



## PERQUIMANS COUNTY CENTER

### DID YOU KNOW???

JUNE 2020



#### Count On Me NC is a free training...

As our state opens in phases (and more people are in community gatherings)... NC State Extension is releasing a free educational outreach effort called COUNT ON ME NC. Don't let the title fool you, this is not part of the US Census Program...instead it is a joint effort between NC State Extension Food Safety Specialist, the North Carolina Health and Human Services, NC Restaurant and Lodging Association and VisitNC.com. Our goal is to help all citizens become aware of ways to be safe as they begin using public restaurants and businesses.

Even though this training was designed to help the food and travel industry... we invite businesses, employees and volunteers in the general public to take the 30 minute course and complete the simple questions to receive certification. Businesses can also register to have their services posted on a statewide website to show the public that they are taking measures to clean and sanitize properly.

Check out the website and see for yourself. <https://countonmenc.org/>



#### It's wheat harvesting time...

The favorable weather the first part of June allowed wheat to dry down enough for many farmers to start harvest. Perquimans ranks as one of the top wheat producing counties in the state averaging 14,000 to 20,000 acres per growing season. In 2018, Perquimans county produced 1 million bushels of wheat, ranking 2nd in North Carolina only behind

Union County. Many people probably associate wheat as being used to make bread, but in Perquimans County, farmers grow a class of wheat called, soft red winter wheat. This class is a softer wheat used to make cookies, crackers, and pastries.

North Carolina ranks 2nd in the United States in both hog and poultry production. To feed all of those animals, 80% of the wheat that is grown in North Carolina goes into feed for livestock and the remaining 20% goes into flour production for human consumption. For Perquimans, the majority of wheat produced goes to livestock feed. If you happen to see a farmer, be sure to thank them for what they do. Without them, we would not be blessed with easily accessible food and fiber. For any field crop questions, contact Dylan Lilley at [dylan\\_lilley@ncsu.edu](mailto:dylan_lilley@ncsu.edu) or 252-426-5428. (Pictured is Eure Seed Farm harvesting a wheat yield check.)



## Perquimans 4-H Offers Summer Kits...

Perquimans County 4-H is offering several different kits this summer for your child to enjoy right from home. These educational kits will include all of the supplies needed, as well as a short educational YouTube video. Kit topics will include wildlife, gardening, bugs, and more. Supplies are limited.

Perquimans County is committed to helping youth stay engaged in the summer, even at a distance. Be sure to "like" the [Perquimans County Facebook Page](#) so you do not miss any upcoming kits. We hope you have a great summer!



## Cattle are at the Landfill...

Perquimans County is home to the only Landfill in the state that has cattle on it. This project got started in 2014 with an idea of saving money for the three county area. The maintenance for mowing the landfill was costing in excess of \$10,000.00 per year and continued to go up each year. In response to this situation the Perquimans County Extension Services Livestock Extension Agent Jared Harrell developed a plan to save the taxpayers the full \$10,000.00 per year. The plan consisted of working with DENR (Department of Environmental and Natural Resources), DWQ (Division of Water Quality), and NC State Beef Specialists to implement a permit to allow cattle to graze the landfill cap. Following the permit approval by the state and by the PCG Landfill board, a

producer can put 16 cows on 26 acres of the landfill at no cost of rent and the counties would save \$10,000.00 per year in mowing costs. This plan of allowing cattle to graze the landfill cap is the first of its kind in North Carolina and is used as a test/demonstration site for other counties across the state.



## Watermelons are in bloom...

Watermelons are one of the most common crops grown in the area. This time of year, you may see many watermelon fields that are blooming or beginning to bloom. Most of these fields are producing seedless watermelons. Did you know that in order to produce a seedless watermelon, the field must include one pollinizer plant for every three to four fruiting plants? The fruiting plants have three sets of chromosomes, so their pollen and eggs are infertile. Viable pollen is needed to initiate fruit set, so the pollinizers provide pollen that fertilizes the fruiting plants, allowing them to grow watermelon without any seeds.

For more information on commercial fruit and vegetable production, please contact Nettie Baugher at [nettie\\_baugher@ncsu.edu](mailto:nettie_baugher@ncsu.edu)"



## Weeding is essential for Summer Gardening

Whether it's your first time or fiftieth time growing a summer garden, weeds are guaranteed to be part of the experience. Weed management is essential to a successful crop. Keep these tips in mind:

- A steel hoe is one of the most effective weapons in fighting the war against weeds. When used regularly, it is effective and inexpensive.
- Weeds at the base of the plant should be pulled by hand rather than running the risk of damaging the roots.
- Do not allow weeds to become well-established before they are removed because pulling large weeds can damage the root system of vegetable plants.
- Mulch can significantly decrease the amount of hoeing needed.
  - Organic mulches (that decompose) are by far the most common. Typical examples are bark chips,

compost, ground corncobs, chopped cornstalks, grass clippings, leaves, newspapers, peanut shells, pine needles, sawdust, and grain straw. After the soil warms in the spring, organic mulch should be applied to a depth of 2 to 4 inches around well-established plants. Be sure that there is adequate moisture in the soil before applying the mulch as dry mulch can pull moisture out of the soil.

- Inorganic mulches (that do not decompose), such as plastic sheeting, should be installed after fertilization, but before planting, when the soil is neither too wet nor too dry. Bury the edges to prevent the wind from blowing it away. Make short slits in the material with a pocketknife when planting seeds or transplants. Plants mulched with plastic need supplemental water as roots do not receive water from rainfall, and irrigation needs to be monitored carefully.
- Herbicides are chemicals that kill existing weeds or interrupt the germination. No single herbicide controls all weeds or can be safely used for all vegetable crops. Users must follow all label directions.



## Medicare is not free...

Each week, people turning 65 will call the Seniors Health Insurance Information Hotline and say... I saw on TV that I could get Health Insurance and not pay anything for it. Eager to sign up for whatever that free stuff is can be an attractive advertisement...but be warned...Nothing is Free. If commercials and junk mailings have you confused...you are not alone. **For answers to your Medicare questions, contact the Perquimans County Senior Health Insurance Information Program at 252-426-7697.** The person answering this phone line is not a licensed insurance agent that wants to sell you something...but are trained educators that can help navigate the rough waters associated with Medicare Insurance. We teach...we do not indorse any particular company. This educational service is provided FREE to the public.

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NC State University and N.C. A&T State University work in tandem, along with federal, state and local governments, to form a strategic partnership called N.C. Cooperative Extension.

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