

North Carolina



**THE TOBACCO TRUST FUND
COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL AND ECONOMIC
RESOURCES AND THE CHAIRS OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEES AND THE FISCAL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

November 1, 2020

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The Honorable Jimmy Dixon
N.C. House of Representatives
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Oversight
Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
16 W Jones Street, Room 2226
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

The Honorable Brent Jackson
N.C. Senate
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Oversight
Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
16 W Jones Street, Room 2022
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

The Honorable Pat McElraft
N.C. House of Representatives
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Oversight
Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
300 N Salisbury Street, Room 634
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Representative Dixon and Senator Jackson and Representative McElraft:

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-722(a), the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission hereby presents a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources from the Chairman, William H. "Bill" Teague. As specified in the legislation, this report contains an update on grant activity and operating expenditures.

If we can provide any further information or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Teague". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

MAILING ADDRESS:
1080 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1080

PHONE: (919) 733-2160 • FAX: (919) 733-2510
www.tobaccotrustfund.org
E-MAIL: tobaccotrustfund@ncagr.gov

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2020



The Honorable Donnie Lambeth
N.C. House of Representatives
Senior Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 303
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Jason Saine
N.C. House of Representatives
Senior Chair
House Appropriations Committee
16 West Jones Street, Room 1326
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

The Honorable Dean Arp
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N Salisbury Street, Room 307A
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable William Brisson
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 405
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Josh Dobson
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 307B
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable John Faircloth
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 613
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Representative Lambeth and Representative Saine and Representative Arp and Representative Brisson and Representative Dobson and Representative Faircloth:

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-722(a), the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission hereby presents a report to the Co-Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee from the Chairman, William H. "Bill" Teague. As specified in the legislation, this report contains an update on grant activity and operating expenditures.

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RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2020



The Honorable Harry Brown
N.C. Senate
Chair, Senate Appropriations/
Base Budget Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 300-B
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Kathy Harrington
N.C. Senate
Chair, Senate Appropriations/
Base Budget Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 300-C
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Brent Jackson
N.C. Senate
Chair, Senate Appropriations/
Base Budget Committee
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2022
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Brown and Senator Harrington and Senator Jackson:

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-722(a), the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission hereby presents a report to the Co-Chairs of the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee from the Chairman, William H. "Bill" Teague. As specified in the legislation, this report contains an update on grant activity and operating expenditures.

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Chairman

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E-MAIL: tobaccotrustfund@ncagr.gov

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604



TO: THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES

As the Chairman of the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, I am pleased to present our annual report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Co-Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

In a nutshell, 2020. A year like no other. A historical dot in time. For many years to come, just speaking of that number will bring up many memories of changes, challenges and painful outcomes. The North Carolina Agricultural Industry is no different; and far from being insulated from the hardships created from a worldwide pandemic. This year we saw poultry being sold on the side of the road, produce abandoned in fields, labor shortages, supply chain interruptions and the list goes on. It will take years to see a resemblance of normalcy. In the meantime, farmers need to know how valuable they are to our state. Now more than ever, the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission is needed to help agricultural families navigate through these challenges.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's work is **critical** because agriculture remains an essential part of our state's economy, contributing **\$92.7** billion annually, accounting for over **16%** of the state's income and employing **17.5%** of North Carolina's workforce. Our board and staff have worked very hard in the past year to make investments that strengthen a core business with limited funding. We have accomplished this by implementing projects to support diversification, education, job creation/sustainability and environmental preservation. We applaud our legislative leadership for allowing the Commission to continue to serve the number one industry of our state's economy.

Active grant information, the 2020 grant awards, and information showing the impact of our funds are included in this report. We have provided a synopsis of each recipient's project and, with the guidance of the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, their impressive results with the financial assistance provided.

We are very proud of our work and humbled to play a part in helping our great state move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Teague".

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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RALEIGH NC 27699-1080

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RALEIGH, NC 27604



COMMISSION MEMBERS
2020

ASHE, John

Reidsville, NC
County- Rockingham
Appointee Officer-
Governor

BARNES, Susan

VICE CHAIRMAN
Kenly, NC
County-Wilson
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

BISSETTE, Edward

Spring Hope, NC
County-Nash
Appointee Officer –
Governor

BYRD, Mark

Bakersville, NC
County-Mitchell
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

CARTER, J.W. (Billy)
III.

Eagle Springs, NC
County-Moore
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

COLLINS, William K.

Raleigh, NC
County-Wake
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

DANIELS, Jennifer

Autryville, NC
County-Sampson
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

DRAKE, Matt

Pinetops, NC
County-Edgecombe
Appointee Officer –
Governor

HAMM, Maggie

Conover, NC
County-Catawba
Appointee Officer-
Governor

HARRELL, Mark

Clinton, NC
County-Sampson
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

JONES, Frankie T., Sr.

Burlington, NC
County-Alamance
Appointee Officer-
Governor

LEE, Jeffrey C.

Benson, NC
County-Johnston
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

MCPHERSON, David

Chadbourn, NC
County-Columbus
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

PHILPOTT, Julian

Sanford, NC
County-Lee
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

SCOTT, Linwood H. III

Lucama, NC
County-Wilson
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

TEAGUE, William H.
(Bill) CHAIRMAN

Leicester, NC
County-Buncombe
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

WARD, Dan

Clarkton, NC
County-Bladen
Appointee Officer-
Governor

WILSON, Kevin

Burnsville, NC
County-Yancey
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem



COMMISSION HISTORY 2020

Background

North Carolina's share of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) was divided into three different parts. Under the terms of the consent decree in North Carolina, 50% of the funds are directed to a non-profit corporation, Golden LEAF, to be used for economic development in tobacco-dependent communities. By statute the remaining 50% is equally divided between two state Commissions. The Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission utilizes their portion for health-related needs (HWTFC). The final portion is allocated to the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (TTFC). With the passage of the 2011 budget, the TTFC now receives funding via appropriations and the HWTFC is no longer in existence.

The TTFC was created on August 2, 2000 with the approval of House Bill 1431. The purpose of the Commission is to assist tobacco farmers, former tobacco quota holders, persons engaged in tobacco-related businesses, individuals displaced from tobacco-related employment, and tobacco product component businesses in this State due to the adverse effects of the MSA. Funds can be disbursed through **compensatory programs** and **qualified agricultural programs**.

Membership is made up of 18 people, six appointed by the Governor, six by the Speaker of the House and six by the President Pro Tem of the Senate. The board met for the first time February 15, 2001 at which the members were given their charges and sworn in.

Since November 1, 2019

The TTFC has met **four times** this past year. During these meetings, board members awarded grant funds, received grantee updates and acted on grant amendment requests.

In 2020, a total of **36** grant applications were received requesting over **\$7.6** million in funding. After a very detailed review process, the TTFC approved grants totaling **\$1.58 million for 15 projects**. The limitation of funds prevented the board from addressing many more of these worthy applications.

Even with the limitation of funds, the TTFC is very proud of the investments made this past year to help people in North Carolina continue to move forward. Below are examples of positive impacts in just a few of our ongoing projects.

- The Bladen County Schools completed their project titled *EBHS Student Agriculture Learning Center*. This project constructed a 50'x60' enclosed pre-engineered metal building with extended open shelters on each side. It was built on the campus of East Bladen High School. This project provides students additional agricultural learning opportunities about the science, business and technology of plant and animal

production, and/or about the environmental and natural resources systems as these relate to agriculture and agri-science. The location of this barn will allow a quick student transition from the classroom to laboratory, which will help to reinforce learning.

- NCDA&CS is assisting farmers through the project titled *Visit NC Farms App Cost-Share*. To maintain progress on statewide expansion, the VNCF App team held four in-person and one online webinar to educate local stakeholders about the benefit of the app, prior to stay-at-home orders in March. A total of 94 participants in Nash, Bladen, WNC, Rowan and Beaufort attended the learning sessions. Progress has continued with a total of 33 online regional learning sessions and meetings to connect stakeholders or to consider on-boarding as a region. The VNCF App team has delivered training sessions to all local app administrators in 30 active counties to date. Currently, 788 assets across eight primary agribusiness revenue streams have been listed by local app administrators on the VNCF App. Assets and activities featured include farms, farm stands, farmer's markets, restaurants, pick-your-own experiences, overnight lodging, farm tours, and special events. In March, recognizing the economic impact of Covid-19 on both NC farmers and consumers, the VNCF App adapted quickly by listing 11 food pantries providing food assistance and 4 local food hubs providing direct marketing opportunities for NC farmers.
- East Carolina University's NC Agromedicine Institute started a new project titled *Farm Stress Response*. This will help farmers by conducting educational/outreach sessions to train farmers who will conduct peer support sessions and educate primary and behavioral healthcare providers about the unique challenges facing agriculture communities in North Carolina. Counseling sessions will be provided at no cost to farmers needing support. One 2-hour session for 17 Cooperative Extension agents and healthcare professionals focusing on farm-related stress as well as health and safety issues has been conducted. To date, 75 participants have attended Talk Save Lives training sessions to support farmers in crises. NCTTFC's support for the project has been explicated along with the availability of counseling sessions on the Institute's website <https://www.ncagromedicine.org/program-agriculturalstress.php>.

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2016 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2019 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2020

Project: Expanding Agricultural Plastics Recycling in NC

Contact: Mr. Terry Albrecht
Land of Sky Regional Council - Waste Reduction Partners
339 New Leicester Hwy, Suite 140
Asheville, NC 28806
828-251-6622

Grant Amount: \$139,650

This project directly assists vegetable and fruit crop growers to adopt advanced “clean” collection practices for plastic mulch films from plasticulture production, so these residuals can be recycled. The initiative promotes farm stewardship and economic stability in tobacco related regions.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant Website: www.landofsky.org

Project: Energy Conservation Program (E-CAP)

Contact: Mr. Alex Arnold
Mountain Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council
4388 US Highway 25-70, Suite #3
Marshall, NC 28753
828-649-3313

Grant Amount: \$204,250

NCTTFC cost-share assistance provides 25% cost-share grants to WNC farmers for energy efficiency or renewable energy projects that increase agricultural output and/or decrease energy costs. The Energy Conservation Assistance Program (E-CAP), joined with WNC farms to provide the technical and application assistance necessary for shovel-ready energy projects.

Status: This project has reached out to 27 counties through newsletters and press releases, 10 counties with active presentations or webinars outlining the program. 75 on-farm site

assessments and direct consultations and 104 Phone consultations have been performed. 27 sub grants have been awarded.

Area Served: Alexander, Allegheny, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey

Applicant Website: www.mountainvalleysrcd.org

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2017 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2019 OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2020

Project: EBHS Student Agriculture Learning Center

Contact: Valerie Newton
Grants Administrator
Bladen County Schools
PO Box 37
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-4136 ext. 10018

Grant Amount: \$110,000

The East Bladen High School Agricultural Education Program constructed an agricultural student learning center/barn facility to meet their students' educational needs. This project positively impacted agricultural education efforts at the school, county and region. The learning center provided much needed laboratory space with adjacent classrooms. Students are able to quickly transition from the classroom to the laboratory which will help to reinforce learning. The building was constructed adjacent to preexisting greenhouse on the campus of East Bladen High School.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Bladen

www.bladen.k12.nc.us

Project: Worker Protection Standard Compliance

Contact: Robin Tutor Marcom
Director
NC Agromedicine Institute
1157 VOA Site C Road
Greenville, NC 27834
252-744-1008

Grant Amount: \$94,128

East Carolina University-North Carolina Agromedicine Institute provided the information, skills and tools needed to comply with or help others comply with revisions to the US Environmental

Protection Agency's Worker Protection Standard (WPS) which became effective January 2, 2017. These revisions apply to all farms using chemicals in the production of agricultural plants. Specific emphasis was placed on assisting farms to comply with portions of the WPS related to respiratory protection and signage.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.agromedicine.org

Project: Farmers Market Community Kitchen

Contact: Tammy Kelly
County Extension Director
Lenoir County Cooperative Extension
1791 Highway 11/55
Kinston, NC 28504
252-527-2191

Grant Amount: \$78,076

This project started a community kitchen in the Rick Holder Farmers Market Annex. In response to increasing requests from farmers/vendors, community members, and potential vendors, LCFM added capacity to the Market by starting a renovation of the Annex to house a community kitchen, a fully inspected, code-compliant facility vendors can use to prepare foods for sale at the Market will be completed. The kitchen will include space for planned healthy food preparation classes and demonstrations, generating increased Market vendors' sales.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Lenoir

www.lenoir.ces.ncsu.edu

Project: From Farm to Vet Tech

Contact: Ms. Melanie Townsend
Grants Coordinator
Nash Community College
522 North Old Carriage Road
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
252-451-8201

Grant Amount: \$136,739

This project helped with the purchase of Instructional, clinical and laboratory equipment, also animal restraining equipment and containment systems for the Vet Tech program. The project also served as an introduction of training and employment opportunities in the veterinary medicine field. This project helped with the occupational skills training of unemployed and underemployed residents adversely impacted by the decline in the tobacco industry.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Pitt, Edgecombe, Durham, Person, Vance, Halifax, Wake, Granville, Lenoir, Franklin, Martin, Beaufort.

www.nashcc.edu

Project: NC Farm School

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
Director
NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
Campus Box 764
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-9259

Grant Amount: \$70,477

This project was aimed at strengthening farming communities. By developing new farm-based enterprises, educational modules, farmer-based mentoring, farmer shadowing, and one on one business development to grow business skills that helped growers expand current farm operations.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Pitt, Martin, Green, Edgecombe, Franklin, Nash, Wilson, Warren

www.ncfarmschool.com

Project: Project Skill-UP

Contact: Margaret Robertson
Associate Vice President
North Carolina Community College
5016 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

919-807-7159

Grant Amount: \$345,000

This project provided access to short-term training programs supporting local workforce needs. This project and sub-contract to NC community colleges were based on each Community Colleges needs to provide outlined services to individual recipients of funds.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Project: NC Farmers Market Promotion

Contact: Mr. Kevin Hardison
Marketing Specialist
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Marketing Division
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-707-3123

Grant Amount: \$100,000

This cost-share project partnered with farmer's markets across the state to promote in-season fresh fruits and vegetables available throughout the market's season. The promotion included a cooperative cost-sharing agreement between the markets and NCDA&CS as well as a general targeted promotion in selected urban areas to encourage shopping at the markets. The project enhanced competitiveness of the NC produce industry and will increase foot traffic and sales of locally grown and produced products.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: Growing TRACTOR Farmers and Supporters

Contact: Ms. Robin Smith
Director
TRACTOR
P.O. Box 1507

Burnsville, NC 28714
828-284-7187

Grant Amount: \$104,808

This project provided for a Farm Manager/Food Safety Officer that worked with growers over seven WNC Counties to expand their production and meet all food safety regulations for the growing demand for local produce. Many of these farmers are former tobacco growers.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Yancey

www.tractorfoodandfarms.com

Project: Investing in NC Agriculture Opportunities

Contact: Dr. Sandy Maddox
Director
The University of Mount Olive, Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center
634 Henderson St.
Mt. Olive, NC 28365
919-658-7682

Grant Amount: \$229,600

This project provided cost -share grants for innovative projects which support agricultural profitability and productivity. Each project was funded based on its potential to positively benefit the economic development of the respective local communities, agricultural diversification, farm profitability, and skill and resource development for current and future farmers. This effort funded projects that can be implemented in other regions of the state by agricultural producers and agribusinesses using the initial projects as a guide to be duplicated if successful.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: 14 NC Counties

www.umoag.com

Project: Wayne Community College's Sustainable Agriculture - Green Machines

Contact: Ms. Dorothy Moore
Director of Grant Development and Management
Wayne Community College

PO Box 8002
Goldsboro, NC 27533
919-739-7010

Grant Amount: \$119,000

This project altered cargo shipping containers to become hydroponic crop growing vessels that were used to establish an eastern NC training center and model for high school and college students, farmers, transitional farmers, entrepreneurs, and community members to learn about sustainable agriculture. This project assisted the curriculum of the Sustainable Agriculture degree program encouraging additional students to learn this technology. This also allowed the College to offer new sustainable agriculture continuing education courses for the community at large.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Wayne

www.waynecc.edu

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2018 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2019 OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2020

Project: Design and Site Plan for WNC Advanced Food Processing Facility

Contact: Mr. Michael McDonald
 Client Services Manager
 Center for Agricultural and Food Entrepreneurship (CAFÉ)
 1461 Sand Hill Road
 Candler, NC 28715
 (828) 301-5409

Grant Amount: \$40,000

Center for Agricultural and Food Entrepreneurship (CAFÉ) produce a site plan and facility design for construction of a 6,000 square-foot food technology, training and manufacturing center. This facility may replace or improve upon the current physical assets of Blue Ridge Food Ventures (BRFV), the South’s largest shared-use food processing facility and food business incubator. The plan is to execute a smooth transition over approximately 3 years to a new location, with the new site at the WNC Farmers Market. Success will allow BRFV to continue providing statewide technical assistance to hundreds of small food entrepreneurs and access to infrastructure for about 50 small-scale food, cosmetic and natural products businesses employing over 45 full-time jobs, and with over \$3.5 million per year in value of goods sold.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.blueridgefoodventures.org

Project: Agriculture Promotion and Education Project

Contact: Marlowe Vaughan
 Executive Director
 Feed the Dialogue NC
 PO Box 27767
 Raleigh, NC 27612
 (919) 922-5241

Grant Amount: \$50,630

The Feed the Dialogue NC Foundation (FtDNC) Agriculture Promotion and Education Project will promote North Carolina Farmers and their farming practices. This campaign will help bridge the gap between farmers and consumers. Consumers will be engaged to learn more about their food and from where it comes. This project will include a seasonal “gate to plate” farm tour/supper series, and four educational farmer videos. These concepts will be promoted on the FtDNC website and social media platforms, to help educate consumers statewide. It will also give us a unique opportunity to show North Carolina’s farming heritage and diversity in the tobacco related sectors.

Status: Developmental and planning activities were performed for planned “Gate to Plate” tour, dinner, & video (part 3 of 4), but COVID 19 restrictions forced grantee to postpone and reconsider plans for 2020. Even though planned videos and tours have been delayed due to COVID 19 restrictions, FtDNC continued to share results of 2019 tour and videos via in person presentations with various groups and through social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram.

Area Served: Statewide

www.feedthediologuenc.org

Project: AgriShop Academy: Specialty Crops

Contact: Ms. Janine Parker
Agribusiness and Marketing Specialist
NC A&T State University, Cooperative Extension
PO Box 21928
Greensboro, NC 27420
(336) 285-4686

Grant Amount: \$33,381

The AgriShop Academy: Specialty Crops was created to economically enhance small and limited-resource farmers in former tobacco-driven counties by providing them an opportunity to attend one of three regional, two-day trainings on heirloom tomato and ginger.

Status: Since, January 2020, there have been five new workshops. We originally planned for six workshops, but we had to cancel one due to weather issues. Enhance the viability, profitability and economic stability of NC's small and limited-resource farmers in former tobacco-driven counties by introducing and focusing on two specialty crops, heirloom tomatoes and ginger.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncat.edu

Project: NC AgVentures Grant Program

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
Executive Director
North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. (NCAF)
Campus Box 7645
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$298,700

The program awarded cost-share grants to family farms for projects that diversify, expand or enhance their agricultural operations. The overall goal is to increase farm profits. The grant benefited family farms in 18 selected counties that were negatively impacted by the downturn in the tobacco economy.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Duplin, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Greene, Guilford, Harnett, Johnston, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pitt, Rockingham, Sampson, Stokes, Surry, Wayne, Wilson, Yadkin

www.ncagventures.org

Project: Reducing Tobacco Equipment Injuries

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
Executive Director
North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. (NCAF)
Campus Box 7645
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$110,045

Agriculture is North Carolina's leading industry and its most dangerous with a fatality rate six times greater than the average of all industries. While tobacco handling and harvesting equipment is not the highest source of injuries and fatalities in North Carolina, it is a significant cause of tobacco production-related deaths and injuries. We will partner NC Agromedicine

Institute to target tobacco growers and workers by: 1) reviewing all tobacco equipment related injuries and fatalities in the last 5 years to determine the root cause of those events; 2) developing short, high impact videos in both English and Spanish that graphically show similar scenarios of people being caught in equipment; 3) providing training in equipment safety and first on scene response for tobacco growers and workers; 4) conducting health screenings both at educational programs and during tobacco field work; 5) providing SMV signs and first aid kits to all growers who attend our programs.

Status: Presented information at two RJR grower meeting to 314 tobacco growers first aid kits and 2 SMV signs were given to all attendees. Covid19 cut short the number of meetings that were available to present this material in 2020.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: TTFC Ag Leadership Program Evaluation

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
Executive Director
North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. (NCAF)
Campus Box 7645
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$67,115

The North Carolina Agricultural Leadership Development Program is a two-year program designed to develop and promote personal and civic leadership skills in North Carolina farmers, agribusiness professionals, and other agriculturists through a series of seven seminars held in North Carolina, a legislative study tour to Washington, and an international study tour. This project will measure the quantitative and qualitative impacts of the program through data collected via surveys, focus groups, and individual interviews.

Status: Focus groups and transcription of those interviews have taken place with initial findings showing the tremendous impacts that the program had on participants. These interviews and the findings are already assisting the NCTTFC ALDP leadership team as they prepare for the upcoming 2020-2022 program. Two videos have been completed. One video highlighted the impact that the program had on a farmer (Maurice Smitherman) and an Extension agent (Der Xiong Holcomb). Also, research from this grant project was presented at the American Association of Agricultural Education and the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Conference. Due to COVID-19, both conferences were virtual.

Area Served: Statewide

<https://calsleadership.ces.ncsu.edu>

Project: Workforce and Career Preparedness Initiatives

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
Executive Director
North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. (NCAF)
Campus Box 7645
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$144,200

The NC State University's Agriculture Institute's Workforce and Career Preparedness Initiatives project has continued to support a robust, statewide internship program that helps AGI students gain relevant work experience and on-the-job learning by matching them with farmers, businesses, and other organizations. This project has benefited several populations such as urban and rural farmers, tobacco farmers, and other areas of agriculture. It also reached populations who may not have considered agriculture as a career before, including veterans, minorities and women.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

<https://cals.ncsu.edu/agricultural-institute/>

Project: Nitrogen Management of Malting Barley

Contact: Ms. Kristin Hicks
Section Chief
NCDA&CS Agronomic Division
1040 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 733-2655

Grant Amount: \$104,695

The NCDA&CS Agronomic Division will conduct a statewide study to determine optimum spring nitrogen rates for malting barley using plant tissue analysis. Historically, southeastern farmers have grown winter barley primarily for animal feed, with nitrogen management approaches focused on high yield rather than high quality. With current price per bushel of malting barley being three to four times that of feed barley, changing nitrogen management to obtain high quality barley will increase farm profitability and provide farmers with a high value winter crop.

Status: Tissue samples, nitrogen applications, and yield determinations were completed during this period. At Lower Coastal Plains Research Station (LCPRS) Piedmont Research Station (PRS), and Sandhills Research Station (SHRS), tissue samples were collected at GS 25, 30 and 45 and the nitrogen rates for each treatment were applied and recorded. At Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station (MHCRS), tissue sampling and nitrogen application did not occur after GS 25. Preliminary findings showed that while yields varied by site, N rate had a positive effect on yield at all sites, plateaued at 120 lb N/acre and that protein met quality standards at N rates 120 lb N/acre and below. A virtual seminar on this topic was given on April 27, 2020.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov/agronomi

Project: NC Real Time Network Upgrade (Phase II)

Contact: Mr. Gary Thompson
Geodetic Survey Chief
NC Department of Public Safety
4298 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 948-7844

Grant Amount: \$19,000

The North Carolina Geodetic Survey operates a network of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) that correct, in real time, signal disturbances from Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites and other Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). When GPS is used for precision agriculture, surveying, engineering, grading, navigation and other high precision mapping uses-the CORS system can be used to improve the accuracy. Funding from this grant was used to upgrade the GPS/GNSS receivers at CORS located in a tobacco producing county (Columbus). The outcome of the CORS upgrade is to ensure that agriculture users have access to the latest technology and can utilize signals from all available navigation satellites, including the new Galileo satellites.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Columbus

www.ncgs.state.nc.us

Project: Food-Safe Transportation for Sandhills Produce Farmers

Contact: Ms. Paige Burns
County Extension Director
Richmond County
PO Box 1358
Rockingham, NC 28338
(910) 997-8255

Grant Amount: \$16,637

This grant connected area farmers with markets by providing a shared-use 6' x 10' tandem axle refrigerated trailer with enclosed generator, reusable harvest bins, and a 20-foot weatherproofed storage container for the sanitary storage of bins. This equipment allows farmers in Richmond, Moore, and Lee Counties to transport their produce to buyers while ensuring GAP compliance, FSMA compliance, and minimal spoilage.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Richmond

www.sandhillsag.com

Project: Agricultural Reinvestment Fund

Contact: Ms. Daryn Lane
Program Coordinator
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA)
PO Box 640
Pittsboro, NC 27312
(919) 542-1396

Grant Amount: \$317,100

RAFI's Agricultural Reinvestment Fund assisted farmers and rural communities to replace income lost due to changes in the tobacco industry. The Agricultural Reinvestment Fund was a model to increase farm income by mitigating the risk of entrepreneurship, replacing lost tobacco income with higher-value agricultural products, and providing NC farmers with models for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Alamance, Bertie, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rowan, Vance, Wake, Warren

www.rafiusa.org

Project: Shared Equipment for Appalachian Produce Farms

Contact: Mr. Michael Graf
Operations Manager
Toe River Aggregation Center Training Organization Regional, Inc.
(TRACTOR)
PO Box 1507
Burnsville, NC 28714
(828) 536-0126

Grant Amount: \$67,576

This project purchased sweet corn harvesting equipment for shared use by member farmers. Farmers currently harvest these crops by hand. This equipment decreased harvest time by 97 percent. Reusable harvest bins were purchased to be used in conjunction with harvesting equipment.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Yancey, Mitchell, Buncombe, Burke, Madison, Henderson

www.tractorfoodandfarms.com

Project: NCTTFC Supervised Agricultural Experience Institute

Contact: Dr. Sandy Maddox
Director

University of Mount Olive-Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-7682

Grant Amount: \$150,000

The NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Supervised Agricultural Institute is a week-long residential camp held at University of Mount Olive (UMO). The camp provides industry and leadership training to FFA members who earn 45 hours of Supervised Agricultural Experience that can be accumulated toward various FFA chapter, state and national awards. FFA members are exposed to actual hands-on learning experiences through these activities. The Institute includes chapter advisors, allowing them through attendance to earn 3 hours of Continuing Education Credit as a participant. The Institute includes training opportunities for both FFA members and advisors including training on leadership, proficiencies, student SAEs, and other in-service opportunities.

Status: Project staff made initial plans for the second NC TTFC SAE Institute of the project. Project staff made contact with speakers, advertised the opportunities to agricultural education teachers across North Carolina and continued to revise and improve plans and improve upon past performance. With the impact of COVID-19, project staff were made aware that many school systems were not allowing teachers to travel for professional development opportunities. Although students come on their own and are not necessarily traveling with school systems many students were concerned about their ability to travel. The University of Mount Olive also shared guidance that pertinent to the Governor's Executive Order and other information all events and camps would be canceled for the summer of 2020. As a result, we were not able to hold the 2020 TTFC SAE Institute.

Area Served: Statewide

www.umoag.com

Project: The Harbor District Market

Contact: Ms. Meg Howdy
Executive Director
Washington Harbor District Association Alliance
PO Box 1988
Washington, NC 27889
(252) 947-1487

Grant Amount: \$129,843

Washington Harbor District Alliance (WHDA) is partnering with farmers and business leaders primarily in Beaufort County but also several farmers in Hyde, Martin and Washington Counties to develop a year-round farmers market, the Harbor District Market. The WHDA has renovated a building in a prime business location on Main Street to accommodate farmers desiring to sell their produce in a permanent venue year-round.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Beaufort

www.whda.org

Project: Safety Improvements and Enhancements for WNC RLC

Contact: Mr. LT Ward
Vice President
WNC Communities
594 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 252-4783

Grant Amount: \$203,500

This grant will implement safety improvements and enhancements for this regional market located in Haywood County dedicated to serving producers in the westernmost counties of North Carolina.

Status: The painting project which was to engage the free labor from early offenders in the prison system we're no longer available due to Covid-19. The high risk among prison inmates brought on a decision to hold the use of inmate labor. All remaining projects can be placed on hold and resumed when the conditions are safer without any major issues. This will be basically put the funding on hold until the situation has become more manageable.

Area Served: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey

www.wnccommunities.org

Project: WNC Agricultural Options Program

Contact: Ms. Jennifer Ferre

Project Coordinator
WNC Communities
594 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 252-4783

Grant Amount: \$837,750

This grant will continue and expand the WNC AgOptions program. This project will provide at least 100 new demonstration grants over three years to help family farmers in Western North Carolina diversify and expand their farming operations and replace tobacco-based income.

Status: 40 grant recipients accepted their awards. Agreements, orientation registration forms and required tax paperwork were collected at the 2020 New Grantee Orientation. WNC AgOptions hosted a total of 70 people, including all 63 recipients (and family, partners, employees, etc.) representing all grant projects. Due to the developing COVID-19 crisis, planned in-person educational workshops on topics such as social media, marketing and food safety were canceled, and all site visits were suspended through April. Virtual site visits were offered if the grantee is feeling uncomfortable with visitors on their farm, they can send photos/video of their project and answer a brief questionnaire about project status. Although most grantees are OK with an in-person visit that follows social distancing and face covering protocols, some will be requesting the virtual option. In June, grantee completed visits to 9 of the forty 2020 cycle recipients.

Area Served: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey

www.wncagoptions.org

Project: Produce Processing Facility Upgrades

Contact: Dr. Carla Norwood
Executive Director
Working Landscapes
108C South Main Street, Suite 2
Warrenton, NC 27589
(252) 257-0205

Grant Amount: \$39,785

Working Landscapes will upgrade its produce processing center, a farm-to-cafeteria fresh-cut produce processing hub in Warrenton, NC. By equipping the facility to safely process ready-to-eat products at high volumes, these upgrades will position Working Landscapes to source more produce from local farms and increase healthy food access for consumers statewide.

Status: The Grantee has ordered most of the equipment needed for our expanded produce processing facility, and it is on-site waiting for the completed facility expansion. The site work is underway with our facility expansion, with an expected completion in late 2020.

Area Served: Statewide

www.workinglandscapesnc.org

Project: Southern Guilford Animal Facility Revitalization Completion

Contact: Ms. Hailey Peeler
Ag Instructor
Southern Guilford High School FFA
5700 Drake Road
Greensboro, NC 27406
(336) 674-4205

Grant Amount: \$60,000

Southern Guilford High School finished a new 2,520 square foot animal barn facility with proper equipment, fencing, supplies, and animals. The barn will house goats, chickens, and the occasional large animal (cow, horse, etc.). The barn also consists of a veterinarian room equipped with exam tables, dissection tools, and all other things needed for veterinarian science curriculum. The barn facility, pasture, and poultry runs are utilized by all students enrolled in Southern Guilford's animal science, veterinary science, and agriscience classes.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Guilford

www.gcsnc.com

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2019 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2019 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2020

Project: **Visit NC Farms App Cost-Share**

Contact: North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Agritourism Marketing Specialist
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 707-3000

Grant Amount: \$153,063.00

The N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services/Agritourism will invest these funds in the Visit NC Farms Smartphone App. Expanding the project from the pilot and early adopter communities to a statewide program, one county/region at a time through this cost-share program.

Status: To maintain progress on statewide expansion, the VNCF App team held four in-person and one online webinar regional learning sessions to local stakeholders from communities not yet listed on the app prior to the stay-at-home orders in March. The total number of participants at those regional learning sessions was 94 in Nash, Bladen, WNC, Rowan and Beaufort (remotely). Progress has continued virtually, as we have held a total of 33 online regional learning sessions and virtual meetings to connect stakeholders or to consider on-boarding as a region. In March, recognizing the economic impact of Covid-19 on both NC farmers and consumers, the VNCF App adapted quickly by listing 11 food pantries providing food assistance and 4 local food hubs providing direct marketing opportunities for NC farmers.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov.

Project: **Investing in Innovative Farm Marketing**

Contact: Ms. Molly Nicholie
Local Food Campaign Director
Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
306 West Haywood Street

Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 236-1282

Grant Amount: \$39,500.00

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project will provide farmers with training and technical assistance on innovative marketing strategies and administer a cost share program to support farmers in the implementation of specific marketing projects in order to increase the economic stability and viability of Western North Carolina farms. The project will serve small farms in the region; many are limited resource and/or socially disadvantaged.

Status: Cost share program outreach was conducted to 635 NC farmers through email, as well as through ASAP's newsletters, events including ASAP's annual Business of Farming Conference, and standalone workshop presentations, and regional partner networks (e.g., NC Cooperative Extension). farmers were provided with training on marketing tools and strategies through a marketing track and at the Business of Farming Conference. In the past six months, 17 applications have been received and 16 have been approved for funding. In total, 33 farms have applied for cost share funds, and 32 farms have been approved for project funding. Approved projects have included, but are not limited to: custom labels, banners, business cards, vehicle signage, staff apparel, farm signage, logo/branding design, print ads, promotional videos, postcards, brochures, and website design. Seventeen approved projects were completed during this reporting period.

Area Served: Buncombe and surrounding counties

www.asapconnections.org

Project: Livestock & Poultry Barn Improvements

Contact: Ms. Tammy Falls
Office Manager
Cleveland County Fair Inc
1751 E. Marion Street
Shelby, NC 28152
(704) 487-0651

Grant Amount: \$40,000.00

The Cleveland County Fair will make improvements that will create cleaner and healthier conditions for show animals and exhibitors. This project will enhance the safety and comfort of spectators while allowing for an increase in exhibits and farm animal displays.

Status: An extension has been added to the Arena's roof line to cover the animal wash bay. This extension significantly improves the dirt flooring in the Arena by preventing rain water from flooding areas in the arena. It will also provide a cleaner, safer and more comfortable area for the animals and exhibitors.

Area Served: Cleveland

www.clevelandcountyfair.com

Project: Executive Farm Management

Contact: Dr. Blake Brown
Professor and Extension Economist
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695-7645
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

This project helped fund the cost of 10 North Carolina farms participating in the 2020 Executive Farm Management (EFM) Program. The EFM improves the profitability of commercial southeastern U.S farms by building strategic business planning and management competencies in commercial farmers. The EFM builds core competencies in strategic management areas of strategic planning, human resource management, financial management, marketing, risk management, and succession planning.

Status: Completed

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Agriculture Teacher Training

Contact: Dr. Travis Park
Associate Professor
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695-7645

(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

The agricultural education program in partnership with the NC Agricultural Foundation will provide a 10-day, intensive Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Institute training for North Carolina agriculture teachers. CASE is an inquiry-based, STEM-oriented agriculture curriculum. The CASE vision is “to enhance the rigor and relevance of agriculture, food, and natural resources subject matter. CASE provides purposeful enhancement of science, mathematics, and English language understanding.” CASE will benefit agriculture teachers and students, and it has the potential of boosting college agriculture enrollments.

Status: As of March 1, we had selected 8 NC agriculture teachers to receive TTFC support to attend the 2020 AFNR NC State CASE Institute plus we had 2 NC State faculty who were attending. Additionally, 3 teachers from out-of-state were registered to attend. Most teachers typically register in late March through May 1. Because of COVID-19, all registrations ceased in March and April. By the end of May, they had cancelled all CASE trainings for the summer, including our NC State CASE Institute.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Harnett County Southern Pea Project

Contact: Mr. Brian Parrish
County Extension Agent Agriculture
County of Harnett
P.O. Box 760
Lillington, NC 27546
(910) 893-7557

Grant Amount: \$32,500.00

The Harnett County office of North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service will purchase two pea shellers and mount them on trailers to be used at multiple farms. The equipment will enable former and current tobacco farmers to try a new crop and explore much needed value-added opportunities. The equipment will help farmers develop new markets and help them take advantage of a strong local demand for fresh shelled peas and fresh frozen peas.

Status: The pea shellers are in and the trailers have been picked up and are ready to go. The Grantee is ready, and these shellers will be ready to go next year’s season.

Area Served: Harnett

www.harnett.org

Project: An "IDEAL" Expansion

Contact: Dr. Cherry Johnson
Director of Research and Grant Development
Johnston County Public Schools
501 S. Second St.
Smithfield, NC 27577
(919) 934-4061

Grant Amount: \$210,591.00

Johnston County Public Schools will expand its IDEAL Academy (an agricultural preparatory program in partnership with the University of Mount Olive located at South Johnston High School). This expansion will most notably include a new 50' x 60' building with an attached 10' x 60' shelter, a facility suitable for agricultural education and practice activities. Further, the project will enhance the existing program, offerings, and structures by allowing for safety and usability upgrades such as connecting an existing structure to the water and drainage system and allocating space to which the aquaculture tanks can be moved for future use.

Status: The Johnston County Board of Education approved the contractor (and, therefore, the contractor) selected to construct the building. The contractor accepted the terms, has ordered the building materials, and is beginning site preparation. Construction has now begun.

Area Served: Johnston

www.johnston.k12.nc.us

Project: Engaging and Educating Agricultural Educators

Contact: Dr. Joy Morgan Fleming
Assistant Professor
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695-7645
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

Project Description

This Grant will provide opportunities for Agricultural Extension and Education students to gain real-world context and experiences, contributing to their preparation for future careers as extension agents or agriculture teachers. Immersive experiences to farms and agricultural industries will allow students to connect content knowledge with real-world opportunities and perspectives that can be integrated in extension programming and curriculum development. lesson plans based on their trips.

Status: Spring semester was moved to virtual. Planning of specific site visits for the "west" tour had taken place.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Heir's Guide to Farm/Forest Land

Contact: Mr. Andrew Branan
Extension Assistant Professor
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695-7645
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$34,600.00

The Heir's Guide to Inherited Farm and Forest Land Interests is a proposed guide for inheritors of family interests in farm and forest land. The workbook features narratives on topics such as managing and resolving co-tenancy land ownership, trusteeship of landowning trusts, LLC membership, and land management topics including forestry, present use valuation, appraisals and surveys, leasehold arrangements with farm operators, and land and water conservation programs. The workbook includes worksheets and legal agreement templates, drawn from the principal author's former law practice library.

Status: Grantee held one Land Summit online for Forsyth County, remainder postponed due to coronavirus shutdown. They converted material to a video series based on the presentation topics. Cooperative extension agents held these presentations online in June. Writing, editing and layout for workbook continues for publication prior to end of grant.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Project SkillUP

Contact: Ms. Margaret Roberton
Associate Vice President - Workforce Continuing Education
North Carolina Community College System
5001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-5001
(919) 807-7159

Grant Amount: \$200,000.00

Project Description

Project Skill-UP is a North Carolina Community College workforce development initiative with three core components: 1) providing access to short-term training programs supporting local workforce needs; 2) developing educational programs supporting diverse utilization of agriculture resources and enterprises; and 3) creating education opportunities to assist farmers in accessing new methods to support business sustainability.

Status: This project has 20 Community Colleges serving 34 counties participating in the program, 71 Students that are First Generation Impacted Tobacco Farmers or Tobacco Workers and 15 Students Non Tobacco Related Impact but taking Agriculture courses. For a total of 86 Students served during this reporting period.

Area Served: Statewide

www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Project: Workforce and Career Preparedness Initiatives

Contact: Dr. Alyssa Degreenia
Lecturer
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695-7645
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$40,170.00

This project will continue to support a robust, statewide internship program that helps Agricultural Institute (AGI) students gain relevant work experience and on-the-job learning by matching them with farmers, businesses, and other organizations. The project helps AGI students develop the professional, interpersonal, and leadership skills they will need to meet the challenges of an increasingly globalized economy.

Status: AGI 191: Professional Development is the course required for all first-year students to take before they complete their internship. The course was updated and six sections of AGI 191: Professional Development were set up for the spring 2020 semester. 115 students were enrolled in AGI 191. This year a new online format was developed prior to COVID for one section and then all students completed the last 6 weeks of the course online. AGI 192: External Learning Experience is the course required for students earning a B- or better in AGI 191. The students enroll in this course for the fall 2020 semester but typically complete their internships in the summer of 2020. About 65 students started the process of completing internships. However, the number of students in internships has changed frequently due to COVID. The course assignments for AGI 192 were updated and all students were enrolled. Faculty were hired and worked with students throughout the summer in their internships. Students' submitted growth plans to highlight their internship plans which were then approved by the faculty and employers. Students also submitted weekly reports that have been diligently graded by the faculty. Incoming Fall of 2020 students (80) learned about the internship program through the orientation Moodle page that was developed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Organic Stevia Pest Control

Contact: Ms. Sarah Frank
Project Manager
North Carolina Biotechnology Center
15 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(919) 549-8827

Grant Amount: \$159,425.00

Scientists will assess weed and disease damage to stevia and evaluate the efficacy of biocontrol products in greenhouse and field trials. The research will result in a disease and weed management strategy for organic stevia production, with data to be submitted to obtain biocontrol registration in stevia.

Status: Seed for the project has been sourced and was seeded after the 2019 holiday break. Treatments were also requested, and inoculum prepared for greenhouse inoculations. A graduate student was successful recruited, however, due to COVID-19 restrictions placed by NCSU CALS on greenhouse and field studies for essential research only, this project has been delayed and will restart later. Disease inoculum was generated for inoculations and treatments will be applied before inoculation. Investigations into opportunities for advanced biologics pest control products are to be incorporated in the studies, including products in development by RTP-based AgBiome and other ag tech companies.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncbiotech.org

Project: Leadership Development Builds Conservation Capacity

Contact: Ms. Michelle Lovejoy
Executive Director
NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation Inc
5171 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 330
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 510-4599

Grant Amount: \$40,000.00

This grant will partially fund the Conservation Leadership Development Program, with the goal of growing the pool of citizens effectively and strategically addressing natural resource management through locally led conservation efforts. Project results include a strong base of conservation leaders that rise to address the natural resource, agriculture and forestry productions challenges and landscape resiliency due to a growing population and the need to increase production on less available land.

Status: Grantee has secured location for training, sent notice of training opportunity via listserv, developed application, distributed applications to selection committee, selection committee call; selected 13 applicants and drafted first session agenda.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncsoilwater.org

Project: Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant

Contact: Mr. Joshua Bledsoe
State Agricultural Education Leader
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695-7645
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$186,945.00

This project will provide grants to local agricultural education programs in North Carolina. The grants will fund transformational projects that will focus on growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture for high- and middle-school agricultural education programs across the state. Grants will be used to fund innovative, sustainable, and relevant projects that will assist the local teachers and students in meeting the current needs of the agricultural industry in our state and in their specific community. Local communities and thousands of students will benefit year after year from the program-changing.

Status: In November 2019, information about the NC Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant was shared with all agriculture teachers in North Carolina. A total of 37 applications were received from 37 different programs. A panel of three impartial and experienced judges reviewed all applications and selected 14 agricultural education programs across the state to receive grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$15,000. Programs were notified in mid-January and a Zoom orientation to the grant process was conducted in late January. Eight of the projects selected were from programs that had never received an Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant previously. Two of the programs that received funding were middle school programs. The grant funds are supporting a wide array of projects from aquaponics to creating an edible arboretum. Local agricultural education programs are currently completing their respective projects.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Hemp insect and mite management

Contact: Dr. Hannah Burrack
Professor & Extension Specialist
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695-7645

(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$85,644.00

The Specialty Crops IPM Laboratory at NC State University will develop insect and mite management information for industrial hemp growers. These results will allow growers to more effectively manage these crop pests, and we will share this information through extension publications, in person meetings, and online content development.

Status: We obtained a hemp license via NCDA&CS, which is required to grow plants for research or commercial purposes. We have established 160 plants of a single variety, Boax, in our research greenhouse. A master student supported by this project, works in our research space on the NCSU campus. We are adhering to strict social distancing and safety protocols to ensure all our work is conducted at minimal risk to ourselves and others. In addition, we have developed a regional collaboration with entomologists in Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and Alabama to evaluate monitoring tools for corn earworm in field grown industrial hemp. The goal of this work is develop early warning strategies for growers for the most significant current insect pest of hemp. We are working at four field locations, three with grower cooperators and one at the Central Crops Research Station in Clayton. We anticipate that we will have actionable recommendations to share from this project at the end of 2020.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Farm Stress Response

Contact: Dr. Robin Tutor Marcom
Director - North Carolina Agromedicine Institute
East Carolina University
2200 South Charles Blvd.
Office of Research Administration
Room 2900, MS 165
Greenville, NC 27858-4353
(252) 328-9530

Grant Amount: \$191,260.00

ECU-North Carolina Agromedicine Institute will grow its Tape & Twine program to help the state's farm community cope with escalating farm stress. This will be accomplished by conducting education/outreach sessions and exhibits at farm-related events, training farmers who will conduct peer support sessions, conducting sessions to educate primary and behavioral

healthcare providers about the unique culture of agriculture and working with farm community and providing counseling sessions at no cost to farming community members needing additional support.

Status: One 2-hour session for 17 Cooperative Extension agents and health/safety professionals on addressing farm-related stress and other farm-related health safety issues has been conducted. Also training in Talk Saves Lives: Standard - 12 participants Talk Saves Lives: Firearms & Suicide Prevention - 63 participants have been held. Counseling sessions consisted of one farmer without third party reimbursement received 4 counseling sessions with a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist. A referral was made for services with a second farmer with third party reimbursement. A third farmer was assisted with resources and referral for in-patient services through a peer farmer and counselor with an agricultural background.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: Bringing the Farm to Consumers

Contact: Ms. CoCo Daughtry
Communications Specialist
North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission Foundation
700 W. Parrish Dr. Suite C
Benson, NC 27504
(919) 894-1067

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

The project will include the development of resources and promotional materials, influencer training and NC Sweetpotato Commission appearances at community events and trade shows.

Status: Project samples were submitted to Microbac, a lab that performs detailed nutritional analysis that can be used in our work with registered dietitians. The results were returned at the end of January and shared with the Registered Dietitian who was contracted to write the Toolkit that will be shared with other Registered Dietitians, so that they could incorporate the data into the narratives. Grantee will be adding a teaching section to the Toolkit for use by dietitians and nutritional educators. Grantee has identified a way to move forward with the print preparation so that it can be ready to go to the printer in 2020, as scheduled. The scheduled video shoots on the project, "A Year in the Life of a Sweetpotato" have had some delays due to Covid 19 and weather issues.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncsweetpotatoes.com/about-us/foundation/

Project: Wholesale & Food Safety Capacity

Contact: Ms. Karen McSwain
Farm Services Director
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
PO Box 448
Pittsboro, NC 27312
(803) 360-3358

Grant Amount: \$50,000.00

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association will provide technical assistance to specialty crop producers in order to increase their understanding of the potential risks associated with fresh produce production, handling, storing, and transportation. This will result in farmers making best management practice changes on their farms, farmers will also receive information about obtaining GAP certification, and inter new wholesale or intermediate markets.

Status: Grant provided direct assistance to nine farmers. Grantee has conducted an in person workshop to 14 participants: On-Farm Food Safety: Best Practices for Fresh Produce Farms in Pembroke, NC, on February 19, 2020 after Covid-19 restrictions converted workshops into webinars and conducted six webinars to 80 participants.

Area Served: Statewide

www.CarolinaFarmStewards.org

Project: Agriculture Education Center

Contact: Mr. Eddie Pitzer
General Manager, Wayne County Livestock Development Association
Wayne County Livestock Development Association Incorporated
PO Box 1100
Goldsboro, NC 27533
(919) 735-7277

Grant Amount: \$70,000.00

The funding will renovate and change the design of an existing steel structure that is currently used only during the fair. The renovated structure and portable equipment will provide year-round usage for educational activities. Well-designed exhibits during the 10-day Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair will increase awareness of where food comes from and the contributions of agriculture to our economy and quality of life.

Status: Permanent stalls have been dismantled, concrete flooring has been installed, and lighting has been upgraded. Livestock handling equipment (panels and penning) have been purchased and are in place. Display monitors have been ordered. Plans to use monitors to share educational videos during the fair are underway, including arrangements for local video production involving Wayne Community College, Cooperative Extension and local livestock production industry. Nine 60" x 35" educational posters are ready for review and final edits by Cooperative Extension.

Area Served: Wayne

www.waynefair.com

Project: Greenhouse for Agricultural Education

Contact: Dr. John Boyd
President
Mayland Community College
200 Mayland Drive
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
(828) 766-1269

Grant Amount: \$9,302.00

Mayland Community College has purchase and assemble a greenhouse to enhance current micro propagation activities. The greenhouse is to be utilized as a finishing location for the plants grown in the micro propagation lab. The greenhouse and micro propagation lab has joined the aquaponics center at the Earth to Sky Park. Together they are the centerpiece of activities designed to preserve and increase the tax base and alleviate unemployment in a region negatively impacted by the loss of tobacco income. They serve as both an instructional site for Mayland Community College students and a demonstration site for local farmers and visitors to the Earth to Sky Park.

Status: Completed

Area Served: Yancey

<http://https://www.mayland.edu>

Project: NC AgVentures Grant Program

Contact: Dr. Susan Jakes
Associate State Program Leader, Community and Rural Dev.
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695-7645
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$1,459,800.00

This three-year grant will expand the number of eligible counties for this ongoing project. The project will award cost-share grants to farms to diversify, expand or enhance their agricultural operations. The overall goal is to increase farm profits to those that were negatively impacted by the downturn in the tobacco economy.

Status: Grantee received 215 applications. All grant proposals were reviewed and submitted through county Extension Agents. The Agents were able to view the applications on their laptops or phones as needed to answer questions and provide technical advice to applicants working on project proposals. Each application received two reviews. They awarded 65 grants in 39 of the 46 eligible counties; 55 farmer grants and 9 community grants. Two orientation meetings were held; the first orientation was hosted by the Iredell County Extension office, the second orientation, which was scheduled to meet in Raleigh was changed to a zoom online meeting due to the Coronavirus quarantine.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Investing in NC Agriculture Opportunities

Contact: Dr. Sandra Maddox
Director, Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center
University of Mount Olive
634 Henderson St
Mount Olive, NC 28365-1263
(919) 658-7682

Grant Amount: \$277,200.00

The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at the University of Mount Olive will work with county representatives in 33 counties across eastern NC to fund innovative projects which support agricultural profitability and productivity. Each project will be funded based on its potential to positively benefit the economic development of the respective local communities, agricultural diversification, farm profitability, and skill and resource development for current and future farmers. The project will be administered as a cost share grant program seeking to fund projects that can be implemented in other regions of the state by agricultural producers and agribusinesses.

Status: Submitted applications were reviewed and complete applications were evaluated by a team of reviewers. Project staff contacted the extension agents or others listed as references to be sure that the applicants were a good fit for the project. Upon approval of NC TTFC, project staff members began contacting project applicants to notify them of funding. A total of 25 projects representing sixteen counties received funding in the amount of \$208,300. documents were completed and submitted in February and March; checks were distributed for accepted projects.

Area Served: 33 eastern NC Counties

www.umo.edu

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2020 CYCLE - AWARDED SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Project: Elkin Farmers Market Expansion Project

Contact: Ms. Laura Gaylord
Main Street and Community Manager
Town of Elkin and Elkin Main Street Advisory Board
PO Box 857
Elkin, NC 28621
(336) 258-8908

Grant Amount: \$23,667.70

The Town of Elkin's Main Street Advisory Board will contract a local awning company to add approximately 1500 SF of extended coverage around 3 additional sides of the current (NCTTFC funded) farmers market shelter, using retractable awnings. The awnings will provide additional coverage from excessive sun and inclement weather, benefitting, and protecting the market customers, vendors and their products/produce. This is especially true during inclement weather and during the hottest summer months.

Area Served: Alleghany

<http://www.elkinnc.org>

Project: Investing in NC Agriculture Opportunities

Contact: Dr. Sandra Maddox
Director, Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center
University of Mount Olive
634 Henderson St
Mount Olive, NC 28365-1263
(919) 658-7682

Grant Amount: \$692,000.00

The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at the University of Mount Olive will work with county representatives in 33 counties across south central and eastern NC to fund innovative projects which support agricultural profitability and productivity. Each project will be funded based on its potential to positively benefit the economic development of the respective local communities, agricultural diversification, farm profitability, and skill and resource development for current and future farmers. The project will be administered as a cost share grant program seeking to fund

projects that can be implemented in other regions of the state by agricultural producers and agribusinesses.

Area Served: Beaufort

Project: A Secure Harbor District Market

Contact: Mr. Chris Furlough
President
Washington Harbor District Alliance
140 W. Main St.
Washington, NC 27889
(252) 947-1487

Grant Amount: \$75,000.00

The Washington Harbor District Alliance (WHDA) will continue to improve and enhance the standards of its year-round farm sales venue at the Harbor District Market, a farmers' market for locally grown products located in the newly restored McClellan's Building, located at 140 W. Main Street in Washington, NC. The summer months are peak selling months: air-conditioning and a rear loading dock are essential to the farmer's market operations. Installation of a sprinkler system is needed to meet City codes. Installation of building upgrades creates a safe and inviting space positively impacting visitor numbers and vendor sales.

Area Served: Beaufort

<http://www.whda.org>

Project: Scaling Vacationer Supported Agriculture

Contact: Ms. Becky Bowen
Program Manager, Cultivate NC, NC State Extension
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

The project's purpose is to develop opportunities for farmers to sell produce directly to tourists renting vacation homes. We work with farmers to define the content and delivery of produce bags to vacationers; with realties and tourism authorities to promote the bags; and with internet retail companies to manage sales and disburse payments. The project works with farmer groups

from economically depressed counties neighboring popular tourism destinations to tap into those tourism economies.

Area Served: Coastal Counties

<http://go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation>

Project: Depot Hill Project

Contact: Mr. Jonathan Franklin
Town Administrator
Town of Louisburg
110 W. Nash Street
Louisburg, NC 27549
(919) 497-1004

Grant Amount: \$125,000.00

The Town of Louisburg will repurpose a warehouse on historic Depot Hill to provide a commissary kitchen, paved parking to service mobile food units, and a catering kitchen. The commissary kitchen is to serve a demand for facilities to accommodate start-up mobile food units. Clients will be required to source a percentage of their ingredients from seasonally available products offered by Franklin County farmers. Caterers who use the catering kitchen are also required to seek out the county's farmers for ingredients. In addition, each mobile food unit operator leasing space in the commissary kitchen will give cooking demonstrations in the catering kitchen. The purpose is to introduce menu items, provide education in cooking techniques, and strengthen interest in locally available foods.

Area Served: Franklin

<http://www.townoflouisburg.org>

Project: LCFM Annex Commercial/Community Kitchen Project

Contact: Dr. Tammy Kelly
County Extension Director
Lenoir County Cooperative Extension, Lenoir County Government
1791 Highway 11/55
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2191

Grant Amount: \$91,604.38

In response to increasing requests from farmers/vendors, community members, and potential vendors, LCFM plans to add capacity to the Market by completing the commercial/community kitchen, a fully inspected, code-compliant facility in which vendors and other entrepreneurs can prepare foods for sale in the Market and throughout the community. The kitchen will include space for planned healthy food preparation classes and demonstrations, which should generate increased Market vendors' sales. The kitchen, located outside of flood prone areas, will be totally operated by gas, and therefore can be powered by a gas-driven generator, along with solar panels, enabling the kitchen to operate during a disaster feeding first responders, volunteers and other community members.

Area Served: Lenoir

<http://https://lenoir.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Project: Animal Agriculture Marketing Campaign

Contact: Ms. Beth Farrell
Agricultural Programs Specialist
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 707-3000

Grant Amount: \$75,000.00

In an effort to communicate positive messages about animal agriculture to the state's largest urban populations, this marketing campaign will highlight the role farmers play in getting local food to people's plates while countering negative messages in mainstream media. The first part of the campaign will use advertising in Charlotte and Raleigh to engage consumers and drive traffic to an online focal point. Messaging will be developed in conjunction with the state's pork, poultry, beef and dairy associations. The same creative and messaging will be used in social media advertising targeted to consumers in Charlotte and Raleigh. Part of the campaign will be a customized online site featuring other content (video, text) that promote animal agriculture and showcase farmers.

Area Served: Mecklenburg

<http://www.ncagr.gov>

Project: Building Capacity for Farmland Preservation

Contact: Ms. Michelle Lovejoy
Executive Director
NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation Inc

5171 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 330
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 510-4599

Grant Amount: \$71,111.44

Grantee will partner with the Working Lands Trust, to provide a series of training to producers, landowners, and soil and water conservation districts on the importance of preserving working lands. Project Partners will collaborate with NC Cooperative Extension and the NC Association for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to offer a three-pronged approach to increase understanding of land transition opportunities and build capacity to support farmland protection programs. The Foundation will lead regional trainings for Conservation District boards on establishing a Farmland Protection Program and workshops for landowners on Land Transition Opportunities. The Working Lands Trust will offer Conservation Easement technical trainings for Conservation District staff. The outcomes will include a greater number of landowners that have a clear path forward to maintaining future land ownership and increased options for protecting of working lands.

Area Served: Statewide

<http://www.ncsoilwater.org>

Project: Executive Farm Management Program

Contact: Dr. A. Blake Brown
Professor
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

This project will help fund the cost of 10 North Carolina farms participating in the 2020 Executive Farm Management (EFM) Program. The EFM improves the profitability of commercial southeastern U.S farms by building strategic business planning and management competencies in commercial farmers. The EFM builds core competencies in strategic management areas of strategic planning, human resource management, financial management, marketing, risk management, and succession planning.

Area Served: Statewide

<http://go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation>

Project: Eastern Christmas Tree Marketing Promotion

Contact: Ms. Sherry Peele
Secretary/Treasurer
Eastern NC Christmas Tree Growers Association
PO Box 820
Sharpsburg, NC 27878-0820
(919) 437-6546

Grant Amount: \$39,150.00

The Eastern NC Christmas Tree Growers Association will produce a series of short videos promoting the industry. The Association will redesign their consumer-focused website and association focused website. All promotional videos and the updated website will be advertised via digital marketing. Through digital marketing, consumers are exposed to choose and cut farms located in the Eastern region of NC. The intent of this program is to provide greater opportunities for the eastern Christmas tree growers to reach consumers using modern marketing methods which will encourage a greater quantity of consumers to visit local Christmas tree farms.

Area Served: Statewide

<http://Members>: <http://www.nc-chooseandcut.com/> Consumers: <http://www.realtreenc.com/>

Project: Sustainable Hemp Production Using Microbes

Contact: Dr. Lindsey Thiessen
Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$18,396.00

Grantee will coordinate and manage research efforts to collect and evaluate plant health and plant disease management benefits of beneficial bacteria. The research from this project will be used to inform farmers about disease management using low-risk biologicals and supporting plant health of hemp crops to increase the productivity and economic stability for regions affected by reduced tobacco acres. Current and future hemp producers will benefit from directly from the research outcomes from this program, reducing economic hurdles of producing hemp sustainably in North Carolina.

Area Served: Statewide

<http://go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation>

Project: Leadership Coaches

Contact: Dr. Joy Morgan-Fleming
Assistant Professor & Program Director
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

The NC TTFC Agricultural Leadership Development Program will provide personal coaching to participants in the 2020-2022 program focused on building and further developing their personal and civic leadership skills. Using coaches to help participants interpret and use leadership assessments and to develop their personal and professional leadership plans significantly improves the success and impact of leaders trained in the program. This project will ensure that participants have more time with coaches than previous programs have been able to provide.

Area Served: Statewide

<http://go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation>

Project: Swain County Agricultural Event Center

Contact: Ms. Creeden Kowal
District Director, Swain Soil & Water Conservation District
Swain County
PO Box 2321
50 Main St
Bryson City, NC 28713
(828) 488-2684

Grant Amount: \$130,000.00

Swain County will plan and build a multipurpose building to host agricultural events and workshops. The site preparation and construction of the facility will include all infrastructure and utilities. The facility will be built and furnished to specifications as presented by the Swain County Agricultural Fair Committee with input from other county and school resources. The initial benefits will be for the local farmers and agricultural community that will also expand out to education, small business, entrepreneurial communities.

Area Served: Swain

<http://www.swaincountync.gov>

Project: Agriculture Education Center Classroom

Contact: Mr. Eddie Pitzer
General Manager, Wayne County Livestock Development Association
Wayne County Livestock Development Association Incorporated
PO Box 1100
Goldsboro, NC 27533
(919) 735-7277

Grant Amount: \$35,000.00

The Wayne County Livestock Development Association aspires to improve agricultural economic viability with the addition of a classroom/lab to our Agriculture Education Center. This addition of a classroom/lab will meet the specific needs of teachers who require the ability to house large animals for extended periods of time as they provide instruction and training that meets the training and learning objectives of the Wayne County Public Schools, Wayne Community College, and Cooperative Extension.

Area Served: Wayne

<http://www.waynefair.com>

Project: Grain Drill for Local Farmers

Contact: Ms. Jessica Anderson
Livestock Agent
Wilson County- North Carolina Cooperative Extension
1806 Goldsboro St
Wilson, NC 27893
(252) 237-0111

Grant Amount: \$24,070.48

The Wilson County Cooperative Extension Service will purchase a grain drill and build a carport to house the drill at the Wilson County Ag Center. Working with Wilson County Soil & Water Conservation District, Extension will promote the use of the grain drill to our small acreage farmers for work reseeding pastures, promoting annual forages, and utilizing cover crops. Currently, they are traveling out of county to find a drill suitable for this work.

Area Served: Wilson

<http://wilson.ces.ncsu.edu>

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 (FY20)

	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$5,129,324.90												
INTEREST INCOME	\$9,148.13	\$9,212.82	\$8,915.42	\$7,522.68	\$10,952.61	\$10,055.00	\$10,073.23	\$9,334.36	\$8,119.03	\$8,728.81	\$7,369.79	\$6,825.74	\$106,257.62
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,900,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,367.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000,367.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$548.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,780.55	\$247.58	\$0.00	\$11,026.85
Fiscal Year 2020 Revenue	\$9,148.13	\$9,761.34	\$1,908,915.42	\$7,522.68	\$10,952.61	\$10,505.20	\$10,073.23	\$9,334.36	\$116,486.03	\$10,509.36	\$7,617.37	\$6,825.74	\$2,117,651.47
EXPENSES													
<i>Personnel Expenses</i>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$13.85	\$0.00	\$31.56	\$60.00	\$7.87	\$96.90	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$88.85	\$1.15	\$0.00	\$315.18
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$143.00	\$233.25	\$142.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$532.75
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$143.95	\$267.02	\$143.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$594.32
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$2.30	\$190.52	\$96.21	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$289.03
	\$13.85	\$2.30	\$509.03	\$656.48	\$293.82	\$96.90	\$0.00	\$68.90	\$0.00	\$88.85	\$1.15	\$0.00	\$1,731.28
<i>Staff Personnel Expenses</i>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$25,734.72	\$28,218.12	\$28,171.04	\$26,520.53	\$26,528.42	\$26,465.44	\$33,046.36	\$27,030.52	\$28,423.55	\$27,031.02	\$27,026.40	\$27,025.26	\$331,221.38
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$173.25	\$0.00	\$1,599.24	\$147.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$590.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.62	\$0.00	\$2,546.41
	\$25,907.97	\$28,218.12	\$29,770.28	\$26,668.01	\$26,528.42	\$26,465.44	\$33,046.36	\$27,621.34	\$28,423.55	\$27,031.02	\$27,062.02	\$27,025.26	\$333,767.79
<i>Office Expenses</i>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$0.00	\$1,210.61	\$37.33	\$153.74	\$25.76	\$161.57	\$19.11	\$28.95	\$10.01	\$173.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,820.25
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$144.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$192.85	\$112.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.29
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$226.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,906.00	\$163.47	\$0.00	\$911.37	\$1,217.38	\$16,203.97	\$25,628.68
Communication/Office Equipment	\$164.86	\$292.81	\$161.68	\$204.15	\$204.15	\$204.15	\$207.60	\$188.43	\$207.60	\$217.65	\$207.60	\$1,071.60	\$3,332.28
Other Administrative Expenses	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$612.38	\$845.24	\$28.98	\$71.99	\$376.43	\$63.71	\$0.00	\$107.12	\$26.13	\$119.00	\$2,370.98
Vehicle	\$210.00	\$60.50	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$33.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$361.00	\$774.54
Telephone Services	\$296.10	\$152.38	\$357.61	\$290.34	\$299.75	\$280.56	\$300.91	\$286.33	\$282.13	\$289.41	\$297.97	\$282.31	\$3,415.80
	\$670.96	\$1,980.95	\$1,239.00	\$1,719.96	\$591.69	\$718.27	\$7,810.05	\$770.88	\$692.59	\$1,811.51	\$1,749.08	\$18,037.88	\$37,792.82
<i>Professional Services</i>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$9,500.00
Misc.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$9,500.00
Fiscal Year 2020 Expenses													\$382,791.89

2016 Grant Cycle	FY 16-19	FY 20
Land of Sky	\$80,150.20	\$56,371.84
Mountain Valley	\$108,236.79	\$57,775.66
	\$188,386.99	\$114,147.50

2017 Grant Cycle	FY 17-19	FY 20
Bladen County Schools	\$98,068.69	\$10,448.17
Carolina Farm Stewardship	\$28,208.83	\$0.00
ECU - Agromedicine Institute	\$58,921.62	\$31,435.56
Farmer Foodshare	\$0.00	\$0.00
Green Fields Sandhills	\$26,047.20	\$0.00
Growing Rural Opportunities	\$29,149.11	\$0.00
Lenoir County Coop Ext	\$0.00	\$78,076.00
Nash Community College	\$112,922.95	\$23,816.05
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Ed Program	\$180,817.84	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - NC Farm School	\$38,985.63	\$26,831.48
NC Ag Foundation - New Frozen Fruit Markets	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Community College System	\$236,307.86	\$101,717.07
NCDA&CS - Agritourism	\$97,626.31	\$0.00
NCDA&CS - Farmers Market Promotion	\$40,103.16	\$25,634.60
NC Department of Public Safety	\$220,000.00	\$0.00
RAFI	\$292,537.92	\$0.00
TRACTOR	\$56,635.15	\$34,562.53
The University of Mount Olive	\$86,689.34	\$135,558.38
Wayne Community College	\$42,450.01	\$69,818.69
TOTAL	\$1,645,471.62	\$537,898.53

2018 Grant Cycle	FY 18-19	FY 20
CAFÉ	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
Feed the Dialogue NC Foundation	\$0.00	\$23,458.40
NC A&T State University	\$4,094.57	\$14,154.34
NC Ag Foundation (ECU)	\$0.00	\$14,909.51
NC Ag Foundation - AgVentures	\$0.00	\$289,890.72
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Leadership	\$0.00	\$42,525.51
NC Ag Foundation - Workforce	\$0.00	\$125,611.85
NCDA&CS	\$29,055.17	\$25,708.29
NC Department of Public Safety	\$18,050.00	\$179.00
Richmond County	\$2,327.25	\$14,309.75
RAFI	\$221,743.46	\$94,856.60
Southern Guilford High School FFA	\$27,637.21	\$32,354.85
TRACTOR	\$62,844.74	\$4,558.45
University of Mt. Olive	\$0.00	\$38,131.41
Washington Harbor District	\$123,986.16	\$5,856.84
Working Landscapes	\$0.00	\$37,795.75
WNC Communities - Safety Impr	\$19,215.00	\$121,557.46
WNC Communiteis - AgOptions	\$210,068.29	\$261,213.52
TOTAL	\$719,021.85	\$1,187,072.25

Cash Carried Forward	\$5,129,324.90
Total Revenue FY20	\$2,117,651.47
Total Expenses FY20(-)	\$382,791.89
Subtotal	\$6,864,184.48
Total Grants Pd Out FY20 (-)	\$1,975,771.57
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY20 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$4,888,412.91
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$4,612,579.04
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	\$275,833.87
Encumbered Funds	
2016 Granting Cycle	\$111,708.96
2017 Granting Cycle	\$313,338.75
2018 Granting Cycle	\$874,184.62
2019 Granting Cycle	\$3,313,346.71
TOTAL	\$4,612,579.04

*This report is based on data from
7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020*

2019 Grant Cycle		
ASAP		\$3,166.00
Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc		\$0.00
Cleveland County Fair, Inc.		\$0.00
County of Harnett		\$0.00
East Carolina University		\$0.00
Johnston County Public Schools		\$0.00
Mayland Community College		\$0.00
NC Foundation for Soil & Water		\$1,671.71
NC Biotechnology Center		\$790.96
NC Community College System		\$3,216.30
NCDA&CS		\$12,916.43
NCAF - Ag Ed		\$0.00
NCAF - CASE		\$0.00
NCAF - Ed Ag Educators		\$0.00
NCAF - Ext Farm Manangement		\$60,000.00
NCAF - Heir's Guide		\$0.00
NCAF - Hemp Insect		\$0.00
NCAF - NC AgVentures		\$12,156.46
NCAF - Workforce		\$0.00
NC Sweet Potato Commission		\$8,925.00
University of Mount Olive		\$0.00
Wayne County Livestock Dev		\$33,810.43
TOTAL		\$136,653.29

Budget Transfers/Debt Service and Cancer Research Payments	
FY 02 Designated Interceptions	\$82,004,511.11
FY 03 Designated Interceptions	\$38,000,000.00
FY 04 Designated Interceptions	\$37,146,734.06
FY 05 Designated Interceptions	\$35,000,000.00
FY 06 Designated Interceptions	\$32,134,175.77
FY 06 Debt Service Payment	\$1,979,096.00
FY 07 Designated Interceptions	\$30,000,000.00
FY 07 Debt Service Payment	\$2,816,688.46
FY 08 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 08 Debt Service Payment	\$6,353,724.00
FY 09 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 09 Debt Service Payment	\$10,722,025.50
FY 09 Designated Interceptions	\$24,398,290.94
FY 10 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 10 Debt Service Payment	\$15,308,738.50
FY 10 Designated Interception	\$5,000,000.00
FY 11 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 11 Debt Service Payment	\$17,116,443.00
FY 11 Designated Interception	\$5,000,000.00
FY 11 Designated Interception	\$5,000,000.00
FY 11 Designated Interception	\$176,825.25
FY 13 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
FY 15 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
FY 16 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
FY 17 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
FY 18 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$58,000.00
FY 19 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
TOTAL	\$380,415,252.59

Total Grants Paid Out Since Inception	
Barn Retrofit	\$41,090,228.00
Burley Marketing Center	\$2,509,555.21
NCDA/NCSU Barn Retrofit	\$168,254.00
Hay Relief	\$5,000.00
FCTCC	\$1,880,113.85
2002 Granting Cycle	\$2,534,958.56
2003 Granting Cycle	\$3,525,839.12
2004 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$435,130.26
2005 Granting Cycle	\$2,817,630.15
2007 Granting Cycle	\$3,186,010.81
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$17,651,886.89
2008 Granting Cycle	\$5,076,135.23
2009 Granting Cycle	\$2,581,846.24
2010 Granting Cycle	\$5,471,915.76
2011 Granting Cycle	\$2,904,790.48
2012 Granting Cycle	\$2,008,334.72
2013 Granting Cycle	\$1,601,159.13
2014 Granting Cycle	\$2,227,193.50
2015 Granting Cycle	\$1,695,096.26
2016 Granting Cycle	\$4,454,128.97
2017 Granting Cycle	\$2,150,661.25
2018 Granting Cycle	\$1,892,272.38
2019 Granting Cycle	\$136,653.29
TOTAL	\$108,004,794.06

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 (FY21)

	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$4,888,412.91												
INTEREST INCOME	\$4,989.93	\$4,399.38	\$3,480.44										\$12,869.75
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,013,057.00										\$2,013,057.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Fiscal Year 2021 Revenue	\$4,989.93	\$4,399.38	\$2,016,537.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,025,926.75
EXPENSES													
<i>Personnel Expenses</i>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$23.10										\$83.10
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$23.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$83.10
<i>Staff Personnel Expenses</i>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$28,073.35	\$30,736.84	\$28,141.89										\$86,952.08
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
	\$28,073.35	\$30,736.84	\$28,141.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$86,952.08
<i>Office Expenses</i>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$155.81	\$1,205.64	\$77.64										\$1,439.09
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$229.38	\$0.00										\$229.38
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$11.39	\$153.74										\$165.13
Communication/Office Equipment	\$165.13	\$165.28	\$165.40										\$495.81
Other Administrative Expenses	\$122.96	\$120.00	\$646.76										\$889.72
Vehicle	\$0.00	\$23.97	\$30.00										\$53.97
Telephone Services	\$282.31	\$291.69	\$413.22										\$987.22
	\$726.21	\$2,047.35	\$1,486.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,260.32
<i>Professional Services</i>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00										\$1,000.00
Misc.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Fiscal Year 2021 Expenses													\$92,295.50

2016 Grant Cycle	FY 16-20	FY 21
Mountain Valley	\$166,012.45	\$7,367.62
TOTAL	\$166,012.45	\$7,367.62

2017 Grant Cycle	FY 17-20	FY 21
TRACTOR	\$91,197.68	\$12,198.54
Wayne Comm College	\$112,268.70	\$3,470.36
TOTAL	\$203,466.38	\$15,668.90

2018 Grant Cycle	FY 18-20	FY 21
Feed the Dialogue NC Foundation	\$23,458.40	\$0.00
NC A&T State University	\$18,248.91	\$1,257.93
NC Ag Foundation (ECU)	\$14,909.51	\$30,796.39
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Leadership	\$42,525.51	\$7,449.79
NCDA&CS	\$54,763.46	\$25,630.33
University of Mt. Olive	\$38,131.41	\$151,078.04
Working Landscapes	\$37,795.75	\$0.00
WNC Communities - Safety Impr	\$140,772.46	\$0.00
WNC Communities - AgOptions	\$471,281.81	\$28,984.00
TOTAL	\$841,887.22	\$245,196.48

2019 Grant Cycle	FY 18-20	FY 21
ASAP	\$3,166.00	\$0.00
Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cleveland County Fair, Inc.	\$0.00	\$23,307.46
County of Harnett	\$0.00	\$0.00
East Carolina University	\$0.00	\$6,389.30
Johnston County Public Schools	\$0.00	\$40,375.00
Mayland Community College	\$0.00	\$8,836.90
NC Foundation for Soil & Water	\$1,671.71	\$660.94
NC Biotechnology Center	\$790.96	\$10,180.86
NC Community College System	\$3,216.30	\$13,585.71
NCDA&CS	\$12,916.43	\$0.00
NCAF - Ag Ed	\$0.00	\$83,365.86
NCAF - CASE	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Ed Ag Educators	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Heir's Guide	\$0.00	\$9,262.12
NCAF - Hemp Insect	\$0.00	\$21,239.16
NCAF - NC AgVentures	\$12,156.46	\$335,984.49
NCAF - Workforce	\$0.00	\$14,808.28
NC Sweet Potato Commission	\$8,925.00	\$0.00
University of Mount Olive	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wayne County Livestock Dev	\$33,810.43	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$76,653.29	\$567,996.08

Cash Carried Forward	\$4,888,412.91
Total Revenue FY21	\$2,025,926.75
Total Expenses FY21(-)	\$92,295.50
Subtotal	\$6,822,044.16
Total Grants Pd Out FY21 (-)	\$836,229.08
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY21 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$5,985,815.08
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$3,939,790.90
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/Enforcement of the MSA	\$2,046,024.18
Encumbered Funds	
2016 Granting Cycle	\$104,341.34
2017 Granting Cycle	\$301,736.03
2018 Granting Cycle	\$788,362.90
2019 Granting Cycle	\$2,745,350.63
2020 Granting Cycle	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$3,939,790.90

*This report is based on data from
7/1/2020 - 9/30/2020*



PARTNERSHIPS IN WESTERN NC

Over 15 years ago, the Commission's very first cost-share program began in the mountains of NC and a partnership with the Cooperative Extension service and its **WNC AgOptions** Program. Farmers of all sizes featuring a diverse background of experience and production have utilized funding to enhance, expand and improve their farming operations. Now managed by **WNC Communities**, the program awards over 30 annual grants of up to \$6,000.



Whether it's irrigation projects at an Agritourism farm, cattle handling systems or specialty equipment for a certified organic farm, WNC AgOptions delivers results!



By the Numbers (since 2004)

Grant Funds Awarded: \$3 million

Number of Farm & Community Grants: 602

Dollars Leveraged: Nearly \$3 million

Acres Impacted: Over 22,000

Over the last 10 years, **Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)** has allocated marketing cost share funds to farmers in 23 western counties. Grants have supported over **200 farms** annually. Farmers have leveraged over **\$600,000** of their own funds in addition to the grants! Cost share funds have been used for everything from eye-catching graphics to packaging to websites and more!

"TRACTOR" is a 44 farmer-member cooperative based in Burnsville. A variety of produce grown in 8 counties is brought to their facility for washing and packaging then sold to farmers markets and retail stores. NCTTFC grants over the last several years have helped launch the initiative and purchase vital equipment for the group. The current grant has funded harvesting equipment that has generated nearly **\$100,000 in produce sales on 125 acres!**



ADVOCATE *for* SAFER & HEALTHIER FARMERS



The NC Agromedicine Institute (NCAI) and the NCTTFC have partnered for several years with impactful grants designed to make farm operations safer and help farm families stay healthy. In 2009, the NCAI became the first state certified “Agri-Safe” program. Extension agents and NCAI personnel have conducted farm safety inspections, health screenings and training. Farm operators, families and workers have received guidance on how to implement safer practices and reduce their risk of health-related issues.

Farming is one of the top occupations for health-related issues. Stress, high insurance costs, lack of medical care in rural areas are key factors in causing farm families to suffer from a higher than normal rate of medical challenges. The NCAI has conducted over 3,000 health screenings since 2009. Early detection of high blood pressure, blood sugar, and other conditions have led to farm lives being saved because treatment was accessed early!



Fit-To-Farm: More than 2/3 of farmers were found to have high blood pressure and/or to be overweight. Workshops taught farmers how small diet and work routine changes could reduce their risk for adverse health outcomes.

FIRST ON SCENE TRAINING: Educates farmers, fire and EMS personnel on how to respond when arriving first on scene to a farm accident. Over 30 training sessions were conducted reaching nearly 700 farmers. 18 training sessions reached over 450 fire and EMS personnel. Fire and rescue units received over \$14,000 in cost-share funds for rescue equipment such as saws, jacks and other specialized equipment for use in confined spaces.



Soil fumigants are a necessary tool for to ensure successful production of some farm crops. However, federally-mandated rules have required farmers to meet strong criteria in order to apply these fumigants. Proper breathing equipment required fit-testing and farmers had to be medically cleared. NCAI conducted over **700** fit tests and trained over **1,200** farmers and ag industry leaders on developing fumigant management plans. Other states asked for guidance from NC to develop similar programs!

By the Numbers

**Health Screenings:
Over 3,000**

**Farm Health & Safety
Education: Over 10,000
individuals annually**



By working closely with the EPA, project leaders saved NC farmers over \$4 million! Requirements that farms using fumigants must have self-contained breathing apparatus were lifted!

ADVOCATE *for* EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

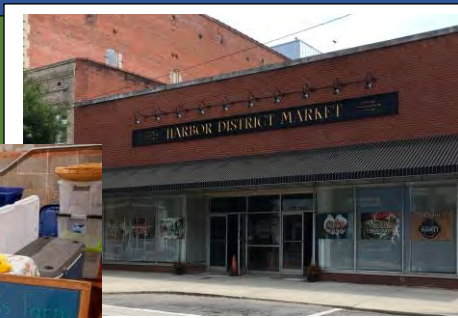


The NCTTFC has partnered with a variety of grantees based in eastern NC during its 20 years of service. The rural, agricultural areas of the Piedmont and Coastal Plains have a variety of economic and production needs and the demand for NCTTFC funding exceeds what is annually available! Here are a few projects that are underway or recently completed.



“FROM FARM TO VET TECH”: *Nash Community College recognized the need to create a pathway for students to pursue 2-year degrees in Veterinary Medical Technology due to the void of skilled workers for vet practices. A NCTTFC grant purchased an extensive list of equipment and supplies. The first cohort of students will graduate in May 2020! They will be eligible for state & national licensing exams and employment as Registered Vet Technicians!*

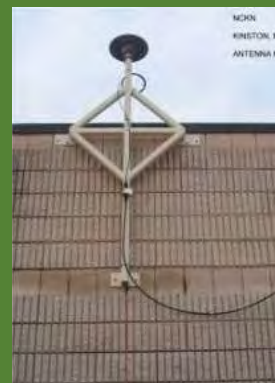
HARBOR DISTRICT MARKET: *The Washington Harbor District Alliance and the city of Washington developed a year-round farmers market in a revitalized building. Located in the downtown historic district, the market features local foods and products from farmers and vendors who sale arts and crafts. The market provides meeting space for the community and plans to expand with more selling stalls in the near future. The market averages over 900 Saturday shoppers!*



WAYNE COMMUNITY COLLEGE *has installed two “Sustainable Ag Green Machines.” A NCTTFC grant helped the school purchase 2 refurbished cargo containers to serve as hydroponic growing vessels. Students in the Sustainable Agriculture degree program will learn how these self-contained units can grow a variety of crops, including microgreens. High school students, WCC students and area farmers will have access to training programs to learn how these innovative “green machines” can add income from a small growing area!*



Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology has become an essential tool that is now taken for granted! But NC farmers utilize GPS to ensure proper fertilization, mapping and even driving their tractors for precision tilling! That’s why the NC Dept. of Public Safety utilized a NCTTFC grant to upgrade its Real NC Time Network. Funds purchased new upgraded equipment for Global Navigation Satellite Systems and the network of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS). The CORS correct real time signal issues of GPS satellites, thus ensuring that farmers receive optimal signals for their precision ag equipment. 12 CORS stations were upgraded while added funds helped the NCDPS upgrade 911 equipment at five CORS locations also. 46 new ag users registered to use the RTN during the one-year grant. This project will ensure users have consistent quality and signal strength for all types of GPS operations!





PARTNERSHIPS IN WESTERN NC

NEW MARKETS FOR CATTLE PRODUCERS

When the WNC Regional Livestock Center opened in 2011, farmers quickly realized that this market was going to make a major impact on western counties. Located west of Asheville just off I-40, the facility received construction, safety improvement, education and transportation grants totaling over \$1.53 million with an additional \$1.7 million in leveraged funds. More importantly, livestock producers have found a critical pipeline to new markets, increased income and reduced travel costs when they market their cattle and other livestock. In addition, the facility is used as a community training, meeting, and educational facility that has helped producers earn Beef Quality Assurance standards which increase the price paid for their cattle.



By the Numbers

Acres impacted: 177,250

Number of Sellers: 7,054

Cattle Sold through the arena: 131,160

Value: \$111 Million

Cattle Sold through Video/Contract Sales: 15,036

Value: \$13.5 million



(Figures based on Mar. 2011- Dec. 2019)

OUR MISSION: We fund projects that *Support, Foster and Encourage* a Strong Ag-Economy in NC. Created in 2000, over **300** projects have been funded by the Commission. We currently manage over **40 active grant programs**. These include projects such as crop research, farmer cost-share, job skills training, education, developing new ag markets, increasing Agri-Tourism patrons and more! **18 Ag Leaders** serve on our Board of Directors and assist in selecting and awarding grant funds to our innovative projects. **General Assembly appropriations** fund the Commission, but the demand cannot be met! Each year, the Commission receives between **\$10-\$12 million** in requests. With so few funding options, viable agricultural, economic development and job training ideas **go unfunded** due to lack of grant resources!



Doris and Donald Kidd Develop Niche Markets

Selma, NC

Strategy: Niche marketing

Doris and Donald Kidd aren't what Doris would call "mega farmers"—far from it. And in North Carolina, they're not alone.

People want to know where their food is coming from and how it's grown. They want it to be healthy for them and sustainable for the environment.

Although farm size is growing, small farms of all kinds continue to predominate. Of the state's 46,418 farms, 21,125—about 46%—are less than 50 acres, according to 2017 Census data. The Kidds farm on four to five of the 15 acres of former tobacco land that they bought in 1989. That purchase was their first step toward a long-time dream, raising their son as they'd been raised—on a working farm.

Now retired (she is a former school teacher, and he was a boiler inspector for the N.C. Department of Labor), the couple uses the money generated from the farm to supplement their pensions.

The farm also provides them with "freedom and space and the ability to work in the dirt and see things grow," Donald says.

The couple is among a handful of North Carolina garlic farmers and one of few producing elephant garlic, a cross between leeks and garlic. They also grow lettuce, herbs and other greens in a greenhouse and then transplant them into a high tunnel—an unheated plastic-covered structure that gives the plants an extra layer of protection from the elements.

Their biggest challenge is the weather.

"It's been really tough to deal with what appears to be a change in climate," Donald says. "We've been dogged by unseasonably warm, wet winters for the last five years. ... This year, we were barely able to get the garlic in the ground before it started raining."

Another challenge is competing against foreign imports. "Most of the garlic sold in the U.S. is grown in China and other countries where prices are really depressed," Donald says.

To overcome that disadvantage, they focus on a niche market—consumers willing to pay more for locally produced food. At the State Farmers Market in Raleigh, they have customers who “recognize what we do and what we put into it, and they are willing to pay a little more.”

After a slow start this year due to COVID-19, sales picked up and the Kidds closed their season with a profit. Not only that, they gained a new sales venue—the monthly Black Farmers Market in Raleigh, which launched this summer. They also found success at the affiliated Black Farmers Market in Durham.

“We had such a huge garlic crop this year, we were able to try these markets,” Doris says. “To have a market like that is really exceptional.

“Getting food on the table that’s sustainable and that’s healthy for people is important,” she adds. “Being able to contribute to that has been a real blessing for us.”



The NC State connection

The Kidds expanded their operation in 2019 with an NC AgVentures grant to buy a larger garlic drying barn. **AgVentures is supported exclusively by the state’s Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and administered by NC State Extension with help from county Cooperative Extension agents.**

Farmers in 46 counties are eligible to apply.

NCSU CALS Magazine – FALL 2020

Wilkes Journal-Patriot

Grants available through NC AgVentures

Posted on [October 20, 2020](#)

NC AgVentures, an N.C. State Extension program, provides grants to N.C. farmers and community groups for new and innovative agricultural project ideas that will increase farm profits.

The program, **supported by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**, will award a minimum of 40 grants to independent family farms. “This is a great opportunity for any producer who is thinking of diversifying, improving, or expanding their operation,” stated a press release.

Interested farmers must contact and work with a N.C. Cooperative Extension Agent to complete their application. Applications will be accepted from producers in Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Iredell, Johnson, Lincoln, Martin, Mecklenburg, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Wayne, Wilson, Wilkes, Warren and Yadkin counties.

NC AgVentures will award grants up to \$8,000. The application deadline is Dec. 18, 2020.

Online information workshops will be offered on Oct. 21, Nov. 2, Nov. 19 and Dec. 1. Time is 6 p.m.

To register for an online information workshop, visit the NC AgVentures webpage: www.ncagventures.org.



Farmer of the Year James Lamb Innovates in Two Roles

Clinton, NC

Strategy: Combining off-farm employment with contract farming

What a long way North Carolina's 2020 Farmer of the Year James Lamb has come since March 19, 1990. Lamb's life changed forever that day, when his dad died suddenly.

I chose to come back to Sampson County and to become a swine producer because I wanted to raise a family in rural North Carolina. If it wasn't for the contract farming system, that would have been hard, if not impossible.

He was no longer a farmer's son. Instead, he was a farmer, faced with making crucial decisions every day. He was 16 and the only one of six children still at home.

How, he wondered, could he keep the family's 75-acre farm? How could he balance his work as a student with work on the farm? And what would he do after graduating from high school?

His mother worked off the farm, and with planting time approaching, Lamb decided to take a part-time job, rent some of the family land, and assume responsibility for his father's row crops, beef cattle and pigs.

All the while, he kept up with his studies.

Lamb went on to NC State on a full-ride scholarship for children of veterans. After earning a bachelor's degree in 1996, he got a job offer with an out-of-state farm equipment company but instead chose to return to Sampson County to farm and raise a family.

Lamb stopped growing row crops because he needed costly new equipment that banks were reluctant to finance. Instead, he took a job as an environmental specialist with Prestage Farms, a large pork and poultry company.

Lamb ensures that company-owned farms in North Carolina and South Carolina comply with environmental regulations. He also helps contract growers get and keep necessary permits.

Lamb later signed a contract with the company to produce pigs on his farm. Raising 20,000 piglets in his nursery operation brings his income up to what he'd been offered by the equipment maker, he says.

Lamb's mom, now 89, checks on the pigs during the day and lets Lamb know of any problems. Lamb takes over in the evenings, after he's done with his job. During busy times, he hires a part-time worker.

His biggest challenge is keeping his farm profitable—something made more complicated by disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Between March and August, Lamb had three "turns"—times when he sends the piglets he's raised to finishing farms and receives a new batch. Each time, he received fewer pigs than he has room for.

Even though shoppers have been paying higher prices for pork at the grocery store, his income has fallen.

"Whether you do contract livestock or row crops, you don't have the ability to spread your cost to your consumer," Lamb says. "Everything has gone up in the last 20 years, but the price we get hasn't gone up enough to make up for those costs."

Still, Lamb is hopeful the farm will ultimately provide his two daughters with additional income. One is in pharmacy school at the University of South Carolina, and the other is an eighth-grader.

"In America, unlike some other parts of the world, we don't wake up every morning wondering how we are going to eat. Instead, it's a matter of what we want to eat," Lamb notes.

"That's because our farmers work hard and are dedicated to providing people with healthy, safe and abundant food."



The NC State connection

Since earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural and environmental technology, Lamb has gained leadership skills through the **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Agricultural Leadership Development program at NC State.**

He also collaborates on university research aimed at converting sludge from waste lagoons into valuable byproducts, including energy. Earlier, he worked with the university to create small, remote-control boats to make sampling waste lagoons easier and safer.

NCSU CALS Magazine – FALL 2020

NC SweetPotato Commission hosts Annual Meeting of Membership

Posted on [January, 17, 2020](#)

NCSPC receives \$60,000 grant to "bring the farm to consumers"

The North Carolina SweetPotato Commission hosted its Annual Meeting of Membership in Goldsboro, N.C. on January 16th, 2020. Commission members from across North Carolina gathered at the Maxwell Center to hear the latest updates from marketing to branding to the current and future state of the industry, explore the trade show, recognize achievements among peers and elect the 2020 board of directors.



“Our Annual Meeting of Membership gives us the opportunity to bring together Commission members – from growers, packer-shippers, processors and more – for a day filled with education, camaraderie and celebration of North Carolina agriculture and, of course, the sweet potato industry,” said Kelly McIver, executive director of the North Carolina SweetPotato Commission. “Our annual gathering was a chance to acknowledge the future of our industry and appreciate the impact our product has had across the state of North Carolina, nationally and internationally.”

The NCSPC announced a \$60,000 grant received from the **Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**, which was unveiled with a check presentation during the event. With a goal of “bringing the farm to consumers,” the funding will enable the NCSPC to produce a series of educational videos focusing on the life cycle of North Carolina sweet potatoes, conduct nutritional testing, work with a registered dietician to generate written educational and nutritional materials and update the NCSPC mascot costume. Funds will also allow the Commission to continue working with ambassadors to spread the word about North Carolina sweet potatoes, highlighting the superfood’s tradition, nutrition, versatility and convenience.

"Our state has a long, rich history as a world leader in sweet potato production, and we want to support those farmers, many of whom have a strong connection to our tobacco heritage," said **William H. "Bill" Teague, Chairman** of the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**. "This grant will help deliver crucial marketing messages on the healthy aspects of North Carolina sweetpotatoes to school children, consumers and nutritionists."

Additionally, Larry Wooten, former president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, received the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a member in good standing who through hard work, selfless dedication and distinguished service has served the state's sweet potato industry. A native of Pender County, Wooten joined the North Carolina Farm Bureau in March of 1994, holding a number of roles throughout his tenure, including President of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, the North Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Companies and all affiliated corporations until his retirement in December 2019. Wooten currently sits on the board of the American Farm Bureau Federation and serves as a board member of the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. He works tirelessly to advance initiatives that strengthen and improve North Carolina's rural communities and is a strong advocate of people giving back to the organizations, the communities and the state that have provided them with opportunities for growth and advancement.

At the annual meeting, the NCSPC also voted to maintain its current board of directors. This includes:

- Brent Leggett of Leggett Farming Partnership in Nashville, N.C. (President)
- Rob Hill of Tull Hill Farms in Kinston, N.C. (Vice President)
- Kim K. LeQuire of Kornegay Family Farms and Produce in Princeton, N.C. (Secretary-Treasurer)
- Johnny Barnes, Barnes Farming Corp., Spring Hope, N.C.
- Clay Gardner, CEG Farms Inc., Angier, N.C.
- Frank Howell, Howell Farming Co., Inc., Goldsboro, N.C.
- Jim Jones, Jones Family Farms, Bailey, N.C.
- Dewey Scott, Scott Farms, Lucama, N.C.
- Scott Sullivan, Sullivan Farms, Inc., Lucama, N.C.
- Lynwood Vick, Vick Family Farms, Wilson, N.C.
- Craig West, West Family Farms Partnership, Fremont, N.C.
- Michael Wood, J Roland Wood Farms, Benson, N.C.



For more information:

Rachel Woods

Tel: +1 (919) 277-1166

Email: rwoods@fwv-us.com

www.ncsweetpotatoes.com



Archie Griffin Plans Farm of the Future

Washington, NC

Strategy: Precision technology

What keeps Archie Griffin up at night? More often than not, it's a foreboding sense that he may one day lose the farm that his grandfather started building in the 1960s.



“No one wants to fail,” Griffin says. “You’ve seen what the previous generation has been able to build and accomplish, and you have that drive to not only keep that alive but make it even better. It’s tremendous pressure.”

With his father, Steve, Archie farms almost 2,000 acres of tobacco, corn, soybeans and wheat in Eastern North Carolina. The cost of producing row crops has increased significantly in recent years, while the prices their customers pay for those commodities have fallen.

Things are becoming tighter and tighter and tighter. You're having to increase efficiency. You're having to optimize your resources. And you're having to innovate.

To confront the cost-price squeeze, the Griffins use precision farming technology to gather data on what's happening in real time on their farm. It's a must for eking out savings, Archie says.

"We try to map out and collect information on fuel usage, soil compaction, the optimal revolutions per minute to run on the tractor to reduce fuel costs, the optimal fertilizers to put out—the right amount for that soil based upon its historical yields," he says. "We're trying to use this data to optimize our resources and our margins."

Archie, who holds a bachelor's degree from NC State and an MBA from East Carolina University, says that he has also learned a lot from his father, especially about being willing to change.

Change is not always motivated by profit, Archie says. "It's directed toward our environment and preserving what we have. I'm looking at more of a long-term legacy standpoint than I am the short-term."

Archie is also considering ways to make the farm part of a circular economy—a regenerative system in which almost everything is recycled.

"One thing we want to know is how we can add value to one commodity to reduce the cost of another one," Archie says. He saw a striking example as he traveled the world as a 2018-20 Nuffield International Farming Scholar.

"I went to a farm in the United Kingdom, and it was one of the most amazing things I've seen. On the outside it looked like an ordinary farm," Archie says. "But this farm was different, and it changed over time."

The heart of the farm was swine, chicken and grain production. But the farm had added a butcher shop, a farm-to-fork restaurant and an anaerobic digester to create organic fertilizer and fuel to heat all of their farm operations.

"Not only did they open up and create multiple revenue streams, but they also reduced the budget line and costs," Archie says.

When commodity prices nose-dived this spring, Archie remembered the UK farm. The Griffins began re-evaluating their business plan, with an eye toward building on rising interest in locally produced food.

"What we're trying to do is to develop a strategy that gives not only the local foods experience but gives an experience beyond just being able to buy your own food," Archie says.

He envisions a restaurant, farmers market and brewery—a little village, as he puts it, where people can experience the farm and are known by name.

"Paying attention to consumer demands and trends ... is the biggest thing that's going to help us move forward in the future," Griffin says.



The NC State connection

Archie Griffin graduated from NC State in 2012 with degrees in agronomy and crop science. He's taken part in the **Executive Farm Management program**, an NC State Extension partnership with other Southeastern universities, and the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Agricultural Leadership Development Program**. Both are led by CALS faculty members and partners.

"We also rely on NC State researchers and on Extension. We are in constant contact—at least once a week," Griffin says. "At NC State, everybody who is there is there to help you, and all you have to do is ask."

NCSU CALS Magazine – FALL 2020

Gaston gazette

This week won't be the same

Posted on [September 27, 2020](#)

By [Joyce Orlando](#)

[@Star_J_Orlando](#)

Posted Sep 27, 2020 at 10:00 AM

The midway is quiet, no ribbons have been awarded and no shining lights are brightening the night sky around the Cleveland County Fairgrounds.

The Cleveland County Fair was originally scheduled to open its gates on Thursday, but on June 30, members of the fair board decided to cancel the long-standing tradition due to COVID-19.

Restrictions on groups and outdoor entertainment venues have shuttered many events since March. This year, like many other county fairs across the nation, there were no lines to ride the Ferris Wheel, no shouts of laughter or music coming from game stalls.

This is the second time in its 96 year history that the fair has been canceled. The first time was during World War II, according to Bobby Jenks, manager of the fair.

More than one use

Even though there is no fair, other organizations are using the grounds as venues.

The Don Gibson Theatre recently took advantage of the fairgrounds by starting a series called [On the Road with the Don Gibson Theatre](#). It is a drive-in style concert that is providing live entertainment during COVID-19 restrictions.

In August, the group decided to host three concerts in hopes that it would draw people. So far, the theater has hosted six concerts and events at the fairgrounds.

“It’s been going great and had some good compliments about it,” said Stan Lowery, executive director of the theater.

Each concert has brought in more than 100 cars with several people inside. Enough people to almost fill the venue’s brick and mortar theater on Washington Street.

Lowery is grateful they had a venue that could accommodate them during this and is hopeful to squeeze in one more concert before the weather gets too chilly.

Sprucing-up

[Cleveland County partnered with the Cleveland County Fair Association](#) in 2019 on a \$303,506 landscape and fencing project.

In 2017, the Cleveland County Fair Association received \$200,000 in state funds for repairs and renovations of buildings. Part of it is going to the fence repair, and the rest went to help with roofing projects on the exhibit halls and repairs to the cow and chicken barns.

The fair was also awarded a \$110,348 grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission to finance repairs in October 2016. The money was used to make repairs to the Dorton Exhibit Hall, the Weathers Livestock Arena, the Poultry Barn and the Farm Adventures Building, along with 10 permanent food vending structures on the grounds.

Getting ready for next year

Usually, months of prep-work culminate in a 10-day event that brings people not only from Cleveland County but also surrounding areas.

This year's efforts weren't needed, but it will be used to build on to next year's event.

“While we truly regret having to cancel the fair for this year, we have already begun preparations for the 2021 Cleveland County Fair and expect it to be the best fair in its 97 year history,” the board expressed in a statement after announcing the canceling of the 2020 fair.

Neuse News

Cooperative Extension awarded Tobacco Trust Fund Grant

Posted on [October 2, 2020](#)

On October 2, 2020, Lenoir County Cooperative Extension was notified by Representative Chris Humphrey and Senator Jim Perry that the Lenoir County Farmers Market has been awarded \$91,604.38 for the Commercial/ Community Kitchen in the Rick Holder Farmers Market Annex. The grant was awarded by the **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** which supports the agricultural industry, impacting rural communities and stimulating economic development. The Annex building was a gift from the Harvey family.

The **NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** was established by the General Assembly to assist current/former tobacco farmers, former quote holders, persons engaged in tobacco-related businesses, individuals displaced from tobacco-related employment, and tobacco product component businesses in NC that have been affected by the adverse effects of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The **NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** can disburse funds through compensatory programs and qualified agriculture programs.

The Lenoir County Farmers Market and the Rick Holder Farmers Market Annex have long been supported by various TTF Grants since 2010. Ranging from new market bathrooms, to paving the driveway and parking areas, to the beginning stages of the Lenoir County Farmers Market Annex Commercial/Community Kitchen Project.

The Rick Holder Annex Commercial/Community Kitchen will provide access to a kitchen for LCFM vendors and potential vendors and local business to produce new and/or additional products that will enhance the products currently offered at the Farmers Market, thus generating additional income and opportunities for farmers and food producers, and increase sales for current vendors.

The available inspected kitchen will allow for the growth and development of potential new food processing businesses and will also serve as a catering kitchen for event rentals of the Lenoir County Farmers Market. Local chef's and restaurant owners, Lenoir Community College Culinary Program, and UNC Healthcare Lenoir Nutritional Programming Staff have all expressed interest in using the kitchen.

The kitchen will provide an easy access facility for healthy eating educational activities, cooking demonstrations, and workshops using locally available products, and to teach preparation of simple, healthy meals. the Community/Commercial is located downtown, and within walking

distance of the Department of Social Services, the Lenoir County Health Department, Kinston Community Health, and two youth and adult serving community centers.

It will serve as a community facility for preparing food service for special events at the LCFM. Rentals of the Commercial/Community inspected kitchen will also provide a revenue stream. Several times we have rented our facility to private citizens, and community organizations for special events, bands and dining, fund raising, and even wedding receptions. Currently food for these events must all be brought in, since there are no kitchen facilities available for a caterer or for food preparation.

Another benefit of the Commercial/Community Kitchen project will be to serve as a resource kitchen during hurricanes or other natural disasters, to prepare and provide food for first responders, volunteers and the general community. The Annex is located across from the parking area where Emergency and Military personnel meet for transport to duties during disaster. In the past volunteer groups, including churches and community organizations have set up food distribution areas in the same vicinity, utilizing the inspected kitchen would add an extra measure of food safety to the distribution.

The Lenoir County Farmers Market would like to thank the **Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** as well as all of the local support from Chefs, LCC Culinary Program, Cherry Energy, UNC Lenoir Health Care, Chef and the Farmer, ALSCO, Noon Rotary of Kinston, many private citizens, and numerous others.

The Johnston County Report

Cleveland High FFA Receives \$14,913 NC Tobacco Trust Fund Grant

Posted on [March, 23, 2020](#)



The Cleveland High School FFA program has been awarded a \$14,913.66 grant from the **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**. The grant was one of only 14 awarded to schools across North Carolina during the 2019 grant cycle.

The grant will be used at Cleveland High to purchase needed classroom equipment including a welder, power and hand tools.



Jose “Pepe” Calderon Markets Sweet Potatoes Internationally

Spring Hope, NC

Strategy: Global marketing

As the international sales director for the United States’ largest sweet potato farm, Jose Calderon is considered a top agricultural exporter. In 2009, State Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler honored him as the Exporter of the Year. In 2017, Gov. Roy Cooper appointed him to the state’s Board of Agriculture through 2023, making him the first Latino to serve on the board.

The issue we face is competition, and it will continue to be challenging not just for sweet potatoes but for U.S. agriculture as a whole.

His U.S. career, though, had humble beginnings. Calderon, known by his nickname, Pepe, came 18 years ago from Costa Rica through the federal H-2A program. He went to work at Barnes Farming in Nash County.

Despite his college degrees in accounting, business administration and computer science, and his agricultural experience on banana and pineapple plantations, he started out at the company by picking tobacco and harvesting sweet potatoes.

The farm’s management recognized Calderon’s talents and moved him up the ladder. Since 2007, he’s worked with Farm Pak, Barnes Farming’s marketing division.

His accent made it difficult for the East Coast buyers he was working with to understand him, so he tried focusing on the European market, where, he jokes, everyone speaks English with an accent.

Sweet potatoes were uncommon in Europe, and to succeed, Calderon had to convince consumers there to try the tuber. They needed recipes that suited both their eating habits and their taste buds.

“It wasn’t really hard—just costly. We hired a company to create and distribute the recipes in ways that attracted consumers,” Calderon says. “We did little brochures and cards, mailing them, printing them in magazines and distributing them online.”

International customers buy 30 to 50% of Barnes Farming’s sweet potatoes each year. But there’s competition, especially from Spain. Varieties and storage systems developed at NC State have given the U.S. an advantage, but these assets are quickly being adopted by international competitors.

“Eventually we’re going to be out of competition because of our production costs,” Calderon says. He pointed to labor costs as the main reason. The H-2A program that allowed him to come to the United States requires that workers be paid at least \$12.50 per hour.

“We are competing with countries paying \$5 a day,” Calderon says. “I don’t think that the U.S. can continue that and still lead the competition.”

Still he sees several alternatives: advancing high-density vertical farming in controlled environments to yield more uniform crops, developing new varieties with value-added benefits and alternative uses, and creating new markets for sweet potatoes that don’t conform to market preferences like shape and size.

“North Carolina will always be a leading state for farming,” he says. “Hopefully we can improve our yields to justify and balance out the costs we pay to produce sweet potatoes and the price that buyers are willing to pay for them.”



The NC State Connection

Calderon participated in **Executive Farm Management, a 12-day education program delivered across six weeks in January and February** and led by NC State through a partnership with East Carolina University, Clemson University Cooperative Extension and University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. “They promote it as a boot camp, and I totally agree with that. It’s very intensive, with a lot of good information,” he says.

Calderon also credits NC State for its track record in sweet potato-related research and extension, which has helped North Carolina earn the No. 1 spot among sweet-potato-producing states. Still, more research is needed, he says, especially when it comes to pest management, new varieties and chemical treatments.

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UMO receives \$692,000 for AgPrime program

The Duplin Times

Oct 26, 2020



Pictured (l-r): Director of the Lois G. Agribusiness Center Ed Olive, **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** Executive Director William Upchurch, University of Mount Olive President Dr. Ed Croom, N.C. Rep. John Bell, and Dean of the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Dr. Sandy Maddox.

Submitted photo courtesy of UMO

MOUNT OLIVE — The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center within the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at the University of Mount Olive has been awarded \$692,000 from the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** to administer and award a three-year grant program named AgPrime.

“This is great news for the University of Mount Olive, its students, and the entire region,” said Rep. John Bell. “It will further solidify and strengthen the great work being done at the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences to prepare future farmers and support agriculture in eastern N.C.”

According to Dr. Sandy Maddox, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at UMO, AgPrime is a cost share program designed to offer innovative agricultural producers or agribusinesses assistance in implementing farm diversification and expansion strategies which increase economic stability and sustainability.

“AgPrime is recognized for its ability to fund and jump start innovative agricultural projects,” Maddox said. “This effort aligns with the Agribusiness Center’s dedication to improve the economic prospects

and stability of North Carolina counties impacted by the loss of tobacco income. We are thankful for the support of the **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**, which allows the University of Mount Olive, through AgPrime, to offer this opportunity to farmers and agribusinesses in our designated region.”

Maddox noted that the AgPrime cost share program has the potential to impact a 33-county region in south central and eastern N.C. to fund innovative projects. Agricultural producers and agribusinesses in the following counties will be encouraged to submit applications: Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Gates, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Robeson, Richmond, Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington. Applications will be accepted beginning in November of 2020. The application can be found at umo.edu/ag.

Each qualified AgPrime recipient can receive up to \$10,000 cost share dollars with a 10-percent match required. Each project will be funded based on its potential to positively benefit the economic development of the respective local communities, agricultural diversification, farm profitability, and skill and resource development for current and future farmers. The program seeks to fund projects that can be implemented in other regions of the state by agricultural producers and agribusinesses.

Since the program started in 2016, 70 projects have been funded throughout the 33-county region. Examples of funded projects have included agritourism ventures, processing for vegetable specialty crops, roadside stands and other support for marketing produce, farm diversification, livestock management, cheese-making, improved conservation measures, cold storage, and season extension projects.

“Coming from a farming community and having a small family farm of my own, I know just how beneficial programs like this can be,” said UMO president Dr. Ed Croom. “We are grateful to the NCTTFC for allowing us to be a part of this important initiative. It means a great deal to us and to the farmers of rural North Carolina.”

The N.C. General Assembly created the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** in 2000 to lessen the financial impact to farmers and tobacco-related businesses caused by the sharp decline of tobacco in the agricultural economy. The commission’s original funding was established through tobacco industry annual payments as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement. Its current funding comes from a set appropriation of funds. Since 2002, the **N.C. TTFC** has awarded more than 380 grants to public and nonprofit agencies that meet the goals of strengthening the rural and tobacco-dependent economies of North Carolina.

For more information and a list of grant recipients, visit the **N.C. TTFC** website at www.tobaccotrustfund.org.

The Duplin Times can be reached at duplinnews@ncweeklies.com or 910-296-0239.



*Additional information can be
obtained from contacting the staff:*

William Upchurch
Executive Director

Jeff Camden
Program Officer

Susan Hernandez
Administrative Officer

1080 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1080

919.733.2160
Fax 919.733.2510

tobacotrustfund@ncagr.gov

www.tobacotrustfund.org

