





Program Update for Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Debbie Roos
Sustainable Agriculture Agent
NC Cooperative Extension, Chatham County Center













Growing Small Farms Program for 2022

- Workshops & Webinars
- Other Presentations
- Pollinator Paradise Demonstration Garden Tours
- Social Media to Promote Agricultural Literacy
- Farmer Consultations
- Boards & Committees







BEES Academy

- Teamed up with NC State University to offer a two-day training for experienced beekeepers across the state
- Helps beekeepers take it to the next level
- Topics include bee behavior, advanced management techniques, pest and disease management, bee forage, and more
- Includes lecture and hands-on activities





















Blueberry Webinars

- I did a two-part Blueberry Webinar with over 525 participants
- Topics included cultivar selection, site selection, crop management, pest and disease management
- 96% of participants said that the webinar would help them better manage and profit from their blueberries



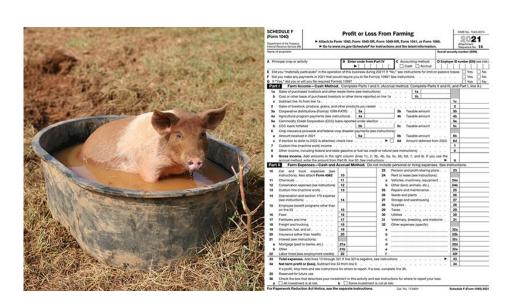






Farm Tax Webinar Series

- I did a four-part Farm Tax Webinar Series with almost 400 participants
- Topics included Farm Tax & Business Info 101, Schedule F Income & Expenses, and Sales and Property Taxes
- 95% of participants said that the webinars would help them make informed tax management decisions to benefit their farm









ForestHer NC Webinars

- I am part of the ForestHer NC team that conducts statewide webinars
- We did a four-part series on Conservation for hundreds of participants
- Recordings of all sessions available on-line









Chatham Conservation Partnership Webinars

- I am on the CCP Steering Committee and we conduct 3-4 webinars per year
- 2022 topics include:
 - Turtles of the NC Piedmont
 - Conservation at the Local Government Level
 - Conservation Priorities: Science & Community (upcoming in October)









Other Presentations

- In addition to the webinars and programs I conduct in Chatham County, I did over a dozen presentations for other groups around the state, including:
 - NC State University classes
 - NC Museum of Natural Sciences
 - County Master Gardener Volunteers
 - NC Farm School
 - o CCCC









Pollinator Paradise Demonstration Garden

- I've conducted 28 pollinator garden tours so far this year; will have done at least 36 by the end of the year
- In addition to the garden tours, I educate through social media and website articles



















Growing Small Farms Website

growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu

- Created in 2002 to educate farmers and consumers about sustainable agriculture and our local food system
- The website grew to over 600 pages and has averaged 21,000 page views per month in 2022



The market variety set up under the shade of the salar panels at The Plant. Photo by Qubble Roce







Improving Agricultural Literacy

- An important part of my job is educating the public about:
 - Agriculture, farming, and the local food system
 - Pollinator conservation
 - Forestry, wildlife, & natural resources









Farm Visit Snapshots

- These photo stories on my Growing Small Farms website capture a day or two in the life on a farm
- I post them as a way to improve agricultural literacy and promote local farms









Farm Visit Snapshots: Over the Moon Farm













Social Media for Ag Literacy

- I am very active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- I use social media to educate and raise awareness and promote local agriculture and natural resources



I am so blessed to have a job where I get to do cool things like visit local farms! A few days ago I visited grower Meredith Leight out at Granite Springs Farm as she hilled her ginger crop. I know many folks are looking forward to the fall to get some of her ginger and turmeric! I also included some pics of other cool things I spotted on her farm.









Farmer Consultations

- Addressing proactive issues as well as immediate problems
- Enterprise development, crop issues, pest and disease ID and management, marketing, etc.















Boards & Committees

- NC Farm School
- Chatham Conservation Partnership Steering Committee
- Chatham Community Food Council
- ForestHer NC Workshop Committee
- NC Pollinator Conservation Alliance
- NCSU Climate Office Advisory Committee
- NC State Extension Farm Planning Portal Team







Thank You for Your Support!



