From the Agent

Hi Folks!

There are a number of events and opportunities coming up, both in and outside of the county. Very soon (Aug. 6), we will have the Central Piedmont Strawberry Pre-Plant Meeting, where one pesticide credit (N, O, D, X) will be available. On Aug. 22, we will have a Lawn Care in the NC Piedmont class and equipment demonstration. Also for those interested in improving their landscaping skills and credentials, Randolph Community College is planning a class to prepare individuals to take the Certified Landscape Technician test.

In September, there will be a class about Economic Assistance for Woodland Owners. Also in September will be Part III of the Growing Vegetables: Through the Seasons series.

For October, a Local Foods Networking Meeting is planned. Find more information about this on the right side of this page. Finally, in November, we will have a Putting Small Acreage to Work conference. Rather than having a series of classes once weekly as we did last year, we will have a series of speakers/topics over the course of one, or possibly two, days.

See the calendar of events for more information about these and other opportunities.

Regards,

Mary Helen Ferguson
Extension Agent
Deer Removal Service

Do you have problems with deer eating your produce and find fencing impractical for your situation? The NC Bowhunters have a program, the Bowhunter Certification and Referral Service, through which they will come in and remove deer, in or out of season. (Out of season hunting is done under depredation permits.) If you are interested, you can contact Jeff Morrison (704-838-6792) or Ramon Bell (336-643-4455). More information is available at http://www.ncbowhunter.com/BCRS.htm.

Local Venues Seek Local Produce

I try to keep an eye and ear out for opportunities for our growers to sell their produce and meats. Here are several potential opportunities:

- **Everhart Farms Produce & Crafts** (1801 US Highway 64 E; 336-625-2206) has scaled back its own produce growing and is interested in buying from local producers. Large quantities are not required. Items of particular interest include bacon, sausage, free-range eggs, okra, green beans, and lima beans.

- **Deep Roots Market** ([www.deeprootsmarket.com](http://www.deeprootsmarket.com)) in Greensboro is a cooperative grocery store. They are interested in local agricultural products. Make an appointment to meet with the appropriate department manager if you are interested in selling to them. Their phone number is 336-292-9216.

- Chefs from Asheboro (Bistro Forty Two) and Greensboro (Ganache Restaurant & Bakery) are among finalists in the Casual Dining part of the Best Dish in NC competition. It seems logical that, if these chefs entered a local foods competition, they might be interested in buying local produce, meats, etc. So, you might give them a call. More info: [http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/gginc/bestdish/casual.html](http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/gginc/bestdish/casual.html)

Cost-Share for Produce Safety Practices and Organic Production

NC Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services is offering cost-share for water testing (testing of irrigation water for generic E. coli is recommended to verify that excessive fecal contamination is not present) and for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) audits. To find out more about the cost-share programs or to apply, go to [http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/NCgradesvc/](http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/NCgradesvc/). For more information about produce safety, call me or check out [www.ncfreshproducesafety.org](http://www.ncfreshproducesafety.org).

NCDA&CS is also offering cost-share for organic production: “The NCDA & CS will pay 75% of the cost of certification up to a maximum of $750 to the certifying agency for any certification occurring between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009.” Contact Kevin Hardison at Kevin.Hardison@ncagr.gov or 919-733-7887 ext. 234 if you’re interested.

Don’t Miss [WWW.NCFARMFRESH.COM](http://WWW.NCFARMFRESH.COM)

There are many opportunities to market your farm online, sometimes for no fee. (A list of several such sites be found under “Farm and Market Locator Websites” at this link: [http://randolph.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/76/marke tingresources18Nov2008update.doc](http://randolph.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/76/marketningresources18Nov2008update.doc).) The NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services runs the [www.ncfarmfresh.com](http://www.ncfarmfresh.com) website, where people looking for different types of agricultural products can search for sources. I encourage you to sign up for this one, and others, if you have not already. You might consider making a Facebook, etc., page for your farm, as well.
Farm Credit Offers Financial Planning University Online

The following is excerpted from a press release from Farm Credit:

Farm Credit has received a grant to cover the tuition and make a new e-learning financial and business management course available to North Carolina farm families.

The on-line training will be offered statewide through North Carolina’s three Farm Credit associations. The Farm Credit University curriculum includes financial planning, budgeting and other money matters essential to a farm’s success. …

Farm Credit’s e-learning program targets young, beginning, small, and minority farmers throughout the state. Participants will be assigned a Farm Credit loan officer to serve as a mentor throughout the course. Highlights of the program include modules that cover business and personal financial planning, understanding income statements, cash flow, the smart use of credit on the farm. Each participant will have completed a business plan for their operation at the conclusion of the class. Priority will be given to former tobacco farmers and others impacted by the Tobacco buyout.

The grant provides for training 60 producers in a set of 2 classes over the next 2 years.

AgCarolina Financial, Cape Fear, and Carolina Farm Credit will be accepting applications for the program which will begin in October of 2009. Applications, a course outline, and program information is available at the following websites:

www.CarolinaFarmCredit.com
www.AgCarolinaFinancial.com
www.CapeFearFarmCredit.com

Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2009. Individuals selected for the program will be notified after September 15. The course will conclude with a group meeting in Raleigh in March of 2010.

Business Planning Resource: The Toolkit

Do you want help in making intelligent business decisions about your farm or other agricultural business, or a prospective one? Check out the resources available in NCSU’s Value Added and Alternative Agriculture Toolkit: http://www.ncvalueadded.org/toolkit.html.

Information sheets are available under three categories: Business Basics-Getting Started, Marketing, and E-Agri Commerce. Budgets are also available through this website. Randolph Community College’s Small Business Center (336-633-0275) and the local chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) (336-626-2626) are other helpful resources. Feel free to contact Mary Helen, as well.

Possible Food Co-op at New Senior Center

Candie Rudzinski is investigating the possibility of having a food co-op at the new Randolph County senior center, expected to be built near the Zoo. If you are interested in this possibility (another possible market for your products) you can call her at 336-624-3389, ext. 224 or e-mail her at candie@triad.rr.com.

Gleaning Opportunity

Emily Reeve, the Triad Coordinator for the Society of St. Andrew, provided this information about how growers can help folks who are having a hard time: "The Society of St. Andrew can pick up your culled produce or send supervised volunteers from local churches or other groups to glean from your fields. This national non-profit then distributes the food free of charge to food banks and needy individuals, usually in the very county where the food is grown. It’s a win-win situation for everyone.” (A tax credit for 10% of the market value of produce is available.) You can contact Emily at 336-315-6430 or 336-402-2712.
Upcoming Events

Randolph Co.

Central Piedmont Pre-Plant Strawberry Meeting
Aug. 6 (6:00 – 9:00 p.m.), Pioneer Restaurant (10914 N Main St., Archdale). Dr. Barclay Poling will speak about row cover use and production under high tunnels. Amy-Lynn Albertson will talk about marketing techniques, and Dr. Wick Wickliffe will speak on weed management in strawberries. One hour of pesticide credit (categories N, O, D, and X) available. Call 336-318-6000 to pre-register.

Lawn Care in the NC Piedmont
Aug. 22 (9:00 a.m. – noon), NCCE Randolph Co. Center (112 W. Walker Ave., Asheboro). Come learn about NC Cooperative Extension’s recommendations for establishing and maintaining lawns in the Piedmont. After a classroom session, core aeration and calibration of sprayers and spreaders will be demonstrated. Call 336-318-6000 to register by Aug. 21.

Economic Assistance for Woodland Owners
Sept. 3 (6:00 – 8:30 p.m.), NCCE Randolph Co. Center (112 W. Walker Ave., Asheboro). Dr. Robert Bardon, NCSU Extension Forestry Specialist, will talk about federal cost share programs for woodland owners authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, as well as state cost share programs. Present use value tax exemption for forest land will also be discussed. Dinner will be provided. Call 336-318-6000 to register by Sept. 2. (Note: Last year’s fall forestry meeting filled to capacity, so register early if you want to be sure to get a spot.)

Growing Vegetables: Through the Seasons – Part III
Sept. 12 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.), NCCE Randolph Co. Center (112 W. Walker Ave., Asheboro). This is the third class in a series intended primarily for home vegetable gardeners. It will include information about cleaning up the garden, composting, applying soil amendments, and using cover crops. Call 336-318-6000 to register by Sept. 11. Bring a bagged lunch.

Randolph County Local Foods Networking Meeting
Oct. 29 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.), NCCE Randolph Co. Center (112 W. Walker Ave., Asheboro). Come meet people who are interested in selling or buying Randolph County-produced foods. Call 336-318-6000 to register by Oct. 27.

Putting Small Acreage to Work Conference
Nov. 14 (and possibly Nov. 13). Following last year’s series of the same name, this event is expected to consist of several educational sessions during the course of one or two days. Growing specialty melons, grafting tomato plants for disease resistance and vigor, integrating animals and vegetables while minimizing food safety risks, and small farm equipment are expected topics. More information will be available later.

Randolph Community College Continuing Education Classes
RCC offers a number of small business classes and, at the Archdale Center, will hold a class this fall to prepare individuals to take the Certified Landscape Technician (CLT) test, which is offered by NC Nursery and Landscape Association. Call 336-633-0275 for information about Small Business Central programs and 336-862-7980 about the CLT test preparation course.

For NC Cooperative Extension, Randolph County Center, events: For accommodations for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Mary Helen Ferguson by phone, fax, e-mail (maryhelen_ferguson@ncsu.edu), or in person, no later than ten business days before the event.
Upcoming Events (cont.)

Statewide and Regional

2009 Farmer to Farmer Program: Farming in the New Economy – “What’s Old is New Again”
Aug. 11 – Sept. 22, field trips in the Piedmont and Sandhills areas. More info: paige_burns@ncsu.edu or 910-997-8255.

Farm Show and Tell Visits (Chatham Co.)
Aug. 3, Piedmont Biofarm (Pittsboro)
Sept. 14, Lee Calhoun’s heirloom apple orchard (Pittsboro)
Oct. 12, Okfuskee Farm (Siler City)
Nov. 2 Piedmont Biofarm (Pittsboro)
More info: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/ag/SustAg/calendar.html

2009 NCSU Fresh Market Tomato and Vegetable Field Day
Aug. 11, Mills River. More info:
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/writing/Field_Days/Tomato_09e-postcard.pdf
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/writing/Field_Days/tomato_program.pdf
828-684-3562

Mid-Atlantic Grass-Fed Beef Conference

2009 NCSU Turfgrass Field Day

2009 Summer Green Show (NC Nursery and Landscape Assoc.)

NC Goat and Sheep Producers Roundup III

Commissioners Food Safety Forum

Development With Trees: From Theory to Practice

Asparagus Twilight Meeting
Aug. 27 (6:00 p.m.), Roxboro. More info: carl_cantaluppi@ncsu.edu or 919-603-1350.
Upcoming Events (cont.)

Statewide and Regional (cont.)

*Sandhills Summer Cover Crops Demonstration*

*Establishing Cool Season Cover Crops in the Sandhills*

*Hoophouses for Season Extension of Direct Marketed Vegetables*
Oct. 1, Davidson Co. More info: amy_albertson@ncsu.edu or 336-242-2080.

*Marketing Through Community Supported Agriculture*
Oct. 20 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), Pittsboro. More info: [http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar2009.htm#csa](http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar2009.htm#csa) or 919-542-8202 (Debbie Roos).

(Note: The previous four classes are part of the Center for Environmental Farming Systems’ Seasons of Sustainable Agriculture series. For information about additional classes in this series [such as “Organic Certification” and “Egg Production in a Range Setting”] visit the CEFS website [http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar2009.htm](http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar2009.htm) or call 919-513-0954.)

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Contact Mary Helen if you want to remain on the mailing list for the paper version of the newsletter. The addresses of those who do not respond will be deleted from the list at the beginning of 2010. The e-mail list will not be affected.

Please also contact M.H. ([maryhelen_ferguson@ncsu.edu](mailto:maryhelen_ferguson@ncsu.edu)) if you would like to be on the Randolph Growers e-mail list, by which you can get the newsletter and more frequent updates.