Small Farms Week Schedule of Events March 30 – April 5

Monday, March 31
10 a.m. – Kickoff
CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TAYLORVILLE
(I-40 to exit 131, NC 16, then 16 miles on NC 16 to 345 Industrial Blvd.)

The theme for Small Farms Week 2008 Kickoff is “Farm to Fork: Alternative Crops for Western NC” Lenny Rogers, Alexander County Cooperative Extension director, will be presiding. Deborah Crandall, director for Cooperative Extension’s West Central District, will bring greetings and Alexander County Commissioner William Hammer will issue the official welcome.

The 2007 Small Farmer of the Year Video Dr. Ellen Smoak, regional program coordinator for The Cooperative Extension Program at A&T’s Western District, will introduce the video, which features Gary Morrell of Alexander County, the 2007 Gilmer L. and Clara Y. Dudley Small Farmer of the Year.

10:30 a.m. – Panel Discussion: Marketing Sustainable Agriculture in Western NC

Moderator: Bill Hanlin, Extension agent for Alexander and Wilkes counties

Panels:
* Dr. Gina Fernandez, an Extension specialist and researcher with NC State University, specializes in blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, and the emerging small fruit industries in North Carolina.

* Dr. Jeannine Davis, an NC State Extension specialist and researcher, is the coordinator of the NC Specialty Crops Program at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Fletcher, NC. Davis’ alternative crop specialties include medicinal herbs and heirloom vegetables.

* Mike Lanier, one of Extension’s area agriculture business agents, has been working in Orange and adjacent counties to create networking infrastructures for farmers marketing commodities directly to local consumers.

Noon – Lunch on site
Luncheon speaker: Dr. Stacy Tomas, Extension sustainable tourism parks, recreation & tourism management specialist Tomas’s topic will be “Agritourism in Western NC”

1 to 3 p.m. – Tour of Gary Morrell’s Greengo Orchard
(184 Hummingbird Lane, Taylorsville)

Tuesday, April 1
1 to 4 p.m. – Educational Forums: Demonstrations in Animal Agriculture* A&T STATE UNIVERSITY FARM

1 p.m. – Pastures, Fences and Equipment for Pastured Swine Production Mike Jones, Extension associate

2 p.m. – Goat Hoof Trimming and Administering Medications Dr. Ralph Noble, NC A&T State University Dept. of Animal Sciences and Gary Summers, A&T research technician

3 p.m. – Forages for Pastured Poultry Dr. Willie Willis, NC A&T Dept. of Animal Sciences; Rickie Holness, Extension associate; and Anthony Hooks, A&T research technician

5 to 8 p.m. – Local Foods Supper and Roundtable on “Branding Your Local Product” HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
(3114 Cedar Park Road — I-85 & Lee Street)

Panelists:
* David Roach, founder of Mo’ Better Food, an Oakland, CA, organization that is uniting African American farmers and urban consumers.

* Charlie Jackson, whose consumer information work in western North Carolina has people buying locally and thinking “Appalachian Grown.”

* Lee Menius, the field coordinator for the North Carolina CHOICES livestock program, which is finding markets for livestock that is certified organic, antibiotic-free, and environmentally friendly.

* Dr. John O’Sullivan, farm management and marketing specialist for The Cooperative Extension Program at A&T, has varied experiences “Ramping up the Tailgate Market Brand.”

Wednesday, April 2
Small Farmers Appreciation Day at NC A&T*

9 to 11 a.m. – Farm to Fork: Concurrent Sessions
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
(3114 Cedar Park Road — I-85 & Lee Street)

Presiding: Dr. Keith Baldwin, Program Leader, The Cooperative Extension Program at A&T

Session I: The Ins and Outs of Marketing Livestock Locally
Dr. Beth Yongue, a veterinarian and administrator with the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences Meats and Poultry Division; Joe DePippo, president of Hain Pure Protein Corporation; and Brittany Whitmire and Mike Lanier of NC Cooperative Extension will lead the program.

Session II: To Market, To Market: Selling Products from Rural Counties in Urban Markets
Program leader will be David Roach of Mo’ Better Food.

Session III: (at the Horticulture Unit at the University Farm)
Rickie Holness and Steve Moore of Cooperative Extension will be covering high tunnel production, forcing spring bulbs and lettuce.

Noon – Small Farmers Appreciation Luncheon
ALUMNI FOUNDATION EVENTS CENTER
(Bluford Street and Benbow Road on the A&T campus)

Dr. M. Ray McKinnie, associate dean and administrator for The Cooperative Extension Program, will be presiding; Steve Troxler, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture and Dr. Alton Thompson, dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at A&T, will have a few remarks before the featured speaker is introduced.

Speaker: Frank Taylor, Winston County Self Help Cooperative (Louisville, MS)

The Winston County Self Help Cooperative provides educational programs and assistance to meet the agricultural needs of community members ranging from youth to seniors. Taylor and his organization are widely recognized and have won several awards. They are members of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives.

Student Research Poster Competition Winners
ALUMNI FOUNDATION EVENTS CENTER

The Agricultural Research Program and the A&T chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society for agriculture, have a research poster contest for SAES students in conjunction with Small Farms Week each year. The three top entries in both the graduate and undergraduate competitions will be on display at the Alumni Foundation Events Center during the Small Farmers Appreciation Day luncheon.

* A $20 registration fee is required for Tuesday and Wednesday activities. Small farmers who have registered in advance are exempt. Registration deadline is March 14.