

North Carolina



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

November 1, 2017

CONTENTS

Contents Page	page 2
Letter to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources	page 3
Letter to the Co-Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee	page 4
Letter to the Co-Chairs of the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee	page 5
Letter from the Chairman	page 6
Commission Members	page 7
Commission History	page 8
 <u>UPDATE ON ACTIVE GRANTS</u>	
2012 - 2016 Grants	page 10
 <u>NEW GRANTS</u>	
2017 Grants	page 47
 <u>BUDGET SPECIAL PROVISION</u>	
Future Farmers of America Pilot Program	page 57
 <u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
Operating Statement (FY 17)	page 63
Operating Statement (FY 18)	page 65
 <u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	
Project Highlights	page 67
 <u>CONTACTS</u>	
Contact Information	page 82



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 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

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

Dear Representative Dixon and Representative McElraft and Senator Jackson:

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

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

Respectfully,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604



The Honorable Nelson Dollar
N.C. House of Representatives
Senior Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 307B
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Dean Arp
N.C. House of Representatives
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
300 N Salisbury Street, Room 529
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Justin P. Burr
N.C. House of Representatives
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
300 N Salisbury Street, Room 307A
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

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

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

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

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

Dear Representative Dollar and Representative Arp and Representative Burr and Representative Faircloth and Representative Johnson and Representative Lambeth 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.

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

Respectfully,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2017



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

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

The Honorable Brent Jackson
N.C. Senate
Co-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,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604



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.

Our producers continue to be challenged with commodity prices. In the 21st century one cannot depend on guaranteed returns like we once did with the Federal Tobacco Program. One saving grace to these obstacles has been our producers hard work to help diversify their operations. No longer are most producers depending on one commodity to carry their business through the hardships faced each season. The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission has continued to gain knowledge in understanding as to what it takes to help members of the agricultural family diversify successfully, through our grant program and our relationships with other expert organizations.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's work is **critical** because agriculture remains a very important part of our state's economy, contributing **\$84** billion annually, accounting for over **17%** of the state's income and employing **16%** 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 2017 grant awards, and information showing the impact of our funds are included in this report. We have provided a synopsis of each recipient's project and, with the guidance of the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, their impressive results with the financial assistance provided.

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

Sincerely,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604



COMMISSION MEMBERS
2017

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

CARTER, J.W. (Billy)
III.
Eagle Springs, NC
County-Moore
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

COLLINS, William K.
Raleigh, NC
County-Wake
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

CREWS, Sam
Oxford, NC
County-Granville
Appointee Officer –
Governor

DAVENPORT, David
Greenville, NC
County-Pitt
Appointee Officer-
Governor

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

GRAY, Albert D. (Dial)
III
Whiteville, NC
County-Columbus
Appointee Officer-
Governor

HAMM, Maggie
Conover, NC
County-Catawba
Appointee Officer-
Governor

HUNTER, Brent
Boonville, NC
County-Yadkin
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

IVEY, Thomas
Goldsboro, NC
County-Wayne
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

JONES, Frankie T.,
Sr.
Burlington, NC
County-Alamance
Appointee Officer-
Governor

LEE, Jeffrey C.
Benson, NC
County-Johnston
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

MINTON, Tim
Clayton, NC
County-Johnston
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

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

TEAGUE, William H.
(Bill) CHAIRMAN
Leicester, NC
County-Buncombe
Appointee Officer-
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 2017

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, 2016

The TTFC has met **four times** this past year. During these meetings, board members awarded grant funds, received grantee updates and took action 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 is looking at a target of 2018 for implementation.

In 2017, a total of **39** grant applications were received requesting over **\$7.8** million in funding. After a very detailed review process, the TTFC approved grants totaling **\$2.4 million for 19 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.

- Over the past 5 years the project *Adding Value to WNC Livestock* is exceeding initial expectations. Over 106,000 head of livestock are being sold through the WNC Regional Livestock Center for \$92 million with an area economic impact of \$138 million. By supporting 60 value-added training and livestock programs, area farmers were able to increase the number of certified producers in the BQA by 300%. Examples of topics covered included dehorning, castration, inoculation, and nutrition. The average auction opening price in 2011 was \$750 per head and in 2015 the overall market price is peaking at \$1,150 per head.
- The AgVentures project assisted 26 micro-grant projects in 13 counties helping 42 farms. All farmers have strong ties to the tobacco economy either through family, work, or farmland heritage. Grant recipients invested \$134,173 of their own funds in their projects, which is considerably higher than the required 10%.
- The NC Food Manufacturing Task Force has worked to place NC in the best position for growth in the food processing and manufacturing industry. This initiative has created additional market opportunities for farmers, provide additional employment opportunities and increase the contributions of agriculture to our state's economy. The project continues to identify food-manufacturing and related companies that are considering a new facility investment and/or expansion in the next 18 to 24 months in North Carolina.
- 29 Farms received micro-grants through the Agritourism Marketing Cost Share Program to promote the agritourism aspects of their farms to the public. This is a way to increase visitors, provide farm education opportunities and increase the value of the farm as an entertainment venue. Each grantee received assistance with their overall business plan and guidance on how this grant could improve marketing initiatives and promotional efforts on the farm.
- The NCTTFC Ag Management Program has developed a pilot program to increase business management competencies for 20-25 NC farms with greater than \$1 million in farm receipts. Modules in financial and human resource management, marketing, strategic planning, risk management and succession planning are being taught in the workshops. Curriculum is being taught by faculty from NCSU & ECU. The pilot program is targeting NC tobacco and sweet potato farms. This pilot will be template for a future program for specialized southeastern agriculture.

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2012 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS: COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2016 OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2017

Project: **Adding Value to WNC Livestock**

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

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Leadership funding, including that from the NC TTFC, has revived the Western North Carolina (WNC) livestock sector, with sales over the past 5 years exceeding expectations. The WNC Regional Livestock Center sold 106,000 head of livestock for \$92 million with an economic impact of \$138 million. The average opening price in 2011 was \$750 per head with the overall market price peaking in 2015 at \$1,150 per head. This represents an average of \$866 per head as compared to \$750 starting price, reflecting a 15.5% increase. In addition, 60 value-added training and livestock programs were offered utilizing oral presentations, written materials, and/or hands-and demonstrations and covering topics such as dehorning, castration, inoculation, and nutrition. An increase of 300% in number of producers certified in the BQA program in the western extension district was realized, which represents a 15% premium in the marketplace. A positive impact was experienced by several generations of farmers, from FFA students in high school to more established "veteran" producers through the varied programming available over the 5-year period. It is estimated the added-value educational effort impacted future and current producers from age 15 to 75.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Western NC counties

www.wnccommunities.org

Project: Yadkin Valley Agriculture Center

Contact: Ms. Lisa Hughes
 Yadkin County
 PO Box 146
 Yadkinville, NC 27055
 336-679-4200

Grant Amount: \$100,000

This project was designed to accommodate the offices of the NC Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS, USDA and the NC Forest Service, as well as to provide adequate space for training, seminars, annual banquets, etc. for farmers, as well as Yadkin County citizens. \$5.4 million was leveraged for the construction while it created 157 jobs during construction of the facility. It added an estimated \$65,118 in additional State tax revenue in addition to the increase to the local economy. It is estimated that over 38,000 members of the community will be impacted by the building.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Yadkin and surrounding counties

<http://www.yadkincountync.gov/>

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2013 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS: COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2016 OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2017

Project: **AgriSafe-NC and Certified Safe Farm Expansion**

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
 NC Ag Foundation
 Box 7645 NCSU
 Raleigh, NC 27695
 919-515-9262

Grant Amount: \$300,000

The Certified Safe Farm of North Carolina (NC) and AgriSafe®-NC Program team implemented on-farm safety reviews on 78 farms in 34 NC counties, provided health services in 47 additional counties through 2,871 health screenings and reached over 74,176 people with safety and health education. The program facilitated implementation of lifesaving changes in farmers' work behavior and personal lifestyles and increased the capacity within NC Cooperative Extension, training 40 agents in 29 counties. The program also benefitted the AgriSafe®-NC Network, including 42 agricultural medicine students, by providing education and delivering health and safety services.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: 81 counties

www.cals.ncsu.edu/advancement/ag_fnd.htm

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2014 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2016 OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2017

Project: First on Scene

Contact: Mrs. Robin Tutor-Marcom
East Carolina University - NC Agromedicine Institute
1157 VOA Site C Road
Greenville, NC 27834
252-744-1008

Grant Amount: \$140,000

This project, with the goals of teaching the critical steps in addressing on-farm emergencies and accidents to area farm personnel and providing “First on Scene” training to emergency responders is still on-going

Status: Personnel have increased their outreach to county extension and EMS/Fire departments. First aid kits and fire extinguishers have been secured for distribution. Coordinators have conducted 9 outreach programs with representatives from approximately 30 NC counties and the program has generated interest from 16 states.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: Buy Local, Cut Fresh

Contact: Ms. Misty Gil
Eastern North Carolina Christmas Tree Growers Association
1713 NC 55 E
Dunn, NC 28334
910-658-8759

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The Eastern NC Christmas Tree Growers Association (ENCCGA) conducted a two-year radio marketing campaign spanning two Christmas Tree seasons in an effort to increase industry recognition, farm traffic and sales. According to survey responses, foot traffic increased on tree farms by 10,133 people over the two-year project. These numbers indicate that the advertising

was successful as it increased consumer awareness of choose and cut farms and increase foot traffic on these farms.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Eastern tree growing regions

www.nc-chooseandcut.com

Project: Agricultural Plastics Recycling

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

Grant Amount: \$40,000

With farmers' increasing reliance on plastic materials and plasticulture farming techniques, a team of NC recycling stakeholders is expanding recycling options for growers across the state. Waste Reduction Partners launched a comprehensive recycling outreach effort to make growers aware of cost-effective recycling options including the development of a new website devoted to the project (ncagplastics.org). This project estimates the increase in profit to NC producers to be more than \$200,000

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Various Counties

www.wastereductionpartners.org

Project: Developing Future NC Farmers

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
NC Ag Foundation
Box 7645 NCSU
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-9262

Grant Amount: \$209,150

Over the course of two years, the Developing Future North Carolina Farmers (DFNCF) program served 16 students, training them how to operate an agricultural production operation and

preparing them to develop their own agricultural businesses in the future. The students committed to working a 10 to 12 week internship throughout the summer and each student submitted a weekly report to the program coordinator detailing what they did and learned that week. Students also attended a business plan instructional workshop and presented their plans to their Ag-mentors, NCSU faculty and staff and fellow participants.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Agricultural Emergency Response Teams (AERT) Expansion Project

Contact: Ms. Sharron Stewart
NCDA&CS - Emergency Programs Division
1035 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-807-4300

Grant Amount: \$90,000

The goals of this project are to establish protocols for agricultural emergency preparedness. Targeted areas will receive training on best practices for coordination and communication of activation and deployment of emergency plans to farms and agricultural communities.

Status: The first AERT meeting was held in Western NC with good results. Additional training sessions were held for 34 FFA students and advisors and for 14 NC Civil Air Patrol Cadets.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: Farmers and Communities Manage Deer

Contact: Mr. Dom Canavaro
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
1024 Washington St
Raleigh, NC 27605
919-833-1923

Grant Amount: \$130,350

The project successfully engaged 5 deer processors in the NC Hunters for the Hungry network and implemented 12 community-based donation sites. A total of 17,483 deer were harvested and donated through the project during the 2015 and 2016 seasons primarily from 26 North Carolina counties. A minimum of 70,000 acres of agricultural and forested land was positively impacted by deer harvest during the project term.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Columbus, Wilson, Edgecombe, Bladen, Beaufort and surrounding counties

www.ncwf.org

Project: Keep on Truckin’

Contact: Mr. Caleb Crowell
New River Organic Growers (NROG)
PO Box 1223
West Jefferson, NC 28697
336-384-2546

Grant Amount: \$55,800

The Project has allowed NROG to continue to offer produce from an expanding number of growers to the Charlotte and Asheville market. Over the past three years, over \$800,000 of product has been purchased from participating growers in rural counties in NC. NROG is at a breakeven point and believe they will be sustainable for the foreseeable future.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Farmers in northwestern NC and targeted regions

www.newrivergrowers.com

Project: From Tobacco to Family Forests

Contact: Mr. Derek Halberg
Tar River Land Conservancy (TRLC)
PO Box 1161
Louisburg, NC 27549
919-496-5902

Grant Amount: \$41,000

TRLC personnel will assist landowners with forest management plans and provide cost-share towards consultation costs of plan developers.

Status: Forestry plans are being developed for farms in the designated conservation areas. Five forest stewardship plans have been completed. Seven plans are in various stages of completion.

Area Served: Granville, Person, Warren, Franklin, Halifax, Vance, Edgecombe, Nash

www.tarriver.org

Project: Troutman Farmers Market & Park Pavilion

Contact: Ms. Erika G Martin
Town of Troutman
PO Box 26
Troutman, NC 28166
704-508-3012

Grant Amount: \$50,000

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 13, 2016 for the farmers market in Troutman Town Park. The total project cost was \$300,776. The market building is 2,700 sq ft. Additional farmers are beginning to attend market events. Approximately 1,548 pounds of produce from 600 acres of farmland were generated over the season.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Iredell

www.townoftroutman.org

Project: Revitalizing NC's Working Forest Landowner Summits

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: \$65,000

Funds were used for five training meetings. Prior to the meetings, 26% of attendees did not have any forest management plan. As a result of the meetings, 1200 attendees generated nearly 800

requests for additional information. Attendees managed over 1,780,545 acres of crop and forest land, with a potential increase in income of \$61,344,746.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.mocagbiz.com

Project: WNC Agricultural Options Program

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

Grant Amount: \$440,000

This program awarded 33 cost share grants in 20 Western NC counties. Projects featured innovative ideas using new farm equipment, refurbishing an old grist mill for agri-tourism ventures, improving livestock handling facilities and more. By offering cost-share grants to farmers and communities, qualified farmers are able to diversify or expand operations and replace tobacco income.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: 22 W NC Counties

www.wncagoptions.org

Project: TRACTOR

Contact: Mr. Tres Magner
Yancey County Government
10 Orchard Drive
Burnsville, NC 28714
828-682-6186

Grant Amount: \$71,860

Access to Bowditch Bottoms farm allowed five experienced producers and the local FFA Chapter to increase production at the site. TRACTOR sales increased (13%) in 2016. Other

highlights of the program were visits by Biltmore Estate chefs and sales associates to understand more about the produce they intend to purchase, the Farm is now GAP certified and TRACTOR was able to purchase a 12ft refrigerated truck for distribution to help move more product to larger warehouses.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties

www.yancey.ces.ncsu.edu/

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2015 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2016 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2017

Project: Cost Shares for Mountain Farms

Contact: Ms. Molly Nicholie
Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)
306 West Haywood Street
Asheville, NC 28801
828-236-1282

Grant Amount: \$60,000

Through this project, 179 farmers from 21 counties received cost share funding to assist with marketing. Completed projects included, but were not limited to, labels, packaging, farm signage, vehicle signage, brochures, rack cards, postcards, print ads, radio ads, tv ads, business cards, and market banners.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: 23 WNC counties

www.asapconnections.org

Project: Whirligig Park Farmers Market Shelter

Contact: Ms. Kimberly Van Dyk
City of Wilson
PO Box 10
Wilson, NC 27894
252-315-9395

Grant Amount: \$160,000

The Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park was developed through a partnership between the City of Wilson, Wilson Downtown Properties, and Wilson Downtown Development Corporation. This new location is geared toward developing the downtown area of this “former tobacco town.” Construction of the Shelter was completed in June and a Certificate of Compliance was issued by the City of Wilson. The project will create a robust downtown Farmers Market in the Whirligig Park that attracts new customers and builds community.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Wilson, Nash, Johnston, Wayne, Greene, Pitt, Edgecombe

www.wilsonwhirlgigpark.org

Project: Mobilized Agricultural Machinery Rescue Training

Contact: Mr. Jimmy Hensley
Cleveland Community College
137 South Post Road
Shelby, NC 28152
704-669-4192

Grant Amount: \$50,000

The initiative places high quality agricultural machinery rescue instruction into tobacco-dependent and agricultural-dependent communities throughout NC. The goals are to mobilize the agricultural machinery rescue introductory and certification courses by purchasing specific equipment and to strengthen the rescue and emergency response teams in NC communities. The project is needed throughout NC to support the efforts of local emergency personnel and to alleviate the financial burden to community colleges to purchase dedicated equipment and other highly-specified course materials

Status: Trailer has been purchased and wrapped. Opportunities to travel across the state for training are anticipated to occur during the fall semester.

Area Served: Select NC counties based on training needs and their tobacco industry

www.clevelandcc.edu

Project: Martin County Farmers Market Manager

Contact: Mr. Al Cochran
County of Martin
104 Kehukee Park Road
Williamston, NC 27892
252-789-4370

Grant Amount: \$5,500

The part-time manager organized the market well and created a consistent place to do business. She has completed her assignment and seemingly the market has gained in popularity. The

vender association has strong participation and hopefully will support her through the next year. The market averaged around 13 vendors per week.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Martin

www.martin.ces.ncsu.edu

Project: Skilling Up

Contact: Ms. Mary Moore
Durham Technical Community College
1637 East Lawson Street
Durham, NC 27703
919-536-7222

Grant Amount: \$30,000

The activities that were completed include the development and presentation of a Small Business Conference, which included workshops, seminars and panel discussions informing attendees of new and emerging food entrepreneurs. One small business was started which was a direct result of enrollment and attendance at the Durham Tech Small Food Business Conference. The scholarships provided short term training that addresses skill gaps and enhances employability in a competitive marketplace. Successful recruiting through outreach in various marketplaces allowed this information to reach the specific population.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Durham and Orange counties

www.durhamtech.edu

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: Two classes took place during this quarter; hugelkultur and building bat houses. Both classes were held in April and well attended with 8 students in both classes. Classes are scheduled to be held during the months of June, July, and August. Stokes Cooperative Extension, is a partner on this series.

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 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: Application and training materials have been developed and the deadline for farmers to apply has been extended. Five farmers are ready to set up with accountants. As few accounting firms have shown interest in this project, book keepers will now be included in the initial steps in organizing the farmers finances.

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

www.ncifund.org

Project: Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant

Contact: Mrs. Kathy Kennel
NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. (NCAF)

Campus Box 7645
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-9259

Grant Amount: \$181,692

Through this project, 36 schools received micro-grants. Many schools encountered challenges during this grant period with teacher changes and resulting changes in the scope of projects. In total, the projects leveraged over \$250,000 and served over 8,500 people. All grant recipients have documented projects with PowerPoint presentations.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: NC AgVentures

Contact: Mrs. Kathy Kennel
NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. (NCAF)
Campus Box 7645
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-9259

Grant Amount: \$300,000

This project generated 26 grants in 13 counties helping 42 farms. All farmers have strong ties to the tobacco economy, either through family, work or farmland heritage. Grant recipients invested \$134,173 of their own funds in their projects, which is considerably higher than the required 10%. Beneficiaries of the NC AgVentures grant program are the producers, their families, the farm workers and the surrounding communities.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Piedmont and Coastal Plain counties

www.agventures.ces.ncsu.edu

Project: Agritourism Marketing Cost Share Program

Contact: Ms. Annie Baggett
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Marketing Division
1020 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699
919-707-3120

Grant Amount: \$50,000

Through this project, 29 farms received micro-grants to promote the agritourism aspects of their farms to the public. The purpose was to increase visitors, provide farm education opportunities and increase the value of the farm as an entertainment venue by increasing farm revenue. Each grantee received assistance with their overall business plan including marketing initiatives and promotional efforts of the farm.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov/markets/agritourism/index.htm

Project: GTBNC Agriculture Reverse Trade Conferences

Contact: Mr. Joe Sanderson
Director
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Marketing Division
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-707-3106

Grant Amount: \$60,000

The Domestic Marketing Division will support regional trade conferences and local meetings in which the state's farmers and meat/seafood producers will meet individually with retail and foodservice buyers. The concept is based on past successful conferences that resulted in increased sales and distribution of NC products.

Status: Three sessions were held before the summer growing season and one more is scheduled this winter. While still early, buyers were contacted for preliminary results of their meetings with farmers and ranchers.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

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 be to 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 mission of the task force.

Status: The project continues to utilize grant funds to operate a call campaign intended to identify food manufacturing and related companies that (1) are considering a new facility investment or expansion in the next 18 to 24 months; and (2) are interested in North Carolina as a potential location.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: Improving North Carolina's Soil Health

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

Grant Amount: \$30,000

The Foundation worked closely with NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to create a unique educational outreach tool that can deliver lessons to all ages, regardless of their background or experience in agriculture. A variety of interactive demonstrations were built in-house or purchased when a turn-key unit was available. Conservation partners statewide were trained on the demonstrations. How-to manuals were generated and a collection of You Tube videos were created for training and outreach.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncsoilwater.org

Project: Project Skill-UP Pathways

Contact: Ms. Nicole Dunevant
Piedmont Community College
PO Box 1197
Roxboro, NC 27573
336-322-2160

Grant Amount: \$24,000

This project was able to decrease the skills gap of targeted individuals by providing occupational skills training, increasing the number of individuals obtaining credentials and employment, improving the quality of the workforce, and providing opportunities for individuals to select career pathways that lead to a better quality of life by obtaining higher wages. A focus of the program was to produce economic self-sufficiency and enhance the productivity of both Caswell and Person counties by producing well-rounded, quality graduates who are immediately employable. 77 students enrolled in 13 different areas of study. 91% of students completed training and 59% obtained employment. We exceeded our enrollment numbers by 92%, exceeded our completion of training goal by 1% and almost met our employment goal, missing this goal by only 1% with 59% having found employment.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Caswell, Person

www.piedmontcc.edu

Project: Agricultural Reinvestment Fund

Contact: Mr. Scott Marlow
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI)
PO Box 640
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-1396

Grant Amount: \$250,000

The project provided cost-share grants to farmers in specific counties for innovative projects designed to increase farm income and build markets for NC agricultural products. Priority was

given to current and former tobacco farmers. Over 70 applications were received and 25 projects were awarded grants.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Select NC Counties in Eastern NC

www.rafiusa.org

Project: R-CCC Project Skill-UP

Contact: Ms. Andrea Glaze
Roanoke-Chowan Community College
109 Community College Road
Ahoskie, NC 27910
252-862-1202

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The grant supported custom workforce development initiatives. The project provided financial assistance for short-term training courses that lead to third-party certifications to the unemployed or underemployed residents. Priority funding was given to students that have previous farming or agriculture work experience and to students that have family members who are current or were former farmers. Of the 78 students that entered the Project Skill-UP program, 66 earned a Career Readiness Certificate. This certification provides job applicants an advantage when looking for work. Two potential welding students earned their CRC certifications. 55% have found employment opportunities since completing coursework.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Hertford, Bertie, Northampton

www.roanokechowan.edu

Project: Center for Brewing Sciences Upgrade

Contact: Mr. Tony Gunn
Rockingham Community College
PO Box 38
Wentworth, NC 27375
336-342-4261

Grant Amount: \$50,000

Grant funds were used for equipment and installation of a three-barrel processor. This project will serve continuing education students, including some who are involved in a new brewery cooperative forming in Reidsville. The system is used to demonstrate the brewing process in a large-scale brewery.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Rockingham

www.rockinghamcc.edu

Project: Project Skill-UP Plus

Contact: Ms. Jackie Freeman
Southeastern Community College
PO Box 151
Whiteville, NC 28472
910-642-7141

Grant Amount: \$35,000

Project Skill-UP Plus is a workforce development initiative that provides training, skills assessment and financial assistance for students so that they can enhance their skills and/or move into new careers. Students must have an agricultural connection whether through their family or through previous employment. Students with ties to the tobacco industry were given priority. Primary beneficiaries are former tobacco quota holders, current/former tobacco farmers and their family members. The project has provided financial assistance through registration fees, certification/credentialing costs and required supplies to 223 eligible participants. Classes include: Welding/Pipefitting, Accounting Fundamentals, CNC Operator, QuickBooks Pro, Beekeeping, Weebly Website Design, Ophthalmic Assistance, Dialysis Technician, Pharmacy Technician and Introduction to Culinary Arts. 24 participants found new jobs and 65 sustained their employment after additional education. 90 occupational certifications were earned.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Columbus

www.scnc.edu

Project: Surry Skill-up

Contact: Mr. Greg Smith
Surry Community College
630 South Main Street

Dobson, NC 27017
336-386-3331

Grant Amount: \$20,000

The grantee implemented classes, workshops, and seminars that target current or potential farmers and the farming community in the service area. With 240 students served in this project, this was the largest number of participants Surry CC has had in this program. The occupational skills provided to participants through tuition assistance was the most varied as well. The Agriculture topics were well attended and the offerings appealed to experienced farmers as well as those considering farming.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Surry, Yadkin

www.surry.edu

Project: Investing in NC Agriculture Opportunities

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

Grant Amount: \$150,000

The grantee will work with representatives in specific counties to fund innovative cost-share 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.

Status: Project staff visited each of the twelve AgPrime funded project. During these visits, staff verified equipment purchases and installations, viewed crops planted and harvested, verified animal purchases, and discussed project timelines. Staff also consulted with farmers about marketing strategies for their products and services

Area Served: Select NC Counties

www.umoag.com

Project: Cultivating and Growing Agricultural Communities

Contact: Ms. Kyle Burwell
Vance-Granville Community College
PO Box 917
Henderson, NC 27536
252-738-3276

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The project offered NC REAL Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Landscape & Design training to individuals in the college's four-county service area. These educational courses were offered through day and evening options at VGCC's four-county campuses or other community locations, within the region. During the grant period, VGCC was only able to use \$4,555.10 of the grant funding allotted for this project, the remaining funds were reverted back to the TTFC for use for future grant awards. 26 students completed the NC REAL agricultural entrepreneurship program. The classes took place at varying locations across our four-county service area. Three participants in the HEO (Heavy Equipment Operator) Program completed this program under the grant. Each earned their certification through NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) and they all obtained jobs based on the HEO and NCCER certifications.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Vance, Granville, Franklin, Warren

www.vgcc.edu

Project: Ashe Healthcare Workforce Needs

Contact: Ms. Rebecca Greer
Wilkes Community College - Ashe Campus
PO Box 504
Jefferson, NC 28640
336-903-3114

Grant Amount: \$15,000

Funding assisted with tuition costs for approximately 60 students. Courses taken included Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy and Paramedic. This college is in an area with a 10-year low in the unemployment rate and is having difficulty filling classes with students.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Ashe

www.wilkescc.edu

Project: Project Skill-UP

Contact: Ms. Margie Norfleet
Wilson Community College
902 Herring Avenue
Wilson, NC 27893
252-246-1210

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Wilson Community College has trained 129 students. Courses included Welding, Administrative Medical Office Assistant, Tire Manufacturing, Residential and Commercial Electricity, BioWork Processing Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Dialysis Technology, Cosmetology, Nurse Aide, Effective Teacher Training, Backhoe Operator, Automotive Service Technician and Phlebotomy. The project exceeded expected numbers in the following areas: Jobs Created, Workers re-employed, Former Tobacco Quota Holders Assisted, Current or Former Tobacco Farmer Assisted, Number of Workers with upgraded skills, Total Number of People Served and Project Web Site Visitors.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Wilson

www.wilsoncc.edu

Project: BRFV Co-packing: Bridging to Sustainability

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

Grant Amount: \$50,000

This project increased opportunities for entrepreneurs and farmers statewide. Funds supported manufacturing line staff and operational expenses to further implement, maintain and manage the co-packing program at Blue Ridge Food Ventures. Funding also supported development and training for production processes, Food Safety/Good Manufacturing Plans, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and quality control systems. Operational revenues are now essentially meeting operational expenses.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.wnccommunities.org

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2016 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2016 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2017

Project: Local Produce Safety Initiative

Contact: Ms. Karen McSwain
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
 PO Box 448
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 919-542-2402

Grant Amount: \$25,000

CFSA's programs will provide Food Safety Program and Plan Development assistance to farmers seeking GAP certification, conduct 2-day workshops covering Principles of Fresh Produce Safety and Navigating the GAP Audit, and provide GAPs workshops at conferences in NC.

Status: One farm underwent a GAP audit, two had food safety plans reviewed and three farms held an initial site visit with this program.

Area Served: Statewide

www.carolinafarmstewards.org

Project: Repairs to Agricultural Facilities

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

Grant Amount: \$110,348

This project restores and sustains Cleveland County Fair's (CCF) ability to effectively showcase agriculture and promote agribusiness from Cleveland County and the surrounding region by facilitating critical repairs to aging agricultural buildings and farmer operated permanent food stands on the fairgrounds.

Status: Work has been completed. Due to additional repairs needed to roof supports on the cattle and the poultry buildings, additional outside funding was secured.

Area Served: Cleveland

Applicant Website: www.clevelandcountyfair.com

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: In the Farm Services section, 100% of the outside brick has been completed. Insulation, sheet rock, ceiling grid, all outside windows, outside walkways, sprinklers, chillers, and generator have been installed. One coat of paint has been completed.

Area Served: Wayne

Applicant Website: www.waynegov.com

Project: Project Skilling Up

Contact: Ms. Mary Moore
Durham Technical Community College
1637 East Lawson Street
Durham, NC 27703
919-536-7222

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Project Skilling Up, a workforce development initiative, has three core components: 1) outreach and recruitment activities to individuals in communities adversely impacted by the downturn in the tobacco industry; 2) skills assessment and short-term occupational skills training with financial assistance to students to meet their educational goals; 3) delivering targeted

entrepreneurship training for new and emerging small food entrepreneurs in partnership with Small Business Center.

Status: Project Skilling Up scholarship has moved towards a focus on the individual student by identifying the challenges in his/her life that may cause disruption in the educational process and then seeking ways to be proactive as we register and enroll. This entails working individually with students to ensure success in identifying certifications, certificates and classes for updating their skills.

Area Served: Durham, Orange

Applicant Website: www.durhamtech.edu

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: 47 students have been counseled, 22 have completed training, 9 are currently enrolled, and 11 did not enroll after counseling or dropped the course.

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: Several group meetings have been held with both farmer groups and recyclers. Two farmers in Mills River have been selected for the project. Site visits with each farmer have been completed and fields for farm trials have been identified and mapped. Both are enthusiastic about the project and willing to purchase equipment if trials are successful. Equipment suppliers have been secured. Suppliers have delivered equipment. Equipment Demonstrations have been held and evaluation of the equipment with on farm trials continue. These events brought together over 400 farmers from Western North Carolina.

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: The activities performed primarily involved the assessment of completed sub-grantee applications, site visits, collaboration with system installers, and delivery of terms of agreement to eight sub-grantee award winners. Outreach activities with area farmers about the program and about potential energy projects on their operations through a workshop and several dozen direct consultations continue.

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: Nine students in the program were matched with agricultural mentors and began their internships between May 8-22. Funding for the students' wages was distributed to the ag. Mentors. The program coordinator conducted site visits to the farms hosting students for internships. Each student submitted weekly update reports to the program coordinator regarding their internship activities, learning, and application of their learning to future business plans. Additionally, the coordinator conducted phone check-ins with all mentors.

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: 23 grant projects were selected for funding. During the spring, the Program Coordinator worked closely with NC State University Business office and the grant recipients to process contracts, and to distribute the first of three grant payments.

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: NCTTFC Ag Management Program

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

Grant Amount: \$131,761

This project will develop and implement a pilot program to increase business management competencies in 20-25 NC farms with greater than \$1 million in farm receipts. Modules in financial and human resource management, marketing, strategic planning, risk management and succession planning will be taught in workshops. Curriculum will be taught by faculty from NCSU & ECU. The pilot program will target NC tobacco and sweet potato farms. This pilot will be template for a future program for specialized southeastern agriculture.

Status: 25 participants from 21 farms were included. The class continues to participate in a monthly virtual session 9-10 PM on the 1st Wednesday. The second week of the program will be Nov 27 – Dec 1, 2017. The instructor and a core intelligence committee of 5 participants continue work to develop additional information for the external analysis of opportunities and threats to NC sweet potato and tobacco producers.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Workforce and Career Preparedness Initiatives

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

Grant Amount: \$150,000

The purpose of this project is three-fold. First, this project will create 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. Second, this project will develop a new agribusiness entrepreneurship curriculum. And finally, the project will bolster our student recruitment. The project will benefit several populations such as: urban and rural farmers, tobacco farmers other businesses and other populations who may not have considered agriculture as a career before such as veterans, minorities and women.

Status: Representatives for ECU provided a guest lecture on agromedicine, human health and safety for the AGI 191 course. Summer visits (mid-point and final) were conducted. During the visits, the faculty/staff representative were able to assess the work conditions of the interns, evaluate the interns, and provide guidance to employers and students.

Area Served: Statewide

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 a more realistic method of planting. The information gained from these trials will help growers determine what mixes work best 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: The Drill was purchased and delivered to North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Johnston County on 3/7/2017. Drill has been used and has been an asset to the local farming community.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant Website:

Project: NC Commodity Co-operative Marketing Project

Contact: Mr. Jack Nales
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27601
919-707-3106

Grant Amount: \$100,000

This project will assist the state's farms and ranches to increase sales of their produce and meats through the shared cost of new marketing efforts directed to consumers. Supported projects would be targeted toward efforts producing tangible, short and long-term sales results rather than brand awareness, directly benefiting the farmer/rancher with increased sales and revenue.

Status: All grants have been awarded to qualifying farms and are on schedule. Sub-grant recipients submitted their quarterly reports with several areas exceeding projection.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant Website: www.ncagr.gov

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.

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

Status: The Farmers and Communities Manage Deer (FCMD) project put the finishing touches on 3 deer donation sites with walk-in coolers and then shifted its focus to adding 10 new deer processors to the NC Hunters for the Hungry network.

Applicant Website: www.ncwf.org

Project: Cultivating a Community Learning Lab

Contact: Dr. Melanie Stanley
Northeast School of Biotechnology
1215 Saint Andrews Street
Jamesville, NC 27846
252-792-0241

Grant Amount: \$75,000

The Cultivating a Community Learning Lab is a comprehensive agriculture program that focuses on fostering a community of scholars through advanced, innovative education in biotechnology and agriscience in a unique educational setting, empowering scholars and the community with project based learning, communication and leadership skills. This program will not only benefit the scholars of NERSBA, but Martin Community College students, Jamesville Elementary School students, faculty and community members with the equipment for hands-on learning activities.

Status: Not under Contract as of yet due to site agreement negotiations.

Area Served: Martin, Pitt, Washington, Beaufort, Tyrell

Applicant Website: www.neregionalschool.org

Project: Project Skill-Up

Contact: Ms. Angela Webb
Piedmont Community College
PO Box 1197
Roxboro, NC 27573
336-322-2160

Grant Amount: \$30,000

The aim of the grant is to develop additional courses that provide for a wider range of employment/entrepreneurial opportunities for the target population in addition to providing financial assistance for educational related fees in the areas of registration, certification/credentialing cost, required supplies. The project will increase and sustain employer engagement, connect students to qualify careers and empower farmers with starting a small business.

Status: PCC has enrolled 41 participants in Project Skill-Up, which is on target to meet the goal of enrolling 55 participants. Areas of training include: Nursing Assistant I &II, Med. Tech., Med. Aide, Medical Coding & Billing, EMT, OSHA Forklift, and Certified Logistic Technician.

Area Served: Caswell, Person

Applicant Website: www.piedmontcc.edu

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. While they will remain predominately a sweet potato processing facility, they recognize the opportunity in other product lines that incorporate core NC grown produce, such as fried pickles, fried okra and onion.

Status: Currently in possession of the freezer components, and are finalizing the design of the flooring. As soon as design of the flooring is complete, and costs finalized, grantee will be moving forward on the installation of the Freezer.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Agricultural Reinvestment Fund

Contact: Mr. Scott Marlow
Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA (RAFI)
PO Box 640
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-1396

Grant Amount: \$269,491

The Agricultural Reinvestment Fund provides cost-share grants to farmers in NC for innovative projects designed to increase farm income and build markets for NC agricultural products. Priority is given to current and former tobacco farmers. The program also produces publications and organizes educational events for the benefit of NC farmers.

Status: Visited grantees on the farms to evaluate and document progress on their projects and provide technical assistance where needed. Assisted several grantees in revising their budget and/or timeline for the project.

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

Applicant Website: www.rafiusa.org

Project: Project Skills to Succeed

Contact: Ms. Brenda Orders
Southeastern Community College
PO Box 151
Whiteville, NC 28472
910-642-7141

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The Project has three goals: 1) Sustain and expand career pathways in Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing and Agribusinesses; 2) Enhance knowledge and skills of agribusiness owners to encourage diversification; and 3) Market grant opportunities. Project Skills to Succeed will provide financial assistance for 190 participants to enroll in workforce continuing education training and seminars which will enhance employability skills through the attainment of industry-recognized credentials and an awareness of options for diversification in agribusinesses.

Status: 83 participants have been enrolled in workforce continuing education training courses. These courses range from welding, HVAC, and basic electrical wiring to healthcare careers (Nurse Aide Assistants, Dialysis Technician, Pharmacy Technician and Physical Therapy Aide). In addition, we are offering computer related classes and small plot gardening classes.

Area Served: Columbus

Applicant Website: www.scnc.edu

Project: Surry Skill-UP

Contact: Mr. Greg Smith
Surry Community College
630 South Main Street
Dobson, NC 27017
336-386-3331

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Surry Skill-UP is a Surry Community College workforce development initiative with the following core components: 1) outreach and recruitment activities to individuals, communities and businesses adversely impacted by the changes in the tobacco industry; 2) skills assessments and short-term occupational skill training; and 3) financial assistance to students to meet their educational goals. In addition to these components, Surry Community College will implement classes, workshops and seminars that target current or potential farmers and the farming community in our two county service area.

Status: Agricultural related courses were held during this quarter; topics included Grape Vineyard: Sprayer Calibration, Grape Vineyard: Establishment, Grape Vineyard: Canopy Management, Gardening: TLC for Plants, and Gardening: Growing Green for Fall.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant Website: www.surry.edu

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: The National FFA Local Program Specialist, the AET Assistant Director of Educational Outreach and Teacher Support, and the Off-Farm Income Podcast creator and Radio show host as well as State FFA personnel and agribusiness leaders were selected to assist with this effort. All asked to participate were very excited about the opportunity. The total number of registered applicants included 13 advisors and 21 students.

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: Orientation was held at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River, NC. The New Recipient Orientation is an all-day event, where new recipients are given important information about the requirements of their grants. In addition, they can network with other recipients, hear past recipients talk about their experiences and share tips for a successful project. WNC AgOptions hosted a total of 54 people, including 44 recipients (family, partners, employees, etc.) representing all 35 grant projects.

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 - AWARDED OCTOBER 12, 2017

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 a pre-existing greenhouse on the campus of East Bladen High School.

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. The project will also 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.

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.

Area Served: Statewide

www.agromedicine.org

Project: Produce Chopping Facility

Contact: Gini Bell
Executive Director
Farmer Foodshare, Inc.
PO Box 2873
Chapel Hill, NC 27515
919-360-6358

Grant Amount: \$50,000

This project will help start a produce-chopping business in Wayne County that will create employment and marketing opportunities for tobacco-dependent farmers in eastern North Carolina. Creating this value-added product will increase the market opportunity for farmers seeking to sell to institutional customers in the area, most notably schools. The project includes

designing and creating the facility, training the operators, and reaching out to school districts. The farmers' indirect costs should decrease, raising the farmers' income.

Area Served: Wayne, Sampson, Duplin

www.farmerfoodshare.org

Project: Farm Transition Strategic Planning Program

Contact: Paige Burns
Horticulture Agent
NCCE-Richmond
PO Box 1358
Rockingham, NC 28380
910-997-8255

Grant Amount: \$27,000

This project will help ensure the generational transition of farmland where families want to retain their farm into the future or ensure the future of their farm with a new farmer. This project will work through regional farmer groups, including tobacco growers, commodity groups and forestry associations, to provide sound transition tools enabling farm families to understand and control their estate planning needs and goals.

Area Served: Lee, Moore, Richmond

www.greenfieldssandhills.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 to the market and provide operational support for the first two years. The mobile farmers market will also provide access to local farm products to consumers that are otherwise unable to do so due to limiting factors such as time, transportation, or

knowledge. Some new customers will be from low income and food insecure areas; this project will provide these customers with access to high quality food.

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 that will be 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.

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 as well as animal restraining equipment and containment systems for the Vet Tech program. The project will serve as an introduction of training and employment opportunities in the veterinary

medicine field and will help with the occupational skills training of unemployed and underemployed residents adversely impacted by the decline in the tobacco industry.

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.

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.

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

www.ncfarmschool.com

Project: New Frozen Fruit Markets for Farmers

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

Grant Amount: \$60,988

This grant will purchase four forced-air cooling trailers. Area farmers will be trained on how the trailers are to be used as aggregation points for storage of frozen berries.

Area Served: Statewide

www.sealtheseasons.com

Project: Project Skill-UP

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

Grant Amount: \$345,000

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

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 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.

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.

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.

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 uses 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.

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 assure all food safety regulations are met for the growing demand for local produce. Many of these farmers are former tobacco growers.

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.

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 supplement 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.

Area Served: Wayne

www.waynecc.edu

SOUTHERN GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL FFA



Activities: The previous barn and storage shed was constructed 25 years ago by the Southern Guilford Agriculture and Carpentry Departments and were in extremely poor condition. When the barn was constructed, the program was very small. The current Agricultural Education program consists of approximately 200 students, making it one of the largest programs in the state of NC. SGHS is home of the Southern High Academy which offers horticulture and animal science classes for students at SGHS and across Guilford County. The new barn and storage shed's purpose is to house supplies and animals including, but not limited to, goats, chickens, and rabbits. There is an area to bring in larger animals, such as horses, for animal science and veterinary tech class work. There is also an equipment storage area as well.



SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR ...

- * Construct a 2,520 square foot animal barn facility
- * 250 students the 1st year
- * \$3,000 leveraged from other sources

Objectives:

The project will improve, herd health and herd husbandry efficiency. Student safety will also improve with a modern code compliant structure. The improvements of the animal facility will also allow for the expansion of the school herd and allow the addition of other species.



Southern Guildford High School was awarded a grant for \$60,000. Their **itemized expenditures** included:

Animal Facility Construction	\$60,000.00
------------------------------	-------------

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL FFA



Activities: Mountain Heritage High School FFA purchased equipment, supplies, plants, and made repairs to a campus greenhouse. Due to the increase of students interested in Agriculture Education at MHHS, they were in dire need of supplies to sustain the Bowditch Farm Project, make greenhouse repairs and help student excel in FFA Career Development Events.



Bowditch Farm also provides a time for educating students in the summer when crop production is in full swing. They have a partnership with the Cooperative Extension every Tuesday during the summer from 9:00 am to 11:00 am to come out and do mini-lessons on farming, where much of the tools and equipment are used.

SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR ...

- * 2,000 people served
- * 172 students the 1st year
- * \$12,400 produce and plants sold

Objectives:

These needs were met by purchasing a utility vehicle, a flatbed trailer and many hand tools and supplies. Repairs were made in the greenhouse to make the temperature more suitable for plants and stabilize the foundation. The needs for the Career Development Events were met by purchasing several plants and shrubs for identification.



Mountain Heritage High School was awarded a grant for \$12,000. Their **itemized expenditures** included:

Equipment	\$6,035.00
Supplies	\$1,770.00
Repairs Costs	\$3,000.00
Plants	\$1,195.00

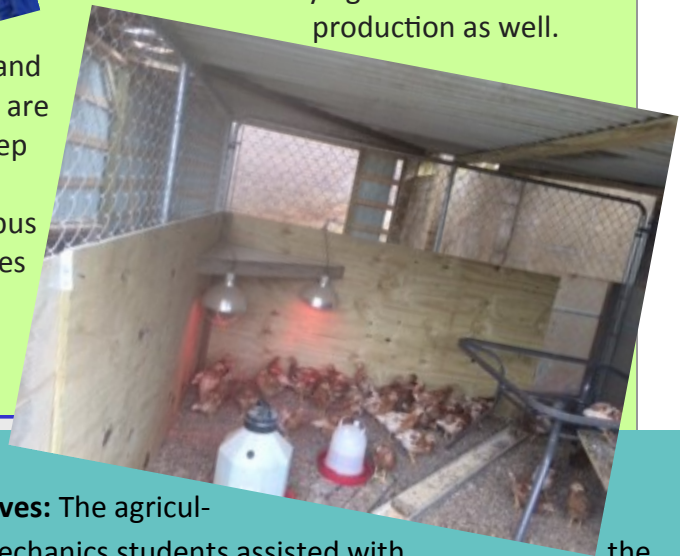
20' X 30' SMALL RUMINANT BARN

MADISON HIGH SCHOOL FFA



Activities: For the past 4 years Madison High School has been raising approximately 200 laying hens per year. Needing to improve the facilities to safely house additional small ruminants they just completed a 20'x30' barn that will improve their overall facilities. It was built adjacent to the existing greenhouse. It houses the facilities to raise and maintain laying hens and for broiler production as well.

Pens and watering facilities are installed to house young sheep and goats. By maintaining a small numbers of goats and sheep on campus this provides a live animal experiences for students.



Objectives: The agricultural mechanics students assisted with the site prep and lay out of the facility. They also assisted with pouring footers for the support posts. The Madison High School Carpentry students under the direction of their instructors built the barn. Many of the agriculture students are also carpentry students so this was a great cooperative learning activity for the high school students. Electrical and plumbing contractors were used to install the lights, receptacles, frost free spigots and sink with hot and cold water. Gates will be able to be built by future students in the Ag. Mechanics and Carpentry classes. Fencing is already in place for the poultry project.

SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR ...

- * Built a 20'x30' barn
- * 600 people served
- * 75 students the 1st year
- * \$2,600 leveraged from other sources



Madison High School was awarded a grant for \$12,000. Their **itemized expenditures** included:

Building Materials	\$7,500.00
Labor	\$2,000.00
Utilities Installation	\$2,500.00

TRACTOR FOR AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

CENTRAL HAYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL FFA



Activities: At Central Haywood High School they have a crop area that needed plowing, tilling, weeding, mulching, and fertilizing. They could not do this without a tractor, which was the purpose of the grant request. Safe operation of a tractor prepares the students and the land for maximum food production to feed students and families within the community.



SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR ...

- * 100 people served
- * 30 students the 1st year
- * \$400 leveraged from other sources

Objectives:

The tractor has allowed teachers to educate students to identify parts and their functions on the tractor. They discuss reasons for and how to provide daily maintenance checks before the tractor is used. Classes get first hand experience on how to use the tractor to till soil in preparation for planting, increasing the confidence of students using farm equipment. Future purchases of tractor implements, equipment protection and storage are also discussed. Students also maintain an equipment shed that protects this investment.



Central Haywood High School was awarded a grant for \$12,000. Their **itemized expenditures** included:

Tractor & Implements	\$12,000.00
----------------------	-------------

GREENHOUSE FOR GROWING

PISGAH HIGH SCHOOL FFA



Activities: The school had an existing 35'X50' greenhouse on school property. The old greenhouse was renovated about 4 years ago with new polycarbonate installed on the sides and roof. Unfortunately this

greenhouse has two major issues. One, the lack of ability to diversify plant production within the greenhouse, and the other being the very outdated environmental controls and technology compared to what current greenhouse industry standards are. This new house provides a place for students to grow nursery-type plants, diversifying their knowledge of growth patterns, and learn current greenhouse environmental technologies.

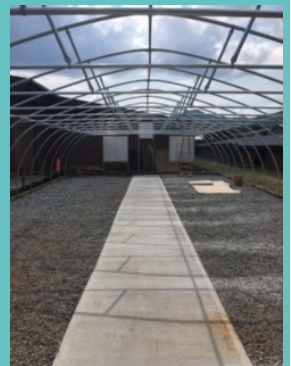


SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR ...

- * 30' X 72' freestanding greenhouse
- * 4000 people served
- * 150 students the 1st year
- * \$1,316 leveraged from other sources

Objectives:

The style of greenhouses have changed over the years. The existing house is a ridge-type house and the new greenhouse is a Quonset poly-covered house which is very different. This allows educating students about the differences in types of houses. Pisgah FFA has seen great success in their greenhouse sale and with the ability to grow nursery stock they hope to have an even more successful sale to provide funds to their chapter.



Pisgah High School was awarded a grant for \$12,000. Their **itemized expenditures** included:

Greenhouse kit	\$12,000.00
----------------	-------------

GREENHOUSE RE-COVERING

TUSCOLA HIGH SCHOOL FFA



Activities: The school greenhouse had not been re-covered since its construction in the late 1980's and was very deteriorated. This was on their wish list for over a year since representatives from International Greenhouse Company were seen at the National FFA Convention in 2016. Their products were similar to the ones used in the construction of the greenhouse. A correspondence was started with them to see if re-covering the greenhouse would be a possibility. These funds made their wish a reality. After obtaining a quote and assurances that the work could be completed in a timely manner, a contract was entered into with the company to do the work in the spring of 2017. They completed the work on the greenhouse in the timeframe that we requested.



After obtaining a quote and assurances that the work could be completed in a timely manner, a contract was entered into with the company to do the work in the spring of 2017. They completed the work on the greenhouse in the timeframe that we requested.

SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR ...

- * New cover for greenhouse
- * 200 students the 1st year
- * \$10,000 leveraged from other sources

Objectives: The Horticultural Greenhouse will provide students with a modern, safe, and efficient environment to gain skills in horticultural production for years to come.



Tuscola High School was awarded a grant for \$12,000.

Their **itemized expenditures** included:

Greenhouse Materials	\$9,000.00
Labor	\$3,000.00

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 (FY17)

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$5,596,197.10												
INTEREST INCOME	\$3,735.35	\$4,638.32	\$5,165.73	\$2,923.14	\$6,387.67	\$6,812.01	\$7,139.86	\$6,482.52	\$6,451.43	\$7,716.54	\$6,711.00	\$7,294.58	\$71,458.15
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,092,503.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,092,503.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,168.00	\$0.00		\$11,589.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,757.00
Fiscal Year 2017 Revenue	\$3,735.35	\$4,638.32	\$5,165.73	\$4,098,594.14	\$6,387.67	\$6,812.01	\$18,728.86	\$6,482.52	\$6,451.43	\$7,716.54	\$6,711.00	\$7,294.58	\$4,178,718.15
EXPENSES													
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$90.00	\$45.00	\$75.00	\$225.00	\$60.00	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$945.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$289.00	\$719.50	\$209.40	\$47.00	\$0.00	\$148.00	\$42.00	\$533.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,988.40
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$392.25	\$826.67	\$142.09	\$75.80	\$0.00	\$130.48	\$75.80	\$739.25	\$290.59	\$0.00	\$2,672.93
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$91.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$99.00	\$0.00	\$190.92
	\$90.00	\$45.00	\$756.25	\$1,863.09	\$411.49	\$302.80	\$0.00	\$308.48	\$162.80	\$1,467.75	\$389.59	\$0.00	\$5,797.25
<u>Staff Personnel Expenses</u>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$22,973.07	\$25,314.77	\$22,973.08	\$25,388.72	\$22,973.06	\$24,007.52	\$29,984.01	\$24,422.78	\$24,425.17	\$24,422.77	\$24,422.78	\$24,422.78	\$295,730.51
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$0.00	\$210.28	\$0.00	\$178.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57.78	\$0.00	\$446.22
	\$22,973.07	\$25,525.05	\$22,973.08	\$25,566.88	\$22,973.06	\$24,007.52	\$29,984.01	\$24,422.78	\$24,425.17	\$24,422.77	\$24,480.56	\$24,422.78	\$296,176.73
<u>Office Expenses</u>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7.91	\$7.91
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$0.00	\$1,247.86	\$136.17	\$112.88	\$18.27	\$319.14	\$8.45	\$5.81	\$160.25	\$0.00	\$5.05	\$385.42	\$2,399.30
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57.69	\$0.00	\$235.77	\$34.03	\$0.00	\$383.55	\$718.51
Furniture	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72.94	\$0.00	\$685.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$177.00	\$819.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$444.27	\$2,199.80
Communication/Office Equipment	\$128.88	\$118.77	\$118.77	\$118.77	\$97.95	\$139.59	\$97.95	\$56.69	\$188.19	\$188.19	\$188.19	\$1,100.82	\$2,542.76
Other Administrative Expenses	\$100.20	\$626.00	-\$1.21	\$200.00	\$23.94	\$67.98	\$559.43	\$247.04	\$116.93	\$875.00	\$689.49	\$2,166.04	\$5,670.84
Vehicle	\$125.41	\$210.00	\$107.20	\$94.20	\$130.65	\$0.00	\$60.17	\$995.00	\$30.31	\$29.20	\$0.00	\$153.00	\$1,935.14
Telephone Services	\$135.14	\$297.04	\$285.20	\$291.53	\$0.00	\$585.43	\$300.86	\$294.53	\$298.52	\$288.20	\$303.41	\$822.18	\$3,902.04
	\$489.63	\$3,199.67	\$719.07	\$824.85	\$956.46	\$1,112.14	\$1,084.55	\$1,776.07	\$1,849.91	\$1,414.62	\$1,186.14	\$5,463.19	\$20,076.30
<u>Professional Services</u>													
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	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,995.00	\$3,000.00	\$16,495.00
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
	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,995.00	\$3,000.00	\$16,495.00
Fiscal Year 2017 Expenses													\$338,545.28

2012 Grant Cycle		
	FY 12-16	FY 17
WNC Comm - Add Value	\$15,529.51	\$0.00
Yadkin County	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
TOTAL	\$15,529.51	\$100,000.00
2013 Grant Cycle		
	FY 13-16	FY 17
NC Ag Foundation - AgriSafe	\$150,000.00	\$73,651.31
TOTAL	\$150,000.00	\$73,651.31
2014 Grant Cycle		
	FY 14-16	FY 17
ASAP	\$72,121.64	\$3,878.36
ECU - Agromedicine	\$43,245.61	\$61,172.92
Eastern NC Christmas Tree Assoc.	\$10,935.00	\$14,065.00
Land of Sky Council	\$33,715.36	\$6,284.64
McDowell Economic Dev. Assoc.	\$53,120.51	\$21,879.49
NC Ag Foundation - Future Farmers	\$98,378.10	\$68,875.22
NCD&CS - Emergency Programs	\$23,144.09	\$33,253.48
NC Wildlife Federation	\$70,857.75	\$59,492.25
New River Organic Growers	\$33,048.42	\$21,829.20
Tar River Land Conservancy	\$2,727.72	\$10,387.15
Town of Troutman	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
The University of Mount Olive	\$26,804.31	\$37,790.17
WNC Communities - AgOptions	\$386,507.76	\$52,475.62
Yancey County	\$61,793.00	\$10,067.00
TOTAL	\$916,399.27	\$451,450.50

2015 Grant Cycle		
	FY 15-16	FY 17
ASAP	\$2,000.00	\$58,000.00
City of Wilson	\$0.00	\$20,765.47
Cleveland Community College	\$21,900.00	\$25,600.00
County of Martin	\$0.00	\$5,500.00
Durham Technical Comm College	\$3,787.81	\$20,214.75
Forsyth Technical Comm College	\$0.00	\$9,275.91
Natural Capital Investment Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Ag Education	\$79,119.74	\$88,995.53
NCAF - NC Ag/Ventures	\$110,644.16	\$189,146.51
NCD&CS - Agritourism	\$0.00	\$46,978.67
NCD&CS - GTBNC	\$5,288.90	\$9,153.29
NCD&CS - NC Food Manufacturing	\$9,839.00	\$56,626.58
NC Foundation for Soil & Water	\$14,416.02	\$14,320.48
PHARMIN	\$0.00	\$0.00
Piedmont Community College	\$6,719.04	\$11,524.60
RAF1	\$166,251.27	\$82,291.59
Roanoke-Chowan Comm College	\$5,839.09	\$15,420.32
Rockingham Comm College	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Southeastern Comm College	\$4,017.15	\$26,816.46
Surry Comm College	\$3,140.00	\$15,824.38
University of Mount Olive	\$593.24	\$76,121.14
Vance-Granville Comm College	\$2,023.97	\$2,531.13
Wilkes Comm College	\$793.00	\$1,931.44
Wilson Comm College	\$6,417.12	\$16,772.35
WNC Communities	\$47,500.00	\$2,500.00
TOTAL	\$490,289.51	\$846,310.60

Cash Carried Forward	\$5,596,197.10
Total Revenue FY17	\$4,178,718.15
Total Expenses FY17(-)	\$338,545.28
Subtotal	\$9,436,369.97
Total Grants Pd Out FY17 (-)	\$2,190,845.57
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY17 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$7,245,524.40
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$4,919,887.40
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	\$2,325,637.00
Encumbered Funds	
2012 Granting Cycle	\$134,127.70
2013 Granting Cycle	\$134,340.87
2014 Granting Cycle	\$223,148.23
2015 Granting Cycle	\$567,166.89
2016 Granting Cycle	\$3,861,103.71
TOTAL	\$4,919,887.40

This report is based on data from 7/1/16 - 6/30/17

2016 Grant Cycle	
	FY 17
Carolina Farm Stewardship	\$6,092.98
Cleveland County Fair, Inc.	\$33,025.12
County of Wayne	\$0.00
Durham Tech Comm College	\$3,666.16
Johnston Comm College	\$12,152.20
Land of Sky	\$7,826.01
Mountain Valley	\$7,312.50
NCAF - Future Farmers	\$0.00
NCAF - AgVentures	\$104,939.26
NCAF - AgMgmt	\$38,171.97
NCAF - Workforce & Career	\$2,369.98
NC Cooperative Ext In JoCo	\$15,675.00
NCD&CS Marketing Program	\$15,818.97
NC Wildlife Federation	\$12,875.66
NERSBA	\$0.00
Piedmont Comm College	\$6,704.65
Robeson County Government	\$0.00
RAFI	\$180,209.20
Southeastern Comm College	\$8,839.81
Surry Comm College	\$5,959.00
University of Mount Olive	\$190.82
WNC Communities	\$204,155.09
Tuscola High School FFA	\$12,000.00
Mountain Heritage High School FFA	\$6,048.78
Pisgah High School FFA	\$11,400.00
Central Haywood High School FFA	\$12,000.00
Madison High School FFA	\$12,000.00
Southern Guilford High School FFA	\$0.00
	\$719,433.16

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
TOTAL	\$380,317,252.59

Total Grants Paid Out Since Inception	
Barn Retrofit	\$41,090,228.00
Burley Marketing Center	\$2,509,555.21
NCD&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	\$2,006,711.35
2013 Granting Cycle	\$1,550,401.90
2014 Granting Cycle	\$2,170,428.72
2015 Granting Cycle	\$1,336,600.11
2016 Granting Cycle	\$719,433.16
TOTAL	\$99,622,869.80

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 (FY18)

	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$7,245,524.40												
INTEREST INCOME	\$6,836.27	\$6,972.50	\$6,140.51										\$19,949.28
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$7,275.00	\$0.00	\$810.00										\$8,085.00
Fiscal Year 2017 Revenue	\$14,111.27	\$6,972.50	\$6,950.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,034.28
EXPENSES													
<i>Personnel Expenses</i>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$214.00										\$214.00
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$214.38										\$214.38
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$428.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$428.38
<i>Staff Personnel Expenses</i>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$24,846.20	\$27,248.21	\$24,846.21										\$76,940.62
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$108.05										\$133.05
	\$24,846.20	\$27,273.21	\$24,954.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,073.67
<i>Office Expenses</i>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$13.32	\$1,314.79	\$42.01										\$1,370.12
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Communication/Office Equipment	\$105.45	\$97.95	-\$180.10										\$23.30
Other Administrative Expenses	\$277.65	\$627.04	\$690.00										\$1,594.69
Vehicle	\$312.41	\$65.00	\$22.45										\$399.86
Telephone Services	\$309.92	\$315.44	\$283.01										\$908.37
	\$1,018.75	\$2,420.22	\$857.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,296.34
<i>Professional Services</i>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Contract Services	\$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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fiscal Year 2018 Expenses													\$81,798.39

	2012 Grant Cycle	FY 12-17	FY 18
WNC Comm - Add Value		\$15,529.51	\$1,623.37
TOTAL		\$15,529.51	\$1,623.37
	2013 Grant Cycle	FY 13-17	FY 18
NC Ag Foundation - AgriSafe		\$223,651.31	\$50,757.23
TOTAL		\$223,651.31	\$50,757.23
	2014 Grant Cycle	FY 14-17	FY 18
ECU - Agromedicine		\$104,418.53	\$12,443.10
NCDA&CS - Emergency Programs		\$56,397.57	\$2,780.36
Tar River Land Conservancy		\$13,114.87	\$10,913.74
TOTAL		\$173,930.97	\$26,137.20
	2015 Grant Cycle	FY 15-17	FY 18
City of Wilson		\$20,765.47	\$139,234.53
Cleveland Community College		\$47,500.00	\$0.00
Forsyth Technical Comm College		\$9,275.91	\$838.41
Natural Capital Investment Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00
NCDA&CS - GTBNC		\$14,442.19	\$0.00
NCDA&CS - NC Food Manufacturing		\$66,465.58	\$8,400.00
PHARMIN		\$0.00	\$0.00
Roanoke-Chowan Comm College		\$21,262.41	\$0.00
Southeastern Comm College		\$30,833.61	\$3,855.50
University of Mount Olive		\$76,714.38	\$1,123.20
TOTAL		\$287,259.55	\$153,451.64

	2016 Grant Cycle	FY 16-17	FY 18
Carolina Farm Stewardship		\$6,092.98	\$4,464.80
Cleveland County Fair, Inc.		\$33,025.12	\$71,805.48
County of Wayne		\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00
Durham Tech Comm College		\$3,666.16	\$3,805.40
Johnston Comm College		\$12,152.20	\$3,214.94
Land of Sky		\$7,826.01	\$8,431.48
Mountain Valley		\$7,312.50	\$3,656.25
NCAF - Future Farmers		\$0.00	\$54,263.10
NCAF - AgVentures		\$104,939.26	\$60,746.00
NCAF - AgMgmt		\$38,171.97	\$47,921.17
NCAF - Workforce & Career		\$2,369.98	\$26,430.89
NC Cooperative Ext In JoCo		\$15,675.00	\$0.00
NCDA&CS Marketing Program		\$15,818.97	\$2,880.00
NC Wildlife Federation		\$12,875.66	\$13,780.65
NERSBA		\$0.00	\$0.00
Piedmont Comm College		\$6,704.65	\$7,720.98
Robeson County Government		\$0.00	\$71,145.98
RAFI		\$180,209.20	\$15,199.35
Southeastern Comm College		\$8,839.81	\$4,072.15
Surry Comm College		\$5,959.00	\$2,487.12
University of Mount Olive		\$190.82	\$457.00
WNC Communities		\$204,155.09	\$12,851.84
Tuscola High School FFA		\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Mountain Hertiage High School FFA		\$6,048.78	\$5,951.22
Pisgah High School FFA		\$11,400.00	\$600.00
Central Haywood High School FFA		\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Madison High School FFA		\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Southern Guilford High School FFA		\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$719,433.16	\$1,421,885.80

Cash Carried Forward	\$7,245,524.40
Total Revenue FY18	\$28,034.28
Total Expenses FY18(-)	\$81,798.39
Subtotal	\$7,191,760.29
Total Grants Pd Out FY18 (-)	\$1,653,855.24
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY18 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$5,537,905.05
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$3,266,032.16
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	\$2,271,872.89
Encumbered Funds	
2012 Granting Cycle	\$132,504.33
2013 Granting Cycle	\$83,583.64
2014 Granting Cycle	\$197,011.03
2015 Granting Cycle	\$413,715.25
2016 Granting Cycle	\$2,439,217.91
2017 Granting Cycle	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$3,266,032.16

*This report is based on data from
7/1/2017 - 9/30/17*

Johnston County farmers win grants

FROM NEWS RELEASE

Newsobserver.com

March 27, 2017 10:23 AM

Twenty-one farmers, including five in Johnston County, are winners in a grant program aimed at supporting family farms.

The N.C. AgVentures grants, ranging from \$4,800 to \$10,000, are for innovative projects aimed at diversifying, expanding or implementing new entrepreneurial plans for farm operations.

The Johnston County winners are:

- Brandon Batten, representing the sixth generation to work on the 600-acre family farm near Four Oaks. The farm produces tobacco, wheat, soybeans, corn, hay and beef cattle. The grant will purchase an unmanned aerial system for crop and field scouting to better see disease pressure, pest pressure and fertility in soils.
- James “Hunter” Langdon of Benson. Having grown up on a small family farm, Langdon knew from a young age that farming was the career he wanted to pursue. He started farming for himself in 2010 while pursuing a degree in agriculture science at N.C. State University. Tobacco had always financially carried the farm operation, but this past year, that flipped. He realized that he needed to rely less on flue-cured tobacco and increase profitability with other row crops and livestock. To make the operation more efficient and reduce costs, he will use the grant to purchase a large fertilizer tank and buy fertilizer in bulk.
- Jason Barbour of Four Oaks. Barbour, who has a degree in agribusiness and is a fourth-generation tobacco farmer, produces sweet potatoes, corn, soybeans, small grains and cattle. Last year, he added a crop of popcorn. Popcorn is different from sweet corn; it has a hard, moisture-resistant hull that surrounds a dense pocket of starch that will pop when heated. Popcorn is a whole grain, not a vegetable. Barbour found a distributor last year who requested twice the amount of popcorn for 2017. With the grant, Barbour will purchase a popcorn cleaner.
- Michelle Pace Davis of Clayton. Tobacco has been the staple crop on the century-old family farm Davis grew up on, but this year she turned one field into a pick-your own strawberry patch. With the grant award,

the farm will purchase a cooler and hand-washing station. The cooler will allow Pace to reduce spoilage and increase sales.

- Stoney Fork Farms near Four Oaks. Leveled by a tornado in 2011, the farm had several mills. Grandson Jeremy Norris would like to rebuild the farm, making storage bins and pallets using wood from the property and selling to local farms. The grant will purchase a sawmill.

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service administers the grant program with money from the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**. Farmers in 18 counties – Martin, Wilson, Pitt, Edgecombe, Harnett, Nash, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Rockingham, Yadkin, Guilford, Sampson, Johnston, Greene, Lenoir, Duplin, and Wayne – were eligible

WNC farms receive \$201,000 from WNC AgOptions grants to support agricultural diversity

Posted on [February 6, 2017](#) February 6, 2017 by [Max Hunt](#)

From the North Carolina Cooperative Extension:

Farm grant recipients reflect strength of WNC diversified ag

WNC AgOptions recipients receive \$201,000 in small farm grants to diversify operations

ASHEVILLE, N.C.—Recipients of 2017 farm grants reflect the growing strength of the diversified agricultural system in western North Carolina. WNC Agricultural Options awarded 35 farm businesses a total of \$201,000 in \$3,000 and \$6,000 grants on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River. Farms are creating jobs in areas in great need of employment. Their premium goods are creating a reputation in other parts of the country.

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. Three of the 2017 recipients received \$3,000 while 32 received \$6,000.

Jessica and Aron Wher of Wehrloom Honey in Graham County expect that their mead, a honey-based wine, will gain a national customer base. Nationwide, there are fewer than 300 meaderies in the country, in comparison to nearly 9,000 fruit-

based wineries. They are also incorporating their meadery into their local retail center and educational center, where they sell honey products and offer a pollinator walking path for visitors.

“What began in 2011 as a hobby quickly became a passion, and, in our community — where little job opportunities were to be had — a full-time job for both myself and my husband,” Jessica Wher said. “We have spent the last five years dedicating countless hours to creating a business that fully supports our family and two other full-time employees.” As their business expands, they expect to hire more employees. Job creation is critically important in Graham County.

Eight other recipients anticipate hiring additional workers due to this year’s grant. Half of the awarded farms are already full-fledged businesses supporting at least one full-time farmer, in some cases due to past WNC AgOptions grants. At least three additional farmers expect to be full-time by the end of the season.

While most recipients feed the continued booming demand for local products, some are also responding to regional, national and even global markets. **Gabriel Noard** of Pangaea Plants in Rutherford County said large medicinal herb suppliers like Mountain Rose have reached out to him since he has started drying and processing large quantities of herbs. **Lisa Black** of Fields of Gold in Henderson County expects her goat milk gelato to be sold in 10 new cities, including Charlotte.

Cathy Guthrie Bennett of Doubletree Farm in Madison County has started selling her sorghum syrup to a wholesale client, Anson Mills, LLC. “The Anson Mills chef client base is global,

and each year we have a waiting list for Double Tree Farm sorghum syrup,” Anson Mills President **Glenn Roberts** said.

Awarded projects often have high potential for demonstration to other diversifying growers in the region. **Susan Owen** of The Lily Patch Farm in Watauga County, who is expanding her pawpaw orchard, said that the native fruit has potential in all sorts of markets. The banana-like fruit and custard-like pulp can be sold to local food markets; the tree seedlings can be marketed to landscapers and homeowners; and the seed can go to plant breeders.

“America’s largest native fruit has largely been forgotten due to its inability to be commercially shipped to grocery stores,” Owen said. She’s made it her goal to teach other growers about the potential of the pawpaw tree, which has minimal pest issues and is key for the survival of the Zebra swallowtail butterfly since the tree is a host plant for the caterpillar.

Each of the recipients has a special story. Like **Rodney Wise**, an automobile body mechanic who is finally taking on his 10-year-long dream of starting a mushroom farm and turning his 20-year-old farming hobby into a potentially lucrative business. Or the brother and sister team, **Tracy Cavagnaro** and **Todd Kirmss**, who are reshaping their family’s apple orchard, keeping it alive in memory of their late mother, who struggled with cancer for years, and in memory of their late stepfather, who was very devoted to the fruit trees. Or the Christmas tree farm owner, **Joey Miller**, who is putting the farm front-and-center after his father recently passed. Up to this point, he has only farmed on the side while he drove a bus and performed odd jobs to make ends meet, despite his love for the farm.

“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.”

Since 2004, WNC AgOptions has awarded 491 farm projects more than \$2.3 million. The **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** has promised \$239,000 for WNC AgOptions to distribute to farm businesses in 2018.

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 and to enhance the agricultural economy.

“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 **Linda Lamp**, Executive Director of WNC Communities. “WNC AgOptions strengthens our agricultural community, ultimately benefiting us all.”

“The **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** is privileged to have a strong partner in WNC Communities,” said **Bill Teague**, Chairman of the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**. “In the past two years, the Commission was able to create or sustain

nearly 300 North Carolina jobs, while assisting with farmer-driven projects impacting nearly 5,000 acres.”

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.

2017 WNC AgOptions Awardees

County	Award	Farm	Project Name
Avery	\$6,000	Trosly Farm	High Tunnel Season Extension
Buncombe	\$6,000	The Culinary Gardener	BSC Tractor and Implements Upgrade
Buncombe	\$6,000	S.D. Morgan Farms	Brewer’s Grain: It’s More Than Just Beer
Buncombe	\$6,000	Flying Cloud Farm	Mobile Sorghum Operation
Buncombe	\$3,000	Cloud 9 Farm	Small Fruit Irrigation and Raspberry Diversification
Buncombe	\$6,000	Franny’s Farm	Rotational Grazing System for Sheep and Lamb Production Expansion
Caldwell	\$6,000	JB Farms	Aquaponic Greenhouses
Caldwell	\$3,000	Bee Kind Family Farm	Apiary Expansion
Cherokee	\$6,000	Two Crows Farm	Agritourism and Retail Expansion
Cherokee	\$6,000	Henry’s Farm	Smokey Mountain Orchard
Cherokee	\$6,000	Postell Hollow Farm	Complete Sheep Working/Handling Facility
Clay	\$6,000	LeatherNeck Farms	Irrigation Expansion
Cleveland	\$6,000	Big John’s Hydro Farm	Back-up Electricity and Mini-Fogger
Cleveland	\$6,000	Flag Branch Farm	Adding Value to Goat’s Milk
Graham	\$6,000	Wehrloom Honey	Mead Expansion
Haywood	\$6,000	Dennis Francis Farm	Seed Drill for Hay and Pasture Regeneration
Henderson	\$6,000	Fields of Gold	Goat Milk Dairy Equipment for Gelato
Henderson	\$6,000	Holt Orchards	Retail Cooling Shed
Madison	\$3,000	Doubletree Farm	Sorghum Syrup Expansion Project
Madison	\$6,000	Dry Ridge Farm	Beef Expansion
Madison	\$6,000	Paper Crane Farm	Crop Diversification: Cut Flowers

Madison	\$6,000	Homemade in Marshall LLC	Dairy Parlor Upgrade
Madison	\$6,000	Zimmerman's Berry Farm	Wood Fired Value Added Processing
McDowell	\$6,000	Melissae Meadery and Winery	Meadery and Winery
Mitchell	\$6,000	Mountain Hollow	Mushroom Operation
Polk	\$6,000	Bradley Farms	Pastured Pig Feeding System
Rutherford	\$6,000	Corbin Family Farm	Honey House
Rutherford	\$6,000	Pangaea Plants	Medicinal Herb Processing Equipment
Swain	\$6,000	Breedlove Family Farms	Goat Handling Equipment
Transylvania	\$6,000	Sospiro Ranch	Goat Kidding and Handling Barn
Transylvania	\$6,000	Clem's Organic Gardens	Top-Lift Carrot/Beet Harvester
Watauga	\$6,000	Miller's Choose and Cut	Farm Expansion
Watauga	\$6,000	The Lily Patch farm	Organic Production of Pawpaws
Yancey	\$6,000	Austin Family Dairy Farm	Waste Management/Manure Spreader
Yancey	\$6,000	Green Mountain Farms	Mechanization to Reduce Labor and Increase Safety

Farm Diversifies Offerings to Include an Agritourism Learning Center

- Mackenzie Francisco Staff Writer
- Aug 31, 2017



An educational grant helped fund construction of The Landing, a new playground at the Eagle's Nest Berry Farm in western Moore County.

Photo courtesy of Eagle's Nest Berry Farm.

Eagle's Nest Berry Farm in Jackson Springs recently debuted The Landing, a recreational learning center for children, after receiving a \$3,500 grant from the University of Mount Olive to build a learning center.

The grant was awarded by the University of Mount Olive Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center through the **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**.

Eagle's Nest Berry Farm has been in sisters Elaina Williams and Karyn Ring's family since 1999. According to Williams, the grant is meant to help farmers diversify their land to increase revenue. She applied for the grant last September, and construction began for The Landing in November.

The sisters hope that the new edition will increase the farm's pick-your-own business.

"Kids don't usually fare too well picking berries, so we wanted to give them a little something to do while their families visit the farm," said Williams.

In addition to boosting business, Williams and Ring hope that The Landing will promote an active lifestyle among children.

“We want to encourage kids to get outside and away from electronics,” said Ring.

The Landing is constructed out of mostly natural and donated materials. In the middle of the space sits a mountain-style mound of large tires meant for little ones to climb safely. The play area also features a kitchen with pots and pans meant for small hands, a swing set, an architectural center with large building blocks to engage young imaginations, and many other fun activities.

Sectioned off in its own corner is a produce garden with rows of raised beds.

“The raised beds allow kids to experience the process of watching the food as it comes along,” said Williams. Children are able to pick their produce from the raised beds and take it home.

“We really want to teach the kids where their food comes from,” said Ring.

Williams and Ring plan to continue to add to the variety of activities that The Landing has to offer. Their goal is to have a stage built and eventually host “game days” similar to an elementary school field day.

“Our business has had a lot of community support for years, so we wanted to give something back and get more families out here,” said Williams.

The sisters are especially grateful for the University of Mount Olive’s contribution and the many opportunities that it has provided for Eagles Nest Berry Farm. “There’s still so much we want to do. We were really tickled to get this grant, and we learned a lot in the process,” said Williams.

The Landing at Eagle’s Nest Berry Farm is open seasonally when the farm’s pick-your-own service is available.

AGI helps out the NCWF's Farmers and Communities Manage Deer Program

The AGI is always looking for ways to engage with the agricultural community throughout the state. One way we have given back recently is to partner with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Farmers and Communities Manage Deer (FCMD) program to collect harvested deer to help farmers and feed those in need.



Some of the student volunteers and Dr. Liz Rutledge (R). From L-R: Jadon Hill, Eli Hayes, Luke Garner, Austin Staton, Braxton Beck.

Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Scott

The FCMD program, run by Dr. Liz Rutledge of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, works to provide community-specific approaches to deer management. This program receives funding from the **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** and works with communities throughout eastern North Carolina to reduce crop damage from growing deer populations. Doing so not only results in high-quality protein being donated to those in need within these communities, but harvesting deer also reduces crop damage and an influx of sportsmen can be a source of revenue for communities as well. According to Dr. Rutledge, "The FCMD program was designed to assist farmers by reducing crop damage through the sustainable management of white-tailed deer in

NC with the added benefit of feeding individuals in food insecure areas of the state. Additionally, the program encourages hunters to harvest doe early in the season and provides an outlet where hunters can drop off deer easily and free-of-charge".

The FCMD event the AGI helped out with this year was in Jones County. The Pollocksville Big Game Hunt has been in existence for the past twenty-four years, with the Pollocksville Volunteer Fire Department hosting the hunting tournament and fundraiser for the past 6 years. The Pollocksville VFD has worked in conjunction with the FCMD program for the past two years to collect deer from hunters who wish to donate their deer during the event.

This year, AGI students assisted Dr. Rutledge and her team in collecting those donations. Eleven students pitched in over the course of the two-day tournament, and the AGI donated funds to help process the donated deer into ground venison. In all, thirty-three of the sixty-seven deer brought in by the tournament were donated, providing approximately 1,300 pounds of venison, or enough for 5,200 meals for the needy. The deer were processed by Riverside Meats in Trenton, NC and will be distributed locally in and around Jones County.

Hunter Donald Blossom was the first tournament participant to bring in a deer -- and the first to donate to the program. He brought in a five-point, eighty-two pound buck. He was happy to donate, saying "I think it's a good use of the animal, because I know it will go somewhere it's needed."

And it does. All the meat donated to the FCMD program is processed and delivered locally, with the communities and processors involved deciding where the meat would do the most good. Typically, it goes to shelters or food pantries. The communities involved also decide what kind of program would be best suited for their area. In Jones County, coordinating with the Pollocksville VFD on the Big Game Hunt was a great fit, while other communities have chosen to host their own organized deer hunts or set up donation sites. The program has also helped to purchase a mobile cooler that hunt clubs or civic organizations can use to collect donated deer.

This event was an excellent way for AGI students to learn about community-specific activism, as well as be able to help Dr. Rutledge and her team do their important work. You can find out more about the fantastic work done by this program, including ways to participate, by emailing liz@ncwf.org, calling (828) 783-8013, or by clicking [here](#).



Dr. Rutledge and students Aaron Blackmon and Daniel Causey help collect a donated deer.

Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Scott

3 Rockingham County farms receive NC AgVentures grants

Staff Reports

Joe Dexter

Apr 3, 2017

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY — Three local farms were selected as grant winners in a program that is aimed at supporting family farms statewide.

The NC AgVentures grant program awards innovative projects that diversify, expand or bring new entrepreneurial plans to farm operations.

Its funded through the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**, which was created by the General Assembly in 2000 to lessen the blow of lost revenue for farmers and tobacco-related businesses due to a sharp decline of tobacco in the agricultural economy.

Three families were awarded grants ranging from \$4,800 to \$10,000.

Dana and Rochelle Reynolds of Madison plan to construct a commercial greenhouse on their 50-acre farm for propagation of heirloom vegetables and herbal medicinal plants.

With the money awarded, the couple will focus on specialty plants not found in local markets. They will also be made available for commercial cultivation and retail sales to gardeners and farmers.

Steve and Natalie Foster have operated their small Reidsville farm since 1996. The property, which originally produced tobacco, produces a crop base that lends the Fosters the ability to sell at the Greensboro Farmers Club 51 weeks a year.

With funds provided by the **NC. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**, they plan to purchase a produce cooler and create a propagation shed with air conditioning. The unit will allow the family to store produce at safe temperatures and increase production by reducing spoilage.

In Ellisboro, Robert Baker grows tobacco, soybeans and wheat on the regular. He plans on building two new greenhouses to raise tomatoes and will use grant money to construct a storage, grading and packing facility for future produce.

The NC AgVentures Grant Program is administered by NC State Extension, through North Carolina State University. The extension helps create prosperity for North Carolina with programs and partnerships that focus on agriculture, food, nutrition and 4-H youth development.

Keeping the fair in motion

By Joyce Orlando

Shelbystar.com

Posted Oct 2, 2017 at 8:51 AM

Updated Oct 2, 2017 at 9:42 AM

The Cleveland County fair is celebrating 93 years with some new ideas thrown into the same old traditions.

A face-lift

The Cleveland County Fair Association received \$200,000 in state funds for repairs and renovations of buildings.

This money was among an array of earmarks included in the final compromise budget approved in June. And the money has already gone to good use by helping with roofing projects on the exhibit halls and repairs to the cow and chicken barns, Fair Manager Bobby Jenks said.

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

When the grant was given to Bill Teague, chairman of the **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**, said the Cleveland County Fair has become one of the most outstanding county fairs in the state. Teague said the money from the Tobacco Trust Fund will assure that the positive message of farming culture will continue to be passed on to Cleveland County residents for years to come.

Paying back

In 2015, the fair was forced to shut down due to torrential downpours. That dilemma led to the Fair Board asking for help from the county to make the 2016 fair even happen.

The fair borrowed \$250,000 from the county to help with money flow throughout the 2016 fair, Cleveland County Manager Jeff Richardson said when the loan was made. The Fair Board put up land that it owns as collateral for the loan. Richardson said of the \$250,000 loan, \$150,000 was paid back at the close of the 2016 fair.

The fair has until 2019 to pay back the remaining \$100,000.

Adding on to raise revenue

One of the newest promotions the fair is having is a car load ticket day.

On Monday, Oct. 2, up to seven people can pile into a car and get into the fair to ride the rides as much as they want for \$50. To do so, all passengers must be wearing seat belts, and cars must park in a special designated area off Kemper Road.

These tickets cannot be purchased in advance.

The car load ticket day is one of several ways the fair is looking to bring more people into the fair this year.

The Cleveland County Fair offers a handful of promotional days for seniors, kids and college students. For a full list of specials and deals, visit www.ClevelandCountyFair.com.



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

William Upchurch
Executive Director

Jeff Camden
Program Officer

Susan Hernandez
Administrative Officer

1080 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1080

919.733.2160
Fax 919.733.2510

tobaccotrustfund@ncagr.gov

www.tobaccotrustfund.org

