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November 13, 2018

**Agriculture Newsletter**

**2018 Farm-City Breakfast Celebration**



**WHEN : December 6, 2018 @ 7:30 am**

**WHERE : East Carolina Agriculture & Education Center**

1175 Kingsboro Road

Rocky Mount, NC

**WHO : Dr. Mike Yoder**

Associate Director and State Program Leader for 4-H and Coordinator for

statewide Emergency Programs for Cooperative Extension

This farming season has been challenging, but we are far better than others across the state. Agriculture continues to be an important part of the overall economy of Edgecombe County. Please come help celebrate and be recognized for those agricultural contributions and the interdependence of agriculture and local businesses. We will be joined by Dr. Mike Yoder, Associate Director and State Program Leader for 4-H and Coordinator for statewide Emergency Programs for Cooperative Extension. He will be discussing youth in agriculture and how we are responding to agricultural disasters.

Agriculture and agribusiness is a $321 million dollar industry in Edgecombe County and represents 19.7% of total county income employing 3,558 people.

Please join us! Call the Tarboro-Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce at 823-7241 to register by Monday, December 3rd. There is no charge for farmers, so please identify yourself as a farmer when you call. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by November 30, 2018 by calling 252.641.7821.

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**DISASTER PROGRAMS**

The NC General Assembly has established the **Hurricane Florence Agricultural Disaster Program of 2018**. Although the program has been established, assistance will be dependent upon appropriation of funding from the General Assembly. Currently, the counties in RED are eligible for the program because of the Presidential Disaster Declaration. However, language in the bill allows for eligibility due to a Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration but that has not happened yet.

If you are in Edgecombe County and you suffered losses, you likely will want to submit an application in case the county is later declared a disaster.

Eligible Producers:

* Farmers who experienced a verifiable crop or livestock loss because of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Florence located in a disaster county.
* Commodities planted on or before September 13, 2018 but not harvested.
* Livestock/poultry producers who qualify for and have received payment from the USDA Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Information Required:

* A Form 578 on file with USDA Farm Service Agency for USDA reported Crops
* For crops not reported on Form 578, a summary of loss with a map and physical address of crops
* For livestock/poultry, a copy of payment or registration of loss for USDA LIP.
* Completed W-9 for producer SSN/EIN.

This program is administered through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and applications can only be submitted on-line at the address below. The USDA Farm Service Agency will not handle these applications, but can assist with the forms required. If you need detailed assistance, you can call their hotline at 1-866-645-9403 or our office can help with general questions about the application. **Deadline is December 10th!**

**http://www.ncagr.gov/agriculturaldisasterprogram/**

**NC Farm Bureau’s “Hurricane Relief Fund”**

The North Carolina Farm Bureau has established the "Hurricane Relief Fund" to support our state's farmers and rural neighbors as recovery efforts in your communities become more apparent. Major donors include Duke Energy and Bayer Crop Science. These funds are supporting multiple initiatives.

**Cover Crop Seed Initiative**

As we approach the winter months, many pastures and fields are damaged and are at an increased risk to soil erosion with every precipitation event. To replenish lost forage and to keep productive soils in the fields, the Hurricane Relief Fund is offering Cereal Rye and Triticale as a winter cover crop seed for pasture renovation and crop fields to eligible producers at no cost as supplies last.

Producers with pastures and fields impacted by the hurricane in the counties identified below are eligible to request seed to implement up to 10 acres of pasture renovation or up to 20 acres of cover crop. Seed will be available for pick up at the closest Research Station. All other transportation, planting costs and labor is to be borne by the producer and is not eligible for reimbursement.

**NOTE: Priority is given to the counties hardest hit by the hurricane.**

Producers are asked to submit an online application at www.ncsoilwater.org. The Foundation will begin accepting applications Friday November 9th and will continue to accept applications until November 30, 2018.

**Down East NC Farm School**

NC Farm School Business Training will repeat in Eastern North Carolina. NC Cooperative Extension Agents from Pitt and surrounding counties are hosting those who are interested in developing a business plan for a farm enterprise.This training program will expose farmers, new or experienced, on how to start or diversify a farming operation with classroom training and opportunities to visit local farms in the area.

Students of the program learn how to make a farming enterprise a profitable endeavor with eight classroom sessions that provide the support and templates students need. These classroom sessions are reinforced by successful farmers from the area providing tours of their operations. Local farmers explaining key production principles connected to learning in the classroom is a feature past students say is of key importance. NC Farm School graduate David Brown says, “I like these trips because you can actually see it….to see how people are making it work is really helpful.”

The NC Farm School Down East team invites you to join us for this unique opportunity. **Details and registration (apply by January 3rd) can be found online at:**https://ncfarmschool.ces.ncsu.edu/

**The N.E.W. Business of Agriculture:**

Regional Opportunities for Growth in Nash, Edgecombe & Wilson Counties

Friday, November 30th, 2018 ~ 8:30 am – 3:15 pm

Wilson Community College

Panels and discussions of the future of agriculture in Eastern North Carolina, agritourism, industrial hemp, small acreage entrepreneurs, organic opportunities for your farm, value-added food products from a home or non-home kitchen, regional food and farming supply chain opportunities, and marketing.

Register at: WILSONCC.EDU/NEW-AG-SUMMIT

**Art Bradley**

Art Bradley

County Extension Director

ALB/glm

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.