

Extension news

Surry County Center

September 2016

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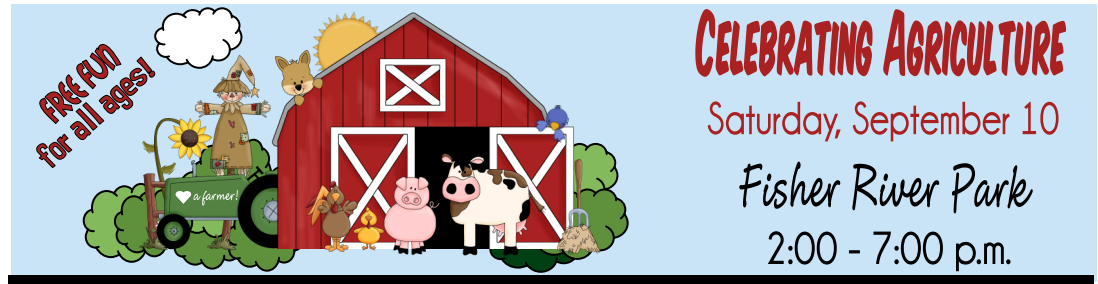
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CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE

Saturday, September 10

Fisher River Park

2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Come out and see what agriculture means to people in Surry County! Attendees will have the chance to talk to numerous people involved in the agriculture industry. There will be interactive booths, a farmer's market, the Master Gardener Plant Sale and many live animals for all to touch and see! Bring a chair and sit back and listen to Marshall Brothers and High Road along with talented cloggers from Rhythmic Expression Clogging. Admission and activities are free- thanks to our many local business partners. Join us on Saturday, September 10 from 2 pm – 7pm at Fisher River Park for this fun learning experience!!

Why celebrate Agriculture?

Some of you may be wondering why we single out this segment of our economy. We host this celebration for many reasons!

- ✦ Many people do not know the economic significance that agriculture plays in the county, state, and national economy.
 - * Agriculture accounts for about 20% of the total economy of Surry County.
 - * On a state level, agriculture accounts for over \$74 billion dollars annually.
 - * Nationally, agriculture is the only net exporter for the country. This means that we ship more agricultural products out of the country than we bring into the country.
- ✦ Farmers are deserving of our salute.
 - * The world depends on U.S. agriculture to feed them. These farmers provide for our families. The work is hard and the days are long. There is much joy and some great successes, but there can also be disappointments. Still, they do this without fanfare or recognition. These people are the salt of the earth and would never try to promote themselves to their friends or neighbors, but they will be the first to line up to help someone out.
- ✦ Farming is a viable career!
 - * We have an aging population of farmers. The average age of a farmer in Surry County is 60. We must ensure that young people become aware of agriculture as a viable career choice. If we want to eat and feed our families in the future, we need to make sure to cultivate the next generation of young farmers.
- ✦ Agriculture is a national security asset.
 - * Most people never stop to think about this. As a nation, most of us have never really been hungry like so many people around the world. How does this affect national security? Well, if we can't feed ourselves then we become dependent on another country for our food. If this ever becomes a reality, we will no longer be able to protect our rights and freedoms because we will be willing to trade our guiding principles of equal opportunity and individual rights for food to feed our families.

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Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Profitable Wheat

Tim Hambrick, Area Field Crop Agent for Forsyth, Stokes, and Surry Counties



I sincerely believe wheat is an overlooked crop in the northern piedmont - in part because low yield makes it seemingly non-profitable. As a result, low yield and lower wheat prices have conspired to reduce wheat acres in the last year or two. There is little growers can do about price, but you do have some say regarding yield. Variety, pest control, fertility, harvest date, etc all have a role in yield. But, perhaps the biggest variable regarding wheat yield is planting date. We don't have many crops that we would start planting in one month, finish two months later, and expect yield to be good or consistent. The following is data from planting dates tests in Surry ('08), Forsyth ('12), and Yadkin ('16). Different years, different growing conditions, different producer practices, different varieties - **BUT, one thing each location has in common - yield drops pretty dramatically with later planting dates.**

County	Date	Yield	Decline in Yield from October date
Surry	October 23, 2008	100.2 bu	
	November 20, 2008	87.7 bu	14%
Forsyth	October 3, 2012	78.6 bu	
	November 9, 2012	55.5 bu	41%
	December 3, 2012	50.0 bu	57%
Yadkin	October 22, 2016	65.8 bu	
	November 20, 2016	54.1 bu	22%
	December 10, 2016	40.1 bu	64%

Just moving from October planting to November planting can create a yield penalty ranging from 14% to 41%. That's a lot of yield loss.

So, can wheat be a profitable crop? Yes it can! But it must be as intensively managed as any other crop, and one of the key yield components of any crop is choosing the best planting date!



Joanna Radford, Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Commercial and Consumer Horticulture

Join us on Tuesday, September 6th at 6:00 pm at the Extension Center in Dobson to learn how to add curb appeal to your home with essential lawn maintenance tips. In this workshop, you will learn how to identify the correct products for your fall lawn care needs, what to plant, how to care for a new lawn, how to maintain an established lawn, how to control weeds, and more. It can be intimidating to tackle your lawn, but we can show you how easy growing grass can really be!

Register by September 5th 336-401-8025.

Pesticide Recertification Trainings Set



PESTICIDE SAFETY

Joanna Radford, Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Commercial and Consumer Horticulture

Private pesticide applicators are required to receive two hours of "Safety Training" category "V" and two hours of "Specialty Training" category "X" every three years.

If you are a private applicator in need of either of these trainings you will have one more opportunity in Surry County before the September 30 deadline. These trainings have been set for:

"V" Safety Training
September 28, 9 am -11 am
Location: Extension Center, Dobson

"X" Specialty Training
September 28, 2 pm – 4 pm,
Topic: Transporting and Storing Pesticides.
Location: TBA

ANY commercial pesticide applicator may attend the "X" Specialty Training on "Transporting and Storing Pesticides" for two hours of credit.

Please call 336.401.8025 to register for each of the trainings.

Extending the Gardening Season

Joanna Radford, Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Commercial and Consumer Horticulture

NC Cooperative Extension and Surry Community Small Business Center partnered to bring an incubator project to life. Former student, Jamie Renzi, was looking for a way to purchase a high tunnel to help extend her vegetable production season. She had just found out that the grant she sought would not be available. Extension directed her toward the high tunnel in Pilot Mountain. With Extension's production guidance, Renzi's previous experience and college classwork the high tunnel has become a model for extending the vegetable growing season.

In the future, groups will be invited to learn how to extend the garden season. The first opportunity for the public will be September 22nd. An Extension taught class will be offered through Surry Community College with topics to include: season extension in high tunnels with rows, containers and vertical gardening. Raised beds and row covers will also be discussed. Registration can be made through the Pilot Center.



Surry County 4-H Youth Attends NCACC Youth Summit

Sally Southard, Administrative Assistant



A 4-H'er from Surry County attended the seventh annual North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Youth Summit, which was held in Winston Salem, North Carolina August 12-13, 2016. North Carolina 4-H and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service partnered for the seventh year with the NCACC on a multi-year initiative to increase youth involvement in county government. This initiative aims to overcome the mindset that many youth are disengaged and lack trust in government.

The 4-H'er who attended from Surry County was Laken Williams. Over 63 counties were represented during this event. The event is sponsored and supported by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

The 4-H program is the youth education program of North Carolina Cooperative Extension, based at North Carolina State and North Carolina A&T State universities. More than 239,000 young people ages 5 through 18 participate in North Carolina 4-H activities each year with the help of 21,700 adult and youth volunteers.

For more information on the 4-H program in Surry County, please contact Whitney Collins at the NC Cooperative Extension office in Dobson (336) 401-8025.

4-H Summer UPDATE

Sally Southard, Administrative Assistant

4-H Summer Explosion has once again proven to be a BIG Success! With over seventy-five participants, sixteen programs offered, and some great volunteers; Surry County 4-H has had a wonderful summer! Thank you to all of our volunteers and Surry County Cooperative Extension staff who helped make it possible. Check out these great pictures from some of our exciting programs!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Welcome to Medicare

September 1, 2016
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Human Services, Mount Airy

Lawn Care Maintenance

September 6, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson
1 hour N, D, O, X

Master Gardener Meeting

September 7, 2016
12:00 p.m.
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Celebrating Agriculture

September 10, 2016
2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Fisher River Park, Dobson

Beekeeper Meeting

September 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.
N. C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Diabetes & You

September 21, 2016
12:00 p.m.
Reeves Community Center, Mount Airy

Pesticide Training

2 hours "V"

September 28, 2016
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Pesticide Training

2 hours "X" and all commercial categories

September 28, 2016
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Location: To be determined



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 North Carolina Cooperative Extension 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 chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension agent.

Accommodation Statement:

For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the Surry County Center at (336) 401-8025, no later than five business days before the event.

Special Note: Registration for events listed in this calendar are required unless otherwise noted. Register by calling (336) 401-8025.

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