NC A & T S U Hosts Agromedicine Symposium at NC Research Campus in Kannapolis

On October 12, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCATSU) in partnership with the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute (‘the Institute’) hosted the North Carolina Agricultural Health and Safety Symposium. The event, held at the NC Research Campus (NCRC) in Kannapolis, was sponsored by the NCRC, Castle & Cooke, and the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau. More than 60 people attended.

The goals of the symposium were to share current efforts in agricultural health & safety research; to acquaint participants with the work of the Institute, its partner universities (East Carolina University (ECU), NC State University (NCSU), & NC Agricultural and Technical State University (NCATSU)) and community partners; to share strategies for disseminating research findings to target populations; and to bring together agricultural safety and health researchers and community partners to facilitate networking and collaboration. Participants included faculty, staff, and students; Cooperative Extension agents; representatives from state agencies, NC Farm Bureau, Syngenta Corp, NC FIELD, and other community agencies.

Dr. Risto Rautiainen, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Director of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Rautiainen discussed opportunities for national and international collaborations for identifying on-farm health & safety risks.

Dr. Karen Oppelt, ECU Brody School of Medicine, Department of Comparative Medicine and Dr. Leonard Williams, NCAT Center for Post Harvest Technologies discussed possible future collaborative research projects.

Institute staff members enjoyed the opportunity to meet face to face.

I am also pleased to announce that our Interim Director, Robin Tutor-Marcom, has been honored by the North Carolina chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the professional organization of Cooperative Extension. Mrs. Tutor-Marcom was presented a Friend of Extension Award. This award recognizes a non-Extension person who has given outstanding service and support to state Extension programs. Please join with me in congratulating Robin.

Finally we continue to make great progress in strengthening our inter-institutional partnership. At our Board of Directors meeting in October, we celebrated the approval of a transition plan that improves the resource base for the Institute as a multi-institutional platform to serve farmers, fishers, and foresters. As a result, the Institute is assured of a very bright future.

We look forward to working with you to make 2013 a safe and healthy New Year!
Institute Welcomes New Board of Director Members:

Melissa Bailey (Community Representative)

Melissa Bailey is originally from a small coal mining community in Logan County, West Virginia. She has devoted more than a decade dedicated to the education of migrant farmworker families and unaccompanied youth. She is bilingual and culturally proficient; a certified non-profit manager, and a dropout prevention curriculum trainer. Melissa is an experienced community organizer with project management skills and a demonstrated history of community building, fundraising, and resource allocation on behalf of farmworker children. She is skilled in program plan development and implementation, including outcomes evaluation. Melissa can often be found in labor camps and making home visits to migrant and seasonal farm working families in the area. She is the Executive Director of NC FIELD, a position currently funded by the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, Children in the Fields Campaign.

Jack Cox (Fishing Representative)

Mr. Cox is a member of the Board of Directors, Southern Atlantic Fisherman’s Association. He has been very active in other fisherman associations such as the NC Finfish Advisory Committee, and the Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He is the owner of Crystal Coast Fisheries in Morehead City NC where he runs two fishing boats and has a wholesale distribution business. Mr. Cox promotes commercial fishing whenever he can. He started commercial fishing at 16 years of age as a crew member on 4 to 5 day long fishing trips. He still averages about a day a week on the water.

Risk Mitigation Measures Work Continues

Thanks to the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC) the Institute will continue its work to assist farmers across NC with implementation of new risk mitigation measures (RMM) for soil fumigants from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The NCTTFC awarded the Institute $125,000 in September to provide ongoing assistance to farms with worker protection measures from the Phase I RMM as well as to assist with implementation of Phase II RMM which became effective with release of new soil fumigant labels in December 2012. Funds will be used to provide: 1) train-the-fit tester training to farms wishing to complete their own annual qualitative respirator fit tests; 2) qualitative respirator fit test kits; 3) six traditional fit test events; 4) buffer zone signs; 5) training materials for Phase II training in conjunction with the Pesticides Section – NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences; and 5) Fit-to-Farm training to increase farmers awareness of the importance of health & wellness when using respiratory protection especially during times of high heat and humidity.

For additional information about the RMM II project, contact Robin Tutor-Marcom tutorr@ecu.edu / 252.744.1008. To learn more about Phase II RMM, visit EPA’s soil fumigant toolbox at http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/.

All certified applicators applying soil fumigants must complete soil fumigant applicator training beginning December 2013. To complete training go to http://fumiganttraining.com/

Applicants not having access to a computer or comfortable with computer use should check with their fumigant vendor for availability of face to face training.
In September, 2012, the Institute received $98,703 to begin a new initiative from the United States Department of Agriculture-Risk Management Agency (USDA-RMA). The initiative, Reducing Risks through Farm Safety, AGR-Lite, and Risk Management Strategies for Minority, Limited Resource, Senior Growers, and Risk Management Education for Students (“Reducing Risks”) seeks to equip new and existing farmers with strategies needed to reduce risks that threaten farm sustainability. This will be accomplished through a strong strategic partnership that includes the Institute, Clifton Parker, a private risk management consultant, Custom Ag Solutions (CAS), local Cooperative Extension programs, commodity groups, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCATSU) and Institute Partners to Provide Risk Management Education.

In addition to being the project engineer for the NCAP, Dr. Roberson teaches courses in Light Equipment Technology, Precision Agriculture Technology, GIS Applications in Agriculture, Agricultural and Environmental Health and Safety, and Geomatics. Dr. Roberson’s extension program focuses on agricultural machinery systems, machinery management, precision agriculture and equine engineering. Dr. Roberson holds a B.S. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering Technology, B.S. in Agricultural Education, M.S. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering, and a PhD in Biological and Agricultural Engineering and is a licensed Professional Engineer in North Carolina. To learn more about Dr. Roberson and the work of the NCAP visit http://ncagrability.com/.

Institute Partners to Provide Risk Management Education

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Training will include AGR-Lite, common crop insurance policy basic provisions (COMBO), specialty crops or other insurance programs as well as marketing, farm management strategies, farm safety, and risk management education. Target audience will include women, veteran, minority, limited resource, and small acreage farmers that produce fruits, vegetables, turf grass/sod, organic crops, honey, herbs, livestock, forage, floriculture, and ornamental nursery.

To learn more about this initiative and dates/locations of events, contact Robin Tutor-Marcom tutorr@ecu.edu Tami Thompson thompsont@ecu.edu or phone 252.744.1008.
NCSU Hosts Agricultural Health Study Stateholder Meeting

On August 15, university researchers, state agency personnel, county Cooperative Extension agents, community representatives, farmers, farm spouses, and study investigators came together for the 2012 NC Agricultural Health Study (AHS) Stakeholder Meeting. NC State University (NCSU) and NC Cooperative Extension hosted the meeting in collaboration with the AHS Executive Committee on the NCSU Centennial Campus in Raleigh. Dr. Jane Hoppin of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, an AHS Executive Committee member, remarked on the turnout for the meeting, “We were excited to see so many people at the meeting and the diversity of the attendees. The AHS appreciates all the interest in our work and the help in getting the information out to the people who need it.”

With Dr. Wayne Buhler of the Department of Horticultural Science at NCSU facilitating the meeting, study investigators from the AHS Executive Committee provided an update on the long-term health study of 90,000 pesticide applicators and spouses from Iowa and North Carolina. Dr. Hoppin gave an overview of the AHS, as well as current and upcoming studies. Mr. Kent Thomas, the lead AHS investigator from the US Environmental Protection Agency, described the methods used and the major findings in AHS pesticide exposure studies. Dr. Michael Alavanja from the National Cancer Institute discussed cancer findings associated with the study. In an interactive session led by Dr. Catherine LePrevost from the Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology at NCSU, participants identified effective ways to communicate AHS findings to stakeholders.

Dr. Buhler described the meeting as a great success: “I was extremely pleased with every aspect of the meeting. The slate of speakers shared their enthusiasm for the way the study has progressed, and the audience responded positively. The interactions during the meeting and in the ‘hallways’ afterwards created a renewed energy for the AHS in NC!” The AHS Stakeholder Meeting will become an annual event, bringing together interested stakeholders in NC to facilitate dialogue about the study and its findings.

SUPPORT INSTITUTE

The NCAI invites you to help further its mission through your contributions to the following funds:

NC Agromedicine Institute Fund (for current and ongoing activities): Make check payable to “East Carolina University Foundation” with memo designation “NC Agromedicine Institute.” Mail to NCAI, c/o Director, 1157 VOA Site C Road, Greenville, NC 27834. Make a secure online donation at https://onestop.ecu.edu/onlinegiving/ and select “Agromedicine Institute Fund” in the drop down menu.

Western NC farm awarded Farm Family Safety Incentive grant

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids and Successful Farming Magazine joined forces thirteen years ago to fund the Farm Family Incentive grant. Since that time, Successful Farming Magazine reports that more than 160 farms have been awarded grants of up to $250 to make their farms a safer place. Past recipients include Turtle Mist Farms in Franklin County who received funds in 2011 to purchase riding helmets for children visiting the farm and taking part in the care of its horse.

North Carolina’s most recent grant recipient is Sunny Vale Farm in Catawba County. Funds were awarded to assist the farm in purchase and installation of a roll over protective system (ROPS) for an older tractor that is used by high school students completing internships on the farm. Additional funds to assist with the project will be sought from the NC Farm Bureau’s ROPS cost share program ($500) with the farm also absorbing a portion of the cost.

While tractor rollovers can occur in any location, Sunny Vale Farm believes that the ROPS is of particular importance in their location in the rolling foothills of North Carolina. The Institute salutes them for being a continued leader in agricultural safety and health!

To learn more about safety initiatives from Farm Safety 4 Just Kids go to www.fs4jk.org or Successful Farming magazine go to http://www.agriculture.com/successful-farming; to learn more about the NC Farm Bureau ROPS cost share program go to http://www.ncfba.org/programs/fs/rops.cfm.

For up to date announcements, event information, photos and more. Please follow along!

facebook (http://www.facebook.com; search: NC Agromedicine Institute)
twitter (http://twitter.com; search: NCAgromed)
YouTube (http://www.youtube.com/user/ncagromedicine)
FS4JK’s Chemical Education Packet Wins Blue Ribbon

The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) has awarded the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids “Chemicals in Rural Areas” educational packet a blue ribbon in their Educational Aids Competition. The blue ribbon was awarded July 30.

The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers is dedicated to the advancement of engineering applicable to agricultural, food, and biological systems. Founded in 1907 and headquartered in St Joseph, Michigan, ASABE comprises 9,000 members in more than 100 countries.

The Educational Aids Competition is designed to recognize the materials that contribute to the understanding of biological and agricultural engineering subjects, with an emphasis on how well the needs of the intended audience are met. The competition encourages organizations and extension offices to strive for excellence through the interchange of ideas on successful methods and techniques.

“The organization puts a lot of emphasis on creating strong educational materials,” said Shari Burgus, educational director at Farm Safety 4 Just Kids. “We really strive to produce high quality materials that focus on teaching youth of various ages in several different ways.”

The “Chemicals in Rural Areas” education packet was created by Farm Safety 4 Just Kids with the support of Farm Credit in 2011 to educate children about chemical safety. Included in the packet is a comprehensive instructor guide that provides background on the potential dangers of chemicals as well as information on how to teach various age groups. The packet also contains flyers, brochures, posters, a power point presentation, and other helpful visuals for teaching youth.

“Chemicals in Rural Areas” is also available in Spanish. The packet was reviewed by stakeholders, including Shari Burgus and Tracy Schlater of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, LaMar Graff of the University of Iowa, Julia Storm of NC State University, and Teresa Andrews of the University of California Davis.

NCDA Farm Emergency Planning Template

Be prepared in case of emergency! Use the Farm Emergency Plan Template from NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences (NCDA & CS) – Emergency Services Division and NC Agromedicine Institute

TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE TEMPLATE CONTACT:

NC Agromedicine Institute at 252.744.1008 or download from https://author.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/agromedicine/upload/FarmEmergencyPlanBooklet.pdf

NCDA & CS at 919.707.3001 or download from https://author.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/agromedicine/upload/FarmEmergencyPlanBooklet.pdf
FOREST ORGANIZATION OPERATING TRAINING COURSE STARTS:
January 14, 2013

- North Carolina Association of Professional Loggers accepting students for next Forestry Equipment Operating Training program scheduled to start January 14 of 2013.
- Training Course is a 16 week program designed to teach the skills necessary to work as an entry level forestry operator. Topics covered include but are not limited to: safety, OSHA 10, interview skills, timber harvesting, environmental management, communication, and landowner relations.
- Classes are held in Eastern North Carolina Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm costing $362.50 with financial assistance available.
- People interested can learn more and register by viewing the program brochure [here]. The North Carolina Association of Professional Loggers is working to have the course in an accessible area for all to reduce travel for students which is why including term address and other contact info is needed.

Students from first FOROP course stand in front of their first load which left from NC-FOREP training program site on June 25. 2012.

AGRICULTURAL MEDICINE:
Occupational & Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals

SESSION I: January 17-18, 2013 • Greenville, NC
SESSIONS II-VII: February – March, 2013 • Via the web
SESSION VIII: April 4-5, 2013 • Greenville, NC

THE CORE COURSE
For more information contact:
Office of Continuing Studies
East Carolina University
252.328.9198 or 800.767.9111 (long distance only)
www.cpe.ecu.edu
tutorr@ecu.edu

East Carolina University
Office of Continuing Studies

“North Carolina AGROMEDICINE INSTITUTE
Patrons for Health and Safety in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
East Carolina University • NC State University • North Carolina A&T State University

“The Institute Wants to Wish Everyone a Safe & Healthy Holiday Season & a Happy New Year.”
CALENDAR

December 2012. Abstract deadlines for many conferences!


February 20-21, 2013. 45th Annual Meeting & “Winter Vegetable Conference and Trade Show,” Crowne Plaza & Resort Asheville, NC Sponsored by the N.C. Tomato Growers Association. For more information, please contact Ellen Sprague via e-mail, ellen_moss@yahoo.com

March 26, 2013. NIOSH Personal Protective Technologies Annual Meeting in Washington DC For more information contact Dr. Kim Faulkner, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory Tel: 412-386-6609; Email: kcf3@cdc.gov


June 23-27, 2013. ISASH Conference Sandusky Ohio. For more information visit http://agsafety.osu.edu/isash-conference


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