

# Tar Heel HOMEMAKERS E-news

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## 2025-26 Leadership Team

President Dorothy Wagstaff, Person County

President-elect

Past President Wanda Denning, Wake County

Vice Presidents

North Central Ann Wagoner, Forsyth County  
Virginia Lopez, Liaison Agent

Northeast

Janie Green, Wake County  
Gina Garcia-somuk, Liaison Agent

South Central

Audrey Hunt, Gaston County  
Linda Minges, Liaison Agent

Southeast

Regenia Bell, Carteret County  
Stephanie Stevenson, Liaison Agent

West

Kelly Dale, Rutherford County  
Sheri Ledford, Liaison Agent

Appointed Parliamentarian

Wanda Denning, Wake County

Appointed Treasurer

Dana Croston, Gaston County

Association advisor

Peggie Garner

Cultural Arts Co-chairs

TBD

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## Notes From Your President . . .

Happy New Year!

2025 has started off with a bang. So much has happened so quickly. I am asking that you send your prayers and support for those impacted by the fires in California. Please support any effort that you can to help those who have lost everything and pray for the bereaved families who lost loved ones.

We still have those in North Carolina recovering from Hurricane Helene. Please continue to support those families still impacted. I wish to give a big Thanks to NVON for sending a donation. We were able to purchase a generator which was sent to Western, North Carolina, in January, with the money donated by NVON. Other items still needed by the families are generators (20# LP tanks, gas grill size), tools and building supplies.

There will not be a State Conference this year, but I am looking forward to the district meetings that will be held and attending. There are two District Days coming up in March. The Northeast District Day is March 20<sup>th</sup>. The West District Day is March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Also, we will be working this year on our Strategic Plan. Thanks to all who are continuing to work on this plan. This year we will focus on implementing the strategies set forth in this plan.

Continue to support your Liaison Agent as you and they work together to improve the lives of those in your communities.

Have a blessed year and stay focused on helping in your communities as needed.

*Dorothy*

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# Across the State

## Northeast

Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Wake, Warren, Washington

*Spring in to ECA!* District Day – March 20<sup>th</sup> in Pitt County!

## Southeast

Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Wayne & Wilson

## Wayne County

In 2021, the population of food-insecure individuals in North Carolina was more than 1.2 million, at a rate of 11.8%. That's about one million, at a rate of 11.8%. That's about one person facing limited access to nutritionally adequate food in every eight people in our state.



Every year, the **Wayne County ECA** collects donations during their Annual Christmas Bazaar. In addition, members contribute extra items to food baskets, which are then distributed to assemble 40 families in need with the assistance of 4-H volunteers.



in every eight adequate food food donations addition, assemble 40 families in need



Volunteers from diverse backgrounds unite to take part in the Operation Christmas Project every year, showcasing the genuine essence of generosity and community spirit. Among the many organizations supporting this initiative is the **Wayne County ECA**. This year, ECA members contributed 51 boxes for children aged 10 to 14 and made a monetary donation to cover shipping costs.



**North Central**

Alamance, Alleghany, Ashe, Caswell, Chatham,  
Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Granville,  
Guilford, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham,  
Stokes, Surry, Vance, Wilkes, Yadkin

**Caswell County**



**Caswell ECA** held their annual holiday luncheon, educational program, and baby blanket collection community service project.

**Alexander County**

**Alexander ECA "Pearls of Wisdom" Club** members visited the Lucas Mansion for their Annual Victorian Christmas Open House as their club outing. The Lucas Mansion is a historic three-story, late Victorian- style home built in 1900 by eccentric inventor, author, and entrepreneur James Paul Lucas.

Club members toured the restored first floor that showcased what the turn of 20th-century life was like. The theme for this year's annual event was Tiny Things and club members were suggested to look for tiny details or collections from Mr. Lucas scattered throughout the house.

The **Pearls of Wisdom** collected wish list items for foster children as their last service project for 2024. The present was presented to Brenda Price who is a huge supporter of foster children in Alexander County. Six foster children were sponsored with gifts totaling over \$50 each gift.

**Surry County**

The **Beulah ECA** started the year off with a program by a local attorney on Legal Tips Women's and Estate Planning. Not only did she provide an informative program, but she also became the latest member of the **Beulah ECA club**.



The **Pilot Mountain Achievers Club** had a special guest instructor from the Armfield Civic and Recreation Center to present a program on Stretching and Balance to help maintain independence and prevent falls. After they got their brains stimulated from exercising, they planned their program calendar for the year.

**Siloam ECA** club is celebrating gaining 8 new members since last year! The snow in Surry County has been beautiful this winter but has coincided with the Siloam Club's meeting dates. They are looking forward to meeting in February.

Randolph County



The **Ramseur ECA Club** donated & decorated the the Ramseur Library on December 3rd. Club member made ALL the tree decorations.

Christmas tree at Beverly Siler

**Randolph ECA** held its annual Achievement Luncheon on 17. ECA President Bonita Terry facilitated the program. were Hope Haywood- Randolph County Commissioner, Linda Brown- Community College Foundation Director, and Dr. Shah Ardalan- President Community College.



December Special guests Randolph Randolph



Highlights of the program of yearly events by Janet Gartner, the final financial report for 2024 by Janet Paccione, recognition of cultural arts winners by Dixie Lamphear, special music by Chad Spencer and Rev. Charles Woody, and words of wisdom by Loretta Tinnin and Donna Mollenkopf.

update about the construction on the new and Kim Lemons shared updates from 2 NC from **Randolph ECA** earlier this fall.



Horticulture agent Cody Craddock gave an Randolph Agricultural Center. Judy Oliver mountain charities that received \$1000 each

Lib Thompson, chairperson of the Rose \$5734.94 to Dr Shah Ardalan for the

Badgett Loan Fund presented a check for Randolph Community College Foundation.



**Randolph County ECA** started off 2025 with a visit to the historic Carolina Theatre in Greensboro. Executive Director Brian Gray gave an excellent lecture and behind the scenes tour of the 98-year-old theatre.

In 2024, more than 100,000 people attended events, helping to ensure the mission of "Presenting Arts, Preserving History, and Promoting Community."



After enjoying dinner together, the group returned to attend the Carolina Theatre showing of the 1920 silent film "The Mark of Zorro." Live music accompaniment was provided by Tedde Gibson on the original 1927 Robert Morgan Pipe Organ.



**Person County**

The **ECA Open House** was held on Wednesday, October 9 at 2pm in the Person County Auditorium. Food for this event was provided with ECA funds. Jennifer Brown, Agent, shared a PowerPoint presentation. We had many of our members in attendance and a good group of potential members came to the event. Of those that came, we have had 4 new members join one of our ECA Clubs. We are going to continue to try and focus on recruiting some new members for our ECA clubs.



The Extension Office served as a collection site for the Christmas for Critters drive at the Person County Animal Shelter and several ECA members made donations of supplies during the collection drive. The videos even got to select their own chew toy but went around the animal shelter room and picked out their own toy from the ones spread out on the floor.

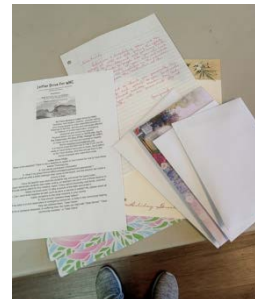
In November, we elected our new **Person County ECA** County Council Officers and they were officially installed in January at our meeting. The new officers are President: Ruth Burch; President-Elect: Shirley Bradsher; Secretary: Charlene Wilkins; and Treasurer: Gloria Jones. Also, Person County ECA members, Rhonda Haynes will be serving as our North Central District ECA Treasurer and Dorothy Wagstaff is now officially our State ECA President.

**South Central**  
Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cumberland,  
Gaston, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg,  
Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly,  
Union

**Stanly County**



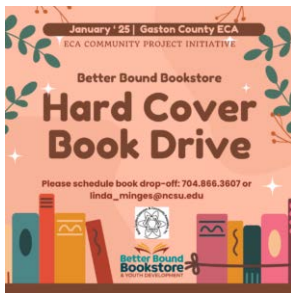
ECA members were recognized for their hard work at the Annual Extension Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. **Stanly County ECA** wrote letters of encouragement to the volunteers helping with Hurricane Helene's recovery.



The **Norwood ECA** club had a fun craft at

their December club meeting.

### Gaston County



**Gaston County ECA** is excited to announce a partnership with Better Bound Bookstore during the month of January to collect new or gently used hardcover books. These book donations play a key role in supporting Better Bound’s youth-run business, empowering young people to “Do the Work” and make positive changes in their lives.

#### How You Can Help:

- Donate Books: Bring new or used hardcover books to support Better Bound’s mission.
- Drop-off Location: Lucile Tatum Center, 959 Osceola St., Gastonia

#### Schedule Your Book Drop-off:

- Call: 704-866-3607
- Email: linda\_minges@ncsu.edu

Your generosity helps to provide youth with valuable skills and experiences, while fostering positive growth and change in our community. Thank you for your support!

### Lee County



The **Lemon Springs ECA Club** met for the Annual Christmas Social with Japanese cuisine.

Fall meeting . . .



### Dates to Remember

February 1	eNews Deadline
March 1	Scholarship Applications due to Wanda Denning
March 20	Northeast District Day
March 28	West District Day
April 1	eNews Deadline
April 9	South Central District Day
April 10	Southeast District Day
April 28	North Central District Day

**West**

Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Cherokee Reservation, Clay, Cleveland, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey

**Cleveland County**

**Cleveland County ECA** members partnered with Atrium Health Care Solutions Cleveland, the local care management agency for caregivers and their loved ones, to provide reusable tote bags filled with paper goods, cleaning supplies, etc. and/or grocery gift cards for disabled adults who are living on a limited income. This year, members provided both tote bags and grocery gift cards valued at more than \$200. Les Dixon, one of the Building Healthy & Strong Families Issues Coordinators, delivered the donations and thanked Care Solutions staff for helping us reach out to others in our community.



Cleveland County Council President, Pat Farley, and **Belwood Club** President, Les Dixon, manned a table at the Foothills Farmers Market in Shelby for the Christmas/Holiday Market in Shelby on December 7<sup>th</sup>. ECA works with POP (Power of Produce) to encourage young folks to eat their fruits and vegetables. Pat and Les handed out 96 POP tokens worth \$2.00 for each child's choice to purchase a fruit or veggie along with a cinnamon gingerbread Christmas tree ornament handmade by Pat. Fun was had by all though the temperature never got out of the twenties.



December 12<sup>th</sup> was a busy day for **Cleveland ECA** members. They met that morning to develop a Plan-of-Work for 2025 ECA projects and programs and volunteered that evening with the kinship care support group, Broad River Grandparents Raising Grandchildren & Kinship Care. Educational and outreach efforts were planned and will be led by three Issues Committee Coordinators and Vice Coordinators, the Leadership Team and members. The committees are: Promoting Safe & Healthy Environment - Mary Lee Jones and Lorinda Richard, Building Healthy & Strong Families - Les Dixon and Judy Canipe, & Fostering Family & Community Resiliency - Jean Ann Privett and Jo Anne Owens.

**Cleveland County ECA** members, Pat Farley, Karen Hubbard, and Jo Anne Owens continued to represent ECA that evening by working with Cleveland County Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, Nancy Abasiakong and BRGRG Advisory Board volunteers by helping to decorate, set up, and serve at the BRGRG Family Christmas Celebration & Dinner. Pat also provided handmade cinnamon gingerbread Christmas tree ornaments for each child. The children and families were excited to add this special ornament to their Christmas trees and collections. Children and grandparents also selected books and/or magazines from the ECA monthly BRGRG Book Club so they could continue reading during the holiday season.

**Cleveland county, continued**

**Cleveland County ECA Council President, Pat Farley**, was recently recognized as a distinguished “Forever 4-H’er” by Carey Stewart, Cleveland County 4-H Agent, at the Cleveland County 4-H Awards Program on December 16, 2024. This is an honor that is well-deserved since Pat began as a 4-H’er at age 10 at Polkville School and is still active with 4-H today at age 83. That’s over 70 years as a 4-H’er and 4-H Alumni.



Because girls couldn’t participate in farming projects at that time, Pat focused her energies on sewing and cooking projects and excelled in both areas. Pat attended Camp Millstone and her clothing construction project won first place in the state, qualifying her to attend NC 4-H Club Week in Raleigh. Pat still has the pin she was awarded for winning the State 4-H Dress Review.

Pat has given back to Cleveland County’s 4-H youth development program over the years by teaching youth how to cook and eat well, how to sew, judging their presentations, and has helped to establish new community clubs. Pat is a frequent visitor to the Extension Center and volunteers with many Extension program areas. Pat has devoted her time and energy in service to others. As a retired nurse she serves as a first responder with the United Methodist Committee on Relief, regularly traveling across the United States and to other countries to provide human aid in response to natural disasters. Pat lives out the true spirit of 4-H, always being an ambassador for 4-H, ECA, and NC Cooperative Extension. Pat sees the value in 4-H, ECA, and volunteering to make our communities better places to live. She recently worked with BRGRG children and families and encouraged them to become volunteers in their schools, churches, and communities.



Pat Farley, **Cleveland County ECA Council President**, presented a program in the Cleveland County Cooperative Extension Demonstration Kitchen, to the Foothills Herb Society. The topic was “25 Alternative Herbs and Spices to Salt and Sugar.” Pat talked about different ways to use herbs and spices as she demonstrated how to use dried apples and make baked dried apple hand pies. She showed ways to use various herbs and spices to enhance flavor while reducing salt and sugar. An unexpected tasting sample was strawberries seasoned with black pepper to enhance their flavor. This was just one of the examples she illustrated as she talked with the group about the importance of healthier eating. Pat also shared information related to becoming a member of ECA and invited them to join Cleveland County ECA.



February 17



**NVON Donates to Help our Western NC Relief Efforts**

Our sister member states of NVON have contributed to various relief efforts through monetary donations since learning of the devastation western NC received during Hurricane Helene.

NVON has an endowment account. Each year, the NVON Board decides how they would like to use the funds from the interest of that account. The NC ECA Leadership Team was informed NVON to use those funds to help support Hurricane Helene relief efforts in Western NC. We used the funds to purchase a generator that was delivered out west.



Pictured are Claudia Honeycutt and her father, Robert Bailey. They are our contact in Burnsville. Their needs are still generators, 20# LP tanks (gas grill size), tools, and building supplies. Kitchen bath and bedding supplies.

small propane heaters. Now, thanks to NVON's lights and full heat in their camper.

NVON's family. They



donated generator went to this She lost her home in the flood. have been staying warm with generous donation, they have

**From your Trea\$urer . . . .**

If you have not submitted your county's membership dues, they are past due! They were due December 1. Please remit them now if you have not done so.

When sending in your dues, PLEASE use the remittance form in the book (Appendix B). You should also send in a list of your members. Dana Croston, our Appointed Treasurer sent information for submitting your dues . . . including that you may also remit your dues via Zeffy! If you have questions, please contact Dana!



**NC STATE** EXTENSION

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