



# E-mail Update

JANUARY 24, 2008

[WWW.NCADFP.ORG](http://WWW.NCADFP.ORG)

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

## Events

**1/29 – “Putting Small Acreage to Work”** - from 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Brunswick Cooperative Extension Training Center, located in Building N at the County Government Complex in Bolivia.

**1/30-2/1 – Southern Farm Show** – NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh

**1/30 – Wake Co. Working Lands Workshop** - 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Wake County Commons Building, 4011 Cary Drive, Raleigh.

**1/31 – Ag Development Forum** – Holshouser Bldg – NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh – 9:30 a.m.

**1/31 - Duplin County Agribusiness Council** -7 p.m. at the Duplin County Agriculture Service Center

**2/18 – Beekeeping Course** – 7 p.m.-9 p.m. - Moore County Agricultural Center, 707 Pinehurst Ave., Carthage

## ADFP Trust Fund News

ADFP Trust Fund grant applications were due December 14, 2007. Grant award recipients for the 2007-08 grant cycle will be announced in the summer of 2008. Thank you to everyone who submitted an application! If you have additional questions, please contact Lindsay Ballance, Environmental Programs Office Manager at 919-733-7125 or email [ncadfp@ncmail.net](mailto:ncadfp@ncmail.net).

## Voluntary Agricultural District News

In the last 2 years the Agricultural District program has seen the following growth...  
...from 1 county with an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District to 7 counties.  
...2 municipal Voluntary Agricultural District ordinances.  
...from 47 counties with Voluntary Agricultural District ordinances to 57 counties.

The town of **Eastover** in Cumberland County recently passed a municipal Voluntary Agricultural District making it only the second town in North Carolina with an agricultural district ordinance.

Earlier this month, **Davie County** passed an agricultural district ordinance becoming the 57<sup>th</sup> county to do so.

**Alamance, Buncombe, and Cabarrus counties** recently passed approved Farmland Protection Plans. There are several other counties throughout the state that are in the process of writing Farmland Protection Plans.

## Events

### Leland Tribune 1/12

#### Cooperative Extension holding conference on "Putting Small Acreage to Work"

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Brunswick County Center is holding a conference designed to teach attendees how to get the most out of a small plot of land. The conference, entitled "Putting Small Acreage to Work," will be held Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Training Center, located in Building N at the County Government Complex in Bolivia.

<http://www.lelandtribune.com/business.asp?dismode=article&artid=703>

### The Times & Democrat 1/22

#### 32nd Southern Farm Show expanding

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Southern Farm Show is growing bigger this year with a major expansion onto the new midway at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

The 32nd annual Southern Farm Show, Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 is the largest agricultural exhibition in the Carolinas and Virginia.

"The show's expansion is being driven by an increasing diversity of products," Show Manager Tyree Robinson says. "While we continue to have a huge selection of farm equipment, we're continuing to see more products for the construction, landscaping and forestry industries."

<http://www.thetandd.com/articles/2008/01/21/business/12920132.txt>

## Web Links of Interest

Land Trust Alliance

<http://www.lta.org/farmersandbranches/index.html>

The Wilderness Society – New web site called – Housing Sprawl in the Southeast – Our Vanishing Places. Watch the maps of the Southeast United States change colors from "green" to "red" between 1940 to 2030. <http://www.tws.org/OurIssues/EasterForests/SprawlSE.cfm>

American Farmland Trust – PACE Survey -The 2007 state and local PACE survey results are now available. To view the tables, please select from the links provided above. The tables track the progress of farm and ranch land protection programs in 21 states and 56 localities that have acquired funding and/or easements. The data in this survey is current as of January 2007, unless otherwise indicated. We have also attached a map illustrating nationwide PACE activity by state. As of July 2007:

1. Thirty-two states have PACE activity at the state and/or local level;
2. Twenty-seven states have state-level PACE activity; and
3. Eighteen states have PACE activity at the local level.

PACE tables are available in PDF format on the Farmland Information Center Web site, <http://www.farmlandinfo.org/>. Please feel free to copy and distribute these documents as necessary. These data are used by a variety of groups including: program managers, Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, elected officials, reporters and the general public.

## How to Keep Wake's Working Lands Working

RALEIGH –Wake County landowners with agricultural and forestry interests are invited to attend a free conference designed to preserve Wake County's working lands at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan 30 at the Wake County Commons Building, 4011 Cary Drive in Raleigh. "The changes in Wake County are affecting everyone, but many do not realize there are 800 farmers in Wake County alone. We want to provide the information they need to keep their land in agricultural production," said Grace Lawrence, extension agent in Wake County. "Working lands don't just produce crops, they benefit everyone by preserving wildlife habitat, enhancing air and water quality and providing open space."

Landowners from neighboring counties are also invited to learn about the state of working lands and development in Wake County, forestry, the 2007 federal Farm Bill, taxes, tax credits and estate planning with an emphasis on keeping family farms in the family. Afternoon breakout sessions will focus on agritourism, forestry and farm business plans. Attendees will also be acquainted with a variety of tools and public resources available from the workshop sponsors. The workshop is hosted by Cooperative Extension's Wake County Center, the Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space department, USDA Farm Service Agency, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, N. C. State University and the North Carolina Farm Transition Network. People who wish to attend the workshop are asked to register by calling 919.250.1107 or visiting <http://wake.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=news&ci=AGRI+1>. The workshop lasts until 3:30 p.m. and a box lunch is included.

## 2008 Ag Development Forum is Jan. 31 at State Fairgrounds

### *Leading USDA economist to offer 2008 outlook for agriculture*

RALEIGH – Gerald Bange, chairperson of the World Agricultural Outlook Board, will be the featured speaker at North Carolina's third annual Agricultural Development Forum on Thursday, Jan. 31, at the State Fairgrounds.

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler will be host of the forum, which will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Holshouser Building. Farmers, agribusiness professionals and others interested in U.S. farm policy are invited. Admission is free and lunch will be provided. Bange will offer his assessment of the 2008 economic outlook for agriculture. As chairperson of the World Board, Bange is responsible for the monthly forecasts of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report and also oversees the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility. Other forum topics will include alternative fuels and drought. Speakers will include John Ganzi, president of the Biofuels Center of North Carolina, and Jeff Orrock, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

A panel consisting of N.C. State University economist Arnie Oltmans and representatives of the animal, cotton, green and forestry sectors of the state's ag industry will discuss challenges and opportunities for N.C. farmers. In addition, representatives of North Carolina's power companies will talk about renewable energy.

A complete agenda is available online at [www.ncagr.com](http://www.ncagr.com).

The forum is sponsored by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Duke Energy, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, Progress Energy, the N.C. State Grange, AgCarolina Financial, Cape Fear Farm Credit and Carolina Farm Credit.

## Goldsboro News Argus

### **Duplin Agribusiness Council meeting**

KENANSVILLE -- The annual membership meeting of the Duplin County Agribusiness Council will be held Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. at the Duplin County Agriculture Service Center across from James Sprunt Community College.

The guest speaker for the annual meeting will be Blake Brown, the Hugh C. Kiger Professor for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Agriculture at NC State University. Brown will discuss important new agricultural research efforts underway at the university.

[http://www.newsargus.com/news/archives/2008/01/17/duplin\\_agribusiness\\_council\\_meeting/index.shtml](http://www.newsargus.com/news/archives/2008/01/17/duplin_agribusiness_council_meeting/index.shtml)

## Fayetteville Observer

### **Bee course begins Feb. 18**

Registration is under way for a beekeeping course scheduled to begin Feb. 18 in Carthage. The Moore County chapter of the N.C. State Beekeepers Association is offering the course, which will be held on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. for six weeks. Two additional hands-on sessions will be held in a bee yard. The classroom sessions will be in Room 3 of the Moore County Agricultural Center, 707 Pinehurst Ave., Carthage. The cost of the class is \$20. It is geared toward people who are interested in learning beekeeping as a hobby and will cover topics such as life inside the beehive, equipment needed to keep bees, diseases of bees and practical aspects of working with bees. ...

<http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=283804>

**For more information regarding the NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, please visit [www.ncadfp.org](http://www.ncadfp.org) or contact us at [ncadfp@ncmail.net](mailto:ncadfp@ncmail.net) or 919-733-7125.**

## News

### NCDA&CS – Hay Alert

<http://www.ncagr.com/HayAlert/>

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is making this Web site available in an effort to bring together farmers in need of hay with those who have hay for sale. If farmers have hay for sale or need hay, NCDA&CS will list their names, addresses and other pertinent information. It will then be the responsibility of the buyers and sellers to negotiate sales. If you are interested in listing your name as a buyer or seller, you can submit your information online by filling in the "Submit Your Ad" form or by calling toll-free **1-866-506-6222** weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Goldsboro News Argus

#### County agenda set for next year

Agricultural preservation -- another issue that took the spotlight in 2007 with the first annual Wayne County Ag Expo in November -- also is expected to be further addressed in 2008 when the county cooperative extension service begins a farmland preservation study.

[http://www.newsargus.com/news/archives/2008/01/02/county\\_agenda\\_set\\_for\\_next\\_year/index.shtml](http://www.newsargus.com/news/archives/2008/01/02/county_agenda_set_for_next_year/index.shtml)

### Senate Passes Farm Bill

The Senate passed the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007, known as the 2007 Farm Bill by a vote of 79-14. This action clears the way for the House and Senate to begin preparing one final bill (conference report), building upon provisions in the House version and the Senate version. Due to the late timing of Senate action, the House and Senate are not expected to begin finalizing provisions until 2008. As a result, Congress has taken steps to extend certain Farm Bill programs until March 15, 2008.

The Senate-passed bill includes a strong conservation title, funding all conservation programs and creating a few new programs. The bill also includes important provisions on technical assistance, technical service providers and continues the locally led conservation program delivery.

The proposed Farm Bill includes a provision making **the new tax incentive for conservation donations** permanent.

That National Association of Conservation Districts has posted a comparison chart of the House and Senate bills and current law on their web site:

[http://www.nacdnet.org/policy/agriculture/farmbill/2007/.](http://www.nacdnet.org/policy/agriculture/farmbill/2007/)

### State purchasing hay to resell to farmers at lowest cost possible

RALEIGH – The first shipment of hay bought by the state for resale to livestock farmers will be delivered to six sites across North Carolina in early January

<http://www.ncagr.com/paffairs/release/2007/12-07hayforsale.htm>

### N.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America donates \$18,000 to NCDA&CS hay-relief efforts

RALEIGH – The N.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has donated \$18,000 to help North Carolina farmers cope with a massive hay shortage brought on by extreme drought, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced today.

<http://www.ncagr.com/paffairs/release/2007/12-07lutherandonation.htm>

### NCDA&CS raises reimbursement limits for programs helping farmers with hay-transportation costs

RALEIGH – Amid increasing costs for hay shipments, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler today announced higher reimbursement limits for two programs aimed at helping drought-stricken livestock owners with the cost of transporting hay to their farms.

<http://www.ncagr.com/paffairs/release/2007/12-07partnerschanges.htm>

### N.C. Cattlemen's Association donates \$5,000 to NCDA&CS hay-relief efforts

RALEIGH – The N.C. Cattlemen's Association has donated \$5,000 to help North Carolina farmers cope with a massive hay shortage brought on by extreme drought. The funding will assist the Ag Partners Hay Relief Program, which the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services set up to help cattle farmers defray a portion of the cost of transporting hay from outside the state to their farms.

<http://www.ncagr.com/paffairs/release/2008/1-08nccadonation.htm>

### Acre preserved for acre developed – California County Initiative

<http://www.modbee.com/local/story/157701.html>

**Troxler urges farmers to take part in Census of Agriculture**

***Deadline for submitting completed forms is Feb. 4***

RALEIGH – Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler is urging farmers to make their voices heard and help shape the future of U.S. agriculture by completing the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

The census is conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is a complete count of the nation’s farms and the people who run them. Census forms, sent out by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, have begun arriving in farmers’ mailboxes. The forms will collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by Feb. 4.

**HOMELAND SECURITY EXEMPTS FARMERS FROM JAN. 22 DEADLINE ON CHEMICALS (115 Fresno Bee, Calif. 1/10)**

Homeland security officials are cutting farmers some slack by indefinitely postponing extensive chemical reporting requirements meant to deter terrorism. Tens of thousands of companies nationwide must soon register their chemical use with the Department of Homeland Security. Following numerous complaints, though, department officials on Wednesday exempted farms from the looming Jan. 22 reporting deadline. Farmers may not be off the hook forever, though. The Department of Homeland Security says it is “getting more information” about applying chemical reporting requirements to agriculture.

**\$500,000 TO HELP TOWNS DEVELOP FARMLAND PROTECTION PLANS**

**Funding to Encourage 21 Towns to Include Farms in Local Land Use Plans**

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced nearly \$500,000 in funding to help 21 towns develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans. This is the first time that towns and cities were eligible to apply for farmland protection planning grants; only counties have been eligible in the past.

“One of the most important roles of a municipality is the regulation of land use,” the Commissioner said. “This responsibility gives them the authority and opportunity to provide a supportive environment for agriculture. I applaud these 19 towns for taking the initiative to address evolving land use issues in their area and plan for the protection of viable and active farmland. It is their participation in the planning process and commitment to providing a supportive business environment for agriculture that will make smart growth a reality here in New York State.”

The State’s Farmland Protection Program provides two funding sources – planning grants and implementation grants. Planning grants are being announced today and include a portion of the start-up funds in developing an agricultural and farmland protection plan. The implementation grants are used to help purchase the development rights on viable farmland.

The planning grants provide local municipalities with an economic incentive to develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans. These plans help maintain the economic viability of the State’s agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture.

Any municipality, including cities, towns and villages, that are located within a county which has established an agricultural and farmland protection board, are eligible for farmland protection planning funds. These funds can provide up to \$25,000 or 75 percent of the cost of developing a local protection plan, whichever is less.

Farmland protection plans should identify the location of farmland proposed to be protected, the value of that land to the local economy, the value of that land as open space, consequences of possible conversion, and the level of conversion pressure on the proposed land. To date, 48 counties have farmland protection plans in place.

Last month, Governor Eliot Spitzer announced nearly \$35 million for farmland protection implementation grants; the largest amount of funding and greatest number of acres protected in the program’s eleven year history. With that announcement, New York has allocated more than \$144.5 million out of the Environmental Protection Fund for farmland protection projects, assisting local governments and their project partners in 26 counties to help protect 50,400 acres on 241 farms. To date, only half of those project contracts have closed, protecting in perpetuity, 27,500 acres of farmland.

New York State has 7.6 million acres of farmland with 35,000 farms.

## News & Observer

### Win the runoff

North Carolina shellfish - and shellfishermen - are inching closer to a cleaner environment, one they desperately need. The state Environmental Management Commission recently approved new rules to fight stormwater pollution on the North Carolina coast. The regulations, developed over many months by the state Division of Water Quality, aim to prevent polluted runoff from draining into the ocean right after rainstorms. Once the rules take effect, new developments along the coast must be designed to keep more of the rain where it falls, so mud, oil, bacteria, fertilizers and other chemicals won't wash into our vulnerable sounds and coastal wetlands. Right now, that's a big problem. About 76,000 acres of coastal waters are permanently closed due to pollution levels that make oysters and clams dicey to eat. And about half that many acres close because of bacteria after rains of 1 to 2 inches. So shellfish are threatened, and with so much building along the coast, it's only going to get worse. ...

<http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/editorials/story/885966.html>

### Forsyth may approve zoning that would allow agricultural tourism

By Blair Goldstein

Winston-Salem Journal - Monday, January 14,

2008

Lillian Kroustalis, the owner of Westbend Vineyards, said she can imagine holding banquets or opening a small restaurant on her land in Lewisville. But county zoning will not allow that. That may change.

Forsyth County commissioners are considering new ordinances that would give rural landowners more economic opportunities in exchange for a nonbinding commitment to keep their land undeveloped.

One ordinance would allow qualified landowners to participate in agricultural tourism. The zoning designation allows landowners to open small businesses, such as offering tours of their farms or opening a small restaurant.

"Food and wine do go together, and if something like this were allowed, we would be very happy to be able to offer that service," Kroustalis said. Several surrounding counties, such as Surry and Davie counties, already allow agricultural tourism.

Forsyth Planning Director Paul Norby said he hopes that county landowners will want to participate in this trend. "It's a little extra incentive to be able to make some additional money and therefore serves as an incentive to maintain that land as agricultural," Norby said.

The county is planning to require that people who want to participate in agricultural tourism enter their land into voluntary agricultural districts. Commissioners are scheduled to vote on the creation of those districts later this month.

Participating landowners would post signs that notify neighbors that their land is used for agricultural purposes and will have the sounds, smells, dust and equipment associated with that work. Such a warning helps protect participating farmers from the possibility of nuisance lawsuits.

The districts also allow farmers to not pay sewer and water assessments if they don't use the services and to create a special advisory board to weigh in on issues affecting the agricultural economy or way of life in the county.

But Commissioner Richard Linville, who grows tobacco, soybeans and wheat on his farm north of Kernersville, said that the voluntary agriculture districts will not prevent agricultural land in the county from being developed.

Participating farms must sign a nonbinding agreement that prevents them from developing their land in ways not related to farming. But owners can choose to develop the land if they drop out of the program.

Commissioners used to buy development rights through the county's farmland-preservation program. The purchase preserved the land as open space in perpetuity. Since the program started in 1987, the county has spent about \$2.96 million on the program and bought about 1,238 acres, leased about 350 acres and received about 18 acres in donations. Money to buy land came from the county's general fund. Buying land hasn't been a priority in recent years, and officials haven't bought land since 2000. "The problem is not that we didn't like it. It's just that with the pressure for the other needs, like schools, there wasn't that leftover cash to use," said Commissioner Debra Conrad. She said that voluntary agriculture districts offer a good alternative. "It just shows that we still value the farmer and stress preservation even though we don't have the funds to outright buy it," she said.

Many other North Carolina counties are leaning toward this cheaper option.

According to the N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, about half of North Carolina's counties allow landowners to join voluntary agricultural districts.

Statewide, more than 5,000 farms have joined.

The Davie County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the creation of voluntary agriculture districts at a meeting last week. County officials said that a group of farmers and the county's cooperative-extension office approached planners about establishing a voluntary agricultural district office in the fall of 2006. "It was really something that was a real big hit in the farming community," said Terry Bralley, the county manger.

## Greensboro News and Record 1/13

### Heart of Triad resolution approved By E.A. SEAGRAVES

After hearing complaints from some residents, the Kernersville Board of Aldermen approved a revised resolution for the Heart of the Triad Tuesday night. The revised resolution creates a stakeholders advisory committee that consists of eight residents or property owners (four each from Forsyth and Guilford counties); two representatives each from the commercial development, residential development and industrial development industries; and one representative each from the Sierra Club, the Piedmont Land Conservatory and the Piedmont Triad International Airport.

<http://www.news-record.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080113/NRSTAFF/801130323/-1/news1802>

### AGRICULTURE: Tax provisions tie up farm bill conference before it begins

(01/17/2008)

Allison Winter, E&E Daily reporter

As the House and Senate prepare to start conference negotiations on the farm bill, leaders of the House Agriculture Committee say they are at an impasse as to how to resolve the crucial issues of how much to spend on the bill and how to pay for it. While most House members returned from their holiday break yesterday, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) said he spent most of the holiday recess in Washington doing advance work on the farm bill in the hopes of moving forward with a conference on the House and Senate bills this month. Peterson said he met several times with Agriculture Department Acting Secretary Chuck Conner to try to resolve objections that led to veto threats on both the farm bill approved in the House last summer and the one the Senate passed last month. Despite those efforts, he and Conner are "not making any progress," Peterson said in an interview this week. He said he still had not resolved the key question of what the overall spending number can be for the farm bill conference. The House and Senate bills each include separate tax provisions, mostly for foreign corporations, that would offset about \$14 billion in additional spending for the bills. Each chamber has some objections to the changes to the tax code used in the other chamber's bill. The bills also each use different mechanisms to shift some spending to future years, in order to lower the budget scoring and comply with congressional "pay as you go" rules. "The big problem is coming up with a way to pay for the bill," said Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), the top Republican on the House Agriculture Committee. "A lot of people are going to have to be willing to give, but we're not even to the table to talk about those things yet." Even if the two chambers agree, USDA's Conner has said the White House will not accept the new taxes as part of the bill. Conner called the tax changes a "non-starter" for the administration in remarks earlier this week to the American Farm Bureau Federation. "Right now, we have some fundamental differences with Congress over the two versions of the farm bill it has put together," Conner told Farm Bureau members at their annual convention. "The bills passed by the House and the Senate, as they stand today, are not on the road to a successful passage." Peterson said Conner is striking a hard line.

"It seems like the administration has gone further off the deep end," Peterson said in an interview, shortly after finishing a phone call with Conner. Eliminating the tax provisions would be difficult. The changes to the tax code included in the two bills are key to their overall effort to increase funding for nutrition, conservation and energy programs, while keeping the crop support system intact and staying within the pay-as-you-go spending rules. One possible tactic for the conference committee could be to plow ahead with tax changes and spending increases and put President Bush in the politically delicate situation of deciding whether or not to go ahead with his veto. But at least for now, that is not Peterson's tactic. He said he is trying to work with the administration and is even considering trying to cut some spending in the bill. "I have not ruled anything out, but it's pretty hard to see how we can do it without any extra revenues," Peterson said. For his part, Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman -- who represents thousands of farmers for the nation's largest agriculture lobby -- was not convinced by Conner's speech and wants to see swift completion of a farm bill that is "within the parameters" of the House and Senate measures. "Farmers don't really care about whether something is a budget gimmick or closing a tax loophole ... what our members care about is the farm bill going to be done and are we going to know the rules," Stallman told reporters this week.

## **Charlotte Observer -- 1/13**

### **A cleaner coastline**

There's a bit of little-noticed but decidedly good news for those who still like to go to North Carolina's coast for traditional reasons. No, we don't mean for shopping in the fancy boutiques and outlet malls, or for spending days in air-conditioned splendor in those fancy brick mansions that are crowding out the old coastline that made the area special. We're talking about taking the kids wading on the sound side and netting crabs or raking up clams. We're talking about lazy days spent frolicking in the surf or bobbing on a canvas raft. We're talking about tucking into steaming platters of local oysters and shrimp, fried Calabash style and piled high. Folks who remember when those were prime reasons for a trip to the beach will be especially pleased that the N.C. Environmental Management Commission has taken strong action to help preserve and restore the quality of the water in our coastal areas. Until the EMC's action Thursday, there was little assurance that coastal waters might remain available for those pleasures. In recent years the area of coastal waters put off-limits to shellfishing has grown rapidly, to more than 100,000 acres. The advisories warning the public to avoid those areas have been particularly alarming in a coastal economy once built on fishing and tourism. But water quality has declined rapidly because growth in coastal areas has diminished the ability of the land to absorb pollution-laden runoff from parking lots, roads, roofs and other hardened structures that cover the land. Runoff comes downstream from inland areas, too, further hastening the decline in water quality. <http://www.charlotte.com/171/story/444087.html>

### **Navy won't build practice landing field near NC wildlife reserve 01/22/2008 By GARY D. ROBERTSON / Associated Press**

Navy officials said Tuesday they will not build a practice jet landing field near a wildlife reserve in eastern North Carolina, a site widely opposed by local residents, environmentalists and state officials. The site, which straddles Beaufort and Washington counties, was originally the Navy's preferred site for the 8,000-foot runway. The site was removed when the Navy whittled down its list of finalists from more than 20 to five, which include three in Virginia and two other sites in North Carolina. The original site was opposed by Gov. Mike Easley, state Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and several of North Carolina's congressional members. "The Navy believes that by working with state and local officials, we can understand their perspective on the issues and seek common ground on ways to mitigate impacts and identify potential benefits," the Navy said in a written statement Tuesday. The runway would allow F/A-18 Super Hornet pilots to practice night landings on aircraft carriers. Navy officials said the strip is needed to reduce use of an existing strip in Virginia now surrounded by residential areas. The two North Carolina sites still on the list are in Gates County and in Camden and Currituck counties. The three Virginia sites are in Southampton, Surry and Sussex counties. The final decision on the \$230 million project could be at least 2 1/2 years away, the Navy said.

### **Wilmington Star**

#### **Brunswick Cooperative Extension: Is your farm a Century Farm?**

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is working to identify Brunswick County farms that qualify for the North Carolina Century Farm Program. The program began in 1970 by the N.C. State Fair under the auspices of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The program's mission is to certify and recognize N.C. farms that have continuous ownership by family members for 100 years or more. Farm owners can apply for the Century Farm Program at anytime, but local extension agents are planning a special event March 14 to recognize local Century Farms. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler will join other state and local dignitaries, agricultural families and community leaders, to present the certificates and Century Farm signs to recipients. In order to be recognized at the March 14 ceremony, applications must be returned by Jan. 31 to Brunswick County Cooperative Extension, Building N, Government Center Complex, Bolivia. The requirements for the award include ownership of property by family for 100 years or more which can be determined from an abstract of title or original records such as original deed or land patents. Other authentic land records may be acceptable in some cases. The farm can be an active or inactive farm and must be at least 3.1 acres. The farm must also have continuous family ownership; the farm (in whole or in part) must have been in continuous family ownership. Title to the century property today must reside in a blood relative of the original owner, or a legally adopted child of the descendant. Continuous residence in the state or on the property is not required, but the title to the property must be continuous. An abstract of title is the best evidence of continuous family ownership. There shall be only one certificate issued for a piece of property. For example, a descendant may not receive another certificate if a former owner or relative has already received a certificate for the same property. For more information or application, call Martha Warner or Gina Britton at 253-2610 <http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20080123/NEWS/801230305/1017/SPORTS0701>

**Hay moving into state; response has been overwhelming**

*NCDA&CS efforts will continue*

RALEIGH – A few weeks into North Carolina’s emergency hay-relief efforts organizers are finding overwhelming demand for feed.

“We knew going into this effort what a serious situation livestock farmers and equine owners faced this winter, and seeing the immediate demand only reinforces the need for these emergency hay efforts,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Our farmers are in the same boat as everyone else in the Southeast, which means many people are trying to buy hay outside the region. We are continuing to source hay and arrange for transportation into the state as quickly as we can. This is a top priority for my department.”

The hay is coming from as far away as Canada, and is being distributed at six sites across the state. Those sites are: Mountain Research Station, Waynesville, (828) 456-3943; Upper Mountain Research Station, Laurel Springs, (336) 982-2501; Piedmont Research Station, Salisbury, (704) 278-2624; Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, Colfax, (336) 605-9157; Caswell Research Farm, Kinston, (252) 208-3361; and Oxford Tobacco Research Station, Oxford, (919) 693-2483. Sites were selected based on proximity to livestock operations and storage facilities to keep the feed out of the weather.

Livestock producers and equine owners wanting to buy hay should call individual distribution sites and put their names on a waiting list. Staff at the research station sites will call when the hay arrives. Buyers are limited to four large bales and 20 small bales of hay per day.

Farmers who know they need a whole load of hay should try to source full loads themselves. The department’s Hay Alert Web site, [www.ncagr.com/hayalert](http://www.ncagr.com/hayalert), contains listings of people interested in buying and selling hay. Producers can post wanted or sale ads, and can also search the database themselves for feed or transportation. The ads are searchable by county, state and Canadian province.

Producers who do not have access to the Internet can call the toll-free hotline at 1-866-506-6222 and an operator will assist them in searching the database. Troxler encourages farmers who need partial loads to join forces with other neighbors in need of hay to make a full load. The Hay Alert Web site also features ads from people looking for others in their area to partner with on a full load.

“Buyers can apply for up to \$500 in transportation cost-share funds per load for up to three loads of hay they buy. These cost-share monies will help reduce the cost of the feed and the hay can be delivered directly to the farm,” Troxler said. “The Emergency Hay Relief Program is geared towards helping farmers out in an emergency – for example, if their hay order has been delayed for a couple of days due to weather or other circumstances and they need feed.”

To date, the state has ordered about 960 tons of hay. Both livestock and horse-quality feed have been ordered.

**Elizabeth City Daily Advance**

**Camden, Gates on Navy list for OLF**

Two sites in Camden and Gates counties have made the U.S. Navy's shortlist of potential locations for a controversial jet landing field. Navy officials announced Tuesday that the Hales Lake area in Camden and the Sandbanks area in Gates are among the five sites in North Carolina and Virginia that will be studied further for an outlying landing field, or OLF. The Navy also announced that its former preferred site for the OLF, in Washington-Beaufort counties, is no longer under consideration for the 8,000-foot runway. That announcement wasn't unexpected given the fire storm of protests the decision to study it generated from residents, environmentalists and politicians. Opponents had said the airfield would have been too close to the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, a gathering spot for thousands of migratory birds. A site in Perquimans is also no longer under consideration for the OLF, Navy officials said. ...

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