Dear [Commodity Group or Farmer],

NC Ag Awareness Day at the General Assembly is March 20, 2019. Please save this date, make plans to attend and invite others to join us.

In addition to educating elected representatives about agriculture, NC Ag Awareness Day is an opportunity for commodities, farmers, agribusinesses, universities and ag students to provide a unified voice of the importance of North Carolina’s #1 industry. It is imperative to express our appreciation to North Carolina Legislators for their prior support and communicate how critical agriculture is to our state. Now more than ever, we need to cultivate and strengthen our relationships in the General Assembly.

We encourage everyone to visit with Senate and House members between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We urge you to make appointments. Obviously, you will not be able to see them all, but if you could make a 10-minute appointment with one or two of them it would be helpful.

Click on these links to find your local [Senator](https://www.ncleg.gov/Members/MemberList/S) or [Representative](https://www.ncleg.gov/Members/MemberList/H). You can also find the Senate Ag members at this [link](https://www.ncleg.gov/Committees/CommitteeInfo/SenateStanding/135) and the House Ag members [here](https://www.ncleg.gov/Committees/CommitteeInfo/HouseStanding/5). If you click on the member’s name it will take you directly to their contact information. You can make an appointment with their Legislative Assistant listed on their website. We will be handing out brief talking points at the Fairgrounds that will help you start the conversation.

The Ag Awareness Day Committee is urging everyone to **meet at the Kerr Scott Building at the NC State Fairgrounds the morning of March 20th by 8:30 a.m.** Transportation will be provided to the General Assembly. This year the General Assembly building has new security screening measures. **No weapons, pocket knives, pepper spray, etc. is allowed. Jackets must be removed, and laptops and tablets must be taken out of their case during security screening. The less you bring, the faster you will move through security.**

If your group has a lapel pin or clothing with your logo, we ask that you wear it so that you will stand out from the crowd. We will also have NC Ag Awareness Day pins available.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you all on March 20th. Please contact Laurie Barnhart at 919-539-5821 or llbarnhart@ncgrange.com with questions or if you need help navigating the General Assembly website to make appointments.

*Be Informed, Be Involved and Be Heard.*

Best Regards,

[*INSERT NAME*]

**Overview**

**Who:** NC Farmers, Agribusinesses & Universities

**What:** NC Ag Awareness Day

**Where:** NC State Capital, Bicentennial Plaza and Legislative Complex

**When:** Wednesday, March 20, 2019 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

**Why:** Educating NC Legislators and lawmakers of the importance of NC Agriculture and how we can grow stronger together.

**Schedule**

***8:00: Gates open at the fairgrounds (Kerr Scott Building)***

***8:30: Buses depart fairgrounds to head to legislature (Meet at the Kerr Scott Building).***

***8:30-11:00: Legislative Visits-Please schedule ahead of time and note new security measures.***

***11:30-12:30: Ag Rally on Bicentennial Plaza-Comments from the Governor, Lt. Governor, Commissioner Troxler and other important officials.***

***12:30-1:30: Lunch available at the Fairgrounds (Scott Building)***

**Be Informed, Be Involved and Be Heard**

[**www.ncagr.gov/NCAgDay**](http://www.ncagr.gov/NCAgDay)