The **Achievement Award Program** recognizes outstanding achievement in farming, local community and civic organizations. Participants must be actively engaged in farming or ranching with a majority of income coming from production agriculture. Winners of this award receive thousands of dollars in cash and prizes.

The **Excellence in Agriculture Award Program** is designed for those who may or may not currently own farming or ranching operations. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture or agribusiness, leadership roles, civic organizations and Farm Bureau. Winners will receive valuable cash prizes and other awards.

The **Discussion Meet** enhances speaking and communication skills while problem-solving and promoting solutions to agricultural issues. Thousands of dollars in cash and prizes await the winners, but there are no losers in a discussion meet because everybody learns and becomes a better spokesperson for agriculture. Leaders from across the nation use the Discussion Meet to advance their careers. Participants should be actively involved in production agriculture.

The **Collegiate Discussion Meet** enhances speaking and communication skills while promoting solutions to agricultural issues. Participation in the Collegiate Discussion Meet will also develop leaders for effective problem solving through group discussion. Contestants must be involved in an agricultural course of study or at a college of agriculture.

Contestants participating in all awards programs should have a current Farm Bureau membership.
Brandon and Jessica Batten live in Johnston County in the Bentonville community. Brandon is a sixth-generation farmer and the third generation on his family’s operation where he farms with his father and uncle as Triple B Farms, Inc. Brandon and his family produce tobacco, industrial hemp, wheat, soybeans, corn, and hay on about 800 total acres. They also have around 50 Angus cross beef cattle. Improving soil health and growing the farm for future generations is very important for the operation. Brandon has been part of the farm all his life, shadowing his father and grandfather from an early age. In addition to the farm, Brandon operates a drone business, Flying Farmer LLC, offering drone imaging and analysis services to other farmers.

Brandon is a graduate of NC State University with a BS in Biological and Agricultural Engineering (2008) and a master’s degree in Agricultural Engineering (2010). Brandon and Jessica met while attending NC State where Jessica also earned a BS in Biological and Agricultural Engineering with a concentration in Environmental Engineering (2010). Jessica is originally from Fayetteville, NC and currently works for Johnston County as a Stormwater Engineer.

Brandon and Jessica are members of the Johnston County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher group and attend Pauline Baptist Church. Brandon is also a member of the Strickland Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

Brandon and Jessica have a son, Camden, who is 4 years old. They also have twin girls, Adley and Hayden, born in March of 2019.
Stuart & Natalie Beam own and operate Beam Farms Forage and Livestock. They are located in the southern foothills of NC, on the SC line in an area referred to as the Isothermal belt. Stuart & Natalie met in 2011, have been married since April 2016 and both work full time on the farm. The home farm is leased from Stuart’s family and is a land grant farm where his ancestors have farmed since 1773. Stuart started his farming operation here in 2012.

Their farming operation is based in southern Rutherford County in the community of Harris, and is a cattle and hay related business, but they also farm land in other surrounding counties. They maintain a herd of commercial brood cows and custom feed cattle. Their hay operation consists of several crop varieties as well as imported hay. On the farm they produce Fescue, Orchard grass, Ryegrass, Timothy, Crabgrass, and Alfalfa hay. They also grow a few row crops for silage and haylage for cattle feed. They bring in hay from numerous farmers across the country to provide their customers with a variety of forage products.

Stuart & Natalie are involved in the county Cattlemen’s Association and serve on the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association Board of Directors. They both enjoy spending time on horseback checking cattle, team roping and trail riding. They are both avid hunters and have a great appreciation of the outdoors and the land that they work. They have three dogs Gus, Hooey and Darcy.

We believe all things are possible through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
Steven Calloway – 1st Year Member
Wilkes County
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Ronda, NC 28670
Mobile – (336) 957-6329
stcallow@gmail.com

Steven Calloway was raised on a poultry and beef cattle farm in eastern Wilkes County. Steven attended North Carolina State University where he graduated in 2009 with a BS in Agriculture Extension and Education with a minor in Animal Science.

Steven has always taken an active role in his family's farm operation, and still actively participates in the operation of the farm. He is a full-time agriculture teacher at Forbush High School in neighboring Yadkin County. In Steven's spare time, he enjoys hiking and traveling.
Mack and Jessica Duncan live in Currituck County. Mack was born and raised in Currituck County and Jessica was born and raised in Harnett County. They met in January of 2016 and were married in December 2017.

Mack was born into a farming family and is a fifth generation farmer. Mack graduated from Currituck County High School in 2015 and began farming alongside his dad John Wayne and grandfather, James in Shawboro, NC. He also builds dog boxes and does small welding jobs.

Jessica is a 2016 graduate of North Carolina State University with a Degree in Agricultural Education. She works as the agricultural teacher and FFA Advisor at Moyock Middle School in Currituck County. Jessica was born into a tobacco farming family that transitioned to produce in 1997. Her family farmed in Harnett and Lee Counties up until 2017.

Mack and Jessica are members of Providence Baptist Church in Shawboro, NC. In their spare time they like to hunt, ride their motorcycle, hang out with family and friends, and work in their produce garden.
Ivey & Katie English – 2nd Year Members

Pender County
179 Sunflower Lane
Burgaw, NC 28425
Ivey Mobile – (910) 604-2464
Katie Mobile – (910) 604-0068
englishivey@gmail.com
englishkatieann@gmail.com

Ivey and Katie English live in Burgaw, NC. They have been married for 8 years this fall, and have been blessed with 2 children. WV is 3 years old, and Hiram was born in September 2019 during Hurricane Dorian.

Agriculture runs deep in Ivey, who is a second generation farmer. He grew up raising both hogs and cattle, and now manages a 100 head cow-calf operation alongside his father. Ivey is a graduate of NC State University with a degree in Agribusiness Management. In addition to farming, he owns and operates a construction company. Ivey is the chairperson for Pender County’s YF&R Committee and currently serves as a board member for Pender County Farm Bureau.

Katie married into agriculture, and it quickly became a growing passion of hers. Katie attended UNCW where she earned a degree in Business Administration. She works in the Grain Accounting Department of Smithfield Foods. She is also a member of Pender County’s YF&R Committee.

Ivey and Katie actively attend Mission Baptist Church in Burgaw, NC. And in their spare time, they enjoy spending time with their sons, and traveling.
Chris Eure – 1st Year Member
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Hertford NC 27944
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cheure@ncsu.edu

Chris Eure was born and raised in Perquimans County, NC on a grain farm in the community of Durant’s Neck. He met his fiancé, Lindsey Tyson of Nash County, in April 2017 and they will be married in May 2020.

Chris is a graduate of NC State University, he graduated in 2011 with his bachelors in Agronomy-Crop Production and in 2013 with his Masters of Soil Science. He has a minor in Agricultural Business Management and Geographical Information Systems.

Chris is a fourth generation farmer and currently is a partner with his father and mother on the family farm, Eure Family Farms Inc. Chris is involved in the day to day operations of growing corn, wheat, soybeans, and barley. Chris uses his skills gained at NC State to implement the latest technologies on the farm, including drones, data mapping, soil sampling (VRT), crop scouting and GPS.

Chris is a volunteer firefighter at Durant’s Neck Volunteer Fire Department where he serves as a captain and secretary. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, going to the beach and river, and spending time with his fiancé and his golden retriever Penny. Chris also enjoys photography and making videos of the family farm.
Brandon & Michaela Garris – 1st Year Members

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Winterville, NC 28590
Brandon Mobile – (252) 814-8140
Michaela Mobile – (252) 917-1964
bcgarris2@gmail.com
garris13@gmail.com

Brandon and Michaela Garris live in the Winterville community of Pitt County with their two year old daughter Miller-Grey Garris. Brandon has deep agricultural roots and Michaela is from deep commercial fishing and tug boating roots. They met in college at a get-together with friends and have been together ever since. They got married September of 2016.

Brandon grew up in Ayden, NC on a family grain farm that used to be in tobacco until about 2007. Brandon went to Ayden Grifton High school and took Ag Classes all through high school. Brandon went to Pitt Community College and finished with an associate’s degree in horticulture technology and then went to N.C. State’s Agricultural Institute for Field Crops Technology. He graduated in 2017. He started his four year degree online in Agriculture Education - Professional Service online at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University last year and looks to finish within the next year. Brandon works at Ham Produce and runs a small produce, goat, and hemp farm on the side.

Michaela is from Beaufort County where she attended Washington High School, graduating in 2013. She was a scholar athlete competing in cross country, swimming, and track. After graduating high school she began her college career at East Carolina University majoring in Elementary Education. After graduating she returned the following year to complete her Masters in Mathematics Education and currently teaches Math at South Central High school in Pitt County.
Mindy Herman – 2nd Year Member
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Mindy grew up on her family's beef and poultry farm and knew from a young age that she would always be involved in agriculture.

Mindy attended NC State University, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Poultry Science. She is employed with Carolina Farm Credit as a Loan Officer and has a small sheep flock. She still enjoys helping with her family's cow/calf and stocker operation and poultry farm.

In her spare time she enjoys kayaking, traveling, and spoiling her nieces, Hattie and Willa.
John & Rachel Kilpatrick – 2nd Year Members

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Dover, NC 28526
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Rachel Mobile – (252) 521-0535
johnkilpatrick37@yahoo.com
rmk6113@yahoo.com

John and Rachel have lived in Craven County for their entire life, and were married June 2013.

John was born into a farming family as a 3rd generation farmer and now farms alongside his 82 year old Grandfather Bobby Kilpatrick in Fort Barnwell, NC. Their operation includes corn, soybeans, and cotton. John attended Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, and obtained an Associate’s Degree in Agricultural Business. John currently serves as the Secretary of Craven County Farm Bureau and volunteers at the Fort Barnwell Fire Department.

Rachel was new to agriculture when she met John. She works as an administrative assistant at a local Health Care Facility. Rachel currently serves as the Treasurer of the Fort Barnwell Fire Department.

Rachel and John are members of Fort Barnwell Baptist Church. In their spare time they enjoy deer hunting, taking the boat out, and riding around the farm with their dog “Chef”. They also enjoy hosting cookouts for family and friends.
Sofia Lilly, second-generation farmer and winemaker at Overmountain Vineyards, grew up on the farm and in the vineyards. She has been involved in the winemaking and vineyards since the very first vintage.

In 2014, Sofia graduated from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and English. She chose to return to Overmountain Vineyards and is highly involved in the family business. They recently increased the production of the farm to include produce, microgreens, and honey.
Dustin & Kimberly Moore – 2nd Year Members
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Mebane, NC 27302
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Kimberly Mobile – (336) 214-7516
dustin.moore@orange.k12.nc.us
kim.copeland@orange.k12.nc.us

Dustin and Kim live in Mebane, NC. They have two beautiful children, Ashton and Wyatt. Dustin has worked off of the farm for 10 years with Orange County Schools as the grounds maintenance crew leader and machine operator. He enjoys and spends as much time as possible at the family farm, McPherson Farms. He and his father-in-law, Michael, tend approximately 700 acres of soybeans, wheat, corn, hay and a small herd of beef cattle.

Kim was raised on the family farm. Employed by Orange County Schools for the past eleven years, she works as an Instructional Assistant as well as the Director for the after school program. She enjoys working on the family farm during her time off.

Kim serves as the YF&R Chair for Alamance County. She is also a member of the county Women's Committee. Dustin serves on the YF&R committee with Kim and is very active in many community activities.

Dustin and Kim enjoy spreading knowledge of agriculture whenever possible. They enjoy camping trips with their family, and spending as much time together as possible.
John and Iris Mullen – 1st Year Members

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Iris Mobile – (910) 334-6623
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John and Iris live in Hamlet, NC. They married in May of 2017. They along with their three kids reside on the family farm.

John was raised on a farm growing up. He worked with his family throughout his childhood raising chickens for Purdue. He also has worked cutting and bailing hay for local farmers in his area. His family has raised a bull, several goats and a pig at one time. After high school John came on full-time at the farm and is now the Manager of Operations for the chicken and hay business. John is a founding member of the Richmond County Young Farmer & Rancher Committee and currently serves as the Chairman. He is also a board member for Richmond County Farm Bureau.

Iris grew up in a farming family. Her family grew cotton and watermelons throughout the Southwestern US. After high school she enrolled in Richmond Community College and received her Associate’s Degree in Nursing. She then enrolled at Appalachian State University and received her Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing. She married into poultry farming with John and loves spending time with her family on the farm. Iris is also a member of the Richmond County Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

John and Iris attend Place of Grace Worship center. In their free time they enjoy fishing, spending time with family and friends, and traveling.
Justin Page lives in Durham County where he was born and raised on a 100 acre farm on the Wake County/Durham County line. He met his wife, Tristan, during the summer of 2016 and they were married in September of 2019.

Justin is the fourth generation on his family’s farm. He spent his younger years assisting his father and grandfather with tobacco. In 2005, the farm was converted to agritourism that included pumpkins, strawberries, blackberries, and beef cattle.

Justin graduated from NC State University in 2013 with three Associate Degrees and again in 2016 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Crop Production. He is now pursuing a Master’s Degree in Plant Breeding. He works full time at NC State University as a research technician in the Small Grain Breeding Program while still assisting his father on the farm.
Afton and Patrick Roberts live in Swain County, at the border of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They have three daughters, Alexa, Heidi, & Delta.

Afton is a second generation mountain farmer, following in the footsteps of her father, alongside her husband and brother. Patrick, a native of Union County, grew up in the country of chicken houses, silage, and cotton, but has since transitioned to his wife’s family business of fruit and vegetable row crops.

Together they produce a variety of commercial crops for grocery chains, including fresh market strawberries, heirloom tomatoes, and vine-ripened tomatoes. Together, the operation focuses on entailing true family farm values, while including each family member in the day-to-day operation.

While also attempting to push the boundaries of production on a smaller-scale mountain farm, the Roberts are also continuing to expand the twenty-five year old tradition of Appalachian-style Agritourism at Darnell Farms in Bryson City, N.C.

The Roberts like to continue being community oriented in their spare time, and bringing what they like to refer to as “farming fellowship” right to their farm. They are well-known for bringing school groups to their farm for true, educational engagement about “how strawberries are grown” or “what is photosynthesis?”, while also holding sponsored Turkey Shoots and dinners for local Veterans of Foreign Wars, or just having free community festivals with local music, food, and vendors to allow everyone to congregate together.
Krystle Owen-Searles & AJ Searles – 1st Year Members

Duplin County
471 Lanefield Road
Warsaw, NC 28398
Krystle Mobile – (919) 369-1645
deltadawnfarms@gmail.com

Krystle and AJ live in Duplin County. AJ is a first generation farmer where he operates AJS Farms, LLC. AJ produces corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, rye, milo, and produce. He also owns a custom harvesting and planting business. AJ knew he wanted to be a farmer from the time he could crawl. At a young age, he spent many days riding in neighboring farmer’s combines. At the age of 15, he began purchasing his own farming equipment and farming on his own.

While continuing to manage his farming operation in Duplin County, he attended the NC State Agricultural Institute for two years. AJ and Krystle met while attending NC State. Krystle earned a BS in Animal Science and a BS in Poultry Science with a minor in Agricultural Business (2012). Krystle also has strong roots in agriculture. She grew up on a small family farm in Angier, NC where they raise tobacco, soybeans and have contract organic broiler houses. Her family has been farming the same farmland for nearly 200 years.

After getting married and moving to Duplin County, she started a cow-calf Angus Hereford cross herd. In the fall of 2019, she opened up their first farm stand selling pumpkins, mums and other ornamental items. She currently works for Augusta Seed as a Regional Sales Representative. In AJ and Krystle’s free time they enjoy cross-country road trips, attending auctions, and antiquing.
Matthew & Matishia Taylor – 1st Year Members

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matishia89@gmail.com

Matthew and Matishia are both Jackson County natives and married in 2011. Matthew grew up in the Little Savannah Community while Matishia grew up in the little Canada area at around 4,000 feet in elevation. They have two children, Caitlynn Clara and Clinton Austin. Matthew and Tishia are just one part of the operation that they call Lewis and Taylor Farms; with many Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Grandparents, and Parents it is really the definition of a family farm. Their five-generation farm in Little Savannah currently raises hair sheep.

Matishia "Tishia" was not raised in agriculture as a child but was always around Christmas tree farms. When she met Matthew in 2006 and they started dating she grew to love working with the livestock and putting up hay and all that goes along with the farm. Tishia enjoys helping during lambing season and getting to handle all the new lambs. During the summer, Tishia likes to gather fresh produce from the garden and preserve it in the canner or in the freezer. Tishia is employed at Western Carolina University as an Administrative Support Associate. In her spare time Tishia enjoys being outdoors, going on trips with family and spending time at Church with the women’s group.

From a young age Matthew knew that he wanted to be a farmer just like his grandpa, Jonny Lewis. As Matthew grew older he got more involved in what was going on with the farm and eventually started raising his own cattle and sheep. While Matthew was in high school He served as the Vice President of the Smoky Mountain FFA Chapter and competed on the horticulture and hunter’s safety teams. Matthew works for the NC Department of Transportation as a Sign Erector where he covers the 10 most western counties of the State. He also serves his community as the second assistant chief on the Cullowhee Volunteer Fire Department. Matthew enjoys hunting and fishing while he is not working on the farm and really enjoys working with any kind of working dog.
Julius Tillery – 1st Year Member
Halifax County
27 Longstreet Road
Weldon, NC 27890
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Julius.Tillery@gmail.com

Julius Tillery is the NC State Coordinator for the Black Family Land Trust. He is a 5th Generation, life-long row crop commodities producer (cotton, soybeans, and peanuts) from northeastern North Carolina. His career has focused on working as an advocate and resource provider in the North Carolina agricultural and environmental sectors since 2009. Julius has also worked at Rural Advancement Foundation International and The Conservation Fund. Julius currently serves on Southern SARE’s Administrative Council and the North Carolina Forestry Advisory Council.

Julius is a rural economic development advocate and is also known for his entrepreneurial business role as Founder of BlackCotton.Us. You can find Julius anywhere between his farm producing crops, on another farmer’s farm helping consult with new enterprise development, or any meeting that is focused on improving the lives of farmers and farming communities across the USA. Julius is a 2008 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in Economics and minor in Entrepreneurship.
Lee & Susan Tyre – 2nd Year Members

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Williamston, NC 27892
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Susan Mobile – (252) 544-0385
LJTyre@gmail.com
Susan.V.Tyre@gmail.com

Lee and Susan Tyre live in the Farm Life community of Martin County. Both come from families with deep agricultural roots. They met in the 5th grade at cattle shows and livestock judging contests, started dating in college, and were married in November 2010.

Susan grew up in rural Wilson County, where her family farmed. After high school she went on to attend college at North Carolina State University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural and Extension Education, with a minor in Animal Science in 2011 and again in 2017 with a Master’s Degree in Agricultural and Extension Education. She worked for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for six years as the Martin County 4-H Agent. In November of 2018, Susan accepted a position with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as the Manager and Marketing Supervisor of the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center in Martin County. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Agricultural and Extension Education at NC State.

Lee graduated from NC State with a degree in Animal Science with minors in Ag & Extension Education and Ag Leadership. He currently serves as a Livestock Research Specialist with the beef cattle and swine research programs at the NCDA&CS’s Tidewater Research Station in Plymouth, NC.

Lee & Susan are members of Fairview Christian Church. In their spare time, which is rare, they enjoy church activities, spending time with friends and family, and cheering on the Wolfpack.
Bill and Lauren Walker reside in Iredell County where both have deep connections to agriculture. They married in 2013 and live in the small farming community Bill was raised in.

Bill teaches agriculture at North Iredell High where he and Lauren graduated. He obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture Education from North Carolina State University and a Master’s Degree in Agriculture Education from North Carolina A&T State University. He is part of a four teacher department that offers courses in horticulture, animal science, agricultural mechanics, and sustainable agriculture. He also serves as FFA advisor to one of the largest FFA chapters in North Carolina.

Bill is also growing and diversifying his family’s farm. It has doubled in size since 2009! The operation includes a commercial beef cattle herd of Angus and Hereford genetics, straw baled behind other local farmers, and the main enterprise of specialty forages for the equine market.

Lauren attended Appalachian State University and works for the Clerk of Court in Iredell County. She is a talented musician and has played in countless orchestras and bands throughout her musical career.

Bill and Lauren are members of Pisgah United Methodist Church. They enjoy camping, horseback riding, spending time with friends and family, and spending time with their dogs Gus and Maggie.
Chris and Kate Westmoreland currently live in the northern end of Mecklenburg County in Cornelius, NC. They met as seniors at North Mecklenburg High School and continued their education at NC State University, both graduating in 2015. In their time at NC State, Chris studied Plant and Soil Science focusing in Crop Production and Ag Business Management and Kate focused her attention in Biological Sciences. She continued on to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her Doctor of Physical Therapy in May of 2018.

In September of 2018, Kate and Chris got married. Kate now works for Atrium Health as a physical therapist, treating patients with a variety of orthopedic, neurologic, and vestibular disorders. Chris works alongside his family at T.M. Westmoreland & Sons, a fourth generation operation in Huntersville, NC. The farm originally grew cotton before expanding to dairy in the 1950’s. Though the farm ceased dairy production in 2011, it continues to produce corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, and beef cattle. A small greenhouse on the farm has been developed for hydroponically grown produce, targeting local markets and restaurants.

Outside of work, Kate and Chris are members of Mecklenburg County Farm Bureau, where they serve on the Board of Directors and they are also active in the Gaston, Lincoln and Mecklenburg Young Farmers and Ranchers group. They also enjoy spending time with their dog Tucker, being outdoors, kayaking, and making memories with family and friends.
Weston & Hailie Williams – 1st Year Members

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Hailie Mobile – (910) 690-0157
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hwilliams0916@gmail.com

Weston and Hailie live in Eagle Springs, NC on their family farm with their two dogs. They have a cow/calf operation that was first ran by Weston’s grandfather until Weston started running the farm a few years ago. Weston works off the farm for Moore County Public Utilities as a waste water tech and is a volunteer firefighter at Robbins and Eagle Springs Fire Department. He enjoys working on the farm, Serving his community, and hunting.

Hailie works for a dermatologist as a medical assistant as well as running her own photography business. She enjoys helping on the farm, and using the farm as a location for photo sessions.

Weston serves on the Moore County Farm Bureau Board and Hailie serves as the county YF&R Chair. They are both very active in their county YF&R Committee.

Weston and Hailie love to educate the public on agriculture, travel when they can, and spend time together with their dogs on the farm.
John and Liza Layton live in Chowan County, where both were born and raised in families connected to agriculture. They met in the summer of 2013 and were married in December 2016.

John was born into a farming family and is a sixth generation farmer. He now farms alongside his dad, Johnny and grandfather, Sherlon, on the sandy lands of Rocky Hock, NC. Their operation includes 1,500 acres of cotton, peanuts, wheat, milo, and clary sage. John is a 2010 graduate of NC State University with a degree in Agriculture Business Management. John serves on the Chowan County Agriculture Extension Advisory Council, is a member of the Chowan County Farm Bureau Board and is the Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor for the county.

Liza graduated from Elon University and is currently pursuing a dual master’s program in Public Health and Environmental Health at East Carolina University. She is the Executive Director at Edenton Chowan Partnership. No stranger to agriculture, Liza’s family has owned Edenton Tractor and Implement Company for nearly 50 years.

John and Liza are members of Edenton Baptist Church. In their spare time, they like to go to the beach, hang out with family and friends, and cheer on the Wolfpack. They enjoy spending time with their black lab, Rocky, who spends his days as “John’s Farmhand.”
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Young Farmers and Ranchers Program Team

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