



CATAWBA COUNTY AGRI-TOURISM DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011

Free family fun

Self-guided tour of County farms

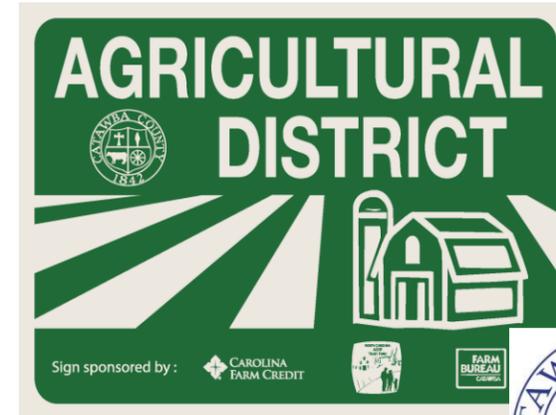
Farm-related events

The Agri-tourism Day is made possible with funding support from the North Carolina

Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

What are the Agricultural District Signs that you see while driving in the County?

The Agricultural District signs are located on farmland where the farmer has committed to preserve the agricultural way of life. The farmer voluntarily signed a conservation agreement which states he will not sell or develop the property for non-farm use for at least 10 years. It serves as a sense of pride for the farmer and also lets people know that agricultural activities, such as slow-moving tractors, occur in the area. See how many of these signs you can spot on your tour day!!!



Before European Settlers ever even stepped foot here, the Native Americans drew their sustenance from the bountiful crops that they cultivated in this area that we call the Catawba Valley. For early settlers, it was this cultivation or "Farming" of the land of this fertile region that became the foundation upon which our County of Catawba was established. Today, Catawba County farmers still are the backbone of our community. Many of us enjoy the beauty of our County with its woodlands, streams, grassy meadows and open spaces. Often-times overlooked, we can all thank our local farmers for helping to preserve this picturesque landscape that we all call home.

Joshua Grant

Red Wolf Farm

Planning Your Tour

Catawba County's Agri-Tourism Day is a self-guided tour that you and your family can enjoy. You may attend as many sites as you like throughout the day. The Farm Tour Sites will be open 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The times of the agricultural events vary so plan your day accordingly.

Look over the map and site descriptions to decide which locations or events to attend. There may not be time to visit all of the farms, so pick your favorites.

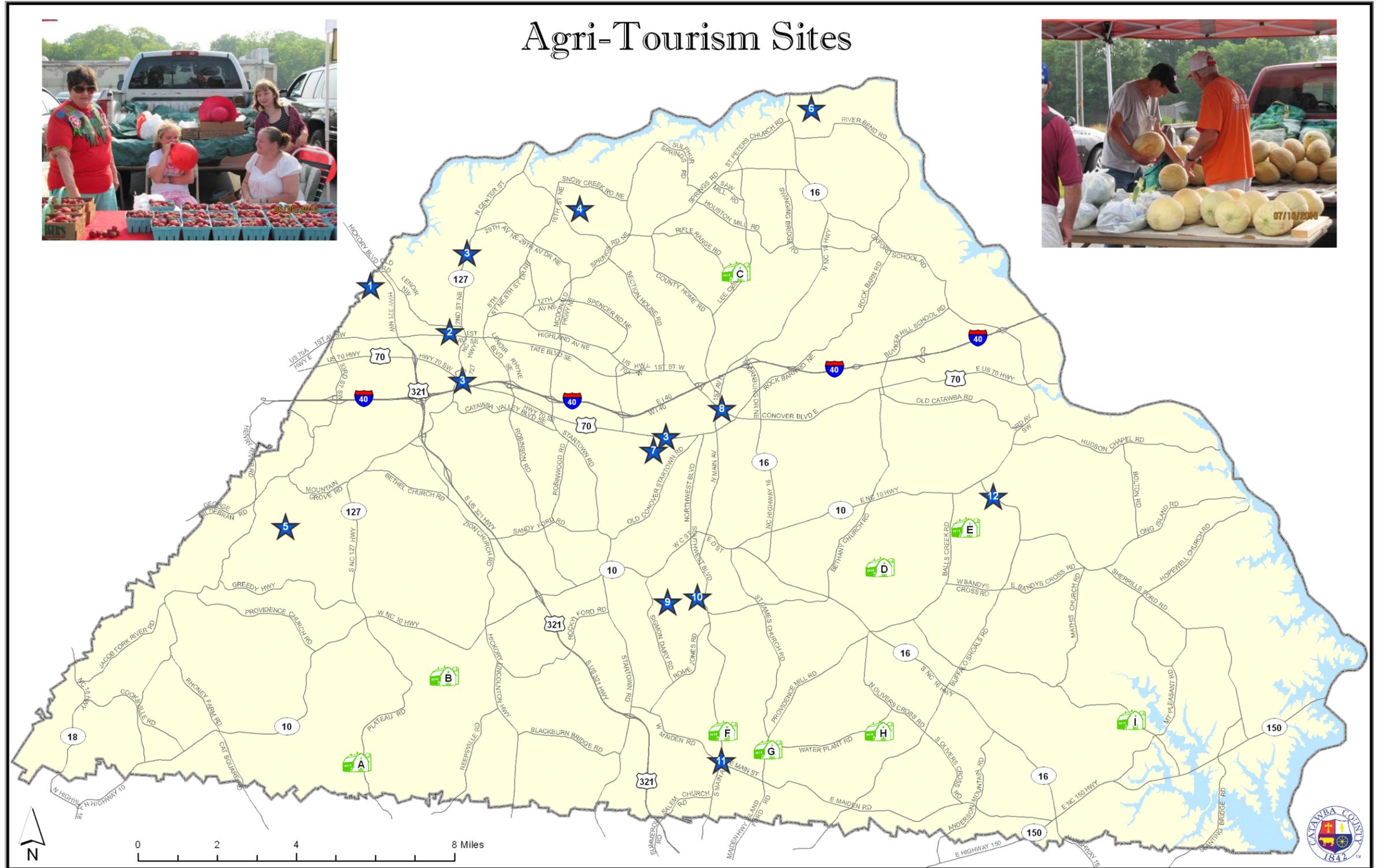
The Day of the Tour

You may want to pack bottled water, snacks or a picnic lunch and walking shoes for the day. You may also want to bring a cooler with ice if you plan on purchasing any local produce. We would love for you to support our local farmers – this is what the day is all about!!

Please don't bring pets on the tour. They pose food safety threats, can damage plants and are dangerous around livestock. Also as a matter of courtesy, please ask the owner about taking photos.

Children will have a great time at the farms but please supervise them closely. Animals, electric fences and farm equipment can pose dangers to children.

Most importantly – ENJOY THE DAY!!!



FARM TOUR SITES



Windy Wool Windings

5247 Plateau Road, Vale

Come see purebred Montadale sheep and crossbreeds. They have fleeces, roving, yarns and weavings for sale as well as some breeding stock, market lambs and lamb meat for your freezer. Also learn about a working poultry farm. Enjoy a unique environment in rural southwest Catawba County.

Directions: From Newton, take Hwy. 10 West approximately 9.5 miles to Propst Crossroads. Turn left onto Plateau Road. Follow Plateau Road 5 miles. Windy Wool Windings is on the right across from Sunny Hill Farm.



LFR Farms & Greenhouses

2952 Lou Hoyle Lane, Newton

Learn about various farming techniques, including raised-bed planting and greenhouse growing on this large working farm of over 1,000 acres. Products throughout the year include strawberries, greenhouse plants, hanging baskets, vegetable plans, annuals and perennials. The farm also produces small grains such as corn, wheat and soybeans. Come see what's growing at LFR Farms.

Directions: Take Hwy. 10 west out of Newton approximately 8 miles. Turn left onto Wesley Chapel Road. At stop sign, turn left onto Grace Church Road. Farm is .6 mile at top of hill on the left.



Ira Cline Farm

4444 Lee Cline Road, Conover

You may have been at the Cline farm in the past for strawberries. Come now to get your fresh blueberries, jams, jellies and cider.

Directions: Take Exit #132 off I-40. Go to Wal-Mart and turn right onto Hwy. 16 North. Go 1.5 miles and turn left on C&B Farm Road. Go 1.25 miles and turn left onto Lee Cline Road. Go .25 mile to the farm on your right.



Shady Oaks Farm

3487 Yount Road, Newton

This is a great farm to pick up fresh top quality naturally raised fruits, vegetables, honey and free-range eggs.

Directions: Take Hwy. 16 South out of Newton approximately 4.25 miles. Turn left onto Balls Creek Road. Go 1.5 miles and turn left on Mt. Olive Church Road. Then go .75 mile and turn right onto Yount Road. Farm is .25 mile on left.



Sipe Angus Farm

1338 Balls Creek Road, Newton

Let the kids come and see roaming beef cattle while you pick up some fresh grass-fed beef to take home.

Directions: Take Hwy. 16 South out of Newton approximately 4.25 miles. Turn left onto Balls Creek Road and go 3.75 miles to the farm on the right.



Poovey Apiary

3703 U.S. Hwy 321 South, Maiden

What will I see at an apiary? Bees making honey in their beehive. Bees not only produce honey but they also play an important role in pollinating plants to make flowers. See a working beehive and learn the role of bees in our environment.

Directions: Take Hwy. 321 Business South out of Newton approximately 5 miles. The apiary is on the right across from Mays Chapel Church Road just outside the Town of Maiden.



Red Wolf Farm

1797 Water Plant Road, Maiden

Learn about sustainable agriculture and also celebrate our local history at Red Wolf Farm. The 45-acre farm was the site of the Jenny Lind Iron Forge from 1804 to 1980. Remnants of the dam and large pieces of iron slag from the forging process can still be found in the creek. A Civil War reenactment group will be at the farm all day to provide insight into the life of a soldier during the war. Free ice cream will be served in the afternoon. This will be a special event you won't want to miss. Thanks to the Grants for making their farm available free of charge for this day.

Directions: From Hwy. 321 ByPass, take exit 28 onto Hwy. 321 Business. In Maiden, turn right on Providence Mill Road. Go .5 mile. After a sharp curve, turn right onto Water Plant Road. The farm is on the corner of Providence Mill and Water Plant Road.



Buffalo Beals Animal Park

3259 Water Plant Road, Maiden

Enjoy 40 acres of easily accessible and thoughtfully arranged viewing grounds where you will encounter elk, antelope, camel, giraffe, chimpanzee, buffalo, kangaroos, monkeys and other exotic and domestic animals. Thanks to the Beals for making their animal park available free of charge for this day.

Directions: Take Hwy. 16 South out of Newton and go approximately 4.25 miles. Take a right onto Providence Church Road then a short left onto N Olivers Cross Road. Go approximately 2.25 miles and turn right onto Water Plant Road. The Animal Park is .75 miles on the left



Bird Brain Ostrich Ranch

6691 Little Mountain Road, Sherrills Ford

See one of the most unique farms in the County. Learn about ostrich and purchase farm-fresh products such as eggs and ostrich meat. Thanks to the Roberts for making their ranch available free of charge for this day.

Directions: From I-77 take Exit 36 onto Hwy. 150 West. Go approximately 9.5 miles, crossing over Lake Norman into Catawba County, and turn right on Little Mountain Road. Go another 1.75 miles to the farm on the left.

AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

Hickory Crawdads Baseball Game

L.P. Frans Stadium, Hickory

End your agri-tourism day by enjoying a Hickory Crawdads baseball game. OK - we may be stretching it a bit since crawdads are a coastal food product but it still will be great fun. The Crawdads will be playing the Charleston RiverDogs starting at 7:00 p.m.

Hickory Farmers Market

Union Square, downtown Hickory

Meet local farmers, artisans and other neighbors from the Hickory area. Over 30 vendors sell fresh, locally grown produce, potted plants and herbs, cut flowers, baked goods, etc. Look for Catawba County vendors: O My Soap! and Summer Fresh Flowers. Open 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Udderly Delicious Ice Cream Shop

2163 N. Center Street, Hickory

131 Hwy. 70 S.E., Hickory

1006 Conover Blvd. W, Conover

Stop at any of the Udderly Delicious ice cream locations to enjoy home-made ice cream using some of the best cream and farm fresh ingredients. Open Noon – 11:00 p.m.

St. Stephens Park

2247 36th Ave. N.E., Hickory

Enjoy a picnic or just stretch your legs on the walking trail at St. Stephens park. Open 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Bakers Mtn. Park

Bakers Mtn. Road, Hickory

Take a hike to the mountain top and enjoy the view of the Catawba Valley at this 189-acre County park. Open 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Riverbend Park

Hwy. 16 North, Conover

There are many activities to enjoy at this 450-acre County park on the Catawba River. Hike the nearly 12 miles of trails to explore this beautiful river basin park. You can explore a variety of wildlife habitats that range from fresh water wetlands to upland forest. Bring your fishing rod and try your luck at the fishing pier on the river or at the inland pond. Enjoy a picnic along the Catawba River and look for bald eagles that fly over this area. Open 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Catawba Valley Youth Beef Expo

American Legion Fairground, Conover

Support our local Future Farmers of America and 4-H Youth at this free livestock judging show. Event is 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Conover Farmers Market

Post Office parking lot, downtown Conover

Local farmers sell a variety of fruits, vegetables, pies, breads, meat, eggs, perennials and crafts. Check out local soap maker, Freedom Farms. The Master Gardener will also be available on this day to answer your gardening questions. Open 7:30 a.m. to Noon.

Herman's Fishing Lake

1954 Grandview Drive, Newton

Come enjoy "Take-A-Kid-Fishing" day at Herman's Fishing Lake from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Prizes will be awarded for the most, largest, smallest and most unusual fish. Bring your own fishing equipment. Bait will be available for purchase. Coordinated by the City of Newton Recreation Department.

Southside Park

Hwy. 321 Business South, Newton

Take a picnic break and let the kids enjoy the play area at Newton's Southside Park. Open 6:00 a.m. until dark.

Maiden Farmers Market

Parking Lot off N. Main Ave., Maiden

Stop by the Maiden farmers market to see what is available. Open 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Murray's Mill

1489 Murrays Mill Road, Catawba

See one of Catawba County's most visited historic sites – Murray's Mill. Preserved intact are the 1913 mill itself, the 1890s Murray & Minges General Store, the 1880s Wheathouse, used as an exhibit gallery, the 1913 John Murray House, furnished to the period, and numerous outbuildings. Inside Murray's Mill, visitors will find the original millstones used for grinding corn, as well as a Eureka roller mill used for grinding wheat into flour. It's a perfect place for an afternoon picnic or a quick leg-stretcher. Pick up some fresh stone ground products at the store. Admission charged for mill tour. Open 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For questions or further information regarding Catawba County's Agri-Tourism Day, contact the County Planning Department at (828) 465-8264 or Cooperative Extension at (828) 465-8240