

# The Harvest



News and Views from the North Carolina Agricultural Consultants Association

April 2011



## FEBRUARY 23rd WAS AN NCACA BLAST!

What a great day we all had! The Second Annual NCACA Spring Fever Sporting Clay Shoot opened the day at Hunters' Pointe Sporting Clay in Washington. Nearly 60 consultants, growers, industry reps and friends of agriculture joined us for the scholarship fund raiser shoot and membership lunch, and we netted over \$3500 for the NCACA Scholarship Funds. Mark Elliott chaired the event and each shooter received a Cabela's camo gear bag and the winners and runner-ups received Cabela's gift certificates, hats and certificates.

Special thanks are in order to our corporate sponsors for their support of this annual NCACA fund raising event. Our two Gold Sponsors were BASF and Monsanto, the four Silver Sponsors were Americot, Bayer, Pioneer Hi-Bred and Valent, as well as we had two Shooting Station Sponsors Nichino and Valent. These companies contributed \$4300 to help underwrite this event and raise funds for our CALS scholarships.

The teams shot the entire course, 14 stations and 100 targets . The team scores ranged from an average high of 71 per shooter to a low of 38, and the individual scores ranged from a phenomenal 91 to 18. Following the morning shoot, the participants were joined by other consultants and we enjoyed a home cooked lunch of barbecued chicken, some incredible beans,slaw, ice tea and cookies as part of the awards ceremony. There was enough for seconds, and even thirds for some of the shooters ..... really good chow!!



Thank you sponsors: (left to right) Margo Breisch, Nichino; Malone Rosemond, Bayer; Tom McKemie, BASF; NCACA President Bruce Niederhauser; Bob Pleasants, Monsanto and Dennis McCoy, Pioneer Hi-Bred!!



Shoot Chairman Mark Elliott (blue shirt) is pleased after a quality control check of the lunch.



Serious men doing some serious eating of serious food; it's all good!

# SHOT OF A LIFETIME

by Mark Elliott, 2011 Education Committee and Sporting Clay Shoot Chairman



Cool, crisp, bright and beautiful, you know one of those ole North Carolina mornings usually spent over a huge TO-DO list, tons of farm, lime and fertilizer maps, spilt coffee, while trying to do the speed limit, wishing there was more hours in the day... kind of mornings. No, this day was set aside as a day to help raise funds for college scholarships, shoot for bragging rights, and more importantly spend some quality time with my growers.

This year the 2nd Annual NCACA Spring Fever Sporting Clay Event not only yielded some terrific sportsmen but more importantly some enjoyable experiences with a few of my "future" growers, some current growers, fellow consultants, industry folks, and even some old friends. The greatest part was the opportunity to spend time with the "farmer's sons." I figure these guys to be my "future clients," (my new bosses). Right off the bat, I felt a little confidence, the feeling you get when you had been practicing for this thing for two months. During the practice rounds a few guys were giving some tips and advice on shooting well to help all us greenhorns (these guys somehow wound up on the President's Team).

A few shooters were trying for the first time, picking up the sport pretty well, men and women. I was pretty confident that my team, The Young Bucks, would win the whole thing, you know young guys, duck hunters, born with shotguns: we would rule the day!! Long story short...it took me till the fourth shooting station till I hit my first target. My team had a blast, no one feeling bad about their scores, especially since I was on their team. We laughed, shared stories, they helped me get better at shooting and my "future growers" from two opposite parts of the world had a sincerely great time. I kept assuring everyone that I was "sandbagging" to win one of the lower bracket prizes, that's why I wasn't hitting many targets.

Lunch was awesome and my whole team went back for seconds. We had an awesome time raising money the education of tomorrow's future Agriculturists, and even got a really sweet hunting bag to carry home. The whole event was truly fun and all the hard work could be seen. Way better than last year! Heck, even last year's worst shot got better (anyone remember that guy?). A big congrats to the Cargill team. Man those guys are good!! How' bout a lesson? So maybe next year if you are feeling the need for some quality time with your growers, we'll take some first-timers and show you the ropes, but I dare you to do the worst. We give out prizes for that too!!



Top Team Score: Team Cargill: Joe Etheridge, Mike Stallings, Ned Nixon, Shae Nixon and Robert Buckles with NCACA Pres Bruce Niederhauser.



"A" Flight Champion: Joe Etheridge 91 and "A" Flight Runner Up: Ned Nixon 76



"B" Flight Champion: Loren Fisher 62 and "B" Flight Runner Up: Bob Pleasants 61



"C" Flight Champion: Bruce Niederhauser 55 and "C" Flight Runner Up: Jeremy Barnes 53



"D" Flight Champion: Daniel Fowler 38 and "D" Flight Runner Up: Dennis McCoy 37



Special Cabela's "I Need More Ammo" \$25 Gift Certificate is presented to Norm Harrell (the shooter needing to shoot more) by Bruce Niederhauser



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## CROP PESTS: 2011 NCACA EDUCATIONAL TARGET

After the lunch and the awards ceremony, consultants moved up the road to Williamston and the Martin County Cooperative Extension Office for an outstanding program. This year's 2011 Spring Education Meeting was packed full of NC State University's elite faculty for Pest Management. Dr. David Jordan began the meeting with a few tips on Optimizing

**FROM THE DESK  
OF MARK E. ELLIOTT**  
2011 NCACA Education Chairman



Dr. David Jordan opens the afternoon Spring Conference to a packed house.

Herbicide Performance. His strategy of controlling weeds early with the right herbicide and tank additive was his main focus. Josh Spencer of NRCS spoke about the new Farm Bill changes and how it affects our TSP members and EQIP program. Finally our first insecticide discussion roundtable was a huge success. Dr. Mark Abney, Dr. Dominic Reisig, and Dr. Jack Batchelor were very attentive to all of our questions. They were interested to hear our concerns about insect management. Many

of the questions we had were answered; however, most of them only spurred more questions and hopefully research to find answers. We were able to review most crops, but some were not covered due to time. There is additional information not covered in the meeting that will be available. You can check out all of the PowerPoint's and notes from this meeting on the website soon.



Part of the attendees glued to the afternoon technical sessions at the Spring Conference.

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# **NCACA SEC/TRES DANIEL FOWLER GRADUATES ... AGAIN!!**

*NCACA Secretary/Treasurer Daniel Fowler is one of 30 professionals who graduated from the Agricultural Leadership Development Program in November. They represent the full spectrum of North Carolina agriculture. Created in 1984 as the Philip Morris Agricultural Leadership Development Program, which was open only to tobacco growers, the new program has expanded to include all types of agricultural professionals.*

*Dr. Bill Collins, senior director of development for the CALS Department of Crop Science, and Dr. Billy Caldwell, associate director emeritus of North Carolina Cooperative Extension, have led the program together since the mid-'80s. Dr. Lanny Hass and Eleanor Stell of Extension's Personal and Organizational Development group also provide leadership and training and manage the program's day-to-day operation.*

*"This program is equivalent to, or exceeds, any executive development program at any corporation," Hass says. "We're training these young leaders to compete in a world in which they need to be competitive."*

*Collins says, "We teach the participants how to form consensus, because those impacted by a decision should be involved in the process. They're learning the issues facing North Carolina agriculture today and into the future."*

*The program also focuses on the mastery of self and relationships, and social and organizational action. "The program has helped me to understand people and to solve and analyze problems better," says Beth Foster, a recent graduate and Washington County farm owner. "It has given me more confidence in myself. I have become more engaged and a better leader."*

*Foster also credits the program with enabling participants to form valuable connections and lasting professional relationships.*

*In addition to seminars in Raleigh, program participants take a legislative study tour in Washington, D.C., a study tour to Brazil and local and domestic study tours.*

*"The travel was a wonderful experience," says David Heath, a recent program grad and Craven County farmer. "We saw everything from a farm in southern Brazil with 3 acres of tobacco being worked by a young man and his wife with two oxen, to a farm in California with more than 70 six-row cotton pickers."*

*Hubbard says the travel broadened his understanding of U.S. and international agriculture and policy. "Learning about agriculture in California gave me new ways to understand water usage, farmland preservation and other issues that will affect North Carolina increasingly in the coming decades," he says.*

*Program graduate Scott Bissette, marketing specialist for the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, says the travel experience "gave us the opportunity to see firsthand what our competitors are up to and the obstacles they face."*

*While the program has come to a close for these 30 graduates, the experience will last a lifetime, Collins says. "We see program participants become more confident, more capable of managing issues and better equipped to lead the industry when they graduate," he says. "This program changes people's lives."*

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