



**NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
WEEKLY UPDATE  
Week Ending 10/24/08**

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
10/20/08	Cabarrus County	FSVI Building Dedication at Kannapolis

4. Items for Information

- Today's parents are more worried about childhood obesity than they are about bullying and substance abuse. Car accidents and school violence didn't even make the 2008 list of top ten health concerns compiled by C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, which conducted a national poll. When the elementary schools in Beaufort County were approached about NC Cooperative Extension offering the nutrition education program, *Promoting Healthy Eating Across North Carolina* to their third graders, all Elementary Schools in the county requested the program. This clearly shows that school personnel and other adults are very concerned about the problem of childhood obesity and its causes. This year's nutrition program will target Northeast Elementary in the far eastern part of our county. Teachers have many mandatory requirements to meet end of grade testing criteria. This is a huge commitment from the school, in that they are allowing Cooperative Extension ten weeks of time to present this nutrition education program to their students in order to help stop the obesity epidemic.
- With forestry now poised to play a significant role in energy production, Extension Forestry developed a new educational program. The program's goal is to provide education and materials that promote economic opportunities related to renewable energy derived from woody biomass. This comprehensive program, directed towards utilities, industries, natural resource professionals, policy makers, environmental leaders, landowners and others have resulted in the following:
  - Seven resource analyses for major utilities, private industries and a university in their efforts to utilize wood as a renewable energy source.
  - Reached approximately 1,000 participants through 11 different education events including conferences, professional workshops, landowner programs, teleconference, and a webinar.
  - Provided over 1,400 continuing education credits for resource professionals.
  - Increased understanding by about 20% for professionals and 88% for landowners of the economic opportunities related to renewable energy derived from woody biomass.

- Lack of knowledge of USDA-FSA e-forms and the skill to use them prevents small farmers from making their farm business more profitable and sustainable. North Carolina A&T State University Cooperative Extension Associates, Robeson and Sampson County Farm Management Agents and USDA- Farm Service Agency personnel organized a one-day workshop for small farmers in their counties, to provide educational information to enable them to gain the skills to utilize USDA-e-forms efficiently. Twelve small farmers from Sampson and Robeson counties were trained to go online to search and retrieve USDA-FSA e-forms, fill out the forms, submit the completed forms, and search forms by number and agency name. With this knowledge, small and limited-resource farmers will be able to learn about the latest government programs and grant opportunities to make their farm operations more successful.

5. Routine Items – None this week.