BUNCOMBE COUNTY SMALL FARMS PROGRAM

May 25th Update for Small Farmers

IMPORTANT: Are you a farmer in need of cloth face masks?
Buncombe County Cooperative Extension has a limited quantity of cloth masks that are available to farmers or farmer's market managers in need - please contact Meghan Baker, at 828/250-4883 or Meghan_Baker@ncsu.edu to arrange for receiving masks. They will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last.

USDA Announces Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to $16 billion in **direct payments** to deliver relief to **America's farmers and ranchers** impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Beginning May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses. **The Buncombe/Madison County Farm Service Agency office will be taking appointments to sign up for CFAP; FSA staff will conduct as much business by phone and email as possible.**

- Producers should not expect to come to offices and just walk in to do paperwork.
- Producers must call and make appointments: 828-649-2712 Extension 2.
- Visit the website for full details: https://www.farmers.gov/cfap

Applying for Assistance
Producers can apply for assistance beginning on May 26, 2020. Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020.

The following commodities will be eligible for CFAP:
Non-Specialty Crops and Wool
Non-specialty crops including malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat. Wool is also eligible.

Livestock
Livestock eligible for CFAP include cattle, lambs, yearlings and hogs. Dairy is also eligible.

Specialty Crops

Specialty crops include, but are not limited to, almonds, beans, broccoli, sweet corn, lemons, iceberg lettuce, spinach, squash, strawberries and tomatoes. A full list of eligible crops can be found on farmers.gov/cfap. Additional crops may be deemed eligible at a later date.

ASAP Programs for Area Farmers: Immediate Needs Grant and Farms Feeding Families Program

The **Appalachian Grown Immediate Needs Grant** is intended for farmers with lost sales and farm income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers may apply for up to $500 to make strategic investments, such as new technology, packaging materials, or communications, that will help them quickly respond and meet new market requirements. Qualifying farms must be Appalachian Grown certified. Applications and more details on requirements found at: https://asapconnections.org/covid-19-response/appalachian-grown-farmer-immediate-needs-grant/

The Appalachian **Farms Feeding Families** program gets fresh, healthy food to people who need it—while also fairly compensating farmers. ASAP will partner with food relief efforts, including food banks, charitable prepared food services, and child and adult care feeding sites. After assessing needs, ASAP will contract with a farm or farms to supply one or more sites. This contract may include subsidizing or covering the cost of packaging, delivery, and/or products, and can be customized to fit different sizes and types of farms as well as relief efforts. If you are a farmer and would like your products to be considered for this program, please read more and complete the online form at: https://asapconnections.org/covid-19-response/appalachian-farms-feeding-families/

Buncombe County Tourism Jobs Recovery Fund

Mountain BizWorks is now accepting applications for the Buncombe County Tourism Jobs Recovery Fund. The mission of this $5 Million fund, which is made possible by the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority's Tourism Product Development Fund, is to preserve and safely reopen the county's unique and diverse small business ecosystem and protect tourism-related jobs, **including farms that offer agritourism.**

The Tourism Fund helps tourism-related small businesses and nonprofit organizations reopen through:

- Simple and streamlined micro-grants of $500 – 5,000
- Full grants of $5,001 – $50,000

All applications completed and submitted before the **May 31 deadline** will be considered equally. Applicants are encouraged to take their time to ensure a complete and well supported request.

Eligible applicants include small businesses and nonprofits that:

- Are based in Buncombe County
- Provide a direct and in-person tourism experience
- Have between 2 and 200 employees
- More detailed Eligibility Criteria can be found here

The applications and full details are located at: https://www.mountainbizworks.org/coronavirus/covid-19-loans/buncombe-tourism-fund/

Upcoming ONLINE Events:

Farm Worker Health and Safety Amidst COVID-19 - May 26

Does your farm employ seasonal workers? Are you responsible for worker housing, transportation, and personal protective equipment? Are you a crew leader that oversees worker health and safety? In order to help you implement the best health and safety practices on your farm the Henderson County Extension Office & Area Specialized Agents Elena Rogers and Craig Mauney will be offering an on-line educational program via Zoom to discuss the following topics

- Henderson County Farm Worker Health Program and Clinic Services. Presenter: Jacquelin Antiveros, Community Outreach Coordinator with Blue Ridge Health
- Transportation and Temporary Worker Housing COVID-19 Guidance. Presenter: Beth Rodman, Bureau Chief with the N.C. Department of Labor
- Personal Protective Equipment Updates. Presenter: Robin Tutor Marcom, Director of the NC Agromedicine Institute.
- Q&A Session

Details: May 26, 9am - 10am. Free event.

Register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/farm-worker-health-and-safety-amidst-covid-19-tickets-104823860990

Virtual Strawberry Field Day - May 28

Due to COVID-19, NCSU will hold a virtual strawberry field day this year at the Central Crops Research Station. Our 2020 Virtual Strawberry Field Day consists of two parts, a video, and a webinar:

1.) **YouTube Video:** The YouTube Video Highlights one trial of NC State University Small Fruits Production Team and the NC State Strawberry Breeding Program. https://strawberries.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/05/virtual-strawberry-field-day-may-2020/

2.) **Webinar**: Learn more about strawberry research at NC State. The NC State Strawberry Team will hold a webinar with Hannah Burrack, Gina Fernandez, Mark Hoffmann and Rocco Schiavone May 28, 2020, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Register in advance - after registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Details: May 28, 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Register through this link: Strawberry Field Day Webinar

COVID-19 Guidance for U-Pick and Farm Stands - June 2

In order to help you get ready for operating your U-pick or farm stand during the COVID-19 crisis the Henderson County Extension Office & Area Specialized Agents Elena Rogers and Lynette Johnston will be offering an on-line educational program via Zoom to discuss the following topics:

- Communicating New Policies to Customers
- Employee Health & Safety
- Best Management Practices
- Disinfecting High Touch Surfaces
- Social Distancing Layouts
- Q&A Session

Details: June 2, 9am - 10am. Free event.

Register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/covid-19-guidance-for-u-pick-and-farm-stands-tickets-104824033506

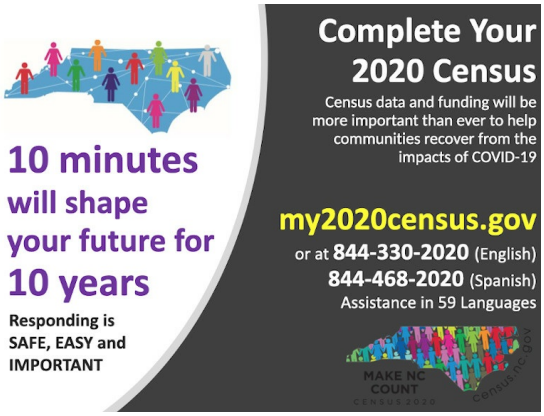
COVID-19 Guidance for Packinghouses - June 9

COVID-19 can spread quickly in settings with close person-to-person contact or by contact with contaminated surfaces making packinghouses a business of concern. In order to help you get ready for operating your packinghouse safety during the COVID-19 crisis the Henderson County Extension Office & Area Specialized Agents Elena Rogers and Lynette Johnston will be offering an on-line educational program via Zoom to discuss the following topics:

- How to Operate Safely with COVID-19 & Prevent Transmission
- Worker Training/Monitoring
- Disinfecting Equipment
- Hygiene & PPE
- Distancing Layouts and Work Teams
- Q&A Session

Details: June 9, 9am - 10am. Free event.

Register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/covid-19-guidance-for-packinghouses-tickets-104824043536



Don't forget to take a few minutes to complete the 2020 Census - this small step has huge implications for how county and state funds are distributed. Make sure that you are counted!

NC State University and N.C. A&T State University work in tandem, along with federal, state and local governments, to form a strategic partnership called N.C. Cooperative Extension.