

## Strike-Force Meeting to be held in Richmond County-Feeding the Hungry

Join the next USDA Strike Force meeting to help "Feed the Hungry" in Richmond, Anson and Montgomery Counties. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12th, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Richmond County Agricultural Service Center at 123 Caroline Street, Suite 400 in Rockingham.

The Farm Service Agencies and Cooperative Extension Services from Richmond, Anson and Montgomery Counties, along with Backyard Bow Pro (Joe Lasher) are sponsoring this event. They would appreciate your help spreading the word among farmers, landowners, hunters, food bank operators, processors and community leaders about this meeting and their efforts. To learn more about how this will work visit [www.NOHungryPeople.org](http://www.NOHungryPeople.org) or [www.h4hungry.org](http://www.h4hungry.org) or email [info@BackyardBowPro.org](mailto:info@BackyardBowPro.org).

Find out how you can stop hunger in your community! Hunters and landowners will be discussing ways they can partner up to alleviate poverty in nearby rural areas.

Earlier this year, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will launch its "StrikeForce" initiative in 10 additional states, including North Carolina. The primary goal of the StrikeForce initiative is to increase partnership with rural communities and leverage community resources in targeted, persistent poverty areas. Vilsack noted that through the StrikeForce initiative, USDA will do more to partner with local and state governments and community organizations on projects that promote economic development and job creation.

"During my travels across the country, I've heard mayors and other community leaders say they have a hard time competing for USDA loan and grant programs. They have a plan to develop a new business or create jobs in their regions, but they lack development capital and they view our application and review processes as a barrier," said Vilsack. "StrikeForce changes that. By increasing outreach and technical assistance to communities, we can serve as better partners and help better leverage resources."

The "StrikeForce" initiative started as a pilot project in 2010 in selected regions in three states; Arkansas, Georgia and Mississippi. In 2011 it was expanded to include Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. In 2013 Secretary Vilsack announced new efforts to bring the StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity to Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

According to Amy Yaklin, director of the FSA in Richmond County, the goal is to encourage hunters to help feed people by donating meat to be processed into one-pound packages and taken to local food banks, which will freeze them and keep them for the community.

"This is one way for us to reach the community," said Yaklin. "One deer can provide 200 meals. But we need donations."



### Spotlight on Anson Cooperative Extension Agents

Each week The Express will share some of the many accomplishments of our local Agricultural Extension agents. Their dedication to and work for Anson citizens benefits all of us either directly or indirectly. This week's spotlight is on Livestock - Jessica Anderson, Agricultural Agent.

From Jessica Anderson: The Annual Southern Piedmont Winter Beef Conference was held at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center on December 4, 2012. Cooperative Extension agents from Stanly, Anson, Montgomery, Richmond and Union counties worked together to host the conference intended for local beef cattlemen. By pooling resources, local extension agents can work together to create a larger event than if each worked by themselves.

Cooperative Extension agents formed the Southern Piedmont Winter Beef Conference to give producers an opportunity to hear from various experts on topics involved in beef production. Speakers for the conference included Dr. Chris Teutsch, a forage specialist from Virginia Tech, and Steve Lemons, Livestock Agent, Stanly County. Teutsch spoke on the make-up of pastures in the Piedmont area and how to extend the grazing system. Lemons presented an informative session on why calves get rejected from local feeder calf sales.

Sixty five producers attended the conference, with an evaluation report that 67% of respondents were "very satisfied" with the relevance of the information while the other 33% were "satisfied." Respondents also reported that 70% were "very satisfied" with the overall conference while the remaining 30% were "satisfied." As a result of the conference, 71% of respondents stated that they intended to integrate more species of grasses into their current grazing system in order to extend the grazing system. Fifty-seven percent of respondents indicated that they now understood why cattle get rejected at the sale yard.

For more information contact the Anson County Center at 704-694-2415 or send mail to PO Box 633, Wadesboro NC 28170. They are located at 501 McLaurin Street.

### VFW/Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

The James D. Henderson VFW/Ladies Auxiliary Post 10403 will meet on Thursday, September 19 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Hampton B. Allen Library. All Veterans of Foreign Wars are invited.

For more information call Post Commander James Bennett at 704-694-2090.

Thank you for reading The Express! We are online at [TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://TheExpressNewspaper.com)

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