

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
WEEKLY UPDATE
Week Ending 5/16/08

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
5/12/08	Guilford County	NCCE Executive Council Meeting

4. Items for Information

- ✚ Our area agent with NC Cooperative Extension, Pamlico County Center conducted a rain barrel workshop in response to local citizen interest in water conservation. Forty rain barrels were constructed and distributed to 50 citizens who signed up for this workshop and each was educated on its use and implementation. As a result, demand for rain barrel information has steadily increased over the past month. In addition, the implementation of forty rain barrels has the potential to save both these homeowners and the environment valuable resources in the forms of money and essential fresh water. By using a rain barrel to capture rainwater from a homeowner's roof, citizens have the potential to harvest as much as 24,000 gallons of water with an average rainfall of 20 inches per year. With such potential, rain barrels will continue to be a valuable tool in all water conservation efforts.
- ✚ Extension encourages people to eat at home because people who eat at home eat more fruits and vegetables and less fat. North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Cabarrus County Center, recently partnered with the new NC State Fruit and Vegetable Science Institute at the NC Research Campus in Kannapolis, NC to kick off their inaugural series of educational classes open to the public. The series entitled "Discovering Nature's Possibilities" kicked off on April 9 with the program "Eating Smart at Home", which was attended by 125 people. This program offered simple solutions and tools for planning, shopping, preparing and eating more meals at home. One participant stated, "The tools and ideas received tonight will make it so much easier to plan meals and feed my family at home."
- ✚ Backyard poultry flock production is gaining in popularity. Because of the increase in requests for information about backyard flocks, an educational meeting was conducted in Bladen County by NC Cooperative Extension. As a direct result of this meeting, one backyard flock owner stated that she would no longer attend auctions and poultry shows so that she could reduce the possibility of spreading diseases among flocks. Extension continually promotes biosecurity in our educational efforts.

5. Routine Items – None this week.