

LINCOLN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

NEWSLETTERlincoln.ces.ncsu.edu**INAUGURAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the Inaugural Monthly Newsletter from Lincoln County Cooperative Extension. We are pleased to have such a great community to serve and help support the mission and vision of Cooperative Extension in this wonderful county that we live in. Thank you for your continued support and dedication! Keep an eye on this monthly publication for upcoming events and information from our Agents.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION?

BY NC STATE UNIVERSITY

The Cooperative Extension System, in partnership with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), bridges the gap between a state's Land Grant University and its people by translating research into education and action. With a presence in every county across the country, Extension brings cutting-edge discoveries from research laboratories to individuals, communities, and businesses who can put knowledge into practice to improve their lives.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

BY TANYA BINAFF

Our Extension Office is committed to serve our community to the best of our abilities through research based educational programs. We strive to provide the most up-to-date information and resources available. We look forward to providing educational programs which fulfill the needs of our community members. If you have not already visited our office, please stop by to meet our Agents and Staff and share with us how Extension can help you!

MEET OUR TEAM

Join Lincoln County Cooperative Extension on April 2nd for the opening day of the Farmers Market with food trucks like Dad's Roadside Grill and more. The market will be held every Tuesday from April through November in the Lincoln County Farmers Market pavilion at 225 W Water St Ext, in Lincolnton. Call (704) 736-8461 for more information or to become a vendor.



TANYA BINAFIG
CED & 4-H AGENT

My name is Tanya Binafif and I am the Cooperative Extension Director and 4-H Agent Lincoln County. I joined the NCSU team in January 2023 from University of Florida (UF) IFAS Extension, where I was the 4-H Agent for 7 years. I graduated from St. Petersburg College with a Veterinary Technology Associate in Science Degree (VETTC-AS), University of Florida with a Bachelors in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with a Minor in Education, and University of North Florida with a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership. My professional experiences in Veterinary Medicine, Secondary Education, and Florida 4-H has provided me with the experience to lead our NCSU Cooperative Extension Office, Staff, and Lincoln County Community Youth. This past year I have been recruiting excellent Agents and staff to serve our Lincoln County Community. I have found some amazing individuals who have joined our Extension team. In addition, I have been working on regrowing our 4-H Youth Development Program by offering 4-H School Enrichment, 4-H Non-School Days, 4-H Day Camps, and 4-H Clubs to our community youth. Thanks to our passionate community members, I have been successful through this first year and look forward to future years serving Lincoln County.



TREVOR REESE
HORTICULTURE AGENT

My name is Trevor and I recently moved here from Tallahassee, Florida, where I was born and raised. There I attended Florida State University and received my Bachelor of Science in Environment and Society. After graduating I began my career at Florida A&M University working at the Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research where I split my time between the lab and field, assisting in viticultural and enological research. When the opportunity to work with NC State Extension in Lincoln County presented itself I was eager to take up the opportunity. As Horticulture Agent in Lincoln County I have the privilege of connecting with community members and commercial growers alike on a wide range of agricultural topics. I consider myself fortunate to spend my workday doing something I have always been passionate about.

SARA GALES
4-H ASSISTANT



Hello, my name is Sara Gales. I was born and raised in Western Lincoln County. I am married and we live on my family farm. The farm has been in my family for 5 generations, maybe longer. I grew up helping on the farm as we grow vegetables and fruits. We also have Black Angus cows on our farm. I graduated high school from West Lincoln and then attended Western Carolina University, where I graduated with a BS in Elementary Education and minor in Geography. I taught school in Lincoln and Gaston County, as well as in a private school for a total of 12 years. Then I moved to Lincoln County DSS and worked there for nine years. I wanted to go back to my love of children and farming, so I applied for Lincoln County 4-H Program Assistant and here I am!! This is my dream job and I truly love coming to work each day!! I hope that I can help Lincoln County Cooperative Extension and 4-H grow in our community. I want to be able to give back to the community that I grew up in!!

JANA RAMIREZ
FCS AGENT



Hello everyone! My name is Jana Sherrill Ramirez and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be a Family and Consumer Science agent here in Lincoln County. I grew up in Apex, NC, and I spent some years in Boone at App State pursuing my Registered Dietitian credential. I settled in the Maiden/Lincolnton area in 2020 to be close to my family while completing my dietetic internship. I spent my first two years as a Registered Dietitian working for Atrium Health covering Long Term Care, Diabetes Education / Medical Nutrition Therapy, and Acute Care. I enjoyed that time, but was thrilled to switch gears and step into this role with Cooperative Extension in the spring of 2023. Over the last year, I have learned from agents in surrounding counties, and hosted workshops and classes such as Med Instead of Meds, Cooking Smart with Instant Pots, and Safe Plates Home Food Preservation. Recently, I have been teaching SNAP-Ed Steps to Health programs for adults and youth. I am passionate about nutrition, food safety and local foods! In my free time, you can find me cooking, attending a class at Hot Yoga Newton, or hiking with my husband. We are expecting our first child in April. I look forward to building more connections with individuals here in Lincoln County and making a positive impact in this community!

MEET OUR TEAM

Catawba Valley Cattlemen's Association Spring BBQ is Saturday, March 16th, from 5-7pm at the Hickory American Legion Fairgrounds. Sit down for take out. You can purchase tickets from a local Cattlemen or at the door.



HEATHER SCHRONCE
FIELD CROP AGENT

Hey there! My name is Heather Schronce, the Field Crop Agent in Cleveland and Lincoln counties. I have been with NC Cooperative Extension since June of 2021. I was born and raised in Lincoln County and attended West Lincoln High School. I graduated with my bachelors of science in Agricultural Science with minors in crop science, animal science, and agricultural business management from North Carolina State University in December of 2019. I also graduated from Virginia Tech in August of 2022 with my masters of science degree in Agriculture and Life Sciences with a concentration in plant science and pest management. I mainly work with corn, soybeans, and small grains. I am the pesticide coordinator in both of these counties as well, where I host pesticide continuing education classes for license holders. Some major events that I hold include: Winter Grains Meeting, Annual Southwest Piedmont Corn and Soybean Field Day, Whistle Stop tour (small grains training), as well as other production meetings and trainings. I plant a lot of on-farm research trials and will be expanding my research efforts this year with the N.C. Plant Sciences Initiative with the Precision Pest Ecology Research cohort with Dr. Anders Huseth to test prototype corn earworm trap designs during peak flights July-September. Look forward to meeting you and helping you with your farming operations.



GRACE MOTZ
4-H SECRETARY

My name is Grace, and I was born and raised in Gaston County. As a kid, gardening was a chore, but it later turned into a passion when I started growing chile peppers and selling them at a nearby farmers market. I also worked at a seasonal fruit farm and later as a personal injury legal assistant. I now live in Lincolnton with my husband and our labradoodle. I am excited to work with the Cooperative Extension office to serve our local community.



CARSON JOHNSON
LIVESTOCK AGENT

Hello! I am Carson Johnson, and I am the Livestock Agent for Lincoln and Catawba counties. My goal is to provide educational outreach and assistance to livestock producers and aid in youth livestock programs in my counties. I am from Taylorsville, NC, where I live on my family and I's beef cattle farm with my husband. I attended Western Carolina University, where I majored in biology and minored in chemistry. I then moved to Raleigh to pursue a M.S. degree in animal science with a concentration in genetics. As a graduate student, I worked on several swine and beef cattle research projects. After graduate school, I spent time working in farm management for a beef cattle backgrounding and cow-calf operation in western NC. These experiences provided me with many tools that I use as your Livestock Agent. If you have any questions about livestock or forage production, feel free to contact me!

Catawba Valley Cattlemen's Association
Sit down & Take-out Available
SPRING BBQ
Saturday March 16, 2024
Serving 5PM - 7PM
Hickory American Legion Fairgrounds- Newton, NC

BBQ Beef
Pinto Beans, Slaw and Bread
\$15 per plate
Children 6 and under- No charge - must be present.
NON- PROFIT FUNDRAISER

Livestock Interest Form:



RACHEL EVANS
ADMIN. ASSISTANT



My name is Rachel and I was born and raised in Marietta, GA, right outside of Atlanta. I majored in Agriculture at Georgia Highlands College. Moved to North Carolina to pursue my career in the Equine Assisted Services and Therapies and am currently triple certified as a CTRI (Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor), ESMHL (Equine Specialist in Mental Health & Learning), and a certified Horse Powered Reading® Facilitator. I worked in the EAST world for 15 years using my certifications and horsemanship background. I am happy to have stepped out of the nonprofit sector and into a position with an organization that keeps me connected to my community and allows me to assist my fellow agricultural minded residents in a vital and meaningful way. I am excited to be working with and learning from the amazing Cooperative Extension team here in Lincoln County.

