Field Crops Newsletter

Granville and Person County
Mikayla Berryhill

A note from your agent: A Bittersweet Farewell!

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that I will be leaving my position as your Field Crops Extension Agent. While this was not an easy decision, I have accepted a new opportunity with Southern States that will allow me to continue working in agriculture while also spending more time at home with my baby—something I'm truly looking forward to.

Photo of Mikayla, Bryce, and Brooklyn.

Although I am excited about what's ahead, this transition is bittersweet. Serving you over the past few years has been so much more than a job to me. It has truly been a privilege and a joy. From troubleshooting field issues and hosting workshops to simply chatting across tailgates, I have learned so much – not just about crops, but about the strength, commitment, and heart of the people who grow them. I have truly loved my time here, and learning from you has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever experienced. The relationships we've built and the trust you placed in me mean more than I can express. I will forever appreciate the community who gave me grace as I learned the ins and outs of a new crop, and who supported me as I became a wife and a mother.

I want to sincerely thank each of you for your trust, your time, and your partnership. Thank you for welcoming me into your farms, your operations, and your lives. It has been an honor and a privilege to support the vital work you do. Your dedication to agriculture and your communities inspires me, and I will always look back on this time with fulfillment and gratitude.

I also want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my colleagues at NC Cooperative Extension and to the broader agricultural community. I am gratified by the work we've done together, and I leave knowing the next agent who steps into this role will be well supported and positioned to continue making a positive impact.

To mark this transition, there will be a goodbye reception for me on **September 26th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM** at the **Person County Office Building Auditorium**. I would love the chance to see you, say goodbye in person, and thank you for the role you've played in my time here.

Though I am stepping away from Extension, I am not stepping away from agriculture—and I am sure our paths will continue to cross in the future. My new position will allow me to continue working in this area, just in a different capacity.

May your hard work continue to bring strong yields and lasting results.

OCTOBER 2025

INSIDE

This newsletter is designed to give you up to date information on crops from NC State University and other sources. For more information:

Contact

PERSON COUNTY
304 S Morgan Street
Room 123
Roxboro, NC 27573

PH: 336.599.1195
person.ces.ncsu.edu

GRANVILLE COUNTY
125 Oxford Outer Loop
Oxford, NC 27565

PH: 919.603.1350
granville.ces.ncsu.edu

MIKAYLA BERRYHILL
mikayla_berryhill@ncsu.edu

NC State Fair Tobacco Competition Information

EXHIBIT MANAGER: Beth Farrell beth.farrell@ncagr.gov

Registration deadline is Tuesday, October 7, 2025.

- Entries are accepted on Saturday, October 4 through Friday, October 10 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm at the Entry Department in the Administration Building on the fairgrounds.
- Exhibitors must be 18 years of age or older to compete, residents of North Carolina, and an active tobacco grower.
- This competition is for flue cured, North Carolina grown tobacco.
- The State of North Carolina will require submission of a NC Substitute W-9 prior to making any payment of $600 or greater or any payment that results in a total of $600 or more during one calendar year from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to any individual or entity. All exhibitors are strongly encouraged to complete and upload the NC Substitute W-9 form to prevent any delay in receiving premium prize money.
- General Rules and Regulations of the Fair will govern this department. They can be found at the back of this chapter.
- Only entries from individual exhibitors are allowed. If the exhibitor wants the farm name listed, it needs to be added after the exhibitor's legal name on the entry form.
- Each entry must be displayed in silver dollar size hand ties, but entries will not be judged on this technique.
- Submit questions to: NCSFCompetitions@ncagr.gov.
- Contest location: Tobacco Barn Pavilion.
- Each entry in each Class number will be judged based on the overall best tobacco exhibited.
- One first, second and third place winner will be selected in each Class number for the best tobacco for each designated stalk position
- All entries will become property of the NC State Fair.
- The decision of the judges will be final.

DIVISION 101: TOBACCO

1st - $250 2nd - $150 3rd – $100

Class:

01 - Lug/Primmings	03 – Leaf
02 – Cutters	04 – Tips

DIVISION 102: ORGANIC TOBACCO

1st - $250 2nd - $150 3rd – $100

Class

01 - Lug/Primmings	03 – Leaf
02 – Cutters	04 - Tips

TOB SPECIAL AWARDS

TOB Commissioner Of Agriculture Award $500

Sponsored By: Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina

TGANC Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina

Brooks Shaffer Market Report for Tuesday, September 19th, 2025

This is the SFN Market Report with Brooks Schaffer of Palmetto Grain. Reach him at brooks@palmettograin.com or 843-540-4540.

Grain and oilseeds are having a disappointing week on very low volume. Trump is scheduled to have a call with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday. Early in the week, there were rumors that he would announce Chinese purchases of soybeans and jets from Boeing, in addition to a deal on TikTok and computer chips. As the week has gone on, there seemed to be less and less credence to that rumor, so the bean market traded lower.

We are starting to see harvest gain more steam in the Midwest. Yield reports are still very mixed, but there are a lot of people disappointed in their yields compared to their expectations. There is certainly more chatter about disease pressure. Producers across the Midwest are racing to harvest wet corn because the stalks are degrading so rapidly. There is some rain in the forecast now for parts of the Midwest, but it is going to do more harm than good on the crops in the field. We do still need some moisture to keep water levels in the Mississippi from getting too low.

Brooks Shaffer Market Report – CONTINUED

This is the SFN Market Report with Brooks Schaffer of Palmetto Grain. Reach him at brooks@palmettograin.com or 843-540-4540.

The market is turning focus to South American weather, and there are no major threats yet. We are still on the early side. Most planting occurs in October, so it is rapidly approaching. Crops planted in October could be harvested starting in January. If China is going to try to hold out and avoid U.S. purchases, it is January they are shooting for. If planting is delayed or there is any threatening weather in South America, that changes the dynamics dramatically. The Chinese could be positioning to appear to avoid making any U.S. purchases of U.S. beans and then make a deal tomorrow. The market is struggling on how to put odds on that. If China buys, we could be very tight on beans and trade north of $11. If they do not buy anything, we are going to have way too many and trade below $10. We are still sitting at a crossroad that we have been at for months.

Outside markets are positive but have not translated to strength in the ag markets. The Fed cut interest rates by a quarter point, as widely expected, and the dollar has traded to lows not seen since 2022. Gold rallied to all-time highs. Exports this week were right in the middle of the range of expectations for corn, wheat and beans. Corn total commitments of new crops stand at 938 million bushels, which is up 68% from last year's 559 million and are the highest in four years. The market assumes some of these will be front-loaded, but we are still expecting very strong exports on corn.

The market will turn focus to South American weather now. As we enter harvest season, U.S. weather cannot really help yield — only hurt it. Rain now in the Midwest is not bearish anymore. The market will be watching harvest progress and yield reports. USDA will release quarterly stocks on Sept. 30, which will be the final old crop carryout number. That is the number that will go as carry-in on the new crop balance sheet. Then the next supply and demand update will be on Oct. 9, which will have some harvest data included in the yield estimate.

National Farm Safety and Healthcare Week

NC Agromedicine Institute

Each September, the Institute joins agricultural communities nationwide in celebrating National Farm Safety and Health Week. This year's celebration is September 22-27, 2025. The week is dedicated to raising awareness about the unique risks faced by farmers, farmworkers, and their families, while highlighting practical steps to protect health and safety on the farm. By working together to promote safe practices, we help ensure that those who feed, clothe, and sustain us can thrive for generations to come.

Since 1999, the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute ('the Institute') has worked with community partners—like you and your organization—to direct our efforts, fulfill our mission, and serve the agricultural community. For over 25 years, we have existed for one purpose. We protect agriculture's most important asset: ***the people*** living and working in the fields of farming, forestry, and fishing.

What happens to an agricultural operation when the primary operator or an essential employee is no longer able to work? For farms, the financial cost of a non-fatal farm injury is about $15,000, and the cost of a farm fatality is over $2 million (Adhikari et al., 2024). The loss of life and the trauma attached to these injuries and fatalities are immeasurable. They have a lasting impact on the victim, their family, other workers, the farm, and the farming community as a whole.

At the Institute, we see it as our calling to care for and support the mental and physical well-being of farmers, foresters, fishermen, their workers, and families so they can focus on their calling: caring for NC's natural resources, crops, and livestock.

When the people who live and work in agriculture thrive, the entire industry thrives. As North Carolina's #1 economic driver, agriculture not only fuels our state's economy but also feeds and sustains communities across the nation and beyond. By investing in the health, safety, and well-being of our agricultural workforce, we ensure a stronger future for all—join us in supporting those who provide food, fiber, shelter, and other essential products for us all!

Safety and health investments are essential for agricultural operations, ensuring their long-term profitability and sustainability. Our programs deliver health and safety services and resources that producers can see, feel, and use in their daily lives and for generations to come.

Read more about the NC Agromedicine Institute at ncagromedicine.org

Pre-Plant Wheat Considerations

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about your wheat crop! Even though wheat is a very long season (8 months!), thinking about your crop early will lead to higher yields. Here are some big picture things to consider:

Variety Selection – take the following into consideration as you choose your variety(ies)

- Disease Resistance – Head scab and hessian fly are two major disease issues that growers should keep in mind. Both of these diseases are difficult or impossible to control with pesticides, so choose varieties that have resistance
- Heading timing – you should plant LATE HEADING varieties EARLY, and EARLY HEADING varieties LATE. If you think you will have an extended planting window (starting in October and ending after Thanksgiving), consider getting 2-3 varieties with different heading times for a higher success rate.

Herbicide Application – recent research has shown that an early application of Pyroxasulfone and/or Carfentrazone (Anthem Flex) has a direct yield benefit. Many trouble weeds (such as ryegrass) are resistant to post-emergent herbicides, so the use of residual pre-emergent chemistries is the best management tactic

Fertilization – Two things to keep in mind for fertility

- Early Fertilization – The recommendation is to apply 30 lbs Nitrogen/acre at planting. While there is a 15 lbs N/acre "credit" for wheat planted after soybeans, keep in mind we had excessive amounts of rainfall this year, and it is likely any fertilizer applied to summer crops and nitrogen from soybeans is likely not going to be available to your wheat crop.
- Topdress Timing – it is important to apply your topdress application based on wheat growth rather than the calendar. When your wheat starts to "stand up", you need to get your topdress in the next week to 1.5 weeks or you will miss prime nitrogen uptake.

Upcoming Events:

Goodbye Reception

September 26th @ 9AM

- Person County Office Building (304 S. Morgan Street, Roxboro, NC)
- I would love to get a chance to say goodbye in person!

Keeping the Farm Workshop

The Keeping the Farm Workshops are geared for landowners in the area to learn about taxes, estate planning, conservation practices, and more.

Granville County

October 28th @ 8AM

- Granville County Expo & Convention Center (4185 U.S. 15, Oxford, NC)
- Please register at go.ncsu.edu/keepingthefarmgranville25

Person County

December 3rd @ 8AM

- Person County Office Building (304 S. Morgan Street, Roxboro, NC)
- Registration TBD