

MICHAEL ENTERPRISES

R. P. UPCHURCH

6 EAGLES WAY LANE

LAKE ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63367-2240



ALVIN CHASON

10 DEC 1999

101 ROCKWOOD DR

HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792

Dear Alvin,

It was nice to get your letter of 27 NOV 1999 and the update on what you and Betty have been doing and your plans for the future. We, too, enjoyed your visit so brief stop in Lake St Louis in October. You must spend more time on the next round.

You and Betty do seem to have some normal blood in you. We should do more traveling but will never approach your vigorous approach. As of yesterday we bought plane tickets to go to Tucson in late January. I will attend the Board meeting for the Desert Legume Program and Salween & I will enjoy a visit with our daughter Nelda & her husband and the three grandchildren there. One of them, Heather, graduated from High School next MAY and we will go back for that.

I have decided to downsize our publishing on the Upland Family. Enclosed are a couple of sheets I am sending to my family history friends to explain things. I don't plan to slow down on family history work - I just don't want the pressure of publishing 6 times per year. The new schedule of 2 times per year will allow me time to go into more detail on my part of the family. Part of this work needs to be done on the ground in and around Rulergh, NC. I hope for a two week trip there next spring but have no firm plans yet.

In the next months or so we will make some important decisions on our farming operation. Although yields & prices were low in 1999 I can see how to handle this and am hoping for better times ahead. The big problem is I can't find just the right kind of people to set up an operation that will make without Sallaine.

-3-

and I having to ride hard on a lot of details. We may partially solve this by having our cement operator cash rent the land. We are also giving serious consideration to selling the entire 1500 acres as a block. This would leave us "free as birds".

Thanks for the leaflet on Henderson County. This bears out your idea about horses being here to stay.

Barry is making some progress with his Real Estate Company and enjoying it. I know he can be successful but just how successful remains to be seen. It will take a year or so to sort it all out. In the meantime he is learning that the world has some strange people in it.

We had our St Louis families (Barry's & Debbie's) in for Thanksgiving & will repeat at Christmas. I am serving as a porter for Sallanice shopping. She goes like a streak when she hits the mall.

Many Christmas to you & Betty & your whole Family

Sincerely yours  
 Phil Williams  
 {ROBERT PHILIP WILSON}

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

①

Saturday, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, 99

REC'D  
2 DEC 1999

Dear Phil,

Betty and I enjoyed our visit with you and Saldine last month when we came through Lake St Louis.

On arriving home it took several days to pay past-due bills and get settled into a daily routine. Already we have penciled in the later part of January to go South and then West to New Mexico and Arizona. There must be some gypsy blood in our heritage or a reason for our wanderlust. The places we go are seldom the reason for our ventures. We don't ponder the reason anyway. Our neighbors no longer depend on when we might be home. Betty

has a laptop we carry for E-mail which does reach better than staying in contact via phone.

Your year year on the farm due to dry weather and prices reminded me of a large produce grower and shipper I sold seed to during the fifties. He had a five year, long term, matter-of-fact thinking. Three years with average income, one year with great profit and one year of terrible losses.

We did Thanksgiving dinner here this week with our sons and their family. Beginning to scout around for what we need to select and do for Christmas.

It has been an unseasonably mild

fall for us, went fishing  
at the lake last week. Normally  
Oct 15<sup>th</sup> is cut off for comfortable  
fishing.

Hope Gary's real estate  
business gets up and going quickly.  
I am sure you are pleased  
to have he and his family closer  
by.

Give Lorraine our regards  
and wishes for a very nice  
holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Alvin

A. CHASON  
101 Rockwood Dr  
HENDERSONVILLE  
NC 28792

### Estimated 1999 Agricultural Information

Population . . . . .	80,000
Number of Farms . . . . .	511
Total Land Area . . . . .	241,664 acres
Total Land in Farms . . . . .	52,281 acres
Harvested Cropland . . . . .	24,194 acres
Average Farm Size . . . . .	102 acres
Average Elevation . . . . .	2,200 feet
Average Annual Rainfall . . . . .	64.03"
Annual Mean Temperature . . . . .	55.8 F
Average Annual Frost-Free Days . .	169 days (+or -15)

Agricultural Districts: 13  
280 Farmers Involved  
16,000 Acres

### Estimated 1998 Farm Income

Nursery & Greenhouse	\$53,018,500
Fruit Production	17,528,500
Vegetables & Berries	16,825,675
Milk	8,242,552
Livestock	4,620,723
Horses	915,900
Field Crops	725,710
Fish	60,000
Christmas Trees	30,000
	-----
Total	\$101,967,560

### Estimated Top Four Contributors to Economy

1. Industry - '97	\$277,613,000
2. Retirement (SS only) '99 est.	198,000,000
3. Tourism '97	128,230,000
4. Agriculture '98	101,967,560

(Resource: Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce)

### Cooperative Extension's Purpose

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service helps individuals, families, and communities put research-based knowledge to work to improve their lives.

North Carolina  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Henderson County Center

740 Glover Street  
Hendersonville, NC 29892  
(828) 697-4891  
(828) 697-4581 Fax  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/henderson/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/henderson/)



## Henderson County Agricultural Information

# 1999

North Carolina  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Henderson County Center

**In support of the diverse enterprises composing Henderson County Agriculture, Agricultural Agents of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service - Henderson County Center:**

- Communicate an economically and environmentally sustainable systems approach to agriculture in an effort to protect and enhance environmental quality and assure long term profitability.

- Network with university specialists and researchers to transfer sound production techniques, modern cultural systems, and integrated pest management recommendations to reduce financial risk and maintain competitiveness.

- Maintain a strong problem solving program by meeting the service requests of producers.

- Promote sound agricultural marketing strategies that take advantage of regional, state, and national market factors in an effort to maximize farm profits.

- Keep growers informed of regulations and environmental constraints that impact their specific enterprises, and encourage best management practices and identify least-cost methods of compliance.

Education provided by newsletters, internet web sites, commodity specific educational conferences, field days, on-farm demonstrations, field research, commodity organizations, and pesticide licensing education.

**1999 Detailed Information on Selected Commodity Areas**

**1. Nursery, Sod, and Greenhouse**

Nursery Acreage . . . . .	1,390 acres
Sod Acreage . . . . .	700 acres
Greenhouse Acreage . . . . .	46 acres
Full-Time Growers . . . . .	52
Part-Time Growers . . . . .	28
Retail Centers . . . . .	21

Henderson is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county in ornamental plant production. North Carolina is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in ornamental plant production. Ornamental plant production is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest agricultural commodity in the nation and 3<sup>rd</sup> in North Carolina.

**a. Landscape & Turf Maintenance**

Residential Landscape Acreage	13,000+ acres
Landscaping/Lawn Maintenance	
Companies . . . . .	140
Golf Courses . . . . .	15

**b. Forestry & Christmas Trees**

Christmas Tree Growers . . . . .	20
Christmas Tree Acreage . . . . .	22 acres

**2. Fruit Production**

Apple Acreage . . . . .	8,000 acres
Apple Trees (bearing) . . . . .	6,000 acres
Apple Trees (non-bearing) . . . . .	2,000 acres
Full-Time Apple Growers . . . . .	200
Part-Time Apple Growers . . . . .	75
Apple Packing Houses . . . . .	5
Bulk apple Packers . . . . .	26
Direct Markets . . . . .	26

North Carolina is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest apple production state in the United States. Henderson County produces over 75% of the apples in North Carolina.

**3. Vegetables & Berries**

Vegetable Acreage . . . . .	2,424 acres
Top Five Vegetables (acres) - beans, tomato, cucumbers, squash, sweet corn.	
Top Five Vegetables (value) - tomato, beans, cucumbers, squash, sweet corn.	
Vegetable Packing, Shipper, Brokerage, or Repacking Business . . . . .	6

Henderson County is the largest vegetable producing County in Western North Carolina.

**4. Milk**

Dairies . . . . .	7
Average Herd Size . . . . .	325 cows
Production/Cow/Year	22,151 lbs. 2,715 gals.

**5. Livestock**

Cattle Producers . . . . .	268
Beef Cattle . . . . .	6,350
(85% commercial & 15% purebred operations).	

**6. Field Crops**

Corn Acreage . . . . .	5,345 acres
Corn producers . . . . .	110
Hay Acreage . . . . .	6,200 acres

**7. Horses**

Value of Horses . . . . .	\$4,948,300
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ALVIN GAINES CHASON

4 DEC 1998

Dear Alvin & Betty

- Delighted to have your recent letter & to be updated on your activities. I was surprised to learn you had changed your travel equipment on the Mobile Home (RV?) looked perfect to me. Farms are doing great in spite of low prices & so-so yields this past season. The fall has been great for farm work & I have gotten some over & over again picking up sticks, roots, & rocks. I developed a plan for the Highway Property & presented it to the local John Deere Dealer - but no luck yet.

We will be in the southeast the last two weeks of this month. For the last day or so I have had to reach you by phone but no luck - will keep trying. If we don't connect this time we will see you on the next round or when you travel this way.

Phil.

With best wishes  
for a very  
happy New Year

Phil & Sallaine  
Upchurch

(818) 684-0296

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

November 20, 1998 <sup>①</sup>

Dear Phillip's,

REC'D  
24 NOV 1998

Not much has happened since I last wrote. Life for Betty and I have been fairly routine with little responsibilities.

I believe I told you of some interest I had in buying some land in Florida and setting up recreational vehicle sites to sell. That turns out to be more than I wanted to get involved with. Would have to live there several months to do justice to the project. Did get interested in an older rec. veh. park that is for sale. I need to get my brother in South Carolina more interested so he can help on financing purchase & renovation. This is near the Ocala, Fla Area.

We sold our converted recreational veh. van and now have a camping

trailer and a new truck with which we plan to continue taking four week trips three or four times each year.

In October we went through Southern Kentucky, middle Tenn. and North Georgia. Followed up on some Amer. history of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Particularly religious history in Ky in the early 1800.

Will likely go back to Florida in Jan/Feb to be with the warm weather. — Next Spring we would like to go thru North and South Dakota. I have a number of good business friends there that I bought sunflower, millet, wheat and rye grain. Most for wild bird feed.

I am following with interest my son Stewart's undertaking to raise rabbits for the fresh meat

market. With a full time job he thinks this could be an interesting sideline. He says the general public is ready to purchase rabbit at the meat market. He and Jennifer have done a good amount of research and have started equipping themselves.

I think of your farm operation at intervals. Particularly when there is adverse or unusual weather in the St Louis area. With an unusual season this year, I hope you were able to come up with a plus bottom line return. What have you done on the property along the interstate highway?

Hope you and Salline had the opportunity to go to New Zealand. Our turf sod farming neighbor and his wife returned last week from there. They reported

a most enjoyable trip. They have a friend there that is getting into sod farming, but has been in the cherry growing business.

We give our regards to Elaine, and hope you both are doing well.

Alvin Chason

you once ask me what our aver. annual ~~year~~ snowfall was in Hendersonville. Today's paper said it was 32 inches.

ALVIN CHASON  
101 ROCKWOOD DR  
HENDERSONVILLE NC  
28792



you, that there is good room for investment in FL. Your land deal proposal sounds very tempting. My style seems to be buying productive agricultural land and holding it for the future.

You are right in sensing that the farming operation is a tonic for me. We have just closed on the sale of the 120 acre mostly wooded tract we showed you and this along with a refinancing of our loans at a lower interest rate puts us in a better position. I was not moved but Sallaine is now happier and that is important.

We are in the midst of tax preparation and have our final meeting with our Accountant on FRIDAY 13 FEB 1998. Then we have to negotiate the new deal with our other operators and we

have to produce an issue of the UPHURCH BULLETIN. with all of this out of the way we will then make a carfree trip to Arizona to participate in the Desert Region Advisory Committee Meeting in TUCSON on 27 FEB 1998. Sallaine has not yet decided to go but I think she will.

we will travel to Minnesota in late MAY to see our new grandchild due to arrive 7 MAY 98. After that I am scheduled to go back to TUCSON for the summer meeting of the Desert Region Advisory Board meeting - but I may skip it as I did last year. The big challenge is to convince Sallaine to go to New Zealand to celebrate our 50th Anniversary (21 AUG 98). (I hope she will take me). she says we don't have any money but that is always her position. She has always wanted to go to New Zealand so



that should make my job of conveying  
her easier.

We have recently heard about some  
rather substantial snowfalls & rain  
in the area of Western North Carolina.  
I guess that is why you and  
Betty are looking forward to a  
trip south.

Our weather has been mild ever  
the winter and we are already  
walking around the yard planning  
the work that has to be done. The  
lawn mower is in the shop for  
a tune up - we want to be ready  
for spring!

With All Best Wishes

Sincerely yours  
Phil Yulinski

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

①

January 27, 1998

REC'D  
31 JAN 1998

Dear Phillips,

Chason  
101 Rockwood Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

I did not intend to wait so long to write.

Your farm operation continues to interest me. I am always anxious to hear of any <sup>new</sup> events you have with the land and farm. Money people move from "life on the farm" to research, education and etc., but few move in the other direction. This is why I think your efforts are interesting and unique.

Next week Betty and I are going to middle Florida for four or five weeks to loaf and get below the frost line.

Two or three years ago I had an idea to purchase 15 or 20 acres of Florida land and build a road and sites for 60 or 80 lots to sale to northern RV camper owners as a place to winter over.

There is still much rural property in Florida that can be bought at a reasonable price. If nothing materializes, it at least gives me something to do for a few weeks.

Buying older houses to remodel and sell or rent is probably in the past for me. Competition for older houses along with little experienced and capable labor, has moved this out of my range as a part time small operation.

Last week we bought a camping trailer to pull behind our small motor home. We are anxious to try it out. Snow today assures us we need to get further South for a few days. Give my regards to Sallaine. Good wishes to both of you.

Abri Chason



operation and he and I have talked twice now about doing something together on our farms. The next step is for the two of us to go out to look over the property. There are pros & cons to working with him and the chances of a deal are probably about 30% right now. Anyway, he is a pleasant young man.

A horse operation has all the advantages you mentioned plus some other I can think off. It would certainly improve my standing as a Grandfather. It would fit nicely into my farming operation in that I would have to grow hay on some of my rougher land and there would be a good fit in terms of utilization of hired people.

Sallaine and I are getting serious about building a farm headquarters which would include a farm shop, farm equipment storage and an office for me. Just yesterday one of our farm operators, knowing

of our desires, made a plea for me to build this facility out on the highway farm as opposed to the site we have in mind on one of our other tracts. He has in mind any sort of business but especially the horticulture business.

Before we make a decision on added business opportunities - or build a headquarters, I am anxious to reach agreement with my 3 operators on a new farming plan which will go into effect 1 OCT 1998. My proposal is that I would be responsible for planting & all inputs for wheat and soybeans and that they would grow the corn when it comes up in the three year rotation on each tract. They would pay all inputs for corn and I would get one-third of the crop. Additionally, they would agree to harvest my wheat and beans at \$20/Acre. This would avoid me having to buy a combine and a corn planter. To my way

of thinking it is a good deal for everyone. I have told each of the three operators that I will be making a presentation on this new plan to them in JAN or FEB. I'll be anxious to see how they respond and will hope to have this new game plan locked into place. Then I can look at other options

you can see that I am all wrapped up in this land-farming operation. Sallaine says it is a lot of money but if we did not have it to money about something else would take its place. Besides - I love to do it.

Next week our December temporary staff to arrive. Sallaine sister & husband from Cary, NC will spend several days with us. Then we will have all three of our kids and their families home for the Christmas season. This will be sort of a mini-

human for us and we are looking forward to it. It has been decided that the grand-children will describe our house - I expect pandemonium!

Tomorrow will be a quiet Thanksgiving for us - Sallaine & I will take dinner at the club.

Our NC travel plans are on hold. We had thought about an April trip but a second look at our 1998 obligations makes an April trip doubtful - the next chance is August. We'll just have to see how things unfold. I really need to see my sister in Greensboro and Sallaine has relatives we need to visit in NC. Then I need to do some family history research in the Raleigh area and I want to visit Brunswick Co, VA. - Busy - busy - busy - when we do come to NC we hope to see you'all

With all best wishes to you and Betty

Phil Upchurch



ALVIN GAINES CHASON

November 18, 1997

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin G. Chason  
101 Rockwood Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

①  
REC'D  
20 NOV 1997

Dear Phillip and Sallaine,

We arrived home Oct 24<sup>th</sup> from a very pleasant and good trip. The weather was most favorable. Rained 2 or 3 times and snowed twice (over 2 inches) but this was all at night.

Sights become recessed in our minds, but personal contacts keep surfacing again & again. We both agreed our visit with you was the high light of our trip.

I told Betty we should have gone thru the canyon country of Utah + Ariz. before visiting you so we could have had a better appreciation of your soil erosion control work!

Received yours and Sallaine's letter. We will be anticipating a visit from you next year if it works into your schedule.

Your farm was impressive. To me it was a little like the Grand

Canyon. A little hard for me to comprehend and relate. The only people who have that much land in this area are people who own a mountain.

I am enclosing some thoughts that have kept reoccurring since our visit. Perhaps I have mentioned something that may spark an idea to assist you in some other decision.

Betty gives her regards to you both. She thought Sellaine was a gracious hostess.

Sincerely,

Abni Chason  
101 Redwood Dr.  
Fleming, NC 28792  
704-684-0256

11-18-97

Some rambling thoughts on your potential business at the farm.

Horses keep coming back to me as giving the greatest long term possibilities. It also has many options where you could start and change directions or emphasis without too much upfront investment. It is not a labor intensive business. It would not be considered a cyclical business (at least not rapid ups and downs). Pleasure horses probably are in a long growth pattern, which started maybe in the early 1950's. How competitive and etc. I have no idea. Horse owners appear to have excess money to spend on their pleasure.

Some of the potentials relating to horses that come to mind are:  
Horse ~~to~~ riding trails, storage bldg., boarding horses, riding instruction, horse training, horse breeding, riding arena, horse shows, rodeos, horse trailer sales and rentals, tack shops,

bag feed sales, quality alfalfa and orchard grass hay or other specialty feeds grown on your farm. Lease pasture acreage to horse owners.

How can one get into the horse business? Someone said it was J. C. Penney or one of those early successful merchants that had a formula for business success: "Find out what the consumer's needs are and then determine how to satisfy that need at a profit."

To find out horse people's needs and desires would take some time and effort. One might want to go so far as to purchase a horse and board it at short intervals with different boarding stables in the western side of St. Louis. This would place you close to how well the facilities operate and give you a comfortable opportunity to talk shop with other horse owners. Find out where <sup>THE</sup> horse shows (local) are held. Go to horse shows. (No need to take your horse).

Talk with horse owners for an insight to their needs and how the industry operates. Maybe you could find out what motivates people to be horse owners. Find out from these owners what local and regional literature on horses they are receiving.

This idea might be a stretch to be called research, but if you could locate some business to pattern from in another city. Perhaps an hour drive from the city. The owners might share information and their thoughts on the risk of setting up this distance from the city. Kansas City, Indianapolis and Cincinnati perhaps. Cities in Kentucky and Tennessee to be excluded because of a long history in pleasure horses. Owners in other cities are apt to talk more freely since you are not a threat to their business.

A white fence along your I-70 frontage property could be an attention getter to divert people from St Louis to whatever you had to offer.

4

(6)

We talked about the seed business when I was with you. I ~~maybe~~ may be repetitions but will give you this thought on buying you seed.

Our distribution company <sup>HANDLED</sup> Pioneer Seed Corn for 3 or 4 years in the late 1980's. Western NC planted approximately 75% of the corn acreage to Pioneer varieties. — I was approached by a large farmer who had talked with some neighboring farmers and offered to purchase for cash on delivery a tractor trailer load of Pioneer Seed Corn. I declined the offer because I had farm supply dealers in the area who sold to these same farmers. The next Spring I discovered these farmers had received their trailer load of corn from another distributor in another area. My area Pioneer representative pleaded ignorance on where the seed came from. The situation was never resolved to me from Pioneer Seed Co. We dropped the distributorship of Pioneer for this and some other reasons. You as a farmer might consider

a similar approach with whatever seed source you are interested.

At the time we handled Thonier, the distributor's gross margin was about 15%. The dealer's margin was about 20%.

The dealer's overall gross margin was most often cut back to 15% because of concessions to larger farmers. It was a practice of seed producers at that time to deliver, consign and pick up unsold seed corn to distributors.

Enclosed is a card from SCORE.

These people offer free advice on helping set up a small business.

I was in contact with them a few years ago when my son and I thought we wanted to build compost barrels for sale. you should have a SCORE office in St. Louis.

Also enclosed is an article from our local paper on pleasure horses. I suspect this originated from NC Agri. Extension Service.

As you may already know, I have never owned a horse. Never desired to own one. Have no close friends that own horses.

---

**SCORE**

**SERVICE CORPS OF  
RETIRED EXECUTIVES  
ASSOCIATION**

*Sponsored by U.S. Small Business Administration*

**John D. Seick**

*Charlotte District Representative  
Alternate Region IV Representative*

210 Brown Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28739-9075

Telephone 704/693-4019



Item in the 18 NOV 1997 Alvin Garner Chason & RPW  
From: Triner - News MON 17 NOV 1997, Hendersonville, NC

## Agriculture officials see growing interest in horses in N.C.

The Associated Press

GREENVILLE — When Fenner Allen was growing up on his family's Pitt County farm, the closest thing to horseback riding was a bareback jaunt on a working farm mule.

"We'd work him in the fields during the week and ride him on Sunday," said Allen, patriarch of a family business that now includes about two dozen quarter horses as well as cattle and tobacco.

Allen Farms isn't the only place with a growing horse herd. Agriculture officials say there are more people riding, raising, showing and selling horses in Eastern North Carolina as people move to open country.

"It seems like the horse population has grown a lot in a hurry," said Phil Rowan, a livestock specialist with the Pitt County Agricultural Service in Greenville. He estimated there are 3,000 horses in Pitt County, up from about 2,600 in 1995.

Between Greenville and Wilmington, fields that once grew tobacco now hold mini-farms for one or two horses, or elaborate stables that board dozens. Near Greenville, an upscale subdivision is built around the Rock Springs Equestrian Center, a Kentucky-style show and boarding facility with paneled stalls for 23 horses, 11 pastures, an indoor riding arena and jockey club. Rocky Point in Pender County is home to one of the largest breeding and training facilities in the country for Arabian horses.

"If you look at all that's involved, like hay production, fences, vaccines, brushing and grooming supplies, veterinarians, farriers, barns and horse shows ... you're looking at a lot," said Steve Mobley, horse specialist for the state Department of Agriculture.

He estimates that there are 200,000 horses in the state, up from 112,000 in 1972. Estimates vary on the economic impact of the industry, but it's believed to be about \$50 million a year, Mobley said.

The horse population in Eastern North Carolina still trails that of the central part of the state, particularly Moore

County, where the area around Southern Pines and Pinehurst is called "horse country." In 1995, there were 5,525 horses worth about \$37 million in Moore County, according to a survey by the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service.

Quarter horses named for their speed in a quarter mile race — are the most prevalent breed in the state with an estimated population of 40,000. A good starter horse that is 8 to 12 years old and easy to manage generally costs about \$2,500, according to Mobley.

"And I feel like the price will be going up," he said.

Depending on the breed and bloodline, individual animals are worth much more. A quarter horse from Alabama sold for \$450,000 in April at a horse show in Raleigh, Mobley said, and there are horses worth \$500,000 or more in North Carolina stables.

Many of the new horse owners are newcomers to North Carolina who buy a farm of four to five acres near a city and want a horse to go with the rural lifestyle, said Mobley, a horseman since the 1960s and the department's horse specialist for 10 years. After a few months, they are often ready to get rid of the horse or add more, he said.

Now the state is putting big money into a center that will serve horse owners.

Near Williamston in Martin County, construction is under way on an \$11.5 million agricultural center that will have the most elaborate horse show and stable facilities east of Raleigh: 300 horse stalls, a huge arena and seating for 3,000 spectators. Scheduled to open in June 1998, the center is only a few miles from Martin Community College, which has trained students for horse-related careers in its equine technology program since 1984.

Backers of the center say it will pump \$8 million a year into the economy by attracting horse shows, rodeos, truck displays and farm equipment shows that are now going to arenas outside of Eastern North Carolina.

The idea is to attract horse shows and horse enthusiasts.

■ **HORSE CLINIC PLANNED**  
McLoughlin will conduct a horse training and riding clinic Dec. 12 at the WNC Agriculture Center Airport Road. The Arizona trainer will conduct a three-day clinic sponsored by the N.C. Horse Council and N.C. State University. For details, call Extension Horse Handybandry at 919-515-8518.

ALVIN GAINES CRASON

②  
23 OCT 1997

6 EAGLES WAY LAKE  
LAKE ST. LOUIS,  
MO 63367-2240

ALVIN & BETTY CRASON  
101 ROCKWOOD DRIVE  
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28742

Dear Alvin & Betty,

We were pleased to learn from your note of 29 SEP 1997 that you continued to have a nice trip after you left us.

We enjoyed your visit with us a great deal, I hope Betty was not bored with all the time we spent talking about the "old days". Looking back on them I recall only joyful times and nothing in the way of hardships although perhaps there were some.

We are on the verge of finishing all our harvesting and today we hope to get the last of the wheat planted. Then we need to spend a little time patching some grassed underways and pushing the woods back.

We had hoped to make a trip back to NC in November but now that seems unlikely. We really must go back at least before the end of 1998. Thanks for your invitation to visit. We will hope to pass through your part of NC. I am sure it is a beautiful area - but then I think all of NC is beautiful.

We are now getting our "grand farming plan" firmly in mind and early in the new year we will see if our operators will go along with our plan.

Your notes listed is impressive and it is clear that you have been making good use of it. Do come our way again soon.

☺ Sincerely yours  
Phil Upchurch

[ROBERT PHILIP UPCHURCH]

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

(11)

REC'D.  
2 OCT 1997

Thanks So Much

Phillip & Sallie,

Our visit was enjoyable.  
We appreciated your  
hospitality and generosity.  
It was interesting  
to renew past memories.  
We expect and hope  
you will come to  
see us when you are  
nearby.

Alvin & Betty

9/29/97



They should look nice when you are here. We would also hope you can meet our two children who live here along with their spouses and our four local grandchildren.

Enclosed is an announcement concerning the two publications I produced on Uphurds family history. This together with the farming project keeps me out of trouble. Also enclosed is a copy of our "freedom document" which I may have sent earlier.

I'll be interested to pick your brain about the seed business. It is an important aspect of farming these days.

Your record of travel, past and planned, sounds great. We would like to do more.

With All Best Wishes for Christmas and all the New Year

Sincerely yours  
 ☺ Phil Uphurds  
 [ROBERT PHILIP UPHURDS]

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

①

MR & MRS ALVIN G. CHASON  
101 ROCKWOOD DRIVE  
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792

6 EAGLES WAY LANE  
LAKE ST LOUIS,  
MO 63367

~~LATE DEC 1995~~  
JAN 1996

Dear Alvin & Betty -

We were pleased to get your Christmas card with the note that you hope to travel to the mid-west in due course. We will be delighted to see you. If you are traveling by motor-home perhaps you will be ready for a regular bed by the time you get here. In any case we have plenty of space and will be looking forward to your visit. There is a lot to see in this area - and I would enjoy showing you our Fine Acres Farms which is now up to 1400 acres and growing. We have two children and four grandchildren in this area and would love to introduce you to them.

We are still adjusting to retirement. I have had to focus a little as it is just not possible to do all of the things I thought might be possible

in retirement. <sup>2-</sup> Still we are doing a great <sup>(2)</sup> deal. The Farms and our Family History work are both progressing nicely and that is where my priorities are. Even so, there is more I would like to do on both of these facets.

We have just returned from a 7 day cruise (our first ever) in the Caribbean. It was great. Next week I have to go to Arizona to participate in the Desert League Advisory Board meeting. In April we plan a two-week family history trip to Texas to deal with all the Ypsichurches there.

In MAY/JUN we made a family history trip through NC/TN. Gave Ypsichurch lectures in Zebulon, NC and in Jamestown, TN. It was great. We thought about you as we passed through Asheville but did not have ourselves organized enough to find you. Next time we will.

When you plan to come just drop us a line or give us a call at (314) 561-6158



If things work out right I will buy <sup>③</sup> another farm this spring. There is a different management arrangement I want to try on this one. Sallaine says we have enough land. Maybe you could help me convince her!

We have a new pentium computer which makes our old 286 look like an antique. Sallaine insists I get computer literate now. So far I have only played solitaire on the new instrument. I should really join the "new" generation.

With All Best Wishes.

☺ Sincerely yours  
Phil Upchurch  
[ROBERT PHILIP UPCHURCH]

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

REC'D  
DEC 7 1995

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin G. Chason  
101 Rockwood Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

We still have our  
mattress and would  
like to spend a day  
with you going west one  
Spring or Summer.  
Alvin & Betty

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

Sept. 17, '97

Chason  
101 Rockwood Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Phillip & Sallaine,

Our plans are as I told  
you on the phone last month.  
We should be in St Louis  
and phone you about 1<sup>PM</sup> or  
1<sup>30</sup> <sup>PM</sup> on Thursday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>.  
We can get directions to your  
house at that time.

We are looking forward  
to getting with you and talking  
about the old days and what  
you are into now.

Sincerely, Alvin & Betty

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

①

December 13, 1996

Dear Phil & Sallaine,

Chason  
101 Rockwood Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

It was good to hear from you. I apologize for the delayed response. Have not been that busy. just not much at writing. your letter was here when we came back from Fla. after 5 or 6 weeks in the motor home. Left again in June on trip thru Newfoundland & Labrador. Again in October to outer banks of NC. Plan to go to Seaboard, Tx. in Jan./Feb.. Tentative plans are to go to Utah and nearby states in Jan. or Jul. '97, at which time we would like to stop by for a visit with you & Sallaine.

We are gone (on the road) about four times ~~of~~<sup>out</sup> the year, for an average of

(2)

four months out of the year. Most of my time here at home is spent buying small or medium size older houses and remodeling (a lot of joint). I either sell them or rent.

Retired from Byrum Seed Company, (a lawn & garden distributor) summer of 1992, but retained a financial interest.

Previous to my 25 years at Byrum, I sold vegetable seed over 2 or 3 Southern states for Agron Seed Company, (now a subsidiary of Upjohn Company) for about 16 years. Until that period I taught school. — Betty and I have been married 35 years. We have two married sons and one few year old grandson.

We came thru St Louis during

③

the height of the great flood in  
the summer of '93, on our return  
from Alaska. As I recall there was  
only one crossing allowed (over the Mtn. River)  
the day we came thru.

Should you be in our area,  
please call or come to see us. we  
have plenty of room. we are about  
three miles from Hendersonville in  
the apple farming side of town.

Sincerely,

Alvin Chason (BETTY)

101 Rockwood DR.

HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792

704-685-0256

# ALVIN GAINES CHASON

① Notes of visit of M/M AGCA with ROR & SSA  
25-27 SEP 1997 in Lake St Louis, MO

Alvin & Betty arrived about 1:30 AM on THUR  
25 SEP 97 as planned. We had a great time renewing  
our friendships over the next two days. Had drinks  
at the Club THUR night. On Friday AM toured the  
Farm & had lunch at 'Empty face' (Alvin  
knew). Then visited the historic towers of St Charles  
Arrived at home. They left on SAT about 11:00 AM.  
They are in good health and Alvin's mother is  
still living at 93. Their son Robert Alvin Chason  
& his wife Marleen live in Meaderville & have their  
only grandson - Turner - age 5. [on 28 SEP 97 I rec'd  
correspondent Terri Jean Hopkins about this]. Their other  
son lives in Oak Ridge, TN.

ALVIN GAINES CHASON

○ Picture of Alvin & Betty rec'd by RPA/SSU with  
their 2008 Christmas card

