



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Dear Friends:

This year marks our 25th N.C. Mountain State Fair. Since 1994, the fair has celebrated the agricultural traditions and cultural heritage of Western North Carolina. It has been my honor to serve you as Commissioner of Agriculture for more than half of those fairs, and I hope you will join us as we celebrate another great fair this September.

Music has always been an important part of the N.C. Mountain State Fair. During the first fair, which lasted just five days, we hosted nightly concerts in the McGough practice arena. Over the years, we have hosted local favorites, national headliners and rising stars. In 2018, we will continue to build on this region's musical traditions with an expanded lineup on Heritage Stage.

This will include more performances each night of the fair, as well as a new event we're calling the *Mountain State Fair Music Jam*. During these jam sessions, musicians of all skill levels will be pickin' and grinnin' in Heritage Circle.

Equally important to music is the fair's focus on agriculture. This year, just like a quarter century ago, the fair will host a variety of livestock shows and agricultural competitions. We also will host art and photography competitions, two flower and garden shows, gospel singing competitions and more. Details about all the contests can be found on our website.

I urge you to review the entire catalog and find contests that interest you and your talents. Whether you've competed for the past 24 years, or never entered a contest in your life, I encourage you to enter this year.

Best of luck on your entries. I look forward to celebrating our 25th N.C. Mountain State Fair with you September 7-16 at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner