

Jean Woodley Ballance

EB Odom

Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

Northampton County

EB Odom is the Family & Consumer Extension Agent in Northampton County. She is working with the staff from Halifax and Northampton county offices to pull together a Homesteading Series. This integrated program will utilize the specialties of horticulture, livestock, family & consumer sciences and 4-H to help citizens to be more self-sufficient on their own land.

Carolyn Stanley and George Edward Barnes 4-H Graduate Education Scholarship

Pam Kerley

4-H Program Assistant

Lee County - NCCE County

Pam Kerley has been with us nearly 15 years in Lee County, first as a 4-H homeschool mom and volunteer leader, then as part-time 4-H Program Assistant, and now as a full-time 4-H Program Assistant. Her kindness, work ethic, trustworthiness and expertise make her an essential member of our team!

Carol Birkhead-Outstanding Award for County Extension Directors

William (Terry) Kelley

CED, Henderson County NC Cooperative Extension

Henderson County NC Cooperative Extension County

A mission statement helps to define an organization, and NCCE's mission has at its core the dedication of excellent teaching, the creation and application of knowledge, and the engagement with public and private partners.

As the director of Henderson County Cooperative Extension, Dr. Kelley imagines and conveys an inspiring vision of the future, inspires his staff to engage with that vision, and manages delivery of the vision. Dr. Terry Kelley personally carries this out by prioritizing personal development, encouraging strategic thinking, and teaching classes in pomology, soil science, and apiary management. Leading by example is Dr. Kelley's gift. This award would acknowledge this excellence in leadership by Dr. Kelley.

Dr. Chester & Mrs. Lucy Black 4-H Award

Meredith Wood

4-H Agent

Johnston County

Meredith Wood serves as a 4-H Agent in Johnston County. Her first 6 years in Extension were spent as the 4-H Agent in Perquimans County before moving back home to Johnston County in September of 2021. She has a passion for serving youth and families through her role as a 4-H Agent and seeks to build strong relationships with youth to help them learn and grow.

Dr. Edgar & Mrs. Ethel Boone- Professional Development

Katy Shook

Area Horticulture Agent

Chowan-Gates-Perquimans County

Katy Shook has served for 19 years as the Area Consumer Horticulture Agent in Chowan, Gates and Perquimans Counties. In 2022 she started a graduate program at North Carolina State University in the area of Horticultural Science. This award will be used for program expenses including books, supplies, and tuition.

Dr. Edgar & Mrs. Ethel Boone- Professional Development

Heather Kelejian

Therapeutic Horticulture Agent

New Hanover County

Heather Kelejian is the Therapeutic Horticulture Agent, New Hanover County. A native North Carolinian, she has roots in the state from the mountains to the sea. Entering NC Extension through the Master Gardner program was life changing experience and Heather is inspired daily by the work she gets to do.

Charles M. Brickhouse

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Area Horticulture Agent

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Charles M. Brickhouse

Brittany Whitmire

Extension Associate

Ag & Resource Economics County

n/a

Brittany Whitmire is an Extension Associate in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at NC State, and her programming is focused on the dairy industry in NC and the greater southeast, from producers and processors to policy.

Lois G. Britt Award for Outstanding Extension Agent

Steve Pettis

Associate Agent, Commercial & Consumer Horticulture

Henderson County

Steve Pettis has been the Commercial and Consumer Horticulture Agent in Henderson County for almost six years. With the growing urban population of Henderson County, his expertise is invaluable. He serves more clientele than anyone in the center. His programs are well attended and very informative. He is in great demand to speak to groups around the region. Steve's Master Gardener program is first rate and his Master Gardener's are always leaders in the state in hours donated.

Dr. Billy & Mrs. Wilma Caldwell - Leadership Award for County Extension Directors

Addie Wilson

County Extension Director

Yadkin County

Addie Wilson has worked with the Cooperative Extension for nine years and currently serves as the County Extension Director in Yadkin County. She has a passion for connecting with people who are passionate about improving the quality of life for all through research-based information.

Victoria Jean Cope Award for 4-H Agents

Meredith Wood

4-H Agent

Johnston County

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James Cowden Cooperative Extension Recognition for North Central District

Lori Davis

District Administrative Associate

County Operations- North Central District

N/A

Lori Davis, North Central District Administrative Associate, is well respected in the North Central District. She is a great source of information for the CEDs and AAs in our district. Her skill in making great things happen makes her a sought-after team member, and often team leader.

Extension Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Professional Development Scholarship

Lloyd Singleton

County Extension Director

New Hanover County - Cooperative Extension County

Lloyd Singleton has served as the County Extension Director for the N.C. Cooperative Extension New Hanover County Center and Arboretum since September of 2018. Prior to moving to Wilmington, he was University of Florida's Extension Director for Lake County, Florida and Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent for Sumter County, Florida. His previous horticulture industry experience included the role of Landscape Manager for both the theme park Universal Orlando and the oceanfront resort The Breakers Palm Beach, preparing him for the current responsibility as Arboretum director. His Masters' degree is in Agroecology from the University of Florida has shaped his perspective to take a systems approach in all aspects of his work, with a particular appreciation for diversity in all systems.

Extension Leadership Award

Karen Blaedow

Associate Extension Agent-Commercial Vegetables & Small Fruit

Henderson County

Karen Blaedow has been the commercial vegetable & small fruit agent in Henderson County since 2016. During her tenure in this position she has been instrumental in helping Henderson County farmers become more profitable and competitive through her on-farm research trials, workshops, field days and meetings. She has become known throughout the region and the state for her leadership in the field of vegetables and small fruits.

Dr. George & Mrs. Virginia Hyatt

Katy Shook

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Dr. George & Mrs. Virginia Hyatt

Hayley Cowell

Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

Stanly County

Hayley Cowell, the FCS Agent in Stanly County, works collaboratively with internal and external partners to strengthen the overall Extension program. She is eager to learn more and develop her skills as a leader while continuing to make impacts in North Carolina.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

4-H Agent Award

Jonathon Smith

4-H Agent & Interim CED

Orange/Cooperative Extension County

Jonathon Smith is a Genuine Go-Getter! He has re-established 4-H in the community and has broken down barriers in the school system. He sees a need, shares it with his advisory, creates an action plan, then implements and delivers a program! A true gem in Orange County!

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Administrative Professional Award

Keai Tilly

Administrative Assistant - Henderson County

Henderson County

Keai Tilly is the face of the Henderson County Center. She is the first person clients encounter when they call or visit. Keai keeps the train on the tracks. Her pleasant demeanor and helpful attitude endear her to clientele. She represents Extension in the most professional manner and does a great job of marketing our office through social media. Clients know Keai may not have the answer but she can get them to who does. She is a great Extension professional and an exceptional administrative assistant.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

AG/ANR Award

Karen Blaedow

Associate Agent-Commercial Vegetables & Small Fruit

Henderson County

Karen Blaedow has been the Commercial Vegetable and Small Fruit Agent in Henderson County for almost six years. She has distinguished herself through her vigorous on-farm trial program which has provided cost-cutting recommendations and information to her clientele. She also coordinates the local foods, food safety and pesticide programs for the county. She has been instrumental in growing our local farm market footprint.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

FCS Agent Award

Hayley Cowell

Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

Stanly County

Hayley Cowell, the FCS Agent in Stanly County, works collaboratively with internal and external partners to strengthen the overall Extension program. She is eager to learn more and develop her skills as a leader while continuing to make impacts in North Carolina.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

4-H Program Assistant Award

Pam Kerley

4-H Program Assistant

Lee County - NCCE County

Program Assistant/Associate/Technicians Award

Pam Kerley has been with us nearly 15 years in Lee County, first as a 4-H homeschool mom and volunteer leader, then as part-time 4-H Program Assistant, and now as a full-time 4-H Program Assistant. Her kindness, work ethic, trustworthiness and expertise make her a valued member of our team!

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

North Central District Team Award

Just Grow It Team

April Bowman, Forsyth County

Leslie Rose, Forsyth County

Cameron Waters, Formerly Forsyth County

Allison Walker, Randolph County

Liz Driscoll, NC State University

Tess Thraves, formerly NC State University

Sarah Paschall, Guilford County

Taylor Jones, Guilford County

Chasady Quinn Wudkwyd, Beaufort County

Morgan King, New Hanover County

The Just Grow It program was delivered in 52 counties through independent/at-home studies, school enrichment programs, and summer camps to engage youth in growing and eating a “salad bowl” of vegetables and herbs through the use of a website with nine lessons focused on agricultural production, health/nutrition, and environmental stewardship. Team members include: April Bowman, Leslie Rose, and Cameron Waters of Forsyth County, Elizabeth Driscoll and Tess Thraves from NC State, Allison Walker Randolph, Sarah Paschall and Taylor Jones of Guilford County, Chasady Quinn Wudkwyd, Beaufort, Morgan King, New Hanover.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Northeast District Team Award

SFE Team

Norman Harrell, Wilson County

Tommy Batts, Wilson County

Jessica Manning, Wilson County

Kenyatta Dixon, Wilson County

Sandy Hall, Nash County

Matt Stevens, Nash County

Barbara Monk, Nash County

Tanya Heath, Edgecombe County

NC Cooperative Extension in Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson counties conducted a three county 4-H STEM “Growing Giants” project in 2022. The project included 4-H’ers from all three counties learning practices to grow giant watermelons and pumpkins and participating at the Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival in October.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

South Central District Team Award

2022 Lee County "Ag Week"- Farm Forward

NCCE- Lee County Center Team

Bill Stone, County Extension Director

Meredith Favre, Local Foods Agent

Ashley Szilvay, Family and Consumer Science Agent

Pam Kerley, 4-H Program Assistant

Rhonda Gaster, Administrative Assistant

In an effort to educate residents and stakeholders about the importance and value of agriculture in Lee County, the N.C. Cooperative Extension team launched the first annual Lee County "Ag Week". The week-long program titled, "Farm Forward", was created to recognize the dynamic and diverse potential for agriculture in Lee County that can be achieved through innovation and adaptation.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Southeast District Team Award

Cow Camp 101: Back to Basics

Paul Gonzalez, Southeast District, Sampson, Clinton

Martha Mobley, Northeast District, Franklin, Louisburg

Cow Camp 101: Back to the Basics

Paul Gonzalez, Sampson County and Martha Mobley, Franklin County are livestock agents with over 60 years in the beef cattle industry and over 53 years as livestock agents. Martha and Paul joke that their cattle farms are “experiment stations,” as they usually try something before it is recommended to producers.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Specialist Award

Brent Jennings

Extension Associate

Animal Science

Brent Jennings is an exceptional State 4-H Youth Livestock specialist. His compassion for ensuring the youth of NC gain valuable experiences in animal agriculture from educational opportunities, skill development, to show ring opportunities is unmatched.

NCCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Overall Agent Award

Jonathon Smith

4-H Agent & Interim CED

Orange/Cooperative Extension County

Jonathon Smith is a Genuine Go-Getter! He has re-established 4-H in the community and has broken down barriers in the school system. He sees a need, shares it with his advisory, creates an action plan, then implements and delivers a program! A true gem in Orange County!

NCCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Overall Team Award

Southeast District

Cow Camp 101: Back to Basics

Paul Gonzalez, Southeast District, Sampson, Clinton

Martha Mobley, Northeast District, Franklin, Louisburg

Cow Camp 101: Back to the Basics

Paul Gonzalez, Sampson County and Martha Mobley, Franklin County are livestock agents with over 60 years in the beef cattle industry and over 53 years as livestock agents. Martha and Paul joke that their cattle farms are “experiment stations,” as they usually try something before it is recommended to producers.

Ort Family Scholarship for Outstanding Cooperative Extension Personnel

Rebekah Benton

Associate EFNEP Educator

Columbus County

Rebekah Benton has worked for Columbus County Cooperative Extension since 2002. Education has always been important to her. Since she has been with North Carolina Cooperative Extension, she has received her Associate's Degree in Science & Bachelor's of Science. She is currently planning to work towards her Master's of Extension.

Research Friend of Extension Award

Jeff Chandler

Director, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center

North Carolina Agricultural Research Service

Jeff Chandler is the Director of the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center. He has been a great friend of Extension in his role there since he began. Mr. Chandler has improved the facilities of the location and made it possible for the faculty there to continue to provide greater information to our growers. He hosts many field days, workshops and meetings at his facility and always welcomes the local extension faculty to conduct events there and supports them fully.

Lathan F. Smith, Jr. Award of Excellence in 4-H Award

Matthew Barber

Davidson County 4-H Agent

Davidson County

Matt Barber have been with NC Cooperative Extension for 10 years, serving as the 4-H Agent first in Stokes County and currently in Davidson County. His program focuses on leadership development, individual strength building and reaching underserved audiences. Matt's favorite part of the job is helping young people build self-confidence.

Dr. R. Marshall & Mrs. Jan Stewart 4-H Leadership Award

Tammara Talley

Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development

Macon County

Tammara Talley, Macon County 4-H Agent, reaches over 7,000 4-H youth through her leadership and guidance to well over 200 volunteers annually. The advisory council, core, episodic, and community volunteers contributed over 700 hours valued at more than \$19,000 to Macon County 4-H in 2021.

Dr. Sandra Zaslow Professional Development Award

Ashley Szilvay

Family and Consumer Science Agent

Lee County- NCCE County

Ashley Szilvay, Family and Consumer Science Agent in Lee County has a passion for community-based nutrition education along with the clients she serves, and takes great joy in making a positive impact on their lives through educating and assisting them in making healthier food choices.

Dr. Joe & Mrs. Lise Zublena Program Impact Award

Greg Traywick

County Extension Director

Cleveland County

Greg Traywick has leveraged significant resources and provided technical assistance and oversight to administer several innovative agricultural economic development projects in Cleveland County. These projects have positively impacted farms and agribusinesses farms and agribusinesses in the region.