



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Records set in giant pumpkin and watermelon competition**



RALEIGH – The N.C. State Fair competitions are off to a winning start. Two site records were set in the giant pumpkin and watermelon competition. Chris Rodebaugh of Lewisburg, WV set a site record with a 1,965.5-pound pumpkin. Andrew Vial of Liberty also set a site record for his 341-pound watermelon, which was just nine pounds less than the world record.

“These growers face many obstacles when growing giant fruit,” said N.C. State Fair Manager Kent Yelverton. “Excessive heat, drought, too much rain, impacts from local wildlife

can all impact these giants. Just getting to the fair with a giant pumpkin or watermelon can be an adventure and achievement and we applaud all our winners today. We know that thousands of fairgoers will stop to take pictures with the winning pumpkins and watermelons in the Expo Center. I am sure by the end of the fair they'll be the most photographed fruit in North Carolina.”

This special competition is sanctioned by The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth, an international organization that promotes growing giant vegetables. The top three winners in pumpkins take home between \$1.50 and \$3 per pound. The top three winners in watermelons are awarded between \$3 and \$6 per pound. This year's event was sponsored by AgriSupply.

The 2021 N.C. State Fair is slated for Oct. 14-24 at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The fair offers an experience unique to North Carolina for all who attend, and is a great value with free entertainment, thrilling rides and games, thousands of animals, endless family activities, competitions, vendors and creative deep-fried delights. For more information, visit [www.ncstatefair.org](http://www.ncstatefair.org) or connect on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @ncstatefair.