



Perquimans County Center

DID YOU KNOW???

June 2021



U.S. is the world's largest blueberry producer.

Native Americans first called blueberries “star berries” because the blossom end forms a perfect five-pointed star. NC is one of the top growers of blueberries. The NC harvest season typically runs from June through August. Blueberries grow on a bush up to 12 feet high.

Choose fresh blueberries that are plump and have a solid, dark blue color. Refrigerate for up to two weeks. • Wash berries just before serving. • Shop for fresh berries in season to get the best value. Or buy frozen berries year-round at the grocery store. Frozen blueberries can be thawed in cold water. • To thaw in cold water, pour the desired amount into a bowl. Cover the blueberries with cold water. One cup of blueberries will thaw in about 5 minutes.

To freeze fresh blueberries when they are in season, you can have a healthy and fun treat all year. Simply pack them in a freezer bag and store in the freezer. Don't wash before freezing; wash before using. Blueberries don't have to be thawed before cooking or eating them!



Eastern 4-H Center Welcomes 2021 Campers

Five Perquimans County 4-H'ers will attend NC 4-H Camp June 20-25 at the Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, NC. Since youth were unable to attend last year due to COVID, they are excited to spend the week exploring the outdoors, canoeing, swimming, rock climbing, team building, and so much more. Youth will also learn life skills, develop self-esteem, and gain a sense of independence and community. We look forward to a great week at 4-H camp!

For more information on how you can be a part of 4-H, contact Meredith Wood at meredith_wood@ncsu.edu. Also, be sure to follow Perquimans County 4-H on Facebook and Instagram.



June 30th is Dicamba application cut-off

For those applying dicamba for weed control in soybeans, this is a reminder that the application cutoff date for North Carolina is **June 30th**. This applies to soybeans only as over the top dicamba use in cotton extends until **July 30th**. Unfortunately this decision by the EPA affects later planted soybeans and alternative herbicides will need to be utilized. If Enlist E3 varieties (Roundup, 2,4-D, and Liberty tolerance) are planted, there are no calendar cutoff dates for over the top use of 2,4-D or Liberty although it is recommended not to spray Enlist (2,4-D) beyond R2 growth stage or Liberty beyond R1 growth stage. Liberty can also be utilized as an alternative for XtendFlex varieties (Roundup, Dicamba, and Liberty tolerance). For double crop soybeans where Dicamba is not an option due to the June 30th cutoff date, there are still good herbicide options available. It is recommended to use a strong Group 14 or 15 pre-emerge herbicide followed by herbicides like Flexstar GT (Reflex and Roundup) for palmer amaranth/pigweed or Roundup/FirstRate for common ragweed. For more information on soybean or cotton weed control, click [HERE](#) for an article by Dr. Charlie Cahoon and Dr. Wes Everman for dicamba alternatives. Contact Dylan Lilley for any Field Crop related questions at 252-426-5428.



It's squash season!

Many local growers and home gardeners have squash plants that are starting to produce ripe fruit. Squash is a very fast growing fruit, so to harvest at the ideal size, many growers must harvest every day or every other day. If you let the fruit go too long on the plant, they quickly get too big and lose their ideal texture and flavor. For homeowners, the sooner you harvest the squash, the sooner new

fruit will form. Summer squash should ideally be stored at 45-55 degrees. If you'd like to purchase local squash, you can find a local farm market or farm stand at <https://go.ncsu.edu/gateschowanperquimanslocalproduce>

New Resource for Gardeners is available...

A new resource from the Coastal Landscapes Initiative is available to residents interested in growing native North Carolina plants in their gardens and yards. Check it out at https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NC-Coastal-Landscaping-Designs_revised-and-compressed.pdf

Thanks for supporting the Livestock Show & Sale

The 2021 Albemarle area 4-H livestock show and sale and the Chowan County 4-H livestock show was held a little different this year, in order to comply with the mandated covid regulations. Although the shows were held during a pandemic the joy from the youth that were able to participate was overwhelming. Between the two shows there were more than 155 youth that showed a goat, hog, lamb, steer or heifer. Both shows had an incredible auction to raise money for the participants especially during a pandemic. The combined total for both shows was over \$258,327.00. On behalf of the extension staff we want to thank the volunteers, parents and the buyers that supported the youth this year.

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