

Crop and Harvest update

Our harvest finished up the day after Thanksgiving. The Lord blessed our crop as we had one of our very best and the Lord answered all of our prayers except I forgot to pray for good commodity prices. Crop prices have not improved and we need a good crop along with good prices to cover increased costs on the farm.



Continuing Education at Strickland Farming

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest" - Benjamin Franklin

Harvest is over for now but that does not mean the Strickland Farming team will be sitting around waiting for spring. To ensure Strickland Farming stays on the cutting edge, we attend various conferences throughout the year. This winter we will be attending the DTN AG Summit and Top Producer. At each conference, we learn new things to continue to improve our farm.

Matt Keen was selected to participate in the NCSU Leadership Development Program. The program began in October. This application process is very competitive. It is an honor to be accepted, and Reggie and the Strickland Farming team are very proud of Matt. This is an NC State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences leadership program to develop personal and civic leadership skills in North Carolina farmers and agricultural professionals. The two-year program involves in-depth personal leadership assessments with coaching and training in civic leadership, and learning opportunities in North Carolina, the United States, and global agriculture. "The NCSU AG Leadership Development Program has been the most beneficial program I have participated in during my career," said Reggie, an NCSU Leadership Development alumni. "I'm glad Matt is going to go through this program. It is going to help give him confidence in his professional career and personal life. Matt is already an important part of the Strickland Farming team, and this process will help him expand his leadership skills, benefiting the whole SF team."

Scott Strickland and Matt Keen also completed the NCSU Executive Farm Management Program. It is a 9 day work shop that is broken up into two sections over the course of the year. Scott and Matt were able to expand their knowledge in strategic planning, human resources, risk management and more. We are always glad when members of our team take the steps to learn and better themselves professionally.



Turkey Farm is Up and Running



We received our first flock of turkeys on November 7. We have over 50k birds in our six grow out houses. We are growing these birds for Butterball. Matt Keen is managing this new operation.

The Stricklands Visit D.C.



The Stricklands had the opportunity to visit with Ray Starling. Ray is a past speaker at our Landowner Appreciation Dinner. Ray is currently serving as the Special Assistant to President Trump for Agriculture, Ag Trade, and Food Assistance.

Global GAP Audit for Potatoes and Tobacco

This summer we underwent a Good Agricultural Practices Audit, also known as a GAP audit, on our tobacco operation. This audit is a requirement of the tobacco companies that buy our tobacco. It looks at all facets of our tobacco operation... growing, harvest, curing, and labor. The U.S. Tobacco GAP Program works to ensure that tobacco in the U.S. is produced in a manner that is competitive, sustainable, compliant, and safe for all involved parties. They interview employees regarding our practices and how we treat them. We have to complete GAP grower training annually. The farm inspection is a random inspection process approximately every three years.

We also recently completed a Global GAP audit for our sweet potato operation. This is similar to the tobacco audit, but much more in-depth and detailed. It is required to ship to the European marketplace. Like the tobacco audit, this audit looks at every facet of the production process. It is an annual on-farm audit.



Strickland and Bayer host Chinese MOA

Strickland Farms hosted a tour for two Chinese officials from the GMO Office of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Dong Wang and Dr. Qiao Ling Tang are participating in the US-China Agricultural Biotechnology Safety Administration Cooperation Program sponsored by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program stems from a necessity of ag- biotechnology to facilitate efficient agricultural systems. Both participants were new to North Carolina Agriculture. Our friends at Bayer brought them to our farm so they could experience the wide variety of products produced at our farm and across North Carolina. While they were visiting us, we were harvesting tobacco. They got to experience first hand how we harvest all the way to the final product that is ready to sell. One thing that they were surprised by is how much our staff is responsible for each day. Automation to help care for the turkeys and hogs is not something that is common in China. They were impressed how we were able to use technology to care for the animals at a very high standard and also give the crops we grow the highest care. By the end of the afternoon, we were able to teach Mr. Wang and Dr. Tang about not only our farm but we were also ambassadors for North Carolina Agriculture.



Thank You Strickland Farming Team!

"A great employee is like a four leaf clover, hard to find & lucky to have." - T. Cohen

We would like to take a moment to thank our staff members at Strickland Farming. Working on a farming operation is a hard, and often thankless job. Every single employee is important to the success of our farm. Without our hardworking and dedicated employees, we would not be the farm that we are today. Thank you, Strickland Farming Team!

Thank you

We're Looking for More Land to Farm

Do you know any landowners who might want to lease their land to us? If so, please send us that information.