

NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center



Agricultural Update

December 2025

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Important Note: Registration deadline for events listed below will vary from as few as 24 hours prior the event to as much as 3-4 days prior the event so please register as much in advance as possible. Also, while attendance is open to anyone, meals, when served, will only be provided for those that register in advance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

US Flue-cured Tobacco GAP meetings have been scheduled. For producers within NC, all meetings are scheduled for January 2026. Below is the scheduled meetings. All will be held within the NC Extension office of the location listed and will begin at 9 AM. Specific details, updates, cancellations, or changes are posted at [GAP Connections](#).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jan 5th	Wilson
Jan 7th	Smithfield
Jan 20th	Goldsboro
Jan 28th	Greenville

The NC Commodities Conference will take place on January 14-15, 2026 at the Greenville Convention Center located at 303 SW Greenville Blvd., Greenville, NC. Please Note : This is now a one day event on Jan 15th, 2026! Registration, agenda, hotel discounts and more information is found at the [NC Commodity Conference website](#).

Area Corn & Soybean Production - Join us for updates from NC State University faculty members, Dr. Nick Piggott and Derek Washburn to examine economic outlook, commodity markets, enterprise budget tools and more on January 22, 2026 from 9 am - 12:30 pm at the Jones County Civic Center, 832 NC-58, Trenton, NC. Additional topics to be presented include soil moisture measurements for crop management, compliance with the Endangered Species Act, and, NC Soybean On-Farm Trail Results. Pesticide credit of 2 hours for Categories, N,O, D & X apply. The meeting will conclude with a meal for those that register in advance on Eventbrite. Register [HERE](#).

Private Applicator Safety Training - Immediately following the Area Corn & Soybean Production meeting on January 22, 2026, we will provide 2.0 hours of credit for Private Applicator Safety Training (Category V). For those that do not wish to attend the previous meeting, simply join us at 2 pm at the Jones County Civic Center, 832 NC-58, Trenton, NC. Registration in advance required. Register [HERE](#).

*Mark Eubanks now serves as the Pesticide Coordinator and will present these classes. For questions regarding the certification process or other license concerns, please contact him at 252-633-1477 or by email to: meubank2@ncsu.edu

HOLD THESE DATES

As always, we reserve the right to make last minute changes but we have the following dates, topics and locations that we can share.

- February 16, 2026 - Peanut Production meeting in Pitt County
- February 20, 2026 - Area Cotton Production meeting to be held in Trenton, NC

Endangered Species Act Information

Finding information to comply with pesticide application in regards to the new measures enacted by the EPA for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) can be found at <https://pesticidestewardship.org/endangered-species/>. However, determining the EPA's definitions and "next step" can be cumbersome. Below are some highlights. You will note multiple resource links needed to comply. After reviewing these notes, should you still have questions, feel free to attend our Area Corn & Soybean Meeting on January 22, 2026 where we will discuss this topic.

- The EPA's "Strategies" outline protective measures for pesticides that pose a risk to listed species and their designated critical habitats
- Mitigations will vary based on the specific active ingredient, use site, and application method. (i.e. There is no "one size fits all" solution)
- Pesticide applicators must follow the protections printed on labels and bulletins located on the website [Bulletins Live! Two](#)
- Drift reduction measures are specified on the label. If compliance is not clear, visit the [EPA's Drift Reduction Measures website](#).
- Each field must have a runoff/erosion reduction evaluation and must meet a set number of points.(web based evaluation and will vary according to application method, rate, landscape, and other factors). The [EPA Runoff Mitigation Measures Calculator](#) simply evaluates potential off-site pesticide movement based upon specific application methods and rates. (A Runoff AND Spray Drift Calculator Tool is found [HERE](#)).
- The [EPA's Bulletins Live! Two](#) is a website that provides information for specific geographic areas (Pesticide Use Limitation Areas or PULAs) where listed species or their critical habitat are found. This site must be checked before each pesticide application.
- The [EPA's Pesticide App for Label Mitigations](#) (PALM) is a spray drift calculator. It is a user-friendly mobile app that helps you understand and calculate the mitigations you can use to reduce the spray drift. Total points required will range from 0 to 9 and are determined by how likely the pesticide is to contaminate water and harm endangered species or critical habitat.
- Listing of points and mitigation measures that may help those not meeting the minimum required score can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mitigation-menu>.

Soybean Production in Wet, Dry and Optimal Soil Moisture

Similar to the corn studies, soybeans were subjected to optimal, wet, and dry soil conditions to evaluate the impact of these soil moisture conditions on yield. Unlike corn, soybean data for 2025 show that optimal and wet conditions yield similarly. Dry soil yields were significantly lower. Too, the data continues to show that Group IV and Group V maturing soybeans yield significantly higher than Group VI. Review the data at [2025 Water Resiliency Soybean Stress Trials](#).

Local Youth Win National Awards

Ashley Brooks, our 4-H Agent, has worked continuously over the past few years to foster youth development and achievements. These efforts have resulted in two teenagers from this area receiving national awards. Lexi Gilkey and Elizabeth Peluso spent hours learning production, egg qualities, and processing of poultry to compete, and win, district, state, and national awards. Competing against the best youth poultry judges in America:

Lexi earned incredible honors, including:

- 4th Place Individual Overall – Production Hens
- 2nd Place Team Overall – Production Hens
- 7th Place Overall Individual
- 3rd Place Overall Team

Elizabeth earned honors included:

- 3rd time representing NC at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference and her third national award
- 5th place with her team in National Avian Bowl
- National Reserve Champion, individual

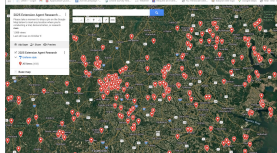
Read more at our [home webpage](#). Also, please join me in congratulating these two teens in their accomplishments!

2026 Private Applicator Safety Training

Mark Eubanks will provide future classes for recertification of those with pesticide licenses. Due to construction work on the Craven County Agricultural Building, most classes in 2026 will be held in other counties or within the Craven on a limited basis. As such, pre-registration will be required to ensure we have adequate seating space. (All rooms have a capacity of 20).

To date, scheduled and approved classes are listed below. Check the [NCDA & CS Pesticide Training Course Calendar](#) or our [Event Webpage](#) in early 2026 for registration information.

- **Jan 29th** at the CMAST Building in Carteret from 2-4 pm, Pesticide Safety, Category V
- **Feb 11th** at the CMAST Building in Carteret from Carteret from 9 am-1pm,. This class offers Private Applicator Safety, Category V and Specialty Credits for Category X
- **Feb 25th** at River Bend Large Conferences Room (51 shoreline Drive New Bern) from 9 am-1pm. This class offers Private Applicator Safety, Category V and Specialty Credits for Category X.



NC Extension On-Farm Demonstrations and Research

Each year Extension Agents across the state coordinate research or demonstration plots with farmers. So, first, and most importantly,

THANK YOU for cooperating. Secondly, if you've ever wondered what this might look like across the state, view the site, [2025 Extension Agent Research & Demonstration Sites](#).

And again, thank you for supporting this type of research through commodity check-off dollars and your cooperation!

Craven County Agricultural Building Remodeling

Just a reminder that remodeling is scheduled for the Craven County Agricultural Building beginning in September 2025 through June 2026. As such, the auditorium will be closed to the public during this time. Production meetings, events, pesticide classes, etc. will be held in other buildings within the county or in other counties. Please note the location in these counties when announcements arrive in future emails, web posts, or newsletters.



NC Farm Help Line

Tariffs, low economic prices, unpredictable weather, age, labor problems, and many other factors contribute to stress of farming. In fact, whether we like it or not, agriculture has one of , if not the highest, accidental death rates due to equipment use, as well as the highest suicide rate for occupations. Do consider potential impact of things that can

be a negative influence on production but please don't worry about things you cannot change! If you find yourself depressed, well, we can listen! If you are not comfortable discussing issues with us, help is available 24/7, through the Help Line that connects individuals experiencing a crisis or in need of other help with resources including mental health, financial, legal, farm safety/health, Cooperative Extension and more at 844-325-3276 or online at <https://ncfarmstress.org/crisis-and-resource-lines/>. Additionally, for tobacco producers, legal or labor assistance is available free from [GAP Connections](#)

Disclaimer:

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any product.

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Mike Carroll, Director and Field Crops	mike_carroll@ncsu.edu
Ashley Brooks, 4-H & Youth Development	albrook4@ncsu.edu
Stephanie Stephenson, Family & Consumer Sciences	stephanie_stevenson@ncsu.edu
Lisa Rayburn, Specialty Crops & Markets	lisa_rayburn@ncsu.edu
Kristi Welke, Area Livestock Agent	kdwelke@ncsu.edu
Mark Eubanks, Consumer Horticulture	meubank2@ncsu.edu
Debbie Titus, Administration	debbie_titus@ncsu.edu

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, N.C. Cooperative Extension will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Please direct accommodation requests to: Mike Carroll at 252-633-1477 or email: mike_carroll@ncsu.edu. Requests can be served more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.

Español

“Para dar cumplimiento a la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), Extension aceptará las solicitudes de adaptaciones razonables que realicen las personas con discapacidades. Por favor, envíe las solicitudes de adaptaciones a: Mike Carroll at 252-633-1477 or email: mike_carroll@ncsu.edu. Las solicitudes podrán ser atendidas con mayor eficacia si se notifica con al menos 10 días de antelación al evento.”

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Declaración Completa (Español)

La Extensión Cooperativa de Carolina del Norte prohíbe la discriminación por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo (incluido el embarazo), discapacidad, religión, orientación sexual, identidad de género, información genética, afiliación política y condición de veterano.

*If you feel you have experienced discrimination or harassment,
you may file a report with Equal Opportunity and Equity.
<https://diversity.ncsu.edu/report-a-concern/>*

Place additional articles/links below:

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NC State University and N.C. A&T State University work in tandem, along with federal, state and local governments, to form a strategic partnership called N.C. Cooperative Extension.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

N.C. Cooperative Extension - Craven County Center, 300 Industrial Dr, New Bern, NC 28562, United States

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