

NEW PEAK SEASON SOIL TESTING FEE & INCREASED WASTE ANALYSIS FEE FROM NCDA&CS

The basic fee charged by NCDA&CS for nutrient analysis of waste and compost samples will likely increase from \$5/sample to \$8/sample in early December. A final decision is pending, but if approved, the increase takes effect on December 3, 2013.

NCDA&CS will charge a \$4 fee for all soil samples processed during their peak season of December to March. The peak season for this fiscal year is Nov. 28, 2013 through March 31, 2014. There is no fee for samples submitted from April to November. They hope this change will encourage more growers to sample early, creating a more balanced sample load throughout the year to improve lab efficiency. Receipts generated by the fee will be earmarked for lab improvements. Below are a few points to keep in mind.

- This year, December 1 falls on Sunday and is preceded by the Thanksgiving holiday. Therefore, samples must be received prior to the Thanksgiving holiday to avoid the fee assessment.
- Payment cannot be included/shipped with samples. Clients need to use the online PALS system to pay by credit card or set up an escrow account with NCDA&CS by calling the Agronomic Division at 919-733-2655 or completing an escrow account form. These forms are available at the Yadkin Extension Center.
- Sample drop off must take place during business hours, Monday-Friday, 6am to 6pm. A locked gate prevents access to the loading dock area after hours and on weekends. NCDA&CS is not responsible for samples left at the gate.
- Extended drop off until 9pm will be offered on select Thursdays as warranted by requests. Clients who want to use the extended drop off need to contact the Agronomic Division at 919-733-2655 by Monday at noon to schedule an appointment for that Thursday. Clients with a scheduled appointment will receive a confirmation call or email on Tuesday so they can finalize plans for Thursday. As they are scheduled, extended drop off dates will be posted on the Agronomic Division's homepage.
- Clients who desire expedited service during the peak season can purchase NCDA&CS expedited shippers to receive guaranteed turnaround time of 10 business days. A limited number are sold each year, usually in August or September. The anticipated 2013-2014 price for a 36-sample shipper is \$200.

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LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Yadkin County Beautification Program

Yadkin County Cooperative Extension is leading a beautification effort for the county and needs volunteers to help. At this point, we are looking for folks to serve on an advisory committee to develop a plan of action for the county. The beautification program will focus on litter prevention, recycling, and the importance of maintaining clean roadsides and a clean environment. Anyone that is interested in helping should contact Colleen Church at the Yadkin Extension Center. If you know someone that you think may be interested, please share this request with them.

Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Yadkin County Cooperative Extension is starting an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer (EMGV) program in the county with the first class starting in January. Classes will meet on Tuesday afternoons for 15 weeks, and the course fee is \$125. For an application, contact Colleen Church at the Yadkin Extension Center. Class size is limited.

The EMGV program is an educational and volunteer service program. Selected participants receive 40 hours of in-depth training on a variety of horticultural topics. Within a year after completing the training, Master Gardener graduates are to perform at least 40 hours of Extension related volunteer service. A variety of activities are available for completing the volunteer component, such as youth and adult gardening programs, community beautification projects, fund raising, homeowner education, staffing exhibits, and much more.

2014 PIEDMONT FARM SCHOOL

North Carolina Cooperative Extension invites prospective, beginning, and transitioning farmers to attend the 2014 Piedmont Farm School. This eight-month program is for individuals who are seriously considering or are currently involved in farming, and is designed to provide training in production practices and business planning, in order to help people operate successful small-scale, sustainable farms. Each month, from February to October with a break in July, the group will meet at the Forsyth Extension Center on the second Tuesday at 6pm for business training and on the fourth Thursday for day trips to local farms. Business sessions are 6-9pm and field trip days are 9am-3pm. Field trip topics include whole farm planning, livestock basics (meat, fiber, and dairy animals; hogs; and poultry), fruits, vegetables, specialty crops, agritourism, and marketing.

The registration fee is \$200 for one person or \$250 for two people that share materials. This includes lunch for four days. A \$25 late fee is charged for registrations received after December 14. No refunds provided for cancelations. Brochures with more information and a registration form are available from the Yadkin Extension Center. Class size is limited.

CFSA OFFERING GAP COST SHARE

CFSA is offering cost share assistance to producers who successfully pass a USDA GAP audit. Qualified applicants can receive up to \$600 in cost share assistance. To be eligible you must be a CFSA member farm in North Carolina, have attended a CFSA GAP audit training offered in 2012-2013, and attain a USDA GAP certification during 2013 or 2014. CFSA GAP Audit Trainings that are close by are provided in the upcoming events section of this newsletter or visit www.carolinafarmstewards.org.

WANT TO MAKE VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS? NC PROCESSING CENTERS CAN HELP

There are several community food processing centers available across the state to help farmers turn their raw products into value added products, or for those folks that have a great recipe and want to try selling some of their own product. These facilities are normally for rent on an hourly or daily basis for a very reasonable fee and include use of the equipment. They have commercial kitchens that are inspected and certified, so products produced there can be sold to the public. If you are producing items for sale from a home kitchen, you must pass a kitchen inspection with NCDA&CS. For more information visit:

www.ncagr.gov/fooddrug/food/foodbiz.htm

Here is a list of facilities in NC within an approximate 2-hour drive of Yadkin:

Rockingham Community Kitchen- Madison, NC

Offers farmers, caterers and chefs an inexpensive place to create value added products.

www.rockinghamkitchen.org

The Cookery- Durham, NC

Membership based culinary incubator kitchen. durhamcookery.com

Piedmont Food & Agricultural Processing Center- Hillsborough, NC

A **food incubator business** for local entrepreneurs located in NC's Piedmont.

A Food Business Incubator is a business, organization or group that assists (generally) small or startup businesses with a variety of services that can prohibit starting businesses from getting off the ground due to expenses, expertise or experience. Not just a community kitchen. Offers commercial kitchen and equipment, as well as consultations, training and product development services.

www.pfapnc.com

Blue Ridge Food Ventures- Candler, NC

An 11,000 sq. ft. **shared-use kitchen incubator and natural products manufacturing facility** that offers support in product development, guidance through the maze of regulations governing safe production of food products and dietary supplements, advice on packaging and label design, and much more. They offer a variety of classes for food and natural product entrepreneurs.

Their Natural Products Manufacturing Facility is a current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP)-compliant facility that allows individuals and small businesses to grind a variety of herb and plant materials, prepare herbal extracts and bottle, label and seal their products. Support services from the Natural Products Laboratory at the BioBusiness Center helps clients meet relevant regulatory guidelines (can provide chemical analysis of herbal products).

www.advantagewest.com/content.cfm/content_id/144/section/food

There are also several copackers in the state, if you want someone else to handle processing and packaging your value added product. Golding Farms in Winston-Salem, Thomas Gourmet Foods in Greensboro, and Quinn Specialty Products in Dunn are a few examples. For a complete list of copackers and other food industry services and supplies visit:

ncsu.edu/foodscience/extension_program/entrepreneurs.html

**NORTH
CAROLINA
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

YADKIN COUNTY CENTER
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YADKIN.CES.NCSU.EDU
COLLEEN_CHURCH@
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COLLEEN CHURCH
COUNTY EXTENSION
DIRECTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS

**GAPS WORKSHOPS:
PRINCIPLES OF FRESH
PRODUCE SAFETY &
NAVIGATING THE USDA
GAP AUDIT**

OCT. 29, 8AM-5PM
PIEDMONT RESEARCH
STATION, SALISBURY
\$10 & REGISTRATION
REQUIRED
336-242-2085

**FRESH PRODUCE
SAFETY PROGRAM AND
PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

NOV. 12, 9AM-4PM
DAVIDSON CC, UPTOWN
LEXINGTON CENTER
\$10 & REGISTRATION
REQUIRED
336-242-2085

**NAVIGATING THE USDA
GAP AUDIT**

OCT. 30, 1-5PM
WATAUGA COUNTY
CONTACT RICHARD
BOYLAN TO REGISTER BY
OCT. 22 828-264-3061

**CFSA SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE
CONFERENCE**
NOVEMBER 15-17
SHERATON IMPERIAL
HOTEL & CONV. CENTER
DURHAM, NC
WWW.CAROLINAFARMSTEWARDS.ORG

**LEARN ABOUT THE FOOD
SAFETY MODERNIZATION
ACT WITH CFSA**
OCT. 24, 5:30-7:00PM
ROOM 155A/B
WAKE FOREST BIOTECH
PLACE, WINSTON-SALEM
RSVP REQUIRED

**SOUTHEAST VEGETABLE
& FRUIT EXPO**
DECEMBER 2-4
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL-
KINGSTON PLANTATION
MYRTLE BEACH, SC
WWW.NCVGA.COM

**SOUTHEAST
STRAWBERRY EXPO**
DECEMBER 3-6
SHERATON IMPERIAL
HOTEL & CONV. CENTER
DURHAM, NC
WWW.NCSTRAWBERRY.COM

**2014 GREEN &
GROWIN' SHOW
EDUCATION:**
JANUARY 13-15
SHERATON FOUR
SEASONS HOTEL
TRADESHOW:
JANUARY 16-17
GREENSBORO COLISEUM
GREENSBORO, NC
WWW.NCNLA.COM

*FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON ANY OF
THE EVENTS LISTED, VISIT
THE WEBSITE PROVIDED
OR CONTACT THE
EXTENSION CENTER.

YADKIN VALLEY AGRICULTURAL FORUM

The first Yadkin Valley Ag Forum is planned for Wednesday, December 4 at the Union Cross Friends Family Center in Yadkinville. Registration opens at 8am, and the program begins at 8:30am. The program will feature the NC Highway Patrol with Regulations for Hauling Agricultural Products and Equipment, Weed Control in Pastures and Crops for pesticide credit, Tobacco Buyout Payments and other Ag Tax Issues with Theodore Feitshans, Extension Specialist and Professor from NCSU, and an update on local Voluntary Agricultural District Programs and member benefits. The program is free, but pre-registration is required. Call the Yadkin Extension Center at 679-2061 to register by November 27.

HORTICULTURE NEWS: COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

This is the first newsletter that I have finally put together since coming to Yadkin. I will try to share updates and events that I hope are relevant to many of you. Horticulture is a broad area, so this newsletter will provide information for producers, nurseries, and landscapers. It will be sent no more than quarterly and can be sent by email to those that prefer an electronic copy. If you prefer an electronic copy, please send an email with this request to me at colleen_church@ncsu.edu. If you want to be removed from this newsletter list, please email me or call 679-2061 with this request. I have not met as many of you as I would like, so please stop by and visit or touch base sometime. I would love to visit your operations and learn more about all of the great farms and products Yadkin County has to offer.