

NC FARM BUREAU

YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

2026 DIRECTORY



**FARM
BUREAU**
NORTH CAROLINA

JAMIE APPLE



Forsyth County

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Jamison (Jamie) Apple is a third generation farmer who was born and raised in Forsyth county. His family has a rich farming heritage in the County, from producing tobacco in the 60s to transitioning into a U-pick farm in the 80s to incorporating agri-tourism in the 2000s. Today, Jamie runs the farm with his dad, Mark, and the help of other friends and family.

Jamie didn't start out with plans to take over the farm. After high school graduation, He attended Southeast Lineman Training Center in Trenton, Georgia to become an electrical lineman. He worked for Pike Electric from 2018 to 2020, when an opportunity came to purchase a sawmill that was on family property. That same year, Apple's Forestry Products LLC was born. Jamie decided to come back to the farm full time and pursue a career in the agriculture and forestry industry.

The farms offerings may look different these days, but we are excited to open our farm to thousands of guests each year. We offer several events per year, u-pick blueberries, square bale hay, fall activities (pumpkins and mums), and hopefully soon, the very first commercial apple orchard in Forsyth county.

In addition to YF&R, Jamie currently serves as a board member for Forsyth County Farm Bureau, Forsyth County Agricultural Advisory Board, and is the head of Bee School at Forsyth County Beekeepers Association.

SETH & ASHTON AUSTIN



Buncombe County

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We are Seth & Ashton Austin from Leicester, NC located in the western part of the state, booming with high mountains and wide valleys. We both grew up farming in some way living six miles, a huge mountain and different counties between us and moving in different yet the same circles. Seth was in FFA participating in many areas. He excelled in 4-H starting at age 5 and is a National 4-H Honor Society Member Alumna. He showed beef cattle, chickens, pigs, sheep & goats all over the state, along with shooting sports, livestock judging and holding president's positions at the local and county levels. Seth had a solid background in Ag growing up alongside retired Ag teacher Don Austin and retired teacher, Ag Director, Tobacco Farm Trust Board Member, and Buncombe Co. Farm Bureau President Bill Teague. Ashton was active in FFA and 4-H. She participated in several areas including dairy judging. She played women's basketball starting at age five into high school while working on the family farm and in the greenhouse. We finally found the same circle and met in early 2022. We were married in June 2023 and are expecting our first child, a daughter, in May 2026. When we became a family, we moved to Seth's family farm in Leicester with plans to return and build our forever home on the farm in Crabtree. We now work to preserve both farms.

The Leicester farm started as a self-sufficient farm 7 miles from NC63. The farm housed a blacksmith shop, community buy and trade store, sawmill, gristmill and granary - growing their own wheat and corn. Acres of tomatoes were grown for wholesale, smaller family gardens for canning and wholesale in the store. Over the years the farm predominately became a beef cattle farm. The farm is now a 6th generational (almost 7) farm with 60 acres, supporting a manageable 10-20 cow/calf pairs while working full time: Seth as a Commercial HVAC Technician and Ashton as the Office Manager of the WNC Regional Livestock Center.

The Crabtree farm supports a 200 cow/calf operation selling their cattle with a producer ran alliance between WNC Farmers, Mountain Cattle Alliance. The farm is a 5th generation farm that also supports the greenhouse operation of wholesale and retail flowers and vegetable plants that was started in 2006 by her mother, Aleasa Glance that was also an Ag teacher at Tuscola High School and eventually the Director of Agriculture for Haywood County Schools. The farm was originally started as a tobacco farm and has since changed over to a beef cattle farm focusing on silage and hay. We harvest 40 acres of silage each year to support our herd through winter and to feed out the cattle before selling.

ADAM & CARRIE BARNHARDT



Rowan County

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Adam and Carrie Barnhardt of Rowan County met as students at NC State University. Adam studied Poultry Science while Carrie pursued Agricultural Science. Soon after marrying, they purchased land to build four broiler-breeder houses and Barnhardt Farms of Rowan County, LLC was born. The Barnhardt's later diversified by adding both sheep and cut flower production in 2021. Adam has been full-time on the farm since chickens arrived in 2018. Carrie had a professional career in agriculture for over 13 years, but recently hung up her corporate hat to work fully on the farm as well. They are also the proud parents of two children, Tucker (7) and Macie (5).

Carrie is the Chair of the Rowan County Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and Adam is the President of the Rowan County Farm Bureau Board. They won the NCFB Achievement Award in 2023 and reached the Top 10 at the 2024 AFBF Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Adam and Carrie appreciate the opportunities Farm Bureau provides with networking and advocacy efforts throughout the county, state and national levels. They are looking forward to being on the Committee for a third year while Carrie serves as the State YF&R Chair!

ADAM & CARRIE BARNHARDT



Davidson County

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Will and Madison Brinkley own and operate Double S Farm in northern Davidson County. Will is a first generation farmer and started the operation in 2009. He farms corn, soybeans, and wheat. The main focus is value added products such as deer corn, wheat straw, and feed wheat.

Will graduated from Ledford High School in 2009. He obtained his FFA American Farmer Degree in 2011. He attended some college but enjoyed farming so much that he wanted to make his dream come true. Aside from farming, Will is a social media influencer. He has a large following on TikTok with more than 6.9 million likes and more than 20 million views. You may also see him on Instagram. He creates videos that showcase his job or funny aspects about country living. Will also plays an important role in the community and serves on the Davidson County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Madison graduated from North Davidson in 2009. She obtained an Associate Degree in Nursing from Davidson County Community College in 2012. She began working as a Registered Nurse shortly after graduating. In 2018, she graduated from East Carolina University with her Master's Degree in Nursing. Madison currently works in Pediatric Nursing and loves every minute of it. You might catch her on the farm here and there but spends most of her time at work or home.

After dating for three years, Will and Madison got married in 2019. They attend Mt. Pleasant Church in Thomasville. Will and Madison have two sons, Henry and Holland, who are their pride and joy. They love getting to raise them like the good old days on their farm and family land. In their spare time, they enjoy playing with their two boys, fishing, traveling, and anything that involves being outdoors.

JAMES & LAKEAN BYRD



Harnett County

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James Michael and Lakean Byrd reside in Harnett County on the family farm. They met at NC State where he studied Field Crop Technologies and she studied Agricultural Education. They were married in 2015 and later had two boys, Maxton(2019) and Emerson(2022).

James Michael is a row crop farmer who works with his dad to operate Byrd Family Farms. He is the seventh generation to operate the business and care for the land. They currently grow cotton, tobacco, wheat, soybeans and corn. They also bale wheat straw for sale.

Lakean works off the farm as a Sales Coordinator for JTI Liggett USA. Together they are co-chairs of the Tri-County YF&R group (Harnett, Cumberland and Sampson).

In their spare time, James Michael and Lakean enjoy traveling and spending time with their friends and family.

MATTHEW & BRITTANY EAGLE



Durham County

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I (Matthew Eagle) was born and raised on my grandmother's cattle farm. From the time I was born, my grandmother would have me out working in her garden and doing other farm related chores. As I got older, raising cattle just began to be a part of everyday life. I started attending Farm Bureau meetings and helping out at other people's farms and began learning even more about how farms and the agricultural world works and operates. While in high school I started talking with my grandmother about one day buying the farm from her so that I could call it my own. Years later in July of 2016 she sold me the farm where I continue to raise beef cattle and have made many new advances to better and grow the farm. In 2020 I met my wife Brittany and got married April 10, of 2021. Since meeting her, she has very much become a part of the daily farm operations and loves the cattle probably more than I do as she has a name for every one of them. There are many new things that we have planned in the future to continue to grow the farm.

I owe many thanks to my parents for all the help they have given Brittany and myself. I also owe thanks to my grandmother for the help she gave me, even after I purchased the farm, in making many improvements. Mrs. Johnston passed February 2023.

JOHN BROOKS & MORGAN EDMONDSON



Greene County

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JohnBrooks and Morgan Edmondson reside in Greene County on their family farm, Edmondson Farms. They met in Raleigh while JohnBrooks was attending North Carolina State University and Morgan was studying at Meredith College. They have an Australian Shepherd named Sophia, who enjoys life on the farm just as much as they do. In 2024, JohnBrooks and Morgan were married at the coast, where they enjoy spending their free time.

JohnBrooks is a sixth-generation farmer and currently works alongside his father, who previously served on the NCFB YF&R Committee in the early 2000s. Their farming operation includes row crops—soybeans, corn, oats, and wheat—as well as poultry houses. In addition, JohnBrooks and his father offer custom planting, spraying, harvesting, and litter spreading services for farmers in Greene County and surrounding counties. JohnBrooks also operates an excavation and land-clearing business.

JohnBrooks graduated from North Carolina State University in 2021 with degrees in Agricultural Business and Livestock and Poultry Management and was a recipient of the R. Flake Shaw Scholarship. Prior to college, he participated in the IFAL program and was active in his local FFA chapter. He currently serves as President of the Greene County Young Farmers & Ranchers. Morgan earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting from Meredith College and later completed a Master's degree in Accounting at East Carolina University. She currently works as a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services in Greenville.

Together, JohnBrooks and Morgan enjoy attending NC State football games, spending time at the beach, and traveling. They look forward to the next two years serving on the committee, continuing to learn, and advocating for farmers.

ANTHONY & SHELBY GROWE



Richmond County

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Shelby and Anthony Growe live on their small farm in Hamlet, North Carolina. The farm mainly consists of beef cattle and coastal Bermuda hay but they also enjoy raising chickens and pigs for their niche meat customers. Shelby and Anthony, with the help of their two sons Maxton (6) and Finley (2), take care of everything on the farm.

Shelby grew up in Garner, North Carolina and went to high school at West Johnston High. In high school, Shelby took a few agriculture classes and was in FFA. She later went to NCSU to study bioprocessing and biotechnology. With very little farming and agriculture background, she had no idea how big of a role agriculture would soon play in her life.

Anthony grew up in Hamlet, North Carolina. His father had a small “hobby” herd of angus cattle that Anthony helped manage. After high school, he went to NCSU and received his Master’s of Science in Crop and Soil Science while working as a research technician.

After Anthony’s father passed away, Shelby and Anthony moved back to the big town of Hamlet and expanded the operation into what it is today. They pride themselves in their work and their ability to feed the community.

BRYAN & SARAH HARTMAN



Stokes County

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Bryan and Sarah Hartman of Stokes County, North Carolina are farmers who share deep roots in agriculture. Bryan is a lifelong resident of Stokes County, while Sarah grew up in neighboring Surry County. Both Bryan and Sarah come from fifth-generation farm families, giving them a deep appreciation for the traditions, responsibilities, and future of agriculture in North Carolina. Raised in agricultural families, they grew up knowing one another through their shared farming community and began dating in 2022. They were married in October 2024.

Bryan is a graduate of North Carolina State University, where he earned a degree in Agricultural Science in 2017. He currently works for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division. Sarah graduated from Mars Hill University in 2016 with a degree in History, where she also competed as a collegiate golfer. She later earned her Juris Doctor from Elon University School of Law in December 2018. Sarah now practices law as a solo practitioner, focusing primarily on real estate, estate planning, and agricultural law, where she serves clients across rural North Carolina.

Together, Bryan and Sarah are actively involved in their family farming operations, which include contract hog production with Smithfield Foods, cattle, tobacco, and beekeeping. They are also involved with Hartman's Meat Market, a family-owned business that supports local agriculture and provides quality, locally sourced meat products to the community. The Hartman family farm has further diversified through agritourism with Camp Caroldale, LLC, which offers on-farm RV sites and provides visitors an opportunity to experience working farmland while supporting the long-term sustainability of the operation. Bryan and Sarah are currently expecting their first child, due in March 2026, and they look forward to continuing their family's agricultural legacy for generations to come.

ZACHARY & LAUREN HUSSEY



Moore County

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Zach and Lauren Hussey live on a farm on Deep River in Moore County, NC. They both attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Zach and Lauren wed in 2016 and have one daughter, Hallie (6). They were founding members of Moore County's Young Farmers & Ranchers group in 2017 and have been active ever since.

Zach grew up in Moore County, raising cattle and working alongside his father in the homebuilding industry. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, he began a career with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and works as a traffic engineer. Zach serves on the board of Moore County Farm Bureau and is active in the Moore County Cattleman's Association.

Lauren grew up in Guilford County. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, she moved to Moore County and began her teaching career in public education. Shortly after beginning her career, she obtained a Master of Arts in Teacher Leadership in Curriculum and Instruction. She is passionate about incorporating agriculture into the classroom and sharing resources with fellow teachers. After teaching 10 years in elementary grades she made a transition to middle school and currently teaches middle grades science at Highfalls Elementary. Lauren is co-chair of the Moore County Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

Outside of their full-time careers, Zach and Lauren raise beef cattle on their farm, River View Ranch. They currently raise Angus cattle and market farm-to-table beef. In addition, they also grow and bale hay for themselves and other farmers. Zach is a sixth-generation farmer and he and Lauren are both passionate advocates for agriculture.

CONOR & ALYSSA MACNAIR



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N SEA Oyster company is a regenerative shellfish farm located in Surf City North Carolina owned by Conor and Alyssa MacNair. Their mission is to raise craft sustainable shellfish that embody the taste of North Carolina while maintaining a positive impact on the environment. Conor, is a second-generation oyster farmer to his uncle, John Finger, who founded Hog Island Oyster Company, a 50-year-old shellfish farm. The first oyster Conor enjoyed was at the age of 8, the afternoon after surfing his first wave. His uncle made the impression that without farming oysters we would not have waves to surf or fish to fish. A simple lesson that stuck with Conor throughout his life. Conor grew up on the Chesapeake fishing and boating every day. "Seeing the decline in that watershed made a lasting" impact on Conors Uncle's words. Throughout high school, Conor started working on his Uncle's farm, he has been educated about sustainability and environmental impacts of oysters and how important this work is for our future fisheries. He always knew he wanted to start his own farm and decided to take his D1 swimming scholarship to UNCW, where he obtained a degree in Geological Oceanography and spent many hours volunteering at the shellfish hatchery to best be suited for a career in this industry. Alyssa and Conor had been on the same club swim team from the young age of 9. Many years prior to their time at UNCW. After dating for years at UNCW, Conor and Alyssa began the farm in spring of 2017. Since then they have grown the farm to house 3 million oysters with an on land headquarters called "The Oyster Barn" where they host agritourism events and provide a farm to table experience.

JOHN & HARLEY MASTERS



Mitchell County

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John and Harley Masters are proud to be first generation farmers who own and operate Roan View Farm in Bakersville, NC. They embarked on their farming journey three years ago with a shared dream: to cultivate a farm that would not only produce quality agricultural products, but also serve as a bridge connecting their community to the world of farming. At the heart of their mission is a simple yet profound goal: to "harvest memories." The Masters believe that farming is not just about growing crops or raising animals; it's about cultivating experiences that stay with people for a lifetime and foster a deeper appreciation for agriculture.

Roan View Farm specializes in hay production and meat goats. However, driven by their passion for community engagement they are actively expanding their farm's offerings to include agri-tourism events. By doing so, they aim to provide visitors with a firsthand glimpse into the daily workings of farm life, creating opportunities for people to forge meaningful connections with agriculture.

The Masters' commitment to their community runs deep. John has worked full-time in emergency services for Mitchell County for the last thirteen years. He has also been a vital part in the newly formed Livestock Judging Club and Young Livestock Club with 4-H. Harley has a cafe in Bakersville and has been a County Commissioner for the past four years. She was reelected in November for another term and serves on several different boards such as the NCACC, NC A&T strategic planning committee, and several local boards. Both are active members in Farm Bureau and participate in events like science day where they go into the middle schools and promote Ag in the Classroom.

We are excited about the opportunity to serve on the state Young Farmers and Ranchers committee and plan to take steps in organizing a local YF&R committee this year.

LANDEN MORRIS



Halifax County

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Landen G. Morris, NCAL # 10606, is a North Carolina licensed auctioneer, farmer, and small business owner located in Roanoke Rapids, NC. Landen has been a licensed auctioneer since passing the state licensing exam in August 2022. Landen has been active in auctioneering ever since he can remember, he has become more active in the auction industry since his North Carolina licensure. Landen specializes in the sale of farm equipment, construction equipment, cattle and benefit auctions. Landen is also active in competitive auctioneering competitions. He has competed in numerous competitions around the United States. Landen has competed in states such as Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, and California. In July of 2021, Landen was crowned the 2021 International Junior Auctioneer Champion in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When asked about his time in competitive auctioneering competition's Landen said, "It's not about the trophies that I've won or the places it has taken me, it's about the lifelong connections that I have made that make the competitions worth it".

Alongside Landen's busy auction schedule, he also owns and operates his own farming operation, Landen's Produce, since 2017. Landen's Produce produces collards, cabbage, mixed greens, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, butterbeans, green beans, watermelons and a numerous variety of vegetables as well as a small variety of row crops. Landen is also a past Senate Page to the North Carolina General Assembly serving under the Senator Tom McInnis. During Landen's time as Senate Page, he was awarded Senate Page of the term by his fellow Senate Pages and the Senate Page coordinator. Landen is very active in local politics as well as at the state and national level. Landen has also been aired on several television programs promoting the auction industry and his farming career on Nickelodeon and as well as the North Carolina's WRAL News "Tarheel Traveler" segment. Landen is an active member of several organizations such as the National Auctioneers Association.

NICH & LYNZEE MORRIS



Bertie County

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Nich and Lynzee Morris live in Colerain, NC in Bertie County. They met in 2016 through a mutual friend group and were married in April of 2024. Nich is a Bertie County native while Lynzee is a native of Martin County. They bought their first home together in 2020 just six miles from the family farm.

Nich is a multi-generational farmer of Morris Farms raising row crops including tobacco, sweet potatoes, peanuts, cotton, and soybeans. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 2015 with a degree in Agricultural Business Management. He came back home to continue working on his family farm right after graduating. Since then, Nich and his brother Zach have branched off their father's farm and started their own operation, Morris Brothers Farming Partnership.

Lynzee grew up showing lambs in 4-H and competitively riding/showing horses. She was active in FFA in high school and knew she had a love for agriculture. In 2020, Lynzee started working for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a Federal State Inspector for Fruits and Vegetables. She is now a licensed Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Food Safety Auditor with the NCDA & CS. When they are not on the farm, Nich and Lynzee enjoy spending time with family and friends and fishing. They have a chocolate lab named Mocha and three horses. Nich and Lynzee are active members of Bethany Baptist Church in Perrytown. Nich has been involved in Bertie County YF&R for many years and got Lynzee involved 5 years ago. They are excited to be on the State YF&R Committee for 2025/2026. Together, they look forward to continuing the family farm and raising their own children there.

AMRYN MURRAY



Chatham County

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My name is Amryn Murray, and I am the owner and operator of J&M; Livestock & Land Services. I completed a dual-enrollment program with North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T; State University, earning a degree in Agribusiness Management and Agricultural Education. This educational path allowed me to combine business strategy, technical knowledge, and hands-on experience in agriculture.

Through both my education and real-world work, I developed a deep passion for making a meaningful impact in our industry. I am driven to help pioneer a new way forward—bridging traditional agricultural practices with modern management, innovation, and education—while preserving the values agriculture was built on.

My background is rooted in production agriculture. I have extensive experience working with Black Angus cattle, along with row crop production including corn, soybeans, and small grains. I am also actively involved in both personal and custom haying operations, providing a well-rounded understanding of forage systems and land management.

This combination of education, production experience, and entrepreneurial vision led me to create J&M; Livestock & Land Services—a full-service operation focused on helping farmers, landowners, homesteaders, and agricultural investors plan, improve, and manage their land with long-term value in mind.

My mission is simple: raise the standard in land and agricultural services, educate the people we work with, and leave every property better than we found it.

LANCE PARKER



Wilkes County

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Lance was born and raised in Wilkes County on his family's cattle farm. He's the 5th generation on the farm, which was established in 1900. The farm has evolved over the years and is currently a cow/calf operation, backgrounding calves after weaning. They also produce all the hay and corn silage that's fed on the operation.

He attended Western Carolina University, where he obtained a degree in Natural Resources Management, graduating in 2019. After graduation, he started working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a soil conservationist. Lance spent the first couple of years of his career in Sampson County, NC. After a few years, he was able to return home as a supervisory soil conservationist for NRCS.

Now, back home, he works for NRCS and helps grow the farm daily. Since returning home, Lance has been able to help diversify the operation. They currently offer year-round camping as well as camping for special events like NASCAR races and local festivals. He has recently opened a drive-in movie theater on the farm called Silo Cinema Drive-in.

MICHAEL REAVES



Robeson County

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Michael Reaves is a proud fourth-generation rancher from Rowland, North Carolina. He manages Lone Home Farms and Cattle Company, which has been in his family for over 30 years and in operation for over 150. Currently, the ranch produces all-natural Angus conception-to-table cattle with plans to soon offer direct-to-consumer Angus and Wagyu beef. Besides cattle, they also grow corn, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, coastal Bermuda hay, and various silage products. Michael also works with his father's livestock marketing business, where they buy, sell, and transport livestock all over the United States and Canada.

Michael graduated from Dillon Christian School in 2012, where he was Student Body President, a member of his 4-H club, and a proud Eagle Scout. Aside from being involved in the classroom, he also played sports such as football and golf while still making time to work on the farm baling hay, working cattle, and fixing fences. After graduation, he went on to North Carolina State University to pursue a degree from the Agriculture Institute. He graduated with 4 degrees from NC State in Agribusiness Management, Livestock and Poultry Management, Field Crop Technology, and General Ag. He also served on the student senate at NC State, as well as being involved in other various clubs, such as the AGI club and the collegiate NC Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers.

After graduation, he moved back to the family farm with plans to put that education to work. Michael has plans to open M.K.Reaves Land and Cattle, where he plans to start offering land work such as pond digging, drainage, land clearing, and mulching. Besides farming, Michael's passions include traveling, camping, landscape and astrophotography, as well as cooking. There aren't many places in North Carolina that he hasn't set up a campfire and cooked a steak that was grown on the farm. As an avid outdoorsman who enjoys deep-sea fishing and exploring, he is currently pursuing his private pilot's license as well as his captain's license.

The future is bright for Agriculture in North Carolina, and Michael is extremely thankful for the opportunity to serve and help keep that future bright. He currently serves on his county's young farmers and ranchers committee, the state general policy and beef committees, and has aspirations to serve on the Robeson County Farm Bureau Board in the future. Michael is extremely thankful for the opportunity to serve on the state young farmers and ranchers committee for the next two years and to take part in all the opportunities that come with it."

JESSE SEAGLE



Macon County

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Jesse Seagle is 4th generation cattleman on his family farm in Franklin, North Carolina where they currently operate a cow/calf operation along with freezer beef. They transitioned from club/ show cattle to commercial Simangus cattle in the late 2000's

Jesse was raised off the farm in town. However the afternoons and summers were spent on the farm. Jesse and his family moved closer to the farm in 2015.

In the off time when Jesse isn't working or farming, he enjoys time on the lake, fishing in the mountain streams, hiking along the mountain trails, and traveling.

Off the farm, Jesse works for the Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District, is a member of the Western North Carolina Young Farmers and Ranchers and sits on the Macon County Farm Bureau board of directors.

LAYDEN & SAVANNAH STALLINGS



Perquimans County

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Layden and Savannah Stallings live in Perquimans County. They met each other in middle school, but started dating in 2015 while in high school. Layden and Savannah were married in April of 2021. They now have a daughter, Layla, who was born in 2024. Layden was raised in Belvidere, NC. When Layden graduated from Perquimans County High School in 2018, he went to work full time on his family farm. Layden considers himself a second generational farmer. While he comes from a multigenerational farming background, his Grandfather stopped farming in the early 90's. Layden's dad, Jamie, started farming for himself in 2011. What began as a 3 house poultry farm, known as Hill Glade Farms, has now expanded to around 2,200 acres of Corn, Soybeans, Cotton and Peanuts. Together they run a trucking company hauling Ag commodities. They also have a commercial fertilizer spreading company.

Savannah graduated from Perquimans County High School in 2017. After graduation, Savannah obtained her medical assistant certification. She now works in a local doctors office as the billing coordinator. Savannah doesn't work on the farm, but you will see her around on her days off with Layla in tow. She is a big help and very supportive. Whether she's moving equipment, raking peanut hay, or just bringing supper to the field, Savannah is willing to fill in anywhere she may be needed.

Outside of the farm, we are active members of Chappell Hill Church serving in many different capacities such as media team and men's, women's, and children's ministries. Layden has also served as a local volunteer fireman for many years.

We enjoy spending our time with our little girl and our family. We look forward to serving as members of the State YF&R for the next 2 years!

SAMUEL & MEGHAN STEPHENS



Burke County

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Sam and Meghan Stephens live in Burke County, North Carolina, where they own and operate Stephens Livestock, a diversified farm that includes cattle, goats, horses, mini horses, donkeys, several farm dogs, and their cat, Rufus. Married in October of 2022, Sam and Meghan are the proud parents of one son, Wesley, and are members of El Bethel Baptist Church in Morganton, North Carolina.

Sam earned both his associate's and bachelor's degrees in Agricultural Business Management from North Carolina State University. He currently serves as a Loan Officer with AgSouth Farm Credit, where he has worked for more than five years. In addition to his professional role and livestock production, Sam owns or leases approximately 100 acres of hay ground and is actively involved in buying, selling, and trading farm equipment and machinery. Sam is deeply engaged in the local agricultural community, serving on the board of the Burke County Farm Bureau. He is also active with the Burke County Cattleman's Association and serves as a leader within the Burke County Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

Meghan is a graduate of Appalachian State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She is currently a Self-Contained Exceptional Children's (EC) Teacher with Burke County Public Schools and is continuing her education by pursuing a master's degree in School Counseling at Lenoir-Rhyne University. Beyond her professional role, Meghan serves on the Burke County Farm Bureau Women's Committee. She also has a knack for coming up with the perfect name for every animal on the farm.

Outside of their professional responsibilities, Sam and Meghan enjoy life on their farm with their animals, traveling to new destinations—particularly the mountains and the beach—attending church as a family, and trail riding their horses, Cap'N and Garnet, through the mountains. Above all, they value spending time together.

CHRISTIAN WATERS



Christian Waters lives in Chocowinity NC, which is located Beaufort County. He farms with his father in Chocowinity growing corn, soybean, oats and peanuts. 2024 was their first year in peanuts. They used to be in produce but transitioned more to grain farming due family health problems. Christian has been on the farm full-time since he graduated high school in 2019. While farming full time he attended Beaufort Community College and graduated with an associate in agribusiness technology.

Beaufort County

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Christian
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AUSTIN & CHRISTINA WRENN



Nash County

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Rowland, NC 28383

Austin

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Christina

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Austin and Christina Wrenn operate Wrenn's Farm in Zebulon, North Carolina, a diversified farm focused on strawberries and cut flowers. Christina holds degrees in Horticultural Science and Agricultural Business Management, and Austin holds a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management and a Master's degree in Horticultural Science, all from NC State University. The couple met in 2013 at NC State University, began working together on the farm in 2018, and married in 2020. Together, they have rebuilt the family farm to include greenhouse and plasticulture strawberry production alongside a growing cut flower enterprise.

Austin oversees strawberry production and systems development at Wrenn's Farm, drawing on experience gained through international study and hands-on work with berry production systems across multiple growing regions. In addition to his role on the family farm, he works for Fresh-Pik Produce, where he manages strawberry plug production and commercial fruit production in both field and greenhouse systems, along with a variety of other operational and management responsibilities.

Christina manages the cut flower program at Wrenn's Farm, which has grown from a single row of zinnias into two acres of production supported by five high tunnels and three greenhouses. She leads marketing and educational efforts through the farm store, farmers markets, u-pick events, and on-farm classes. Together, Christina and Austin focus on innovative production systems, education, and strengthening their family farm to ensure it is around for the next generation.

North Carolina Farm Bureau YF&R Award Programs

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.

General

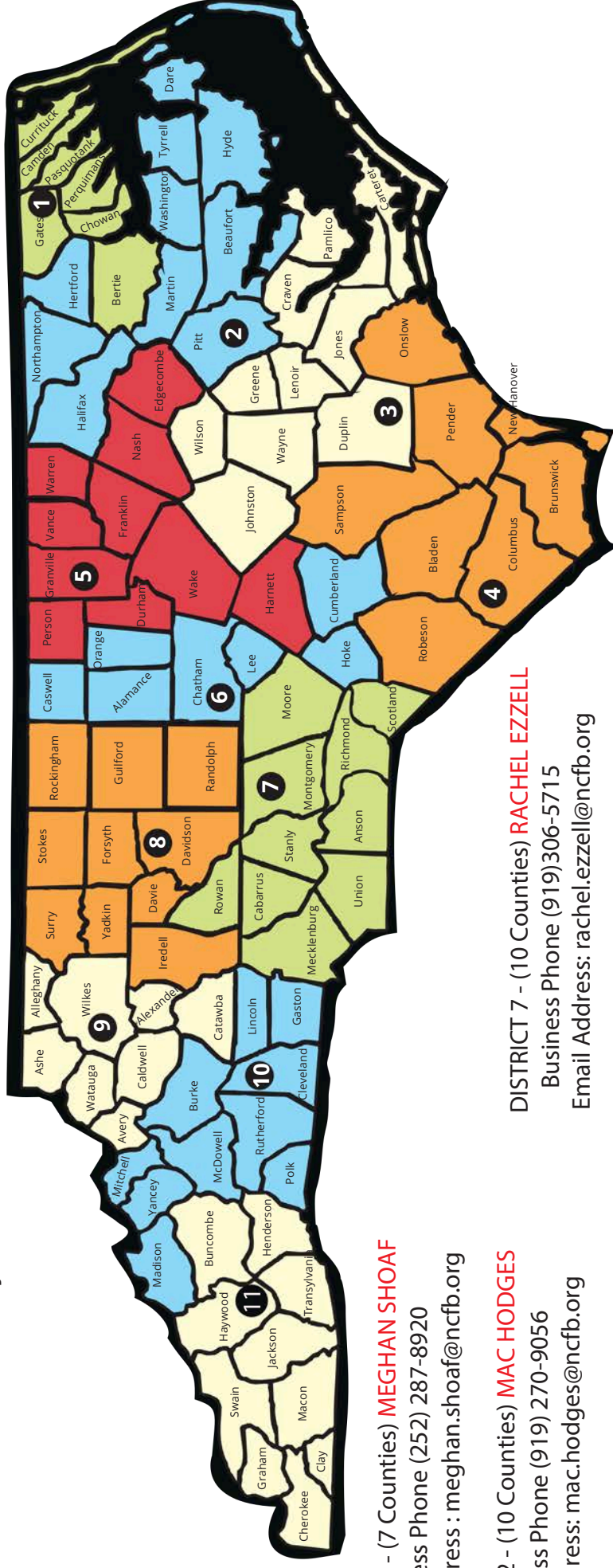
NC Farm Bureau YF&R Winner Prizes are listed at <https://www.ncfb.org/young-farmers-ranchers/>.

Winners go on to compete at the national level.

Contestants participating in all awards programs should have a current Farm Bureau membership.

NCFB Federation District Field Representatives

Effective February 1, 2025



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