



Yancey County Center

April 2021

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2020 Farm City Week Awards Banquet

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Starting @ 2 PM

****This Event will be Conducted Virtually**
Using Zoom**

Please join us as we recognize the recipients of the 2020 Yancey County Farm City Week Awards.

For more information or to RSVP:

contact David Davis (david_davis@ncsu.edu)
or call 828.682.6186.

It is hard to believe that it is already April. As more residents of Yancey County have been able to receive the Covid 19 vaccine, and meeting occupancy requirements are relaxed, we are excited to be able to offer some in-person educational opportunities for our agriculture producers and farmers. We have a great number of opportunities coming up I hope many of you will take advantage of. We are also looking forward to honoring the 2020 Yancey County Farm City Awards recipients. The award ceremony will be held virtually on April 28th, and I will be contacting award winners soon. If you are interested in attending the Farm City Awards program, please feel free to contact the N.C. Cooperative Extension Yancey County Center.

Sincerely,

David Davis

County Extension Director
N.C. Cooperative Extension
Yancey County Center

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Boxwood leafminer adult,
CC Jim Baker, North Carolina
State University, Bugwood.org

Ornamental pests and disease updates for April:

by: Sara Runkel, Agriculture Extension Agent, Yancey County Center

Ambrosia Beetle: Granulate ambrosia beetles (GAB) were found in traps in Conover this week. This pest is a problem because there is no treatment once trees are attacked, and the trees will die. GAB are attracted to stressed trees, especially those that have roots in waterlogged soil. With the dry weather we're supposed to have over the next few days, it's a good time to begin preventative sprays on young

trees. A trunk spray of bifenthrin (with a sticker) will protect the trunk for two weeks at most. Repeat sprays are required until beetle flight slows down. (Information provided by Amanda Taylor, N.C Cooperative Extension Area Specialized Agent for Greenhouse and Nursery Crops, Western Region).
[Learn more at https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W289-P.pdf](https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W289-P.pdf).

Balsam Twig Aphids are hatching on Christmas trees. Producers should start scouting by beating trees and counting aphids. Trees going to market this year should be prioritized for treatment before bud break. Learn more at <https://christmastrees.ces.ncsu.edu/bta/>.

Boxwood Leafminer: Beginning in April, be on the look out for small orange gnat-like flies. These are boxwood leafminer adults. Insecticide treatment of the adults can reduce the number of eggs laid and subsequent leaf damage by the larvae. Learn more at <https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/04/boxwood-leafminers-active/>.

Boxwood Blight: As temperatures begin to rise, boxwood producers should start scouting for boxwood blight, especially when we have multiple days of wet weather in a row. The pathogen is most active at a temperature range of 64 - 77 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at <https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/boxwood-blight.html>. Learn more about scouting for boxwood blight by watching a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-Yd8qCbb0A>.

Harvest & Post-harvest Handling Workshop/ Produce Safety Refresher for Diversified Vegetable Growers



Save the Date!

6:00 - 8:00 PM

May 3, 2021

**Yancey Senior Center
503 Medical Campus Dr.
Burnsville, NC**

No Cost to Attend!

**For more information or to register, contact
Sara Runkel (sara_runkel@ncsu.edu) by email or call 828.682.6186**

Extension Local Food Program

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Local Food Program's objective is to promote the production, marketing, and consumption of food grown and caught within North Carolina.

Sara Runkel is the Local Food Coordinator for N.C. Cooperative Extension in Yancey County. Read more about the program at:

<https://localfood.ces.ncsu.edu/about-localfood/extensionlocalfoodprogram/>

Small Farms Week

by: Adam McCurry, NCA&T Agriculture Technician, Yancey County Center

Each year, Cooperative Extension at N.C. A&T celebrates the crucial role of small farmers in North Carolina's \$91.8 billion agriculture sector with Small Farms Week. First held in 1986, Small Farms Week includes workshops, tours, farming demonstrations and recognition of a Small Farmer of the Year. Small Farms Week is held in March. The week culminates with a luncheon and talk by a speaker with connections to small agriculture.

In conjunction with Small Farms Week Yancey County celebrates the role that small farmers have in our local community. For the first time starting this year, Yancey Extension will induct a new member into The Yancey County Agriculture Hall of Fame Annually. The inductee will be honored and recognized for their contributions to local agriculture.

For this initial year, we actually have two inductees. The inaugural class will include Burl Austin and Claude Deyton. Both of these gentleman have dedicated a Lifetime to Yancey County agriculture. We will feature more about the contributions that they have made in a weekly article in the Yancey Common Times Journal later this month and in next month's Agriculture Newsletter. But for now, we want to thank them for what they have done for agriculture in Yancey County and say congratulations to Burl and Claude for their recognition!

New USDA Pandemic Assistance Program for Producers

The USDA announced on March 24th that it is directing additional funding to assist producers effected by COVID-19 market disruptions. This includes re-opening sign-ups for CFAP-2 for at least 60 days starting on April 5th 2021. For more information contact the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Spring Soil Testing

If you haven't considered taking soil samples, now is a good time to do so. Soil testing is available through NCDA&CS at no direct cost for North Carolina residents, April thru Thanksgiving, due to a statewide fee on commercial fertilizer.

Taking soil samples is very easy. We have soil probes that can be checked out if they are available, and sample boxes can be picked up at the NC Cooperative Extension Yancey County Center. Calling ahead of coming to the center to pick up a soil probe is recommended to make sure that we have one available for check out.

Soil testing has many benefits. It is the best way to estimate the fertilizer needs of crop fields, pastures, or hay fields. Make sure to talk to one our staff at the Yancey County Center about putting them down as a "consultant" if you would like assistance with interpreting your soil test results when they come back.

If you would like to learn more about why soil testing is important, please contact the N.C. Cooperative Extension Yancey County Center by calling (828) 682-6186.

2021 Private Pesticide Applicator "Z" Safety Class

Attention Private Pesticide Applicators, do you need "Z" pesticide credits? In North Carolina, Private Pesticide Applicators, or those applying pesticides as part of their own farming operations, must receive 4 hours of continuing educational credits. This includes the 2-hour pesticide safety "V" class, and attending 2 hours of specialized "X" training during the 3 year re-certification period. The "X" classes will be offered throughout the year in various educational activities conducted by N.C. Cooperative Extension Yancey County. However, any applicator needing "Z" training should plan to attend the upcoming training.

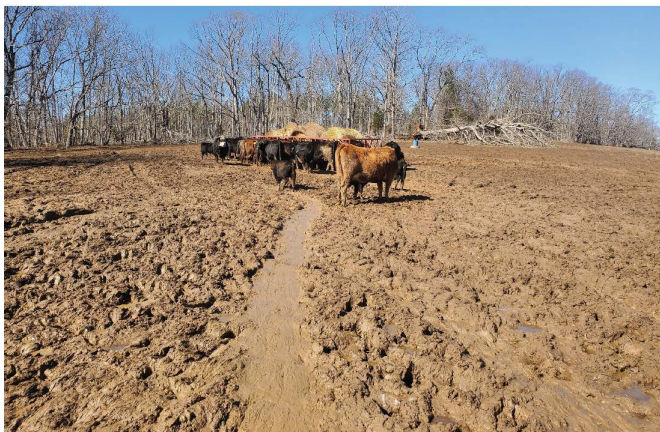
Make sure you plan to attend the upcoming "Z" pesticide safety training that will be held **April 22, 2021, from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Yancey County Senior Center**. The Yancey County Senior Center is located near the health department at 503 Medical Campus Dr. in Burnsville. We will be sending out letters to current applicators that need category Z training this year. Even if your certification does not expire in 2021, you can still attend if you wish. However, to make sure that we comply with Covid-19 related safety procedures, you must RSVP to attend this training.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to RSVP for the upcoming "Z" training, contact David Davis (david_davis@ncsu.edu) by email or by calling (828) 682-6186

Mud Management

SAVE THE DATE

For Livestock Farms



APRIL 6th
7pm

Mud Problems/Solutions
Winter Cleanup
Sacrifice Area Establishment
Farm Road Upgrades
Cost Share Opportunities

Register for this **FREE** Event:

go.ncsu.edu/mud



North Carolina Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity provider.



Now Available for Yancey County Agricultural Producers!

1. Utilize or properly dispose of all pesticides to empty the container



2. Properly prepare the container by taking off non-stuck on labels, and triple rinsing or pressure rinsing. Pressure rinsing nozzles are available for free at the Yancey County Center

3. Put empty and properly prepared pesticide containers in this shipping container located at the Cane River Recycling Center



- The Riverside Recycling Center is located at Cane River, approximately 3 miles west of Burnsville on U.S. 19E.
- Only empty pesticide containers, properly rinsed and prepared should be placed in the pesticide container recycling bin. For assistance with pesticide disposal, please contact the N.C. Cooperative Extension Yancey County Center.
- If you would like to know more about how to properly prepare containers, contact the N.C. Cooperative Extension Yancey County Center by calling (828) 682-6186



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