



# INSIDE AGROMEDICINE

Partners for Health & Safety in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries



## Meet The Newest Additions To Our Team!



**Dr. Crystal Kyle**

Dr. Crystal Kyle is a U.S. Army veteran who deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq. Crystal is currently farming meat goats while working in the roles of NC Agromedicine Institute Campus Coordinator and as the North Carolina AgrAbility Program Director to help farmers with challenges, farm safety and productively. Utilizing her education in Earth and Environmental Science, Agricultural Education, and Agricultural Occupational, Health, and Safety, she conducts research and develops educational material for farmers and ranchers that will help to create or sustain farms across NC. One of her passions and focuses is on military veterans who farm, including those who often are suffering from the effects of PTSD and Moral Injury. Her recent research, "The Formation of Cultural Capital Using Symbolic Military Meanings of Objects and Self in an Adult Agricultural Education Program serving Military Veterans" won dissertation of the year at Virginia Tech.



**Alyssa Spence**

Alyssa Spence works for North Carolina Cooperative Extension as an Area Specialized Extension Agent in Agromedicine, Farm Safety and Health. She was raised on a small farm in Western North Carolina, where her family produced annuals, small ornamentals, vegetable plants, and organic tomatoes. She is a former National-Board Certified agriculture teacher and is currently working toward her Doctorate in Agricultural and Extension Education. Alyssa's passion for youth development through agriculture stems from her upbringing, time in the agriculture classroom and her service as a North Carolina FFA State Officer. She promotes agriculture safety and health for all ages through the development of interactive resources and experiential learning.



# Southern Farm Show

February 5 - 7, 2020

NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC

Stop by and see us to learn ways you can protect the farm's #1 asset - the farmer! Find us inside at booth 1009 in the Kerr Scott Building, where you can have your blood pressure and blood sugar checked and gather tips on ways to prevent illness and injury related to working on the farm. Farm-related stress got you down? We can help - ask us how!

We'll have information on the most recent revisions to the Worker Protection Standard - a must for you if you use pesticides that require respiratory protection.

Visit us outside at booth #8505 to see a live PTO entanglement demonstration and talk about tractor safety. Be one of the first 20 farmers each day to bring a well-used slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign and exchange for a new one. We hope to see you there.

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## Duplin County Animal Waste Class a Success

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Animal waste operators are required to obtain six hours of continuing education credit within a three year cycle. Each pig farm in North Carolina with 250 or more pigs is required to have at least one certified animal waste operator for each farm. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates that every day about 100 agricultural workers suffer a lost-work-time injury. Duplin County produces nearly 500 animal waste operators who work on farms each day and agriculture is the number one economic producer of the county.

In response to these needs, Cooperative Extension in Duplin County provided a continuing education class for animal waste operators, pesticide applicators, and waste water operators that focused on safety. Cooperative Extension partnered with NC Wildlife, NC Agromedicine Institute, Extension Agents from Duplin and nearby counties, and NC Division of Environmental Quality to offer this instruction. More than 78 people attended and had the opportunity for at least six hours of credit. Agromedicine-related sessions included shop safety, chest compression CPR, ergonomics, hearing conservation, prevention of heat-related illness and skin cancer and first aid.

As a result of the class, 61 animal waste operators earned 2 hours in the first session, 74 animal waste operators earned 2 hours in the second session, and 78 animal waste operators earned 2 hours in the last session. In addition, 16 waste water operators earned 6 hours of credit and 7 pesticide applicators earned 30 minutes and 16 pesticide applicators earned an hour of credit. Seventy-two percent of respondents said they increased knowledge and 69% said they intended to make safety improvements and/or be better prepared to respond to an accident on their farm as a result of the instruction. Respondents collectively said they saved 6 weeks and 2 days of time as a result of the class, a savings of about \$11,848 based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Respondents also said they collectively saved \$37,500 in production costs as a result of the class.

# Farmer Stress. A Farmer Stress. A Situation Getting As Bad As The 80s Some Say



Listen to our podcast here:  
<https://soundcloud.com/broadcaster-max-armstrong/farmer-stress-a-situation-getting-as-bad-as-the-80s-some-say>

# IN CRISIS?

CALL THE NATIONAL SUICIDE  
PREVENTION HOTLINE AT

**1-800-273-TALK**  
OR  
**TEXT 741741**

## Donate to the Institute

East Carolina University / ECU

Make check payable to "East Carolina University Medical & Health Sciences Foundation Inc." with memo designation "NC Agromedicine Institute Fund". You can also make a donation in "Memory of or in Honor of Someone Special" either by check or secure online donation. If mailing check, please include a note telling who the donation is made for, "in Memory Of or in Honor Of" and who you would like the acknowledgment card mailed to.

Mail to NC Agromedicine Institute, c/o Director, 1157 VOA Site C Road, Greenville, NC 27834. Make a secure online donation at [ncagromedicine.org/donate-support.php](http://ncagromedicine.org/donate-support.php)

NC State University

Make check payable to NC Agricultural Foundation and include a notation as for either 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).

Mail to NC Agricultural Foundation, c/o Chris Wessel, Campus Box 7645, Raleigh, NC 27695-7645. Make a secure online donation at [www.cals.ncsu.edu/givenow](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/givenow)

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North Carolina Agromedicine Institute West Research Campus  
1157 VOA Site C Road • East Carolina University • Greenville, NC 27834  
252.744.1008