



## 2024 Agriculture Forum

On February 29th The Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce along with NC Ag Extension, Nash County recently hosted its inaugural Annual Agriculture Forum presented by Quality Equipment, a groundbreaking event that highlighted the vital role of agriculture in the region's economy and community. Emily Wagner with On Carolina Soil on CBS17, was our Emcee and it was held at Nash Community College. The forum brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including farmers, business leaders, policymakers, and community members, for a day of insightful discussions and networking opportunities, as well as vendors.

One of the highlights of the forum was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Rich Bonnano, a respected expert in agriculture and rural development. Dr. Bonnano's address focused on the importance of land trusts in preserving farmland and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Senator Lisa Barnes also addressed the audience, providing an economic update and highlighting the significance of agriculture to the local economy. Senator Barnes's remarks reinforced the importance of supporting local farmers and businesses to ensure the continued prosperity of the region.

In addition to the keynote addresses, the forum featured a panel discussion with key stakeholders in the agricultural community. The panelists shared their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing the agriculture sector, offering valuable insights into how the industry can continue to thrive in the face of evolving trends and challenges.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the forum was the Chamber's decision to donate all ticket sales to the Eastern Carolina 4-H Livestock Show and Sale Scholarship in Memory of Mr. Wilmer A. "Sonny" Brantley. This generous gesture emphasized the Chamber's commitment to supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Overall, the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce's first Annual Agriculture Forum was a resounding success, bringing together the community to celebrate its agricultural heritage and chart a course for a prosperous future. As the Chamber looks ahead to future forums, it remains committed to supporting the region's agricultural community and promoting its continued growth and success.

