

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**Week Ending 5/2/08**

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
4/28/08 – 4/30/08	Washington, DC	PILD Conference

4. Items for Information

☒ NC Cooperative Extension in Jones County assisted one farmer in evaluating crop damage and yield loss in watermelon resulting from an April 21 hail storm. Over 3” of hail fell destroying 75%-80% of the crop. The impact at this time is limited to the loss of leaves on newly set transplants. While severe today, these plants are expected to recover without the need to replant. However, the recovery time frame of two to three weeks will delay harvest and result in this crop missing the prime market window of early July. Cooperative Extension is helping the grower evaluate the economic value of this event, which could be as high as \$100,000 in lost income for crop insurance purposes.

☒ The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Treatment Conference was held April 15-17<sup>th</sup>. The Soil Science Extension group in NC Cooperative Extension has led this annual conference since it began in Chatham County in 1986 along with state and county regulatory agencies. Annually, it attracts 400-450+ practicing on-site wastewater professionals from throughout the state and region. This year’s theme was “Old Problems: New Solutions”, which emphasized that there are now options for many soils and sites that never could be permitted for septic systems in the past, but that these options cost more. Those solutions, how to identify them, when to use them, where not to use them and the specifics of how to implement them on individual soils and sites was the focus of nearly 50 presentations in 9 separate educational sessions during the first 2 days of the Conference. The third morning of the Conference included eight hands-on instructional field tours located between Onslow County at the coast to the Salisbury Research Station in the western Piedmont. During his remarks, Dean Wynne noted that solutions identified and advocated for by our NC Cooperative Extension Specialists working in conjunction with Agriculture Research Service faculty have been adopted by regulatory agencies for use on lands that could never be developed. Today, due to these efforts, along with those of others at the Conference, substantial amounts of formerly idle land can be (and is being) carefully developed in a way that enhances the environment and safely protects public health. This is an example of a long-term benefit (it took 20 to 25 years to accomplish these results) of our field-based Extension programs working to bring real-life solutions to our citizens.

5. Routine Items – None this week.