Blueberry Pruning and Information Workshop-February 5
Cooperative Extension is sponsoring a Blueberry Pruning Demonstration and Information Workshop, at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 5, at the Piedmont Research Station on Sherrill’s Ford Road. Bill Cline, blueberry specialist with NC Cooperative Extension Service will be conducting the pruning demonstration and information session. After an information session at the Piedmont Research Station, Cline will conduct a blueberry pruning session at Pinetop Farms located on Majolica Road in Salisbury. Contact Darrell Blackwelder at 704-216-8970 to register and for more information about the workshop.

Pesticide Update-Piedmont Research Station-February 9
Cooperative Extension will be conducting a Pesticide Class at the Piedmont Research Station on Tuesday, February 9, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Two hours credit will be offered in the following subclasses: K-(Ag Pest-Animal), L-(Ornamental and Turf) D-(Dealer), N-(Demonstration and Research), and X-(Private Pesticide).

Foothills Ornamental Production Workshop-February 24
Cooperative Extension in Caldwell County is sponsoring an Ornamental Production Workshop, February 24, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., at the Caldwell Extension Office in Lenoir. This workshop is designed to provide updated information on ornamental plants, production practices and pest identification for those in the nursery and landscape industry. Commercial Pesticide Recertification credit (L, N, O, D & X) up to 3 hours credit are available for those attending the workshop. For more information contact Craig Adkins at 828-757-1290 or e-mail craig_adkins@ncsu.edu

Postage Funds
Postage funds for Cooperative Extension have been drastically reduced for 2010. In an effort to provide information to growers and the general public in a timely manner, Cooperative Extension is now posting newsletters and other pertinent information on the website www.rowanextension.com and by e-mail. Please make a note to check your e-mail and the website periodically for current newsletters, updates and other important information.
Social Networking for Growers - February 25

Amy Lynn Albertson, Extension Agriculture Agent in Davidson and Darrell Blackwelder will be conducting a session on Social Networking, Thursday, February 25, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Rowan County Extension Office, 2727 Old Concord Road, Salisbury. You can use blogs, Twitter and Facebook to market your farm. These social networking tools are designed to support what direct market farmers do, “build communities”. Building a website can be intimidating and daunting, but a blog is a free, user-friendly website without the expensive programmer or hosting fees. Blogs allow you to do most of the things web sites do, and more: List your hours, maintain an up-to-date fresh sheet, and tell your farm story week in and week out. The two most popular blog host sites are blogger.com and wordpress.com. Twitter (www.twitter.com) is a tool for short messages. This will allow customers know that “strawberries are in” or “Silver Queen corn will be ready soon”. Facebook (www.facebook.com) is similar to a blog for people who don’t really like to write. You can post a link to other articles and post photos to a large audience. The auditorium is wireless so bring your laptop if you have one, if not, one can be provided. Class size is limited. Contact Darrell Blackwelder, 704-216-8970, to reserve a spot or for more information.

Organic Growers School-March 6 & 7

The 17th Annual Organic School and Spring Conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 6-7, at the UNC Asheville Campus. Please note the change in location. This year's school will include the latest information on organic gardening, healthy soils, livestock, alternative energy, commercial farming, pest management, homesteading, urban growing, fruit production, herbs, sustainable forestry and sustainable landscaping. The event is a must for those interested in organics. More complete information and registration can be done on-line at www.organicgrowersschool.org

Publications Now Available at the Cooperative Extension Office

2009 Farmer’s Tax Guides are now available at the Cooperative Extension office.

2010 Pest Control for Professional Turfgrass Managers

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

March 9-Pesticide Training (V) for Private Pesticide Applicators-9-11 a.m. & 7-9 p.m.

March 16-Aquatic Weed Control-Weed control in ponds and lakes featuring Dr. Rob Richardson, Aquatic Weed Specialist, NC State University.

Sincerely,

Darrell Blackwelder
Interim County Extension Director