ABOUT OUR NEW CROPS AND LIVESTOCK AGENT

My name is Mart Bumgarner, the new Crops and Livestock Agent for Orange County. Recently hired in August, I am feeling my way through the county making new acquaintances as I go. I thought it quite fitting to put together my first newsletter and I wanted to tell you a little about me so here it goes.

I am a NC native from Concord, where my family used the services of Cooperative Extension to learn home skills like sewing, gardening, and beekeeping. This is where I cultivated my passion for Extension. After high school, I attended Catawba Valley Technical College and received an Associate’s Degree in Agri-Business. I went on to receive a Bachelor’s Degree in Ag Science and right out of college, I went into the military. I planned to stay in the military until I paid off my student loans then get out and seek a job in extension. I finally paid off those loans (and 26+ years later) retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. I went back to school (NC State University-Go Wolfpack!) and graduated in May 2016 with a Master’s Degree in Extension Education.

This past summer, I interned with Cooperative Extension in Lee county; I worked closely with Extension Agents to promote 4-H, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and the Master Gardener Volunteers’ (MGV) programs. From meeting County farmers to individual home gardeners my internship provided me insight to how local growers are diversifying to meet the demands for locally grown Agriculture commodities.

Motivated to give back to the community, I bring maturity to enriching others with life-long learning, relationship building, demonstrating effective project coordination, provider
of unbiased, research-based information and providing innovation to support and promote local success.

I have experience working with youth as a Counselor at Boy Scout Camp; a landscaping assistant as summer help; a lab technician testing animal feed content and purity, in an animal feed and flour mill in Newton, NC; a dairy hand at the TTU dairy farm; and a work hand on hog production farm in a college work studies program.

I continue self-education with hands-on agriculture practice in my own garden. I am an active beekeeper and a member of multiple organizations. I am experimenting with vermicomposting to learn more about composting, soil fertility, and worm castings as soil amendments. I thrive on assisting neighbors with vegetable growing issues, lawn questions, and home and garden pest problems. I actively participate in Extension’s ‘Ask an Expert’. I bring professional experience, formal education, interpersonal and organizational skills, a desire to contribute to community, and willingness to learn and grow in Orange County. I am proud to finally be working in my dream job with Cooperative Extension for the people of Orange County. That is about me…keep reading!

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Are you witty? Do you want to claim the fame for naming this Newsletter? The previous title, Livestock News serving Alamance and Orange Counties represented us well in the past but does not encompass the new direction for a crops and livestock publication for Orange County today. Here is your chance to claim bragging rights by coming up with a title that truly highlights and reflects Orange County’s Crop and Livestock industry. Submit as many creative names as you desire to Orange County Extension. The quarterly newsletter will be used to inform the readership of upcoming events, special interest topics, seasonal information and advice for the farmer. Initially we are mailing this out hard copy but due to budget constraints will continue mostly in an electronic medium via email. We will continue mail hard copy for those with extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis. We will expand to cover children’s events in agriculture and both crops and livestock in the county.

Provide your name, phone number, email address and mailing address along with the suggestion of the new name for the newsletter. All entries need to be submitted no later than 15 February 2017. We will announce the winning title and your name in our next edition.

Mail entries to: Name the Newsletter, Attn: Crops and Livestock, Orange County Center, 306 E-Revere Rd, Hillsborough, NC 27278.

Submit entries online at: https://goo.gl/forms/oAWJ6DhHbE3XW1ME2

2017 AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

Orange County will host its 19th annual Agriculture Summit on Monday February 20, 2017 titled Fertile Ground-Reinventing the Rural Economy from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Cedar Grove Community Center, in Cedar Grove. There will be open paneled discussion on what does it mean to be a farm. Topics will cover land use, agritourism, transition planning, broadband and cellular
connectivity, farm taxation and other topics of interest. Please come out to hear what the county is doing to help the local farmer. Lunch will be provided as well as Raffle drawings.

**VETERINARIAN FEED DIRECTIVE**

A new regulation concerning medicated feeds goes into effect January 2017 which effects any animal (e.g. flock animals, horses, cattle, dogs, cats, etc.) which consumes medicated feed in its diet. In the past, you were able to purchase animal feed at your local feed supplier with certain types of medication already in the feed. Starting in 2017 animal feeds with medication added to the feed must be prescribed by a veterinarian. This is called a Veterinarian Feed Directive or VFD. Those feed stuff you already purchased before 2017 can be legally used, until consumed, but you will require a VFD in order to purchase more at a future date. What this means is you will need to establish a Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) on your farm in order for your Veterinarian to prescribe a medicated feed for your livestock animals. This relationship is also required for animal prescription drugs needed to be administered by the owner.

**JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE**

The 72nd annual Central Piedmont Junior Livestock Show and Sale is scheduled for April 19 & 20 at the Holstein Barn, 6716 Orange Grove Rd, Hillsborough, NC. Mark this date on your calendar to attend.

**JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW INTEREST MEETING**

Orange County will have a Central Piedmont Junior Livestock Show Exhibitor interest meeting Thursday, January 19th in Conference Room #1 (Close to the front door of the Extension Offices building) of the Orange County Center, 306-E Revere Rd, Hillsborough, NC 27278. The meeting begins as 6:00 PM. Anyone interested in showing at the Junior Livestock Show and Sale in April and wants more information should attend.

**BACK-YARD FLOCKS**

Do you have a back-yard flock of 1 chicken or more? If so, read on. We have averted the Avian Influenza season this year! Influenza in poultry falls into two groups: low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI), or highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Similar to influenza symptoms in people, birds infected with LPAI usually experience only mild signs if any, including respiratory signs such as conjunctivitis and nasal discharge, ruffled feathers or a drop in egg production. Unlike LPAI, the first indication of HPAI in poultry is sudden death, often without signs of illness. In the last 40 years, there
have been introductions of Avian Influenza across the country, all of which have been successfully eliminated.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences (NCDA&CS) has worked with the poultry industry and other state and federal agencies to prepare for and respond to introductions of influenza in poultry. The state’s voluntary cooperative control plan includes education, monitoring, reporting and response. Testing for influenza in poultry is conducted through our Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory system. Commercial and non-commercial poultry flocks are routinely monitored for influenza.

Currently NC and the U.S. is free from HPAI, however, NCDA&CS highly recommend and encourage Backyard poultry farmers to register with the state program to aid in the state’s preparation for a possible highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak. Registration forms can be submitted online at: https://www.ncmhtd.com/smallflock/ or downloaded from: http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu/documents/PoultryRegistrationForm - V2.pdf filled out and mailed in to NCDA&CS Veterinary Division.

POULTRY LINKS

Many back-yard farmers are always looking for resources for small scale poultry production. Here are a few links I’ve run across. The majority of the links are for Kentucky Extension (whom are responsible for coordinating the Community of Practice) on eXtension.org

https://learn.extension.org/events/tag/small%20and%20backyard%20flocks
www.facebook.com/poultryextension
http://www2.ca.uky.edu/smallflocks/
http://www2.ca.uky.edu/poultryprofitability/
http://afs.ca.uky.edu/poultry
http://articles.extension.org/poultry
https://www.facebook.com/poultryextension
https://learn.extension.org/events/2836

ORANGE/DURHAM COUNTY CATTLEMEN’S ASSOCIATION

The next Orange/Durham County Cattlemen’s Association meeting is Monday February 6, 2017 at 6:30 PM, 3416 Schley Road, Hillsborough, NC. If you are a cattleman and are not a member but want to join, come on and see Cathy Franks, the Associations’ Secretary, at the meeting.

2017 EQUINE SCHOOL

Guilford County is hosting a the 2017 Extension Horse Management Short Course on Monday nights 7:00 to 9:00 PM January 30 through March 20, 2017 at the Guilford County Center, 3309 Burlington Rd, Greensboro, NC 27405. For more information contact Ben Chase at ben_chase@ncsu.edu or (800)666-3625.
4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING PROGRAM

Currently, Orange County does not have a livestock Judging 4-H program. I am determined to see if there is an interest. If you have a child or know of one that is interested in participating in a 4-H Livestock Judging program, please send me an email to mart_bumgarner@ncsu.edu with a subject line 4-H Livestock Judging Program. Provide your name, the individual’s name interested in participating, their age, their address, phone number and email address of responsible adult for that individual.

BEEKEEPING

Keep an eye out for an email from cropregistry@driftwatch.org if your hives are registered under DriftWatch. DriftWatch and BeeCheck users may receive an email stating that your sites would expire on December 31, 2016. As in years past, Driftwatch will be launching a renewal process in early January 2017 and your sites should NOT be removed before that date. You should receive an email regarding your renewal by January 15, 2017. If not, Login and check the status of your hives to confirm your profile was not deleted.

Are you interested in keeping bees? Orange County Beekeepers Association is offering a beekeeping class starting January 17, 2017 from 7pm to 9pm each Tuesday evening for 10 weeks at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Hillsborough, located at 1710 Old NC 10, Hillsborough, NC. The first class will be held on January 17th and will begin at 7:00 pm. Sign-in and registration will begin at 6:30 pm. Cost: $95/individual or $150/couple. Fees cover registration, textbook, on-line supplemental material and opportunity to participate in new-beekeeper support groups. For more information or to sign-up go to http://theocba.org/2017-bee-school/

SOIL SAMPLES

Have you already submitted your soil samples to the NCDA&CS Agronomy Lab for analysis for the spring crop of 2017? Now it is peak season for the soils lab between December 1 and March 31. The current wait time is 7-8 weeks and the cost is $4/per sample. April 1st, sample cost is waived and soil samples are free until peak season again in the fall of 2017.

2017 TOBACCO PRODUCTION GUIDE

Associate Professor for Berry, Tobacco, and Specialty Crops Dr. Burrack recently posted a links to the 2017 Production Guides online. These include the NC Flue Cured Tobacco Information Guide (https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/flue-cured-tobacco-information) and the multi state Burley and Dark Tobacco Production Guide. (http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id160/id160.pdf) The NC Flue Cured Tobacco link takes you to an active page where you click on separate links to materials you are interest in reading. The Burley and Dark Tobacco link is one complete document that can be downloaded or printed in its entirety.
TOBACCO SHORT COURSE

Tobacco Short Course is being offered January 30 - February 2, 2017 in Raleigh for new Tobacco Farmers covering topics such as 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, marketing, Risk Management Agency insurance and status with GAP. Contact Mart Bumgarner (919-245-2062) for more information.

FORAGES

It has been a good growing season for forages in Orange County. Some have experimented with strip grazing. Kudos for those who tried something new. There are some upcoming workshops in pasture management. I will begin to post events on the calendar along with details as they become available.

POSSIBLE HAY SHORTAGE

Due to flooding in the east with Hurricane Matthew, and the drought conditions in the Western North Carolina may create a shortage of hay within the state. The NCD&CS Hay Alert website is a resource for farmers in need of hay to connect with those who have hay or forage for sale, for arranging transportation if needed and/or transport with suppliers. This site will list names, addresses and other pertinent information. So, if you have an excess and need a market, you may want to consider listing in the Hay Alert. Go to http://www.ncagr.gov/hayalert/index.htm

INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN NORTH CAROLINA

NC Industrial Hemp Commission came about following congressional changes to U.S. farm policies that allowed institutions of higher education and state departments of agriculture to participate in research-focused pilot programs for industrial hemp production.

Interest in the crop has grown because industrial hemp has numerous uses as a fiber and food crop. Plant extracts also have been reported to have pharmaceutical benefits. Industrial hemp is distinguished from marijuana by having less than 0.3 percent of the psychoactive chemical known as THC, compared to 3 to 15 percent or higher in marijuana. Hemp is not new to North Carolina. It was cultivated in the 1800s and early 1900s primarily for its fiber.

Industrial hemp is an agricultural commodity that is cultivated for use in the production of a wide range of products, including foods and beverages, cosmetics and personal care products, and nutritional supplements, as well as fabrics and textiles, yarns and spun fibers, paper, construction and insulation materials, and other manufactured goods. Hemp can be grown as a fiber, seed, or other dual-purpose crop. Some estimate that the global market for hemp consists of more than 25,000 products. Precise data are not available on the size of the U.S. market for hemp-based products, but current industry estimates report annual sales at more than $580 million annually.

Currently, cannabis varieties may be legitimately grown for research purposes only. No known active federal licenses allow for hemp cultivation at this time. There is no large-scale commercial
hemp production in the United States, and the U.S. market is largely dependent on imports, both as finished hemp-containing products and as ingredients for use in further processing. More than 30 nations grow industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity, which is sold on the world market.

The NC Industrial Hemp Commission is chartered to develop rules and licensing structure so the state stays within federal laws. Their goal is to have rules emplace prior to the spring planting season in May 2017. Orange County producers may be interested in following the progress of the Industrial Hemp Commission at http://www.ncagr.gov/hemp/. You can subscribe to NCDA&CS Industrial Hemp Newsletter by submitting your email address on the website.

At the bottom of the webpage, there are links to other resources relating to Hemp such as the senate and House bills, market potential, and congressional research.

**WORKERS PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS)**

Do you hire workers, either seasonal or long term on your farm? If so, you need to know that the Worker Protection Standard Rules and Regulations are changing effective January 2017. You need to ensure you and your workers are meeting the new requirements. Here is a summary of some of the major changes (not all inclusive). The changes require employers to ensure that workers and handlers receive pesticide safety training every year. Farmers are required to maintain documentation of training for two years. Age requirements now implemented. New posting requirements for Restricted Entry Interval. Access to Safety Data Sheets required for employees. Exclusion zones identified around applicator equipment. Farmers should go to https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard to get the latest information on WPS. Additionally, NCDA&CS will brief changes during the continued annual recertification pesticide training courses.

**NCDA ANNUAL MAGAZINE**


**SOUTHERN FARM SHOW**

Southern Farm Show located at NC Fairground, Raleigh, NC February 1-3, 2017. Over 400 exhibiting companies make the Southern Farm Show the largest agricultural exposition in the Carolinas and Virginia. A tradition each February, the show hosts key industry events, and is known as the region’s annual meeting place for farmers and agricultural leaders. Free admission and parking make the show a can’t-miss for farmers, as well as allied professionals including landscapers and excavation contractors.
EMAIL LISTSERVER

As a new Crops and Livestock Agent, I am developing interest groups in order to be more involved and keep the community informed. I am creating an email list server contact list for the following commodities: Soybeans, Wheat, Tobacco, Hemp, Pasture Management, Pest management, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Horses, Small Rumen (Goats, Sheep), Pork, Junior Livestock (4-H/FFA). I periodically receive information from specialist and need to forward on to producers. I will attempt to email useful information about your commodity and avoid sending unsolicited and useless email.

With a limited budget, we must send out notices and information in the most direct and economical means possible. In the electronic age, we depend on email, our website, social media, and the internet to get the word out quickly and efficiently. Please help us keep you informed by providing your details below and mailing back to the Cooperative Extension Office or going online and filling out the short 5 question questionnaire.

Online Link https://goo.gl/forms/kiAN4AlCmeWQIKaO2

HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS

We are currently updating our records and need your help. Please fill out the following information below and return to Mart Bumgarner, PO Box 8181, 306 E-Revere Rd, Hillsborough, NC 27278 or go online and complete the online form at: https://goo.gl/forms/kiAN4AlCmeWQIKaO2

Your information is important to us and we respect your privacy.

Name: ___________________________ Phone number: ____________________
Email Address: ____________________ Confirm Email: ______________________
(Please print clearly)
Street Mailing Address: ____________________________
City: ___________________________ Zip code: ___________________________

Please add me to the following interest groups:

Livestock (Beef/Dairy)  Equine (Horses, Donkeys, Burros, Mules)
Small Rumen (Goats/Sheep)  Pork
Crops (Tobacco/Soybeans/Corn/Wheat/Hemp)  Pest Management
Junior Livestock  Pasture Management

If you desire to be removed from the mailing list all together.

Thank you for helping us update our contact list.
QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What type(s) of animals do you own and quantity? Cattle ____ Poultry ____ Horses ____
   Donkeys ____ Goats ____ Sheep ____ Other: (Specify type and Number)________________________

2. Please list some topics of interest for educational program meetings.

   __________________________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

3. What issues do you think are facing Agriculture/Livestock industry today?

   __________________________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

4. When would you prefer to attend an educational program?

   Weekdays (8am-5pm) ____ Weeknights (after 5pm) ____ Weekend Days ____ Weekend Nights ____

5. Are there any other comments or suggestions you may wish to provide in general or to make the
   newsletter better?

   __________________________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

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religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without 
regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State 
University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.
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