



PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 5.

DATE OF MEETING: December 3, 2012

REQUESTED BY: Mark Seitz, Cooperative Extension Director/Mary Rockers, NC Farm Worker Health Program, Office of Rural Health and Community Care

SHORT TITLE: Pesticide Safety Training for Farm Workers in Pender County

BACKGROUND: One of the major programs conducted by NC Cooperative Extension is pesticide safety education for farmers. Pesticides include insecticides, herbicides and fungicides and are applied frequently to blueberries to reduce insect and disease problems that reduce market value. Pender County's estimated \$15 million blueberry industry relies heavily on migrant labor to harvest and process the blueberry crop. These workers have an elevated risk of being exposed to pesticides than farmers, in part due to a lack of education about pesticides, a limited understanding of how pests are managed and a language barrier. In 2012 Pender County Cooperative Extension partnered with the NC Farm Worker Health Program, Office of Rural Health and Community Care and AmeriCorp to train more than 900 of an estimated 1,600 Spanish-speaking farm workers.