From the Chair, Board of Directors, NC Agromedicine Institute
Deirdre Mageean, PhD

Dear Partners:

Just as the seasons bring changes to the character of the landscape, changes in leadership bring changes to the character of an organization. For more than five years, Dr. Jim Zuiches, Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development at NC State University, has served on the Institute’s Board of Directors. He has been an asset to the Board in providing thoughtful insight relative to difficult decisions as well as consistently advocating for the well-being of the Institute amid economic challenges associated with state and university budget cuts. Dr. Zuiches retired in December with his replacement to the Board to be named. The Institute’s Board of Directors will continue its work with the addition of new Board members, Dr. Tom Melton, NC Cooperative Extension-NC State University and Dr. William Randle, Dean of Agriculture, NC A & T State University. For the first time in its history, the Institute will also be adding Board of Directors members from outside the three University partnership which will strengthen its ability to promote the work of the Institute in both government and non-government arenas. On behalf of the Institute’s Board of Directors, staff, and partners across the state, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Zuiches for his time and effort to ensure that farmers, fishers, and foresters continue to have a program solely dedicated to their safety and health. Above all, we wish him many days of smooth sailing, health, and happiness!

A Progressive Agriculture Safety Day held September 17 in Johnston County kicked off National Farm Safety and Health Week. The national theme was “Safety Counts—Your Community Depends On It.” The fun-filled day of hands-on home and farm safety learning was a collaboration among Johnston County Cooperative Extension, AgriSafe of CommWell, and Lazy O Farms. Over 80 youth ages 5 – 12 participated.

Community partners, led by coordinators Lori McBryde, 4-H Extension agent, Barb Gallagher, AgriSafe of CommWell, Health Nurse, and Tami Thompson of Lazy O Farms provided a rotation of learning stations to increase awareness of safety hazards on farms and in rural communities. The group was motivated by statistics indicating too many youth die or are injured on U.S. farms. The major causes: 23% percent of youth fatalities involved machinery including tractors and 19% involve motor vehicles including ATVs.

Learning stations focused on prevention and safety practices. The fire safety station had youth drawing a mental map of the best escape route from their home. Household hazardous look-a-likes cautioned them to think twice before gulping that blue liquid—sports drink or window cleaner?

Whether on their bike, walking through the woods, or helping Mom and Dad on the farm, stations on equipment safety, firearm safety, and outdoor hazards showed youth what to look out for and how to stay safe. Kids also practiced good hand-washing and made a healthy snack!

Evaluations from the day show that 100% of the participants learned something useful about safety. To reinforce safety messages and help youth put safety into practice with their families, all youth took home first aid kits, in addition to other safety items. The team of fifty-four on-site volunteers and committee members contributed over 500 hours to this successful event. A Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Grant and donations totaling over $4,300 from local sponsors made the event possible.

Debbie Stroud, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension agent, uses glow germ to demonstrate hand-washing.

Alton Perry, NC Forest Service, demonstrates outdoor safety.
Safety Counts
(continued from page 1)

Lori McBryde, 4-H Extension agent, and Barb Gallagher, AgriSafe of CommWell Health Nurse, coordinated the safety day.

Robin Tutor (R) thanks Lazy O Farm’s Tami Thompson (L) for her leadership and dedication.

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.

North Carolina State University Agromedicine Endowment (for long-term sustainability of Institute) OR North Carolina State University Agromedicine Enhancement Fund (for current and ongoing activities): Make check payable to “NCSU Agromedicine Endowment” OR “NCSU Agromedicine Enhancement Fund.” Mail to NC Agricultural Foundation, c/o Chris Wessel, Campus Box 7645, Raleigh, NC 27695-7645. Make a secure online donation at http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/givenow, enter keyword “agromedicine” and click on the search button.

Tim Britton, Agriculture Extension agent, uses a straw dummy to demonstrate the danger of getting caught in a PTO.

Denny Gallagher helps youth explore the first aid kits they will take home.

Jennifer Williams (L) and Christina Peterson (R) of SafeKids review best ways to escape a fire safely.

Robin Tutor asks campers to identify which household look-alike is the hazard and which is harmless.

Youth prepare a healthy snack.

This game proves our reaction time is no match to powerful farm equipment!

SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE

The NCAI invites you to help further its mission through your contributions to the following funds:
AgriSafe in the Woods: Bringing Health Services to Loggers, Foresters

On October 7th and 8th, AgriSafe of North Carolina joined forces with AgriSafe of CommWell Health and UNC Hospital’s Health on Wheels (HOW) program to conduct health screenings and provide logger health and safety information at the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Logging and Biomass Expo. The Expo, coordinated by the NC Association of Professional Loggers (NCAPL), Hatton-Brown Publishers, and the NC Forestry Association, drew more than 3,000 loggers, family members, and vendors from 11 mid-Atlantic and southeastern states. The Expo featured logging equipment demonstrations, value-added products, logging skill competitions, appearances by the Discovery Channel’s Swamp Loggers crew, high school student tours, and extensive networking opportunities.

This was the first collaborative effort between AgriSafe of NC and HOW. HOW is a broad-based mobile medical unit program of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Begun in spring 2010, the program’s mission is to bring basic health initiatives and opportunities directly to the community, including health screenings, medical appointments, health studies, and the sharing of health information. The unit is available to UNC researchers, clinicians and collaborators. The program makes it possible to bring a small exam room to venues throughout the state. CommWell Health had previously collaborated with HOW to provide outreach services to migrant camps in Sampson County.

AgriSafe of North Carolina is currently partnering with the NCAPL and Pitt Community College on efforts to secure funding to develop an intensive certified logging operator program that would include provisions for a part-time AgriSafe nurse along with development of a certified safe logging site checklist.

By providing the industry with well trained, healthy employees, the program hopes to reduce costs associated with logging injuries and fatalities, 40% of which occur within the first 90 days of employment. Look for more information on this endeavor in our next newsletter.
EPA Relaxes Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Requirement for Soil Fumigants

Witnessing change in regulations in favor of farmers by a government agency is not something that happens often, especially when that change happens quickly. Farmers across North Carolina (NC) and the nation using soil fumigants will benefit from one of those rare occurrences.

Last summer, we shared information with you about the Institute’s efforts in collaboration with members of the NC Soil Fumigant Workgroup and representatives from other states in the southeast to work with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to relax risk mitigation measures for soil fumigants that required farms to have a self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) on site in case of an emergency. Since that time, efforts to address this issue have been ongoing with North Carolina agencies taking a prominent leadership role in efforts that have lead to a change in requirements by EPA.

Following the March 2011 meeting with EPA representatives facilitated by the Institute to discuss SCBA requirements, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services- Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division (NCDA&CS-SPC& PD) asked the Institute to assist in development of a position paper by the State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) to be considered by its Pesticide Operations and Management (POM) Subcommittee for submission to EPA. Working in collaboration with Barb Gallagher, RN-AgriSafe of CommWell Health and Dr. Doug Campbell-EI Group, the Institute provided information on contraindications to SCBA use by farmers including, but not limited to, lack of sufficient medical clearance and training and physical challenges associated with aging farmers.

On September 19th, the POM approved and submitted the position paper which was accepted by EPA. As a result of recommendations put forth by the POM, EPA has given fumigant registrants the option to delete the entire Availability of Respirators for Emergencies (SCBA) section from fumigant labels. Growers still need to address how they will respond to releases that require emergency response or exceed the upper protection limits of air-purifying respirators in their fumigant management plans.

The Institute wishes to extend special thanks to the many agencies and individuals who worked on this issue including NCDA&CS-SPC&PD, Virginia Department of Agriculture, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, the NC Strawberry Association, AgriSafe of CommWell Health, EI Group, North Carolina Association of Hazardous Materials Responders (NCAHMR), registrants, and farmers themselves. Special thanks goes to the NC Tobacco Trust Fund for making funding possible to assist NC growers in complying with risk mitigation measures and to the EPA for being willing to consider and take action on this issue.

SOIL FUMIGANT USERS REMINDER
EVERY YEAR: GET MEDICAL CLEARANCE AND RESPIRATOR FIT TESTS!

For more information on:
Respirator FAQ’s
Respirator Care
Sources for Respirators
Providers of Medical Clearance and Fit Testing
Visit: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/agromedicine/Soil-Fumigants-Project.cfm
NCAI Leaders for Board of Directors

**NOMINATIONS due January 15**

The NC Agromedicine Institute is currently seeking nominations to expand its Board of Directors. Previously composed solely of members representing the Institute’s three constituent universities, East Carolina, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, and North Carolina State University, the Board will now also include the following:

- Two directors from community, faith-based, or other support organizations serving agricultural workers, small farmers and their counterparts in forestry and fisheries
- One director from non-academic and non-governmental agencies involved in the delivery of health care to agricultural, forestry and fisheries communities
- One director from the insurance industry serving the agricultural, forestry and fisheries communities
- Two directors from agribusiness (e.g., agriculture, forestry, and fisheries employers, suppliers, commodity contractors or purchasers) or commodity associations

The Board of Directors is responsible for administrative oversight and assistance with advocacy and promotion of the Institute. Orientation for new Board members is anticipated in February 2012. Individuals interested and willing to serve on the Board of Directors may be nominated by themselves or another individual. Nominations should include:

- Nominee’s name, address, phone number, and email
- Category represented (i.e., community, faith-based, or other support organizations, academic/non-governmental health care agency, insurance industry, or agribusiness/commodity organization)
- Statement of interest and qualifications for duties
- Name of individual making nomination (if other than self)

Nominations should be sent by January 15, 2012 to:

Robin Tutor-Marcom, MPH, OTR, Interim Director
NC Agromedicine Institute, 1157 VOA Site C Road, Greenville, NC 27834
or via email: tutorr@ecu.edu

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**FALL 2011 / WINTER 2012**

**SESSIO**

**1**

**Face-to-Face Kick-off**  FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012
City Hotel & Bistro, Greenville, NC

**SESSION 2–7**

**Distance Education Sessions**
FEBRUARY–MARCH, 2012

**SESSION 8**

**Face-to Face Wrap-Up**
Thur. April 19 & Fri. April 20, 2012
City Hotel & Bistro, Greenville, NC

**Early Bird Registration by JANUARY 11**

- Session 1-7: $350  Session 8: $350
- **AFTER JANUARY 11**
  - Session 1-7: $450  Session 8: $450

**TO REGISTER OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**
East Carolina University-Division of Continuing Studies
(252)328-9198 or (800)767-9111 (long distance only)
www.cpe.ecu.edu

**Certified Safe Farm Contacts:**
- **Johnston County Extension**
  - Tim Britton: 919-989-5380
- **Duplin County Extension**
  - Amanda Hatcher: 910-296-2143
- **Sampson County Extension**
  - Paul Gonzalez: 910-592-7161

**Agrisafe of CommWell Health Contact:**
- Barbara Gallagher: 910-567-7159

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**Cost-share Funds Available!**

to farmers in Johnston, Duplin and Sampson Counties for recommended safety and health improvements.
Welcome New Board Members

Dr. William Randle, Dean, School of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, NC A&T State University

Dr. William Randle, dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES) at North Carolina A&T State University since September 1, joined the NCAI Board of Directors in November. Prior to joining A&T, Randle chaired the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University since 2006. He has taught undergraduates and graduates for nearly 22 years, with academic appointments at the University of Georgia and Louisiana State University. Randle’s research is internationally recognized in the area of secondary plant metabolites. He also is an expert on vegetable production and breeding, hydroponic systems, nutrient management and product development. He has experience as a consultant on government and private projects in the US, Hungary, Peru, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Randle has published an abundance of peer reviewed publications, book chapters, proceedings, reports and papers. He is the recipient of the L.M. Ware Distinguished Research Award, Southern Region, American Society of Horticultural Science; and Teaching Faculty Award for the Department of Horticulture, The Ohio State University.

Dr. Tom Melton, Associate Director, NC Cooperative Extension, NC State University

Dr. Tom Melton, Associate Director and State Program Leader for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Community and Rural Development (ANR/CRD) for North Carolina Cooperative Extension, joined the NCAI Board of Directors in July. Prior to joining Extension Administration in April 2011, Melton served as interim crop science department head at N.C. State University. He has served multiple roles in Extension: plant pathology specialist, Extension leader for the Department of Plant Pathology, and assistant director and associate state ANR/CRD program leader. Among other leadership roles, he has served as president of the Southern Division of the American Phytopathological Association and as a member of the university extension and engagement committee. Melton began his career at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a plant pathologist and extension nematologist. He holds a bachelor’s degree in botany and a master’s in integrated pest management from N.C. State, and he earned his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Illinois.

The Institute welcomes both Dr. Randle and Dr. Melton to the Board of Directors and looks forward to collaborating with them on achieving the mission of the Institute. Dr. Randle replaces previous NCA&T SAES representatives Dr. Alton Thompson and Dr. Donald McDowell. Dr. Melton replaces previous NC Cooperative Extension representative Dr. Ed Jones.

Farmworker Housing Safety DVD Available Soon

From NC Department of Labor’s Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau (ASH)

FEATURES:

• Housing standards  • Housekeeping practices
• Fire prevention and safety   • Food safety

Funded by a grant from R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.
Copies will be available February 1, 2012 for $10
(payable by check to NC State University) from NCSU Communication Services, NCSU Box 7603, Raleigh, NC 27695.

For more information contact ASH at 919-807-2023.
Welcome New NCA&T Agromedicine Campus Coordinator
Dr. Leonard Williams, Interim Director, Center for Excellence in Post Harvest Technologies, NC A&T State University

Dr. Leonard Williams is currently Interim Director and Associate Professor of Molecular Food Microbiology and Epidemiology at the North Carolina A&T State University Center for Excellence in Post Harvest Technologies (CEPHT) in Kannapolis, NC. CEPHT is a key partner at the North Carolina Research Campus – a $1.5 billion world-class biopolis dedicated to making breakthrough discoveries in nutrition and human health. His research focuses on examining the incidence of foodborne pathogens in fruits and vegetables (including salad crops). He utilizes the cutting edge technology on molecular, immunological, and epidemiological approaches for identifying new strains of foodborne pathogens and their ability to develop resistance to both natural and synthetically derived antimicrobial agents. His research group is currently working in a project to access the antimicrobial properties and mode of actions of medicinal plant extracts/bioactive compounds against foodborne pathogens, including shiga toxin-producing E. coli. Dr. Williams looks forward to serving the NC Agromedicine Institute and constituents in the State of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Agromedicine Institute has gone social!

Friends of the Institute can now join us on:

facebook (http://www.facebook.com; search: NC Agromedicine Institute)

twitter (http://twitter.com; search: NCagromed)

YouTube (http://www.youtube.com/user/ncagromedicine)

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


January 11, 2012: DEADLINE for Early Registration/Hotel for continuing education course Agricultural Medicine: Occupational & Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals, Greenville, NC and online; www.cpe.ecu.edu


January 15, 2012: DEADLINE to submit nominations for NC Agromedicine Institute Board of Directors, contact Robin Tutor-Marcom at 919.880.4225 or tutorr@ecu.edu

January 20, 2012: Session 1: Agricultural Medicine: Occupational & Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals; Greenville, NC, www.cpe.ecu.edu


February 1-3, 2012: Southern Farm Show, NC Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC

February 6, 2012: DEADLINE for Applications to Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) for Summer Internship and 6-month Fellowship programs, Rosalva Soto, Program Coordinator, 919-660-3674, rosalva.soto@duke.edu, www.saf-unite.org


April 19-20, 2012: Session 8: Agricultural Medicine: Occupational & Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals; Greenville, NC, www.cpe.ecu.edu
