

To: N.C. Cooperative Extension Employees
 Date: February 2, 2016
 Subject: Welcome Event Opportunities with Dr. Richard Bonanno

Extension colleagues,

It's an exciting time for the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service as we begin another chapter in our proud history. I hope you will join me in welcoming Dr. A. Richard Bonanno, our new Extension Service director and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at NC State.

We have arranged a number of opportunities for employees to meet with Dr. Bonanno, please refer to the summary of welcome events below. We will schedule and share additional events with Dr. Bonanno over the coming weeks.

Our leadership team recognizes the importance of internal communication, particularly between administration and employees, and we'll work diligently to cultivate this dialogue going forward. Look for additional communication from Dr. Bonanno within the next week, and refer to go.ncsu.edu/BonannoWelcome for the current listing of events.

Event	Date	Time	Location	Description
Welcome Reception	2/3/16	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Lonnie Poole Club House – Terrace Dining Room	Register: go.ncsu.edu/bonanno_reception
NCDA&CS Ag Development Forum (link)	2/4/16	9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	N.C. State Fairgrounds, Holshouser Building	Features the Commissioner's "State of Agriculture" address
State Tour (District Visits)	2/22/16	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center – Mills River, NC	Breakfast meeting
		11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Burke County, Extension Office – Morganton, NC	Lunch meeting
		6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Union County, Extension Office – Monroe, NC	Dinner meeting
	2/23/16	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	TBD (North Central district)	Breakfast meeting
		10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Educational Center – Reidsville, NC	Meet with staff & tour facility
		6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	East Carolina Ag & Education Center – Rocky Mount, NC	Dinner meeting
	2/24/16	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Lenoir County, Extension Office – Kinston, NC	Breakfast meeting
All Employees Update Webinar	2/29/16	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Details will be provided in advance

Dr. Bonanno Background

While Dr. Bonanno has spent much of his life in Massachusetts, he is no stranger to North Carolina. After earning his Ph.D. in plant physiology and horticultural crops from Oregon State University in 1982, he joined the NC State faculty, serving as a Cooperative Extension weed specialist and CALS researcher for vegetable crops from 1983 to 1989.

Dr. Bonanno brings strong experience in and commitment to agriculture, Extension education and leadership. In addition to owning a successful vegetable and flower operation north of Boston, Dr. Bonanno has been an adjunct professor and Extension educator with the University of Massachusetts since 1989. His focus has been vegetable and small fruit weed management for the six New England states. He has also provided leadership for New England in training efforts related to fresh produce food safety.



Dr. A. Richard Bonanno, director of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NC State

Dr. Bonanno also has significant administrative and leadership experience, having served for the past six years as president of the 6,000-member Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. In that volunteer position, his work focused on local, state and national regulatory and legislative issues affecting agriculture. He has also served on the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors.

We're fortunate to have someone as accomplished and capable as Dr. Bonanno to guide NC State's largest educational outreach program through crucial phases of its strategic plan and help position the organization for continued success.

On a more personal note, it has been an honor and a pleasure serving as the interim director of the Extension Service. From the time I began as a 4-H and livestock agent in Pasquotank to my role as interim director in Patterson, I've dedicated my career to Extension because I believe in what we do. We're on the right course, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to build new relationships and contribute to our momentum during this shift in leadership.

I appreciate everyone's support and camaraderie during this time of transition; our organization is in good hands. Please join me and our Extension Service leadership team ("L4") in welcoming Dr. Bonanno to the Extension family!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Burke".

Dr. Travis Burke
Interim Director, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service
NC State University