

Yancey County Cooperative Extension

Agriculture Newsletter

March 2022

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Spring Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Training



2.0 Safety (Z) Credit Course

Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Yancey County Senior Center
503 Medical Campus Dr.
Burnsville NC 28714

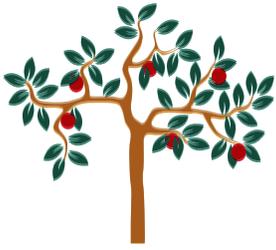
This will be the annual safety (Z) recertification class for NC Certified Private Pesticide Applicators in Yancey County. Private Applicators must complete 2.0 "Z" safety credits within the 3 year re-certification period prior to September 30 of the expiration year in order to re-certify without required testing. This training is open to any NC Private Applicator, but any private pesticide applicator with a license expiring as of December 2022 that has not already receive 2.0 "Z" CEUs should plan to attend. Pre-registration is not required but is preferred. If you would like to pre-register, or if you have any questions about this upcoming training, contact David Davis (david_davis@ncsu.edu) by calling 828.682.6186.

Stay Connected!

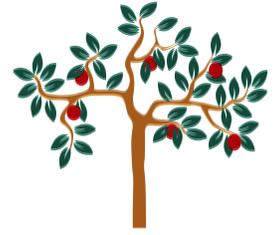
David Davis
County Ext. Director
david_davis@ncsu.edu
(828) 682-1874

Adam McCurry
NC A&T Agriculture Technician
adam_mccurry@ncsu.edu
(828) 682-1879

Sara Runkel
Horticulture Extension Agents
sara_runkel@ncsu.edu
(828) 682-1873



2022 Spring Plant Sale Is Underway!



NC Cooperative Extension of Yancey County is now taking orders for the 2022 Plant Sale. The annual plant sale supports the programs and services offered through the Yancey County Center, and helps to support training opportunities for our county office staff. This is also a great way to purchase fruit trees, and other garden plants that are not readily available from local garden suppliers and greenhouses. This includes several varieties of apple trees (including several "heritage varieties), strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, asparagus, and many other types of plants. You can view the entire listing of available plants by accessing our order form at <https://yancey.ces.ncsu.edu/2022/02/2022-plant-sale/>.

- Anyone interested in ordering plants this year can do so by contacting the Yancey County Extension Center during regular business hours (8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday).
- **Orders must be paid in full before they are completed, and a completed order form must be submitted with payment.** Orders and payment can be made in person, or mailed into the Yancey County Extension Center (located at 30 E HWY 19E Bypass Rd., Burnsville NC 28714). Again, the order form can be accessed on line at <https://yancey.ces.ncsu.edu/2022/02/2022-plant-sale/>.
- Payment should be made by check payable to "Yancey County Cooperative Extension"
- Varieties and types of plants are available on a first-come basis. Although we try to keep our order form up to date to indicate "sold out" items, please realize this may not always be possible by the time each order form is submitted. Especially when mailing in payment and order forms. To ensure availability at the time of order, it is better to submit the order form and payment in person.
- We pre-order our plants (2 years ahead for some plant species) to ensure plant and variety availability as much as possible. However, at times some plants that we pre-order may not be shipped by the suppliers. We will notify you if substitutions are available.
- All pre-orders must be submitted by 5 PM on March 11, 2022.
- Pick up of plants will be at the NC Cooperative Extension Yancey County Center on April 13-14th (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM). All plant orders must be picked up during this time unless arrangements are made in advance otherwise.
- Orders will be verified by Yancey County Extension Staff at pick-up, and any missing items will be documented for replacement, or reimbursement. **ANY MISSING ITEMS NOT NOTED AT THE TIME OF ORDER VERIFICATION WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED!**
- There will be no refunds issued for unclaimed orders/missed pick-ups so please mark your calendar for the pick-up dates at the time of the order.
- Reimbursements for any unavailable items will be made by mailed check after the conclusion of the plant sale.

If you have any questions about this year's plant sale, please feel free to call the Yancey County Cooperative Extension Office by calling (828) 682-6186.



Yancey Sheep, Goat, and Swine 4-H Project Groups Still Accepting Youth Participants for 2022

Yancey County youth now have more opportunity than ever before to experience raising, and showing livestock! This year we are once again conducting the Yancey County 4-H Beef Club Dairy Steer Project. The dairy steer project is now full. However, we are still offering the Yancey County Sheep and Goat Project group, as part of the Yancey County 4-H Livestock Club for the second year, and we have a brand new swine project available! In addition to showmanship projects, youth that aren't necessarily interested in showing who would like to experience livestock projects can complete an entrepreneurial project. So there is plenty of opportunity for a wide variety of possible experiences!



Farm Days and lessons are just one of the highlights of youth sheep and goat projects



We are excited about adding new opportunities for Yancey County Youth to experience raising and showing pigs!

This year we are working hard to make sure that every youth has an opportunity to participate. We have been working to minimize financial barriers. Our sheep and goat project group is working together to obtain sponsorships to help with the cost of purchasing show animals, feed, and supplies. To start our swine project group for the first time, we received a grant through the Carolina Farm Credit Corporate Mission Fund. Each youth participant in the swine project group will receive up to two show pigs (\$500 value), a pig feeder, and parts to construct a waterer. The group will also be working to fundraise and gain sponsorships to minimize feed and supply costs.

If you would like to learn more about how your child can become a participant of the Yancey County 4-H Beef Club, Sheep and Goat Project Group, or Swine Project Group feel free to contact us at the Yancey County Extension Office by calling **828.682.6186**.

****Did You Know?*****

Yancey County 4-H offers a variety of clubs, programs, and special activities for youth ages 8-18 (as of January 1). We also offer some 4-H programming for clover buds (ages 6-8). From arts and crafts, to sewing, electric, shooting sports, and livestock, there are a lot of different club interests. If you would like to know more, check out the NC Cooperative Extension Yancey County 4-H and Youth Development club webpage (<https://yancey.ces.ncsu.edu/4-h-clubs-6/>). You can also contact the Yancey County Center to sign up for the Yancey County 4-H Newsletter. To view any of the most recent NC Cooperative Extension of Yancey County Newsletters go to: <https://yancey.ces.ncsu.edu/newsletters-5/>

Now is the Time to Frost Seed Clover!

by: David Davis, County Extension Director, Yancey County

Adding clover to pastures has many benefits including increased pasture forage quality, helping to achieve better weight gains for grazing animals, and even more importantly this year, nitrogen fixation. With fertilize prices doubling, or possibly even tripling from where they were in the spring of 2021, adding "free" nitrogen by increasing clover content in pastures just makes since.

Frost seeding involves broadcasting clover seeds over established grass pastures in the spring of the year. With the colder temperatures occurring at night which freeze the soil, and warmer temperatures prevalent in the day thawing the soil, it results in a soil heaving. This is ideal for moving clover seed into the soil profile, establishing good seed to soil contact, which in turn improves germination. Clover seed has a round spherical shape which makes it ideal for frost seeding. Grass seeds, which are oblong and almost "boat" shaped tend to "float" on the soil surface, and are not ideal for frost seeding. It is much better to establish grass seed using tillage, or by no-till seeding.



Besides weather conditions that promote freezing and thawing of the soil, there are a few more conditions that make for ideal frost seeding. Soil nutrient levels (particularly soil pH, phosphate, and potash levels) should have been adjusted according to soil test recommendations. Unless phosphate or potash levels are incredibly low, having the proper soil pH is the most important consideration. Clover will best establish when the soil pH falls between 6.0 and 6.5, and most likely will not be established very well if the soil pH falls below 5.8. If a soil test has not been done, there is probably not adequate time available now to get results back and to enable frost seeding clover this spring.

If you have not already soil tested the pasture or hayfield that you intend to frost seed consider purchasing and using a simple home garden soil pH test kit. Even though a soil test report is best for, checking the soil pH, since soil test results will most likely not come back in time, using a home garden kit might avoid wasting clover seed, money, and time if the pH is too low for seeding clover. As expensive as nitrogen fertilizer is running this year, and not seeing major issues with the soil pH, the benefit of frost seeding clover vs the risk of sowing into inadequate phosphate or potash levels will probably be worth the risk. Just make sure to go ahead and soil test so that soil nutrients can be adjusted if necessary later in the spring or in the coming fall.

If you would like to learn more about frost seeding clover, or discuss other options for forage improvement for your pastures or hayfields, contact the Yancey County Extension Office by calling (828) 682-6186.