

NC STATE

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Agricultural News From Craven County Extension

1 message

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NC STATE EXTENSION

NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center

Agricultural Update



October 2024

In this Newsletter.....*Upcoming Events**Feral Swine Management**Hurricane Relief For Western NC**Private Applicator Recertification Deadline Extended**Tobacco Greenhouse Acid & Water Quality**Trend & Information to Watch**Graduate Student Survey**Podcast*

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

Animal Waste Recertification Credits – Classes below offer virtual and in-person recertification credits for animal waste applicators.

State Wide Zooms: 3 hours each:

- November 7th from 9am-12pm – Register at <https://go.ncsu.edu/2024oicnovZ>

- November 9th from 9 am-12 pm – Register at <https://go.ncsu.edu/2024oicnov19>

In-Person (Contact the appropriate NC Cooperative Extension for details)

Duplin County - 2 chances: Friday Nov. 22nd & Tuesday Dec. 3rd

Hoke County - December 2nd

Greene County-December 5th

Cumberland County - December 5th

Sampson County - December 6th

Wayne County- December 4th

Bladen County - December 10th

Lenoir County- December 12th

Eastern North Carolina Certified Crop Advisory Training: This event will provide 20 hours of credits for Certified Crop Advisors. The tentative date for this event (awaiting approval from National CCA) will be December 10-12, 2024 at the Johnston County Extension office, **2736 Hwy 210, Smithfield, NC**. More information will follow once final plans have been approved.

34th Annual NC Commodity Conference – Join the grain and cotton industry December 8-10th to gain access to the latest trends, tools, and predictions to continue thriving within your sector. The event features include keynote presentations, commodity and legislative updates, production sessions and panel discussions. The event will be held Sheraton Imperial Hotel **4700 Emperor Blvd, Durham, NC 27703** Durham, NC **(919) 941-5050**. Secure your stay with preferred rate today under NC Commodity Conference room block. The agenda, registration and additional information is found at the [NC Commodity Conference website](#).

The North Carolina Strawberry Growers Association will host the **Southeast Strawberry Expo** in Atlantic Beach, November 12 - 14. This event will include the Association's annual meeting as well as new grower workshop, farm tours, a trade show, educational sessions and pesticide credits. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

The North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association and NC Cooperative Extension will host the **2024 Vegetable & Fruit Expo** in Myrtle Beach, December 3-4. This event includes a trade show, educational sessions, and pesticide credits. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Feral Swine Management

We received a phone call from the USDA Wildlife Resource stating that some areas within Eastern NC are eligible for assistance to manage wild hogs. If you have issues with wild hogs and would like assistance, please email or call me and I will relay information to you.

Hurricane Relief for Western NC

Every day, NC Extension meets via Zoom to discuss volunteer efforts and needs for Western NC. Recovery will be very slow for many reason. As such, Extension is coordinating with many agencies and groups with aim to maximize efforts and resources.

To give some example of how complex this issue is now and will be for the future, consider the comments made by an Extension employee in that area. He stated that "Mud and rock slides blocked the streams and rivers creating a new path for water that was backing up. The damned area finally broke only to move thousands of gallons of water, mud, debris and rocks into fields. There is probably no recovery of these fields for field crop production". Similar stories follow

vegetable production, nurseries, apple production, and Christmas tree production. Dairy cows have mostly been found, moved and isolated for feeding but milking is limited and transporting the milk from the dairies is difficult. Lastly, there is still concern that any additional rainfall will only create new mudslides to the unstable soil deposits. Establishing a cover crop on these sloped soils to prevent erosion and future problems seems logical yet many have no equipment and supplies to do so.

One reason for this update is to alert you that should you wish to volunteer, unless you have a place to stay, food you can take with you, and are already a part of an official group or agency that is coordinating with Emergency Management Services or FEMA, then please wait until the situation gets a bit more stable. Another is that should you not be able to volunteer, then please consider donations of all kinds. Lastly, be aware that there are folks that are taking advantage of others by posing as relief aid and asking individuals for cash or other donations that are not associated with any actual organization. So be aware of whom you are working with when making donations.

Livestock needs are still demanding attention. The direct link to the Disaster Hay and Livestock Assistance Portal is <https://go.ncsu.edu/livestockdisasterhelp>. The form asks if you need help or want to help. To donate click on the 'Want to Help' button, then you will be asked for contact information and items you have to donate. Various donation collection sites have been set up in and around Western North Carolina. For a list of these sites that are being continuously updated, go to: <https://www.ncagr.gov/emergency-programs/disaster-information/agsupplydonation>

At the moment, items in great need are coats, fencing, hay, food and water. Too, items for children have been requested to lessen traumatic stress to these young one. Our 4-H Agent, Ashley Brooks, is coordinating a collection of specifically for children that will be transported directly to a distribution site. Collection will be from Monday, October 14- Wednesday, October 16 (5pm) at our office. Suggested items and details are found at <https://nc4h.ces.ncsu.edu/helpful-hands-healing-hearts/?>



Help our Western NC Counties Donate items for LIVESTOCK assistance



- FENCING
- Basic animal supplies & equipment
- Livestock first aid items
- Troughs and Feeders
- Mineral supplements
- Drop off a gift card and we will purchase supplies to donate

Bring items to:
Craven Cooperative Extension
300 Industrial Drive
New Bern, NC 28562

Drop off by 5:00 PM
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
for them to be taken this week



Private Applicator License Recertification Deadline Extended

The Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division is extending the date for private pesticide recertification until Dec. 20 for all counties. These typically expire on Sept. 30. This extension is due to the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene. More information of pesticide licensing and certification at the [NCDA & CS Pesticide Division website](#).

In a similar update, the NCDA & CS Pesticide Division has created a section just for Private Applicators to make finding classes and credit status easier to find. View this [Private Applicator Web portal](#).

Tobacco Greenhouse Acid & Water Quality

We routinely add acid to water to correct for high carbonate and bicarbonates that impede nutrient uptake. Rates of acid added from water sources in this area typically range from 3-7 oz/100 gallons of water. As such, it is wise to have the water source tested prior to seeding the greenhouse. We have limited funds to pay for this and will be glad to assist. Simply call us.

Should you decide to sample on your own, the water source needs to run about 10 minutes. Use this time to triple rinse your plastic container and lid (16 oz minimum). After this time has expired, collect your water sample and refrigerate the sample until mailed.

Last year we found limited supply of any acid within this area for use that was not in very small containers. This is likely to case this year too. As such, it is prudent to begin examination of potential sources. Note that the standard recommendation assumes 35% sulfuric acid yet acids sold online and elsewhere will range from 20-95%. So, be aware of the concentration rate you purchase.

Another consideration is that some of the most economical sources have a higher concentration yet are only sold in 55 gallon drums. As such, it may be feasible to partner with other growers to save on delivery as well as price.

Lastly, this correction must be made before seeding or immediately afterward to be effective. Waiting to correct the water allows poor water quality to soak into the media and usually results in poor survivability as well as very uneven growth.

Should acid become difficult to obtain, there are other options but these options require more product and may leave the greenhouse smelling of vinegar or citrus or be slightly less effective. See the chart below for alternatives

Table 1. Sources of acid that may be used to neutralize tobacco float water alkalinity.

Acid Source (and concentration)	Amount that will neutralize 1 meq of alkalinity	Special comments
Nitric acid (67%)	0.68 fl. oz/100 gallons	Will provide 0.164 ppm N/fl. oz applied/100 gallons of water
Phosphoric acid (75%)	0.73 fl. oz/100 gallons	Will provide 0.288 ppm P/fl. oz applied/100 gallons of water
Sulfuric acid (35%)	1.1 fl. oz/100 gallons	Will provide 0.11 ppm S/fl. oz applied/100 gallons of water
Acetic acid (5%)	66 fl. oz/100 gallons	Similar concentration to food grade vinegar
Acetic acid (30%)	11 fl. oz/100 gallons	More highly concentrated than food grade vinegar
Citric acid (99.5%)	0.91 oz/100 gallons	Can be purchased as a dry or liquid material

Trends & Information to Watch

Below are some tidbits of information that will aid in planning. Keep in mind that at least some of the information below is preliminary and more will be provided later as we obtain new information.

- Dicamba application over the top of cotton or soybean crops is probably not going to be an option for 2025 season due to labeling requirement regarding compliance issues with the Endangered Species Act. However, the trait will remain within the varieties since the technology often involves multiple companies, not just the seed company. As such, fees associated with this technology may remain. Having thusly stated, seed companies are seeking a way to rebate farmers for all or part of this payment.
- Seeking to protect other pesticides from the same fate as the auxin herbicides, the EPA has established a protocol to deal with the Endangered Species Act. As noted in the last session of pesticide trainings, [Bulletins Live! Two](#) will provide updates, limitations, and restrictions. To aid in understanding the issue as well as tools pesticide applicators can use, the EPA also created the [Pesticides and Endangered Species Educational Resources Toolbox](#).
- The EPA has expanded the new distance for "application exclusion zones" (AEZ). The AEZ is 25 feet if farmers spray pesticides with medium or larger droplets from a height greater than 12 inches from the soil. For pesticides with fine droplets, the AEZ is 100 feet. The EPA also clarified that the AEZ can extend beyond a farm's property. Essentially, this means the pesticide applicator will now become responsible to ensure that any other individual does not come into contact with pesticide drift. Many state department of agriculture and more have filed complaints against this ruling, stating impractical and unreasonable efforts required by the applicator to control the actions of individuals over which they have no control.
- The NCDA & CS Farmland Trust has provided grants for agricultural conservation easements on working farms and forests; to support public-private enterprise programs that promote profitable and sustainable agricultural, horticultural and forestland activities; to develop agricultural plans; and to create Agricultural Growth Zones that enhance local investments in farmland preservation. During the most recent grant cycle, the N.C. ADFP Trust Fund awarded \$18.2 million to protect working farms and forests, support county farmland preservation efforts and promote agricultural enterprises. Just as the Wildlife Conservation Land Program, if you have no intentions of farming 20 years from now yet desire your land to remain as farmland, keeping track of how these funds may benefit you is worthy. Read more at the [NC ADFP Trust Fund website](#).
- When Congress returns in November, it is critical that a new farm bill pass. While most appear to support higher price support for farmers, deciding how to fund this increase has kept passage to date. It seems a stalemate as decisions how to offset expense of the farm bill should be by placing limits on nutritional support such as SNAP or climate programs funded by IRA. Now would be a good time to discuss with your representatives how this decision impacts you and your family.

Graduate Student Survey Request

Sarah Farlee, a graduate student at NC A&T State University is seeking input from former 4-H and FFA members for a voluntary survey regarding how participation might have influenced decisions regarding higher education and work experience. This is part of her graduate research project. To participate, you must have participated in an agricultural program within the state of North Carolina and be at least 18 Years or older. If you would like to participant, [visit the survey](#).

Podcast

Two podcast that are released regularly by Extension regarding crop production within this area are listed below:

CropSense: Jacob Morgan, Director of Jones County Extension, produces weekly podcast with NCSU faculty and industry. If you would like to listen to these podcast, visit, <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1780395/12734496> or email him directly.

Corn Kernels - Dr. Ron Heiniger will post information regularly. See details in this newsletter under the section, "[Corn News](#)".

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.

NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center

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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.

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*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/>*

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