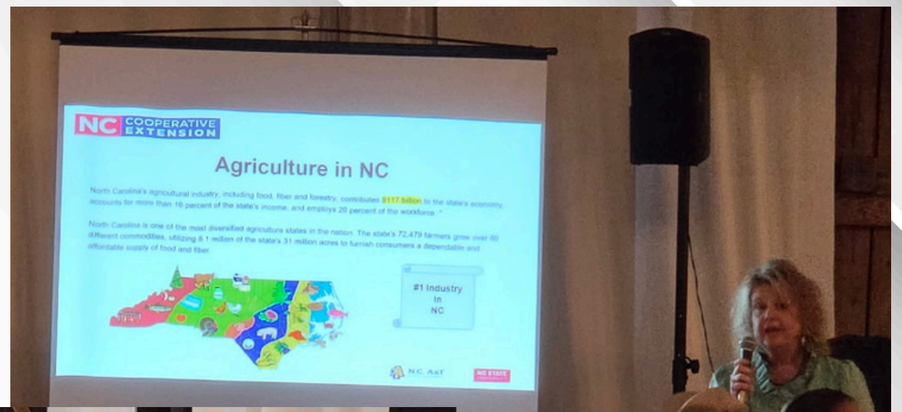
NCCE
ALEXANDER
COUNTY

COMMUNITY REPORT

IMPACT UPDATE

OCTOBER 2026

2026 FARM CITY EVENT









THIS WAS OUR LARGEST EVER FARM CITY EVENT WITH 120 ATTENDEES. EVERYONE ENJOYED A GREAT EVENING OF CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND A LIVE AUCTION! OVER $1,800.00 WAS RAISED TO SUPPORT 4-H AND FFA IN ALEXANDER COUNTY!

Quote: "How much food costs because I didn't know it cost a lot, especially if you have children, and how much children will affect your decisions."



TOP STORY

- North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Alexander County Center Agent Der Holcomb worked with East Alexander Middle School to bring the Real Money Real World program and simualtion to 160 students. Youth learn how much it costs to run a household and raise children. They are given a career and a salary and they have to budget daily necessities. Pre and Post evaluations showed a 55% increas in knowledge in financial decision making!

OCTOBER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AG?

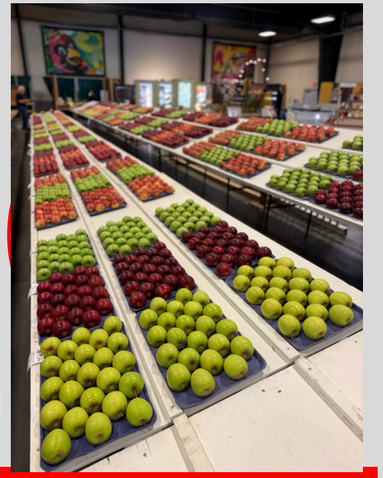
- Community Resource Development is a key component of NC Coopertive Extension. As a member of our local Crime Stoppers board, I was happy to be able to help with National Night Out!
- The Alexander County Cattlemen's Association met in October and discussed soil fertility and the importance soil sampling. 30 producers were in attendance.





Livestock Agent Allison Brown, hosted the Wilkes Community College Small Ruminant Class and demonstrated hoof trimming. The students were then able to practice trimming hooves themselves! Hands on learning really is the best!

HORTICULTURE



- Horticulture Agent Cari Rosenbalm held the monthly Extension Master Gardener meeting and guest speaker Kevin Campbell shared his knowledge on growing cacti.
- Transported Deal Apple Orchards State Fair entries to Raleigh and helped organize all the apple entries to prepare for judging. Deals Orchard placed 8th Overall for their collective entries.





THE 4-H GARDEN CLUB COMPLETED A SCIENCE EXPERIMENT ALL ABOUT PUMPKINS. WOULD THEY FLOAT? HOW MANY SEEDS DID THEY HAVE.... ALL RELATIVE TO THE PUMPKIN SIZE!

4-H YOUTH ACTIVITIES



4-H Agent DJ Salyer and 4-H volunteers manned the Apple Peeling Contest Booth at the 2026 Apple Festival. There is a youth and adult category to see who can make the longest apple peel. Apples are a big part of our agriculture makeup in Alexander County and the Apple Festival brings thousands of visitors to Aleander County each year!



We were all green to celebrate National 4H Month and recognize the National Food Challenge team at the October Alexander County Commissioners Meeting. The youth stayed for the whole meeting to expand their civic knowledge!



NC Cooperative Extension Family Consumer Science Agent Der Holcomb demonstrated to 16 members of the Whisk It Up 4-H Club how to make home made pasta. The youth were then able to prepare, cook and taste the pasta they made. In alignment with the broader 4-H "learn by doing" philosophy, the club uses culinary arts as a fun, hands-on vehicle to teach essential life skills, science, and healthy habits.



LOCAL BAKERS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF THEIR APPLE RECIPES IN THE APPLE DESSERT CONTEST AT THE APPLE FESTIVAL. 1ST PLACE WAS AN AUTUMN APPLE CAKE!

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North Carolina Cooperative Extension is dedicated to supporting agents continuing their education. As an employee of NC State University, agents receive two tuition waivers per year. Horticulture Agent Cari Rosenbalm is working towards her Masters Degree. She, along with Master Gardeners, installed her thesis project at the CVCC Taylorsville Campus!

COUNTY MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN A GREAT PARTNER ON THIS PROJECT!

NATIVE PLANT ESTABLISHMENT IN COMPACTED SUBSOIL: EFFECTS OF COMPOST AMENDMENT AND TOPSOIL REAPPLICATION

