Come Visit Cloud 9 Farm in Fairview

On Saturday, October 17, 2009 Cloud 9 Farm will give a free tour (adults only, please, or at least 15 yrs and over) highlighting the recent launch into the Portable Sawmilling business. Janet Peterson was a 2009 recipient of the WNC AgOptions Grant, a program that provides “mini grants” to assist farmers in diversifying their farms. Peterson felt that by adding portable sawmilling to the farm it would enhance sustainability. In other words, using the mysteriously dying red oaks on the property for lumber as well as providing a service to the community. Sawmill products like framing, siding, beams, rhododendron/mountain laurel rustic home accents are already for sale. Need a unique piece of wood to make a funky slab bench in your back yard garden? We can do that, too!

Two tours will be given: 9:30 and 1:00. Tour will include a Live Sawmill demonstration of the Wood-Mizer LT-40 with Jeff Hambley, walking Talks on Maintaining a Healthy Forest, Pasture renovations, Raising Cattle, and Blueberry operation and Honey Bee education. Also there will be an optional Open House for the two Vacation Rentals, Cloud 9 Relaxation Home and Heavenly Hideaway Cabin. (Rare indeed to have both cabins free the same day in October!). Plan on 3 hours for the total tour. Grass-fed beef chili and the fixin’s available by the cup.

Here’s an idea: Spend the morning on the farm tour, then, buy a Hiker’s Package for $12: special boxed picnic lunch with a guided hike to our own “Buzzard’s Roost” mountain top. This is a one-time public offer for invited guests only. RSVP by calling Janet at 628-1758 to reserve a boxed lunch by October 10.

Other value-added products from the farm will be for sale including jams, mountain laurel accents and A Bee Lover’s Garden 2010 Calendars. Tour will be on foot so wear good walking shoes. Rain date is Sunday, October 18,-5 pm.

(Directions to Cloud 9 Farm on page 6)
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 22-23
NC Pesticide Applicator License School and Exam. Mills River, NC. To register for the school and to order your study manuals call (919)733-3556 or go to the following website:

September 22-November 17 (9 consecutive Tuesdays)
Transitioning to Commercial Organics. Buncombe County Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville, NC. The course is designed for growers throughout WNC that are already set-up for commercial production (1+ acres) of organic production. In addition, conventional growers looking to expand their markets and who wish to certify acreage as organic are encouraged to take part in the program. Registration fee: $25 includes informational notebook. LIMITED TO FIRST 25 REGISTRANTS. For more information or to register call the Buncombe County Cooperative Extension office at (828) 255-5522 or email Sue Colucci at sue_colucci@ncsu.edu.

September 23—October 7
Basic Home Maintenance Short Course. Buncombe County Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave. Asheville, NC. Are there repairs around your home that need to be done but you lack the knowledge and skill to do them yourself? The Basic Home Maintenance Course will give you those skills. This series of five two hour classes will be held from 5:30pm-7:30pm, September 23 through October 7th on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Registration fee is $20 and includes all materials. YOU MUST REGISTER AND PAY IN ADVANCE. To register call the Buncombe County Center at 255-5522.

October 5
Buncombe County Beekeepers present Dr. Deb Delaney—The Heritage of Honey Bees in the United States: Past and Present. 7:00 pm, Groce United Methodist Church, Asheville, NC. For directions check: WNCbees.org.

October 19—November 9 (4 consecutive Mondays)
Keeping on Track, Business Planning for the Farm. Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC. The class is from 2-5pm. This four week short course is designed to assist farmers, both beginning and seasoned, to develop a better understanding of the business planning process and the ultimate purpose of a solid business plan. Space is limited so reserve a space early. There is a $100 fee for this class to cover books and hand-out materials, To register contact: Cliff Ruth, (828) 697-4891.

October 20—November 19
Certified Turfgrass Professional Short Course. MHCREC, Mills River, NC. The class will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-5pm. Note exam date, December 3rd, is from 9:00am—4:00pm. To become a Certified Turfgrass Professional you must register with the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina in order to take the exam on Dec. 3. North Carolina Pesticide Credits have been applied for. Please see insert in this newsletter for more information.

November (date TBA)
Keeping Your Farm; Updates on Issues Affecting Farm and Forest Landowners. Weaverville Community Center. This program is collaboration between NC Cooperative Extension and Buncombe County Soil and Water. Contact Melinda Roberts, (828) 255-5522 for more info. Check http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu for updates.

November (date TBA)
2009 Certified Turfgrass Professional Short Course

Short course is sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension and the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina.

Classes will be held at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC. Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. each day. Note exam date, December 3rd, is from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. To become a Certified Turfgrass Professional you must register with the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina in order to take the exam on December 3rd. The cost to take the exam $250.00 for members of the Turfgrass Council and $600.00 for nonmembers of the Turfgrass Council + membership fees. Ideally, for one to sit for the exam they should have already been a TCNC member for one year. The fees above include both application fee and exam fee. North Carolina Pesticide Credits have been applied for. Please note- you may take the class for the educational content without taking the exam.

Day 1-October 20th, 2009
Section I Turfgrass Characteristics
The Benefits of Turf in Our World; The Many Parts of North Carolina’s Turfgrass Industry; Important Turfgrass Characteristics; Vegetative Identification of Turfgrasses; Regions of North Carolina where the major grass species are best adapted; Some of the commonly used cultivars for each turfgrass species

Day 2-October 22nd, 2009
Section II Establishing Turfgrass
Criteria that should be considered when selecting turfgrasses; Climatic zones of North Carolina; Best time to establish a particular turfgrass species; How to prepare a site for planting; Different planting methods; How to read a seed label to purchase the best seed; How to calculate seed needs; How to renovate a poor or declining turf; How to select and manage turfgrasses for shaded environments - Hands on Lab-

Day 3-October 27th, 2009
Section III Soils & Nutrient Management
Introduction to Soil- Water Dynamics; Soil Volume; Soil Structure; Soil Depth & Horizons; Soil Colloids; Essential Elements; Nutrient Availability; Capture Exchange Capacity; Soil pH -Acidity & Liming; Macronutrients and Micronutrients; Nutrient Management Strategies: Soil Testing, Plant Tissue Testing, Monitoring & Visual Estimates; Nutrient Management Programs: Turf Species, Fertilization Timing, Fertilization Frequency, Fertilization Rates, Fertilizer Formulations; Environmental Concerns & Considerations -Hands on Lab-

Day 4-October 29th, 2009
Section III Continued (if needed) and Section IV Cultural Practices
Mowing; Irrigation; Vertical Mowing; Power Raking; Aeration; Root Zone Cultivation

Day 5-November 3rd, 2009
FIELD TRIP

Day 6-November 5th, 2009
Section V Pests & Integrated Pest Management
Pest Management Strategies; Weed Identification and Management; Diseases: Causes, Hosts, Developmental Factors & Forecasting, Symptoms; Management of Insects: Identification, Prediction, Thresholds & Management -Hands on Lab-

Day 7-November 10th, 2009
Section VII Landscape Safety/ Pesticide Use
Personal & Operational Safety; The Role of HAZCOM Training; The differences between the chemical and trade name of pesticides; Safe and effective use of pesticides

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate in activities mentioned in this newsletter. Please contact Amanda Stone at 828-255-5522 during business hours at least 3 days prior to the event to discuss accommodations
Day 8-  November 12th, 2009
Section VI Pesticides Characteristics
Pesticide Characteristics; Pesticide Selection; Pesticide Formulations Applied as Solids; Pesticide Formulations Applied as Liquids; Judicious Pesticide Use; Pesticides in the Turf Environment; Storing, Handling & Disposing of Pesticides; Protective Clothing; Spill Containment, Accident Response; Equipment Cleanup; Plant Growth Regulators **Pesticide Credits applied for - Hands on Lab**

Day 9- November 17th, 2009
Section VIII Calculations & Calibration
Area Measurement; Calculations & Dilution Ratios; Sprayer Calibration; Sprayer Maintenance; Spreader Calibration; Spreader Maintenance; Fertilizer Calculations; Fertilizer Analysis & Ratios; Application Techniques & Options -Hands on Lab-

Day 10- November 19th, 2009
Section IX Turfgrass Business & Economics/Review
Effective Personnel Management; Estimating Insurance; Accounting; Permitting & Licensing; Marketing; Customer & Public Relations; Review Session; Evaluations

Day 11- December 3rd, 2009- EXAM
This exam may take all of 6 hrs, to be held at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center. Exam to start at 9:00 a.m. and go until time is called! Exam fees to be paid to Turfgrass Council of NC. You must take and pass this exam to become a Certified Turfgrass Professional.

NC CERTIFIED TURFGRASS PROFESSIONAL
REGISTRATION FORM

Due by October 12th, 2009
Class Size Limited to 25

Company Name: ________________________________________________________________

Employee(s) ________________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________ State: ___________ Zip: ________________________________

Phone: _______________________________________________________________________

E-mail Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Registration for this class- $100.00 per person. This fee covers the text book, refreshments, and all hand out materials! If you have a book, the fee is $40.00. This cost does not include the examination fee! That fee is payable to TCNC This information will be mailed to you at your request if you wish to take the examination. It is not currently, on the internet.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE HENDERSON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CENTER AND MAIL TO:
Cliff Ruth, Extension Area Agent,
Henderson County Cooperative Extension Center
740 Glover Street,
Hendersonville, NC 28792
IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 4, 2009
Contact: Megan Riley, WNC AgOptions, (828) 333-4151, info@wncagoptions.org
Or the local Cooperative Extension Center

News Release

WNC AgOptions announces 2010 funding cycle:
Mountain farmers eligible for funds to diversify operations

Grants totaling $225,000 are available to western North Carolina farmers who are diversifying or expanding their operations in 2010. WNC Agricultural Options, which will award approximately 45 farmers in 17 counties and the Cherokee Reservation $3,000, $6,000 or $9,000 each, released its 2010 applications today.

Managed by the N.C. Cooperative Extension County Centers in the West District, the WNC AgOptions program works with producers who demonstrate ways to increase farm income to other transitioning farmers, particularly tobacco growers. WNC AgOptions works in partnership with RAFI-USA’s Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund, and the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission sponsors the program.

“The partnership we have with the WNC AgOptions program is very valuable to us,” said William Upchurch, Executive Director of the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. “Our experience has shown that participating farmers utilize these grants for innovative, resourceful and profitable enterprises that can make a huge impact on their farming operation.”

Recent recipients are transitioning from commercial to direct markets, extending their growing seasons, or developing value-added processing systems so that they will have a product to sell year-round. With a grant they received in spring 2009, Tammie and Mike Edwards of Yancey County are building a germination chamber in a greenhouse they previously used in tobacco production to start plants for their potted flower operation. Saving them the cost of buying their own plugs, “…could make a difference if we stay in business,” Tammie Edwards said.

Skipper Russell of Haywood County, a 2005 and 2009 recipient, and Kaleb Rathbone of Haywood County, a 2006 recipient, both have the infrastructure in place to open up markets with Ingles grocery stores this year, in large part due to the WNC AgOptions grants. Russell, who purchased a refrigeration truck, sells lettuce to Ingles, and Rathbone, who installed irrigation, sells strawberries.

Other WNC AgOptions recipients use the funds to offset the financial risk of trying untested, unique endeavors, such as hops production. “Just applying for the grant was about the best thing I could have done,” said Van Burnette of Buncombe County, who started “Hop N’ Blueberry” on his family’s seventh generation farm. “I learned so much about the cost, timeline and the activities, and narrowed down what I wanted to do with the farm.”

This grant opportunity is an excellent resource to help offset the financial risk for farmers wanting to expand their operations or diversify into crops they may not be very familiar with,” said Ross Young, Madison County Cooperative Extension Director. “The success of small family farms is the focus of this project. By providing financial assistance, this project is enabling farms to create more sustainable farming enterprises, which will have a long-term effect on the economy as well as farm land preservation.”

Interested applicants should see the agricultural agents at their local Extension Centers by November 23, and can visit www.wncagoptions.org to download an application. Projects should increase the sale of farm products and lead to the long-term sustainability of the farm business. The postmark deadline for applications is January 8.

Established in 2003, WNC AgOptions is entering its sixth funding cycle. Members of the WNC AgOptions steering committee include: representatives from N.C. Cooperative Extension program, N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services—Marketing Division, HandMade in America, Appalachian Sustainable Agricultural Project, former WNC AgOptions recipients and other leaders in agribusiness.

Project Partners:
WNC Agricultural Options: http://www.wncagoptions.org
Contact: Megan Riley, Project Manager, (828) 649-2411 x305, info@wncagoptions.org.
NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission: http://www.tobaccotrustfund.org
Contact: William Upchurch, Exec. Director, (919) 733-2160 or Jeff Jennings, Program Director
Rural Advancement Foundation International—USA: http://www.ncfarmgrants.org
Contact: Jason Roehrig, Project Director of Tobacco Comm. Reinvestment Fund, (919) 621-0534, jason@rafiusa.org
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences—Marketing: http://www.ncagr.gov/markets
Handmade in America: www.handmadeinamerica.org.
Directions to Cloud 9 Farm
(Plenty of Parking)
Approach Asheville on I-40 exit 53-A
Highway 74 S east. Go 5.2 miles toward Fairview
Right on Emma’s Grove Road, Go 1.4 mi.
Right on Bob Barnwell Road, Go 1/2 mile
Turn Left
Follow Signs to park through pasture on gravel near tents.
End 137 Bob Barnwell Road, Fletcher, NC 28732

Project Skill-UP

A program to help you stay in farming, return to farming or get training in an exciting new career

Opportunities:

- **New** Certificate Program for Farmers
- Special training or education for farming in the 21st century
- Guidance to individuals interested in a new career

**Eligibility:** Individuals who have roots in Madison and Buncombe counties and who have been affected by changes in tobacco

**To Find Out More Call:** Maureen at 254.1921 X 5832

Project Skill-UP is offered by:

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, 1459 Sandhill Road, Candler, NC 28715
E-mail: mmacnamara@abtechdu

Funded through a grant from the N C Tobacco Trust Fund Commission
Fall is a Good Time to Take Your Soil Tests

In North Carolina, most soils are acidic and low in nutrients. Good plant growth and yield require the addition of fertilizer and lime. Soil testing is the best way to determine how much fertilizer and lime to apply based on the crop and existing field conditions. Purchasing lime and fertilizer is an economic decision, and prices, which have increased dramatically in recent years, are likely to remain high. Spending money on fertilizer when soil test levels are already adequate is not prudent. Soil testing minimizes risk of unnecessary expenditure and safeguards the environment against excess fertilizer application.

A soil sample should be taken a few months before starting any new landscape project. Soil testing should also be done if the plants are not thriving or you suspect a nutrient problem or the wrong soil pH. The best time of year to take a soil sample is April through October, to avoid delays that are common at the laboratory during busy winter months. Make sure you use appropriate sampling tools to collect the sample, a hand garden trowel or shovel, soil probe or spade. Place the collected soil samples in a clean plastic bucket. For each unique area you are sampling, collect at least 6-8 soil cores from random locations and combine them in the plastic bucket to make one composite sample. For lawns, collect the samples about 4-6 inches deep. Next, your composite sample needs to be put into a soil box. These soil boxes can be gotten from any Cooperative Extension Office. Be sure to fill out the soil sample information form that goes along with the box. Lastly, mail your sample and forms to the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division, Raleigh, NC. The address is on your soil sample information form. There is no cost to have soil tested! In a week or so a soil test report will be sent to you with recommendations on fertilizer and lime. You can also access your report online. At the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division website you’ll also find very helpful publications and other great services that they offer such as irrigation water testing, tissue sampling, nematode sampling and waste or compost sampling. The web address is: www.ncagr.gov/agronomi.

Come by the Extension Office and pick up soil testing boxes and forms. We are located at 94 Coxe Avenue, downtown Asheville. If you have any questions about taking your soil sample or reading the soil test report, please feel free to give me a call, Amanda Stone, 828-255-5522, and I will be glad to help!

Swannanoa 4-H Camp Project

The Swannanoa 4-H Camp is in need of a little help with a landscape design. Since the new staff house is in a natural setting, the desire is to landscape with native plants. With a lot of active youth involved in a woodland area, low flammability is also desirable see: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/pdf/ag/firewise_landscaping.pdf.

This is not a large area and does not need an architectural drawing, just a nice sketch with suggested plant materials they can work from. If you would be willing to donate a couple of hours of time to help the 4-H Camp, please give Amanda Stone a call at (828) 255-5522 or e-mail her at: amanda_stone@ncsu.edu. She will put you in touch with the camp.
Irrigation Contractor’s License NOW IN EFFECT

The North Carolina Board of Irrigation Contractors’ was established by legislation which became effective January 1, 2009. The board oversees the licensing of Irrigation Contractors in North Carolina. The purpose of licensure is to protect the public health, safety and welfare and to promote the efficient use of water. The new licensure law became effective on June 30, 2009.

According to the recently enacted licensure law, no person shall engage in the practice of irrigation construction or contracting, use the designation ‘irrigation contractor,’ or advertise using any title or description that implies licensure as an irrigation contractor unless the person is licensed as an irrigation contractor. All irrigation construction or contracting performed by an individual, partnership, association, corporation, firm, or other group shall be under the direct supervision of an individual licensed by the Board.

You may download the application instructions, the application and all supporting documentation from this site: http://www.nciclb.org/. You may also complete these forms on your computer. The forms may be printed or saved. The application form, the application fee and supporting documentation must be mailed to the Board. Any business entity, other than a sole proprietorship, must also complete the corporate license application.

NC licensed irrigation contractors are required by law to obtain ten hours of Continuing Education each year. The Continuing Education requirement ensures that each licensed individual is up to date regarding the methods and issues facing the irrigation contracting industry. Continuing Education is meant to give merit to the profession and to protect the public health and safety as required by the statute.

There will be many opportunities to obtain the required ten hours of Continuing Education. Activities will be offered throughout the State by community colleges, colleges, universities, manufacturers, suppliers, industry related associations and organizations, state and federal agencies and other organizations.

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