



E-mail Update

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ADFP Trust Fund News

The NC ADFP Trust Fund recently held its annual grant application workshops, with over 100 people in attendance! We would like to thank our sponsors – Carolina Farm Credit, Cape Fear Farm Credit, and AgCarolina Financial – for making these events possible.

Remember, applications are due on December 5, 2008!
Refer to website for more information on the application process.

News and Articles

New Requirements for Controlling Manure, Wastewater from Large Animal Feeding Operations

Release date: 10/31/2008

(Washington, D.C. – Oct. 31, 2008) EPA has finalized a rule helping to protect the nation's water quality by requiring concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) to safely manage manure. EPA estimates CAFO regulations will prevent 56 million pounds of phosphorus, 110 million pounds of nitrogen, and 2 billion pounds of sediment from entering streams, lakes, and other waters annually.

"EPA's new regulation of animal feedlots sets a strong national standard for pollution prevention and environmental protection, while maintaining our country's economic and agricultural competitiveness," said Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles. "This clean water rule strengthens environmental safeguards by embracing a zero discharge standard and requiring site-specific management plans to prevent runoff of excess nutrients into our nation's waters."

This is the first time EPA has required a nutrient management plan (NMP) for manure to be submitted as part of a CAFO's Clean Water Act permit application. Manure contains the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus, which, when not managed properly on agricultural land, can pollute nearby streams, lakes, and other waters.

Previous rules required a CAFO operator to use an NMP for controlling manure, but the regulation builds on that by requiring the NMP to be submitted with the permit application. The plan will be reviewed by the permitting authority and conditions based on it will be incorporated as enforceable terms of the permit. The proposed NMP and permit will be available for public review and comment before going final.

The regulation also requires that an owner or operator of a CAFO that actually discharges to streams, lakes, and other waters must

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

apply for a permit under the Clean Water Act. If a farmer designs, constructs, operates and maintains their facility such that a discharge will occur, a permit is needed. EPA is also providing an opportunity for CAFO operators who do not discharge or propose to discharge to show their commitment to pollution prevention by obtaining certification as zero dischargers.

In addition, the final rule includes technical clarifications regarding water quality-based effluent limitations and use of best management practices to meet zero discharge requirements, as well as affirming the 2003 rule requirement for reducing fecal coliform through the use of best conventional technology.

EPA worked closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the development of the rule and will work closely with states during implementation. The rule deadline for newly defined facilities to apply for permits is February 27, 2009.

EPA has been regulating CAFOs for more than 30 years. The final rule responds to a February 2005 federal court decision that upheld most of the agency's 2003 rule, but directed further action or clarification on some portions.

Information on the concentrated animal feeding operation rule: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule>

Columbus: Voluntary agriculture districts become law

The Fayetteville Observer
November 4, 2008

What happened: A local law establishing voluntary agriculture districts in Columbus County was approved by the commissioners Monday.

Why it matters: Edward Davis, director of Soil & Water Conservation for the county, told commissioners the district will encourage the protection and preservation of farmland in the county. Farmers interested in taking part in the program can apply, Davis said, and will pay a fee to cover the cost of recording the deeds at the Register of Deeds office. Kip Godwin, a former county commissioner with ties to agriculture, called the new law "a great ordinance" and encouraged commissioners to adopt it. He said about 60 counties in the state have enacted similar laws, including neighboring Bladen.

What they said: "The benefits are protection," Davis said. "It also helps give the farmers pride in what they are doing."

"A big benefit is that if a neighbor sells land, the deed search will notify the buyer that they are moving into an agriculture area," Godwin said. "When they become a neighbor to a farm, they are notified that they are moving into a rural area where there are agriculture operations and there are, what some people see as nuisances. Hopefully it makes for better neighbors."

Other business: Commissioners also received the county's annual audit from Alan Thompson of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Co. He told commissioners the audit was a good one, with the county's fund balance above \$15 million, up by about \$2million from a year earlier, and reversing a declining trend that had been noted since 2004.

From NCDA&CS Daily Clips

N.C. Ag Hall of Fame to induct Graham

The News & Observer

November 20, 2008

RALEIGH - Jim Graham, North Carolina's longest-serving agriculture commissioner, will be inducted into the N.C. Agricultural Hall of Fame. Graham, who died in 2003 at the age of 82, served as agriculture commissioner from 1964 to 2001. During his record nine terms in office, he secured funding for a number of programs, including boll weevil eradication and the elimination of pseudorabies, cholera and tuberculosis in hogs, according to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Graham developed a network of five state-owned farmers markets and three agricultural centers across the state. He also started the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" marketing program, and set up a program to check gas pumps, scales and price scanners for accuracy, the department said. The ceremony, which is invitation only, will take place today and will be presided over by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. The N.C. Agricultural Hall of Fame was created by the General Assembly in!

1953 to honor North Carolinians for distinguished service in agriculture. Candidates must be deceased at least one year before they are eligible for membership. Graham will become the hall's 34th member.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1302259.html>

Troxler To Speak At Land-Owner Forum

NBC-17

November 20, 2008

SMITHFIELD, N.C. - Steve Troxler, North Carolina's Commissioner of Agriculture, will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming Johnston County Landowner Forum presented at the Johnston County Agricultural Center on Dec. 2, according to a news release. The event, which begins at 6:30 p.m., will include useful information for landowners who are concerned with the future of their farm or forestry.

<http://johnston.mync.com/site/johnston/news%7CSports%7CLifestyle/s/story/19244/troxler-to-speak-at-land-owner-forum>

Want to eat locally in 2009? Better plan now

Greensboro News Record

November 18, 2008

Americans -- concerned about transportation costs, poor diet and global food poisoning scares -- are increasingly trying to eat fresher and minimally processed foods from farmers living in their regions.

Hundreds of groups and businesses across North Carolina are promoting localism as a way to reclaim control over their food sources.

For example, Alamance County residents plan to open in 2010 a cooperative grocery store supplied by food grown or produced within a 250-mile radius.

Eric Henry of Burlington says he realizes some foods, such as coffee and chocolate, have to be imported.

"We're not going to go back 100 years and totally isolate ourselves and depend totally on our local community," says Henry, who has been trying to gather support for the Alamance store. "I don't look at it

as an all-or-nothing. But I do think the local trumps the organic or global model."

Families considering adopting more local diets should take time during the fall and winter seasons to plan next year's shopping and meal-preparation habits.

http://www.news-record.com/content/2008/11/18/article/want_to_eat_locally_in_2009_better_plan_now

Farm thrives on progress and tradition

Hendersonville Times News

November 17, 2008

The harvest season is mostly over and farms along U.S. 64 East are busy selling the fruit and crops grown in what turned out to be a vintage year for much of Henderson County. It was the second of two dry summers, yet a few rains came at critical times in the growth of produce, especially apples, resulting in a high concentration of sugars and other flavor compounds. Consumers are now shopping at farmers' road-side buildings, buying sacks of fruit or vegetables that are field fresh and, in most cases, priced lower than those in supermarkets. One such market is at Lyda Farms, operated by a family that last year was named Farm Family of the Year by the North Carolina State Grange. The award was recognition of a business started in 1948 by Rome Lyda, who died in February of this year at the age of 88.

http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20081117/NEWS/811160239/1018?Title=Farm_thrives_on_progress_and_tradition

Drought keeps grip on half the state

The News & Observer

November 14, 2008

RALEIGH - Nearly half of North Carolina still faces a drought as it continues to struggle to fully emerge from the dry conditions that have gripped the South for more than a year.

A U.S. Drought Monitor report released Thursday shows that 46 percent of the state faces at least moderate drought conditions, with the most extreme conditions along the state's southwest corner. Nearly two-thirds of the state is considered abnormally dry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 59 North Carolina counties as disaster areas because of crop losses. Farmers in another 37 contiguous counties will also be eligible for relief from losses.

Drought conditions have improved since the beginning of the year, when severe conditions covered the entire state.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1294052.html>

Plan will help protect farming

Hendersonville Times News

November 14, 2008

The apple orchards of eastern Henderson County and fields planted in tomatoes, corn and ornamental shrubs across the French Broad River Valley add untold worth to our county. Living here, it's easy to forget that many Americans have lost such bucolic views as their farms gave way to cookie cutter subdivisions, endless strip malls and wide swaths of asphalt. Since 2002, North Carolina has lost more than 6,000 farms and 300,000 acres of farmland, leading the nation in farm loss to urban sprawl. So it is good to hear that Henderson

County is developing a comprehensive plan to protect the farmland that, along with our mountains, forest, rivers and waterfalls, makes our area a tourist and retirement destination. The county was recently awarded a \$22,500 grant through the N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Fund to produce the study. The study will give an overview of farming in the community, look at challenges facing farmers and explore opportunities for preserving agricultural lands.

http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20081114/OPINION/811130259/1016/OPINION02?Title=TN_EDITORIAL_Plan_will_help_protect_farming

Meeting offers opportunity to address farmland preservation

Stanly News and Press

November 14, 2008

Between the years 2003 and 2006, North Carolina lost 5,500 farms and 300,000 acres of farmland. To give an idea of how much farmland this included, losses would be equivalent to losing all of Stanly County acreage plus an additional 50 acres in an adjacent county. The total acreage in Stanly County is 252,864. If U.S. Census Bureau predictions that North Carolina's population will expand by four million people by the year 2030 become reality, more of the state's farmland may be lost. So why is there a need to preserve farmland? It's simple: agriculture is the state's No. 1 industry, comprising of 20.3 percent of the state's income while 17 percent of the state's workforce is involved in agriculture or agribusiness related job. The state's forest products industry is the largest manufacturing industry in North Carolina and pays wages of \$3.6 billion annually. North Carolina's green industry contributes \$8.6 billion to the state's economy and employs nearly 152,000 people!

. Preserving working family farms has been a top priority of NC Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, who delivered his "Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Strategy" to the General Assembly in March 2005.

http://www.thesnaponline.com/local/local_story_315082132.html