

N.C. Cooperative Extension
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Small Farms Week “Inspiring Farmers, Sustaining Farms”

The Agriculture sector is valued at \$91.8 billion dollars and small farmers comprise 80 percent of all farmers. Small farmers are the backbone of a huge industry that is vitally important to our state.

NCA&T State University annually hosts “Small Farms Week” to highlight the work and show appreciation to the state’s small, part-time, limited-resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers. Small Farms Week highlights the contributions of small farmers, while offering information and education that can help them be more profitable and resilient. Small Farms Week is one of the signature yearly programs conducted through Cooperative Extension at N.C. A&T University. Small Farms Week workshops and educational programs cover a wide range of topics-including plant and livestock production, farm management, marketing strategies, new and alternative crops, and new technologies in farming. An example of this is, drones used for aerial agricultural monitoring.

This year would have been the 34th annual Small Farms Week, but unfortunately with the COVID-19 virus spreading around the country, the annual observance and scheduled educational programs have been canceled.

In Avery County, there are several small farm families producing food to sell directly to consumers through farm stores, CSA shares, or tailgate markets. With restaurants canceling orders and events being closed, this is an excellent time to reach out to these farm families to purchase locally grown food! The chickens are still laying eggs, farm animals are still being processed for meat, and seed is still being sown.

For more information, please contact the Avery County Cooperative Extension Center at 828-733-8270.

