

Biofuels event brought Gov. Perdue to NCFB

Clean Burn Fuels picks up the first "Biofuelist of the Year" award from NC Biofuels Center

Agriculture stands to play a critical role in the future of energy generation by providing the foundations of the biofuels industry.

Gov. Bev Perdue and industry leaders in North Carolina gathered at North Carolina Farm Bureau recently to talk about the future of biofuels and honor Clean Burn Fuels, winner of the Biofuels Center of North Carolina's first "Biofuelist of the Year" award.

NCFB President Larry Wooten introduced Gov. Perdue as "a leader who understands the part of biofuels in building the green economy of North Carolina."

Perdue said energy is an issue that will change the platform of the world, and North Carolina's biofuels leadership shows the state's commitment to bringing down its carbon footprint.

"We have begun a thing in North Carolina that I think can make North Carolina a global leader," Perdue said.

Perdue said she believes the efforts of North Carolina's state government have already raised North Carolina's green energy profile, and industry leaders in the state are well-positioned to meet a goal of replacing 10 percent of the state's liquid



N.C. Gov. Bev Perdue, left, and NCFB President Larry Wooten hear an update on the state's biofuels industry.

fuel consumption with biofuels by the year 2017.

"In North Carolina, as long as I'm in charge, green is gold," she said.

The first Clean Burn Fuels facility—the largest

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Oil could gunk up N.C. farming, fishing

As if the state's eastern farmers and coastal fisheries didn't have enough to worry about, at publication deadline researchers were predicting a possible disaster in the form of free flowing oil from the Gulf of Mexico.

Millions of gallons of oil from the Deep Horizon accident might come close enough to the shores of North Carolina to gunk up the beaches, fields and animals for the season—and maybe longer.

In late spring, the National Center for Atmospheric Research highlighted a study that included a calculated trajectory of the oil slick riding thousands of miles up the Gulf Stream and East Coast to Cape Hatteras before turning east and out into the open tides of the Atlantic Ocean.

The NCAR news release also stated it is im-

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ethanol producer on the East Coast, in Hoke County, has the capacity to produce 60 million gallons of ethanol annually.

Upon accepting the award, Clean Burn Fuels CEO Jack Carlisle said he hoped the company could help the state continue to move forward, encourage more people to use ethanol and spur investment in more E85 ethanol blend pumps for flex fuel cars.

N.C. Sen. Charlie Albertson was also honored for his years of advocacy for the state's biofuels industry and the Biofuels Center of North Carolina.

Biofuels Center of North Carolina Board Chairman Norris Tolson said continued progress made by North Carolina's biofuels industry will rely on the support of elected officials in Raleigh and Washington, D.C.

"If we're going to make this goal work, it's got to be a top-down driven activity," Tolson said.

NCFB 2010 Policy recommends the development and utilization of clean alternative energy resources to achieve independence from imported oil as an urgent local, state and national priority.

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possible to accurately predict the exact location of where the oil will be a week or a month from now.

"The timing and course of the oil slick will be affected by regional weather conditions and the ever-changing state of the Gulf's Loop Current—neither of which can be predicted more than a few days in advance," according to the news release. "The dilution of the oil relative to the source will also be impacted by details such as bacterial degradation, which are not included in the simulations."

In the world of the state's struggling seafood industry and eastern agriculture, oil is a necessary component of machinery operation.

"Is there really any hope for the United States commercial fishing industry? ...with respect to current trends and obvious implications of national fisheries management policy, it is prudent to recognize terrible times coming for our industry..." wrote

U.S. Senate effort to block EPA regulation fails; greenhouse gas regulation to start next year

The U.S. Senate failed to pass a resolution that would have blocked the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act.

That means the EPA can require permits—costing about \$23,000 each—for emitters of greenhouse gases above a threshold. About 37,000 U.S. farms have emissions at or above the threshold.

"Additional EPA regulation for farmers will likely mean higher costs for consumers because of higher input costs to grow our food and result in negative economic impacts on the agriculture sector," said American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman.

ACTION REQUEST

Please visit North Carolina Farm Bureau's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/northcarolinafarmbureau. The new social media site includes updates and other important information for members and others concerned with agriculture and rural communities.

Sean McKeon, the secretary of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, in a column.

There were at least three bills in the North Carolina General Assembly concerning the seafood industry at press time: HB 1709, HB 1713 and HB 1714.

The sponsors of HB 1709 hoped to establish the North Carolina Seafood Marketing Grant Program, which was formed out of a recommendation by the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture.

Another commission recommendation became HB 1713, which included sustainable harvest language that sought the inclusion of more information on Fishery Management Plans.

HB 1714 was another piece of rules legislation that aimed to secure rules related to the suspension, revocation and reissuance of licenses.



North Carolina Farm Bureau (NCFB) is the unified, statewide Voice of Agriculture®. Working through our grassroots organizations to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural North Carolinians, we strive to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. We are a private, non-profit, grassroots organization that has been actively promoting farm and rural issues since 1936 through legislative and policy initiatives, member services, field representation, agricultural education, public relations and other programs.

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BUREAUBRIEFS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS AVAILABLE—North Carolina farmers have the opportunity to win awards to help community non-profit organizations. The awards are available through the Monsanto Fund. Through the fund's America's Farmers Grow Communities Project program, farmers can enter to win \$2,500 awards for local non-profit organizations that are important to their communities. The program is intended to benefit non-profit community groups such as ag youth and civic groups, as well as schools. Forty-three North Carolina counties are eligible for the awards. See a list of eligible counties under the "Official Rules" link from the program's website. Farmers can apply online at www.growcommunities.com or by calling (877) 267-3332 for an application.

EPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTEE—Archie Hart, of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, was named to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Committee. The appointment is for two years. The independent committee advises EPA on a wide range of environmental issues that are important to agriculture and rural communities. Hart is the director of the department's Office for Small Farm Policy, which provides services to small, limited-resource and minority farmers.

GENERAL COUNSEL FOR AFBF—American Farm Bureau recently announced Ellen Steen as its new general counsel, effective July 1.

HONEY BEE SURVEY—The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the beginning of a 13-state survey of honey bee pests and diseases conducted cooperatively by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Pennsylvania State University. The survey is designed to help USDA scientists determine the prevalence of parasites and disease-causing microorganisms that may be contributing to the decline of honey bee colonies nationwide. The voluntary survey includes 350 apiaries across 13 states, but not North Carolina.

IFIC BIOTECH RESULTS—Most consumers will choose food produced through biotechnology based on environmental benefits and sustainable agricultural practices, according to a new study by the International Food Information Council. IFIC reported that consumers responded favorably to purchasing foods modified by biotechnology "to provide more healthful fats like Omega-3s (76 percent) and avoid trans fat (74 percent)." Nearly three-quarters of respondents said they were likely to buy wheat-flour products that use biotechnology "to feed more people using fewer resources such as land and pesticides."

JOB MARKET—A new study shows a promising job market for graduates with agricultural degrees. The Purdue University study predicts about 54,000 agriculture-related jobs will be created in the U.S. every year between now and 2015. The job growth will be driven in part by increased food demand in other countries.

NCFB Women tour Person County tobacco processing plant

North Carolina Farm Bureau's Women's Committee held a meeting on June 9 in Person County. On the agenda were remarks from NCFB President Larry Wooten, as well as staff updates on legislative and public policy issues. Volunteer leaders in attendance also had the opportunity to tour the U.S. Flue-Cured Tobacco Grower's Processing Plant (pictured, at right), which is located in Timberlake.



Golf tournament raises \$42,800 for R. Flake Shaw Scholarship

Four-hundred and twenty-eight golfers braved the heat to tee off for a good cause, the 2010 North Carolina Farm Bureau R. Flake Shaw Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, June 15-16, at Seven Lakes Country Club in Seven Lakes.

The two-day event, which included 107 teams, raised \$42,800 for the scholarship fund through entry fees and donations. The tournament is funded through sponsorships.

This is the second year the golf tournament has been the primary fundraising activity for the fund, which supports college students preparing for an agriculturally related career.

This year, the scholarship program was expanded to include awards for four community college students, in addition to the 24 awards awarded to students studying at a four-year college or university.

The R. Flake Shaw Scholarship Program has provided more than \$500,000 in scholarship money to agriculture students since it was founded in 1967.

The first fundraiser was a cake walk, followed for many years by a fall festival.

“Times have changed,” said Janice Noffsinger,



One hundred and seven teams took part in the second North Carolina Farm Bureau R. Flake Shaw Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament.

NCFB Director of Organization. “We realized we had to change our strategy.”

All fundraising activities have relied heavily on the support of North Carolina Farm Bureau’s agency force.

LEAD Program conference offers training activities

The 15 members of North Carolina Farm Bureau’s LEAD Team were prepared during a recent conference to get involved in government issues and speak up on behalf of North Carolina Farm Bureau policy.

Through mock activities, they learned how to testify before lawmakers and to give testimonies to legislative panels. They also visited the General Assembly to meet lawmakers from their district, and heard talks about farm safety and understanding Latino and American cultural differences, among other things.

The session challenged participants to become more confident advocating for agriculture. Participant feedback after the program revealed the activities were worthwhile.

“It puts you out of your comfort zone, but it was very helpful in teaching me to be concise, and it helped me to understand the process,” one respondent said.

Linda Johnson of American Farm Bureau ad-

vised LEAD members to be brief and focus on key points when advocating to lawmakers.

Team members also chose a topic and prepared testimony to give before NCFB policy staff acting as a Senate committee.

Before going to the legislature, team members heard updates on the state issues they should talk about—and received some tips, such as to thank lawmakers for their support.

This is the third LEAD Team, which is a leadership training program for those who have aged out of NCFB’s Young Farmers & Ranchers program.

“President Wooten put together a committee, and we asked, ‘What can we do to help make you more successful, personally and professionally, and to make you better leaders,’” said Ken Powell, Director of Field Services for NCFB.

The current class will graduate at the annual meeting in December, and applications for the next group are being accepted through Nov. 5. Apply online at www.ncfb.org/programs/lead/lead.cfm.

Exports key to determining agricultural growth

With 95 percent of the world's population located outside of the United States of America, the impact of exports on agricultural budgets is obvious.

North Carolina Farm Bureau's voting delegates approved as part of 2010 Policy one general provision aimed at trade.

"We support export subsidies among World Trade Organization nations provided equal treatment is afforded U.S. commodities among all trading partners," NCFB Policy states on page 26, item 1.

Many other policies address different commodities and their trade issues.

NCFB President Larry Wooten has taken part in several international trade missions in his career as a farmer and as head of the state's largest general farm advocacy organization.

"Our farms and farm families are the very fabric of North Carolina's rural communities," Wooten said. "Helping develop more markets for North Carolina's commodities will help stimulate local economies and jobs."

Canada, China, Mexico, Japan, Germany and the combined nations in the European Union are the U.S.'s top trading partners.

Farmers also have American Farm Bureau helping to promote common sense policies that increase trade, but also support fair trading practices that protect hometown growers.

"Our government should insist on strict adherence to bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to which the United States is a party to prevent unfair practices by competing nations and to assure unrestricted access to domestic and world markets," according to AFBF Policy 247—International Trade—Trade Agreements.

American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman recently called on Congress to stop dragging its feet and pass the Colombia, Panama and South Korea free trade agreements.

"We are seeing all around us FTAs being negotiated or already negotiated by our competitors, increasing their export potential and putting the U.S. at a disadvantage," Stallman said.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services also launched trade missions to help stimulate foreign orders of the state's agricultural products. In 2009, a delegation, which included Farm Bureau, visited China to help promote North Carolina tobacco and other products.

June 13-18, NCDA&CS conducted a European trade mission to try to expand foreign markets for North Carolina tobacco. Travelers met with three of the world's largest leaf buyers in Geneva and Lausanne, Switzerland, and Hamburg, Germany.

"The future of North Carolina tobacco lies overseas," Troxler said. "We've got to help our farmers reach out to international companies purchasing tobacco. We want these buyers to know that we have the highest-quality tobacco in the world."

On the federal level, a bill was recently introduced to expand ag exports to Cuba. The Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act would

eliminate the need to go through banks in other countries to conduct agricultural trades and the accompanying fees those banks charge; would require agricultural exports to Cuba to meet the same payment requirements as exports to other countries, which means payment when the title of the shipment changes hands; and would allow U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba, reducing the bureaucratic red tape currently required for individuals traveling to Cuba to facilitate new agriculture sales.

U.S. agricultural exports to Asia are forecast to rise by \$1.2 billion over 2009 levels. Exports to North America also are expected to increase by \$300 million from 2009.

Increases are also expected in East Asia, the Caribbean, South America and the European Union. Canada and Mexico are expected to remain the top export markets for U.S. agricultural products in 2010.

Japan is expected to lose its third-place status to China, which is expected to import \$11.7 billion, over Japan's expected \$11.2 billion in agricultural imports. The European Union remains the fifth-largest export destination for U.S. agricultural products, estimated at \$7.8 billion next year.

"We support export subsidies among World Trade Organization nations provided equal treatment is afforded U.S. commodities among all trading partners."

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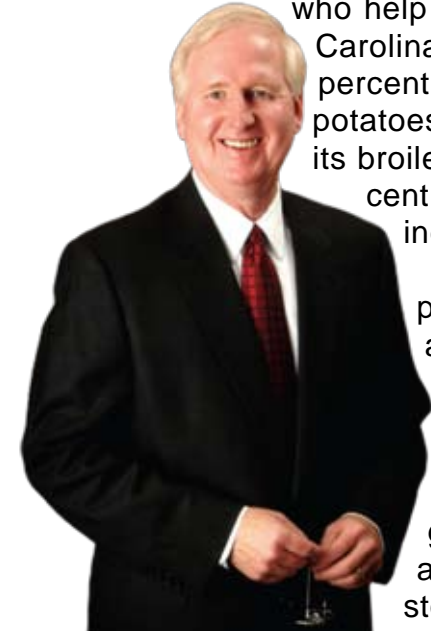
FIELDNOTES

by Larry Wooten, NCFB President

Consumers' food connections

Consumers are disconnecting from the land and plugging into something else.

This land disconnect phenomenon, however, is not a sign of disrespect or an insult to the farmers who help feed the world. North Carolina produced nearly 50 percent of the nation's sweet potatoes, almost 9 percent of its broiler chickens and 8 percent of its blueberries during 2008.



It is more of an opportunity for us to try and help people remember how, once upon a time, practically everyone farmed to live. They had to grow greens and peas and raise some livestock or they didn't eat.

Many families traded with their neighbors to keep things fresh and enjoy a product that didn't exactly sprout to life in their soil.

With the help of transportation, technology and the improved convenience of our food supply, more than 98 percent of the U.S. population now doesn't actively grow enough food to feed one person—much less the 100 or more people who can be served by a single modern farmer.

There is a trust society has placed upon each grower. The vast majority of farmers take this unspoken contract seriously and with the best of intentions.

Because this trust exists, it is farmers who will respond to the United Nations advance warning: The world will need 70 percent more food within 40 years.

It will take all the good farmers—large, medium and small—under agriculture's big tent to feed the 9 billion people estimated to be living on Earth by 2050.

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NCFB's policy positions represent the vast majority of the state's agricultural community.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU **LEADER**

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