

PERQUIMANS COUNTY CENTER

DID YOU KNOW???

March 2020



The winner is...ANNIE NOFSINGER

Annie Nofsinger was recently awarded the 2019 Chowan, Gates, & Perquimans County Extension Master Gardener of the Year Award. Since completing the certification in 2016, Annie has volunteered in various community projects including the Boys & Girls Club Community Garden, the Grow to Eat food pantry project, and several historic demonstration gardens in Hertford and Edenton. Work with the Boys & Girls Club included establishing a bountiful summer garden project that incorporates hands on science, nutrition, and horticulture lessons. Annie is part of the Chowan, Gates & Perquimans County Extension Master Gardener program. Coordinated by Horticulture Agent Katy Shook, the volunteer program works to provide unbiased, research-based information that empowers residents to cultivate healthy gardens, landscapes, and ecosystems through safe, effective and sustainable gardening practices. Participants complete a 40-hour training program, pass an examination, and complete at least a 40-hour internship to become certified Master Gardener volunteers. To remain active in the program, volunteers must complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service and a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education each year. In 2019, over 50 volunteers contributed more than 1,800 hours of volunteer service to the local community. Projects included demonstration gardens, scholarship programs, plant sales, Junior Master Gardener events, program support, developing educational material, and Ask A Master Gardener events. The program also hosts the annual Albemarle Master Gardener Spring Garden Show. In 2019, over 650 attendees supported the free event that showcases vendors, educational exhibits, plant sales, children's programming, a bake sale and more. Proceeds support an area scholarship for students.

For more information about the NC State Extension Master Gardener program, contact Katy Shook at (252) 482-6585 or visit <https://emgv.ces.ncsu.edu/>



It was decided...

The 2020 Albemarle Master Gardener Spring Garden Show, originally scheduled for Saturday April 18th in Hertford, is canceled. Visitors, vendors, and volunteers - please keep an eye out for more information. Questions? Contact Katy Shook at (252) 482-6585 or kgshook@ncsu.edu. Get your gardening fix online at our NC State Extension Gardening Portal gardening.ces.ncsu.edu



It's not too late...

There's still time to apply for the Master Gardener Scholarship. Students from Chowan, Gates & Perquimans Counties that are pursuing degrees in horticulture, agriculture, natural resources or related fields can apply for the \$1,000 award. Last year - three winners were selected - Luke Fuller, Jacob Forehand, and Sarah White (three students - representing each of our Chowan, Gates, Perquimans Counties).

The deadline is April 3rd. Contact your guidance counselor or the Extension office for more information.



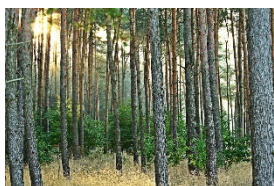
Justin Richardson speaks for 4-H

Justin Richardson had the honor of speaking at last month's Inter-County Ruritan meeting where he spoke on his passion for 4-H. He also shared how his experiences with the area and state livestock show, district activity day speaking competitions and other 4-H events has helped him to grow into a leader in his community. Justin enjoys working with livestock... and has been active with statewide steer competitions. Special thanks to the Inter-County Ruritan Club for their continued support of Perquimans County 4-H and our youth programs. And thank you JUSTIN...for being a spokesperson.



Master Food Volunteers Finish Training

Extension in Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, and Chowan now have newly trained volunteers that are prepared to assist with Family and Consumer Sciences cooking and nutrition classes. These students attended 9 classes in the month of February and are currently completing 20 hours of shadowing/training hours to fulfill the requirements of this certification. Each class included instruction on food safety and basic nutrition as well as lab exercise. The best part of each gathering was the hands on food demonstration and taste testing activities. Congratulations to these wonderful volunteers and let us continue to promote healthy eating and safe meal preparation.



Forest Landowners give feedback...

The Forest Landowner Meeting was held this past Thursday, March 5th in Gates County. Thirty-two people were in attendance to learn more about the Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP), small woodlot management, and timber markets. Of the participants who completed the survey following the meeting, 88% reported improving their knowledge on the BMAP program, and 75% reported improving their knowledge on small woodlot management and timber markets. 75% reported 'maybe' or 'yes' when asked if they are planning to change their forest management practices based on this meeting. Thank you to all who attended, and if you have any questions about the topics covered at this meeting or any other forestry-related questions, please call Nettie Baugher at (252)357-1400.



Corn Planting is upon us...

As the time draws near for 2020 corn planting, what is one of the biggest factors to help your corn crop succeed? I would say other than starting with adequate pH and fertility, starting with uniform emergence is the first step. Studies have shown corn emergence on the same day vs three days later shows a yield difference of an average of 50 bushels per acre. At a price of \$3.75, this could lead to \$187.50 per acre difference. NCSU Extension Specialist Ron Heiniger says to plan for 40 to 50 growing degree units (GDU's) to be accumulated the 4 days after planting. What does this mean and how do you calculate GDU's? The formula is $(\text{Daily Maximum temperature } ^\circ\text{F} + \text{Daily Minimum temperature } ^\circ\text{F}) \div 2 - 50 = \text{Growing Degree Units}$. There is an upper base limit of 86°F and a lower limit of 50°F for corn. If the daily high is higher than 86°F, then 86°F is used for the daily max. If the daily minimum temp is less than 50°F, then 50°F is used. When planning to plant, check the upcoming weather, do the GDU calculations and if no big rainfalls occur following planting, excellent emergence should be achieved. When determining if rainfall will be a factor Dr. Heiniger suggests no more than 2" of rainfall for the first 7 days following planting should occur to allow for adequate germination. Lastly, when

shooting for uniform emergence, making sure that every row unit on your planter is fine tuned will make a huge difference. Randy Dowdy has found differences as high as 150 bushels between rows on his planter just from one simple part replacement. Slowing your planting speed down to ensure seed placement could be another key. Lastly reviewing seed vigor when selecting hybrids and planting depth could be the last things to consider. For more information about corn and other field crops, contact Dylan Lilley at 252-426-5428.



Some things changed...

The Northeast Beef Conference WAS planned for March 26, 2020 at Taylor's Mill Farm 14926 Taylor's Mill Road Zebulon, NC. BUT this a is now cancelled. This program is (usually) an annual event to share information on economics, use of by-products in feeds, and a tour of the winter annuals that have been planted.



SHIIP Volunteers are not sales agent...

Volunteers with the North Carolina Department of Insurance - Seniors Health Insurance Information Program are trained to provide non-biased insurance information with the goal of helping beneficiaries understand and enroll in the best insurance coverage for their situation. Volunteers are not license insurance agents and are not receiving a commission. Volunteers with SHIIP love what they do because they can be protective of our senior population and can easily navigate a very confusing topic for those turning 65. As coordinator for Perquimans County, Jewel Winslow describes the volunteers as knowledgeable, trustworthy, and extremely helpful to our senior population. If you, or someone you know, wants one-on-one assistance with Medicare and Prescription Drug Enrollment, volunteers are available to help. Call 252-426-5428 to learn more.

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