

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
WEEKLY UPDATE
Week Ending 6/13/08

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
6/11/08	Cleveland County	Visit with Advisory Leaders and Staff
6/12/08	Yadkin County	Visit with Advisory Leaders and Staff
6/12/08	Wilkes County	Visit with Advisory Leaders and Staff
6/13/08	Surry County	Viticulture Program Meeting with Surry Community College
6/13/08	Yancey County	Joyce Watts Retirement Reception

4. Items for Information

- ☒ Tune in this weekend to hear Extension’s own Debbie Roos discuss local foods on “North Carolina Report” with host Bruce Ferrell. Topics include sustainable agriculture, the locavore movement and the growth of community-supported agriculture. The show airs statewide at the following stations http://www.ncnn.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=60&Itemid=67. If you can’t tune in, catch the audio stream at the bottom of the Web page! It will be live for one week.
- ☒ Jones County Middle School officials contacted North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Jones County Center for advice concerning drainage problems at the school that were disrupting class. After a site visit, our agent found that rooftop gutters were outleting rainwater near the foundations of many of the school’s buildings. The water was being directed toward the entrance of classrooms causing flooding and disrupting the learning environment. Cooperative Extension recommended the installation of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) including conveyance pipes, rain gardens and cisterns. Cooperative Extension also applied for grant funding to help with the cost of installation. As a result of these efforts, over \$20,000 in grant funding was received to install the stormwater best management practices. The practices will reduce flooding, improve water quality, reduce water consumption and provide an onsite demonstration of stormwater management for students and teachers.
- ☒ The Parent Educator from North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Craven County Center has been providing monthly home visits to a military family. The mother mentioned during a visit that she was concerned about her daughter’s hearing. She had noticed that sometimes her daughter did not answer her when she talked to her. The family’s pediatrician was not concerned. After using the hearing kit and evaluating the child’s response, our Parent Educator recommended the child be seen by an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist. During the Specialist’s visit, they discovered that the child had hearing loss in both ears and immediately had tubes placed in her ears. If this family had not been involved in the *Parents As Teachers* program in Craven County and received the support to follow through with the referral for further hearing tests, this child could have had permanent hearing loss. At her last appointment with the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, this child had gained 100% of her hearing.

- ❏ In partnership with the North Carolina 4-H Development Fund, the Eastern 4-H Center held its fifth annual "On the Dock of the Bay" event on Saturday, May 3, 2008. The event raised over \$50,000 from the clover sponsorships, event ticket sales, the dockside diamond champagne toast, the silent auction and the John Deere Lawnmower raffle. Funds raised at the "On the Dock of the Bay" event support camping scholarships to 4-H youth throughout the Northeastern region, as well as the Center's building fund. From music on the boardwalk to the exciting silent auction and raffle drawing, over 300 guests enjoyed an evening celebrating 4-H!

- ❏ Wood Products Extension faculty conducted the National Hardwood Lumber Association's *Hardwood Lumber Grading Short Course* on NCSU's Main Campus and Hodges Wood Products Lab, May 13-15. Ten participants from four states received in-depth, hands-on instruction from our Extension Specialist and the National Hardwood Lumber Association's Chief Inspector. On May 22, Wood Products Extension Specialists conducted the *Drying Hardwood Lumber: Bright, White and Flat* course on NCSU's Main Campus and Hodges Wood Products Lab. The 14 participants were given the opportunity to learn new drying techniques for difficult species. Many of these difficult to dry lumber species are not preferred because of problems drying them.

- ❏ The honey bee is responsible for pollinating billions of dollars worth of agricultural crops and is in danger of dying from diseases, pests and loss of habitat. The Buncombe County Beekeepers Chapter in cooperation with NC Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center sponsored a free beginner's beekeeping school to recruit, educate and encourage new and current beekeepers about the basics of keeping honeybees. 277 People attended the school, and 160 people completed the state exam and became certified beekeepers of North Carolina. The 2008 Bee School had the largest attendance of any bee school ever held in Buncombe County. Continuing education will include monthly club meetings, a mentor program, an advanced bee school and field days.

- ❏ In an effort to promote Stanly County Farms, North Carolina Cooperative Extension in conjunction with the Visitors Bureau developed the "Growing Small Farms" promotional pamphlet. This brochure featured 8 niche farms. The pamphlet included a brief farm history, directions and hours of operation. When surveyed, farmers stated a 10-60% increase in sales from distribution of this pamphlet.

5. Routine Items – None this week.