

# Inside Agromedicine

Partners for Health & Safety in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

NORTH CAROLINA AGROMEDICINE INSTITUTE • FALL 2009

From the  
Chair, Board of  
Directors, NC  
Agromedicine  
Institute



Deirdre Mageean, PhD

Dear Partners:

As the colors of fall emerge and slowly fade away, we are reminded that the holiday season is just around the corner. We begin to think of all of the delectable treats we will soon enjoy—turkey, shrimp, oyster dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potato casserole, pumpkin pie and so much more! Once we are satiated, we will be in search of the perfect tree to adorn our home and serve as the guardian of gifts—with at least one wool scarf or sweater. How would we celebrate the holidays were it not for the labor of our state's farming, fishing, and forestry communities? When you see a fisher, forester, farmer, or farmworker, take time to thank those who work in one of the most dangerous industries in the United States and allows us to continue our holiday traditions.

During the New Year, be on the look out for additional opportunities to become involved in the work of the Institute. In addition to expanding the AgriSafe Network of North Carolina and the Certified Safe Farm-NC program, we will be launching a faculty development series, developing a new Master of Public Health course in agricultural health and safety, and expanding service opportunities for students and volunteers. Your contributions to the NC Agromedicine Institute Fund will help support these and other activities.

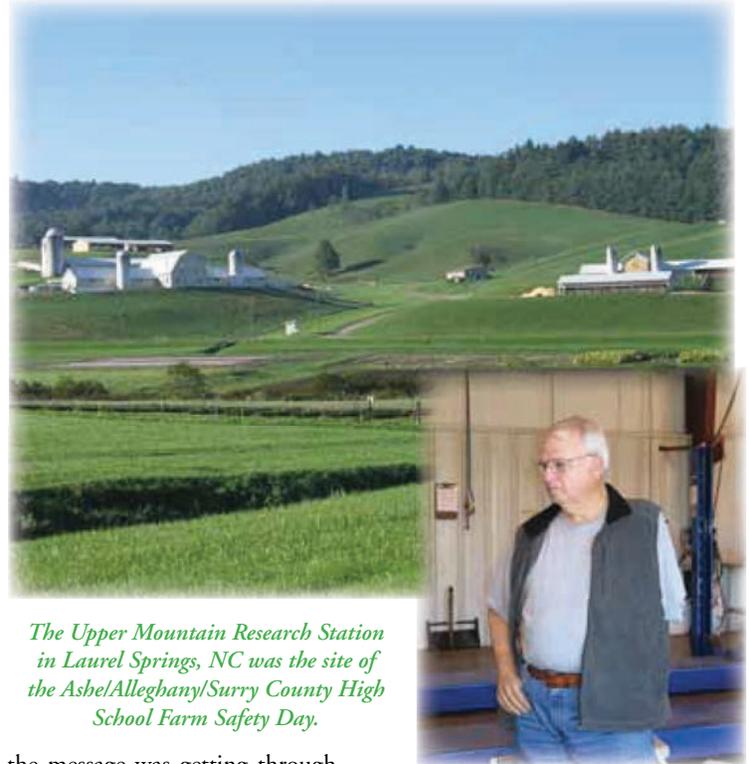
We appreciate your continued interest in and support of the work of the Institute. On behalf of the Institute's Board of Directors, faculty, and staff, I wish you and yours a bright, healthy and safe holiday season!

## The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Farm Safety

The sounds and sights of safety were as varied and vibrant as the colors of the fall leaves, the burley tobacco hanging in the barn and the pumpkins in the field glistening with fall's first frost as Ashe, Alleghany and Surry high school agricultural students gathered at the Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs, NC for a farm safety field day on the first day of October. Charles Young, Ashe County agricultural agent, led a group of other Ashe and Alleghany Extension agents, research station staff and community partners to engage students in round robin interactive sessions focused on farm safety.

Students rotated through learning stations on machinery safety, ATV safety, chain saw and lawn equipment safety, and chemical safety. Each student donned a fire fighter's jacket and helmet, and practiced using a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire. Those with entrepreneurial aspirations listened intently as Vickie Young of the Farm Service Agency promoted a young farmer loan program.

After lunch, all three high school groups gathered in the field at the bottom of a steep roadside embankment (out of harm's way) for PTO entanglement and tractor roll-over demonstrations, complete with "crash dummies." The wide eyes and dropped jaws indicated



*The Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs, NC was the site of the Ashe/Alleghany/Surry County High School Farm Safety Day.*

the message was getting through — being caught by a PTO shaft or experiencing a tractor roll-over on a non-ROPS tractor leads to devastating results.

*Mr. Edsel Beck shares his story to help prevent others from suffering injury or death.*

**"The next time you start to cut corners, picture me."**

**EDSEL BECK**

The day ended with an equally awesome phenomenon: a group of over 100 high school students sitting completely still, focused intently on the adult at the front of the room telling his story. The story teller was Mr. Edsel Beck, a Georgia dairy farmer who retired

to Alleghany County. His story was painful, true and compelling. Mr. Beck had survived extreme trauma — losing both arms in a hay baling equipment incident. But he had also been through a journey of amazing resilience. Mr. Beck's message was simple and forthright: "The next time you are about to cut corners and take a safety risk on the farm, picture me."

(continued on page 2)

# Ashe & Alleghany County Farm Safety Days *(continued from page 1)*

The same week, 4th grade students in Ashe and Alleghany schools took part in similar safety field days. These events were also planned and conducted by Ashe and Alleghany Cooperative Extension agents, research station staff and others.

“He’s been talking about this field trip all week,” said one Ashe County 4th grade teacher. She was referring to the young farm boy whose enthusiasm for tractors was evident as he eagerly raised his hand to answer questions of Ashe County Extension agent Bryan Davis as he

pointed out the safety hazards and safety features of the tractor the students were encircling.

The New River State Park was the classroom for the field day in Ashe County, while later in the week it was the fairgrounds in Alleghany County. On both days, the curriculum focus was safety. The 4th graders rotated through stations that addressed every aspect of safety, including shooting sports safety, water safety, bicycle safety, outdoor safety, first aid, fire safety, farm equipment safety, animal safety and home chemical safety.

The students had an active day, lying low while they crawled out of a fire house and climbed down an escape ladder, simulating a safe exit from a burning building. They also discovered how hazardous household chemicals look a whole lot like sports drinks and other food items. The icing on the cake was being able to move from station to station through the beautiful surroundings of their outdoor classroom.



*High school students practice using a fire extinguisher.*



*High school students view the PTO entanglement demonstration.*



*4th graders match harmless products with hazardous chemical look-alikes.*



*New River State Park rangers teach outdoor safety to 4th graders.*



*PTO entanglement is easier to understand when you see what happens to the straw dummy.*



*Charles Young explains shooting sports and gun safety to 4th graders.*



*Chemical safety comes alive with hands-on activities.*

## NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Presents Check for AgriSafe/Certified Safe Farm-NC Grant

The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission has awarded a two-year, \$500,000 grant to expand the AgriSafe Network of North Carolina and to establish a new component, the Certified Safe Farm program, for North Carolina agriculture. The check presentation took place Oct. 12 at the Johnston County Cooperative Extension Center.

Based on a successful program developed in Iowa, the AgriSafe Network of North Carolina and Certified Safe Farm of North Carolina programs combine health and safety components proven to result in lower health claims costs and safer, healthier farmers. Agricultural health and safety experts from Iowa are assisting in the development of the program in North Carolina.

“We believe this grant will have a major impact on farmers and their families,” said William Upchurch, executive director of the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. “The commission is proud to be a partner on this project, and we’re excited to see how smarter and healthier lifestyles, in addition to safer farms, will benefit our farmers in many ways.”



*Pictured are (from left) Dr. Jon Ort, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service director; Dr. Greg Cope, associate professor of toxicology and Agromedicine campus coordinator at N.C. State University; Dr. Johnny Wynne, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NCSU; Dr. Lloyd Novick, chair, Department of Public Health at the Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, and N.C. Agromedicine Institute board member; Rick Smith, NCSU alumnus and N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission board member; Billy Carter, TTFC president; Dr. Ed Jones, Cooperative Extension; Dr. Ron Newton, assistant vice chancellor for Administration and Finance, ECU, and N.C. Agromedicine Institute board member; and Robin Tutor, interim director, N.C. Agromedicine Institute, ECU. [Marc Hall Photo]*

# Charles Young Is Recognized as Safety Cultivator

On September 30, 2009, friends, family, and colleagues gathered for a bitter-sweet celebration of the retirement of Ashe County Extension Agent, Charles Young.

The many amusing stories and song lyrics about Charles' antics through the years, as well as the unending words of praise and admiration, made it clear that through his 30 years working for NC Cooperative Extension as a livestock agent Charles has touched the lives of countless individuals, especially youth, relative to the importance of farm safety and being good stewards of the land.

The NC Agromedicine Institute presented Charles with a Safety Cultivator certificate in recognition of his contributions to educating adults and youth across the state about farm safety. An IOU was also given in his honor to the Ashe County Cooperative Extension Center and Upper Mountain Research Station for replacement of the tractor that has been used for many years for tractor roll-over demonstrations.

In keeping with his commitment to teaching about farm safety, Charles spent the days before and after his retirement celebration assisting with farm safety field days for 4th graders from Ashe and Alleghany Counties and a high school farm safety field day for students from Ashe, Alleghany and Surry Counties.

The NC Agromedicine Institute and colleagues across the state will miss Charles' day to day involvement in farm safety activities and sincerely wish him all the best as he embarks on a new journey!



*Robin Tutor presents Charles Young a certificate of recognition as a Safety Cultivator.*



*AgriSafe provided health screenings and safety information for Carolina Log'N Demo and Forestry Show participants at the NC State Fairgrounds on August 15.*

**DECEMBER 10, 2009**

**NC Agromedicine Institute 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Open House,  
NC Agromedicine Institute, ECU West Research Campus, Greenville, NC.**



North Carolina Agromedicine Institute  
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# CALENDAR

**December 10, 2009:** NC Agromedicine Institute 10TH Anniversary Celebration and Open House, NC Agromedicine Institute, ECU West Research Campus, Greenville, NC.

**January 13-15, 2010:** 21st Annual NC Grains and Cotton Conference, New Bern, NC. [www.ncgrainsconference.org/](http://www.ncgrainsconference.org/).

**January 27-28, 2010:** ASHCA/NIOSH Joint Conference, *Be Safe, Be Profitable, Protecting Workers in Agriculture*, Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, <http://www.ashca.com/>.

**February 3-5, 2010:** Southern Farm Show, NC State Fairgrounds, [www.southernshows.com/sfs/](http://www.southernshows.com/sfs/).

**April 20-22, 2010:** Priester National Extension Health Conference, Mobile, AL, [www.aces.edu/priester/](http://www.aces.edu/priester/).

**June 27 – July 1, 2010:** National Institute for Farm Safety Annual Conference, Wilmington, NC, [www.nifsagsafety.org](http://www.nifsagsafety.org).



Special thanks to AgriSupply for enhancing the NCAI logo.

## NC Agromedicine Institute

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