

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started!



### Online Romance Scams Targeting Older Adults

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of North Carolina, in partnership with the FBI and the AARP in North Carolina, hosted a virtual informational seminar to discuss the rise of online romance scams targeting older adults and to offer tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud, announced U.S. Attorney Andrew Murray.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, older adults are increasingly turning to the internet to obtain information, stay in touch with loved ones, connect with friends on social media, and form new romantic relationships. Scammers are taking advantage of older Americans' increased online presence to perpetuate romance scams and steal elder victims' money and identities, and, even worse, turn older adults into unwitting "money mules." A money mule is a person that uses an existing or new bank account to conduct wire transfers or other types of financial transactions at the request of a scammer. Typically, the funds the money mules receive and engage in transactions with are proceeds of fraudulent schemes and, in many instances, the account holders are not aware they are being exploited as money mules to carry out financial fraud.

Assistant U.S. Attorney and Elder Fraud Coordinator for the Western District Maria Vento, and Supervisory Special Agent for the FBI Brian Cyprian provided an overview of romance scams, money mule schemes and identity theft, and shared useful tips on how to spot those types of scams and how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud. Here are some of the tips shared with the audience:

- Be mindful of what information you post and make public online, as scammers can use details shared on social media and dating sites to better understand and target you.
- If someone contacts you and wants to start a romantic relationship with you, research the person's photo and profile using online searches to see if the image, name, or details have been used elsewhere.
- Go slowly and ask lots of questions.
- Beware if the individual seems too perfect or quickly asks you to leave a dating service or social media site to communicate directly on your own phone or through a third party app.
- Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends and family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information that could later be used to extort you.
- Beware if the individual promises to meet in person, but always comes up with excuses as to why he or she can't.
- Never send money to anyone you have only communicated with online or by phone.
- If an online prospect claims to be a United States citizen living or working in another country and asks you for help or money, refer him or her to the local U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you want to send money, consider using a U.S. Department of State Office of Overseas Citizens Services (OCS) Trust.
- Do not use your personal bank account to transfer money or conduct financial transactions at the direction of someone you met online.
- Do not give out personal information via the phone, mail, or internet/email unless you initiated the contact and are certain you are dealing with a trusted organization or individual.
- Verify requests for personal information from any business or financial institution by contacting them using the main contact information on their official website.
- Do not open, respond to, or click on links contained within unsolicited emails.
- Use strong and different passwords to secure banking accounts, credit accounts, etc., and change passwords and check accounts routinely.
- Limit personal information shared publicly on social networking sites. Never post your full name, Social Security number, address, phone number, or account numbers in publicly accessible sites.
- Regularly obtain and check your credit reports from the three credit bureaus to ensure you recognize all accounts.
- Tell someone you trust if you have become a victim.
- If you suspect fraud or have fallen victim to an online scam report the fraud to the authorities and the dating website.
- Keep in mind that if you send money once, you'll be a target for life.
- Remember, it's not rude to say, "NO," if someone approaches you online.
- A good rule of thumb is, if it's too good to be true, it's likely a scam.

To report suspicious activity or if you've fallen victim to a scam, please call the Department of Justice's National Elder Fraud Hotline at 1-833-FRAUD-1111 (1-833-372-8311), or online at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov).

For more information about the U.S. Attorney's Office Elder Justice Initiative, please visit [www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/elder-justice-initiative](http://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/elder-justice-initiative).

### Shade Trees for Pastures

Trees are an important component of quality pastures. They help control erosion, provide shade, shelter, and fodder. Planting trees can be a big decision because they take years to get to size. Livestock and equine owners are often bombarded with toxic trees they shouldn't plant such as most Acer species like Red Maple or Prunus species like plums, peaches, cherries, etc. It can be quit over whelming when all you want to do is plant shade trees in your pastures that won't ultimately kill your animals. Below is a list of trees that are non-toxic with a description so you can decide which best fits your situation.

- River birch (*Betula nigra*)- Deciduous. Light requirement: part shade. Soil moisture: moist. Soil description: sandy, sandy loam, medium loam, clay loam, clay. Height: 90 ft. tall. Fast growing. Usually a multi-trunked tree, it is fast growing and well-suited to areas that are periodically wet.
- Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)- Deciduous. Light requirement: sun, part shade, shade. Soil moisture: moist. Soil description: rich moist soils. Height: 150 ft. tall. Fast growing. This eastern hardwood has a long straight trunk. It is intolerant of compacted soil, but has few disease and pest problems.
- Mountain Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*)- Deciduous. Light requirement: sun, part shade, shade. Soil moisture: moist, wet. Soil description: rich, moist. Height: 60-75 ft. Width: 30-50 ft. Medium growth rate. The mountain magnolia is the hardiest of all the magnolia. Only plant in areas where the huge leaves, dropping throughout late summer and fall will not cause a maintenance problem.
- Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)- Evergreen. Light requirement: part shade. Soil moisture: dry. Soil description: rich, porous, acid soils. Sandy, sandy loam, medium loam, clay loam, clay. Height: 50 ft. Fast growing. Fallen leaves can be messy. They can be chopped with a rotary mower and blown back under the branches to recycle nutrients.
- Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)- Deciduous. Light requirement: sun, part shade, shade. Soil moisture: moist. Soil description: various acid soils, acid-based, gravelly, sandy, sandy loam, medium loam, clay loam, clay. Height: 30-60 ft. Slow growing. Horizontally spreading branches. Tolerates poorly drained soils. Occasionally troubled by insect and disease problems.
- American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)- Deciduous. Light Requirement: sun, part shade, shade. Soil moisture: moist. Soil description: moist, sandy loams or silty clays. Height 75-100 ft. Extremely fast growing. Wide canopies. This tree prefers deep, rich soils, but will grow in places undesirable to plant growth, such as areas with low soil oxygen and high pH.
- Sassafras (*sassafras albidum*)- Deciduous. Light Requirement: Sun, part shade, shade. Soil moisture: moist. Soil description: rich, moist, sandy loams. Sandy, sandy loam, medium loam, acid based. Height: 30-60 ft. Moderate to fast growth. Can grow in infertile soil. Prefers well drained but tolerates soggy feet.
- Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)- Deciduous. Light Requirement: Sun, part shade. Soil moisture: Moist, well-drained. Soil description: Wide range. Height: 50-80 ft. Width: 50-70 ft. Fast growing. Green ash is highly adaptable and tolerant to a wide range of soil pH and moisture levels.
- Lacebark elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)- Deciduous. Light Requirements: Sun, part shade. Soil moisture: Moist, well-drained. Soil description: Wide range. Height: 40-50 ft. Width: 40-50 ft. Moderate growth. Lacebark elms are tolerant to dry sites, occasional drought, alkaline soil, and road salt.

While this is not an exhaustive list of trees suitable for pastures, you may have another in mind. If you are considering any other tree species, you should double check them for any known toxicities by searching the NCSU website for plants known to be poisonous to livestock: [projects.ncsu.edu/cals/plantbiology/ncsc/poisonous/index.html](http://projects.ncsu.edu/cals/plantbiology/ncsc/poisonous/index.html).

For more information or assistance contact Kinsey Everhart at the Anson County Cooperative Extension Office by phone at (704) 694-2415 or by email at [kinsey\\_everhart@ncsu.edu](mailto:kinsey_everhart@ncsu.edu).

By Kinsey Everhart, Anson County Cooperative Extension Agent, Livestock and Row Crop

**\$53,147\***  
\*Plus Tax & Title

**Delivered to Site & Set Up**

**4 BEDROOM 2BATH**  
2020 TRU GRAND 14x76-80

Price includes: Metal Skirting • Heat Pump 4x6 & 10x12 Deck • Electrical 200 amp Box Plumbing Under Home to Septic within 10' County Permit

No land or land improvements are included.

2008 East Roosevelt Street (Hwy 74)  
Monroe • 704-225-8850  
[www.1stchoicemonroe.com](http://www.1stchoicemonroe.com)



**Low or No Income? Uninsured?**

**We're here for you, taking care to make sure our clients stay safe and healthy. You can still receive Family Planning Services.**

Schedule a Physical and/or Birth Control Consult at the  
**ANSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

110 Ashe Street  
Wadesboro  
704-694-5188

Funded by Title X Reproductive Health Services

**New Arrivals**



**COME SEE OUR SECTIONALS**

**WE FINANCE EZ TO APPLY OWN IT NOW!**



**SAME OR NEXT DAY DELIVERY**

**AIR CONDITIONERS ALL SIZES HEAT+COOL UNITS**

### MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET

Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185

**NEW HOURS** Mon-Fri 8:30-5 Closed Saturday 8:30-1 Sunday