Extension Master Gardener Luncheon

Master Gardener Volunteers were honored with an appreciation luncheon on December 14 at the Extension Center. They worked hard throughout the 2016 year to provide educational information to the public on horticultural topics such as growing fruits and vegetables, plant propagation, cover crops, permaculture, raised beds, herbs, container gardening, and much more. They gave 3,743 hours of their time to the Master Gardener Program at a dollar value of $88,185.08 to the county. Special recognition was given to Master Gardener Volunteer Intern, Michele Holmes, for the greatest number of intern volunteer hours in 2016. Michele was awarded the “Golden Trowel” award. Another prestigious award, the “Golden Cultivator”, was given to Judy Bates for the certified Master Gardener Volunteer with the most volunteer hours in 2016. Congratulations to all on a wonderful year.

Pride of the Wolfpack Award

The Pride of the Wolfpack award is a “spot award” designed to recognize NC State employees for a special or unique contribution to their college or unit or the University. Whitney Collins, Surry County 4-H Agent received this award on November 1st, 2016 for her leadership of the Surry County 4-H program.

Area Holiday 4-H Food Show

Surry County had four participants at this year’s NEW Area 4-H Holiday Food Show in Yadkin County! We had two participants in the Senior category, Rebecca Cahall and Laken Williams, who both won blue ribbons. We also had a Cloverbud participant, Westyn McCraw, and a pre-Cloverbud participant, Alyna Rutt, that received ribbons as well! The recipes our youth presented included Reindeer Cookies, Strawberry Santa Hats, Christmas Cookies, and Christmas Tree Cupcakes! They were all very yummy!

During the event, families enjoyed a delicious soup supper provided by the Yadkin County Cooperative Extension office. Youth participants had a great time at the make-&-take gift stations where they made Caramel Apple Kits & Hot Chocolate mix! All participants took home a special cooking gift. There were two raffle baskets for participants to be entered to win and our very own, Westyn McCraw, took home the “Ice Cream Sundae basket!”

We are so proud of our OUTSTANDING 4-Hers who put in the hard work and did a great job showcasing their culinary skills! We are so proud of you!
Fruit and Vegetable Grower Training

Cooperative Extension will host a Foothills Specialty Crop Grower’s Round Table on Friday, February 10 from 12:30 pm until 5:00 pm. This Round Table will be held at the Pilot Center of Surry Community College (612 East Main Street, Pilot Mountain). All fruit and vegetable growers with big and small operations are invited and encouraged to attend. Important topics that will be discussed are:

- Food Safety Modernization Act
- Post-harvest washing and sanitization
- Post-harvest storage
- Disease management in peppers and tomatoes
- Direct marketing for pick your own on roadside stands
- Scaling small farms up and/or down

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) will be presented to all growers. Growers will pick two of the other training topics to attend. Register before February 8 by calling 336.401.8025 or by emailing Joanna Radford at joanna_radford@ncsu.edu.

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety rule is now final, and the earliest compliance dates for some farms begin one year after the effective date of the final rule. The rule establishes, for the first time, science-based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption.

This rule was first proposed in January 2013. In response to input received during the comment period and during numerous public engagements that included public meetings, webinars, listening sessions, and visits to farms across the country, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking in September 2014. The proposed revisions were designed to make the originally proposed rule more practical, flexible, and effective.

The final rule is a combination of the original proposal and revisions outlined in the supplemental proposal, with additional changes as appropriate. The definition of “farm” and related terms were revised in the final Preventive Controls for Human Food rule, and the same definitions of those terms are used in this rule to establish produce safety standards. Operations whose only activities are within the farm definition are not required to register with FDA as food facilities and thus are not subject to the preventive controls regulations.

If a fruit and/or vegetable grower grows more than $25,000 annually (including all sales from farm food and feed commodities), he or she will need to attend one compliance training and will be required to keep specific records for their farming operation. These trainings will be offered throughout North Carolina in the near future. Growers will be notified of local trainings. There will be a FSMA information session during the Foothills Specialty Crop Grower’s Round Table on February 10. There are deadlines for compliance. Growers need to educate themselves as much as possible on FSMA.

4-H Project Record Book Deadline!

All Project Record Books are due to the 4-H office by Friday, January 13, 2017. Forms and guidelines can be found on the state 4-H website at: https://nc4h.ces.ncsu.edu/youth-3/4-h-awards-incentives-programs-2/

Food Safety on the Farm: GAP Training

Surry Community College offers many agricultural courses and workshops throughout the year; Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training will be offered Jan. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

GAP Certification is driven by produce buyers and training is recommended, in some cases required, by buyers. Workshop participants will receive information and tools needed to create a plan of action and food safety manual for their farming operation. Those in attendance will leave with the tools necessary to create and carry out a plan including a flash drive with plan templates and required posters in order to meet GAP certification standards. The class will be taught by extension agents with NC Cooperative Extension, Surry Center and will take place at Extension Center (210 North Main Street, Dobson).

Pre-registration and pre-payment of $75 are required. Seating is limited; early registration is encouraged. For questions and registration, call (336) 386-3618.

Winter Forage Management Workshop

January 10, 2017 / 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
Beaver Creek Farm

- Update on the Conservation Innovation Grant Project
- Extending the Grazing Season - Stockpiling and Annuals
- Frost seeding clover
- Forage management to improve soil nutrient distribution
- Introducing warm season grasses into fescue systems

To register contact:  
Surry County Cooperative Extension  
336-401-8025
Start the New Year with . . .

As another year comes to a close, many of us wonder what 2017 will bring? What personal goals do we have for the year? Every January there is an overload of information about New Year’s resolutions, and many people will set goals that focus on health, fitness, and nutrition. But while we often set high hopes on January 1, less than half are still committed to accomplishing our resolutions months later.

This year, as part of the MyPlate, MyWins campaign, there is an alternate approach. Rather than setting unrealistic expectations, MyPlate, MyWins can help you make a plan based on real solutions that actually fit into your everyday life. MyPlate, MyWins embraces the fact that there’s more than one way to eat healthy. The campaign encourages Americans to make – and celebrate – small, practical changes that add up to a healthy lifestyle over time. These changes are referred to as “MyWins.” MyPlate, MyWins provides the tools and resources to help you discover personalized healthy eating solutions.

MyPlate is excited to announce that an expanded MyPlate, MyWins campaign will launch on December 28, 2016. The campaign will feature new materials filled with tips and tools to help you start off 2017 ready for success!

So when you are ready to think about YOUR New Year’s Resolutions, let MyPlate, MyWins be the place you start. Visit ChooseMyPlate.gov/MyWins on December 28th to start your personal journey towards healthier eating.

Resistant Weed Symposium
January 19, 2017 / 10:00 a.m. / Forsyth County Agriculture Building
Contact Tim Hambrick at 336-703-2857 to register!

Resistant weeds continue to make inroads into the NW Piedmont! Italian ryegrass has been here for awhile, but more recently, Palmer pigweed, marestail, and perhaps waterhemp have appeared. If you don’t already have them, these newer resistant weeds will become troublesome issues going forward. If given a foothold, these weeds promise to increase expense and decrease yield!

The upcoming Resistant Weed Symposium should help you to better understand the following issues:
1. The actual cost of resistant weeds?
2. What is happening with weed resistance?
3. What is happening with herbicides?
4. What can we expect to happen down the road?

To help you better understand the scope of the problem, I am bringing in four speakers:
1. Dr. Wes Everman, Weed Scientist, NC State University
2. Dr. Mike Flessner, Weed Scientist, Virginia Cooperative Extension
3. Jeremy Kichler, Extension Agent, Georgia
4. Dr. Larry Steckel, Weed Scientist, Tennessee Cooperative Extension

These four speakers will be able to share what is going on around us, what we might expect, the issues with control, and the precarious position we are in with respect to control measures. I sincerely hope you will try to make this event - it promises to be very eye opening, and very useful!

Volunteer Leaders Conference
February 3-5, 2017

It’s that time again to register for 4-H Volunteer Leaders’ Conference! This conference is designed by 4-H volunteers from across the state to help share, create, and discover ideas for club programming. The conference hosts several hands-on workshops where you get to experience firsthand what you would be teaching! You will receive plenty of program resources and materials available at the conference for your 4-H clubs. Most importantly, you will receive a wealth of information from other volunteer leaders just like you! Register by calling 401-8025 by January 10. All leaders are eligible to attend this conference and have the option of attending the whole conference (2 ½ days), or Saturday only. Surry County 4-H will pay the registration fee for one club leader from each club or any volunteer wishing to start their own 4-H club. Contact Whitney if you have questions or are interested but would like more information!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Surry County Beekeepers Meeting
January 9, 2017 / 7:00 p.m.
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Winter Forage Meeting
January 10, 2017 / 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Beaver Creek Farm, Mount Airy

Master Gardener Meeting
January 11, 2017 / Noon
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

ECA Leader Lesson Training
January 13, 2017 / 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Elkin Center of Surry Community College

GAP Training
January 17, 2017 / 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Diabetes & You
January 18, 2017 / 12:00 noon
Reeves Community Center, Mount Airy

Farmers Market Board Meeting
January 18, 2017 / 9:00 a.m.
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Beef Meeting - Crossbreeding
January 19, 2017 / 7:00 p.m.
Surry County Farm Bureau, Dobson

Vinedressers Training
January 19, 2017 / 6:00 p.m.
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

ECA County Council Meeting
January 23, 2017 / 10:00 a.m.
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Private Pesticide Applicator Training Category “V”
January 24, 2017 / 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

4-H Ski Trip
January 27, 2017
Appalachian Ski Mountain, Blowing Rock

Advisory Council Meeting
January 31, 2017 / 6:00 p.m.
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Diabetes & You
February 1, 2017 / Noon
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Foothills Specialty Crop Growers Round Table
February 10, 2017 / 12:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Pilot Center of Surry Community College

ECA Scholarship Deadline
February 10, 2017

4-H Plant Sale
The annual 4-H plant sale will be starting soon. Be on the look-out for your brochure!

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

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.

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