

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
WEEKLY UPDATE
Week Ending 4/25/08**

1. Items for Approval – None this week.
2. Items for Discussion – None this week.
3. Summary of County Visits by Dr. Jon Ort

DATE	COUNTY VISITED	PURPOSE
	None this week.	

4. Items for Information

- ✚ In recent weeks, two farmers with approximately 300 acres of wheat called NC Cooperative Extension in Pasquotank County with concerns. After visiting the farmer it was determined that he had severe infestations of powdery mildew. Our Extension Agent recommended an application of a fungicide. Due to the severe urgency of the situation, the fungicide was applied the next day. Based on our experience in the use of fungicides on wheat in the area, it is estimated that these farmers will boost their gross revenues by \$18,000.
- ✚ Guilford County is ranked number 1 in North Carolina for horses with every equine owner at a different level of competence in equine knowledge. NC Cooperative Extension’s Equine Educational Committee identified issues, needs and concerns of area horse owners and conducted the 36th Guilford County Extension Horse Management Short Courses to address the identified issues, needs and concerns. During the 8-week short courses, 217 of the participants responded to surveys with; 99 percent said they learned new concepts at the programs; 97 percent said that they could apply the learned concepts back on their farm and 79 percent said that from the material covered they could make/save money (over \$200,000 listed). When participants were asked if they think this program should be continued and if they were planning to come back next year, 100 percent responded that they would.
- ✚ To help with horticulture education outreach, Dare County Master Gardeners assist county residents via phone calls, walk-in visits, exhibits, clinics, festivals and maintaining the Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden. During 2007, there were 107 Master Gardeners who provided 5,911 volunteer hours of service, 3,507 hours of training and travel time, made 2,000 face-to-face contacts, raised \$18,638 in grants, donations and training fees, which represents a service contribution of \$181,746 to Cooperative Extension programming in Dare County.
- ✚ There are no structured learning opportunities for the youth of Warren County to participate in during spring break. This often results in defiant behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse, sexual activities and gang involvement. NC Cooperative Extension partnered with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission to provide a Spring Break Science Camp. This camp provided participants with four days of science-related experiential learning opportunities. Participants included 30 youth from Franklin, Vance and Warren counties. An increase of knowledge in making good decisions, working in a team and how science relates to real life experiences was indicated by 95% of participants. Research indicates a correlation between increased knowledge and graduation rates, which sequentially correlates with the potential for higher financial earnings in adulthood. Warren County 4-H played an integral part in the only county-structured camp provided during spring break that focused on experiential learning experiences for children and youth.

5. Routine Items – None this week.