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NC AgVentures Will Award Grants up to \$8,000

NC AgVentures is an NC State Extension program that provides grants to NC farmers and community groups for new and innovative agricultural project ideas that will increase farm profits. The program, which is supported by the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, will award a minimum of 50 grants to independent family farms. This is a great opportunity for any producer who is thinking of diversifying, improving, or expanding their operation.

Farmers or community organizations that work directly with farmers from the following counties are eligible to apply: Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Iredell, Johnston, Lincoln, Martin, Mecklenburg, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Wilson, Wilkes, Warren, Yadkin.

More information can be found online www.ncagventures.org. There is an informational Zoom session offered Dec. 7 at 4:00. Please visit the NC AgVentures website to register. Participants can join by tablet, laptop, or phone. Deadline for applications is Dec. 15, 2022. Contact Extension Horticulture Agent, Aimee Colf, for more information 704-694-2915.

Backyard Chicken Flock in Union County Tests Positive for High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI)

A backyard chicken flock in Union County has tested positive for High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI). The positive sample was identified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Raleigh. This is the first confirmed positive in Union County. In late spring and early summer, HPAI was found at nine poultry farms in Johnston and Wayne counties and in mid-October HPAI was found in a single backyard flock in Wake County.

"We have had evidence that the HPAI virus has remained in our resident wild bird population and in migratory waterfowl, so reports of backyard positive flocks are unfortunate, but not surprising," said State Veterinarian Mike Martin.

The flock of less than 100 birds will be depopulated to prevent spread of the disease. Other flocks located near the infected flock will be contacted as part of ongoing surveillance.

This type of HPAI virus is considered a low risk to people according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, but is highly contagious to other birds, including commercial and backyard flocks of poultry. The virus is also not considered a food safety threat and infected birds do not enter the food supply.

"The threat of high path avian influenza is nationwide and likely will remain through the fall and winter," Martin said. "Commercial operations and backyard flock owners should continue to follow strict biosecurity measures including keeping birds enclosed without access to wild birds or other domestic flocks when possible."

If your birds are sick or dying, report it right away to your local veterinarian, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division at 919-707-3250, or the N.C. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System at 919-733-3986.

The warning signs of HPAI include:

- Reduced energy, decreased appetite, and/or decreased activity
- Lower egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb and wattles
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb and legs
- Difficulty breathing, runny nares (nose), and/or sneezing
- Twisting of the head and neck, stumbling, falling down, tremors and/or circling
- Greenish diarrhea

More information on biosecurity and the signs of HPAI is at www.ncagr.gov/avianflu. If you have questions about migratory birds, hunting, or wild waterfowl found dead on your property, visit the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's website at www.ncwildlife.org.

Thanksgiving Safety Campaign's Simple Message: Buckle Up.

Please buckle up if you're driving or riding anywhere this Thanksgiving.

That's the message coming from the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program as part of this year's Thanksgiving Click It or Ticket campaign.

"This is traditionally one of the busiest times for travel, but we want people to get where they're going safely," said Mark Ezzell, director of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. "The sad truth is most of these deaths and injuries are preventable. If people wore seat belts every time they get into a vehicle, we would save so many lives."

The campaign, which runs from Nov. 21-27, aims to encourage motorists to buckle up through innovative and extensive enforcement and education, including seat belt checks in all North Carolina counties.

Last year, more than 1,700 people were killed and thousands more injured in vehicle crashes on North Carolina roads. One of the main contributors are people who don't wear seat belts. In 2021, 555 people died and 1,150 were seriously injured in unbuckled crashes.

Ezzell urges everyone to wear a seat belt for long trips and even short trips no matter where you sit in the vehicle. "Whether you're driving, riding as a passenger up front or in the back seat, or if have a young person riding in a child safety seat - everyone should be buckled up," Ezzell said.

Some other ways people can drive safely this holiday season include:

- Obey all speed limits.
- Never drive impaired, tired or distracted.
- Slow down and always maintain a safe following distance between you and other vehicles.

For more safety tips, follow @NCGHSP on Facebook and @NC_GHSP on Twitter and Instagram. For more information, visit www.ncghsp.org.

The Veterans Council and the
VFW Post 10403 Auxiliary
Cordially invite you to a
VETERANS CHRISTMAS DINNER

LOCATION:
EMPOWERED WORD MINISTRIES
1168 US 52 SOUTH
WADESBORO, NC

DATE: 9TH DECEMBER
TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Mr. Kurtis Eugene Russell

Mr. Kurtis Eugene Russell, age 42, of Lilesville, NC, passed away on November 18, 2022.

Services will be private.

Kurtis was born on October 18, 1980, the son of John Cleveland Russell and Agnes Russell.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Kurtis is survived by his mother, Agnes Russell; his sister Nancy McIntyre; his brother Donald Price and by his sister Betty Pierson.

Online condolences may be offered by visiting www.mcewenmonroechapel.com.

Come to the Christmas Parade!

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
UPTOWN WADESBORO
PARADE STARTS AT 4:00 P.M.**

**BEST HOMEMADE
FLOAT TROPHY** **UPTOWN WINDOW
DECORATING
COMPETITION**

After the parade...
Christmas In The Village *Extended Shopping
until 8 pm in the
Uptown Wadesboro
business district*

On the Square: **FREE HOT CHOCOLATE FOR
KIDS AT SPECKLED PAW COFFEE**

**MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES, PICTURES WITH SANTA,
FOOD TRUCKS, WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLING & TREE LIGHTING.**

GRACE SENIOR CENTER'S ANNUAL SENIOR Christmas Luncheon & SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL PRESENTS...

Identity Theft Shred-A-Thon Fraud Prevention Event

**THURSDAY, DEC 1 12PM-2PM
DRIVE-THRU ONLY**

**AT LOCKHART-TAYLOR CENTER
PARKING LOT - 514 N Washington St, Wadesboro**

Please call and register 704-694-6616

**Delicious Traditional Christmas Meal
A Goody Bag & A Beautiful Wrapped
Gift from Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus!
Stay in your car...we'll bring it to you!**

Shred-A-Thon

This year we want to help our seniors prevent identity theft and fraud. We ask you all to bring all unwanted mail, bills, letters, taxes, or anything important to you that needs to be discarded professionally. ProShred Security Shredding Company will be parked at Lockhart-Taylor Center for the entire event. You will not have to get out the car, our staff will take all your old information and it will be shredded on site.

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