As this is my first newsletter I thought that I would take the opportunity to introduce myself; my name is Joshua Stamper and I am the new crops and tobacco agent in Yadkin and Stokes counties. I will be in the Yadkin County Center on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. I am still trying to get around meeting everybody, so if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Reminder: Tobacco Producers

Right about now everybody is busy with field preparation and greenhouse operations, but don’t forget to stop by the extension center and have your EC meter calibrated. EC (electrical conductivity) meters allow us to monitor the level of fertilizer salts in the float beds. This is very important tool in producing high quality, healthy tobacco transplants.

Pesticide Disposal

Date: April 19th, 2006

From 10 am to 2 pm there will be a pesticide collection at the Yadkin county landfill. We will be accepting any type agricultural pesticide as long as it is in the original labeled container. If you have more than five gallons of a chemical please let us know before April 19th. If your container is leaking, the container must be placed in a bucket or tub so that chemicals are not lost or spilled. If you have any questions regarding pesticide disposal contact Jack or myself at 336-679-2061.

Asian Soybean Rust Update from Jim Dunphy & Steve Koenning at NCSU

Rust has now been found on kudzu in 11 counties in Florida, 4 counties in Georgia, 5 counties in Alabama, and 1 county in Texas (in the southern tip of the state). Most are in protected (from the weather) urban areas.

The closest find to Murphy (NC) to date is in Montgomery County, Alabama, which is about 230 miles away. The closest to Raleigh is in Brooks County, Georgia, which is about 445 miles away.

A map of where soybean rust has been confirmed in 2006, as well as the additional counties that have been scouted so far this year, can be found at http://sbrusa.net/.
Yadkin County Cooperative Extension Unveils New Website

This new website will provide our counties residents easy access to the resources and expertise of NC State University and NC A&T University. We will have an updated calendar of events, news, and informational resources. You can find our new website at: http://yadkin.ces.ncsu.edu

Nickels For Know-How Referendum on May 25, 2006

Nickels For Know-How is a voluntary assessment on feed and fertilizer produced and purchased in North Carolina. This money goes to support agricultural research, extension activities, scholarships, fellowships and the kind of Know-How that advances agriculture in North Carolina. In the next few weeks the polling places for Yadkin County will be announced. The polling locations will be held in much the same manner as a commodity referendum. All users of feed and fertilizers in NC and their family members are eligible to vote.

Joshua D. Stamper
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Field Crops