



E-mail Update

MAY 14, 2008

WWW.NCADFP.ORG

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 5

Web Links of Interest

Land Trust Alliance

<http://www.lta.org/farmersandranchers/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/EasternForests/SprawlSE.cfm>

American Farmland Trust – Purchase of Agricultural Conservation

Easements (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.

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 e-mail ncadfp@ncmail.net.

Voluntary Agricultural District News

Wilkes & Onslow counties recently passed Voluntary Agricultural District ordinances! There are currently 61 counties with Voluntary Agricultural Districts in the state.

Rocky Mount Telegram

Farmers promote voluntary ag district

TARBORO – A number of Edgecombe County farmers have united and launched an initiative with the hopes of protecting and preserving their livelihood. The ad hoc group has met several times since February, researching and developing a plan to institute voluntary agriculture districts throughout the rural county. Tom Porter, president of the Edgecombe County Farm Bureau, presented the plan this week to the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners and later plans to make the farmers' pitch before the county planning board. The purpose of the Agricultural District Program, enacted by state legislators in 1985, is to encourage the preservation and protection of farmland from nonfarm development, Porter said. It's a recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic and social wellbeing of North Carolina, he said. "This initiative will promote the general welfare of Edgecombe County," Porter said at the commissioners meeting. "It's good for all the citizens to promote and preserve our agricultural heritage." Edgecombe County is one of the top 20 farming counties in the state, according to statistics from the N.C. State Farm Bureau. Farmers like Paul Drake, a Pinetops cattleman, want to keep it that way. "This is a way of life," Drake said, "and it's very important to the county." If the county implements voluntary ag districts, an advisory board consisting of different types of farmers would be appointed by the commissioners. ...

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/05/12/districts.html>

News

Farmers face uphill battle as development eats open spaces

Tractors, cattle and green space — they used to be common sights along any Iredell County road.

Now, local farmers can tell you who used to own the farm where the Wal-Mart Supercenter or Iredell Memorial Hospital now stand.

More than 30,000 acres of farmland in Iredell County have disappeared over the last 30 years, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. With today's farm averaging about 100 acres, the loss rate is equivalent to 10 farms a year.

http://www.aroundiredell.com/growth/index.php/growth/article/farmers_face_uphill_battle_as_development_eats_open_spaces/

The Voices Project at Michigan State University Museum presents resources to build greater understanding about farmers, farming and food.

<http://foodfarmingandcommunity.org/>

NPR Articles on Farmland Preservation

Attached you will a word document consisting of two articles from the National Public Radio web site. The first article talks about the permanency of easements and the second one gives an example farming being challenged by urban sprawl.

web site:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88038482>

WRAL

Highlights of Gov. Mike Easley's 2008-09 budget adjustments

RALEIGH --Highlights of adjustments in the \$21.5 billion spending plan for the 2008-09 fiscal year presented Monday by Gov. Mike Easley. The monetary figures are adjustments to what the Legislature already has budgeted for the year:

NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES:

- * Purchase more agricultural conservation easements on farm and forest land: \$5 million.
- * Hire nine positions to establish planning services to assure stable water support and prepare the state to withstand droughts: \$880,000.
- * Increase funding for One North Carolina Fund to provide incentives to keep state competitive with attracting companies: \$10 million.
- * North Carolina Green Business fund expansion: \$1 million.
- * Open trade office in Shanghai, China: \$375,000.
- * Job Development Investment Grants: \$17.7 million.

<http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/2871228/>



First ever Got to Be NC Festival set for State Fairgrounds June 5-8

RALEIGH -- A four-day festival celebrating North Carolina's agricultural heritage and locally

produced foods will take place June 5-8 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

The Got to Be NC Festival will feature a food trade show, antique tractors, draft horse and antique tractor pulls, the official state barbecue cooking championship, carnival rides, games, a petting zoo, pig races, a bluegrass band competition and country, bluegrass and beach music performances.

Festival hours will be 3 p.m.-midnight Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. Tickets to events in the Sam Rand Grandstand will be \$5.

"We're excited to show off agriculture in North Carolina with more than 70 N.C. food companies sampling and offering delicious foods for sale," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "In addition, this could be the largest gathering of antique farm equipment in North Carolina, based on the response we've gotten so far. Mix in the N.C. Barbecue Championship and great music, and it's going to be a real celebration of our agricultural heritage."

Teams from across North Carolina will compete in the 2008 N.C. State Barbecue Cooking Championship on Friday and Saturday. It is sponsored by the N.C. Pork Council.

The bluegrass band competition will be in Heritage Circle Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

There also will be daily music from Sweet Potato Pie, a North Carolina band that performs a musical blend of bluegrass, country, classical and blues.

Each night, the Sam Rand Grandstand will host entertainment. Greenville's Super Grit Cowboy Band kicks off the series Thursday. The Coastline Band of Charlotte brings beach music on Saturday, and Steep Canyon Rangers from Asheville plays bluegrass on Sunday.

The winner of the bluegrass competition will open for the Sunday show. All concerts begin at 8 p.m. A draft horse and mule pull will take place in the Grandstand Friday from 6 to 9 p.m.

The key festival sponsor is Kids' Green Earth. Additional sponsors include Food Lion, Touchstone Energy, Kerr Drug, Quality Equipment LLC, Golden LEAF Foundation, Clearwater and Davi's Guns. For more information, log on to www.ncagfest.com.

Asheville Citizen Times

Tailgate markets this weekend

Here's a guide to Western North Carolina tailgate markets, supplied by the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project. The markets are featuring spring green vegetables and locally raised meat and eggs, with strawberries and asparagus soon to come. Listings for other WNC counties are available online at www.BuyAppalachian.org. For more information about ASAP, call 236-1282. ...

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080502/LIVING/80501144/1004/ADVERTISING>

Asheville Citizen Times

Panel unlikely to back ag research center closure

WAYNESVILLE – Hold the bus. A legislative committee on Thursday will take up a state report that recommends selling or closing agricultural research facilities — including one in Waynesville. But a group of local farmers who had planned to travel to Raleigh and protest the recommendations has canceled its bus reservation. “For now, we’re going to hold off and see what happens,” said Terry Rogers, a beef cattle farmer and president of the Haywood County Farm Bureau, which was organizing the trip and had about 40 farmers signed up. Rogers said legislators he’s talked to have indicated they may try to keep the report and its recommendations in committee. The legislature doesn’t convene until May 13, but the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee will receive the draft report at 10 a.m. Thursday. The Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly conducted and wrote the draft report, which recommends consolidating state-owned agricultural research facilities in Fletcher and Waynesville, or possibly selling off the 412-acre Mountain Research Station in Waynesville and another in Ashe County, along with five others statewide. ...

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080506/NEWS01/80505127/1009>

Waynesville Mountaineer, 5/5

Farmers fight to keep station

Farmers from across the county gathered at the Mountain Research Station Wednesday to stave off a legislative axe that could close the station and liquidate the state’s assets there to fund other programs. By the time the 75 or so producers and agriculture advocates left the two-hour meeting, a strategy had been mapped out to convince state legislators that agriculture research in a high-elevation area is essential not only to the state, but the nation. The N.C. Farm Bureau will be providing bus transportation to Raleigh on May 8, when a legislative committee will consider a draft report recommending all agriculture research in the state be consolidated under the state university system and that the seven smallest stations — including the Waynesville station — be closed. At present, North Carolina has a dual research system with the land grant universities owning some sites and the N.C. Department of Agriculture operating others. This is a system Sen. Joe Sam Queen, who organized the meeting, said has worked well and has propelled the state to the second-largest agriculture state in the nation. To fight the recommendation, the group will select two farmers to address the committee next week, and others who accompany them will seek out legislators prior to the hearing to make their case for continuing research in the mountains. Rep. Ray Rapp said the focus should be on dollars and cents issues, not emotion. “The rationale for closing is that the stations hosted fewer than 40 projects at each site in 2007,” Rapp said. “We need some quantification of numbers along with the nature of the activities. We need to focus on how research done here can’t be replicated downstate. The folks on the committee will want facts, not emotion.” After listening to Bill Teague, superintendent of the Mountain Research Station, discuss the report and all that happened at the facility, Sen. John Snow said it is obvious the state report is flawed. “This is a serious matter,” Snow said. “The reason they want it shut down is they want to spend the money somewhere else. This will keep coming up, but we have to remember we need to justify what we have on the basis of agriculture. If we tear the report down from the start, we’ve gone a long way toward doing something about it. It sounds like we ought to be able to bring this thing down, but we can’t take anything for granted.” ...

http://www.themountaineer.com/cms/display/Top_Stories/pageDisplay.php?page2display=1209967200*5-Farmers%20fig

Wilmington Star

Legislature looks at closing Castle Hayne agriculture research facility

When the Castle Hayne Horticultural Crops Research Station was established more than 60 years ago, there wasn’t much surrounding the facility except for farms and fields. Over the years, General Electric Co. and the U.S. 17 Wilmington Bypass have become unlikely neighbors to the greenhouses, vineyards and crops growing in the 60-acre facility off of Castle Hayne Road. But the new industry and traffic hasn’t stopped the station from fulfilling its mission - to conduct research to make farming more efficient, productive and profitable. Since 1947, the station has developed ways to make growing blueberries, muscadine grapes, strawberries and ornamental plants easier for farmers and growers in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties. A legislative committee, however, might do what development couldn’t to the Castle Hayne site and shut down its research forever. ...

http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20080507/ARTICLE/805070338/1004&title=Legislature_looks_at_closing_Castle_Hayne_agriculture_research_facility

May 9 Celebration Planned to Honor 2008 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family *

RALEIGH – A Wilkes County family has been named the 2008 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family for North Carolina, a prestigious award that honors farm families that show stewardship of their land by putting in place conservation practices that protect the environment.

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will honor the Dwayne and Alan Sidden family at a ceremony from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday at the

Sidden farm in Wilkesboro. The award is given each year by the association, a group  representing North Carolina's 96 soil conservation districts. Bill Ross, secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler will join the association to help make the presentation.

"North Carolina is quickly becoming an urbanized state and our rural heritage is being lost," said Pat Harris, director of the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation. "It's more important than ever that we recognize those families working hard to maintain family farms because a good conservation ethic goes a long way toward protecting our water and soil quality and the open spaces we all enjoy in North Carolina."

The Sidden's have operated their farm since the early 1900s in Wilkesboro. The farm sits on 151 acres of rolling pasture and hay land in Wilkesboro. The Sidden's raise about 50 cattle and 122,500 broilers, and manage about 70 acres of forestland.

The Sidden's have had a conservation plan since 1975 and earned the recognition for numerous conservation practices, including a revised plan they developed and put in place in 1994 with help from the Wilkes Soil and Water Conservation District. As part of the conservation plan, the family has integrated rotational grazing with nutrient and pest management programs and built a 4,900-foot fence that protects a nearby stream and provides a path for wildlife.

The Sidden's also built manure compost bins and a forced-air mortality composter to better manage the waste produced in the farm's five chicken houses. The Sidden's manage the forest on the property by harvesting timber in a selective-cut method to reduce the environmental impacts on the land and promote the establishment of browse for wildlife.

"The Sidden's are an ideal representation of what it means to sustain working farms in North Carolina," Harris said. "Their work demonstrates their concern for the wildlife, their neighbors and the land itself."

For more information, contact Jamie Kritzer, public information officer with the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, at (919) 715-7357 or Harris, at (919) 715-6097.

Fayetteville Observer

Border Belt's facility in Whiteville may close

WHITEVILLE — The Border Belt Agricultural Research Center near Whiteville is one of seven research facilities that could be closed if the General Assembly approves a committee's recommendation. The station on Old Lumberton Road has been in operation since 1949, according to director Ty Marshall. Marshall has worked at the Whiteville station for more than 19 years. The station has four other permanent employees and adds seasonal employees to harvest tobacco for research. "We do field crop research, and we are the only one in the southeastern part of the state," Marshall said. "We do work on corn, soybeans, peanuts and tobacco." Marshall said his center had to pull out of a \$500,000 grant application with Southeastern Community College because of the proposed changes. He said the grant was for helping farmers grow a crop, such as canola, to turn into a biofuel. A research station in Clinton specializes in horticultural crops. It is not among those proposed for closing. A report by the Program Evaluation Division of the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee is scheduled to be presented today at 10 a.m. in Raleigh in the Legislative Building. The draft report recommends selling the seven research stations — Border Belt, Castle Hayne, Mountain, Oxford, Umstead, Upper Mountain and Upper Piedmont — as well as land at other research stations. The Whiteville station, as well as the Horticultural Crops Research Station in Clinton, are operated by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. ...

<http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=293438>

Washington buys Snohomish County tree farm to ensure it stays green

Almost 1,000 acres of forest land east of Arlington will be preserved from development under a purchase agreement approved Tuesday by the state Board of Natural Resources.

The \$4.15 million acquisition of a working tree farm is the largest in a program created by the 2007 Legislature to buy up to \$70 million of forest land facing conversion to housing or other nonforest uses. The 985-acre property was also given high priority because it is adjacent to existing state trust land.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004399976_bearcre_ek08m.html

Charlotte Observer

Go to Piedmont Farmers Market for veggies

Local farmers markets are a major component of local food systems. Here is information about ours: Piedmont Farmers Market Inc. is a 501(c)-3 nonprofit corporation that holds five seasonal markets at four locations in Cabarrus County each week. It is run by a board of directors elected by farmers market members. The Monday market in Harrisburg is at 6960 Robinson Church Road. It will operate from 4 to 7 p.m. starting May 19. The Tuesday market will start June 3, operating from 8 a.m. to noon at 518 Winecoff School Road, Kannapolis. The Tuesday market has built up over the past few years, but it still offers an excellent opportunity to shop with fewer crowds than at the Saturday market. The fruit and vegetables get ripe regardless of the day of the week.

I don't see a lot of people doing it, but it makes sense to me to start grocery shopping at the farmers market and then hit the Food Lion across the street for the rest of your groceries. The Wednesday market has moved. Wachovia owns the old site. They are moving into their new location this summer, and the Cabarrus Avenue site may be sold. We appreciate what Wachovia did for us the three years we were at that location. They not only provided the space at no cost, but they quickly responded to various problems that came up regarding the site.

<http://www.charlotte.com/218/story/614955.html>

Asheville Citizen Times

Agriculture research station closure plan questioned

RALEIGH – Efforts to root out government waste ran up against support for popular programs Thursday. First, nonpartisan researchers made the case to lawmakers for standardizing regional job-creation efforts by turning AdvantageWest and two other state economic-development agencies into nonprofit groups. Then the Program Evaluation Division staff moved on to a more controversial plan that drew an overflow crowd of mostly opponents to the General Assembly committee meeting: consolidating the state's agricultural research stations. Sen. Martin Nesbitt criticized both reports as attempts to fix what, at least in Western North Carolina, isn't broke. "We're beginning to say that everything needs to be centralized and standardized and run out of Raleigh," the Asheville Democrat said, "and agriculture can't be done that way." The committee took no vote, but that doesn't mean the proposals have been blocked. ...

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200880508120>

Charlotte Observer

Big farm bill defies threat of veto

Weary congressional negotiators on Thursday completed a massive farm bill that confronts a presidential veto threat amid complicated election-year politics. After missing many deadlines, lawmakers unveiled a five-year, \$286 billion package that includes record spending on fruits and vegetables combined with crop subsidy reforms that critics consider inadequate. The bill's long-term future remains unclear in the face of President Bush's expected veto. "I am a happy man," Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, said Thursday. "It has been a long and difficult road to this day." Negotiators finished the bill after clearing final hurdles Wednesday night, including a complex formula for banning federal payments to wealthy farmers. The untested subsidy formula defied simple explanation even by some of the lawmakers themselves Thursday. The bill devotes \$1 billion to buying fruit-and-vegetable snacks for schoolchildren, and millions of dollars to advertise U.S. fruits, nuts, wine and other foods overseas. It props up domestic prices for sugar, bails out distressed asparagus growers, and pays farmers more for conserving sensitive land. The Bush administration quickly denounced the legislation as a costly, gimmick-filled package that will distort trade.

<http://www.charlotte.com/171/story/616526.html>

Charlotte Observer -5/11

N.C. lawmakers assemble this week

A sales tax break for energy efficient appliances and more money for roads are among the changes potentially coming in what lawmakers hope will be a brief session of the General Assembly that starts Tuesday. Legislators, who just finished the political primary season and are barreling toward a general election, have to sandwich a little lawmaking in between. They must tend to their biggest task, writing the state's \$20 billion-plus budget, under the pressure of a slowing economy. Gov. Mike Easley plans to release his proposed budget Monday. It will include a three-day sales tax holiday in October on purchases of energy efficient products, such as "energy star" rated appliances and light bulbs. Easley also will propose reducing the amount of money that is shifted from the highway trust fund to the state's general budget. More money will remain in the trust fund, which is used for road building and other transportation needs. Eventually the transfer will be phased out completely, something Republicans have demanded for years.

<http://www.charlotte.com/171/story/618777.html>

Greensboro News & Record

Study urges state to sell 7 research farms

RALEIGH — The future of a state-owned agricultural research farm in Rockingham County is uncertain after a recent legislative report identified it as one of seven the state should consider selling. "We were really focusing on efficiency," Carol Ripple, the report's author, told legislators. "Our first look at this is just a starting point." In fact, the farm is just one piece of a complex puzzle that involves the Department of Agriculture, N.C. A&T, N.C. State and other competing institutional and geographic interests. Currently, there are 18 agricultural research stations that are owned either by the Department of Agriculture or N.C. State. Another 10 field laboratories are owned by N.C. State, and A&T has its own research farm. ... <http://www.news-record.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080512/NRSTAFF/39355911>

Charlotte Observer

Open for the season: Area farmers markets

Mecklenburg County

1 CENTER CITY GREEN MARKET

200 E. Seventh St., Charlotte, 28202. Across from Reid's and the Levine Museum of the New South. Sponsored by Center City Partners. 8 a.m.- 1p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 1. Produce, flowers, crafts, jewelry, fish and seafood and baked goods. Special events through the summer. Free parking in Seventh Street Station. 704-332-9590 or www.charlottecentercity.org or www.centercitygreenmarket.com.

2 CHARLOTTE REGIONAL FARMERS MARKET

1801 Yorkmont Road, Charlotte, 28217. Open year-round. 8a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, plus 12:30-6 p.m. Sundays May through August. The official N.C. Department of Agriculture market. Several buildings, including greenery shed and a craft barn; produce area includes baked goods, locally grown, organically grown and old-variety fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats, goat's milk cheeses and soaps. Take I-77 to Billy Graham Parkway (or South Tryon Street), turn left on N.C. 49, then right on Yorkmont. Market is 1 mile on the left. 704-357-1269 or www.ncagr.com (look under "farmers markets").

3 CHARLOTTE TAILGATE FARMERS MARKET

100 W. Park Ave., Charlotte, 28205. At Park Avenue and Camden Road in South End. 4-7 p.m. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays. All locally grown or produced. Includes vegetables, herbs, flowers and farm craft products. 704-335-0777 or e-mail market manager Lynn Shanklin Caldwell, info@charlottetailgatemarket.com

4 DAVIDSON

FARMER'S MARKET

128 Main St., Davidson, 28036. 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays through October. Between Main and Jackson streets next to Town Hall. Locally grown or raised produce, meats and eggs. Details: www.davidsonfarmersmarket.org. Take I-77 to Exit 30 and follow Griffith Street to Jackson Street (just before Main Street). Turn right and the market is on the left, behind Summit Coffee.

5 GATEWAY VILLAGE MARKET

800 W. Trade St., Charlotte, 28202. In the Gateway Village Promenade. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursdays. Locally grown, organically grown and old-variety produce, herbs, flowers, arts and soaps, plus live music from noon to 1:30 p.m. Free parking for 90 minutes in the deck at 700 W. Trade. 704-683-1000.

<http://www.charlotte.com/192/story/622664.html>

Waynesville Mountaineer

Research plan stalled

A legislative report recommending changes in agriculture research in North Carolina faced harsh criticism Thursday when the matter was heard in committee Thursday. Bill Teague, superintendent of the Mountain Research Station, along with several station employees, were present for the hearing. The N.C. Farm Bureau originally planned to sponsor a bus for area farmers who wanted to attend the hearing, but legislators advised it would be better to save the lobbying effort for a more strategic time. Rep. Ray Rapp, D-Mars Hill, said the committee is not empowered to take any action. "The good news was that the two deans of the schools of agriculture at N.C. State and N.C. A&T were there to say they wanted to be involved in discussion of a strategic plan, but were opposed to selling off any of those stations," Rapp said. Those sentiments were shared by N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler, whose department is in charge of 12 of the state's ag research station, Rapp said. The legislative draft report in question proposed consolidating all agriculture research under the state's university system, closing seven of the research stations — most of which are in Western North Carolina — and selling select parcels of land. ...

http://www.themountaineer.com/cms/display/Top_Stories/pageDisplay.php?page2display=1210658400*13-Research%20plan%20stalled.php

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