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http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu

Inside This Issue

N.C. Cooperative Extension Partners with
10% Campaign to Promote Local Foods

The campaign is an effort to encourage North Carolina consumers to spend 10 percent of their food dollars on foods from local sources. Through the campaign website - www.nc10percent.com - consumers and business will pledge to spend 10 percent of their food dollars locally, purchasing products from area farmers and food producers. Campaign participants will receive weekly email reminders to report how much money they spent on local food. The website will show consumers how their dollars spent on local foods grow.

North Carolinians spend about $35 billion a year on food. If each person spent just 10 percent on food locally – roughly $1.05 per day – then approximately $3.5 billion would be available in the state’s economy.

Cooperative Extension’s local foods coordinator, Melinda Roberts, will help connect consumers and food producers and support local businesses and organizations who want to spend 10 percent of their food dollars locally. Local food coordinators will personally contact businesses and organizations that register through the website to help them develop a plan for purchasing local products.

In addition, the 10% Campaign website provides a “Find Local Foods” page with links to help consumers find local food and farm products in their own communities. A “Learn More” page includes links to information on a variety of partner organizations, such as Slow Food USA and Eat Smart, Move More NC. There are also links to educational information on topics ranging from how to set up a workplace community-supported agriculture program to how to cook seasonal, local products.

To find out what’s happening with local foods in your county, visit your Cooperative Extension website where the link to the Local Foods page can be found on the left hand column of your county center’s home page.

The Compass Group of Charlotte, the world’s largest food service provider, is leading the way in the campaign by pledging to purchase 10 percent of its food from local sources. Compass Group is developing a parallel model farm-to-institution buying program and will purchase 10 percent of the produce it serves in its North Carolina accounts from local farmers in the state.

Funding for the 10 Campaign and website is provided by Golden LEAF.
SECOND ANNUAL HOPS FARM TOUR  
SATURDAY, JULY 31ST, 2010  

FEATURING TWO LOCAL GROWERS IN THEIR SECOND YEAR OF PRODUCTION AND ONE PREMIER LOCAL BREWER

$10 (CASH ONLY) PER CAR LOAD

Specialists and Growers Will Discuss:
• Importance of Locally-Grown Hops
• Hop Varieties for WNC
• Trellis Systems
• When to Harvest
• Pest and Disease Management
• General Management Considerations

Tour Schedule:
8:00 - 9:00 am: Registration at Winding River Hops Farm
9:00 - 11:00 am: Tour Winding River Hops Farm
11:00 - 12:30 pm: Lunch and Travel to Hop’N Blueberry Farm in Black Mountain
(Food available for purchase at Winding River Hops Farm)
12:30 - 2:00 pm: Tour Hop’N Blueberry Farm
2:30 - 4:00 pm: Tour/Tasting at French Broad Brewing Company in Asheville

Directions to Winding River Hops Farm:
Located at 3949 Thickety Road in Clyde, NC. Parking at Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Take I-40 to Exit 31 (From I-40E, turn right; From I-40W, turn left).
Drive .04 miles to red light. Turn right onto Thickety Road.
Drive .06 miles. Bear left to stay on Thickety Road.
Drive .07 miles & park in Oak Grove Baptist Church parking lot on left.

For Additional Information Contact:
Erin Bonito
(828) 255-5522
erin_bonito@ncsu.edu
Grants to Boost Local Agriculture Systems

WNC AgOptions Application Deadline is November 22nd

WNC Agricultural Options is introducing a new community grants program that will support projects that are improving the local agricultural system. WNC AgOptions will fund at least three farmer-led group projects that address processing, marketing, packaging and other distribution needs in the mountain region. The size of the community grant is dependent upon the expenses associated with the project. The maximum amount to be awarded per applicant group is $20,000.

In addition, WNC AgOptions is continuing its grant program for individual farm businesses, and will award $3,000, $6,000 and $9,000 grants for farm diversification projects. Applications are available at www.wncagoptions.org or at county Cooperative Extension Centers. The postmark deadline of November 22 is earlier than previous years, and the 2011 grant cycle is from January to November. Interested applicants should contact their local Cooperative Extension Agents by November 1st to express their intent to apply.

Priority will be given to projects that provide demonstration to other farmers and encourage the economic sustainability of cooperating farm businesses. Applicants should extensively research the logistics, markets, expenses and timelines for their projects. Successful community grant projects will require participation from a diversity of people, organizations, and institutions. Groups of farmers, farm coops, farmer associations, churches, local businesses, civic organizations, non-profit organizations or combinations of these are eligible and encouraged to apply. Western North Carolina farmers must be active in the leadership of the group.

The ultimate goal of WNC AgOptions is to protect mountain farmland by assisting the longevity of farm enterprises. Members of the WNC AgOptions steering committee include: representatives from the N.C. Cooperative Extension, HandMade in America, N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project and other agricultural business leaders.

Additional Grant & Money Opportunities

Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District will be receiving its annual cost share funds in August. These funds are available to help farmers install conservation practices that help decrease the amount of pollutants deposited into surface and ground waters throughout the state of NC. Conservation practices that can be cost-shared include: animal water management systems, cropland conservation to grass, livestock watering tanks (with stream protection measures), conservation tillage, filter strips, stream riparian buffers, agrichemical handling facilities, and several others. To be eligible, you must sign up between July 1st – July 31st, 2010. If you want more info or wish to apply for funds, call the District Office at 828-250-4785 - It only takes a few minutes!

Links to additional grant opportunities are available on the Buncombe County Cooperative Extension Website.

Go to http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu and click on “Agriculture & Food” and then under County Extension Programs, click on “Buncombe County Small Farms Initiative”. If you do not have access to the internet, please call our office at (828) 255-5522 for more information on any of these grants.
Farm Business Planning Support Available

Interested in projecting cash flow for your farm for the coming year? Want to know whether a possible new farm enterprise looks like it could make money? Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) has farm business planning services available for farms in Western North Carolina. ASAP cannot provide production advice, so you’ll need to supply information on expected yields, prices, input and equipment costs, etc., and they will help you pull it all together into formats that make sense and that will help you make decisions about your farm. You may be too busy now, but ASAP does get many requests in the winter months and it is good to make contact and schedule ahead. If this is something you are interested in contact Peter Marks at (828) 236-1282 - peter@asapconnections.org, or Melinda Roberts at (828) 255-5522 – melinda_roberts@ncsu.edu.

Interested in a Conservation Easement?

If you think you might sleep better knowing that your farm or forestland will never be turned into a sub-division after you no longer own it, consider a telephone call or email to Maria Wise or William Hamilton. You can reach Maria at (828) 250-4794 at the Buncombe County Soil and Water District, and you can reach William Hamilton at (828) 253-0095 x211 at the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Both Maria Wise and William Hamilton can provide professional expertise on planning for the permanent preservation of your farm and forestland. Issues to consider involve estate planning, children, conservation values of the property, tax benefits, and the love of the land.

Farm Credit Now Accepting Applications

AgBiz Planner Funding Provided by NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Grant

Farm Credit is now accepting applications for the second class to participate in an e-learning financial and business planning course funded by a $94,500 grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. The on-line training will be offered statewide through North Carolina’s three Farm Credit associations. The Farm Credit University curriculum includes financial and business planning, budgeting and other money matters essential to a farm’s success.

Farm Credit’s e-learning program targets young, beginning, small, and minority farmers throughout the state. Participants will be assigned a Farm Credit loan officer to serve as their mentor throughout the course. Highlights of the program include modules that cover business and personal financial planning, understanding income statements, cash flow, and the smart use of credit on the farm. Each participant will have completed a business plan for their operation at the conclusion of the class. Priority will be given to former tobacco farmers and others impacted by the tobacco buyout.

The program will begin in October 2010 and run through March 2011. Applications, a course outline, and program information are available at the following websites: www.CarolinaFarmCredit.com, www.Agcarolina.com, and www.CapeFearFarmCredit.com. Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2010. Individuals selected for the program will be notified after September 15th. The course will conclude with a group conference in Raleigh, NC in March of 2011.

Farm Credit is the state’s largest agricultural lender. Carolina Farm Credit (www.carolinafarmcredit.com) serves the western half of the state. AgCarolina Financial (www.agcarolina.com) serves the Triangle and northeastern part of the state. Cape Fear Farm Credit (www.capefearfarmcredit.com) serves the southeastern portion of the state.

"Much appreciation to Erin Bonito for her assistance in comprising the Small Farms Initiative Newsletter"
**Upcoming Events**

**Strawberry Pre-Plant Meeting:** July 28th at 6:30pm at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center located at 455 Research Drive in Mills River, NC. For more information, contact Sue Colucci at (828) 697-4891 or sue_colucci@ncsu.edu.

**Urban Landscaping Update:** August 10th from 8:30am – 3:00pm at the NC Arboretum located at 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way in Asheville, NC. For more information, contact Amanda Stone at (828) 255-5522 or amanda_stone@ncsu.edu, or visit http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/11/ Carolina%20Canopy%20Brochure_August.pdf.

**Small Scale and Pasture Pork Workshop:** August 17th from 9:00am - 4:00pm at the Jackson County Community Service Center located at 538 Scotts Creek Road in Sylva, NC. For more information, contact Tammara Cole-Talley at (828) 554-6936 or tammara_cole@ncsu.edu.

**Fresh Market Tomato and Vegetable Field Day:** August 19th from 12:00pm - 5:30pm at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center located at 455 Research Drive in Mills River, NC. For more information, contact Denny Thompson at (828) 684-7197 or Jim Walgenbach at (828) 684-3562.

**Mountain Research Station Organic Unit Field Day:** August 31st beginning at 10:00am at the Mountain Research Station located at 265 Test Farm Road in Waynesville, NC. For more information contact Dr. Jeanine Davis at jeanine_davis@ncsu.edu.

**NC Pesticide License Recertification Trainings:** • September 2nd from 3:00pm - 5:00pm (approved for categories ABGHIKLMNOTDX) at the Buncombe County Cooperative Extension Office located at 94 Coxe Avenue in Asheville, NC. • September 2nd from 6:00pm - 8:00pm (approved for category V) at the Buncombe County Cooperative Extension Office located at 94 Coxe Avenue in Asheville, NC. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register for the class.

**2010 National Poultry & Animal Waste Management Symposium - Balancing Economic & Environmental Issues:** October 26th - 28th at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons in Greensboro, NC. Additional information can be found online at http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/poultry_waste_symposium.html.

For additional events, workshops and classes, please visit Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project’s Events Calendar at http://www.asapconnections.org/calendar.html and the Carolina Farm Stewardship’s Events Calendar at http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/events.shtml.

All event listings and links can be found online on the Buncombe County Small Farms Initiative website at http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu/content/Buncombe+County+Small+Farms+Initiative.
Buncombe County Small Farms Initiative

More and more farmers have been sharing with our agents their desire to continue farming, as well as the challenges they are facing in doing so. Farmers are desperately looking for ways to increase their income so they can keep their operation viable and their land preserved. Support given by our Buncombe County Commissioners and County Management has allowed the Cooperative Extension to develop a Small Farms Initiative program to aggressively work towards helping both seasoned and new farmers.

Melinda Roberts
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http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu

You can get this newsletter via email. Contact us either by phone at 828-255-5522 or email: Melinda_Roberts@ncsu.edu