



# Email Update

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[WWW.NCADFP.ORG](http://WWW.NCADFP.ORG)

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## Welcome to Two New ADFP Trust Fund Staff Members!

The ADFP Trust Fund staff, Advisory Committee, and Commissioner would like to welcome two new ADFP Trust Fund staff members. David Mitchell, Budget Manager, will handle grantee reimbursement requests, manage the general operating budget, and provide support in all budgetary aspects for the Trust Fund. Kristen Davis, Document Specialist, will create print media (to include brochures, the annual report, and other published materials), oversee the ADFP website, work on GIS mapping with the Emergency Programs division, and enhance the organization of the Trust Fund's print and electronic files.

## ADFP Trust Fund News: 2010-2011 Grant Cycle III Update

For the 2010-2011 Grant Cycle III, the ADFP Trust Fund received 45 applications requesting \$7,058,597 in funds for projects, plans, and easements with a combined total budget of \$28,772,771. There were 10 agricultural plan applications, 5 agricultural development project applications, and 30 agricultural conservation easement applications submitted. The applicants are as follows on the next page. Please note that this is preliminary information based on the initial applications submitted for review. It is possible that figures could change as applications are reviewed more closely.

<b>Applicant Organization</b>	<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Total Project Value</b>
Alamance County	Easement	399,000	600,000
Alamance County	Easement	201,250	303,000
Black Family Land Trust, Inc	Easement	77,000	168,800
Black Family Land Trust, Inc	Easement	50,000	156,800
Buncombe County	Easement	142,500	252,296
Buncombe County	Easement	206,125	969,900
Catawba Lands Conservancy	Easement	114,150	410,200
Catawba Lands Conservancy	Easement	286,860	1,285,585
Duplin SWCD	Easement	198,920	309,700
Durham County	Easement	219,000	454,500
Fishing Creek SWCD	Easement	259,840	371,200
Fishing Creek SWCD	Easement	565,000	738,150
Foothills Conservancy of NC Inc.	Easement	170,000	407,000
Jackson SWCD	Easement	500,000	1,583,680
NC Coastal Land Trust	Easement	270,000	1,523,500
North American Land Trust	Easement	182,600	375,200
North American Land Trust	Easement	10,000	195,480
Orange County	Easement	150,000	600,000
Piedmont Conservation Council Inc.	Easement	68,643	261,572
Piedmont Land Conservancy	Easement	300,000	656,883
Saluda Community Land Trust	Easement	203,250	738,900
Sandhills Area Land Trust	Easement	159,940	211,938
Southwestern NC RC&D Council Inc.	Easement	69,000	176,134
Southwestern NC RC&D Council Inc.	Easement	55,000	392,415
The Land Trust for Central NC	Easement	175,000	800,000
The Land Trust for Central NC	Easement	326,620	1,256,480
The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee Inc.	Easement	392,900	8,790,250
Triangle Land Conservancy	Easement	150,000	273,855
Triangle Land Conservancy	Easement	165,000	512,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>6,067,598</b>	<b>24,775,418</b>

North American Land Trust - 50 Year Term	Term Easement	195,000	346,254
<b>Total:</b>		<b>195,000</b>	<b>346,254</b>

<b>Applicant Organization</b>	<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Total Project Value</b>
Carteret County – Harker’s Island Oyster Farm	Plan	50,000	66,881
Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development	Plan	6,770	18,295
Franklin County CE	Plan	40,000	52,000
North Carolina’s Eastern Region (part 1)	Plan	100,000	135,400
North Carolina’s Eastern Region (part 2)	Plan	100,000	135,400
Piedmont Land Conservancy	Plan	25,000	35,000
Randolph County/Randolph County CE	Plan	35,000	61,920
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Plan	30,000	40,000
Swain County SWCD	Plan	2,502	3,253
Triangle Land Conservancy	Plan	35,000	70,000
Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project	Project	13,987	22,510
Environmental Impact (RC&D) Inc.	Project	21,240	30,740
Natural Capital Investment Fund	Project	159,500	273,700
NC Farm Center for Innovation and Sustainability	Project	77,000	106,000
WNC Communities	Project	100,000	2,600,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>795,999</b>	<b>3,651,099</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>7,058,597</b>	<b>28,772,771</b>

## 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 75 counties have either a voluntary agricultural district ordinance and/or an enhanced voluntary agricultural district ordinance in place. Only 25 counties to go!

### VAD Workgroup

The VAD Workgroup consists of employees from governmental and non-governmental agencies who meet quarterly to discuss issues and plan events that pertain to the voluntary agricultural district community. The newest member to join the VAD Workgroup is Steve Gurganus. Steve is the Community Studies Team Leader for the NCDOT Human Environment Unit. His background and current projects provide a unique and beneficial perspective to the group. Other VAD Workgroup members include: Bob Bardon (NCSU Forestry and Environmental Resources), Andrew Branan (NC Farm Transition Network), Jerry Dorsett (NCDENR), Ted Feitshans (NCSU Cooperative Extension), Holly Gilroy (NCDA Environmental Programs/ADFP Trust Fund), Dewitt Hardee (NCDA Environmental Programs/ADFP Trust Fund), Brandon King (NCSU Cooperative Extension/Forestry), Mark Megalos (NCSU Forestry and Environmental Resources), and Steve Woodson (NC Farm Bureau).

## Agricultural News

Scores rally behind family farm

Road route would slice top fields, cut output and displace home that is nearly 100 years old.

CONCORD The Barbee family has raised crops on Shelton Road for more than a century, but a state road project threatens to slice through their fields and take their old homestead with it.

Tommy Barbee, 49, said he isn't against growth. It means more customers.

But plans to straighten Pitts School Road will curtail the number of vegetables he can grow and safely bring to market, he said.

His slow-moving tractors and other equipment would have to crisscross the 45-mph road to get from one part of his land to another. They make at least 40 such trips a day, he said.

"It's disturbing, there's no doubt about that," Barbee said. "It threatens your livelihood, your life."

Straightening Pitts School Road is part of a \$230 million project to widen nearly 9 miles of Interstate 85 to eight lanes, from I-485 in northeast Mecklenburg County to N.C. 73 in Cabarrus County.

Outdated I-85 interchanges at Poplar Tent Road and N.C. 73 in Cabarrus County will be rebuilt. Poplar Tent and N.C. 73 will be converted into four-lane thoroughfares with medians, Pitts School Road will be realigned near Poplar Tent, and a two-lane road will link Rustic Lane with International Drive near the I-85 interchange with N.C. 73.

At least 125 Charlotte-area residents packed a state Department of Transportation hearing on the plans at Northwest Cabarrus High School last week, many to defend the farmland that could be paved.

The proposed Pitts School Road realignment would also cut through one of farmer Tony Bonds' best-producing fields, Bonds said.

Tommy Barbee's son Brent, 23, manages Barbee Farms and said the family has worked hard in recent years to expand their produce, including selling at farmers markets. The farm raises 38 types of fruits and vegetables, and further expansion plans "were shattered when we learned of this," said Brent, a sixth-generation farmer. The route would take 5.4 prime crop-growing acres on the 75-acre farm.

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<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/local/story/985475.html>

Hog farms face tough times

Neil Strother runs a small family farm in Wilson County. It's a way of life that is in deep trouble.

About 25 hog farms in North Carolina sit idle and another eight are on the brink of closing, according to Deborah M. Johnson, CEO of the NC Pork Council.

"It's extreme. We're just trying to stay in business. I'm struggling and the big guys are struggling," Strother said.

Farms started seeing problems about two years ago when hog feed prices soared as the need for grain expanded to make bio-fuels. Then the economic crisis made it nearly impossible to pass those costs on to consumers.

Earlier this year, the H1N1 virus, also known as the swine flu, also caused problems for the industry.

"If we could get people talking about H1N1 and stop using that awful term swine flu and get rid of it, and let consumers know pork is safe to eat, that would help us as well," Johnson said.

Hog prices have remained steady. Costs are up, exports are down, but profits are dwindling.

"It's dangerous for rural communities to threaten their incomes," said Kelly Zering, an associate professor of agriculture and economics at North Carolina State University.

Zering said the decline in hog farms can be blamed for \$1 billion of the state's economic downturn.

"Demand for meat is expected to rise by 50 percent, and the big question is, 'Can we maintain the productivity growth in agriculture so that prices for food do not rise in this country to the point where people start to suffer?'" Zering said.

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<http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/6142610/>

North Carolina explores exports to China

The boom in farm exports to China shows no signs of diminishing, and North Carolina farmers are determined to be part of it. A group of them and their commodity association leaders joined an agricultural trade mission to China led by state Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler the first week of August. Even though China purchased \$271 million worth of North Carolina ag products in 2008, there is still "a huge amount of room for growth," Troxler said on returning. "North Carolina farmers desperately need new markets, and China is the largest potential customer in the world. I am confident we will open doors to new opportunities that will benefit North Carolina farmers -- otherwise I'd have stayed at home." Soybeans, cotton and tobacco were the primary focus of this mission, which made stops in Beijing, Kunming, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. The delegates found promising prospects for all three of the basic North Carolina crops. "We certainly have a good opportunity to sell more! cotton in China," said Billy Carter, executive vice-president of the North Carolina Cotton Producers Association. .

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<http://southeastfarmpress.com/cotton/export-markets-1006/>

State Ag Officials Want Extra Dairy, Pork and Poultry Off the Market

NASDA officials call on federal government with new plan.

N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler says he and his fellow state ag commissioners in the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture have a plan that could take extra dairy, pork, and poultry supplies off the market, stabilize prices paid to producers and make more food available to food banks, school lunch programs and other food assistance programs. The idea, known as "Meat the Need" is for the federal government to purchase limited amounts of dairy and meat products in installments to help stabilize market prices. "This is a bold solution that would allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase allocations to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and beneficiaries would spend the new allocations on meat and possibly dairy products," Troxler said. "These products would be available at grocery stores, and participants would be given separate electronic benefits transfer cards to purchase the products." ...

<http://carolinavirginiafarmer.com/story.aspx?s=32050&c=9>

Suddenly, we dig farming

Farming, which many city folk once associated primarily with children's books and distinctive if not entirely flattering tan lines, is suddenly in vogue. Never mind that most of the food we eat comes not from cozy acreages reminiscent of the setting of "Charlotte's Web" but from big corporate operations. Never mind that census data tell us that fewer than half of family-run farms show a positive net income (in other words, most farmers need day jobs). Even though farming no longer quite makes it as "a way of life," it's somehow become the next best thing (or maybe an even better thing): a lifestyle.

Perhaps it started with last year's reality dating show, "Farmer Wants a Wife," which spent eight weeks assaulting viewers with footage of low-rent Carrie Bradshaws chasing chickens in an attempt to win the heart of an improbably chiseled Missouri farmer. That show didn't exactly achieve "Bachelor"-level ratings, but a few weeks ago, when the Huffington Post featured a photo gallery of "hot organic farmers," the response was so overwhelming that it did yet another spread. From a pallid hipster growing organic vegetables on a Brooklyn rooftop to a strapping Californian whose specialty lettuce crops are bathed in golden sunlight, the photos suggest that running a farm -- at least the kind that appears far removed from pesticides, corporate contracts and furtive meth-cooking in abandoned barns -- is very similar to modeling for the Sundance catalog.

Readers are encouraged to vote on their favorite farmer. The front-runner as of this writing: a sweet-looking young Vermont woman leaning over a produce-filled truck bed in very short shorts and a tank top that might reveal more of her anatomy than she perhaps intended. Forget rock star: Farmers are so hot they could date rock stars. But no reality show or Internet photo gallery can compare with the most unexpected Internet craze in recent memory: FarmVille. Launched on Facebook last June by the video-game developer Zynga, the social game now has nearly 60 million users, making it the most popular game on Facebook.

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[http://www.heraldsun.com/pages/full\\_story/push?article-Suddenly-we+dig+farming%20&id=4224311-Suddenly-we+dig+farming&instance=columnists](http://www.heraldsun.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Suddenly-we+dig+farming%20&id=4224311-Suddenly-we+dig+farming&instance=columnists)

This recession looks fat on us

Americans rely more on cheaper, processed food, adding to the risk of obesity-related illnesses.

The recession is busting wallets and bursting waistlines as U.S. consumers shift their eating habits to help their budgets.

As the unemployment rate passes 10 percent and consumers find themselves increasingly strapped, they turn to cheap but effective means to fill their families' tummies. And those who have jobs are working longer hours, forgoing exercise and searching for foods that are not only economical but convenient.

As a result, more consumers are turning to processed foods - either already prepared, frozen or canned and typically filled with fat-generating calories, refined grains and sugars. That's making more Americans chubbier and prone to obesity-related illnesses such as diabetes in what has been dubbed "recession fat."

"Eating healthy has been one of the big casualties of this economic downturn," says Harry Balzer, chief industry analyst at the NPD Group and author of the research company's annual Eating Patterns in America report. "Last year, consumers cut back on eating 'better-for-you' and organic foods."

The culprit is cost. About 70 percent of respondents to a recent Technomic Inc. survey said healthier foods are increasingly difficult to afford.

Meanwhile, consumers are turning to more affordable grab-and-go alternatives such as chips, cookies, candy and now snack wraps and mini-burgers in between meals and often in lieu of a meal, recent studies show.

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<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/business/story/1042242.html>

CSA farm approach gaining support

Community-supported agriculture (CSA) has increased in popularity in Western North Carolina over the past few years.

The increase may be attributed to the strong locally grown movement, which encompasses environmental awareness and the desire to be connected to how food is grown and the farmer that grows it. Though they are picking up in momentum in WNC, the origin of CSAs was in the 1960s by a group of Japanese women who were concerned with the loss of farmland, imported food and increased pesticide use.

The idea of a CSA is a simple one, based on "shared risk." The community supports the farm and shares the bounty, as well as the inherent risk.

A grower offers "shares" or "memberships" to the community. Upon becoming a member of the CSA, an individual agrees to pay a fee, typically \$400 to \$700, at the beginning of the season. The fee is either paid in full or in a few installments and allows the grower to purchase seeds and supplies. In return for this fee, a consumer can expect a variety of produce grown by the farmer every week throughout the growing season.

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<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20091109/SERVICES03/911091012>

Importance of farmers

It's been a few years back, but I fondly remember my childhood days when we would visit my maternal grandparents. There's something special about visiting a farm. My grandparents had chickens and pigs, a cow and a mule. It was neat to go to the corn crib and shell corn to feed to the chickens. Or to go with my grandfather to the pig pen to "slop the pigs." Or to help with the milking duties with the cow. I'd visit the smoke house with my grandmother, where the hams would be curing. Tobacco was a major crop. I well remember visiting in the summertime and tying tobacco to sticks as it was to be put into the tobacco barn to undergo the curing process. Perhaps most memorable were the garden-fresh vegetables. Is there anything better than a garden grown tomato? Or new potatoes? Sweet potatoes? Beans? Yum. Yum. And, with each meal, my grandmother had delicious homemade biscuits. They're still one of my favorite food treats. I also remember the hard days of work that came with living on a farm. Early mornings. Late nights. And lots of work in between. I have a deep respect for farming life and those who toil in the fields and land so that the public can enjoy the fruits of their labors. I am grateful that there are those who promote the relationship between farms and cities.

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[http://sanfordherald.com/pages/full\\_story/push?article-Importance+of+farmers%20&id=4411851&instance=latest\\_articles](http://sanfordherald.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Importance+of+farmers%20&id=4411851&instance=latest_articles)

His farming message just might grow on you

Chip Hope doesn't care if you're a city slicker who is clueless about farming. He makes you want to go out and start digging in the dirt. Plant that first seed, he says. Put it in a pot on the deck, the patio or balcony - anywhere. The results won't be perfect. But the message Hope wants to implant in your mind: Grow something; it could change your life. Hope, 58, is coordinator of the Sustainable Agriculture Program at Morganton's Western Piedmont Community College. He's one of the speakers at a four-day forum that starts Monday: "Food for Thought: Reinventing Our Food System for a Healthier World." The big guns of food will be there. Speakers include Joel Salatin, third-generation alternative farmer and author of "Everything I Want to do Is Illegal" and "Holy Cows and Hog Heaven"; Anna Lappe, food activist and co-author of "Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet" and co-founder of The Small Planet Institute"; and Joel Bourne, contributing writer for National Geographic and the magazine's former senior editor for the environment. Hope's part of the forum - "Grow Your Own Food and Medicine ... Starting Right Where You Are" - will be noon Wednesday. When he's not teaching at Western Piedmont, Hope runs Appalachian Seeds Farm and Nursery in Burnsville. He digs in the ground, grows his own food the old-timey way and makes medicine out of herbs such as yellow root. Sustainable agriculture is a subject that's stirring a lot of interest these days. Hope explained what it means: Growing things in economically and ecologically sound ways. The process starts with healthy soil and growing cover crops like clovers, vetches, barley and rye. Turned over in the soil, they become a kind of green manure - compost

that brings new life to the soil.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/274/v-print/story/1052431.html>

Curiosity takes root as Durham students grow garden

Durham, N.C. Ask children where food comes from, and some might say "the grocery store." George Watts Montessori Magnet School in Durham is working to change that perception. Parents and students planted an edible garden that's also a school-wide project. Classes rotate maintenance duty every week and take care of the growing food, such as broccoli, cabbage, green onions, radishes, lettuce and herbs. ...

<http://www.wral.com/news/education/story/6452724/>

Agriculture secretary says farmers can be energy leaders

American farmers, known for providing the nation with food and fiber, need to add another product to their catalog: Energy. That is a key message U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack had for about 230 people gathered at the Kiwanis Club's Farm City Week on Friday afternoon in Fayetteville. He appeared with U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge, N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and N.C. Farm Bureau President Larry Wooten. In his other points, Vilsack said China has stepped closer to reopening its markets to the troubled American pork industry, and the government has helped farmers by buying their products. Farmers need to expand to fuel and power production to help the United States transition away from dependence on foreign oil, Vilsack said. "We need to turn our farm fields into the energy fields they're capable of being," Vilsack said. ...

<http://www.fayobserver.com/Articles/2009/11/21/954070>

New road plan won't split Barbee Farms

N.C. road planners agree to change the Pitts School Road plan to avoid taking huge chunks of local farms.

CONCORD State highway officials have chosen an alternate route for the planned straightening of Pitts School Road, scrapping their original choice, which would have split the more-than-century-old Barbee Farms.

The decision came at a "post-hearing" meeting of officials from various divisions of the N.C. Department of Transportation last week in Raleigh.

Jamille Robbins of the DOT in Raleigh said the alternate plan includes a curve in the road but is still a safe option.

The meeting followed a public hearing in October, at which numerous Charlotte-area residents urged the N.C. DOT to choose the alternate route, which will have far less impact on the Barbee farm and nearby Bonds family farms.

DOT's original route would have claimed the Barbee family's old homestead and cut through Tommy Barbee's best-producing fields.

"Here is a family that has modeled a community ethic, one that is increasingly rare," Davidson College senior Kristina Johnson said at the hearing. "This is a family in which the younger generation has said time after time to their parents, 'We value the work you do, and we will sustain it.'"

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<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/275/story/1067262.html>

N.C. pork producers no longer high on the hog

North Carolina is the second-largest pork producer in the nation, but four producers have declared bankruptcy in recent months.

Industry observers said the combination of shrinking demand, high feed prices and fears over swine flu have hammered the market and have left many farmers and their customers struggling to survive.

"We've lost probably an average of \$24 (or) \$25 on every hog we've sold over the last two years," said Curtis Barwick, land and environmental manager for pork producer Coharie Farms.

The company, which is owned by the daughter of former U.S. Sen. Lauch Faircloth, became the largest area pork producer to go under when it filed for bankruptcy protection three weeks ago. Bunting Swine in Edgecombe County and Coastal Plains Pork and Perfect Pig, both in Sampson County, also have declared bankruptcy.

Coharie Farms has been in business since 1972 and is among the 25 largest pork producers in the U.S., employing 165 and doing business with about 100 hog farmers.

"They'll be some farmers who'll have empty hog houses. It'll be hard for them to feed their families and pay their taxes," Barwick said.

"Every business in the community will feel its effect, whether you're a bank, a car dealer, clothier, a grocery store, appliances â€" it really doesn't matter," said Don Butler, a Sampson County resident and president of the National Pork Processors Council.

Butler said the government's plan to buy \$50 million in pork for federal programs like WIC, which provides food to low-income women who are expecting and to children under age 5, should offer a small boost to the industry.

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<http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/6519590/>

#### Good Crop Of NC Christmas Trees

If you are looking for the perfect Christmas tree this year you may be in luck. NC Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler says this year's Christmas tree crop is one of the best he has seen in years. Troxler says the crop is better than ever because of cool weather this summer and adequate rainfall. More than 96 percent of North Carolina Christmas trees are Fraser Firs, which are grown in the mountains. And they can certainly tell a difference at Justice Tree Farm in Onslow County. Owner Willie Justice says business couldn't be better, and the trees couldn't look any nicer.

"Probably the prettiest trees that we have had that came from the mountains and also here on the farm." Troxler says North Carolina's 2009 Christmas tree harvest should top 5-million trees from more than 1,500 growers.

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<http://www.witn.com/watercooler/headlines/78179062.html>

#### Board looks to boost local farms

DURHAM -- County officials need among other things to beef up training for would-be farmers and tinker with Durham's land-use rules if they want to give a boost to their community's small agriculture sector, an advisory board says.

Durham's farms, as a group, generate less cash than their counterparts in most of the county's neighbors. But they could do better because they're close to a lively market for locally grown food, according to a report prepared for the county Farmland Protection Advisory Board.

Dollar-wise, Durham farms' \$7.3 million in cash receipts in 2007, the most recent year for which there's full data, ran well behind the \$28 million farms in neighboring Orange County raked in.

Farms in Granville County received \$27 million for their goods in 2007, while those in rapidly urbanizing Wake County got \$55 million. Farms in mostly rural Chatham County out-produced the others financially, generating \$143 million in receipts.

The advisory group would like to strengthen Durham's farming sector largely to balance the county's economy. Its report pointed out that farms generate more tax revenue than they consume, mostly because they make few demands on services.

"Cows don't dial 911," said the report, drafted for the board by consultant Gerry Cohn.

But advocates said the sector does require better services -- notably extension and other types of training programs -- than what's currently available, to help draw new farmers into the business and work with landowners pressed financially by the end five years ago of the federal government's tobacco price supports.

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[http://www.heraldsun.com/pages/full\\_story\\_news\\_durham/push?article-Board+looks+to+boost+local+farms%20&id=5031592-Board+looks+to+boost+local+farms&instance=main\\_article](http://www.heraldsun.com/pages/full_story_news_durham/push?article-Board+looks+to+boost+local+farms%20&id=5031592-Board+looks+to+boost+local+farms&instance=main_article)

#### Report: Longleaf pines could help climate change

Longleaf pine forests that once blanketed the Southeast could play a key role in combating climate change, conservationists and scientists said Thursday. The weather-resistant pines can withstand the increasing droughts, wildfires and intense storms that climate models predict, said a report by the National Wildlife Federation and two conservation groups, America's Longleaf and the Longleaf Alliance. At the same time, climate change could give forest landowners new income sources by locking up carbon that, in gas form, contributes to warming. "We need new tools to deal with the effects of climate change in the South, and the good news is that bringing back the

iconic longleaf pine ecosystem is one of the best tools available," said the federation's Eric Palola, co-author of the report. The longleaf's fall has been as breathtaking as its former dominance. The trees once covered 90 million acres from Virginia to eastern Texas, but now grow on less than 3 percent of their historic range. ...

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/local/story/1117294.html>

#### Workshops on futures offered to farmers

The N.C. Department of Agriculture will host seven free workshops for farmers around the state with a focus on commodities futures. The workshops will help farmers understand ways to manage price volatility, including the futures market and other trading options for selling their commodities, the department said. The events start Jan. 19 and ends March 4 with the final and westernmost workshop at Carolina Farm Credit, Statesville. Topics will include grain hedging, basis trading, cost of carry, cotton futures, energy derivatives; options trading on futures, equities and indices; and managing exposure to fluctuations in energy costs. The workshops run 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at each location. Registration is not required.

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<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20091213/POLITICS/91211048>

#### Local farmers branching out

As large farms disappear specialty farming may be the future trend. Farmers who make their entire livelihood from working the land are almost a relic from the past in Cherokee County. As the number of large farms has steadily dwindled, a new type of farmer has emerged, one who can forge a living from an acre or two growing for a specialty market. Keith Wood has farmed with his brother Eddie Wood in the Andrews Valley for years. He also works full time for the N.C. Extension Service in Cherokee County. "I don't know anyone who derives 100 percent of their income from farming anymore. There are a few who get most of their finances from farming," he said. "There are more part-time farmers than anything."

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<http://cherokeescout.com/articles/2009/12/15/community/doc4b27fac4dfbf8495719349.txt>

#### Aquaculture conference set for January

Registration is underway for the 22nd annual North Carolina Aquaculture Development Conference held Jan. 22 and 23 at the Sheraton in Atlantic Beach. Topics include new horizons for marketing aquaculture harvests, such as quality certification programs and targeting sales to gourmet seafood buyers. Leading researchers from U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Fisheries Institute, North Carolina State University and University of North Carolina Wilmington will make presentations, and a trade show will feature a variety of industry vendors. ...

<http://www.jdnews.com/news/aquaculture-70902-carolina-conference.html>

#### Chatham County farmer named farmer of the year

Pittsboro, NC - At the recent Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference held Dec. 4-6 in Black Mountain, Chatham County farmer Doug Jones of Piedmont Biofarm was named Farmer of the Year from nominees submitted from both North and South Carolina. Chatham County farmer Doug Jones of Piedmont Biofarm Congratulations to Doug for this well-deserved award. I have worked with Doug for over eight years and have always been impressed with the quality of his produce and his generosity in sharing his knowledge and passion for agriculture with others. We did three separate "Show and Tell" visits to Piedmont Biofarm this year (as part of Cooperative Extension's Farm Show and Tell series) to see Doug's farm in each season and at every one attendance was high because of Doug's reputation and all the interesting things he has going on at Piedmont Biofarm

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<http://www.chathamjournal.com/weekly/news/agriculture/chatham-farmer-of-the-year-91221.shtml>

#### The 90s set the table for a decade of good eats

Want an easy way to sum up how Americans ate during the first 10 years of the new century? Three words should do it. Sushi at 7-Eleven. For this was the decade of the

gourmeting of America, an era when cola wars and burger battles made way for artisanal sodas and grass fed beef, when coffee went from a cup of joe to a double shot-half-caff-soy-latte, ethnic was de rigueur and local became the new global. It was a fine time to be a foodie. Not that everything exactly whet the appetite. Contaminated produce and soaring food prices turned our stomachs. And we lost some of the luminaries and institutions -- Julia Child and Gourmet magazine -- that had worked so diligently to brighten our meals. More than ever before, issues long treated as the mushy peas on the collective American dinner plate -- organics, local and sustainable agriculture, animal welfare -- were getting sirloin-style treatment, sometimes in the least likely of places. Walmart embraced organics -- a \$21 billion industry, up from \$3.6 billion in 1997 -- a decision that broadened access, but that critics feared would dilute the industry's standards. And the home of the Egg McMuffin said it would study how to raise chickens without cramped cages. Meanwhile, books and movies that tore into big industry food and would have been relegated to the granola set a decade earlier -- Morgan Spurlock's 2004 film "Super Size Me" and Michael Pollan's 2006 tome "The Omnivore's Dilemma" -- pervaded the popular consciousness.

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#### Farmers get fresh training

N.C. MarketReady Fresh Produce Safety -- Field to Family is a new N.C. Cooperative Extension program developed to educate fruit and vegetable growers about measures to minimize food safety risks. The training focuses on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and what it takes to obtain GAPs certification. N.C. Cooperative Extension agents from the West District will conduct the Tier 1 N.C. MarketReady training workshop at the Mountain Horticulture Research and Extension Center at 455 Research Drive in Mills River (located near the Asheville Regional Airport). The seven-hour training will be divided into three Monday sessions on Jan. 11, Jan. 25 and Feb. 8 from 9-11:30 a.m. The fee for the training is \$15/person. Please call 828-697-4891 to pre-register for the training. Tier 1 will address GAPs that are directly related to field production and harvest. The training will include an introduction to common food-borne pathogens and diseases as well as recognizing points of potential!

contamination, proper use of biosolids as a nutrient source, effective hand-washing procedures, packing facility cleanliness and verifying water quality for field application and postharvest handling.

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