For individuals who would like to become a Certified Operator in Charge, the following classes have been scheduled:

**Type A Certification Classes:**  
April 5 and April 6, 2005 from 9:00AM – 4PM *both days* at the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Center, Fayetteville. Contact Tyrone Fisher at 252.534.2711 for more information.

July 12 and July 13, 2005 from 9AM – 4PM *both days* at the Craven County Cooperative Extension Center in New Bern, NC. Contact Amy Andrews at 252.633.1477 for more information.

October 18 and 19, 2005 from 9AM – 4PM *both days* at the Duplin County Extension Center in Kenansville, NC. Contact Star Jackson at 910.296.2143 for more information.

**Continuing Education Credit Classes:**

Remember you need 6 hours of continuing education credits every three years and pay your $10 yearly renewal fee in order to remain an Operator in Charge.

**February 16-17, 2005** – NC Pork Council Annual Conference, Greenville Convention Center, Greenville, NC. Contact Ashley Blizzard at 919.781.0361 for more information.

**February 24, 2005** – A series of classes will be offered at the Onslow County Cooperative Extension Center in Jacksonville, NC. There is a $5 registration fee for one or all of the classes being offered. Contact Diana Rashash at 910.455.5873 to register. The following classes will be offered with the number of continuing education credits in parenthesis.

- 9AM–11AM Forage Maintenance, Weed Control, and High Quality Hay (2)
- 11:15AM–11:45AM Inspection Update (.5)
- 1PM–1:30PM Rodent Control (.5)
- 1:45PM–3:45PM Virtual Tour of 10 Environmentally Superior Waste Management Technologies (2)
- 4PM-5PM Sludge Removal & Application (1)

**February 3, 2005** – The Duplin County Cattlemen's Association will meet at the Duplin Extension Center Auditorium at 7:30PM. An educational program on external and internal parasite control will
be presented.

**February 11-12, 2005** - NC Cattlemen’s Conference, Metro Center, Hickory, NC. Contact Bundy Plyler at the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association at 1.800.552.9216.

### Horse News

The Duplin County Cooperative Extension in conjunction with James Sprunt Community College will provide a Horse Short Course during the month of March. The workshops will be held from 6PM – 8PM on Tuesday March 8, 15, 22, 29. Topics to be covered will include Pasture Management and Fencing, Horse Nutrition, Horse Health, and Hoof Care. Contact Star Jackson, Duplin County Cooperative Extension 910.296.2143 or Nichole Thompson, James Sprunt Community College 910.296.2538.

**Soybean Growers to Promote Livestock Industry**
The United Soybean Board officials have announced that their No. 2 priority, behind soybean rust, is promoting the livestock industry. The USB has a plan to educate growers about the U.S. livestock industry, which uses 94 percent of all U.S. soybean meal. The plans include a state-by-state economic analysis, developing partnerships with livestock organizations, and launching a communication and education program to educate producers and consumers about the livestock industry’s contributions to the nation.

### Cultivating Computer Skills

This series of computer classes will help producers cultivate computer skills in order to be more proficient on the Internet and with programs available for keeping production and livestock records. Classes will be offered at James Sprunt Community College in the Hall Building Room 125 E on the following Thursdays in February: 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2005, from 6pm to 8pm. Class size is limited to the first 15 paid registrants. Contact Star Jackson at 910.296.2143 or Nicole Thompson at 910.296.2538 for more information.

### Fourth Annual Eastern Carolina Horse Festival

will be held on March 19, 2004 at the Wayne Regional Fair Grounds from 10AM – 5PM in Goldsboro, NC. Admission $5 (10 and under free).

Contact Eileen Coite at the Wayne County Cooperative Extension for more information at 919.731.1525.

### FOR CANINE BLOOD DONORS

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital at NC State is offering dog owners incentives--free vaccinations, comprehensive health-care screenings and lifetime blood transfusion--for their pets if they qualify as donors for a canine blood bank. To learn more: go to following website or contact Samantha Normandin at 919/513-6030


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Sincerely,

Star Jackson
Extension Agent
Livestock