Farmer’s Market Meeting

The Salisbury-Rowan Farmer’s Market Association will have its first meeting of 2009 at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, at the Agricultural Center in Salisbury. Mike Miller from Miller-Davis Advertising will be the featured speaker presenting information on new marketing techniques for growers. Also, new board members for the farmer’s market will be elected during the meeting. The meeting is open to the general public as well as participating vendors or those that have a general interest in the market. Contact Darrell Blackwelder at 704-216-8970 or visit the market website at www.salisburyrowanfarmersmarket.com for more information.

41st Annual Meeting of the N.C. Tomato Growers Association

The 41st Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Tomato Growers Association and "Winter Vegetable Conference" will be held Wednesday and Thursday, February 18 & 19. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville, North Carolina. Each year the conference program reflects growers’ diverse horticultural needs in this region covering many aspects of production, business management and marketing. The conference will feature educational programs and will also offer pesticide credits. Registration and trade show will open at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 18, with the program beginning at 12:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call Melinda James, President at (828) 526-3989 or Ellen Sprague at (828) 685-3989.

Private Pesticide Applicator V-Training

Jim Cowden, Rowan County Extension Director, has scheduled the following private pesticide V-training:

Tuesday, March 3, Pesticide Safety V-Training,
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Agriculture Center in Salisbury, NC.

For more information and to register call the Extension office, 704-216-8970.
Farm to Fork Summit

CEFS (Center for the Environmental Farming Systems) and its partners are sponsoring a 2009 Farm to Fork Summit in an effort to explore the potential and challenges of building sustainable local-food economies across the state on March 2 & March 3 at the NCSU McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC. Participants in the two-day summit will explore the outcomes of six regional meetings held throughout North Carolina and learn from Working Issues Teams (WITS) about “game changer” and “local tool box” ideas. The cost to attend the Summit is $35, which includes lunch on Monday, and a reception that evening. Scholarships are available.

To learn more about the Farm to Fork Summit and to register on-line, visit www.cefsfarmitofork.com or contact Nancy Creamer at (919) 515-9447 or via e-mail: nancy_creamer@ncsu.edu

The Summit is funded in part by the Golden Leaf Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Ag Advancement Consortium and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Sponsorship support provided by Carolina Farm Credit and the UNC-CH Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

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General Vegetable Gardening Class

Cooperative Extension is sponsoring a class on General Vegetable Gardening, Thursday, February 5, 7 p.m. The class is sponsored by Steele Feed and Seed and will be held at the West Rowan Fire Department across from the feed store on Highway 801 in Mt. Ulla, NC. The class is designed for beginners or those new to our area that are interested in starting a vegetable garden and for those that just want to brush up on their gardening skills. Gardening topics for discussion will include: soils, fertility, site selection, raised beds, variety selection and other gardening topics. The class is free and open to the public. For more information contact Darrell Blackwelder via e-mail darrell_blackwelder@ncsu.edu or phone 704-216-8970.

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NC Watermelon Association

The 28th Annual Convention of the North Carolina Watermelon Association, to be held March 13-14, 2009 at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel, 4500 Marriott Drive, Raleigh, NC. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Price, 919-790-7099, Fax: 919-877-0940 or Email: cathyprice@bellsouth.net www.ncmelons.com