



Email Update

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Welcome to Two New ADFP Trust Fund Advisory Committee Members!

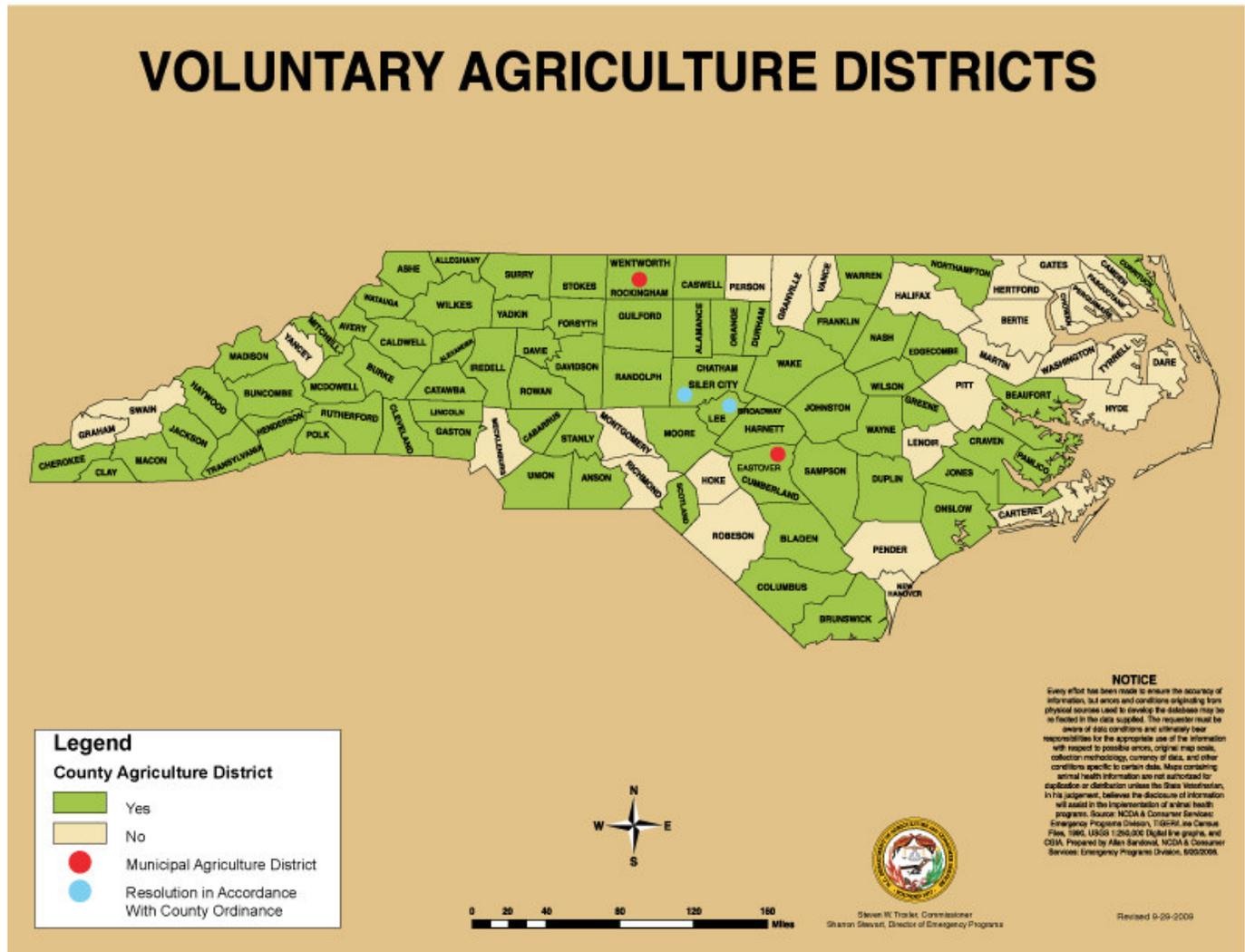
The ADFP Trust Fund staff, Advisory Committee, and Commissioner would like to welcome two new Advisory Committee members. **Anne Briley**, appointed by the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and **Linda Shaw**, Executive Director of RAFI-USA are the newest additions to the ADFP team. Both were present at the last Trust Fund meeting on September 30th.

ADFP Trust Fund News: 2010-2011 Grant Cycle Update

We are pleased to announce that the Trust Fund was appropriated \$2 million dollars from the State for the 2010-2011 Grant Cycle. Although funds are less than last year, this is quite an achievement in such a tight fiscal year. The ADFP Trust Fund will offer grants for term and perpetual easements, agricultural development projects, and agricultural county plans (VAD/EVAD and county farmland protection plans). County and non-profit agencies are encouraged to apply. Expect to see applications posted on our website in early November. <http://www.ncadfp.org/>

Voluntary Agricultural District News

The VAD Program in North Carolina is making great strides towards increasing agricultural awareness and planning in all 100 counties across the State. Currently 71 counties have either a voluntary agricultural district ordinance and/or an enhanced voluntary agricultural district ordinance in place. The newest counties to be added to the map are Nash and Pamlico. Only 29 counties to go!



Agricultural News

Farmers discuss prevention of vanishing county farmland

Group discusses ways for growers to enhance income

Peachtree - Farmland in Cherokee County is being lost as developers gobble up farms, and few farmers make enough money to sustain themselves. Those were identified as two of the most prominent problems as about 50 people, most of them local farmers, met Thursday night at McGuire's Millrace Farm to discuss ways farmland can be protected. The meeting was hosted by the Cherokee County Farmland Preservation Advisory Board. "Transition from one generation to another is probably the most critical [problem] we have right now," said Debra Sloan, with the N.C. Department of Agriculture. "A lot of farmland in North Carolina is lost due to no planning." ...

<http://cherokeescout.com/articles/2009/07/02/news/doc4a4a8463890a1190515844.txt>

Ag district program ready

Applications are being accepted for participation in the county's new Voluntary Agriculture District Program, which is designed to help preserve farmland and timberland in Wilkes. The program, established in an ordinance approved by Wilkes County commissioners in April, provides public notice that land is used for farming and timber production. Legislation approved by the N.C. General Assembly authorized counties to create agricultural districts. A primary goal of the program is to prevent conflicts over the sights, smells or sounds of agriculture, said Claude Shew Jr., an eastern Wilkes poultry and beef farmer who chairs the Wilkes Agriculture Advisory Board. These conflicts have resulted in "nuisance lawsuits" in some other North Carolina counties. Such a suit was filed, although unsuccessfully, against an Alexander County man over smells from his poultry farm. The program helps people learn where they can expect common farming activities like manure spreading, timber harvesting, controlled burning and livestock operations, said Shew, adding that this becomes increasingly important as more newcomers move to Wilkes and as the percentage of the county's population directly connected to agriculture decreases.

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<http://www.journalpatriot.com/fullstory.asp?id=1480>

Nonprofit helping farmers in need

CHAPEL HILL -- When a powerful storm uproots dozens of the tomatoes, green beans and strawberries that a farmer spent a year planting, there is a local place of refuge. The Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA is a nonprofit organization that is headquartered in Pittsboro. It assists farmers impacted by weather crises, financial setbacks and shifts in crop markets. The organization, created about 20 years ago, is committed to developing sustainable farms, preserving the environment for future generations, and ensuring that small family farmers can make a fair and dependable income. It operates on an annual budget of \$2 million, funded by local foundations, private donors, partnerships with universities and other nonprofits. The Tobacco Trust Fund, money that comes from a federal lawsuit settlement between tobacco companies and the states, also provides funding to the agency. "We work with farmers to help them make a living," said Executive RAFI-USA Director Linda!

Shaw. "We have a long history here of supporting family farmers and keeping them on the land." More farmers are seeking RAFI-USA's resources and support as they hunt for economic security. Because they are self-employed and thus may be without employer-provided health insurance, many crop-raisers have been hit hard by the financial drought.

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<http://heraldsun.southernheadlines.com/chatham/13-1182359.cfm>

Getting Small: Future Bright for Small Farming

GREENSBORO N.C. - This may sound like a contradiction in terms, but small farming is bigger than ever in the Piedmont. Thursday, North Carolina A&T State University held its annual Small Farms Field Day. It's a chance for people interested in using their green thumbs the chance to talk with the experts. From spotlighting new plant varieties to showing what to look for in buying a goat, A&T researchers and farmers shared their insights on how to maximize a small farmer's land. Small operators like produce grower Jerry Lowery said when it comes to farming, size doesn't always matter. "A small farmer can experiment with it and if you don't like it move on to something else versus a larger farmer," said Lowery. Agricultural extension agents agree. Niche marketing and organic farming is opening up the field to more people than ever. Thursday was the eighth year NC A&T has opened its farm to the public. The turnout was larger than ever.

<http://www.myfox8.com/wgh-small-farming-090716,0,4206533.story>

Americans shun farm jobs despite decent pay

Farms continue to rely on immigrant labor to function

Sleep is a rare commodity for Juan Cortez. Between nights spent clearing tables at a Manhattan nightclub and days running food to customers in a Bronx restaurant, the 42-year-old Peruvian immigrant worries more about finding time for shuteye than job security.

More than 100 miles to the north in the Hudson Valley, Omar Guzman also isn't concerned about staying employed. The 20-year-old migrant farm worker spends his summer days picking peas and cherries, and by fall will be harvesting acres of apples.

Even with the unemployment rate above 9 percent, the nation's native-born unemployed are looking at higher rungs of the labor market for their next career move. For immigrants like Cortez and Guzman, it means a degree of job security -- but also more competition if they want to advance into jobs above busboys, runners, dishwashers and crop hands.

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<http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2009/aug/09/americans-shun-farm-jobs-despite-decent-pay/>

Farmers warned to get ready

RALEIGH -- Even if global temperatures rise slowly, climate change could slash the yields of some of the world's most important crops almost in half, according to a new study co-authored by an N.C. State University scientist. The study, recently published online in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, looked at three frequently used scenarios for global warming. It found that the average U.S. yields for corn, soybeans and cotton could plummet 30 percent to 46 percent by the end of the century under the slowest warming scenario, and 63 percent to 82 percent under the quickest. "There are some caveats, but this is a real cause for concern," said Michael Roberts, an assistant professor of agricultural and resource economics at NCSU. Roberts collaborated with Wolfram Schlenker of Columbia University on the study. They used massive amounts of data on crop yields and weather from 1950 to 2005 to look at yields from nearly every U.S. county. They focused on swings in temperature on individual days.

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<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1674429.html>

Farmers can apply for state grants

Farmers who want to learn new ways to earn a living besides growing tobacco may be eligible for up to \$30,000 in state grants. The Rural Advancement Foundation International has scheduled a workshop on the grant program at the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension on Sept. 22 at 6:30p.m. The foundation, through the Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund, is offering up to \$10,000 for individual farmers and \$30,000 for groups to assist with development of new ways to replace lost tobacco income. The application deadline is Nov. 11. The selection process is competitive, with priority given to innovative projects. For more information, call Peggy Elliott at the county extension office at 321-6872.

<http://www.fayobserver.com/Articles/2009/09/09/932377>

New attractions + fair traditions = A whole lotta happy at the N.C. State Fair
RALEIGH When it comes to the N.C. State Fair "whether it's the food or the entertainment "fairgoers want traditional along with something new. Fair organizers have been busy rebooking favorite acts and finding exciting new artists to keep fairgoers excited about the 142nd N.C. State Fair, which runs Oct. 15-25. The Fair will again open a half-day early for a Preview Day on Thursday, Oct. 15. Preview Day will feature discounted gate admission and Powers Great American Midway will offer a \$25 Preview Day Ride Wrist Band for unlimited rides. Gates will open on Preview Day at 3 p.m., and the exhibit halls and Midway will open at 3:30 p.m. The grounds entertainment lineup has been finalized, with some favorites returning, plus some new faces that are sure to be crowd pleasers. The Circle C Racing Pigs will be back on the Hogway Speedway near Gate 9. The Dazzling Mills Family makes a return to Raleigh after a few years away. This crowd favorite will perform in front of the Expo Center. Also in front of the Expo Center is HoopDrum, the Carrboro duo of Julia Hartsell and Scott Crews. HoopDrum is described as a hypnotizing dance with hoops set to live music.

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http://www.theapexherald.com/pages/full_story/push?article-New+attractions+-+fair+traditions+-+A+whole+lotta+happy+at+the+N-C-+State+Fair-%20&id=3570447-New+attractions+-+fair+traditions+-+A+whole+lotta+happy+at+the+N-C-+State+Fair-&instance=home_news_lead

Public opinion important to future of agriculture

Farming is a global business these days -- what happens on the far side of the world often impacts what farmers in the Southeast plant and how they market their crops. Farming is also a local business and how the public perceives agriculture goes a long way toward influencing state and federal elected officials, who make the laws that govern agriculture. For the most part our elected officials don't really understand what farming is all about and don't have unified voice to explain it to them. Food safety is a big public issue, yet the estimated 6-7 million tons of potentially toxic municipal waste that goes on farm land each year is not a public issue -- at least not yet. In Virginia, for example, there are about 8.5 million acres of farmland, but only 55,000 acres are treated with biosolids, a legal, but euphemistic term for municipal sludge. Mike McEvoy, chairman of the Virginia Biosolids Council, says there is a five-year waiting period for farmers to get in on the practice of applying biosolids to farm land. In my time with the Farm Press I have interviewed several farmers in Virginia who use biosolids on their land. The results have been good, the input-savings have been good. They understand public concern, primarily over the odor, and the farmers I know who use biosolids use it carefully and on land not adjacent to urban areas. Then there is the case of Georgia farmers Bill Boyce and Andy McElmurray who say they lost productive farming operations and have had their personal lives turned inside out because of the use of biosolids from the municipal waste disposal plant operated by the City of Augusta, Ga. Their story and the emotional, gut-wrenching way they tell it is as scary as any horror story you'll ever want to hear.

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http://southeastfarmpress.com/news_archive/biosolid-industry-0914/

State ag exports top \$3B for first time

North Carolina exported record \$3.1 billion worth of agricultural products in 2008, a 51 percent increase over the previous year, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said Thursday.

"Agricultural exports are important to North Carolina's economy," Troxler said in a statement. "They help boost farm prices and income and support more than 24,000 jobs, both on the farm and in industries such as food processing, storage and transportation."

The state ranked 13th nationally in the value of agricultural exports during the federal fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2008, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

North Carolina's leading export commodities were tobacco, at \$573.6 million, and animals and meat, at \$553.5 million. The state is the nation's top tobacco exporter and ranks third in poultry products and fifth in cotton and peanuts sold to other countries.

Peter Thornton, assistant director for international marketing at the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, said the increase in the value of agricultural exports can be attributed to several factors, including the increased value of farm products the past few years and the emergence of China and other international markets that import food from the U.S.

"As developing countries get richer, the first thing they are going to do is eat better, which offers us more export opportunities," Thornton said.

North Carolina's top international customers in fiscal 2008 were Japan, China, Canada, the Netherlands and Germany.

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<http://www.wral.com/business/story/6021106/>

Women farmers reaping more, using personal touch with customers, plants

SEATTLE -- Few things bug Claire Thomas more than being called a gardener. The 63-year-old Redmond, Wash., farmer said some people just don't get that a woman can be responsible for 180,000 pounds of produce each year. But part of the reason she's so good at farming, Thomas said, is because she's a woman - not in spite of it. "It's really like taking care of a family," Thomas said of tending the vegetables on her farm, The Root Connection. It's a community-supported farm that charges members a seasonal fee for fresh produce they pick up each week. Thomas is among an unprecedented number of women who own their own farms. Nationally, the number of women who own farms jumped almost 29 percent from 2002 to 2007, while the number of male-owned farms stayed essentially flat. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of female-owned farms in Washington state alone soared nearly 44 percent, according to the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture released earlier this year.

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http://www.newsobserver.com/life/home_garden/story/122528.html

State Fair Tickets Now On Sale

Advance tickets for the 2009 N.C. State Fair are now on sale at five local malls. Fairgoers can save \$2 per adult ticket and \$8 per sheet of ride coupons. Advance admission tickets cost \$5 per adult and \$1 for kids ages 6-12 and ride sheets cost \$10 in advance. ...

<http://entertainment.myncblogs.com/2009/10/01/state-fair-tickets-now-on-sale/>