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**Agricultural News From Craven County Extension**

1 message

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Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 9:14 AM



# EXTENSION

NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center

## Agricultural Update



December 2023

# Merry Christmas!

**In this Newsletter.....**

- Upcoming Events*
- Auxin Best Management Training Schedule*
- Regional Soybean School Dates*
- 2024 NC Farm School*
- Choosing a Tobacco Variety*
- New Soybean Award*
- Tobacco Short Course Application*
- NC Tobacco Trust Fund Agricultural Leadership Development*

**NC Extension Craven Center Staff Update****EPA & Pesticide Registrations (ESA)****Podcast**

**Important Note:** Registration deadline for events listed below will vary from as few as 24 hours prior the event to as much as 3-4 days prior the event so please register as much in advance as possible. Also, while attendance is open to anyone, meals, when served, will only be provided for those that register in advance.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Note: Most events provide NCDA & CS pesticide credits as well as CCA credits. Check details of the events at the [NCSU Field Days Calendar](#) or local NC Cooperative Extension webpages**

**Commodity Conference** – This event will be held January 10-12, 2024 at Sheraton Imperial Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport at Research Triangle Park, Interstate 40 Durham, NC and will offer educational information regarding production of all major field crop commodities grown within NC. Other than educational events, concurrent session include awards of yield contest, poster displays, and association business sessions. Registration is free. Registration information and agenda is found at <https://www.nccommodityconference.com/conference-agenda>

**US Tobacco GAP Recertification** – NC Extension will offer GAP training at limited events in 2024. Additionally, GAP Connections will provide independent training and online training. The nearest to us will be the Flue-cured Tobacco GAP & Extension Production meeting held in Kinston on February 5, 2024, beginning at 9 am and ending with a noon meal. Registration and additional information will be provided soon.

**Corn & Soybean Production** – On February 1st beginning at 9 am at the Craven County Agricultural Building, 300 Industrial Drive, New Bern, NC, we will provide updates on corn and soybean production. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Ron Heiniger, Jeff Chandler, Dr. Chad Poole and Extension Agents. Two hours of pesticide credits for categories N, O, D & X will be provided. [Register via Eventbrite](#)

**Private Applicator Safety Training** – Immediately after the February 1st, Corn & Soybean Production meeting (above), we will provide a Safety Training, Category V, for those that need this credit for recertification. To attend, register via Eventbrite. **One must register for BOTH meetings if the plan is to attend the corn/soybean meeting as well as the pesticide training.** Register [HERE](#). (Note: Additional Private Applicator Safety classes will be announced January 2024).

**Cotton Production Updates** – On February 16, 2024 beginning at noon with a meal, NCSU faculty will provide cotton production updates at the Jones County Civic Center, [832 Hwy 58 S](#) Trenton, NC. Two hours of pesticide credit for N, O, D & X will apply. Registration is via Eventbrite. Register [HERE](#).

**NCDA & CS Pesticide Division Pesticide Exams Near Us**

Exams provided by the NCDA & CS Pesticide Division relatively near us are listed below. To register, visit their [webpage](#) or call 919-733-3556.

- January 10, 2024 in Smithfield at the Johnston County Extension Center, [2736 NC 210 Hwy](#).
- February 19, 2024 at the Beaufort Co Agricultural Services Building, 115 Airport Road
- May 8, 2024 in Smithfield at the Johnston County Extension Center, [2736 NC 210 Hwy](#).
- May 16, 2024 at the Onslow Co Government Building, [234 NW Corridor Blvd](#), Richlands
- May 22, 2024 in Wilmington at New Hanover Co Cooperative Extension, [6206 Oleander Dr](#).
- August 6, 2024 in New Bern, at the Craven Co Agricultural Bldg. 300 Industrial Dr.

For those wishing to take the NC Pesticide School prior to the exam, information for dates, location and fees for these classes is found at the [NCDA & CS Pesticide Division's website](#).

For individuals wishing immediate testing, [online exams](#) are an option.

If you desire other meetings or similar meetings in other counties, all meetings, field days, commodity events, etc. within the state are listed [HERE](#)

- If you would rather obtain NCDA & CS pesticide credits online, click [HERE](#)

## Auxin Best Management Training

NCSU faculty will offer the required training for anyone applying the new auxin herbicides via Zoom. Each session will begin at 8:30 am and advance registration is required. When registering, enter the name of the individual attending along with the personal email. If one email is used for the entire farm, then other arrangements must be made to ensure that pesticide credits and this certification is credited to the correct individual. In most cases, this will mean clarifying this as the class session begins or by contacting the NCDA & CS Pesticide Division directly at 919-733-3556. Again, all meetings begin at 8:30 am. Dates of meetings are:

January 16th

January 31st

February 14th

February 27th

March 12th

March 26th

To register, visit [HERE](#).

After registration, the password must be obtained by contacting an NC Extension Agricultural Agent that works within field crops. One may email me to obtain this password at

[mike\\_carroll@ncsu.edu](mailto:mike_carroll@ncsu.edu)

If these dates are not appropriate, or if you simply prefer, certification is also provided by manufacturing companies below:

- **BASF** - Any applicator who is planning to apply a dicamba-based herbicide on a dicamba-tolerant cropping system can learn about training and opportunities available from BASF at <https://www.engeniaherbicide.com/training.html>.
- **Bayer** – Individuals seeking dicamba training from Bayer should visit [roundupreadyxtend.com](http://roundupreadyxtend.com)
- **Syngenta** – Syngenta will provide dicamba training modules [HERE](#)

## Regional Soybean Schools

This year, an in-depth discussion of soybean production will be provided on a regional basis. This will allow greater discussion of production practices that increase yield and profit. These "Soybean Schools" will be offered at various locations. Those nearest us are listed below.

- Northeast Region Soybean School – January 18th Windsor, NC

- Blackland Soybean School – January 24th, Ponzer
- Lower Coastal Plain Soybean School – January 30th in Lumberton
- Southeast Region Soybean School – February 13th in Goldsboro

Registration is managed by the NC Soybean Producers Association. Register [HERE](#).

## NC Farm School 2024

Anyone that has resources to begin an agricultural venture but has not yet developed a business plan or is seeking other alternative production systems to consider, should apply to attend the NC Farm School. This school will help one develop a written farm plan, provide access to one-on-one consultations, introduce participants to a network of experienced Extension Agents, reveal key resources, and engage folks into a network of other established farmers. Cost of the program is \$300 per person or \$550 per double registration.

Classroom sessions will be held at the Johnston County Extension Center from 6 pm - 9 pm on February 12th and 26th; March 11th and 25th; April 8th and 22nd; May 6th and 21st. Snacks, drinks, course material, and online resources will be provided.

Field Tours will be from 8:30 am.- 3 pm., with lunch provided, on February 21st: Wayne County; March 20th: Lee County; April 17th: Harnett County; May 15th: Wilson County; and May 29th: Johnston County.

For more information or to register, visit [NC Farm School's webpage](#).

## Choosing a Tobacco Variety

Twenty new varieties were tested within the NC OVT in 2023. Of these, will you choose a variety based more upon yield or more upon quality? (This is not a trick question). Below are two charts. The first sorts the three-year average according to largest yield and value per acre. The second chart sorts by the Grade Index and yield. Note how these two charts differ.

As stated earlier, this is not a trick question. Some growers relay that their buying companies pay little difference by grade so making the maximum pounds per acre seems logical. Conversely if your buyer rewards quality, then examining tobacco performance by Grade Index is wise.

Regardless of how you choose, perhaps one of the equally critical factors is disease resistance. Regrettably, we do not have ratings for all of these just yet. However, preliminary data shows that many of the newer varieties have good to very good resistance to black shank. Granville wilt rating are generally good but rating this particular disease has been more difficult over the past few years simply because of lower Granville Wilt incidence in plots. The 2023 Tobacco Information will provide more data and information.

**Preliminary Performance of commercial varieties in the North Carolina Official Variety Test, three year average, 2021, 2022, and 2023 sorted by YIELD and VALUE PER ACRE.**

Variety	Yield (lb/a)	Value (\$/a)	Price (\$/cwt)	Grade Index	Days to Flower	Leaves per Plant	Plant Height (in.)	Leaf Spacing (in.)
NC991	3444	5229	151.75	75	64	19.6	39	2.01
NC996	3403	5125	150.74	74	64	19.2	40	2.09
NC993	3380	4902	147.84	73	65	20.0	39	1.94
NC987	3268	4972	151.83	74	63	19.9	39	1.95
NC986	3220	4929	151.93	75	64	20.1	40	1.97
NC960	3193	4911	157.12	76	67	20.3	40	1.99
PVH2254	3185	4728	152.22	75	65	20.4	41	1.99
CC143	3124	4960	161.47	79	64	20.2	39	1.93
GL26H	3116	4596	146.62	73	64	19.9	39	1.98
K326	3110	4704	151.06	75	64	19.8	37	1.88
GL365	3091	4660	153.16	75	69	21.9	39	1.76
PVH2343	3061	4784	158.48	77	65	20.6	41	1.97
NC1226	3044	4710	157.53	77	65	20.4	38	1.87
PVH1920	3044	4661	156.04	76	66	22.3	39	1.76
PVH1600	3031	4617	155.07	76	65	20.7	40	1.91
CC145	2984	4625	155.14	76	64	20.2	40	2.00
NC196	2972	4599	154.65	75	66	20.4	40	1.94
CC603	2959	4649	156.99	77	64	20.8	39	1.87
GF318	2946	4495	152.49	75	63	20.2	39	1.94
NC299	2908	4387	151.08	75	64	20.0	38	1.93
GL386	2905	4312	147.95	73	63	19.7	40	2.03
NC606	2874	4270	150.76	74	64	19.5	39	1.99
CC700	2866	4212	146.68	73	62	19.4	37	1.93
CC1063	2845	4319	150.81	75	63	19.9	39	1.94
GL395	2787	4254	151.36	74	62	20.0	38	1.92
PVH2310	2712	4270	157.75	77	64	19.7	40	2.01
Test Avg.	3057	4649	153.02	75	64	20.2	39	1.94

**Preliminary Performance of commercial varieties in the North Carolina Official Variety Test, three year average, 2021, 2022, and 2023 sorted by GRADE INDEX and YIELD.**

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PVH1600	3031	4617	155.07	76	65	20.7	40	1.91
CC145	2984	4625	155.14	76	64	20.2	40	2.00
NC196	2972	4599	154.65	75	66	20.4	40	1.94
GL365	3091	4660	153.16	75	69	21.9	39	1.76
NC986	3220	4929	151.93	75	64	20.1	40	1.97
GF318	2946	4495	152.49	75	63	20.2	39	1.94
NC299	2908	4387	151.08	75	64	20.0	38	1.93
CC1063	2845	4319	150.81	75	63	19.9	39	1.94
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**NOMINATE NOW!**

# Soybean Agent of the Year

Does your Extension Agent go above and beyond to assist you in successful production of soybeans?

We are seeking nominations for the inaugural NC Soybean Agent of the Year Award sponsored by the NC Soybean Producers Association. The prize for the winning Extension Agent is \$2,500 in professional development.

Scan or use the link to submit your nominations!

<https://forms.gle/LarR1knfr6HymRkU6>

All applications due January 1, 2024

QUESTIONS? Contact Jeff Chandler at (828) 785-3775 or [jchandler@ncsoy.org](mailto:jchandler@ncsoy.org)

## New Soybean Award

### New Award by NC Soybean Producers Association

This year the NC Soybean Producers Association has begun an award to recognize NC Extension Agents that have made an impact on your soybean production. The award recognizes Agents that have gone above and beyond to provide successful production and will provide \$2,500 for the agent's professional development. The application is simple, just your basic contact information and the answer to one question:

*"Please tell us why you feel this Agent deserves recognition as the 2023 North Carolina Soybean Agent of the Year, using specific examples:"*

## Tobacco Short Course

The Tobacco Short Course has typically offered an intensive training that examines tobacco production, tobacco grading, and economic outlook. Up to 30 participants are allowed into this course. This three-day meeting is sponsored by the NC Tobacco Research Commission and the Tobacco Growers association of NC in cooperation with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NC State University.

This year's course will be held on January 30th, 2024 (beginning at 11:30 a.m.) through February 1st, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Rooming and seminars will be at the Stateview Hotel, 2451 Alumni Drive, Raleigh, NC. Applications are now being accepted.

The production course will include current information on variety selection, seedling production, cultural practices on fertilization, weed management, sucker control, disease and insect management, mechanization, fuel conservation in curing, and economics of production. On Wednesday, January 31st, 2024, there will be an all-day session on Tobacco Grading conducted by Mr. Bobby Wellons, AMS, USDA.

Those selected to attend will be responsible for the costs of their transportation to and from Raleigh. The hotel room (shared with another participant), meals, and instruction costs will be paid from support of the NC Tobacco Research Commission and the Tobacco Growers Association of NC. If a participant requires a private room, he/she will pay one-half the room charge, which will be approximately \$100 per night.

All applicants **should deliver the completed application to the Extension agent responsible for tobacco in their county Cooperative Extension office for signature no later than January 5, 2024.** The 30 selected to participate will be notified by January 22, 2024.

[Download the Tobacco Short Course Application](#)

## The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Agricultural Leadership Development Program

This two-year NC State CALS agricultural leadership program is open to farmers and individuals in agricultural-related careers who are interested in further developing their personal, professional, and civic leadership skills. The program is implemented through seven 3-day sessions throughout North Carolina, a week-long policy study tour to Washington DC, a week-long US study tour to an area outside North Carolina, and an international study tour lasting approximately 10 days.

The goals of this effort are to empower the next generation of agriculturalists with the knowledge, experience, and skills to become successful leaders in their businesses, communities, industries, state, and nation. This provides participants with immersive exposure to the ideas, perspectives, people, trends, and issues that will shape their lives, agriculture, and

the world in the 21st century.

Much of the expenses for this program are provided by a \$5 million endowment from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. Additional support is provided by sponsorships and donations from various organizations and individuals. The participant cost is \$1,600 and scholarships are available to those with a financial need.

Applications are due by February 29th, 2024. All applications will be reviewed by a committee to determine those selected for an interview. Interviews will take place during May and June with the final notification of selected participants in July 2024. The program will begin in October 2024 and conclude in March 2026.

The application and more information is found at <https://calsleadership.ces.ncsu.edu/>

### **NC Extension Staff Update (Contacting us with limited staff)**

For those not aware, Tom retires at the end of December. We are currently also without administration support. Too, December and January are dedicated to final year end reports, development of 2024 plans of work, training events, and finalizing plans for upcoming meetings. As such, we may or may not be in the office. Three things will ensure that you obtain any assistance needed until we can once again be fully staffed.

First, it is strongly advised that you call to make an appointment rather than simply dropping into the office. If everyone is gone, the doors will be locked! If you can't make an appointment in advance, then at least call to make sure someone is actually in the office. Secondly, if you call and nobody answers the phone, please leave a short message regarding your situation on our voicemail. We'll address this when we return. Lastly, the most direct means to obtain assistance whether we are in the office or not is actually by emailing us directly. A short email with your question or request is sufficient. (Most of us reply to email prior to phone calls anyway because we have access to email 24 hours a day but can only retrieve voicemail when we are in the office).

On a more personal note, our temporary staff vacancies will also impact those wishing to obtain passwords for Zoom meetings. Only Agricultural Agents with field crop responsibilities have been given these codes to ensure safety of meetings. So, if you are seeking a code for an upcoming meeting, it is strongly advised to email me a few days before the meeting. Should you wait until the day of the meeting, I may or may not be available to obtain and relay the code. (Again, the common sense view of this would assume that we could at least email or text the code any time. However, we are often in areas of the county with no cell signal, leading meetings where we cannot take time to address the request immediately, or with other clients. So, yes, if you wait until the just before the meeting to obtain a code, you may or may not get it).

## EPA & Pesticide Registration

Most should be aware that the EPA has taken a rather drastic, rapid approach to address endangered species because they were sued for not doing so. Since the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973, yet not addressed until someone litigated the issue, now the EPA is scrambling to comply. The result is that the EPA has assumed that all pesticide products are applied at maximum labelled rates on all crops in all fields. As such, if there is an endangered species in the county, any pesticide that might impact this specie has been banned (or will be). Not only is this not the correct approach for analysis but it unfairly may eliminate future pesticide uses.

Dr. Stanley Culpepper, Weed Science & Extension Specialist at University of Georgia has been working with the EPA to develop a better model for evaluation. His approach is simply that those in agricultural production do indeed wish to protect these endangered species. As such, we realize that some areas will likely lose the ability to apply certain products. However, given our size of agricultural production, it is unfair to limit an entire county's use of a product due to EPA policy alone. The EPA agrees yet faces a unique problem. The problem they face is that the group that won the initial lawsuit continues to file additional lawsuits. Their argument in court is that the EPA pesticide labels have failed to address endangered species correctly and no analysis of data exists to comply with specie protection. Well, the group is correct and thus judges are immediately banning the use of that pesticide.

We need help on this issue. We Extension Agents have provided some data to Dr. Culpepper and will continue to do what we can. You need to be aware of this issue too. View our short (about 40 minutes) video conference with him [HERE](#).

## Podcast

Two podcast that are released regularly by Extension regarding crop production within this area are listed below:

**CropSense:** Jacob Morgan, Director of Jones County Extension, produces weekly podcast with NCSU faculty and industry. If you would like to listen to these podcast, visit,

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1780395/12734496> or email him directly.

**Corn Kernels** - Dr. Ron Heiniger will post information regularly. See details in this newsletter under the section, "[Corn News](#)".

Disclaimer:

*Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current*

*information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any product.*

## NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center

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12/18/23, 9:26 AM

North Carolina State University Mail - Agricultural News From Craven County Extension

NC State University and N.C. A&T State University work in tandem, along with federal, state and local governments, to form a strategic partnership called N.C. Cooperative Extension.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

N.C. Cooperative Extension - Craven County Center, 300 Industrial Dr, New Bern, NC 28562, United States  
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