

THE SMALL FARMS NEWSBREAK

A Newsletter for ...

Sampson County Center

November 2012

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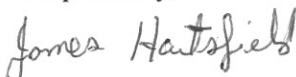
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Welcome to the fall issue of *The Small Farms Newsbreak!* The purpose of this newsletter is to provide timely updates of educational information and events of importance to Sampson and Duplin Counties small and part-time farm families. This will be a continuing effort through the Sampson and Duplin Counties Small Farm Program, which is an outreach of the Sampson County Cooperative Extension Office, located at 55 Agriculture Place, Clinton, NC 28328.

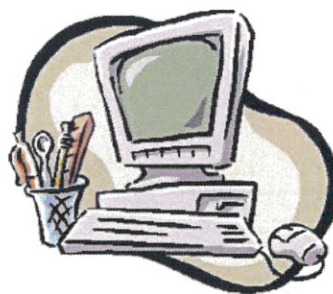
Our professional staff is here to help you put knowledge to work, by providing practical education to the citizens of Sampson and Duplin Counties. **We are here to serve you. If you need assistance, please visit or call our office at 910.592.7161. Our business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.** I hope you enjoy this issue!

Respectfully,



James Hartsfield
Area Extension Farm Management Agent

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SMALL FARMERS



In my years as a farm management agent, I have seen personal computers go from being an afterthought for most farmers to a valuable tool used to make farms more profitable and sustainable. They use their computers to keep financial records, provide year-end data analysis of their farm operation, search the Internet for the latest information on commodity prices, alternative enterprises, and weather conditions, and complete applications for farm loans and federal agricultural programs.

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Computer Classes for Small Farmers (continued)

Why the FACT program?

- This program provides employability skills training for unemployed and underemployed farmers.
- It builds sound farm business management and establishes strong record keeping skills through computer literacy and technology.

Who can participate in the program?

This program is designed for socially disadvantaged/limited-resource and part-time North Carolina residents who are actively farming. All citizens of North Carolina who qualify under the Human Resource Development and Workforce Development Program may participate.

Who recruits the farmers/participants?

James Hartsfield, Area Farm Management Agent along with Sampson Community College and James Sprunt Community Colleges work together in recruiting participants.

When are the classes offered?

Classes are offered typically in the evenings from October to February.

Where are the classes held?

Classes are held at Sampson Community College and James Sprunt Community Colleges.

How much does the class cost?

Program participants are provided with **low or no cost** computer training through the Human Resource Development and Workforce Development Programs.

Who do I contact for assistance?

For more information about the classes, including fee-waiver eligibility or to pre-register for the computer classes, please contact me, James Hartsfield, Area Farm Management Agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension – Sampson County Center at 910.592.7161 or e-mail at james_hartsfield@ncsu.edu or visit our website at <http://sampson.ces.ncsu.edu>.



BIOSECURITY: STEPS TO KEEPING YOUR LIVESTOCK HEALTHY



Biosecurity at the farm level refers to measures taken to prevent pests or diseases from entering your premises and to control outbreaks if they do occur. This is particularly important if you own or work with animals. Two basic Biosecurity measures for protecting livestock from diseases are 1) purchasing healthy stock and 2) preventing any exposure to disease organisms. Other preventive measures include proper nutrition, sanitation, and controlling animal and human traffic on and off the farm. If disease occurs, control measures include early detection and treatment.

It does not matter if you are a large-scale producer or a non-commercial livestock owner; you have the responsibility for keeping your animals healthy. Below are seven simple steps you can adopt on your property:

1. Regularly check animals for unusual disease symptoms and immediately report them to your local veterinarian or livestock professional.
2. Develop proper signage.
3. Keep farm vehicles and equipment clean.
4. Manage the movement of visitors on your property.
5. Limit the use of your machinery or equipment that is also used to travel to common livestock locations (e.g., feed store, stockyard).
6. Quarantine new animals and/or sick animals on the farm.
7. Do not allow your feed and water to become contaminated with manure or other animal waste.

For more information on Biosecurity, please contact James Hartsfield, Area Farm Management Agent, Sampson County Cooperative Extension Center at 910.592.7161 or james_hartsfield@ncsu.edu.

Calendar of Events

Annual Southeast Vegetable & Fruit Expo – November 26th, through November 28th, 2012, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Fruit and vegetable growers should register now to attend this important conference. This year's conference will have an expanded regional trade show and in-depth educational sessions. Location: Kingston Plantation, Embassy Suites, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. For more information contact James Hartsfield, Area Farm Management Agent, Sampson County Center, 910-592-7161.

Tuesday, November 27, 2012, CEFS High Tunnel Production Workshop - Experts Kurt Taylor (NCA&T SU) and Bryan Green (NCSU) will present information regarding organic nutrient management of tomatoes in the field of high tunnels for fall season production. Researchers are trying to evaluate the effectiveness of using cover crops and compost as well as soil sources of nutrients. Participants will learn about production practices (insect and disease management, irrigation, etc.) for growing tomatoes in high tunnels for fall and winter markets. In addition, workshop participants will learn the advantages, different types, planting dates and sorrel production in high tunnel production. Location: Center of Environmental Farming System, 201 Steven Mill Road, Goldsboro, NC. For more information contact James Hartsfield, Area Farm Management Agent, Sampson County Center, 910-592-7161. Cost: Free

Early or Mid – February 2013 – High-Tunnel Greenhouse and Plasticulture Workshop, Sampson County Extension Center – The workshop will cover the advantages of using a high-tunnel greenhouse and plasticulture. Also, techniques to extend the growing season and the latest on growing produce using plastic mulch and drip irrigation will be discussed. Look for more details later.

2013 Annul Small Farms Week - March 24 - 30 2013. The North Carolina A&T Cooperative Extension Program will coordinate various programs throughout the state honoring North Carolina's small farmers. Extension programs that benefit small-scale agriculture will also be recognized during the period. The kickoff for Small Farms Week will be held on March 25th in Bladen County at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Beatty, the 2011 North Carolina Small Farmer Of The Year recipients. Look for more details later.

