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, 2019

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November 1, 2019

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,

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

MAILING ADDRESS:
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RALEIGH NC 27699-1080

PHONE: (919) 733-2160 • FAX: (919) 733-2510
www.tobaccotrustfund.org
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LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2019

The Honorable Linda P. Johnson
N.C. House of Representatives
Senior Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 301D
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

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

The Honorable Chuck McGrady
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 304
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

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

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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Respectfully,

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November 1, 2019

North Carolina
Tobacco Trust Fund Commission

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.

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

Respectfully,

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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November 1, 2019

North Carolina
Tobacco Trust Fund Commission

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.

Continued lower commodity prices and tariff discussions have been an ongoing challenge for a lot of our producers. These issues are impacting some of the traditional markets needed to sell their products. As uncertainty is abound, farmers are experimenting with new commodities in hopes are stabilizing their livelihood. The stresses have become more prevalent making mental health an important concern in the agricultural community. Now more than ever, programs like the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission are needed to help agricultural families navigate through these challenges.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's work is **critical** because agriculture remains a very important part of our state's economy, contributing **$91.8** billion annually, accounting for over **17%** of the state's income and employing **17%** of the 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 2019 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,

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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RALEIGH, NC 27604

COMMISSION MEMBERS
2019

ASHE, John
Reidsville, NC
County- Rockingham
Appointee Officer-
Governor

BARNES, Susan
VICE CHAIR
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-
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COLLINS, William K.
Raleigh, NC
County-Wake
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

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

DAVIS, Brent
Calypso, NC
County-Duplin
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

DRAKE, Matthew
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, Franklie 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

SCOTT, Linwood H. III
Lucama, NC
County-Wilson
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

TEAGUE, William H. (Bill) **CHAIR**
Leicester, NC
County-Buncombe
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

WARD, Dan
Clarkton, NC
County-Bladen
Appointee Officer-
Governor

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

COMMISSION HISTORY
2019

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, 2018

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. The Commission has also been working on implementing a new grants management program to provide a more accessibility for applicants and increase the ability to maintain accurate data on investments. The TTFC launched our online application and review process January 2019.

In 2019, a total of **49** grant applications were received requesting over **$10.3** million in funding. After a very detailed review process, the TTFC approved grants totaling **$3.45 million for 22 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 NCDA&CS provided the *N.C. Food Manufacturing Task Force* funds for administration and oversight of the Task Force. They generated over 1400 qualified leads to increase food manufacturing in NC. The North Carolina Food Manufacturing Task Force submitted the following recommendations to address the needs in developing North Carolina's food manufacturing industry and highlighting what our state has to offer new and existing companies. Establish a Statewide Interdisciplinary and interagency N.C. Food Manufacturing Leadership Team. Invest in Two interagency Statewide Leadership Positions. Position 1: Science, Technology and Policy Director for the Food Manufacturing Industry Position 2: Business Development Manager for the Food Manufacturing Industry.

- The County of Wayne's project help build the new *Maxwell Regional Agricultural Convention Center* and provided the space and technology to allow Wayne County Agriculture Agencies to train and provide programs to farmers, provide space for marketing local products, and created opportunities for diversification in our local community. The Farmers Market has been a huge success by providing additional income to local farmers. It has provided local citizens an opportunity to purchase fresh, healthy products.

- East Carolina University - NC Agromedicine Institute's staff have conducted 25 respirator fit test events for individuals from 32 North Carolina counties through the *Worker Protection Standard Compliance* project. This brings the total number of events, project to date conducted, to 61. Events have been held in a total of 43 counties. One thousand eight five (1,045) respirator fit tests and eight hundred forty-five (845) medical clearances were completed bringing the total number of respirator fit tests to 1,705 and medical clearances to 1,278. The NC Agromedicine Institute is a national leader in helping producers comply with new safety standards.

- The Washington Harbor District Association Alliance (WHDA) created *The Harbor District Market*. Construction of restrooms, refinished floors, electrical upgrades, vendor walls and sign boards were all completed. Completion allowed WHDA to open the Farmer's Market on June 1st with 24 full time businesses, (6 farmers and 5 additional businesses who sell meat, honey, bee products, & eggs) and 17 additional stalls accommodating farmers selling their produce in a climate-controlled venue year-round.

- The project titled *From Farm to Vet Tech* through Nash Community College has established a transfer pathway for high school students interested in pursuing an associate degree in veterinary medical technology. Students in this pathway will be on target to enter the program in Fall 2020. Currently the 17 students in the inaugural class has successfully completed the first year. Anticipated graduation remains on track for May 2020. Veterinary support remains high across the region, with potential employers already anticipating the opportunity to hire a skilled workforce and initiating recruitment of potential employees by partnering with the College for VMT student clinical externships.

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION

2015 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2018 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2019

Project: **Off the Ground**

Contact: Ms. Sally Elliott
Forsyth Technical Community College
2100 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-593-5402

Grant Amount: $50,000

Off the Ground will create an agricultural training center in Stokes County to educate transitional farmers, high school students and recent graduates, entrepreneurs and others in the techniques and profitability of an agricultural model that embraces sustainable, small-acreage farming. Forsyth Tech along with other partners will develop, promote and deliver credit and non-credit courses showing new ways to profit from the sustainable use of land once designated for tobacco. The grant will fund ag-related training classes and supplies.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Stokes

www.forsythtech.edu

Project: **Financial Literacy for Disadvantaged Farmers**

Contact: Mr. Rick Larson
Natural Capital Investment Fund
PO Box 271
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-951-0113

Grant Amount: $25,300

The grant will assist minority farmers and assist them with training on farm finances. Farmers will share in the costs for accounting services and training. The goal is for these farmers to be more efficient in their financial record-keeping and improve income while reducing expenses.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Beaufort, Bertie, Columbus, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pitt, Sampson, Warren, Wayne & Wilson counties

www.ncifund.org

Project: **NC Food Manufacturing Task Force**

Contact: Mr. Ron Fish
Assistant Director
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-707-3119

Grant Amount: $200,000

The NC Food Manufacturing Task Force will work to best position NC for growth of in-state processing and manufacturing of agricultural products. Benefits of this initiative will create additional market opportunities for farmers, provide additional employment opportunities and increase the contributions of agriculture to our state's economy. The grant will support administrative and personnel costs to carry out the Task Force's mission.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION

2016 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2018 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2019

Project: **Maxwell Regional Agricultural Convention Center**

Contact: Mr. George Wood
County of Wayne
PO Box 227
Goldsboro, NC 27533
919-731-1435

Grant Amount: (Phase two) $750,000

The center will house the USDA Farm Services Agency, the Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resource and Conservation Services, and the NCSU Cooperative Extension Offices. On the grounds will also be a farmer's market and a greenhouse.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Wayne

Applicant Website: www.waynegov.com

Project: **Johnston County Works**

Contact: Ms. Joy Callahan
Johnston Community College
135 Best Wood Drive
Clayton, NC 27520
919-209-2027

Grant Amount: $50,000

Johnston County Works is an educational/employment program that will offer educational scholarships to farmers, tobacco quota holders, farm workers and their families who have been affected by the changes in the tobacco and agriculture industries.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Johnston

Applicant Website: www.johnstoncc.edu

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 will directly assist 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, providing 32 sustained and new jobs, plus skills improvements for 100 farmers.

Status: NCSU Extension conducted three training events (March 7, 2019 Caldwell County, April 17, 2019 Haywood County, and April 18, 2019 in Wilkes County) on how to grow greens with commercial growers. The sessions include a one hour segment on mulch film retrieval BMP and recycling. 33 growers received training. The ag plastic recycling promotional video is being produced internally. The state farmers market consolidations areas at Piedmont Triad and Raleigh Farmers Markets are designed to help the smaller nurseries, farms and households recycle nursery pots and trays. 33,280 pounds (16 tons) were collected this past quarter. Approximately 66 tons per year are now being recycled through these two sites.

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 will provide 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), is joining with WNC farms to provide the technical and application assistance necessary for shovel-ready energy projects.

Status: Four solar projects have been completed this quarter. 23 subgrants have been awarded six have yet to be completed.

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

Project: **Developing Future NC Farmers**

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
Campus Box 7645
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-9259

Grant Amount: $210,000

The program combines a rich university learning experience, robust mentoring from current agricultural leaders, and an experimental internship to provide on-farm training. This program supports students in the form of internship wages, scholarships, and significant training.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant Website: www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: **NC AgVentures Grant Program**

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

Grant Amount: $515,000

NCAF will grant cost-share grants to benefit farming operations and increase farm profits. Grant opportunities will be distributed across eighteen Piedmont & Eastern NC counties that were tobacco dependent. NC AgVentures will award at least 48 grants (a combination of individuals and community) impacting a minimum of 60 farmers.

Status: Completed.

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

Applicant Website: www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Great Plains Grain Drill

Contact: Mr. Tim Britton
NC Cooperative Extension in Johnston County
2736 NC Hwy 210
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-989-5380

Grant Amount: $16,500

A 6 ft. Grain Drill with small seed attachment would allow large test plots with more realistic method of planting. The information grained from these trials will help growers determine what mixes work best in in our area for cover and grazing, the cost of these mixes, and what time of year they can be planted to produce a viable cover crop.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant Website:

Project: Farmers and Communities Manage Deer

Contact: Mr. Dom Canavarro
NC Wildlife Federation
PO Box 10626
Raleigh, NC 27605
919-533-1923

Grant Amount: $148,000

Removal of deer annually and in a sustainable manner saves farmers money and provides a protein-rich food source to local communities. The program will work with the NC Hunters for the Hungry processor network and help to accommodate more harvested deer in traditional tobacco and soybean farming communities by allocating funds for deer processing.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Columbus, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Sampson, Wayne, Wilson

Applicant Website: www.ncwf.org

Project: **In House Freezer**

Contact: Ms. Millicent Collins
Robeson County Government
701 N. Elm Street
Lumberton, NC 28358
(910) 671-6221

Grant Amount: $100,000

Robeson County proposes to use funding from the NCTTFC to install an in-house freezer as part of an expansion project that will double Trinity Frozen Foods, LLC sweet potato processing facilities production capacity. This will accommodate more product capacity without compromising the quality of the final product. They will remain predominately a sweet potato processing facility, in addition they recognize opportunity in other product lines that incorporate core NC grown produce, such as fried pickles, fried okra and onion.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant Website: www.co.robeson.nc.us

Project: **NCTTFC Supervised Agricultural Experience Institute**

Contact: Ms. Sandy Maddox
University of Mount Olive Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
919-658-7682

Grant Amount: $100,000

The camp will provide industry and leadership training to FFA members who will earn 45 hours of Supervised Agricultural Experience that can be accumulated toward various FFA chapter, state and national awards. The Institute allows student attendees to evaluate various agricultural operations and facilities (agronomic, livestock, processing, natural resources, and power and structural technology systems). FFA members would also be exposed to actual hands-on learning experiences through these activities in the fields of horticulture, agronomy, GPS systems and other areas. The Institute will include chapter advisors, allowing them through attendance to earn 3 hours of Continuing Education Credit as a participant. The Institute would include training opportunities for both FFA members and advisor's including training on leadership, proficiencies, students SAEs and other in-service opportunities.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant Website: www.umoag.com

Project Cost Share Project Partners:

Project: **WNC Agricultural Options Program (a.k.a., WNC AgOptions)**

Contact: Mr. L.T. Ward
WNC Communities
594 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806
828-252-4783

Grant Amount: $555,000

These funds will provide at least 70 new demonstration grants over two years to help family farmers in Western NC diversify and expand their farming operations and replace tobacco-based income.

Status: Completed.

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

Applicant Website: www.wnccommunities.org

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2017 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2018 OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2019

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

Status: Constructing resumed in February. Bathrooms, animal washout drain, interior walls and exterior fence completed this period. In May the barn received the certificate of occupancy. This was too late for the 18-19 school year however students will start using it during this fall semester.

Area Served: Bladen

www.bladen.k12.nc.us

Project: **Farm Land Access Program**

Contact: Karen McSwain
Farm Services Director
CFSA
PO Box 448
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-2402

Grant Amount: $31,192

The project will strengthen North Carolina's agricultural economy by providing education and technical assistance for new and beginning farmers. It will assist them in acquiring agricultural land for production and enhancing their access to educational and mentorship opportunities. The beneficiaries of this project will be new and beginning farmers who attend a workshop, farm tour, semester long course, receive direct assistance, participate in a mentorship program, or access electronic educational material.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Buncombe, Madison, Haywood, Yancy, Chatham, Wake, Orange, Durham, Cabarrus, Rowan, Davison, Stanley

www.carolinafarmstewards.org

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 will provide 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 will be placed on assisting farms to comply with portions of the WPS related to respiratory protection and signage.

Status: Since January 1, 2019, Institute staff have conducted 25 respirator fit test events for individuals from 32 North Carolina counties. This brings the total number of events, project to date conducted to 61. Events have been held in a total of 43 counties. One thousand eight five respirator fit tests and eight hundred forty-five medical clearances were completed bringing the total number of respirator fit tests to 1,705 and medical clearances to 1,278 to date.

Area Served: Statewide

www.agromedicine.org

Project: Mobile Farmers' Market Establishment

Contact: Patrick McLendon
Executive Director
Growing Rural Opportunities
PO Box 339
Columbus, NC 28756
828-436-0040

Grant Amount: $111,000

This project seeks to establish the first mobile farmers' market in WNC. The Mobile Market will increase farm product sales and provide access to new customers and markets. This project will provide the final renovations of the market needed and provide operational support for the first two years. The mobile farmers marker will also provide access for consumers to local farm products that are otherwise unable to do so due to limiting factors such as time, transportation, or knowledge. Some new customers will be in low income and food insecure areas, this project will provide these customers access to high quality food.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Polk, Henderson, Rutherford

www.growrural.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 will create a community kitchen in the Rick Holder Farmers Market Annex. In response to increasing requests from farmers/vendors, community members, and potential vendors, LCFM will add capacity to the Market by renovating the Annex to house a community kitchen, a fully inspected, code-compliant facility vendors can use to prepare foods for sale at the Market. The kitchen will include space for planned healthy food preparation classes and demonstrations, generating increased Market vendors' sales.

Status: The annex has been insulated, the framework for the kitchen has been installed, and the demonstration island is under construction. Once the kitchen construction is completed, we will complete our goals and objectives. Fifty percent of the electrical is complete, the insulation is

complete, studs are up for the walls, and the demonstration island is 75% complete. Ramps to the facility are poured, as well as wash basin and trash pad.

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

Status: College and NRMPS personnel continue to promote established transfer pathways for high school students interested in pursuing an associate degree in veterinary medical technology. Students in this pathway will be on target to enter the program in Fall 2020 as described in the grant submission. all 17 successfully completed the first year. Anticipated graduation remains on track for May 2020. Currently, 16 students have been accepted to start the 1st year in August. The on-site accreditation survey has been scheduled for January of 2020. Veterinary support remains high across the region, with potential employers already anticipating the opportunity to hire a skilled workforce and initiating recruitment of potential employees by partnering with the College for VMT student clinical externships.

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

www.nashcc.edu

Project: **Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant**

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
Director
NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

Campus Box 764
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-9259

Grant Amount: $181,692

The project will provide micro grants to local Agricultural Education programs in North Carolina. Each project will improve and enhance the local Agricultural Education programs. 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. Thousands of agriculture students and their communities will benefit due to the projects being sustainable and impacting classrooms year after year.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncffa.org

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 is 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 will help growers expand current farm operations.

Status: Conducted 24 hours of classroom business training with in-class exercises for students develop their business plan elements including goal development, resource inventory, capitol budget, enterprise budget, financial statements, and marketing plan. Conducted 28 hours of practical on farm field training for production system conceptualization. Conducted a series of 11 one day workshops focused around agricultural production systems training equaling 66 hours of production training. Met with 48 students for one on one farm evaluation consultation, resource inventory, and enterprise selection. Initiated mentor program application and identified 2019 NCFS mentors.

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

www.ncfarmschool.com

Project: **Project Skill-UP**

Contact: Margaret Roberton
Associate Vice President
North Carolina Community College
5016 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-807-7159

Grant Amount: $345,000

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

Status: A total of 20 colleges were approved for Project Skill Up. Each college was awarded $15,000 to be used for tuition and registration for students who meet the eligibility requirements. Eleven of the colleges were able to place 118 individuals into short term training programs during this reporting period. 44 were identified as former farmers.

Area Served: Statewide

www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Project: **Agritourism Marketing Cost Share Program**

Contact: Ms. Annie Baggett
Marketing Specialist
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Marketing Division
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-707-3120

Grant Amount: $100,000

This cost-share program will work with farms to develop marketing tools to achieve agritourism goals aiming to increase the number of visitors to their farms. With the addition of marketing funds, the farm gains the opportunity to increase demand for farm experiences and attract more visitors with the potential to increase on-farm sales and overall farm value. Agritourism is a value-added option to steady and enhance the revenue stream beyond the harvest. This project

aims to build more profitable operations, inspiring the next generation to farm, preserving farm land and contributing to rural community vibrancy.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

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 will partner with farmers markets across the state to promote in-season fresh fruits and vegetables available throughout the market's season. The promotion will include 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 will enhance competitiveness of the NC produce industry and will increase foot traffic and sales of locally grown and produced products.

Status: NCDA&CS has entered into agreements with 35 independent farmers markets from all across the state to promote the vendors and the Got to Be NC program. Only 22 have completed their project. The markets that have finished report an average of 30% increase in sales and foot traffic. Grantee has been promoting NC Farmers markets across the state using a mixed media campaign.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: **NC Real Time Network Update**

Contact: Mr. Gary Thompson
Geodetic Survey Chief
NC Department of Public Safety – Risk Management
4298 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

919-733-4407

Grant Amount: $220,000

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

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Stokes, Person. Lee, Cumberland, Wilson, Pitt, Duplin, Harnett, Johnston, Martin

www.ncgs.state.nc.us

Project: Agricultural Reinvestment Fund

Contact: Mr. Scott Marlow
Executive Director
Rural Advancement Foundation International
PO Box 640
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-1396

Grant Amount: $294,300

This project provides cost-share grants to farmers in North Carolina for innovative projects designed to increase farm income and build markets for NC agricultural products. Priority is given to current and former tobacco farmers. This project is a proven 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: 20 NC Counties

www.rafiusa.org

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 will provide for a Farm Manager/Food Safety Officer that will work 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: TRACTOR has hired a new Farm Manager, Dru Zucchino, who began on March 1st, 2019. Since beginning, Dru has engaged with local farmers, consulting and identifying opportunities their farms with TRACTOR's resources in mind. Dru has traveled over 800 miles, making over 22 visits to Bowditch and Horton farms, and 10 visits to farm locations as far south as McDowell County and the northern reaches of Mitchell County, along the NC/TN border. He has added 7 new member farmers since March, all producers of different crops and scale. Dru is also currently coordinating the Harmonized GAP audits at Bowditch and Horton Farms.

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 provides cost -share grants for 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. This effort will seek to fund 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: A total of 18 projects of the 27 applications were offered funding. Site visits were completed during this period for the second round of AgPrime funding awarded. Most current AgPrime projects are on target and are being completed by grantees. The funded projects were regarded highly by reviewers for their innovation and utility and replicability by other producers. Although increased profitability may be a long-term projection for some projects, many are already seeing better profits on their farms. In November, each project will be represented at a luncheon where their successes and challenges to all of the other project participants.

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 will alter cargo shipping containers to become hydroponic crop growing vessels that will be 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 will assist the curriculum of the Sustainable Agriculture degree program encouraging additional students to learn this technology. This will also allow the College to offer new sustainable agriculture continuing education courses for the community at large.

Status: Grantee is working to create/establish an eastern NC sustainable agriculture training center by innovatively utilizing cargo shipping containers for agronomic growing practices. One “green machine” has been located in correct position on concrete pad and leveled by contractor. The other box has been placed on the concrete pad and will be located upon final installation of the refrigeration unit.

Area Served: Wayne

www.waynecc.edu

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

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) intends to produce a site plan and facility design for construction of a 6,000 square-foot food technology, training and manufacturing center. This facility will replace and 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: During this reporting period, CAFÉ has engaged the services of an Architect for architectural design of the building and building interior layout. CAFÉ has met with the architectural design team and discussed our needs; the team is currently engaged in drafting designs for buildout. CAFÉ has also completed an environmental review of the property.

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: The first of four events took place May 16, 2019 at the Harward Cattle Farm. Influencers and Industry counterparts attended the tour and dinner with positive reviews. Educating influencers about the North Carolina food system established is the main goal of the project. Surveys were preformed and the confirmed misconceptions about farming were addressed. The goal of educating 15 influencers with average 3,000 followers per influencer was accomplished.

Area Served: Statewide

www.feedthedialoguenc.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: Outreach events were held at four locations: February 7, in Bladen County, February 14, in Caswell County February 28, in Avery County, March 6, in Martin County. Grantee expanded the regions from three to four and reduced the 2-day format down to one intense day. Grantee

felt that the Academy days could be shortened and added on to the other programming. 78 total participants attended the academies.

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 will award at least 24 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 will benefit at least 24 family farms in 18 selected counties that were negatively impacted by the downturn in the tobacco economy.

Status: NC AgVentures grant application deadline to accept proposals was Jan 11, 2019. There were 19 members on the review committee, they met on Feb. 7th to make final award selections. 67 completed applications were received resulting in awarded 34 grants in 15 of the 18 eligible counties; 31 farmer grants and 3 community proposals. Two orientation meetings were held; one in the East region and the other in the Piedmont region. In March and April, the contracts were processed, and grant recipients received the first of three payments, 75 percent of the grant award.

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: Dr. Roberson and Mr. Grafft are receiving and reviewing injury and fatality data and preparing scenarios for the high impact videos. In the next 6 months, all submitted injury and fatality events will be summarized and scenarios written, and video footage will be taken. At that time, videos will be in final production and be reviewed by NCDOL and others to make sure they accurately present the hazards and do not contain any hidden negative messages.

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: As of July 15th, 2019, the survey has been distributed to all the participants from the 2005-2007, 2008-2010, 2012-2014, and 2014-2016 programs. Three individuals from each cohort were identified (based on career representation: farmer, industry, and extension) and have been/will be interviewed during the months of July and August.

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 will continue 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 will benefit several populations such as urban and rural farmers, tobacco farmers, and other areas of agriculture. It will also reach populations who may not have considered agriculture as a career before, including veterans, minorities and women.

Status: Five sections of AGI 191: Professional Development were set up for the spring semester. 115 students were enrolled in AGI 191. The course highlighted the soft skills of communication, problem-solving, leadership, experience, teamwork, and self-management through hands-on in class activities. The Agricultural Institute Internship Database has been updated with over 50 new internships for students as well as past internships. Summer faculty have been hired and are working with the students throughout the summer in their internships. Faculty members have visited over 60 students at their internship sites across the state.

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. NCDA&CS regional agronomists monitored the sites across the state for growth stage and production issues (weed pressure, insect or disease pressure, etc.) and assisted with sampling events. After plots were harvested, grain was dried and cleaned and shipped to Hartwick College for quality testing. The events scheduled for this reporting period have all occurred with the exception of the harvest of the Oxford location. the preliminary results of this study will be presented at the American Society of Agronomy ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting this fall.

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 will be 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: CORS upgrade equipment has been installed at the Whiteville (NCWH) and Shallotte (NCSL) Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS). All equipment is operational.

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 will connect 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 will allow farmers in Richmond, Moore, and Lee Counties to transport their produce to buyers while ensuring GAP compliance, FSMA compliance, and minimal spoilage.

Status: Cooler trailer was delivered to facility. The trailer has been rented out. Harvest bins received June 5, 2019. All items have been purchased and delivered.

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 assists farmers and rural communities to replace income lost due to changes in the tobacco industry. The Agricultural Reinvestment Fund is a proven 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: RAFI-USA received 85 eligible applications for the cost-share grant and selected 26 projects for funding; 23 individual and 3 collaborative projects. They Represents 12 counties: Alamance, Bertie, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Davie, Franklin, Granville, Orange Rowan, Wake, and Warren. 23 out of 26 grantees have had visits on their farms to evaluate and document the progress of their projects and provide technical assistance where needed.

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 will purchase sweet corn harvesting equipment for shared use by member farmers. Farmers currently harvest these crops by hand. This equipment will decrease harvest time by 97

percent. Reusable harvest bins will be purchased to be used in conjunction with harvesting equipment.

Status: TRACTOR has acquired the corn harvester, 70 crates, 6 dollies, harvest wagon, corn planter and cannon sprayer. There was approximately 21 acres planted this spring. We plan to offer a field day demonstration on the harvester and related equipment.

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: Application information was shared with agricultural education teachers/FFA advisors and FFA members in February and applications were due by May. A total of 39 student applications and 21 teacher applications were received for this year's SAE Institute. Project staff worked to plan and confirm the details of the first of three SAE Institutes to be offered through this project.

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 will renovate a building in a prime business location on Main Street to accommodate farmers desiring to sell their produce in a climate-controlled venue year-round.

Status: Construction of restrooms were completed, floors were finished, electrical lines for first phase were completed, vendor walls and sign boards were installed. Completion of the first phase allowed WHDA to open the first phase of the Farmer's Market on June 1st with 24 full time businesses and 17 additional stalls accommodating farmers selling their produce in a climate-controlled venue year-round. Grand opening was held this fall. The Market has opened with 6 farmers and 5 additional businesses who sell meat, honey, bee products, & eggs. Additional farmers are interested.

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: All gates and fencing have been raised. The paving project has proven to be most successful. Paving may run under budget due to favorable competitive bidding. The Handling safety project is likely to include a redesign of the calf chute that will result in a safer environment for calves and workers.

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: Orientation was held on Thursday, February 7th at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River, NC. A total of 69 people, including 60 recipients representing all 39 grant projects attended. Many grantees loved the opportunity to talk with the other grantees and enjoyed hearing from the past grantee panel. The average rating was 9.4 out of 10. A schedule was created with the first visits starting in April and running through September. 30 of 33 of the required business plans have been received.

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: Construction documents for the processing facility renovation are completed. Grantee has hired an experienced foodservice professional to manage our facility.

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 will be finishing 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 will also consist 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 will be 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 - AWARDED SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

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.

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.

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.

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 will help fund the cost of 10 North Carolina farms participating in the 2020 Executive Farm Management (EFM) Program. The EFM will improve 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 will purchase and assemble a greenhouse to enhance current micropropagation activities. The greenhouse will be utilized as a finishing location for the plants grown in the micropropagation lab. The greenhouse and micropropagation lab will join the aquaponics center at the Earth to Sky Park. Together they will be 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 will 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.

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.

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.

Area Served: 33 eastern NC Counties

www.umo.edu

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 (FY19)

	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	**$6,354,267.19**												
INTEREST INCOME	$8,727.17	$8,783.70	$7,936.95	$9,058.09	$11,457.40	$11,727.26	$11,850.18	$11,197.97	$9,805.27	$11,274.99	$10,151.35	$10,258.10	$122,228.43
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	$0.00	$0.00	$1,990,199.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,990,199.00
OTHER REVENUE	$0.00	$39,445.98	$1,031.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$180.10	$9,518.95	$0.00	$0.00	$50,176.03
Fiscal Year 2019 Revenue	$8,727.17	$48,229.68	$1,999,166.95	$9,058.09	$11,457.40	$11,727.26	$11,850.18	$11,197.97	$9,985.37	$20,793.94	$10,151.35	$10,258.10	**$2,162,603.46**
EXPENSES													
Personnel Expenses													
Per Diem-BD MEM	$0.00	$0.00	$30.00	$60.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$60.00	$0.00	$96.90	$246.90
Trans-BD MEM	$0.00	$0.00	$376.00	$274.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$364.50	$0.00	$0.00	$1,014.50
Subsistence-BD MEM	$0.00	$0.00	$333.04	$269.41	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$281.05	$0.00	$0.00	$883.50
Other-BD MEM	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$92.51	$0.00	$0.00	$60.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$80.09	$0.00	$232.60
	$0.00	$0.00	$739.04	$695.92	$0.00	$0.00	$60.00	$0.00	$0.00	$705.55	$80.09	$96.90	**$2,377.50**
Staff Personnel Expenses													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	$25,694.79	$28,178.19	$25,709.83	$25,721.39	$25,694.78	$25,694.80	$31,575.24	$25,734.71	$25,734.73	$25,768.06	$25,734.73	$25,734.71	$316,975.96
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	$86.74	$602.22	$0.00	$66.14	$0.00	$442.32	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$8.70	$0.00	$1,206.12
	$25,781.53	$28,780.41	$25,709.83	$25,787.53	$25,694.78	$26,137.12	$31,575.24	$25,734.71	$25,734.73	$25,768.06	$25,743.43	$25,734.71	**$318,182.08**
Office Expenses													
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	$1,200.00	$50.29	$164.62	$0.00	$163.69	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$166.59	$1.39	$146.81	$1,893.39
General Office Supplies	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$27.74	-$1.75	$0.00	$30.89	$0.00	$0.00	$53.09	$541.19	$0.00	$651.16
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	$112.48	$23,205.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$495.39	$0.00	$16,462.32	$40,275.19
Communication/Office Equipment	$169.18	$164.86	$203.15	$203.09	$214.10	$203.09	$203.09	$190.37	$203.09	$1,266.51	$203.09	$203.09	$3,426.71
Other Administrative Expenses	$53.96	$233.20	$476.00	$31.62	$469.58	$4.11	$5.50	$18.00	$0.00	$13.54	$146.46	$182.98	$1,634.95
Vehicle	$453.35	$98.67	$25.67	$0.00	$42.98	$15.30	$0.00	$20.32	$0.00	$22.45	$62.51	$148.00	$889.25
Telephone Services	$353.42	$273.18	$269.90	$283.39	$279.25	$278.15	$286.69	$290.11	$291.32	$280.12	$285.69	$279.17	$3,450.39
	$1,029.91	$2,082.39	$24,230.01	$710.46	$1,004.16	$664.34	$526.17	$518.80	$494.41	$2,297.69	$1,240.33	$17,422.37	**$52,221.04**
Professional Services													
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	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,500.00	$4,000.00
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	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,500.00	**$4,000.00**
Fiscal Year 2019 Expenses													**$376,780.62**

Cash Carried Forward	**$6,354,267.19**
Total Revenue FY19	**$2,162,603.46**
Total Expenses FY19(-)	$376,780.62
Subtotal	**$8,140,090.03**
Total Grants Pd Out FY19 (-)	$2,970,765.13
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY19 (-)	$40,000.00
Current Cash Balance	**$5,129,324.90**
Encumbered Funds (-)	$3,315,189.67
TOTALGrant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	**$1,814,135.23**

2015 Grant Cycle	FY 15-18	FY 19
Forsyth Technical Comm College	$12,858.71	$1,041.14
Natural Capital Investment Fund	$11,485.05	$8,124.95
NCDA&CS - NC Food Manufacturing	$102,962.98	$81,364.24
TOTAL	$127,306.74	**$90,530.33**

2016 Grant Cycle	FY 16-18	FY 19
County of Wayne	$1,255,958.00	$244,042.00
Durham Tech Comm College	$16,532.38	$0.00
Johnston Comm College	$39,086.53	$7,546.66
Land of Sky	$38,957.63	$41,192.57
Mountain Valley	$63,849.32	$44,387.47
NCAF - Future Farmers	$144,534.07	$48,255.69
NCAF - AgVentures	$264,531.45	$243,200.10
NCAF - Workforce & Career	$96,170.29	$37,441.29
NC Cooperative Ext In JoCo	$15,675.00	$825.00
NC Wildlife Federation	$80,878.33	$67,071.84
Robeson County	$31,700.00	$68,300.00
University of Mount Olive	$25,399.41	$73,505.80
WNC Communities	$465,966.72	$89,033.28
TOTAL	$2,539,239.13	**$964,801.70**

2017 Grant Cycle	FY 18	FY 19
Bladen County Schools	$23,450.00	$74,618.69
Carolina Farm Stewardship	$5,494.11	$22,714.72
ECU - Agromedicine Institute	$0.00	$58,921.62
Farmer Foodshare	$0.00	$0.00
Green Fields Sandhills	$24,551.20	$1,496.00
Growing Rural Opportunities	$322.28	$28,826.83
Lenoir County Coop Ext	$0.00	$0.00
Nash Community College	$0.00	$112,922.95
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Ed Program	$0.00	$180,817.84
NC Ag Foundation - NC Farm School	$0.00	$38,985.63
NC Ag Foundation - New Frozen Fruit Ma	$0.00	$0.00
NC Community College System	$8,404.39	$227,903.47
NCDA&CS - Agritourism	$1,766.91	$95,859.40
NCDA&CS - Farmers Market Promotion	$0.00	$40,103.16
NC Department of Public Safety	$209,000.00	$11,000.00
RAFI	$160,271.09	$132,266.83
TRACTOR	$15,800.39	$40,834.76
The University of Mount Olive	$0.00	$86,689.34
Wayne Community College	$0.00	$42,450.01
TOTAL	$449,060.37	**$1,196,411.25**

Encumbered Funds	
2015 Granting Cycle	$223,369.68
2016 Granting Cycle	$225,856.46
2017 Granting Cycle	$818,528.38
2018 Granting Cycle	$2,047,435.15
TOTAL	**$3,315,189.67**

This report is based on data from 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019

2018 Grant Cycle		
CAFÉ		$0.00
Feed the Dialogue NC Foundation		$0.00
NC A&T State University		$4,094.57
NC Ag Foundation (ECU)		$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - AgVentures		$0.00
NC Ag Foudnation - Ag Policy		$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Workforce		$0.00
NCDA&CS		$29,055.17
NC Department of Public Safety		$18,050.00
Richmond County		$2,327.25
RAFI		$221,743.46
Southern Guilford High School FFA		$27,637.21
TRACTOR		$62,844.74
University of Mt. Olive		$0.00
Washington Harbor District		$123,986.16
Working Landscapes		$0.00
WNC Communities - Safety Impr		$19,215.00
WNC Communiteis - AgOptions		$210,068.29
TOTAL		**$719,021.85**

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	$4,339,981.47
2017 Granting Cycle	$1,645,471.62
2018 Granting Cycle	$719,021.85
TOTAL	**$106,075,553.11**

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	**$6,354,267.19**												
INTEREST INCOME	$9,148.13	$9,212.82	$8,915.42										$27,276.37
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	$0.00	$0.00	$1,900,000.00										$1,900,000.00
OTHER REVENUE	$0.00	$548.52	$0.00										$548.52
Fiscal Year 2020 Revenue	$9,148.13	$9,761.34	$1,908,915.42	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$1,927,824.89**
EXPENSES													
Personnel Expenses													
Per Diem-BD MEM	$13.85	$0.00	$31.56										$45.41
Trans-BD MEM	$0.00	$0.00	$143.00										$143.00
Subsistence-BD MEM	$0.00	$0.00	$143.95										$143.95
Other-BD MEM	$0.00	$2.30	$190.52										$192.82
	$13.85	$2.30	$509.03	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$525.18**
Staff Personnel Expenses													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	$25,734.72	$28,218.12	$28,171.04										$82,123.88
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	$173.25	$0.00	$1,599.24										$1,772.49
	$25,907.97	$28,218.12	$29,770.28	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$83,896.37**
Office Expenses													
Repairs	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00										$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	$0.00	$1,210.61	$37.33										$1,247.94
General Office Supplies	$0.00	$144.65	$0.00										$144.65
Furniture	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00										$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00										$0.00
Communication/Office Equipment	$164.86	$292.81	$161.68										$619.35
Other Administrative Expenses	$0.00	$120.00	$612.38										$732.38
Vehicle	$210.00	$60.50	$70.00										$340.50
Telephone Services	$296.10	$152.38	$357.61										$806.09
	$670.96	$1,980.95	$1,239.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$3,890.91**
Professional Services													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	$0.00	$1,250.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,250.00
Contract Services	$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
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	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$1,250.00**
Fiscal Year 2020 Expenses													**$89,562.46**

2016 Grant Cycle	FY 16-19	FY 20
Land of Sky	$80,150.20	$11,898.30
Mountain Valley	$108,236.79	$27,359.25
	$188,386.99	$39,257.55

2017 Grant Cycle	FY 17-19	FY 20
Bladen County Schools	$98,068.69	$5,436.79
Carolina Farm Stewardship	$28,208.83	$0.00
ECU - Agromedicine Institute	$58,921.62	$6,060.66
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	$51,874.36
Nash Community College	$112,922.95	$12,456.51
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Ed Program	$180,817.84	$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - NC Farm School	$38,985.63	$10,405.03
NC Ag Foundation - New Frozen Fruit Markets	$0.00	$0.00
NC Community College System	$236,307.86	$0.00
NCDA&CS - Agritourism	$97,626.31	$0.00
NCDA&CS - Farmers Market Promotion	$40,103.16	$0.00
NC Department of Public Safety	$220,000.00	$0.00
RAFI	$292,537.92	$0.00
TRACTOR	$56,635.15	$12,198.54
The University of Mount Olive	$86,689.34	$76,539.98
Wayne Community College	$42,450.01	$32,708.90
TOTAL	$1,645,471.62	**$207,680.77**

2018 Grant Cycle	FY 18-19	FY 20
CAFÉ	$0.00	$0.00
Feed the Dialogue NC Foundation	$0.00	$17,481.04
NC A&T State University	$4,094.57	$3,310.19
NC Ag Foundation (ECU)	$0.00	$2,057.23
NC Ag Foundation - AgVentures	$0.00	$215,061.96
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Leadership	$0.00	$26,114.60
NC Ag Foundation - Workforce	$0.00	$69,501.43
NCDA&CS	$29,055.17	$0.00
NC Department of Public Safety	$18,050.00	$0.00
Richmond County	$2,327.25	$13,477.90
RAFI	$221,743.46	$53,884.32
Southern Guilford High School FFA	$27,637.21	$32,354.85
TRACTOR	$62,844.74	$0.00
University of Mt. Olive	$0.00	$2,429.02
Washington Harbor District	$123,986.16	$0.00
Working Landscapes	$0.00	$0.00
WNC Communities - Safety Impr	$19,215.00	$99,330.00
WNC Communiteis - AgOptions	$210,068.29	$12,728.06
TOTAL	$719,021.85	**$547,730.60**

Cash Carried Forward	**$6,354,267.19**
Total Revenue FY20	**$1,927,824.89**
Total Expenses FY20(-)	$89,562.46
Subtotal	**$8,192,529.62**
Total Grants Pd Out FY20 (-)	$794,668.92
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY20 (-)	$0.00
Current Cash Balance	**$7,397,860.70**
Encumbered Funds (-)	$2,567,051.37
TOTALGrant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	**$4,830,809.33**

Encumbered Funds	
2015 Granting Cycle	$223,369.68
2016 Granting Cycle	$186,598.91
2017 Granting Cycle	$643,556.51
2018 Granting Cycle	$1,513,526.27
TOTAL	**$2,567,051.37**

This report is based on data from 7/1/2019 - 9/30/2019

2019 Grant Cycle		
TOTAL		**$0.00**

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	$4,379,239.02
2017 Granting Cycle	$1,820,443.49
2018 Granting Cycle	$1,252,930.73
TOTAL	**$106,823,691.41**

SHAIRED USE EQUIPEMENT

SHARED EQUIPMENT FOR APPALACHIAN PRODUCE FARMS

Purpose: To acquired the corn harvester, 70 crates, 6 dollies, harvest wagon, corn planter and cannon sprayer. Host a field day demonstration on the harvester and related equipment. Allow members the opportunity to use this time saving equipment decreasing their labor cost and increasing their farm income.

Impacts:

- **43 Jobs created or sustained**
- **62 Grower members to receive training**
- **31 Acres of additional sweet corn produced**
- **$121,380 leveraged from other sources**

North Carolina
Tobacco Trust Fund Commission
SPONSORED PROJECT

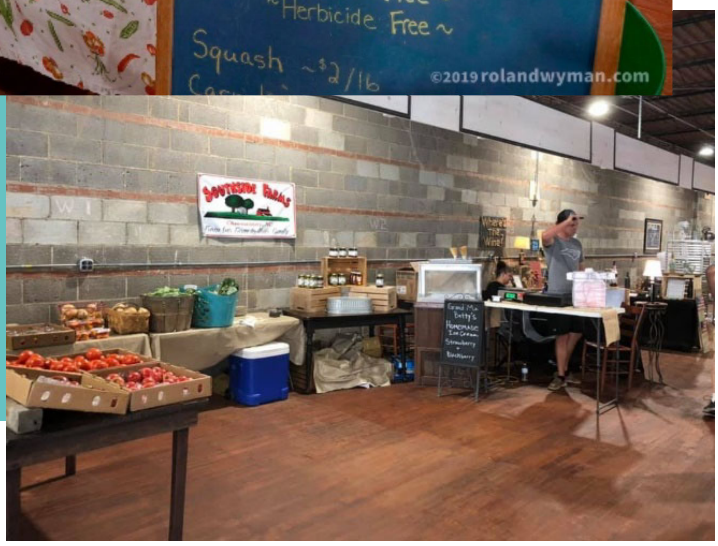
THE HARBOR DISTRICT MARKET

INDOOR FARMERS MARKET

Purpose: This project will alleviate unemployment by creating and sustaining jobs, It will preserve and increase the local tax base by adding or expanding businesses and will encourage economic stability by serving as a business incubator in the downtown Washington area.

Project Impacts:

- 19 Jobs created or sustained
- $293,676 leveraged form other sources
- 8,866 People served
- $630,000 projected New farm income



North Carolina
Tobacco Trust Fund Commission
SPONSORED PROJECT

CONTAINER FARMING EDUCATON

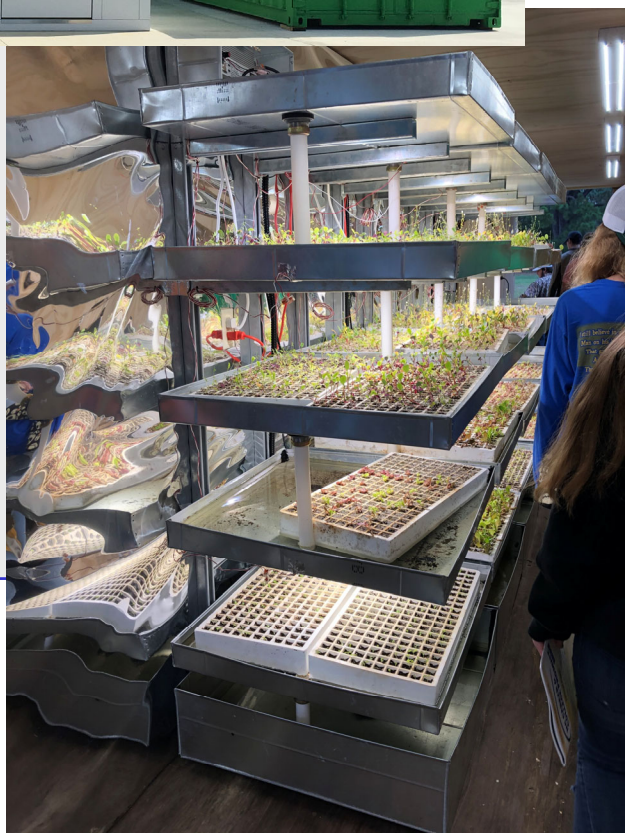
"GREEN MACHINES"

WAYNE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Purpose: To benefits students, transitional farmers, entrepreneurs and other community members by providing them with enriched instruction and training in sustainable agriculture and crop diversification. The project also offers hands-on learning for a number of cross-departmental programs which serves to prepare them to meet the demands of their chosen careers.

Project Potential impacts:

- 21 jobs created or sustained
- 46 Workers upgrading their skills
- $6, 000/year additional Farm worker income
- $23,853 Leveraged form other sources



North Carolina
Tobacco Trust Fund Commission
SPONSORED PROJECT

The Mountaineer

WNC livestock market hits $100 million in sales

- By Carter Giegerich carterg@themountaineer.com

SALES MILESTONE — Canton Mayor Zeb Smathers, left, and L.T. Ward, vice president of WNC Communities, kicked off the $100 million sales celebration on Jan. 14.

KEY PLAYERS — John Queen and several other major contributors to the project accepted plaques for their role in making the livestock market a success.

CANTON — The WNC Regional Livestock Center has hit a major milestone, passing the $100 million mark for total livestock sales late last year.

The market opened in 2011, after the closure of two livestock markets in western North Carolina left local farmers with some tough decisions about how best to go about selling their animals.

“A small group of farmers were interested in reopening the livestock market that closed in Asheville, where New Belgium is located now. When that closed, the famers had to go out of the area to sell their cattle — that’s 70 to 100 miles,” said L.T. Ward, vice president

of WNC Communities, the nonprofit organization tasked with reestablishing the market. "That represented a significant cost to the farmers."

That small group grew into a number of committees comprised of various dedicated stakeholders with an interest in seeing a market return to this part of the state, and soon a plan was formulated to establish the facility in Canton.

Key stakeholders

The new facility was opened using funds and other resources from a number of major investors, and all were recognized during a celebration for the $100 million sales achievement on Jan. 14.

John Queen accepted a plaque on behalf of Southeastern Livestock Exchange and its employees, while William Upchurch accepted a plaque on behalf of the **NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.**

Sarah Thompson, executive director of the Southwestern Commission, accepted plaques on behalf of the Golden LEAF Foundation, the NC Rural Center and Olivia Collier and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The largest funder of the project was the tobacco trust fund, an organization formed to distribute money from the master settlement agreement reached between 46 states and the major tobacco companies in the late 1990s.

Along with Golden LEAF and the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission, the Tobacco Trust Fund has benefitted a wide variety of initiatives in rural North Carolina through major grant contributions since that time.

"We knew in North Carolina the tobacco industry had been a cornerstone of our economy for agriculture and agribusiness," Upchurch said. "So we wanted to make sure, as the MSA funds were expended from tobacco companies, that there was a mechanism in place to help out our farmers and tobacco manufacturers, whether that was through stabilization or transition."

In western North Carolina in particular, tobacco was a huge part of the agriculture industry. With the drop in production, farmers had to transition to other ways to sustain their businesses.

“As tobacco lessened in the area, a lot of the farmers who grew it were also growing livestock,” Upchurch said. “One way we saw to stabilize the agriculture in western North Carolina was to enhance that livestock component.”

Local impact

The market in Canton is an exceptional example of what those types of grants can do, Upchurch said. Roughly $1.5 million in investment has turned into $100 million in economic activity in less than eight years, and the economic impact for the region is likely substantially higher. Ward said the benefits for Haywood County have been tremendous.

“You can put a multiplier of 1.5 to 2 on that, easily, for local impact,” Ward said. “We’re a 20-county area, and the core counties are probably the ones right around Buncombe and Haywood. Fifty percent of the cattle raised in the mountains are grown in Buncombe and Haywood counties.”

The market has also done well bringing in livestock from the surrounding region, which Upchurch said is a positive reflection on the quality of the facility and those managing it.

“The commission, John Queen, all the players involved have done such a great job making an outstanding market. Farmers want to come here, and they’re bringing strong livestock here,” he said.

A FULL HOUSE — Livestock sales, especially major events such as the Mountain Research Station annual bull sale, draw farmers from across the region.

Ward said the market’s success has also been in large part to the fact that it emerged from a local need for farmers and, despite the fact that it has grown considerably, the focus has remained on serving those local farmers who called out for a place close to home where they could conduct their business.

“The asset is held by our nonprofit organization, but it’s held for the farmers,” Ward said. “We still consider this an asset that’s for the farmers.”

SOUTHERN FARM NETWORK

COMMISSIONER STEVE TROXLER: AGRONOMIC SERVICES DIVISION CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON BARLEY

June 25, 2019

by Southern Farm Network

Audio Player

http://sfntoday.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/6-25-19-Troxler-Barley-research-full-mix.mp3

Farmers may soon have another market for their barley. Agronomic Services Division researching optimal nitrogen rates for malting quality barley. If successful, farmers could sell malting barley to brewers looking for local ingredients, drawing four to five times more per bushel for the barley.

- Staff with our Agronomic Services Division are working in collaboration with N.C. State University on a research project that could lead to the availability of more local malting barley for North Carolina brewers.
- Agronomists are trying to determine optimal nitrogen rates, because nitrogen impacts the plumpness of the grain and protein content, both important measures of quality.
- The payoff could be big for farmers. Barley costs around $2 a bushel for animal feed compared to $8-$12 a bushel for malting barley.
- The research is being paid for through a $104,695 grant from the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**. This is the second year of the four-year study and the potential is great.
- North Carolina ranks eighth in the country in the number of craft brewers and number one in the Southeast, because of significant recent growth. Many local brewers are eager to use locally grown products in their brews, because of consumer demand.
- About 96 percent of malted barley is from out of state. Of the 1.2 million barrels of beer produced in the state, only 40,000 are made with North Carolina grown barley.

- So there is tremendous potential for farmers and brewers alike.
- The research is being conducted on seven of the state's research stations, which factors in different soil types and climate conditions. Participating stations are Sandhills, Piedmont, Lower Coastal, Upper Coastal, Oxford, Central Crops and Mountain Horticultural Crops.
- Some farmers have already been experimenting with nitrogen applications on their own, but if this project is successful, that would eliminate the guesswork for farmers and help ensure a dependable results for the barley they grow.
- This could be a game changer for barley producers.

N.C. State University

Returning farmer benefits from NC Farm School

With the right help, the right attitude, it's possible to succeed

PUBLISHED ON **NOVEMBER 27, 2018**

Farming is a risky business, and it's hard work – and unpredictable, too. But, as Charlie McCoy says, with the right help and the right attitude, it's possible to succeed. (Photo by Antoine Thibaud, creative commons/flickr.com)

RALEIGH, N.C.–To anyone who knows much about farming, the conversation that Ben Sharpe, his fiancé, Ashley Vohne, and Charlie and Kristen McCoy have around the McCoys' dining room table one afternoon is familiar:

Farming is a risky business, and it's hard work – and unpredictable, too. But, as Charlie McCoy says, with the right help and the right attitude, it's possible to succeed.

Ben Sharpe met the McCoys through the NC Farm School. A partnership of NC State University's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and North Carolina Cooperative Extension, the program is designed to increase the number of sustainable and economically viable farms in North Carolina. It helps aspiring and beginning farmers put together solid business plans, and it also allows established farmers, like Sharpe, to explore the feasibility of adding new enterprises.

Funded by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, the program pairs interested NC Farm School graduates with mentors – experienced farmers like the McCoys who not only share their knowledge and experience but also their connections within North Carolina's agricultural community. Charlie McCoy has spent his entire life on a Craven County farm that's been in his family for more than 100 years.

Ben Sharpe took part because he is considering adding organic tobacco to his livestock operation in Wilson County. After he graduated from the program in June, he decided to take advantage of the school's mentor-mentee program and found it valuable.

"We have made some lifelong friends from all the hard work that has gone into the NC Farm School," he says.

Sharpe was matched with the McCoys because of their experience with blending a livestock operation with row crop production.

Sharpe also has farming experience, but he's approaching farm expansion cautiously: He knows firsthand that agriculture's a gamble – and gambles don't always work out. His father had been a farmer but got out of the business after he'd had to borrow money against his home to make ends meet.

"My dad told me and my brother he didn't want either one of us to farm. He's like, 'Learn a trade,'" Sharpe recalls.

He took that advice, spending nearly 20 years working his way up the ranks with an agricultural equipment company. He found that he missed the farming lifestyle – being outdoors, working hard and learning something new with each passing day. He wanted to share that with his son, Bryson.

I wanted to get Bryson into 4-H and doing some of the things that I enjoyed as a kid.

"I wanted to get him into 4-H and doing some of the things that I enjoyed as a kid, instead of sitting in his room playing video games," Sharpe says as Bryson plays outside with the McCoys' two sons, Luke and Wyatt.

“I’m sure there are a lot of things easier to go do that would probably be more stable,” he adds. “I know the gambles you make with it and the work involved, but none of that bothers me.”

NC Farm School helps provide information and a plan to help you discover the possibilities that exist.

Derek Washburn, an NC State Extension associate who helps coordinate the program, says, “NC Farm School doesn’t hide the realities of farming; rather we help provide information and a plan to help you discover the possibilities that exist in order to make farming a reality.”

Kristen McCoy, listens, nods and then quickly adds, “I didn’t grow up on a farm, but I wouldn’t trade farming for anything. It’s meant that both our children already have a strong foundation and work ethic.

“That’s priceless.”

Find out more about the schools planned for 2019 in Greenville and in Roxboro.

Farm School is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

–Dee Shore, N.C. State University

NC State Extension announces grant winners

April 24, 2019 Yadkin Ripple News 0
Staff Report

Two local farmers are among the winners of the NC Extension agency's grant program, AgVentures. As winners of the 2019 N.C. AgVentures cost-share grants, 34 North Carolina farmers will receive funding to help grow, diversify or implement new entrepreneurial plans in their operations or communities this year.

Whether expanding a honey-processing operation in Winston-Salem, increasing mushroom production in Stoneville, or converting tobacco greenhouses into hemp houses in Dunn, these and 31 other innovative individuals across the state will benefit from these grants in important ways.

Anne Cain of Cain Family Farm in Hamptonville, winner from Yadkin County, will create an agritourism operation by opening her farm to visitors and selling aged cheeses. In Surry County, Kyle Montgomery plans to build an energy-efficient greenhouse to grow seedlings on York Farm in Mount Airy, which operates a community supported agriculture program, contributes vegetables wholesale to restaurants and stores, and runs an on-farm store.

The AgVentures program — which strengthens agriculturally dependent families and communities by providing support and funding directly to North Carolina farm operators — is administered by NC State Extension under the direction of program coordinator Jackie Murphy Miller.

"We have just completed our fifth round of grant awards, and each year we are amazed and inspired by the project proposals that are submitted," Miller said. "All of the funding is provided by the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**, and with their support NC State Extension has been able to help 121 farmer families grow their operations."

Over the last five years, the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Commission (NCTTF) has contributed $1.12 million to dedicated North Carolina farmers.

"Partnerships with programs like AgVentures are extremely beneficial," said William Upchurch, executive director of the NCTTFC. "AgVentures gets down to the grassroots and is an excellent partner for us."

While the grants are relatively small, ranging from $2,000 up to $10,000, Upchurch said they may be just enough to help a farmer transition to another crop or market, try something different and survive into the future.

"When farmers are successful that turns over into surrounding areas," Upchurch continued. Their successes can increase demand for products such as fertilizer, seeds and chemicals, tools, equipment or heavy machinery. "All these factors help rural communities stay viable," he said. "Farmers are dealing with many challenges: mother nature, tariffs and falling prices. New ideas and directions can mean so much for so many people."

Funds for this grant from the commission derive from the Master Settlement Agreement negotiated in 1998 by attorneys general from 46 states with four of the country's largest tobacco manufacturers.

The grant opportunity is available in Duplin, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Greene, Guilford, Harnett, Johnston, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pitt, Rockingham, Sampson, Stokes, Surry, Wayne, Wilson and Yadkin counties.

To learn more about N.C. AgVentures and the impact it has on family farms and communities, visit https://agventures.ces.ncsu.edu/.

Mountain Xpress

WNC AgOptions awards 2019 farm diversification grants

Posted on February 12, 2019February 12, 2019 — Community Bulletin

Press release from WNC AgOptions:

MILLS RIVER, N.C.—Diversifying farmers in western North Carolina are receiving support to offset the risk of expanding and trying new ventures. WNC Agricultural Options awarded 39 farm businesses a total of $216,000 in $3,000 and $6,000 grants on Thursday at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River. Farm projects include a new meadery operation, the expansion of heirloom wheat and rye flour production and an agritourism endeavor that will create a new "Pizza Farm."

Six of the farm business received $3,000 and 33 received $6,000. The **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** is the exclusive financial supporter of WNC AgOptions, which aims to build sustainable farming communities in the mountain region by providing resources directly to farmers.

"The WNC AgOptions program has proven success stories," said Bill Teague, Chairman of the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**. "We continue to be amazed at how these producers utilize these funds to ensure their family farms grow and remain profitable."

Ryan and Launi Higgs of Blue Ridge Apiaries in Caldwell County will be producing mead, an alcoholic beverage created by fermenting honey, to complement their existing fourth generation honey production operation. The meadery will not only allow them to diversify, reducing the financial risk in offering one product—honey, but will also add value and increase income. "Producing mead offers a new revenue stream independent of our current revenue stream," said Ryan. "We cannot compete with commodity honey prices outside of our region due to the constraints on honey production in North Carolina. This makes the proposition of adding value to our honey crop all the more attractive and sensible as a means of insuring economical sustainability."

In Buncombe County, Anne and Aaron Grier of Gaining Ground Farm will be expanding heirloom wheat and rye production. "While we have been growing small grains for more than 10 years, we have determined varieties that are the best fit for our operation and need to scale up in order to be economically viable," said Anne. "Over the last couple years we have seen an increasing demand for our heirloom flour, and we see this as an important way to diversify our offerings with a unique product." The Griers will be purchasing needed equipment that will allow them to expand to grow five acres of grain by 2020.

Carl Evans and Julie Mansfield of Mountain Harvest Organics in Madison County will use their grant to transition from crop production to produce value-added products and services by becoming a Pizza Farm. "We hope to become a food destination for people in our community and the Asheville area by combining our 20 years of growing fruits and vegetables along with our passion for making pizza using a wood-fired oven and with

ingredients from the farm," said Carl. The goal is to draw people to their farm and encourage them to wander the fields to see pizza toppings growing and then enjoy a pizza prepared with fresh farm ingredients right before their eyes. "The farm tour aspect of our Pizza Farm will educate people about agriculture and challenges facing small farms."

"N.C. Cooperative Extension is excited to be a part of a program that is making such impressive impacts in the agricultural community," said Ross Young, Madison County Extension Director and WNC AgOptions steering committee leader. "Agriculture is a thriving and ever-changing economic engine in western North Carolina with new enterprises and creative ideas emerging daily. WNC AgOptions plays a crucial role in helping many of these farmers fulfill a dream that may not be attainable otherwise."

The administrator of WNC AgOptions is WNC Communities, a non-profit organization that has been supporting agriculture in the region since 1947. WNC Communities provides a unique forum for leaders in western North Carolina to carry out innovative programs to improve the quality of life for rural communities, as well as managing programs to enhance the agriculture and forestry sectors.

"WNC Communities is honored to be the administrator of this annual funding opportunity designed to support farmers in their quest to try new techniques or implement innovative farming practices," said Jennifer Ferre, Interim Director of WNC Communities. "WNC AgOptions strengthens our agricultural community, ultimately benefiting us all."

Members of the WNC AgOptions steering committee include: representatives from N.C. Cooperative Extension, N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services–Marketing Division, WNC Communities, Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project and other leaders in agribusiness. For more information, see the following: WNC Agricultural Options: www.wncagoptions.org; N.C. Cooperative Extension Centers: www.ces.ncsu.edu; N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission: www.tobaccotrustfund.org; WNC Communities: www.wnccommunities.org.

2019 WNC AgOptions Awardees:

(County, Award, Farm, Project Name)

Avery, $6,000.00, Tucker Hollow Farms — Bedding and Propagation Greenhouse
Avery, $6,000.00, Skye2Farm LLC — Skye Lavender Farm Venue
Buncombe, $6,000.00, Addison Farms Vineyard — Crush, Cold Storage and Drying Facility
Buncombe, $6,000.00, Gaining Ground Farm — Expansion of Heirloom Wheat and Rye Flour Production
Buncombe, $6,000.00, S.D. Morgan Farms — Less Sediment/More Seed
Buncombe, $6,000.00, Wild Berry Farm — Multi-Use Shed
Burke, $6,000.00, "Pick Dee's Berries" at Skydance Farm — "Park and Potty" Agritourism Infrastructure for "You-Pick" Berry Farm
Caldwell, $6,000.00, High Country Herbs LLC — Farm Mechanization
Caldwell, $6,000.00, Blue Ridge Apiaries — Value Added Diversification: Session Mead Production
Cherokee, $6,000.00, Two Crows Farm — Product Production Expansion for Third Quality Fiber
Cleveland, $6,000.00, Dollar Down Farm — Growing Under Rolling Thunder
Cleveland, $6,000.00, Hudson Poultry Farm, LLC — Grain Storage for Expanded Marketing
EBCI, $3,000.00, Long Family Farms and Gallery — Mushroom and Medicinal Extracts and

Oils
EBCI, $6,000.00, Dugan Farms — Mechanical Cultivation for Sustainable Weed Management
Haywood, $6,000.00, Two Trees Farm/Sustainabillies LLC — Outdoor Kitchen and Classroom Space
Haywood, $6,000.00, Rice Family Farms LLC — Bulldog Wrangler Portable Corral
Henderson, $6,000.00, Holt Orchards — Building Enclosure to House Packing Line
Henderson, $6,000.00, McConnell Farms — Enable to Label – A Custom Labeling Project
Henderson, $6,000.00, Bee-utiful Farm and Garden — Honey House
Macon, $3,000.00 Bateman Girls' Cattle Farm — Heifer Replacement Program
Madison, $6,000.00, Dry Ridge Farm LLC — Laying Hen Expansion
Madison, $6,000.00, Mountain Harvest Organics Pizza Farm
Madison, $6,000.00, Highgate Farm — Post-Harvest Cure and Storage Facility
Madison, $6,000.00, Jenkins Angus Farm AI Cattle Working System
Madison, $6,000.00, Carolina Flowers — Dahlia Crop Expansion
McDowell, $6,000.00, Beekeeper INC — Bee Hive Transportation Upgrade
Mitchell, $3,000.00, Tater Hill Farms — Tater Washer
Mitchell, $6,000.00, Sink Hole Creek Farms — No Till Seeder
Polk, $6,000.00, TK Family Farm — TEW model M-4 Fruit Packing/Sorting Line
Rutherford, $6,000.00, Moss & Thistle Flower Farm — Sustainable Floriculture for Local Markets
Transylvania, $3,000.00, The Farm at Gwynn Valley — Produce Packing Shed
Transylvania, $6,000.00, Clem's Organic Gardens — Machinery for Storage Vegetable Production
Transylvania, $6,000.00, Pitch Pine Farm — Mechanized Root Harvesting Equipment
Watauga, $3,000.00, Full Moon Farm — Paperpot Transplanter for Increased Production
Watauga, $3,000.00, Mountainwise Farm LLC — Wash, Pack and Storage Facility
Watauga, $6,000.00, Heartwood Farms Ltd — Rabbitry
Watauga, $6,000.00, Trebuchet Hill — Cucumber Beetle Suppression with Alternative Row Cover and Introduced Pollinators
Watauga, $6,000.00, 3M Livestock — Diversifying Farm Operations
Yancey, $6,000.00, Pink Boots Farm LLC — Goat Barn Renovation/Milking Operation

Goldsboro Daily News

UMO Hosts Third Annual SAE Camp

By Ken Conners · July 31, 2019

Several high school FFA students and teachers from 15 counties in NC recently participated in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Camp at the University of Mount Olive. It is the third year for the camp. Traveling from as far north as Franklin County and as far south as Robeson County, the participants enjoyed a week of learning, fun, and all things agriculture.

Paul Eldridge of Smithfield talks about how he uses modern technology with his SAE-started farm business

Camp participants were shown the value of SAEs while visiting sites of five local SAE projects. The projects included a welding shop tour, visit to a local farm, talk and taste-testing at a blackberry jelly operation, and visit to a sunflower farm.

Day two of the camp included lessons in business etiquette and planning, as well as resume building. Participants were shown how to document SAE projects through a program called AET, a record keeping system currently used in the agricultural field.

UMO student James Johnson (far right) gives out blackberry jelly samples to SAE campers. Johnson produces and sells blackberries and jelly as a result of his high school SAE project.

At the halfway mark of the week, campers were split into three groups where they were exposed to the meaning of giving back through agriculture. The groups volunteered at Habitat for Humanity in Selma, the Eastern Baptist Association in Rose Hill, and the Gleaning Food Pantry in Autryville. They assisted in preparing lunches and stocking supplies for the needy.

Never failing to end each day with a bang, students were provided with a number of recreational activities including water slide volleyball, an ice cream social, bowling, and even an outdoor movie at UMO's Kornegay Farm.

"I had so much fun at this camp," noted one participant. "It has been a great week to build our knowledge in SAE, and has given us many good ideas to take back to our schools."

The final days of camp were spent touring Carolina Beach State Park and the Aquarium at Fort Fisher. At a celebratory luncheon, students were presented with certificates of completion, as well as 45 hours of SAE credit. Teachers were awarded three CEU credits.

UMO student Noah Stewart talks to SAE campers about the welding business he started in Goldsboro as a result of his SAE project.

"The SAE Camp has allowed me to understand a new perspective for experiential learning outside of the classroom," expressed Chris Hicks, an agriculture teacher at Topsail High School. "I now feel confident that I can go back to my program and teach students how to develop meaningful SAE projects that will prepare them for their future careers."

The SAE camp at UMO has been funded for the past three years by the **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** through a sponsored program grant.

"The SAE Camps held at UMO are significant for students because they get hands on agriculture-related learning experiences that they might not otherwise receive," said Dr. Sandy Maddox, Director of the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at UMO. "The activities provide participants with opportunities to develop leadership and a work ethic that will serve them

throughout their college and work careers. We are hosting more than just a camp at UMO, we are hosting a life-changing experience."

Paul Eldridge a former UMO SAE camp participant talks about his SAE project with the 2019 campers. Eldridge has a garden and farm market in Smithfield that was started as a high school SAE project.

North Carolina

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission

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