

November 7, 2011



In 1946, the Patterson family began selling produce, grown from the land farmed by the family since 1919, under the name James A. Patterson & Sons. The family nurtured the land and business through the years, and in 1992, the farm was incorporated as Patterson Farm, Inc. Today, Patterson Farm grows 350 acres of tomatoes, making them one of the largest growers in the state; 36 acres of strawberries; 40 acres of pumpkins; and 15,000 poinsettias. During peak season, Patterson Farm, Inc. and its three divisions – Patterson Farm Repack, Patterson Landscape & Nursery, and Patterson Farm Market & Tours – employ more than 300 people. When they're not planting, harvesting, packaging and distributing our produce, they're working on another mission: to educate visitors about North Carolina farming, where their food comes from and how it makes its way to their table. In 2006 Patterson Farm, Inc. received the Agribusiness of the Year, presented by the NC Agribusiness Council. This award is based on Patterson Farm, Inc.'s willingness to adapt to the latest technology and expanded marketing outlets to keep the farm a viable and profitable operation. Since 2000, Patterson Farm, Inc. has proudly earned the distinction of Gold Star Farmer awarded by the North Carolina Department of Labor. Farmers receive this award in recognition and appreciation of their efforts to provide safe and healthy on-site farm worker housing. Housing for the H2A workers is inspected annually prior to the arrival of the workers. For more information, go to www.pattersonfarminc.com.

Washington NEWS

N.C. Members Part of House Group Calling for Big Cuts:

Congressman Heath Shuler (D-N.C.) and Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID) are leading a 100-member strong bipartisan effort to send a simple but important message to the Joint Select Committee on the Deficit Reduction, known as the Super Committee: Go Big. The 100 bipartisan Members of Congress sent a letter last week to the Super Committee with the simple and direct message that everything should be on the table and the goal should be closer to \$4 trillion rather than the \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction required under the Budget Control Act. Rep. Coble (R-N.C.), Rep. McIntyre (D-N.C.), Rep. Price (D-N.C.), Rep. Shuler (D-N.C.), Rep. Watt (D-N.C.) all signed the letter. To read the full letter, [click here](#).

New Report on Revenue Effects of Hagan-McCain Repatriation Legislation:

U.S. Senator Kay R. Hagan (D-NC) commented after the first [study](#) to focus exclusively on Hagan's bipartisan Foreign Earnings Reinvestment Act (FERA) with Senator John McCain (R-AZ) was released last week. Hagan says, "This newest study argues that our bill would increase federal revenues by \$19.1 billion in the first three years after passage. Furthermore, it shows that the legislation would result in a net decrease of Federal income tax revenues of \$9.7 billion over ten years. This finding differs dramatically from an \$80 billion loss cited by opponents of repatriation. Our stagnant economy demands bipartisan action that can get the economy growing. We should pass this bill," Hagan says.

Weather & Drought NEWS

FEMA Extends Deadline: The Federal Emergency Management Agency has extended the deadline to apply for help. Businesses and homeowners now have until Nov. 30 to apply for assistance with uninsured losses from Hurricane Irene. For more info, go to www.disasterassistance.gov or call 800-621-3362.

Animal Activism NEWS

HSUS Files SEC Complaint Against Smithfield: Last week, just 24 hours after Smithfield Foods launched its new corporate responsibility website, The Humane Society of the United States filed a legal complaint with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission alleging that the company is making false and misleading claims about its corporate responsibility practices in violation of federal securities law. According to The HSUS' complaint, the claims — made in a video series titled *Taking the Mystery out of Pork Production* — falsely convey that Smithfield has higher animal

welfare and environmental standards than it actually does. Smithfield responded in a release that "The HSUS allegations are wholly without merit and appear to be another in a series of frivolous attacks initiated by HSUS against our business aimed at distracting us from our mission and pressuring us to accelerate the phase out of individual gestation pens—something we are already committed to doing. The well-being of all our animals is one of our highest priorities, which is why we consistently seek input from our customers, consumers, experts in animal husbandry, veterinarians and animal behavior specialists. Our concerted social responsibility efforts during the past decade have resulted in third-party recognition that we are very proud of." To see how Smithfield is responding to its consumers regarding the HSUS complaint, please visit www.smithfieldcommitments.com/category/whats-happening-now/.

Campaign NEWS

N.C. Voting Maps Approved: The U.S. Justice Department approved N.C.'s new legislative and congressional voting maps last week. Most analysts agree that the new maps will give Republicans an advantage for the next 10 years or so. The state Democratic Party and other groups have plans to file lawsuits to challenge the new districts.

Environmental NEWS

Subcommittee Approves Farm Dust Legislation: The Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power approved H.R. 1633, the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act, by a vote of 12-9. The bill now moves to the full Energy and Commerce Committee for consideration. H.R. 1633 addresses the threat of increased federal regulation of dust by preventing EPA from imposing more stringent federal dust standards. It also exempts nuisance dust from EPA regulation where dust is already regulated under state, tribal, or local law. While EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has announced the agency's intent to propose retaining the current dust standards, uncertainty still remains. Without this legislation, EPA's standard could change during the rulemaking process or as the result of legal challenges.

Senate Blocks Measure to Protect Ag From Pesticide Rule: U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) introduced an amendment to H.R. 872 to provide a two-year moratorium on implementation of EPA's pesticide permitting rule implemented November 1, 2011 and called on the Senate Majority Leader to hotline it. Senate opponents of the measure blocked Sen. Roberts' effort by objecting to the hotline despite the urgency given last week's date of implementation. In the

U.S. Senate, to hotline a bill means to expedite approval by unanimous consent. "While I would prefer the Senate approve the House passed bipartisan H.R. 872 to eliminate the extra paperwork and confusion surrounding pesticide permits, without a clear solution to this double permitting issue a moratorium would have allowed more time to address the situation," Roberts said. Sen. Roberts is ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. The Senate did not bring the bill to the floor, burdening farmers with additional costs and paperwork from this duplicative permit. The bill passed the House with bipartisan support but stalled in the Senate. H.R. 872 is among the "forgotten 15" jobs bills that the House approved as part of House Republicans' Plan for America's Job Creators. NC Senator Kay Hagan worked behind the scenes with her colleagues to ensure passage and issued a statement regarding her disappointment that HR 872 was not passed by the Senate.

Business NEWS

Food Biotech Company to Open in Brunswick County: CMS Food Solutions, Inc., owner of an innovative proprietary food safety technology, will open a manufacturing facility in Leland. The project is expected to create 52 jobs and the company expects to invest \$4.4 million in the plant. CMS Food Solutions' proprietary antimicrobial applications are custom blended specifically targeting pathogens and spoilage bacteria to preserve harvested fruits and vegetables as well as other foods. The plant is expected to be operational in 2012.

Food Processor to Open Plant in Montgomery County: Aseptia Inc., a processor of fruits and vegetables, will locate a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Montgomery County. The company, doing business as Wright Foods, plans to create 75 jobs and invest \$10.15 million during the next three years in Troy. Aseptia was incorporated in N.C. in 2006 and utilizes technology licensed at NCSU to produce shelf stable food products that maintain flavor, color and nutrients of fresh foods without refrigeration. The Wright Foods' facility will primarily focus on producing shelf stable retail food products for other food companies. Whenever possible, the company will try to source fruits and vegetables from local sources.

Group Requests Comment Extension on Child Labor Rule: A coalition of 60 ag organizations has written the U.S. Dept. of Labor requesting an extension on the comment period regarding the proposed child labor rule. The groups requested an extension for a minimum of 60 days, which would extend the comment deadline from Nov. 1, 2011 to Jan. 1, 2012. The letter states: "We are uniformly concerned not only with the breadth of the proposed changes but also with our ability to comment in a meaningful way on the proposal in the time period allowed. Should the proposed rule be promulgated in its current form, it would entail sweeping changes in current private and commercial agricultural practices, coupled with an increase in legal liability to farm and ranch families. Its potential negative impact on educating and training a future generation of farmers is real."

People NEWS

State Sen. Jim Forrester Dies: Jim Forrester, who represented state District 41, died last week at the age of 74. The Republican lawmaker served 11 terms in the N.C. Senate as Republican Minority Whip, Deputy Republican Leader, Senate Republican Leader, and Joint Caucus Leader. Forrester served as deputy Senate leader this year. District 41 includes Gaston, Lincoln and Iredell counties.

Immigration NEWS

N.C. Farm Worker Advocates Call for More Protection: The Farm Worker Advocacy Network held an event last week to draw attention to farm worker deaths in N.C. The group held a press conference and evening social event in the tradition of the Mexican holiday "Día de los Muertos," or Day of the Dead, calling on enforcement

agencies to protect workers. Last month, Legal Aid of North Carolina filed a complaint against the N.C. Department of Labor alleging the state agency failed to address workplace safety violations, its inconsistency with classification of violations and issuance of fines on employers, and its lack of migrant housing inspections.

Order Your Free Employers I-9 Handbook: USCIS printed a limited number of the latest M-274 (Rev. 06/01/11), Handbook for Employers: Instructions for Completing Form I-9. Order a free copy by visiting the Forms by Mail page on www.USCIS.gov or call the USCIS Forms Request Line at 1-800-870-3676.

Fuel & Energy NEWS

Biofuels Center Requesting Applications: The Biofuels Center of North Carolina is accepting applications for the 2011-2012 Advancing Biofuels Commercialization program. Go to www.biofuelscenter.org for more info.

University NEWS

A&T State University Receives Rural Business Development Grant: North Carolina A&T State University will receive a \$75,000 USDA grant to provide business development assistance to entrepreneurs, agribusinesses, cooperatives and communities in economically challenged rural areas. A&T will use the funding to deliver entrepreneurial training, business start-up assistance, renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, website development training, and other programs designed to cultivate new business opportunities and create jobs.

Commodity NEWS

USDA Grants Protection to 45 New Plant Varieties: The USDA has issued certificates of protection to developers of 45 new varieties of seed-reproduced and tuber-propagated plants. They include bean, oat, potato, ryegrass, sorghum, soybean, watermelon and wheat. The Plant Variety Protection Act provides legal protection in the form of intellectual property rights to developers of new varieties of plants. To see the full list, [click here](#).

NCA NEWS

Troxler Wants Answers to E.coli Outbreak: N.C. Ag Commissioner Steve Troxler on the Southern Farm Network discusses "Today's Topic." [Click here for more](#).

USDA NEWS

County Committee Elections Run Through Dec. 5: The 2011 FSA county committee elections began Nov. 4, with USDA mailing ballots to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is Dec. 5, 2011. Eligible voters who do not receive ballots can obtain ballots from their local USDA Service Center.

Commodity Credit Corporation Lending Rates for November: The USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) announced interest rates for November 2011. The CCC borrowing rate-based charge for November 2011 is 0.125 percent, unchanged from 0.125 in October 2011. For 1996 and subsequent crop year commodity and marketing assistance loans, the interest rate for loans disbursed during November 2011 is 1.125 percent, unchanged from 1.125 in October 2011. Interest rates for Farm Storage Facility Loans approved for November 2011 are as follows, 1.500 percent with seven-year loan terms, unchanged from 1.500 in October 2011; 2.000 percent with 10-year loan terms, down from 2.125 in October 2011 and; 2.250 percent with 12-year loan terms, down from 2.375 percent in October 2011. The maximum discount rate applicable for November 2011 for the Tobacco Transition Payment Program is 5 percent, unchanged from October 2011.

Mark Your Calendar

To see all upcoming events - [click here for the AgCalendar](#).