**2024 Apple School Tentative Agenda**

**February 6-7, 2024**

**Flavorful Farms, K.B. Orchards &**

**Blue Ridge Community College**

**February 6, 2024 - Morning**

**Flavorful Farms & KB Orchards**

**Time Topic & Speaker**

7:45-8:45 Registration at Flavorful Farms

8:45-9:00 Welcome

 Rex McCall, President BRAG, Edneyville, NC

 Harley Prewitt, President NCAGA

9:00-9:50 Apple Slicer Demonstration, Tour of Packing House

 Jeff Nix, Flavorful Farms, Edneyville, NC

 Jerred Nix, Flavorful Farms, Edneyville, NC

9:50-10:35 Identify food safety risks in packing houses and develop a maintenance plan for the off season.

 Ms. Elena Rogers, Area Specialized Agent-Food Safety, NCSU Dept. of Horticultural

Science, Lenoir, NC

10:35-11:00 Break and move across the street to KB Orchards

11:00-12:00 Equipment Exhibits at KB Orchards/Flavorful Farms

 Kenny Barnwell, KB Orchards, Edneyville, NC

12:00-2:00 Lunch on Your Own – Reconvene at Blue Ridge Community College @ 2pm

**February 6, 2024 – Afternoon**

**Blue Ridge Community College**

**Time Topic Speaker**

2:00-2:30 NCDA Agritourism Program

 Erica Calderon, NCDA&CS

2:30-3:00 Legislative Update

 Debbie Hamrick, NC Farm Bureau

3:00-3:45 Direct Marketing & Agritourism Grower

 Mike Cullipher, Cullipher Farm Market, Virginia Beach, VA

3:45-4:00 Break

4:00-4:30 Overview of Food Safety Practices to Protect Farms that Direct Market Produce.

 Ms. Elena Rogers, Area Specialized Agent-Food Safety, NCSU Dept. of Horticultural

Science, Lenoir, NC

4:30-4:45 Update on VIST NC Farms

 Ashley Downer, Hend. Co. Tourism Devel. Auth., Hendersonville, NC

4:45-5:00 BRFDMA Annual Meeting

 Stephanie Lively, President, Flat Rock, NC

**February 7, 2024**

**Blue Ridge Community College**

**Time Topic Speaker**

7:30-8:15 Registration

8:15-8:30 Welcome & Housekeeping

 Rex McCall, President, Blue Ridge Apple Growers

Harley Prewitt, President, NC Apple Growers

Dr. W. Terry Kelley, NC Cooperative Extension, Henderson County

8:30-8:55 What’s the Status of Codling Moth and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

 Dr. Jim Walgenbach, NCSU Dept. of Entomology, Mtn. Hort. Crops Res. & Ext.

 Center, Mills River, NC

8:55-9:20 Orchard Weed Management

 Mr. Wayne Mitchem, Dept. of Horticultural Science, Mills River, NC

9:20-9:45 MCP: What we Know and What We Don’t

 Dr. Mike Parker, Dept. of Horticulture, NCSU, Raleigh, NC.

9:45-10:00 A Proposed Agricultural Apprenticeship Program for Henderson County

 Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Henderson County Board of Commissioners,

Hendersonville, NC

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-11:00 The Cornell Apple Breeding Program

 Dr. Sue Brown, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

11:00-11:20 Nursery Updates

 Saunders Brothers, Marshall Saunders

 AC Nursery, Ryan Callahan

11:20-11:45 BRAG & NCAG Awards Ceremony

11:45-12:00 BRAG Annual Meeting

12:00-1:15 Lunch

1:15-1:35 Greetings and Report from Cooperative Extension

Dr. Dale Monks, Assoc. Director, Cooperative Extension, NC State University,

Raleigh, NC

 Welcome to Henderson County, John Mitchell, Henderson Co. Manager

 Presentation of Decree from Henderson County Commissioners

1:35-2:05 Report from US Apple

 Diane Kurrle, US Apple

2:05-2:35 New Varieties and Those Coming Down the Pipeline

 Bill Pitts, MAIA

2:35-2:50 2024 Food Safety Update

 Ms. Elena Rogers, Area Specialized Agent-Food Safety, NCSU Dept. of Horticultural

Science, Lenoir, NC

2:50-3:00 The Farmworker Health & Safety Program

 Chris Just, Henderson County Cooperative Extension

3:00-3:30 Break

3:30-3:55 Predicting apple chemical thinner responses with new technologies.

 Dr. Tom Kon, NCSU, Dept. of Horticultural Science, Mills River, NC

3:55-4:20 Optimizing Captan Programs for the Management of Glomerella Leaf Spot and Bitter Rot

 Dr. Sara Villani, NCSU Dept. of Ent. & Plant Path., Mills River, NC

4:20-4:30 Review 2024 Integrated Orchard Management Guide-Sign Up for Pesticide Credits

 Dr. W. Terry Kelley & Panel

4:30 Wrap Up and Adjourn