harder you work, the luckier you get,” said Patrick Ford, vice president. “This isn’t a journey you can do on your own, you have to nurture your relationships both with your customers and with government agencies. You need both to make it work and be successful.”

The North American Agricultural Marketing Officials (NAAMO) is an international organization of the State and Provincial government agricultural marketing officials who provide both domestic and international marketing services to the agricultural and food industries in their states and provinces.

#NextGenAg: Gardner rediscovered love of ag through an accidental class assignment

Life has a funny way of placing us exactly where we need to be, even when we don’t think it’s where we will end up. Peyton Gardner, a native of Princeton, grew up in a rural area surrounded by agriculture and never thought she would end up working in the industry. In fact, she was adamant against it for many years of her life. However, after taking a class in high school and working in a greenhouse, the roots of our industry wrapped themselves around her heart and changed her life forever.

As a child, Peyton has many memories of agriculture, not only from observing farms in her hometown, but also travelling to work with her dad. Peyton recalls spending days with her dad at work in Fremont at Helena Chemical Company. “My dad was the plant manager in Fremont during my childhood years, so I would go with him to work some days during the week if I didn’t have school or on the weekends,” she said. While there, she and her brother would climb lime piles and ride along to farm visits with her dad.

While she fondly remembers days with her dad, not all memories of agriculture were fond. “Being dropped off in a family friend’s soybean field on summer break mornings was one of my earliest memories in agriculture. I helped to pick pigweeds and hated it. At the age of eight or nine years old, I vowed that I would not spend my life in agriculture.”

As the old saying goes...never say never. Peyton started her path towards medical school in middle and high school with her sights set on being a Cardiovascular Perfusionist. All of that changed when fate put her in an agricultural class in high school.

During her sophomore year of high school, Peyton’s class schedule came back with an unexpected twist; she had been enrolled in a horticulture class. “I went to my advisor at the time and emphatically stated that I needed to be removed from the class because I was not in agriculture,” she said. “However, Jessica Harrell, one of my teachers and eventually my FFA advisor, convinced me to stay in the class and it changed my life.” Three



Peyton Gardner is working in the ag industry after a college horticulture class rekindled her interest in agriculture.

weeks into the horticulture class, Peyton got involved with the FFA Chapter at her school and started working in the greenhouse on campus. “As soon as I stepped in the greenhouse, I knew I had found my place,” she said. “There was a peace in the greenhouse that almost made the rest of the world disappear.

I love the feeling of seeing my hard work come to fruition, especially growing a plant from seed to sale.” Not only was Peyton involved in FFA for three years, but she also served as Chapter Vice President her Senior year.

(See #NextGenAg: Gardner, pg. 3)

Organic certification cost-share funds available

Organic growers in North Carolina can apply for partial reimbursement of the cost of becoming certified or for recertification through a program offered by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Growers who are certified or recertified between Oct. 1, 2023 and Sept. 30, 2024, can apply for assistance through the program.

“Applicants can be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the cost of organic certification per category,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and I would encourage growers and handlers to submit their applications early.”

Under the grant, operations can be certified and reimbursed in four separate categories: crops, livestock, wild crop and handler/processor. The maximum reimbursement per category is \$750.

The program is for the 2023-24

season and is funded through a \$135,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Applications must be postmarked by Oct. 31.

To apply, growers must provide a completed application, along with detailed invoices/statements from the certifying agency listing all National Organic Program certified costs, proof of payment, a substitute W-9 form and a copy of your certificate or letter from your certifier if this is a new certification. All charges must be for USDA organic certification. The application can be downloaded at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/marketing/marketing-grading-services>. Growers can also apply through their local Farm Service Agency office.

Application and required documents can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the NCDA&CS Organic Certification Cost Share Program, Attn. Heather Lifsey. For questions, contact Lifsey at 919-749-3337.

NextGenAg: Gardner

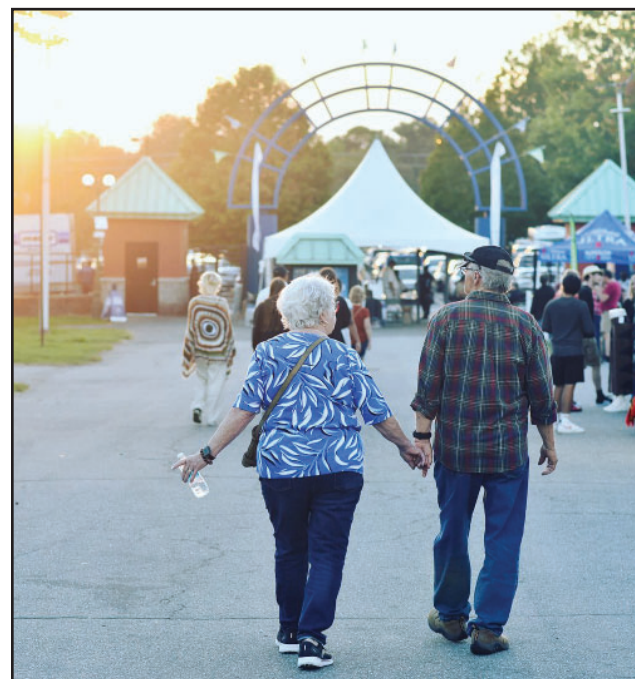
(Continued from pg. 2)

After graduating high school, Peyton began attending N.C. State University where she double majored in Horticultural Science and Communication. Pursuing two degrees meant an extra year of college, so Peyton graduated this past May! Not only was she super involved with her studies on campus, but also with many other clubs and organizations, including the Ag Communicators Program, the Thomas Jefferson Scholars, the Caldwell Fellows, the Public Relations Student Society of America, and Pack Clogging. “I will miss NC State University, but I have learned a lot here that has prepared me for an agricultural career,” she said. “I’m excited to

go out into the world and make a difference in this industry that I have come to passionately love.” Directly following graduation, Peyton started a job in the Professional Development Program at BASF in the Functional PDP Track. She will complete three eight-month rotations working with HR, internal communications, and external communications. In her dream world, after working with the company for many years, Peyton would love to one day host her own talk show where she can interview and visit with farmers across the state, and possibly even the world, to help people understand the value of farming and what all people in our industry go through to provide the products that we love and enjoy.

Check out the county fairs happening across the state

- **Hickory American Legion Fair** – runs through Sept. 2, Newton
- **Iredell County Agricultural Fair** – runs through Sept. 7, Troutman
- **Cumberland County Fair** – runs through Sept. 8, Fayetteville
- **N.C. Mountain State Fair** – Sept. 6-15, Fletcher
- **Lee Regional Fair** – Sept. 11-15, Sanford
- **Duplin Agribusiness Fair** – Sept. 12-14, Kenansville
- **Davidson County Agricultural Fair** – Sept. 16-21, Lexington
- **Rowan County Agricultural & Industrial Fair** – Sept. 16-21, Salisbury
- **Surry County Agricultural Fair** – Sept. 17-21, Mt. Airy
- **Pitt County American Legion Agricultural Fair** – Sept. 17-22, Greenville
- **Wilson County Fair** – Sept. 17-22, Wilson
- **Chatham County Agricultural & Industrial Fair** – Sept. 19-22, Pittsboro
- **Chowan County Regional Fair** – Sept. 24-28, Edenton
- **Caldwell Agricultural Fair** – Sept. 25-28, Lenoir
- **Haywood County Fair** – Sept. 26-29, Waynesville
- **Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair** – Sept. 26-Oct. 5, Dudley
- **Cleveland County Fair** – Sept. 26-Oct. 6, Shelby
- **Robeson County Fair** – Sept. 27-Oct. 5, Lumberton
- **Lenoir County Agricultural Fair** – Oct. 1-5, Lenoir
- **Wilkes County Agricultural Fair** – Oct. 2-5, North Wilkesboro
- **Carolina Classic Fair** – Oct. 4-13, Winston-Salem
- **Moore County Agricultural Fair** – Oct. 8-12, Carthage
- **Columbus County Agricultural Fair** – Oct. 8-13, Whiteville
- **Richmond County Fair** – Oct. 8-15, Hamlet



Fairgoers take in the sights and sounds of the Carolina Classic Fair in Winston-Salem.



- **Stokes County Agricultural Fair** – Oct. 10-14, King
- **Onslow County Agricultural Fair** – Oct. 15-19, Jacksonville
- **N.C. State Fair** – Oct. 17-27, Raleigh

What's New

(Continued from pg. 1)

the Chevrolet Davis Arena with an additional 22 outdoor vendors outside Davis Arena. Altogether, nearly 40 food and beverage companies will have products available in the Pavilion. Visit the Got to Be NC Pavilion and discover a new favorite foods and drink. “Agriculture and mountain heritage are at the heart of the Mountain State Fair, and they always will be,” said Fair Manager Sean McKeon. “These traditions mixed with the new are what makes the Fair unique and contribute to its continued success for 30 years.”

Traditional acts and activities

From thrilling rides and mountain music to heritage crafts and livestock shows, Mountain State Fair visitors will find it all.

Midway provider Drew Expositions brings 36 rides to fill the grounds with offerings for the youngest to the most adventurous of riders. Ride-all-day-for-one-price hand stamps are available every day of the Fair. Prices are \$35 for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and \$25 for Mondays through Thursdays. Vouchers for discounted ride stamps can be purchased in advance for \$25.

Sit down and enjoy some great mountain music and high-energy clogging nightly beginning at 6 p.m. on the Ag South Farm Credit Mountain Music stage, with matinee performances on both Sundays beginning at 2 p.m.

Or check out the heritage crafts in the Virginia Boone Center, where more than two dozen craftspeople will exhibit their craft making skills.

Special days and how to buy advanced tickets.

Advance tickets are now on sale for \$9 for adults aged 13 to 64. Beginning Sept. 6, prices at the gate and online are \$12 for adults. The price for seniors, ages 65 and up, and kids 6 to 12 is \$5 regardless of when purchased, and the fair is always free for children aged 5 and under.

An advance unlimited ride ticket that can be used once for any day of the fair are \$25. Unlimited ride stamps during the fair are \$35 for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and \$25 all other days.

In addition to buying admission tickets in advance, fairgoers can save money by taking advantage of

discounts on the following 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” presented by Sheetz Convenience Stores and the N.C. Mountain State Fair. The donation of five canned goods earns a free admission. Can goods may be purchased at Ingles or any grocery store. 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 add to the fun. More information is available at <https://www.wncagcenter.org/p/mountainstatefair>

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Fall leaf eaters seldom cause long-term damage

As we enter the dog days of summer, you may notice the lush green foliage of many trees and shrubs becoming marred by unsightly webs or seeming to have skipped over the bright reds and oranges of fall and have faded straight to brown, if not completely missing.

This transformation may be alarming, although the culprits behind much of these late season changes are oftentimes native insects such as the fall webworm (*Hyphantria cunea*), locust leafminer (*Odontota dorsalis*), larger elm leaf beetle (*Monocysta coryli*) and numerous species of caterpillars and sawfly larvae. While it's natural to want to protect our trees, it's important to understand the broader ecological context before resorting to drastic measures, which can sometimes do more harm than good.

The Bigger Picture

Like many native insects, populations fluctuate depending on environmental conditions and natural cycles. It's common for some of our most notorious native insects populations, such as oakworms and sawflies, to surge for a couple of years, causing significant defoliation before naturally returning to less damaging levels due to natural predators or less favorable environmental conditions. Truth be told, our native trees have coexisted with these insects since the beginning of time. While the damage caused by these insects can be unsightly, even when the outbreaks are extensive, they seldom cause long-term damage or tree mortality.

For most mature trees, the best approach is often to simply observe and let nature take its course. The unnecessary use of chemical or mechanical control for the benefit of aesthetics can disrupt the natural balance and have unintended consequences by harming beneficial insects such as pollinators and natural predators that help manage the pest population.

When to Worry

That said, there are instances when intervention might be warranted. For young, newly planted trees, severe defoliation can weaken them and make them more susceptible to disease or secondary insect attacks. In these cases, intervening with insecticides or mechanical removal may be necessary.

While native insects generally pose minimal threat to native trees, the situation changes when they're introduced to new environments. Fall webworm, a common late season



defoliator of hardwoods in the Southeast is a prime example. The caterpillars, or larvae, feed in colonies, spinning silken nests over foliage as they develop. In the warmer climate of the Southeast, four generations annually are common. Although the first generation begins feeding in early spring, the large, conspicuous webs typically become more noticeable by fall. Their primary host trees in the Southeast include pecan, persimmon, sourwood and black walnut.

In the 1940s, fall webworms were first detected in Hungary and have since spread across much of Europe and

into parts of China and North Korea. Although they present a low threat to the health of host trees in the U.S., they have been documented feeding on over 600 plant species including row crops, ornamentals and fruit trees overseas. Their voracious appetite has classified them as a serious agricultural pest, significantly impacting crops and orchards across Europe and Asia.

To learn more about the insects mentioned in this article, visit: https://www.ncforests.gov/forest_health/forest_health_handbook.htm

#NextGenAg

(Continued from pg. 1)



Calyn Thomas and her grandfather at her graduation.

full circle in the agriculture industry. Everyone is so willing to help one another. I can enter a room full of farmers or industry leaders and learn a plethora of new things about the industry," she said. "Then, I can turn around and teach those things to someone else. It brings me so much pride and joy to see the lightbulb go off when I teach people something new about agriculture. I think about those moments often, and they drive me to get up and do it again day after day."

For anyone considering a career in the agriculture industry, Calyn advises you to just go for it. "Take every opportunity that comes your way because sometimes amazing things come from risks," she said. "If you have a passion for agriculture, then the Lord will put you in agriculture. Trust in that and chase after the dream as hard as you can. There is a place for you in this industry."

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

- Sept. 2..... Horse and Tack Sale. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.
- Sept. 7 & 8..... Carolina Cutting Horse Show. Contact Nic Johnson, 919-782-8001.
- Sept. 14..... BBHA Open Show. Contact Jerry King, 910-237-4525.
- Sept. 21..... Da Bomb Barrel Racing. Contact Josh Smith, 910-639-6387.
- Oct. 7..... Horse and Tack Sale. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

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

- Sept. 7 & 8..... NCHJA "C" Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.
- Sept. 20-22 Sunnyside Open Horse Show. Contact Travis Alford, 252-378-4474.
- Oct. 3-6..... 9th annual Da Bomb Barrel Racing Finale. Contact Josh Smith, 910-639-6387
- Oct. 11&12 East Carolina Black Rodeo & Trail Ride. Call 313-231-6775.
- Oct. 19 & 20 NCHJA "C" Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.

WNC Ag Center, Fletcher 828-687-1414

- Oct. 3-5..... NC Championship Walking Horse Show. Contact Myra Helton, 704-718-4152.
- Nov.8-10..... Bull Mania. Contact the WNC Ag Center, 828-687-1414.

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

- Sept. 2-3 Labor of Love Dressage. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.
- Sept. 7 & 8..... UPHA Chapter 12 Preview Weekend. Contact Don Shirley, 864-630-1669.
- Sept. 11-14..... UPHA Chapter 12 NC State Championship Show. Contact Don Shirley, 864-630-1669.
- Sept. 21 & 22.... TWHA Show. Contact Dana Coste, 919-390-8126.
- Sept. 21 & 22.... Finally Farm Horse Show Series. Contact Lesley Jenks, 919-280-8087
- Sept. 27-29 NCHJA "C" Outdoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
- Oct. 2-6..... N.C. State Fair Hunter Jumper Show. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
- Oct. 16-19..... N.C. State Saddlebred Shows. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-365-5149.
- Oct. 20-24..... N.C. State Fair Horse Shows. Contact Equine Event Planning, 336-908-3302.
- Oct. 20-27..... N.C. State Fair Open Horse Shows. Contact Equine Event Planning, 336-908-3302.
- Nov. 1-3..... NCHJA "C" Indoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
- Nov. 6-10..... Jump for the Children/ Duke. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
- Nov. 13-17..... Jump for the Children II/ Duke. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.
- Dec. 6-8..... Annual Holiday Classic Open Horse Show. Contact Richard Isley, 336-908-3302.
- Dec. 13 & 14 ... Carousel Farms Bulls, Bells & Barrels. Contact Jeff Mullen, 919-796-8375.
- Dec. 28-31 Raleigh Indoor Holiday Classic. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

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

Support NC Farms. Buy Local!

NCSU Dairy Farm

(Continued from pg. 8)

to be a weekend supervisor. Mabe and Bigford have deemed her the “elite employee.”

“None of us have specific titles; however, we’ve had a calf specialist in the past — a temporary employee who calf feeds five days a week and does the extra chores,” said Vande Berg. “I’m trained as a calf specialist, but I also do a little bit of everything and have trained dozens of employees.”

Both Mabe and Bigford also have leadership experience training new student hires. This is a status level that most student employees can achieve once they’ve proved their skills at the dairy.

Most people initially hear about the student employee program through connections or other involvements.

“We have a waiting list of interested hires who will have to undergo an interview process,” said Mabe. “They usually come from volunteer programs or hear about the dairy in similar ways to the three of us.”

Bigford applied after some of her show captains spoke highly of their experience. Mabe was told about it by a roommate and Vande Berg toured the farm for her nutrition lab as an undergraduate, getting to see the tasks first-hand and talk with supervisors.

“Hiring depends a lot on availability too,” said Vande Berg. “If you apply and can work the shifts we need to fill, you’re more likely to get bumped up the list.”

During the school year, the standard for student employees is to work two shifts a week and every other weekend. The dairy typically operates with fewer student workers over the summer because many have moved back home or are participating in other activities; however, that provides a great opportunity for local students with flexible schedules to get more hours on the farm.

Mabe, Bigford and Vande Berg take advantage of living close, working almost daily during the summer. Although balancing the



Student employees at the N.C. State University Dairy Farm (L-R): Olivia Mabe, Caroline Vande Berg and Vanessa Bigford. At right, Mabe checks on a cow at the dairy unit on Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh. Milk from the dairy goes into making Howling Cow ice cream.

workload over the school year with their classes and other involvements can be difficult, they pride themselves on their ability to get the job done despite busy schedules. Additionally, the student employees and supervisors have tight-knit relationships and are always willing to support one another in times of need.

“It’s made very clear that this is a student program and a learning opportunity, so perfection is not expected,” said Bigford. “We also have a work group chat, so if we ever need coverage on the fly, we can text in there and usually someone is always willing to pick up a shift.”

Student employees at the dairy have the opportunity to train for three different positions: Calf Feeder, Milker and Pusher.

Calf feeding shifts start at 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. and involve caring for calves six months of age and younger. Additionally, these students monitor the pregnant cows and heifers in the calving lot to see if they are in labor.

The farm’s cows are milked twice a day. Milking shifts start at 6:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. and involve setting up the parlor and bulk tank room, milking the cows, sanitizing both rooms and starting the wash cycles after milking.

There are three main lactating groups of cows in the freestall barn: first lactation/fresh group, high group and Jersey group. First lactation/fresh group consists of cows who have

had calves for the first time, smaller-statured specialty breeds and fresh, mature cows. High group cows are mature Holsteins and Brown Swiss that generally produce the greatest volume of milk. The Jersey group houses all lactating Jerseys.

Also housed in the freestall barn are the dry cow groups who enjoy 24/7 access to the pasture. Additionally, there is a designated hospital pen for the cows in need of extra care and monitoring, as well as fresh cows a few days post-calving. Colostrum is collected from fresh cows, tested for quality, pasteurized, then frozen and stored to be fed to newborn calves. The milk from cows in the hospital pen does not enter the food supply.

The dairy has a double 10 parallel parlor. The cows are prepared for milking five at a time, which involves hand milking each quarter and applying a pre-dip solution to sanitize their teats. They are then wiped off with separate paper towels to protect individual udder health. Next, the milking unit is attached and will automatically be removed once the milk meter senses that the cow is done milking. Lastly, an iodine-based post-dip solution is applied. It contains skin conditioners that promote teat health and protect their teats from pathogens until they naturally reseal, which occurs approximately 30 to 45 minutes after being milked.

Pushing shifts start at 6:15 a.m. and

6:15 p.m. They involve bringing the cows to and from the parlor, scraping the pen lanes, flushing water tanks, grooming sand stalls, removing feed refusals in preparation for fresh feed delivery, turning cows out to pasture and completing other cow-housing hygiene tasks while the cows are milked in the parlor.

“Our claim to fame is that we are the only school in the entire country with all six of the most popular dairy breeds,” said Mabe.

Those are Holsteins (both red and white and black and white), Jerseys, Guernseys, Ayrshires, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorns. There are 160 cows and 140 heifers on the farm.

There are indeed differences between each dairy breed’s milk. Holsteins are known for producing the greatest volume of milk, making them the most popular dairy breed.

“People use Guernseys for their unique milk component production,” said Vande Berg.

Guernsey cows produce high levels of butterfat and beta-carotene within their milk. Beta-carotene contributes to the distinctly golden color of Guernsey milk, earning the breed its nickname of “Golden Guernseys.” The Guernsey breed also has a high prevalence of A2/A2 protein production, meaning people with milk protein sensitivity may find their milk easier to digest.

Jerseys are another predominantly A2/A2 protein production breed. They

also have higher butterfat content in their milk, making it a top pick for ice cream.

“The best ice cream I’ve ever had was from an all-Jersey farm,” said Mabe.

One of the best parts of being a student employee at the dairy is getting to head over to the Howling Cow Creamery after a shift and enjoy 50% off any treat of your choosing.

Mabe, Bigford and Vande Berg adore working at the dairy. They are grateful for the unique hands-on learning opportunity it provides.

“Being a student employee has prepared me for a future in the livestock industry more than reading job descriptions online,” said Bigford. “It’s important to me that I pursue a career I genuinely enjoy and working in-person at the dairy led me right to it!”

Mabe, Bigford and Vande Berg highly recommend the student employee program to any N.C. State students interested in gaining more real-world farm and livestock experience. It is a welcoming community of peers that quickly become friends, and everyone on the farm develops cherished connections with the cows. Although the work can get tough and some shifts start early, the student employees know how to make it a good time at the N.C. State Dairy Farm.

September AgroTips

Test your bulk soilless potting media before planting greenhouse crops.

Before planting greenhouse crops, propagating woody plants or beginning seasonal flower production, commercial producers should sample and test the bulk soilless media they plan to grow their plants in. The procedure, known as saturated media extract (SME), measures nutrient concentration, electrical conductivity and pH. The cost is \$5 per sample for North Carolina residents and \$25 for out-of-state residents, and test results are available online two working days after samples are checked in to the laboratory. Sampling instructions and sample information forms can be found online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrmedia.

Prepare gardens for fall/winter.

First, if you haven’t had your soil tested in the last three years, do it now! Instructions for collecting samples are online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrst.htm#sampling. Act now because after October the lab will begin receiving end-of-season samples from farmers, and the wait for reports will be longer.

If your report indicates that lime should be applied to raise soil pH, don’t delay. Winter soil is usually moist and helps lime neutralize soil acidity before spring planting. However, don’t add lime unless the soil report recommends it! Excess

lime can make some nutrients unavailable to plants.

Second, consider protecting garden soils by planting a cover crop or putting out mulch. Legumes—such as crimson clover, hairy vetch, Austrian winter pea—add nitrogen to the soil as well as organic matter when they decompose in the spring. In addition, crimson clover is a beautiful sight when it blooms! Another option is to plant greens such as mustard or kale and enjoy eating the small leaves as they grow.

If you don’t plant a cover crop, you should apply a 2-inch layer of mulch, such as composted leaf material, shredded or chipped pine bark, or pine needles. Straw can also be used if it is good quality without weed seeds. The mulch should be thick enough to reduce weed seed germination and retain soil moisture without impeding adequate water and air movement.

Once you have made these preparations, do not apply fertilizer until spring unless you are planting a fall vegetable garden. In that case, you can still follow these suggestions (even sowing a cover crop around the vegetable beds!), but you will also need to apply fertilizer as recommended on your soil report.

To keep up with the latest NCDA&CS news, check out the department's blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog, and Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



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

100 shallow supers w/ frames, \$1,000. Charles Wine-sett, Pinnacle 336-368-2519.



Equipment For Sale

Implements for sm tractor w/3 pt hitch; 2-bottom plow, cult, 6 ft. doub disc, GC, \$600/all; D8 H Cat. dozer, straight tilt blade, \$25,000. Paul Price, Goldston 336-337-5334.

JD 9400 combine & 920F header, EC, \$30,000. Harden Phipps, Julian 336-601-9031.

Sitrex finishing mower, 6 ft. rear, rough finish, not used in over a year, works, \$400. Skip Dalton, Walnut Cove 336-337-7021.

MF forklift, Perkins eng diesel AD3-152, Harlo 12 ft., 6,000 lb. mast assembly, new fuel pump, rebuilt injector pump, \$7,000. Ed Crook, Winston-Salem 336-830-7553.

JD 225 offset harrow, 90% blades, new hyd cyl, \$5,800. Don Howell, Mt. Gilead 910-652-3311.

Carry all w/dump cart, \$1,200; EHD 6 ft. box scraper, 8 shanks, new, \$1,900; tandem disc, 20x18, \$1,900; 7 ft. tillage, 9 shanks, \$700. Stevie Yarborough, Lexington 336-225-1301.

Helix auger wagon, \$300. Murray Cohen, Pittsboro 919-742-4433.

FARM EQUIPMENT

(2) David Bradley tractors, 1 running, 1 for parts, inclds wheel wghts, turn plow, disc, snow blade, sickle mower, \$500 firm. John Shepherd, Purllear 336-902-4309, after 3 pm.

Ford 1920 tractor, 2,900 hrs., recently painted, pics avail, \$6,000. Josh Warren, Nashville 252-343-1668, joshwarren1@hotmail.com.

JD self-propelled lawnmower, slightly used, 6.75 hp OHV cast iron liner, \$150. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, do not text.

MF 243, 52hp, 2wd EC, 95 hrs., \$13,500; cultivator, \$225; lrg carry-all, \$275; sub-soiler, \$175; scoop pan, \$200; auger, 9" \$150. Gene Dellinger, Statesville 704-876-6631.

JD 6620 Titan II combine, 4wd, w/915 header, EC, \$17,000; Case Ecolo-Til 2500, EC, new, \$15,000. Fran Marshall, High Point 336-457-0055, text or lv msg.

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.

Intl C tricycle tractor, been sitting, had for 40 yrs., \$2,500; JD mower, 25hp, 54 in. cut, 180 hrs., \$2,500. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

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

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

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

Kubota L185 tractor, w/59 in. Woods belly mower, \$2,950. Henry Lambeth, Gibsonville 336-697-0510.

FARM EQUIPMENT

NH 1069 bale wagon, 460 gas, 5,280 hrs., 8-spd, ac, sheltered, very clean, \$15,000. R.G. Hammonds, Lumberton 910-734-2991.

Cane Mill molasses mill, mounted on wagon w/steel wheels, pto-run by tractor, 4x8 ft. copper baffle pan, 100 gal. holding tank, \$1,200. Leonard Stafford, Oak Ridge 336-643-4990.

10 ft. pasture drag, \$600; 10-yard Agri-Fab dump cart, \$100; Gorilla 10-yard dump cart, \$100; 42 ft. Van Dale manure pump, \$5,000. Dale Blackwelder, Mocksville 336-655-9154.

Farmall Super A tractor w/ all cults, new battery. \$3,200. Vickie Rimmer, Burlington 336-264-0491.

Ford Jubilee tractor w/ equip, all new tires, \$3,500. Bob Trivette, Salisbury 704-213-4402.

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

1980 Power King tractor, model 1616, w/4 pieces equip, has fluid in rear tires, GC, \$2,500 obo. R.W. Dimmette, Jonesville 336-244-6960.

S-tine cult w/rolling baskets, Cat. 2, \$1,000; 9-shank chisel plow, Cat. 2, \$800. Wes Cook, Bahama 919-471-1266.

Boom pole, hd, \$175; draw bar, \$30; cult & shields, \$150; all LN, 3 pt. Bruce Myers, Lexington 336-787-4902.

4-wheel hay rake, FC, \$500. David Lomax, Denton 336-688-5313.

Meadows sawmill, complete, 52 in. 8-gauge saw blade, 471 Detroit factory power unit, all orig. sheet metal, hand clutch, \$7,000. Bob Hildebran, Hickory 828-294-0101 or Barry, 828-244-8465.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1953 Farmall Super C, good parts tractor, eng stuck, all other parts GC, w/cults, \$1,000. Larry Tallent, Lawndale 704-538-3424.

2345 bush hog loader, off Ford 3600 tractor, joystick control, EC, \$2,800. Steve McCauley, Mebane 336-263-2823.

Tillage tool, 3 pt, 9-shank, \$275. Fred Mock, East Bend 336-699-3426.

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

Service manual & parts catalog for Case 580-C loader backhoe, \$50 obo. John Huskey, Hillsborough 919-644-0136.

Plugger aerator for riding mower, 48 in. wide, flat-free tires, \$250; seeder/spiker for riding mower, 41 in. wide, flat-free tires, \$150; implement wghts, \$150. G. Stowe, Burlington 336-675-0466.

Corn sheller, grain scales, farm tools, plows, other items, \$25-\$500. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

JD 48 backhoe attach., \$3,500. Nelson Livengood, Salisbury 704-431-4576.

2020 JD 60D mower deck for JD 1025 sub compact tractor, auto connect, less than 60 hrs., w/load & go ramp, \$2,200 obo. Lanie Wall, Mocksville 336-650-6939.

Berkeley irrig pump, model 2-1/2 YP, 15 hp15hp, 230V, 3 phase, 3" intake, 2-1/2" discharge, \$2,250. Ted Sherrod, Kenly 919-201-8779, call/text.



Equipment Wanted

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

EQUIPMENT WANTED

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

Offset disc harrow for 100hp tractor, or larger. Mike Josey, Lawsonville 336-414-3312.

Power takeoff for Case 310 bulldozer, 1964 model, diesel, 188 cubic in., reasonable price. Thomas Hill, Trinity 336-861-4991.

MF 1040, 1045, 1140, 1145, 1240, 1250; 2wd or 4wd, GC, ag tires, loader not needed. D.G. Hill, Monroe 646-469-1327, call or text.

JD rear wheel wghts, model LA. John Huskey, Hillsborough 919-644-0136.



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.

11 ac Alexander co, rd frontage, co water, presently ag crops & forestry, perfect for house, mini farm or horses, \$160,000. Hendaal Price, Greensboro 336-404-0594.

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

12.5 ac for rent in Thomasville area, inclds barn w/lights, co water, crossed fence, \$350/mo. Bud Eanes, Lexington 336-472-2395.



Farm Labor For Sale

N.C. State University's Dairy Farm shaping lives

With over 1,700 acres of farmland, North Carolina State University remains one of the top schools in Agriculture and Life Sciences. One of its farms is particularly well-known among locals for providing an authentic spot to indulge in the university's famous Howling Cow ice cream: the N.C. State Dairy Farm.

The farm is a part of the Dairy Enterprise System, a farm-to-table structured organization that also includes the Dairy Education Center and Creamery, the Feldmeier Dairy Processing Lab and the Randleigh Dairy Heritage Museum. It is in the perfect location because North Carolina is a state that excels in dairy production. The state is home to 120 dairy farms and about 38,000 dairy cows that produce an average of 8.9 gallons of milk per day. In 2023, the total amount of milk produced equaled 107 million gallons.

The farm's mission is to provide educational opportunities for students by exemplifying gold-standard animal welfare and food safety practices while also supporting industry goals, agritourism outreach, extension activities and research projects. Leading operations include management practices to promote cow comfort, milk quality, animal health, reproductive success, progressive genetics, superior nutrition, breed preservation and safe animal handling — all of which contribute to the creation of a first-rate learning environment that fosters animal wellbeing.

A facility as intricate as the N.C. State Dairy Farm needs all the help it can get. In addition to six full-time employees, the dairy has 20 N.C. State student hires, led by herd manager Devan Pendry, farm manager Will Leatherwood and assistant manager Margaret Ann Peterson, who contribute immensely to bringing its operations to fruition.

Student employees Olivia Mabe, Vanessa Bigford and Carolina Vande Berg give the inside scoop on what it's like working on the farm. The three of them have discovered a shared passion for farm life and careers in animal agriculture, despite coming from different backgrounds and levels of experience within the agriculture community.

Olivia Mabe is a senior from Lexington majoring in animal science with a concentration in veterinary bioscience. She became involved in agriculture as a member and officer of her high school's FFA program. At N.C. State, Mabe is a member of the Animal Science Club and has been a captain of the farm's Dairy Show team since her sophomore year. She has worked at the dairy for two years and hopes to attend veterinary school



after graduation to become a livestock veterinarian.

"If I could work with only dairy cattle for the rest of my life, that would be the dream," said Mabe.

Vanessa Bigford is a junior from Richlands majoring in animal science with a concentration in industry. She is also a member of the Animal Science Club and Dairy Show team. Bigford's family owned horses and miniature horses while she was growing up, so she's always loved large animals. She is in her sixth month of working at the dairy and feels like she's found her true calling — a career as a herd manager or ranch handler.

"I admire what Devan does on a daily basis and how she handles the animals," said Bigford. "She helped me realize that veterinary school might not be where I want to end up and that I would rather be around a farm and its employees."

Pendry received the Premier Breeder award for the Open Holstein show at the 2023 N.C. State Fair.

"We have great animals here," said Mabe. "Winning this

award for Holstein cattle is an incredible honor, especially because it's the most popular dairy breed. We're all very proud of her!"

Caroline Vande Berg is a second-year master's student from Raleigh. Her exposure to agriculture began when she worked at a summer camp as a horseback riding instructor and small animal barn manager. Vande Berg also owns a horse named Valero, like the gas station. She is studying animal science with a concentration in ruminant nutrition, recently finishing an in vitro fermentation project and defending her thesis.

"I tested sunflower meal as a protein source in dairy cattle diets as opposed to the current industry standard, soybean meal," said Vande Berg.

With this experience, she sees herself becoming an animal nutrition consultant in the long run. Vande Berg, a loyal employee since January 2020, has worked at the dairy the longest of the three. She is currently training with Pendry

(See NCSU Dairy Farm, pg. 5)

#NextGenAg: Calyn Thomas focusing on ag education

Passion and dedication are huge drivers in the agriculture industry, and Calyn Taylor has had both from the time she was five years old. From farming and livestock shows to FFA and agriculture classes, Calyn has spent many years building her agriculture experience and leadership skills. Today, she has her sights set on a career that will impact the industry for the better.

Growing up in Snow Hill, Calyn was raised by her grandparents on a livestock farm. Home to cattle, show pigs and chickens, the family farm was not only a place where hard work was accomplished, but where love and a passion for agriculture were fostered. "My family has farmed cattle for years, but when I was five years old, my grandpa purchased a new herd and I fell in love the moment that I saw the cows," she said. "We have about forty head of cattle today, in addition to show pigs and chickens. Since I was five years old, I've always been involved on the farm and loved every minute of it." With a passion for agriculture that long preceded high school, Calyn became involved in FFA as soon as she reached freshman year at Greene Central High School.

Joining FFA is one of Calyn's life decisions that she looks on with joy and pride. "I wouldn't be who I am today without the FFA and the involvement it gave me in livestock



Calyn Thomas loves showing and caring for hogs. She one day wants to open her own agritourism farm to help others learn about agriculture.

shows and other competitions," she said. "I learned a lot of life skills, including time management, through the program and gained a lot of experience across the industry through opportunities presented to me." Calyn was an FFA officer for three years of high school and FFA President both her Junior and Senior year. She participated in livestock showing, livestock judging and poultry judging during her high school years as well. In fact, she has shown cattle and pigs at a variety of shows across the state, including the N.C. State Fair. "I love showing both animals, but pigs are by far my

favorite in the ring," she said. "I got a lot of good experience through raising the animals, showing the animals and, eventually, selling the animals that have prepared me for a life in agriculture." Through her agriculture classes, involvement with FFA, and livestock shows, Calyn developed a passion for agriculture that runs deep within her soul and drives her to get up each day to work hard towards a future that will impact our state's number one industry.

As a freshman at Lenoir Community College, Calyn is studying Agriculture Education and working towards an



associate degree in science. After completing her two-year degree, she plans to transfer to the University of Mount Olive or N.C. State University to obtain her bachelor's degree in agriculture education. "Agriculture is our livelihood, and it accounts for one fifth of the job force in our state," she said. "It provides a lot of the blessings that we take for granted each day, so it is my goal to help educate people on its importance. The world would be a better place if we all appreciated farmers and agriculture as we should." After college, Calyn plans to start her own agritourism farm raising livestock,

growing produce and plants, and offering events to the community that bring them to the farm. "I want to be an ag educator at my farm," she said. "I want to give people a reason to come out to the farm and learn about agriculture, touch the animals for themselves, purchase homegrown products, and more." In addition to providing agritourism activities and farm tours, Calyn also wants to offer camps for kids that teach them how to show livestock. "I want to provide livestock opportunities that I didn't have growing up," she said. "As long as I am helping to grow the future of agriculture with the work that I do each day, I will be happy."

Calyn's passion for agriculture, determination, leadership skills, livestock experience, and ability to educate others are all skillsets that she brings to the industry table. "Agriculture is why I wake up every morning," she said. "It's what gets me out of bed and fills my life with meaning, purpose and joy. I will work hard every day, no matter what I am doing in the industry, to further the impact that agriculture has on our state and the world."

Although she loves many aspects of the agriculture industry, Calyn's favorite parts are the people and the opportunity to educate others. "I love to watch everything come

(See #NextGenAg, pg. 4)