

# Agriculture Newsletter

Edgecombe County Center

November 4, 2011

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## NICKELS FOR KNOW HOW REFERENDUM

**Wednesday, November 16th**

Mark your calendar for the Nickels for Know How referendum to be conducted on Wednesday, November 16th. This referendum will determine the continuation of the self-assessment of 15 cents per ton of feed and fertilizer for another six years. "Nickels" funds have provided vital support for agricultural research, extension activities, scholarships, fellowships, and university faculty support for over 60 years. The funds collected are managed by the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation with directors from each county in North Carolina deciding where funds are allocated. Any user of feed and fertilizer and their family members are eligible to vote in the referendum. The polling locations below will be open on Wednesday, November 16th and you can vote during their normal business hours.

**LOCATIONS:** Edgecombe Extension Center – Tarboro

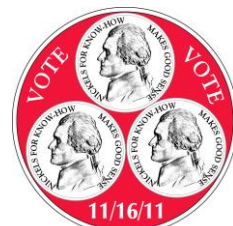
Edgecombe Farm Service Agency – Tarboro

Southern States – Tarboro

Parkway Ag – Tarboro

Parkway Ag – St. Lewis

Crop Production Services – Rocky Mount



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## KUDZU BUG FOUND IN EDGECOMBE



As the 2011 crop season winds down, the discovery of the Kudzu Bug last week by NC State University researchers (Dr. Dominic Reisig & graduate students) in Edgecombe County on soybeans at the Upper Coastal Plain Research Station and Ag Center will have implications in years to come for both the agricultural community and homeowners. The kudzu bug, also known as the bean plataspid or globular stink bug, was first found in Georgia in 2009 and has since spread and been found in South Carolina and North Carolina (56 counties so far). This insect is related to stink bugs and has piercing-sucking mouthparts. It is 1/6th to 1/4th inch long and oblong in shape, olive-green in color with brown speckles.

Besides kudzu, these insects also feed on legumes, particularly soybeans and other bean species. They will start the season on kudzu and move to soybeans in July through August where they will feed on stems and foliage which can have a significant impact on crop yields. They will finish out the season on kudzu and other host until the temperature starts to drop and they will then seek out sheltered areas. They are not picky about overwintering sites and will frequently congregate on homes to seek shelter under siding, into gaps around windows and doors, or through holes around pipes. They may be attracted to light-colored surfaces. The following spring, they may end up indoors instead of finding their way back out. There are no good preventative measures for homeowners other than closing gaps that may allow access indoors.

This will be an insect to watch next year in soybeans as they will have multiple generations per year. If you have any questions, please give us a call.  
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/kudzubug.htm>

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## FARMER GRANTS AVAILABLE

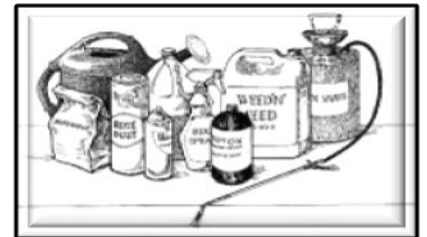


Independent family farms in North Carolina are able to apply for up to \$10,000 for new farming enterprises that create innovative opportunities in production, processing and/or marketing. The grant program is the Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund and is wholly supported by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and administered by the Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI). The grant program is intended to keep farmers in farming and to maintain the economic base of North Carolina's rural communities. Individual farmers can apply for up to \$10,000 and farmer-based collaborative projects can apply for up to \$30,000.

Rules for the program have changed slightly this year and farmers must be earning at least 50% of their household income from their farm operation to be eligible. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate a way to replace lost tobacco income with higher priority going to projects that show a new direction or opportunity in farming. Past grantees are not eligible. A workshop will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> in Vance County or on November 9<sup>th</sup> in Chatham County to discuss the grant process. See the website: [www.ncfarmgrants.org](http://www.ncfarmgrants.org)

The most recent recipient of a grant in Edgecombe County was William Proctor in the Sharpsburg area. His project focused on retail sales for farm commodities which centered on seed cleaning equipment that could be used to clean and sale seed of public varieties of soybeans, rye and oats that he produces. He also plans to offer custom seed cleaning of non-patented varieties for other growers who save their seed.

## OLD PESTICIDE COLLECTION DAY Wednesday, November 16th – 10 am to 2 pm



This is a great opportunity to properly dispose of any unwanted pesticides that you will not be using. These old pesticides are a continuing liability to you farming operation from unintentional exposure or environmental contamination. Cooperative Extension and NCDA & CS will host this "Pesticide Collection Day" at the County Landfill on Colonial Road where you can legally and properly dispose of these products for FREE!

Any old pesticides can be submitted through this program, but if you have large packages of products (>30 gal mini-bulk) or large quantities of products, please let us know ahead of time. Take proper precautions as old containers may break or leak once they have been moved and place questionable containers inside a larger container such as a bucket. If you have questions, please call Tanya Heath.

## AMERICA'S FARMERS GROW COMMUNITIES NC Farmers Can Plant the Seed to Help Grow 4-H

The 4-H organization provides valuable learning experiences for youth interested in the agriculture industry. Through involvement in 4-H, kids develop the skills to become leaders in their communities. Simply put, today's 4-H members are the future of the industry.



Farmers in Edgecombe County have the opportunity to help grow 4-H. Through America's Farmers Grow Communities<sup>SM</sup>, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, farmers can win \$2,500 for their favorite community nonprofit. Last year, winning farmers of Grow Communities directed \$402,500 to 161 4-H chapters across the country. One winner is drawn from each participating county.

The program is part of a broad commitment by the Monsanto Fund to invest in farm communities, in order to highlight the important contributions farmers make every day to our society. Farmers can apply online at [www.growcommunities.com](http://www.growcommunities.com), or call 1.877.267.3332 to apply by phone. The deadline is November 30th.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 1<sup>st</sup> – NCSU Tobacco Day – Johnston County Extension Center

December 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> – Hunter Safety Certification, East Carolina Ag & Education Center, 6:00 – 9:30 pm

December 15<sup>th</sup> – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Edgecombe Farm-City Week Breakfast – East Carolina Ag & Education Center

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012– Regional Tobacco Production Meeting – Rocky Mount Farmer's Market

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012– Farm Bureau Ag Transportation Update – East Carolina Ag & Education Center

Disclaimer: The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University or 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 before applying any chemical. For assistance contact Edgecombe County Cooperative Extension Agent.