



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

Paula Cox, Environmental Health Manager
Anita Ramachandran, Interim Public Health Manager
Victor Isler, Interim County Manager

Guilford County leaders,

I wanted to take a minute to brag on one of your employees – Jordan Lerew – who helped me recently with an environmental issue that resulted from a traffic accident near my farm.

I serve as North Carolina's Commissioner of Agriculture, and I have 2,000 employees under me in the department. It always tickles me when someone takes the time to tell me about an employee who has been especially helpful to them. And, I wanted to do the same.

The accident near my farm involved an overturned milk truck that kept crews on the scene working well into the night to clear and remove it from the road ditch. It wasn't until the next day after the truck was towed away that I discovered that gallons of motor oil had leaked into the ditch, creating a good-sized pool of motor oil that saturated the ground.

In addition, pieces of polyurethane foam from the front of the truck remain scattered around the accident scene, which could have impacted my nearby soybean field and potentially made it unsaleable if it had blown into the field and gotten caught up in the combine at harvest.

I reached out to my local fire department who put me in touch with Jordan who immediately went to work contacting a clean-up crew to remediate this situation.

I was impressed and appreciative that Jordan returned my call and worked with my issue over the July 4th holiday weekend, helping to mitigate a situation that could have had unwanted environmental outcomes. Not only did he facilitate the work being done, but he followed up with me after the crew was finished to be sure I was satisfied with the outcome.

Jordan went beyond the call of duty and helped get this environmental mess cleaned up during a holiday weekend and I am incredibly grateful for that. He truly exemplified to me what it means to be a public servant and his dedication to serve Guilford County residents.

My agency regularly responds to emergencies or disasters often with little warning or regard for holidays, so the sacrifices that those who serve the public make are not lost on me. I am certain Jordan likely had plans with his family over the holiday, but he still took the time to respond to me and ensure that this situation was handled promptly and professionally.

I cannot thank Jordan, and everyone involved in resolving this matter, enough for what they did.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner N.C. Dept. of Agriculture