



Agricultural Update

News from NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center

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Upcoming Events

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.*

Pamlico Farm Tour – On July 23, 2026, NC Cooperative Extension, Pamlico Center will provide a farm tour beginning at 9 am at the Pamlico Heritage Center. This event will provide updates on use of tools to monitor weather, disease, crop growth and fungicide use. After this short presentation, the group will travel to New Ditch Area to review field plots of the NC Corn OVT, Corn Pollination Trials, and NC Soybean Producer Trials. The meeting will conclude with a meal prepared by the FFA youth. The meeting will provide 1.0 hour of pesticide credits. Register via Eventbrite [HERE](#). The agenda with links to meeting, field location, and meal is located on the Eventbrite site.

2026 Tobacco Field Day – On July 23, 2026, NCSU will provide a tour of research plots located at the Oxford Research Station, 300 Providence Rd, Oxford, NC 27565. Registration will begin at and the tour begins at 9 am. The event will conclude with a meal. For more details and to register, please use this [link](#) or visit the [Tobacco Portal](#).

2026 Blackland Farm Managers Tour - This event will be held on August 5, 2026 in Beaufort County along Peoples Road, located between Bath and Burbage Crossroads. This year's event will be hosted by Scattered Acres and Poole Farms. The format for this year's tour will look very different from past events. Attendees will have the freedom to move at their own pace

through exhibits, research plots, live demonstrations, and sponsor tents. NC State University Extension specialists will be on-site presenting a wide range of timely and relevant topics, while agricultural industry representatives will showcase the latest products, hybrids, and varieties directly in the field. Additional information and registration is found at the [Blackland Farm Managers Association webpage](#).

Corn Earworm Flight Increasing

The moth flight is increasing across much of the state. As such, we need to begin intensively scouting soybeans and cotton for corn earworms and other pests. It is noteworthy that catches have been higher than normal (and a bit earlier) so thresholds may be reached rapidly. Having thusly said, much of the cotton has protection through Bt genes and soybeans at bloom and early pod set can suffer a lot of loss from these caterpillars without reducing yield. Read more details about the current moth flight, scouting and management of insect pests in the article written by Dr. Dominic Reisig, NCSU Entomology, [Corn Earworm Flight Is Underway- Watch Blooming Soybeans](#). Current black light catch data is found [HERE](#).

Note: The following two headlines outline new changes in pesticide application and records that we need to implement. These changes require compliance before we make any pesticide application.

EPA Endangered Species Act Pesticide Label Requirements

The EPA has updated pesticide labels to reflect changes in how we apply pesticides to protect endangered species. This was discussed during pesticide trainings and during our winter crop production NC Extension meetings. Labels now require one to examine a website prior to application of any pesticide to determine whether the product will impact an endangered species or cause harm to an endangered species habitat. This results in one of three outcomes.

1. The product can be applied without any geographic restriction according to label directions.
2. The product can be applied but with restrictions (i.e. rate, timing, buffers, etc.).
3. The product may not be applied at all.

The first step is to check this designated website, [Bulletins Two! Live](#) to determine whether the pesticide can be applied. This website is considered part of the label requirements and will give additional information for application. If there are indeed restrictions, a pesticide limitation use area (PULA) will be provided with very specific details. If there are no geographical restriction, no PULA is shown. Whether a PULA exist or not, one is required to print or save these results (save to the computer) to be in full compliance.

Printing or saving the file on a computer provides a time stamp when completed. Thus, if one does not print/save, then no record exist. One is noncompliant if a pesticide was applied without this documentation. It cannot be undone or corrected after a pesticide application has been made because the time stamp from the website will not match the application date. Whether the fine is steep or small will be determined by the NCDA & CS and the Pesticide Board's recommendations.

This change will require that you enter the exact EPA Product Registration Number of the pesticide(s) you use and the month(s) of application. As such, you will either have to consult your records, pesticide labels, or find the exact product (Brand, formulation, manufacturer, etc.) on the web. Company websites have this information. Once completed for all pesticides to be

applied within a six month period, the record printed will be valid for six month. Any pesticide made after this six month period will require re-visiting the website and listing all pesticides to be applied within the next six months.

Product that require this action will clearly state such within "Directions for Use" or "Environmental Hazards" sections of the label. If the pesticide label does not contain wording to check Bulletins Live! Two, one is not legally required to use the system. However, pesticide companies are rapidly changing labels to meet compliance.

Obtaining Mitigation Points

In the very near future, all labels will include directions to complete information on the EPA's Runoff & Drift Mitigation Calculator. Currently there are only a limited number of pesticide products that have this requirement. However, beginning this fall, more labels will begin to be phased into this compliance part of the Endangered Species Act.

The EPA's Runoff & Drift Mitigation Calculator is an [Microsoft Excel[®] type spreadsheet as well as a website](#) . The tool allows one to select management choices, production practices, application equipment types, drainage, irrigation, and other practices to receive a score. One must obtain a minimum score found on the product label. This score will vary and is associated with the EPA's Registration Number. If one meets or exceeds the minimum score, then one may apply the product. In some cases, application can be made but with specific restrictions. If these restriction or buffers are unacceptable, then one can reduce or eliminate these restrictions by taking steps recommended at [EPA's Buffer Zone Drift Reduction website](#) .

Once completed, print or save the results. As mentioned in the section above, this will have a date-time stamp so it is not possible to do after the pesticide application has been made. Without these documents, one is simply out of compliance.

The owner/operator of a farm is best suited to use these tools. The information is field and pesticide specific. Too, it requires that one understand the definitions provided by the EPA for each of the selected management options and in some cases, specific label information.

If one is not comfortable using these tools, one may direct or hire someone to aid completion. However, as just mentioned, the data needed may be very detailed information regarding time of pesticide application, the rate applied, the equipment that will be used to apply the pesticide, boom height, presence of wetlands, distance to forested buffers, field maps, nozzle type, droplet size required by the pesticide label, soil type, drainage, etc. As such, it is probably easier simply to provide time to perform this tasks on your own or with someone operating the programs/tools for you.

Once one begins these programs/websites, results are automatically generated. Once all sections of these tools have been completed or one has met the minimum score required, print or save the results. Unless the field or circumstances of management change, it should not require running again as long as the minimum points have been met. As such, it would be prudent to run the tool for differing field sites or characteristics (i.e. sandy soils, organic soils, fields with forested buffers, fields without forested buffers, etc.) and save these files with a descriptive name and year. In this way, one could simply retrieve an existing file to modify any

changes in management, years, or pesticide product changes without having to repeat the entire process.

Again, results must be saved or printed to be in compliance. Keep the records with your pesticide records. Results should be ready for inspection and must match the exact products you applied. Failure to observe any of these steps will result in noncompliance.

Currently only a limited number of pesticide contain language to obtain a minimum score to use the product. These products are listed below. Keep in mind that by the end of 2027, many, if not all, products will have language requiring the process.

Current Products Requiring Mitigation Points

1. **L-Glufosinate-P-Ammonium Herbicides** such as Liberty Ultra (EPA Reg. No. 7969-500), Noventa Ultra / Autonomy Ultra / Legrium Ultra (EPA Reg. No. 7969-500)
2. **Isocycloseram Insecticides** (PLINAZOLIN® technology) such as Incipio (EPA Reg. No. 100-1712), Vykenda / Atexzo (EPA Reg. No. 100-1703), Zivalgo / Vertento / Opello (EPA Reg. No. 100-1711)
3. **Dicamba Herbicides** such as Engenia (EPA Reg. No. 7969-507), Stryax Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 264-1241), Tavium Plus VaporGrip (EPA Reg. No. 100-1753)
4. **2,4-D Choline Salt Herbicides** such as Enlist One (EPA Reg. No. 62719-695), Enlist Duo (EPA Reg. No. 62719-649)

A few of the most frequently asked questions are below. Perhaps they will provide some assistance or clarification.

Q: Why doesn't the EPA simply provide a listing of products acceptable to use within an area?

A: Pesticide products are under constant scrutiny and review. Laws and regulations change. Information regarding endangered species evolve. With so many variables constantly changing, the EPA has chosen to use an interactive tools instead of trying to constantly update a database.

Q: How do I comply if I do not know how to navigate technology or have internet access?

A: If you lack internet access, you can obtain bulletin information by calling the EPA toll-free hotline at 1-844-447-3813.

Q: If I pay someone to perform these task, who is liable if I am found in non-compliance?

A: You will be held accountable. The pesticide label is the law. The label requires the applicator to meet all label requirements. Too, the person using these tools can only select the answers you provide. Their skills to use the technology does not impact this. The results are based on the best information that **you** provided.

Q: What if I change crops or pesticide decision at the last minute due to sudden changes in commodity prices, seed availability, adverse weather, or other reasons that require that I also change pesticide choices?

A: The pesticide label requires one to comply with these rules before or on the day of application. As such, one would need to use these tools for the new pesticide and site of application prior to use.

Q: The EPA's definition of a term or production practice differs from mine. Which can I use?

A: All tools provide a hyperlink to definitions and examples. One must follow the EPA definitions.

Rapid Changes.....and Updates?

Last week the tools available to comply with these new rules were limited. This week the EPA has provided additional tools and options. The point is that this is an on-going process for everyone. Expect changes, hopefully to make things faster and easier!

We have posted two articles on our website. Both should contain links, flowcharts for the process and comments. We will provide updates within these articles as we receive them.

Articles:

[EPA Endangered Species Act: New Pesticide Label Requirements](#)

[Obtaining Mitigation Points for ESA](#)

Hint: Many of the labels on the market today require a minimum of 4 points to apply the product. One obtains a point for using the tools and three points for dryland farming. So, one could stop at this point of using the tool since the minimum points have been met. The point is that one will not need a printout for all fields. Rather one must print out the circumstances for all fields. As in the above example, should you also have a farm with irrigation, then the dryland farming points will not apply. One would need to run other options on the tool to obtain the minimum score. Thus, two printout would suffice. So, aim to consider differing general scenarios and find the total on the tool. If all meet the minimum score, one is in compliance as long as each scenario is printed or saved.

Call Us Directly

Our new phone systems allow you to call us directly without going through our switchboard. Use the phone numbers below to call us directly:

Mike Carroll	252-639-5140
Mark Eubanks	252-639-5147
Kristi Welke	252-639-5142

Note, to be blunt, while this number will ring us directly, we are seldom in the office during summer months. As such, our mobile may indeed still be the quickest way to reach us between now and fall. As always, if you call our cell and get voicemail, we are either with a client, in an area with no cell service, or are conducting some or event. Please leave a message and we will return your call. Better yet, text us a short message with details!

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.

NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center

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Español

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*You may also file a complaint with the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights for
discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.*

<https://www.usda.gov/oascr/program-complaints>

Welcome to your monthly agricultural newsletter from N.C. Cooperative Extension. We are committed to partnering with communities to deliver education and technology that enriches the lives, land, and economy of North Carolina. This month, we bring you the latest seasonal updates, practical production tips, and information about upcoming educational meetings designed to support your farming operations and help you succeed.

Learn More



Our production tips section provides practical, evidence-based farming advice tailored to the current season. From soil management and pest monitoring to crop scheduling and livestock care, these tips are designed by Extension specialists to help you maximize productivity and sustainability on your operation. Whether you work with field crops, vegetables, fruits, or livestock, you'll find actionable guidance to optimize your management practices and profitability this season.



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Upcoming educational meetings and workshops this month provide hands-on learning opportunities. Connect with your local Extension office in Craven County for event details, or visit our website to register and stay informed.

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