

WE STAND WITH OUR FARMERS



Zach Faircloth baling hay, Roseboro



The Smith Family, Roseboro

IT ALL STARTS WITH OUR FARMERS

Let us not forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts will follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization. – Daniel Webster

Farmers hold the world in their hands. Without them, we would go hungry. They are, without question, one of the truly most indispensable groups of people on the face of the earth.

They aren't, as some would have us believe, a nuisance, and the jobs they do sun-up to sundown aren't intended to be a nuisance either. These men and women are just trying to earn a living, doing jobs which, in truth, mean they are providing the staple goods that wind up on our tables and in our bellies, day after day, month after month, year after year.

Farmers are our neighbors and friends. They go to church with us, buy groceries at our local stores, contribute to our schools, support our benefits and contribute to the local economy in enormous ways. They are not some nefarious group trying to wreak havoc on people's lives or neighborhoods. If you have lived in places like Sampson and Duplin counties for any amount of time, you know this and believe it with every fiber of your being.

The facts bear out the impact farmers have on counties like ours: 72.6 percent of Sampson's total value-added income comes from agriculture; 53.6 percent of the county's employment is linked to agriculture; there are 1,067 farming operations in Sampson alone and about that same number in Duplin; 48 percent of Sampson's land is farmed or a total of 604,599 acres; some 80 percent of hog farms in the state are family farms run by hard-working men and women; hog farmers in NC feed 20 million people in the US each year. And the list could continue.

But it's so much more than just what farmers give back that makes us respect them so much. It's their heart, their work ethic, their downhome love for God and country, their love of the land and the way they care for their communities. You can see it in the protective way they care for the land, in the thankfulness they show when they sit down at the table to eat, in the strength of character they have displayed even now, when their very livelihoods are being threatened.

We respect our farmers so much, and support them on the pages of our newspaper in myriad ways day after day. That is why we felt it important to show, in a big way, how we, and those within our communities stand behind them now, believing in what they do, respecting their right to do it and understanding that without them all or our lives would be far, far different.

That's what We Stand With Our Farmers is all about. On these pages, you will see the faces of men, women and children who are representative of farm families across Sampson and Duplin counties. You will see dozens of individuals, businesses and industries who, like us, believe in our farmers and support them at every turn. You will see the way people joined together earlier this summer in Raleigh during the Ag Rally. And we hope you can sense what we know: that our farmers are vital to us; they are appreciated; they are needed; and we will stand beside them and fight with them to assure that what they do and who they are isn't berated.

As an exclamation point to the support we, and our advertising sponsors, are showing through these pages, The Sampson Independent is donating a portion of the proceeds from this special project to NC Farm Families, a way to put action behind our belief in them and what they do each and every single day.

Farmers are the lifeblood of our society. We are grateful to them and thankful for them.



The Sherrill Strickland Family



Cody Mercer, Turkey



H&J Farms, The Phillips Family, Warsaw



Ashley Grimes and Cheri Vann, Faison

Standing behind the men, women and children who are our farm families!

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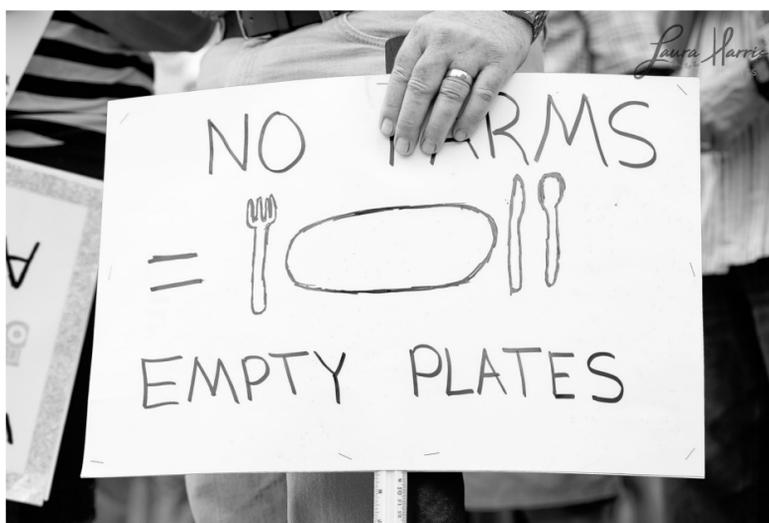
My farming roots run deep and so does my respect for our farmers!

“Our deep respect for the land and its harvest is the legacy of generations of farmers who put food on our tables, preserved our landscape, and inspired us with a powerful work ethic.”

- James H. Douglas, Jr.

Albert Kirby

WE STAND WITH OUR FARMERS NC AG RALLY-JUNE 2018



Photos Courtesy of Laura Butler Harris

NORTH CAROLINA'S SAMPSON COUNTY RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, agriculture and agribusiness is the number one industry in North Carolina contributing \$85 billion to our State's Economy; and

WHEREAS, Sampson County, where 48% of our county is farmed and more than 50% of our employment is linked to agriculture, ranks #1 in NC farm cash receipts and is the most diverse agricultural county in the state and

WHEREAS, our nation enjoys a food supply that is abundant, affordable and among the world's safest, thanks in large part to the efficiency and productivity of North Carolina's farmers; and

WHEREAS, our farmers provide the food, fuel, and fiber for our state and our country; and

WHEREAS, agriculture touches the life of everyone, whether it be in our daily meals or the clothes we wear; and

WHEREAS, farming supports other community businesses and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that we are going to need to increase food production by at least 70 percent by 2050 to meet the growing world food demands; and

WHEREAS, we are losing farmland at an alarming rate and it is getting progressively more difficult to recruit and retain farmers willing to work our state's land; and

WHEREAS, we need to support our agricultural industry and our farmers, and encourage a safe and abundant food supply.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Sampson, do hereby support the NC Farm Act of 2018 and our agricultural community.

ADOPTED the 9th day of July, 2018.



We Stand with our Farmers

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Duplin County
Sheriff Blake Wallace



Chris FANN

For **CLERK of COURT**

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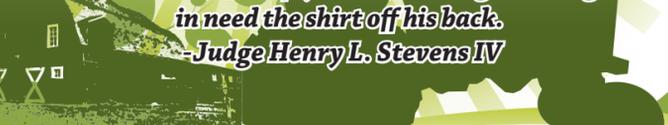
STAND WITH OUR FARMERS!



Judge Henry L. Stevens IV

On July 10th, as I sat down to eat dinner with my family, one of my 6 year old twins gave thanks for the food set before us, and asked for God's Blessing for "THE HANDS WHO PREPARED IT". Having shared the support and fellowship of the community at a gathering on the immaculate Joey Carter farm in Hallsville that day, I suddenly and sadly realized that I had always thought "THE HANDS who PREPARED" the food were mine or my wife's who had done the cooking.... Please join me asking God's Blessing on those who work the fields and raise the livestock 24/7/365 to thanklessly feed the world by the sweat of their brow; who directly and indirectly provide us jobs to support our families; and most whom, if simply asked, would give a neighbor in need the shirt off his back.

-Judge Henry L. Stevens IV



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The farmer has to be an optimist, or he wouldn't be a farmer.

We Stand with our Farmers



Sampson County is the most diverse agricultural county in North Carolina

48% of Sampson County is farmed

Average farm size in Sampson County is 273 acres

Sampson County is ranked #1 in NC farm cash receipts

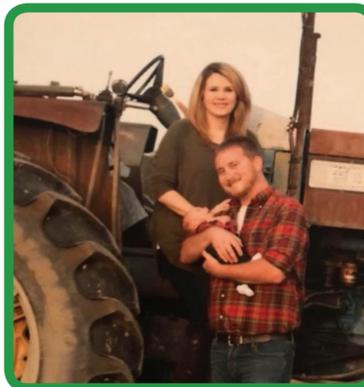
Average annual wage of North Carolina pork industry employees is \$40,000.



Butler Farms



Matthew Moore and Morgan Lee
Ivanhoe Blueberry Farms
Ivanhoe, NC



Charlie, Lauren & Ronnie Cason McCullen,
McCullen Farms



James Lucas and Marleigh getting in the hay in Turkey NC



Jackson (age 3) and Jordan working at Underwood farms hog nursery-
contracted through Smithfield Foods

Sampson County is #1 in sweet potatoes, tobacco, turkey

- #2 in pork
- #4 in soybeans and corn
- #5 in cattle and broilers (meat chickens)
- #7 in cotton

Average age of farmer in Sampson County is 56

- Sampson County has 604,599 acres
- Average farm size in Sampson County is 273 acres
- Sampson County has 1067 farming operations
- Field crops in Sampson County is 61.5%
- Pasture in Sampson County is 6.8%
- Woodland in Sampson County is 25.7%
- Sampson County is the most diverse agricultural county in North Carolina

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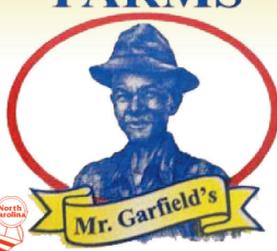
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We Stand with our Farmers

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Mr. Garfield's Pudding

Goodness Grows in North Carolina

If the farmer is poor then so is the whole country.

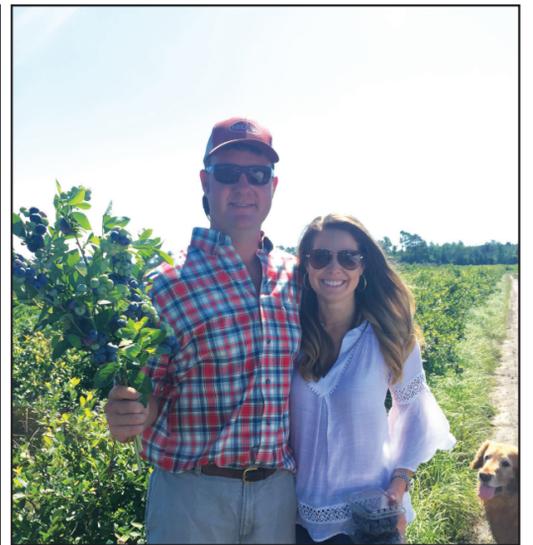
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We Stand with our Farmers



NC Farm Families
#StandForHogFarms

Farmer's Daughter



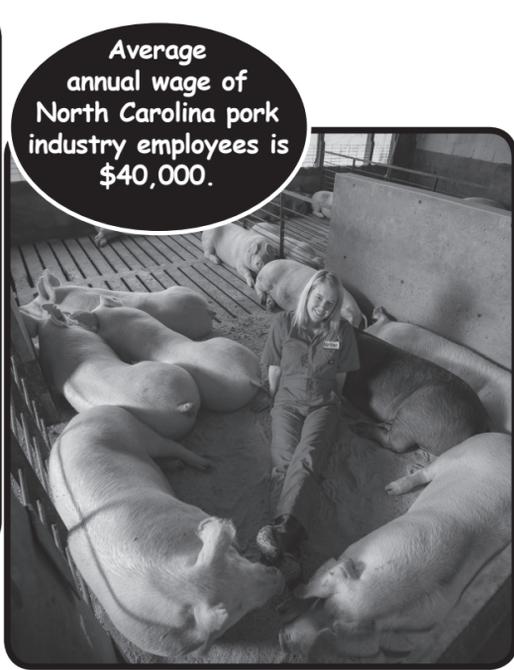
From left to right
Craven & Eloise Register, Carlton Register, C.L Register
(deceased)
& sitting Lynn Register Daughtry



Ashton & Anniston Fann
We are from Clinton and proudly support NC Farmers!
Brooke Fann



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Jay Sullivan, Jarman Sullivan,
GJ Sullivan, Jr., and Will Sullivan

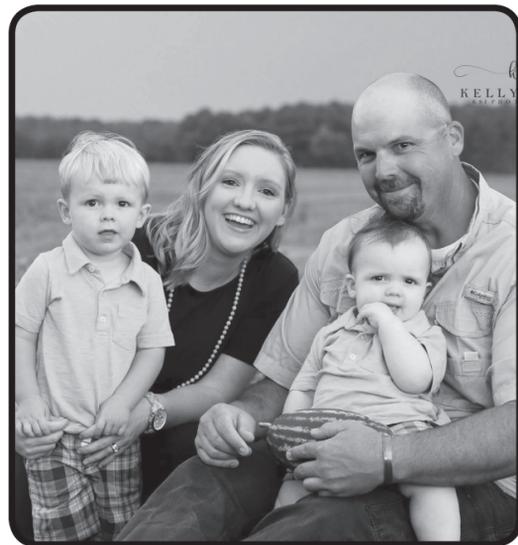


Average
annual wage of
North Carolina pork
industry employees is
\$40,000.

Marlowe Vaughan
Fourth generation farmer
Wayne Co, NC



Keagan and Madison Warren
Wallace NC



RFF Farms
The Petersons



Smith Family

Sampson County is
ranked #1 in NC farm cash
receipts

The pork industry
in North Carolina em-
ploys more than 46,000
farmers.



Pearsall Farms Inc.
Started growing for Prestage Farms in 1994. Elbert
and Lois Pearsall
(owners and operators) and grandson Logan McLamb
who has Papa's back!

\$1.36 billion value-add-
ed income of agricultural/
agribusiness products in
Sampson County

72.6% of
total county
value-added
income

53.6% of employment
is linked to agriculture in
Sampson County



Kenneth Starling on tractor with Greg Mer-
cer and Cody Mercer...getting the field ready
for the garden...Turkey,NC.



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Pork farming contributes
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Tammy Mercer



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