

La Fiesta de Clyde 2010 ■ ClydeFest 2010



Pat Lord, una voluntaria, juega con marioettas a mano. ■
Pat Lord, a volunteer, plays with some hand puppets.

FOTO: ANTONIA SERENO



Clyde Jones, el artista homenajeado, se sienta con animales de futuro atras. ■
Clyde Jones, the artist honoree, sits with some future critters behind him.



Una creacion de Clyde ■
A Clyde creation

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LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT.



FARMS

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after carload of farm tour visitors arrived on a lovely spring Sunday afternoon.

"It's our 20th anniversary," said Cathy Jones, who owns and operates the farm along with husband Mike Perry. "We started the same year as the Fearrington Farmers' Market started. We started with one and a half acres."

They started out growing potatoes and lettuce, then arugula and peppers. "We added cut flowers after five years. And chickens eight years ago," said Jones.

They now have four acres under cultivation and 400 chickens, which, in addition to producing eggs, eat bugs and weeds and make fertilizer.

For a field that is completely overgrown, they are going to buy some pigs. "Pigs eat everything, including the roots," she said.

They have farm help, "wonderful young people," said Jones. "Not just old hippies, they are young hippies."

Jones has attended some meetings about the Food Safety Modernization Act. "The food safety issue really has us scared," she said.

Mike Perry has not kept up with the proposed legislation, keeping his focus on farming operations. When asked about the possibility of needing to submit an assessment of how to prevent terrorists from attacking the food supply through his farm, he shook his head and said that he had hoped Obama would have done away with exactly that kind of thing.

McReynolds has raised the alarm about the danger of the Food Safety Modernization Act. He hopes the message has gotten through.

"The bill managers are continuing to negotiate on the bill and wrangling over what the final language will be," he said. "The concern that there be some protections for small farms has been heard."

McReynolds gave credit to N.C. Senator Richard Burr and his staff.

Chatham Commissioners have also weighed in, passing a resolution opposing the bill unless protections for small farms are written in.

"I have yet to see any final language," said McReynolds. "It could be next week."

There is language that the FDA consider the size of farms and the risks. They have to find a risk in local food systems before they regulate."

Sen. Kay Hagan is aware of the problem also. In a statement that her press office emailed, Sen. Hagan wrote, "We need a robust prevention and response system in place to handle outbreaks of food borne illnesses. But it is imperative that we balance that need with those of our small farmers. I am working with my colleagues to ensure that local, small farmers will not be overburdened by new regulations and paperwork."

The U.S. Senate won't consider the Food Safety Modernization Act until they complete passage of the financial reform bill.

Julian Sereno is editor and publisher of Chatham County Line.