

Appalachian Mountain Commercial Small Fruit and Vegetable News

Henderson County Center

Winter 2016

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This editions is
filled with lots of
educational oppor-
tunities, be sure to
check them out!!

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Distributed in furtherance of the
acts of Congress of May 8 and
June 30, 1914. North Carolina
State University and North
Carolina A&T State University
commit themselves to positive
action to secure equal opportu-
nity regardless of race, color,
creed, national origin, religion,
sex, age, veteran status or
disability. In addition, the two
Universities welcome all per-
sons without regard to sexual
orientation. North Carolina
State University, North Caro-
lina A&T State University, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, and
local governments

Editors Note

Dear Agriculture Producer:

Well it sure has been a busy Winter for me. I have not gotten all of my plans done for 2016 and due to my workload may not be able to accomplish everything. There are only so many hours in the day and I just can do what I can do.

In order to do a better job in communicating to each of you and passing information from other organizations as well as keeping you updated on new technology I have started a new Blog. The address. <http://amcfruitandvegetablenews.blogspot.com> There is a place at the top of the blog to enter your email address to follow this blog and receive regular updates.

Sincerely,
Craig

2016 Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook

The Handbook is available online (see link below). We only have a few hard copies available for pick up (due to NC Cooperative Extension budget reductions limited copies were printed). <http://www.thegrower.com/south-east-vegetable-guide/>

2016 Henderson County Regional Grape School

2016 Annual Henderson County Regional Grape School at St. Paul's Vineyard (Alan Ward's) on Friday, February 19th Registration 8am. The first presentation will be begin at 9:00AM. Call 828-697-4891 for details.

4-H Plant Sale: Strawberries, Blueberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, and Asparagus!

Support awards and programs for youth in Henderson County by purchasing some plants! Orders forms can be found on our website: henderson.ces.ncsu.edu or in our office in Jackson Park. All orders and payments are due March 11. Plants must be picked up on Saturday, April 9, at Henderson's Farms, 705 Tracy Grove Road, Flat Rock, NC from 12 noon – 4:00 pm. Extra plants should be available 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Call 828-697-4891 for more information.

NC State University
A&T State University
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**
Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Buncombe County Friends of Ag Breakfast

Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 7am

WNC Ag Center, Virginia Boone Building

Join us and enjoy a complimentary breakfast featuring fresh food from Buncombe County farms and learn about the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Topic: Filling in the Gaps:
Final Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Rules
and What Growers can Expect

Speaker: Diane Ducharme is the
GAPs Program Coordinator and Extension Associate in Horticulture & Food
Safety Department of Horticultural Science, NCSU

Diane has worked for the past 16 years with NCSU-NC Cooperative Extension and now serves as NCSU Coordinator for Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) program within the Dept. of Horticultural Science and the Plants for Human Health Institute at the NC Research Campus in Kannapolis.

Diane provides leadership in developing and delivering comprehensive and coordinated educational programs and resources that support agents and farmers in fresh produce safety, post-harvest technology, and alternative agriculture. She currently is continuing her education in this area with the pursuit of a Ph.D. in Horticulture and Food Bioprocessing and Nutrition Sciences.

For More Information on her work:

<http://ncfreshproducesafety.ces.ncsu.edu>,
<http://plantsforhumanhealth.ncsu.edu>

Please RSVP: Ariel.Dixon@buncombecounty.org or call [\(828\) 250-4794](tel:8282504794)

South Atlantic Hops Conference March 4, 2016; Richmond Virginia

Description below from Jeanine Davis, conference coordinator, NC State University.

The interest in growing hops continues to increase across the South and Southeast. We held a sold out NC-VA hops conference last March in Winston-Salem, NC. This year the conference will be in Richmond, VA and we are calling it the South Atlantic Hops Conference. This will be an incredible opportunity for potential and existing hop growers to hear from leaders in the industry, including Ann George, executive director of Hop Growers of America, James Altweis of Gorst Valley Hops, and our own Dan Gridley of Farm Boy Hops and Lina Quesada-Ocampo of NCSU. On Friday there will be a hop yard and brewery tour. Saturday will be the conference and trade show. We have worked hard to keep the registration costs very reasonable and the hotel rooms are only \$79 per night.

Here is a link to the Eventbrite page with all the information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-south-atlantic-hops-conference-tickets-19730934757>

ALSO, we were fortunate to have a videographer volunteer to videotape our conference last year. We have posted those videos on my YouTube channel for everyone to view for free. Here is the link: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/herbs/Hops%20Conference/2015%20videos%20of%20the%20NC-VA%20Hops%20Conference.pdf>

USDA Expands Microloans to Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19, 2016 — Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans will be especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

“Many producers, especially new and underserved farmers, tell us that access to land is one of the biggest challenges they face in establishing and growing their own farming operation,” said Harden. “USDA is making it easier for new farmers to hit the ground running and get access to the land that they need to establish their farms or improve their property.”

The microloan program, which celebrates its 3rd anniversary this week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

This microloan announcement is another USDA resource for America's farmers and ranchers to utilize, especially as new and beginning farmers and ranchers look for the assistance they need to get started. To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

2016 COVER CROP CONFERENCE JULY 18-19, 2016

Mark your calendar for a two-day comprehensive cover crop conference for the South! Monday July 18, 2016 is a day of workshops at the University of Mount Olive focusing on cover crop research and extension priorities throughout the region. On Tuesday, July 19, cover crop field demonstrations will be showcased at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems Research Program at Cherry Research Farm in Goldsboro.

The conference will culminate in the formation of a Southern Cover Crop Council. The Council will help identify and prioritize research and education needs and facilitate networking and collaboration to enhance cover crop use in the region. Registration will open in February 2016.

For more information, contact molly_hamilton@ncsu.edu.

NC Farm School Presents "Effectively Marketing Your Farm"

Finding the right market for your farm
Getting your price right
Learn from a panel of successful farmers

How to find and keep customers
Effectively using social media

March 29, 2016
9:00am -12:00pm
Catawba County Extension
1175 Brady Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

March 31, 2016
9:00am -12:00pm
Richmond County Extension
123 Carolina Street Suite 100
Rockingham, NC 28379

NC Farm School Presents "Understanding your Farm Taxes"

Depreciation of farm assets
Sales of Business assets
Recapture of depreciation

Self-Employment tax
Land, Timber and "capital" asset sales
Sales Tax and Present Use Valuation a quick over view

March 21, 2016
9:00am-12:00pm
Forsyth County Extension
1450 Fairchild Rd # 6
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

March 23, 2016
9:00am-12:00pm
Moore County Extension
707 Pinehurst Ave
Carthage, NC 28327

Get in the Guide!

Connect with customers by listing your farm in ASAP's Local Food Guide, a directory of local farms - and the businesses that support them - in the Southern Appalachians. An online listing is free. Increase your exposure to potential customers.

The option to be listed in the consumer and/or wholesale Guide. Creating a listing also certifies your farm as Appalachian Grown - Identifying your farm as authentically local to our region. Certification will give you access to a variety of branded packaging products, promotional materials, and other services and resources. 74% of certified Appalachian Grown farms surveyed said the program helped to increase their sales in 2013. Visit appalachiangrown.org and click on "Get in the Guide" or call 828-236-1282.

13th Annual Business of Farming Conference!

On Saturday, February 20, agricultural leaders and over 200 farmers from across the Southern Appalachian Mountain region will come together to learn about business planning, marketing, sales models, and community resources. ASAP's conference features over a dozen workshops (see sample topics below), opportunities to meet with local wholesale buyers in the popular Grower-Buyer Meetings, one-on-one legal consultations, and time to engage in valuable networking with other farmers. We work hard to make this an affordable and valuable opportunity for all farms in our region, so please share this unique opportunity. Sample Saturday workshop topics include:

Farm business planning and financials, Recordkeeping, CSA models, Market managers roundtable, New market vendor orientation, Agritourism, GAP and food safety, Wholesale and direct marketing and more!

Detailed conference information can be found at <http://asapconnections.org/events/business-of-farming-conference/> or you may contact us at robin@asapconnections.org or 828-236-1282 with questions.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension
Henderson County Center
100 Jackson Park Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events – To see upcoming events please check our website – <http://henderson.ces.ncsu.edu>

Farm City Day - Sat., Oct 1, 2016

Below are topics and dates to remind you of the events:

Save the date: Mon. April 4th - Post Harvest Handling of Vegetable, details to follow.

Persons with disability and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate in programs mentioned in this newsletter, by contacting Craig Mauney or designated contact at 828-697-4891 or in person at the Extension Office at least 4 days prior to the event.