

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, 2018

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

The Honorable 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2018



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.

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November 1, 2018



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.

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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.

Lower commodity prices have been an ongoing challenge for a lot of our producers. This year they also had to deal with tariff discussions and historic storms. The trade issues have impacted some of the traditional markets our farmers need to sell their products. As farmers prepared to harvest their crops, widespread damage from Hurricane Florence and remnants of Hurricane Michael, forced many to abandon their fields and yearly income. Now more than ever, programs like the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission are needed to help agricultural families navigate through these challenges.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's work is **critical** because agriculture remains a very important part of our state's economy, contributing **\$87** billion annually, accounting for over **17%** of the state's income and employing **17%** of the workforce. Our board and staff have worked very hard in the past year to make investments that strengthen a core business with limited funding. We have accomplished this by implementing projects to support diversification, education, job creation/sustainability and environmental preservation. We applaud our legislative leadership for allowing the Commission to continue to serve the number one industry of our state's economy.

Active grant information, the 2018 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

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COMMISSION MEMBERS 2018

ASHE, John

Reidsville, NC
County- Rockingham
Appointee Officer-
Governor

BARNES, Susan

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

BISSETTE, Edward

Spring Hope, NC
County-Nash
Appointee Officer –
Governor

CARTER, J.W. (Billy)
III.

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

COLLINS, William K.

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County-Wake
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CREWS, Sam

Oxford, NC
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Governor

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Autryville, NC
County-Sampson
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President Pro Tem

DAVIS, Brent

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

HAMM, Maggie

Conover, NC
County-Catawba
Appointee Officer-
Governor

HARRELL, Mark

Clinton, NC
County-Sampson
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Speaker of the House

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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

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 2018

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, 2017

The TTFC has met **three 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 January 2019 for implementation.

In 2018, a total of **40** grant applications were received requesting over **\$7.2** million in funding. After a very detailed review process, the TTFC approved grants totaling **\$2.6 million for 18 projects**. The limitation of funds prevented the board from addressing many more of these worthy applications.

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

- The AgPrime Project is administered by our partners at the University of Mount Olive - Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center. Over the past three they have worked very closely with the NC Cooperative Extension and USDA Service Centers in the service area to pick innovative projects that have a high potential for success. A total of 27 micro-grants for on farm projects were funded impacting 4,946 acres of crop land. 31 new jobs were created while 162 jobs were sustained. Final numbers are not in for the 2018 grant cycle however over \$72,459 of additional products were sold during 2016 and 2017.
- The Mountain Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council conducted eight workshops with interested farmers about their options for on-farm energy improvements. 1,295 people have attended these sessions including 750 former tobacco quota holders. 76 farms have been visited for onsite consultations. 17 farms have applied for Solar PV systems assistance grants.
- Recipients of the NC Commodity Co-operative Marketing Project pursued a variety of marketing projects intended to increase sales of NC agricultural products. Projects ranged from creating a marketing video, developing mobile friendly websites with online stores, and advertising on social media to more traditional efforts spanning updated packaging to creating new signage and conducting local community marketing campaigns. Reported matching funds of \$179,101 and value of product sold of \$840,574 were short-term, however, the impact of many of the marketing projects will have long-term impacts.
- NC Agromedicine Institute staff have conducted 28 respirator fit test events for individuals from 30 counties. A total of 592 respirator fit tests and 407 medical clearances have been completed. Four 4-hour respirator fit test train-the-trainer classes were conducted with 25 individuals representing 22 counties.
- Green Fields Sandhills held three county-wide farmland transition workshops for 70 farmers, families and landowners. Information was developed and provided to all participants. Following the county workshops, Staff coordinated hour-long consultations for farmers and families to meet with legal and financial advisers. These consultations helped achieve the objective of providing one-on-one support and guidance for landowners at all points of the farmland transition spectrum.

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2014 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2017 OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2018

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

The project educated farmers, youth, fire and EMS personnel about what to do in the event of a farm emergency. The project also provided cost share funds for farms, fire and EMS units to purchase emergency supplies or equipment or receive additional farm-related rescue training. Farmers attending First on Scene training were given a first aid kit specially stocked for farm-related incidents and a fire extinguisher. TTFC approved expanding the project to include technical assistance to farmers on implementation of revisions to the US Environmental Protection Agency's Worker Protection Standards (WPS) that became effective January 2, 2017. A total of 30 sessions were conducted in 23 counties with 673 individuals participating. Participants represented farms from a total of 46 counties.

STATUS: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: Agricultural Emergency Response Teams 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

This project created the Agriculture Emergency Resource Website that is intuitive and user-friendly. It is intended to be used by farmers, stakeholders, AERTs, and other partners. This website functions as a central hub and repository for training information and resources for AERTs. This makes resources available during and after emergencies (both declared and undeclared) that is accessible by stakeholders.

Status: Completed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: From Tobacco to Family Forests

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

Grant Amount: \$41,000

544 people received outreach materials about forest management and Forest Stewardship Plans. Eleven plans were written utilizing six foresters. These plans address the management of 2,147.64 acres of land, which are situated in six counties. Each landowner received at least one printed copy of the plan and a CD containing an electronic version of the plan.

Status: Completed.

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

www.tarriver.org

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2015 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2017 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2018

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

Grantee acquired the equipment necessary to mobilize these rescue training courses but was not able to secure commitments from the specific communities outlined in the application. The grantee has demonstrated its efforts to include these ten communities in the training. As of the final report, none of these communities had confirmed a training schedule. The project was successful with training 92 individuals in agricultural machinery rescue. Twenty-one different counties were listed as the home base.

Status: Completed

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

www.clevelandcc.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 on growing vegetables with limited space have been held. Students learned how to prepare soil efficiently, control weeds, and gain maximum yield. Grant funds were used to purchase supplies for these classes. Welding for Farmers was offered to Ag students who were interested in learning basic welding techniques to assist with maintenance and repair of farming equipment. Seven students participated in this two-day class. Grantee partnered with North Stokes High School provided additional equipment and materials for the class.

Area Served: Stokes

www.forsythtech.edu

Project: Financial Literacy for Disadvantaged Farmers

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

Grant Amount: \$25,300

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

Status: Seven farmers completed their engagements with CPAs or tax preparers this quarter, bringing to eight the total number of farmers who have benefited from the project. Each has completed their 2017 tax returns; the Tennie Group prepared monthly financial statements for two of the seven.

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

www.ncifund.org

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

Meetings were held across the state and provided the only face-to-face meeting opportunity for most of the farmers and food producers will have with buyers. Not all attendees were looking to make near future sales. Many were interested in hearing firsthand what the companies required from their suppliers (i.e. GAP-certification) and commodities they were interested in purchasing. Registration as a vendor, vetting as a vendor, and the first purchase agreement often takes over a year for completion.

Status: Completed.

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 create additional market opportunities for farmers, provide additional employment opportunities and increase the contributions of agriculture to our state's economy. The grant will support administrative and personnel costs to carry out the Task Force's mission.

Status: A call campaign has identified firms that may be looking to expand NC food production. 1,340 companies were contacted during the first half of 2018 alone, leading to three conference calls. Six conference/event was attended by Laura Lee to promote the NC food Processing industry.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

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

12 on farm projects were funded exceeding the stated goal by two. Creating 13 new jobs and impacting over 4,500 acers of farmland including 78 acers of new crop production. A year end banquet was held to share the successes of the program with all participants, several Subgrantees held side conversation after the presentations to learn more and take these ideas back to their farming operations. An estimated \$72,459.00 of additional products were sold off the farm due to this project.

Status: Completed

Area Served: Select NC Counties

www.umoag.com

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2016 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2017 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2018

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

Technical assistance was provided to 15 program participants. Assistance for each participant consisted of site visits to identify and address sources of potential food safety concerns, a review of participant food safety plans, standard operating procedure implementation assistance, and GAP audit preparation and pre-audit site visits. Nine participant farms have passed a GAP audit and at least five will undergo a GAP audit in late 2018.

Status: Completed

Area Served: Statewide

www.carolinafarmstewards.org

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: The Farm Services Center and the Farmer's Market is 100% completed. Working on a few punch list items before final reporting.

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 scholarships assisted with tuition, fees and materials for short term training and credentials. Providing \$250.00 scholarships to those impacted by the downturn in tobacco and farming in Durham and Orange Counties for training for short term credentials that lead to employment. Sixty-three total individuals were served by this program. Direct financial assistance was made to forty-six students.

Status: Complete

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: Johnston County Works has counseled 117 students on educational opportunities since receiving the grant. 71 have completed, 9 are currently enrolled, 30 either did not enter the first

day or dropped the course, 7 did not enter due to the class being canceled. 31 students have received healthcare state certifications, 2 students received ServSafe certification and 3 students received the Biowork certification. 30 students secured employment, and 5 students were able to graduate with a Cosmetology certificate.

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: Based on the performance of trial equipment, the team has purchased the Cropcare lifter and winder equipment to be used as demonstration equipment with the NC State Mountain Horticultural Research Center. About 10,000 pounds of mulch film retrieved over the past year has now been tested by five different potential re-processors with a variety of processing equipment. Data from all parties, including the re-processors and equipment reps, has been tabulated and evaluated. Grantee is working with equipment developers in Ohio and Alabama who are developing equipment for dry elimination of the major contamination on the film and have developed a prototype process.

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: Two workshops were conducted: one in Mills River at the Horticultural Crops Research Center, and one in Watauga County at the Extension office. One new farm applied for a grant for a solar system, and one farm completed a project in the second quarter of 2018. Four site visits and direct consultations were conducted with interested farmers about their options for on-farm energy improvements.

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: 9 of the 10 student participants began their internships. One participant decided not to continue with the program due to family health challenges. The student participants submitted weekly reports on their internship activities and learning. The program coordinator reviewed the weekly reports and provided feedback. The students also receive training in developing a business plan throughout the fall workshops.

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: Awarded 27 grants for family farms across 18 selected counties in 2018. Combined with awards since 2017, 50 grants have been awarded over a two-year period. Grantee held a new grantee orientation meeting in Harnett and Forsyth counties. Extension agents help the grant recipients plan their project presentation or demonstration. Many of these happen in the fall during or after harvest.

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 pilot project was very successful at increasing the business and management skills of 25 participants from 17 farms. While this session pursued Tobacco and Sweet Potato growers' future sessions may have other NC crop as emphasis. It proved that the partnership from NCSU-CALS, ECU and NCSU Poole College of Management was very successful. Outside speakers from several prominent organizations also partnered with the project to enhance the students' knowledge.

Status: Completed

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

This project created a robust statewide internship program. Activities included: field trips for students to network with industry professionals, help with enhancing their networking skills, a pre-professional development course, an internship experience, and a formal presentation of their experiences with a poster presentation. The first year the program was funded by the TTFC, 23 students participated the next year 93 student interns were provided. Demonstrating great interest from students.

Status: Completed

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 more realistic method of planting. The information gained from these trials will help growers determine what mixes work best in in our area for cover and grazing, the cost of these mixes, and what time of year they can be planted to produce a viable cover crop.

Status: Pasture mixes for winter grazing have been planted in several counties. Cover crops will also be studied along with wheat varieties trials. The drill is a vital part of a three-year NRCS study. Cover crop and soil health field day will be held in October.

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 pursued a variety of marketing plans intended to increase sales of NC agricultural products. Plans ranged from creating a marketing video, developing mobile friendly websites with online stores. Sub-Grantees also used funds for advertising on social media and more traditional efforts like updated packaging and creating new signage. Outcome measures were short-term, however, the impact of many of the marketing projects will have long-term impacts. Most projects provided marketing resources (website, equipment, video, signage, etc.) that will provide long-term benefits.

Status: Completed

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.

Status: Networking with hunters and landowners continue as well as the organization of deer harvest events and fundraisers to support deer processing. Staff continued working to obtain new deer processors for the NC Hunters for the Hungry network to increase hunter participation and deer harvest in new areas.

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

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: \$0

Status: Project was canceled due to recipient unable to move forward.

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

Piedmont Community College was able to assist 93 Person and Caswell County residents with the financial assistance required to attend short-term training courses. 78 participants were able to obtain credentials needed to secure full-time employment. As a result, students were able to find employment in their desired fields of work, such as Logistic Technicians, Production

Technicians, Nursing Assistants, Professional Medical Coders, Phlebotomists, and many other career choices.

Status: Completed

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

Status: The installation of a new thermal controlled floor with pressure-tested piping components is complete. The cost of the floor alone will use the full amount of this TTFC grant. The freezer is scheduled to be complete in early fall.

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

Grantee distributed information about the grant program to the counties served through flyers, email lists, social media, local newspapers, and other methods of broad reaching information mediums. They held informational meetings across the area served by the program including: Jackson in Northampton County, Lexington in Davie County, Henderson in Vance County, and Pittsboro in Chatham County. 57 applications were received, and 27 project awards were awarded. 26 total projects were completed during the grant cycle, including 23 individual projects and 3 collaborative projects. Each of these projects represents a significant increase in capacity and business growth across North Carolina's rural communities.

Status: completed

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

225 participants received occupational training. These courses range from welding, HVAC, 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. The Project met all funding objectives and hit all but one target impact number. Not as many students perused certifications after training was concluded as expected.

Status: Completed

Area Served: Columbus

Applicant Website: www.sccnc.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 Community College implements classes, workshops, and seminars that targeted current and potential farmers in the farming communities of their two-county service area. 343 students received training through this project. 13 students were assisted by Surry Skill Up to enable them to take the High School Equivalency HSE (HSET) test. 81 Students enrolled in a variety of Occupational Skills courses that lead to state or industry recognized certifications. Agriculture courses were offered throughout the project period and were attended by 244 participants. Course topics included: Two Good Agricultural Practices courses, 1 Produce Safety course, 7 Grape & Vineyard Establishment and Maintenance courses, and 13 Farm and Garden Establishment and Maintenance courses.

Status: Completed

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: Grantee staff made final plans for the second year of the TTFC SAE Institute. The institute was held on July 9-13. A total of 50 student application and 27 teacher applications

were received for consideration. Thirty-six students were selected to participate and twenty advisors. The project team determined these numbers were manageable and would create the best experience for both groups without sacrificing quality.

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: Grantee has completed visits to each of the 43 recipients. Grantee keeps in touch with remaining recipients via email and phone. Sub-Grantees that receive \$6,000 are required to submit business plans. They were all completed by August 1. The year-end banquet was held October 26th celebrating all the accomplishments the farmers have achieved with the help of this project.

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

Applicant Website: www.wnccommunities.org

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

Project: EBHS Student Agriculture Learning Center

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

Grant Amount: \$110,000

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

Status: Construction damaged water lines, causing slight delay as they were moved and repaired. Another delay of work was due to extensive rains. French drains were installed as a result of the rain. The frame and roof trusses has been erected. The metal interior walls were installed. Rough-in plumbing the concrete pad has been poured. The interior walls, plumbing and electrical have also been install.

Area Served: Bladen

www.bladen.k12.nc.us

Project: Farm Land Access Program

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

Grant Amount: \$31,192

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

Status: Completed drafts of two of three sections of the Farmland Access Manual. Provided direct technical assistance to three beginning farmers on evaluating farmland they are interested in leasing or purchasing. The Farm Services team is at various stages of video development and production. Some topics are still being solidified, while others have been selected and are actively being produced. Two Farmers-in-Training and one aspiring Farmer-in-Training have been assigned established farmers as mentors and are spending time weekly with their mentor farmers on the mentors' farm.

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

www.carolinafarmstewards.org

Project: Worker Protection Standard Compliance

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

Grant Amount: \$94,128

East Carolina University-North Carolina Agromedicine Institute will provide the information, skills and tools needed to comply with or help others comply with revisions to the US Environmental Protection Agency's Worker Protection Standard (WPS) which became effective January 2, 2017. These revisions apply to all farms using chemicals in the production of agricultural plants. Specific emphasis will be placed on assisting farms to comply with portions of the WPS related to respiratory protection and signage.

Status: Institute staff have conducted 28 respirator fit test events for individuals from 30 counties. A total of 592 respirator fit tests and 407 medical clearances have been completed. Four 4-hour respirator fit test train-the-trainer classes were conducted with 25 individuals representing 22 counties.

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: \$0

Status: Recipient declined the grant offer and withdrew project.

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

Three county-wide farmland transition workshops were held for 70 farmers, families and landowners. Information was developed and provided to all participants. Following the county workshops, staff coordinated hour-long consultations for farmers and families to meet with legal and financial advisers. These consultations helped achieve the objective of providing one-on-one support and guidance for landowners at all points of the farmland transition spectrum.

Status: Completed

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 of the market needed and provide operational support for the first two years. The mobile farmers market will also provide access for consumers to local farm products that are otherwise unable to do so due to limiting factors such as time, transportation, or knowledge. Some new customers will be in low income and food insecure areas, this project will provide these customers access to high quality food.

Status: Hired a mobile market manager in March 2018. She has been able to accomplish more than anticipated goals of setting up relationships with the farmers & vendors that will benefit from and sell to the mobile market. She has been able to plan the eventual routes of the mobile market as it began its first stops in August of this year.

Area Served: Polk, Henderson, Rutherford

www.growrural.org

Project: Farmers Market Community Kitchen

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

Grant Amount: \$78,076

This project will create a community kitchen in the Rick Holder Farmers Market Annex. In response to increasing requests from farmers/vendors, community members, and potential vendors, LCFM will add capacity to the Market by renovating the Annex to house a community kitchen, a fully inspected, code-compliant facility vendors can use to prepare foods for sale at the

Market. The kitchen will include space for planned healthy food preparation classes and demonstrations, generating increased Market vendors' sales.

Status: General Contractor and HVAC Contractor have been selected. Actual construction is somewhat delayed, but they are assured once they begin the project it will easily be finished prior to the deadline.

Area Served: Lenoir

www.lenoir.ces.ncsu.edu

Project: From Farm to Vet Tech

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

Grant Amount: \$136,739

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

Status: Outreach has been conducted through the regions high schools and through animal organizations. 15 of the proposed 20 spots are filled in the first cohort having started in August. Equipment is being purchased and is on track.

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

www.nashcc.edu

Project: Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant

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

919-515-9259

Grant Amount: \$181,692

The project will provide micro grants to local Agricultural Education programs in North Carolina. Each project will improve and enhance the local Agricultural Education programs. Grants will be used to fund innovative, sustainable, and relevant projects that will assist the local teachers and students in meeting the current needs of the agricultural industry in our state and in their specific community. Thousands of agriculture students and their communities will benefit due to the projects being sustainable and impacting classrooms year after year.

Status: Applications for the project were sent out electronically to all agricultural education programs in North Carolina. The grant information and applications were posted on the NC FFA website. Grant information was also sent out to CTE directors in every school system in our state. 40 agricultural education programs applied for grant in amounts from \$2922 to \$5000. Thirty-five schools were selected to receive grants. All grant projects have been started and are on track for completion by the projected end date.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncffa.org

Project: NC Farm School

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

Grant Amount: \$70,477

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

Status: Completed 8 classes and 5 field days in the NC Farm School Down East. Selected 3 students from the NC Farm School Down East program to participate in the mentor program through an application process. Recruited 3 Farmer Mentors with a history of leadership and farm business development to participate in the NCFS Mentor program and matched them with students who have similar goals using a mentor assessment application. Graduated 14 students from the NC Farm School Down East.

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: \$0

Status: Recipient declined the grant offer and withdrew project.

Area Served: Statewide

www.sealtheseasons.com

Project: Project Skill-UP

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

Grant Amount: \$345,000

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

Status: A total of 20 colleges are participating. Each college was awarded \$15,000 to be used for tuition and registration for students who meet the eligibility requirements. 11 colleges placed 118 individuals into training. Training courses/programs included Emergency Management Technician (EMT), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Phlebotomy, Certified Logistics Technician (CLT), Welding, Garden Pollination, and Pest and Soil Management which all lead to industry recognized credentials.

Area Served: Statewide

www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Project: Agritourism Marketing Cost Share Program

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

Grant Amount: \$100,000

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

Status: A NC State Student has been hired to assist in the oversight of this project. 98 applications were received totaling \$776,340 in requests for funding. 44 farms were sent award packages two farms have denied the funding accepted paperwork is in hand and marketing projects are underway.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: NC Farmers Market Promotion

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

Grant Amount: \$100,000

This cost-share project will partner with farmers markets across the state to promote in-season fresh fruits and vegetables available throughout the market's season. The promotion will include

a cooperative cost-sharing agreement between the markets and NCDA&CS as well as a general targeted promotion in selected urban areas to encourage shopping at the markets. The project will enhance competitiveness of the NC produce industry and will increase foot traffic and sales of locally grown and produced products.

Status: A survey has been created to gain the benchmark of the farmer's market sector of agriculture. 32 markets applied and have been issued agreements for the promotion of their individual markets.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: NC Real Time Network Update

Contact: Mr. Gary Thompson
Geodetic Survey Chief
NC Department of Public Safety – Risk Management
4298 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-733-4407

Grant Amount: \$220,000

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

Status: NCDPS has purchased the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). Grantee has also purchased and installed the Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) equipment at 11 CORS locations. They have also completed the development of the Precision Agriculture/Real Time Network video.

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

www.ncgs.state.nc.us

Project: Agricultural Reinvestment Fund

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

Grant Amount: \$294,300

This project provides cost-share grants to farmers in North Carolina for innovative projects designed to increase farm income and build markets for NC agricultural products. Priority is given to current and former tobacco farmers. This project is a proven model to increase farm income by mitigating the risk of entrepreneurship, replacing lost tobacco income with higher-value agricultural products, and providing NC farmers with models for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Status: Grantee has collected all applications for the 2018 year's grant cycle. Organized the review board for reviewing applications and selecting grantees. Processed more than 90 applications and awarded 26 producer grants. Held an orientation meeting on March 26, 2018 at the RAFI headquarters in Pittsboro, NC. Visited 23 of the 26 grantees on their farms or at their projects sites for their 1st site visit.

Area Served: 20 NC Counties

www.rafiusa.org

Project: Growing TRACTOR Farmers and Supporters

Contact: Ms. Robin Smith
Director
TRACTOR
P.O. Box 1507
Burnsville, NC 28714
828-284-7187

Grant Amount: \$104,808

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

Status: Farm Manager has been hired and is hard at work establishing relationships with growers and the Yancey County Cooperative Extension. Working in conjunction with our sales manager, the Farm Manager has been meeting with growers at their farms, both are assisting growers that have questions about their crops and working to get their biographies and pictures for our farmer

profiles. To date, he has had over 80 individual meetings. They have been actively recruiting producers since joining our team.

Area Served: Yancey

www.tractorfoodandfarms.com

Project: Investing in NC Agriculture Opportunities

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

Grant Amount: \$229,600

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

Status: During this reporting period the AgPrime Project Team advertised funding opportunities through NC Cooperative Extension and USDA Service Centers in the area. An ad was placed in the Farmer's Connection magazine that is distributed across North Carolina. Project staff also traveled to the counties to meet with interested participants and partners. Applications were accepted online and reviewed by a panel of agricultural experts. A total of 26 applications were reviewed and 15 were funded for a total of \$88,600 for the first round of grants.

Area Served: 14 NC Counties

www.umoag.com

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

Contact: Ms. Dorothy Moore
Director of Grant Development and Management
Wayne Community College
PO Box 8002
Goldsboro, NC 27533

919-739-7010

Grant Amount: \$119,000

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

Status: Container site preparation is complete. Containers are ordered and should be installed and ready to be used by students during the fall semester.

Area Served: Wayne

www.waynecc.edu

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION

2018 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - AWARDED SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

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

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

Grant Amount: \$40,000

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

Area Served: Statewide

www.blueridgefoodventures.org

Project: Agriculture Promotion and Education Project

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

Grant Amount: \$50,630

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

Area Served: Statewide

www.feedthediologuenc.org

Project: AgriShop Academy: Specialty Crops

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

Grant Amount: \$33,381

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

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncat.edu

Project: NC Agventures Grant Program

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

Grant Amount: \$298,700

The program will award at least 24 cost-share grants to family farms for projects that diversify, expand or enhance their agricultural operations. The overall goal is to increase farm profits. The grant will benefit at least 24 family farms in 18 selected counties that were negatively impacted by the downturn in the tobacco economy.

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

www.ncagventures.org

Project: Reducing Tobacco Equipment Injuries

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

Grant Amount: \$110,045

Agriculture is North Carolina's leading industry and its most dangerous with a fatality rate six times greater than the average of all industries. While tobacco handling and harvesting equipment is not the highest source of injuries and fatalities in North Carolina, it is a significant cause of tobacco production-related deaths and injuries. We will partner NC Agromedicine Institute to target tobacco growers and workers by: 1) reviewing all tobacco equipment related injuries and fatalities in the last 5 years to determine the root cause of those events; 2) developing short, high impact videos in both English and Spanish that graphically show similar scenarios of people being caught in equipment; 3) providing training in equipment safety and first on scene response for tobacco growers and workers; 4) conducting health screenings both at educational programs and during tobacco field work; 5) providing SMV signs and first aid kits to all growers who attend our programs.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: TTFC Ag Leadership Program Evaluation

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

Grant Amount: \$67,115

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

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Workforce and Career Preparedness Initiatives

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

Grant Amount: \$144,200

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

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Nitrogen Management of Malting Barley

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

Grant Amount: \$104,695

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

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov/agronomi

Project: NC Real Time Network Upgrade (Phase II)

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

Grant Amount: \$19,000

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

(Columbus). The outcome of the CORS upgrade is to ensure that agriculture users have access to the latest technology and can utilize signals from all available navigation satellites, including the new Galileo satellites.

Area Served: Columbus

www.ncgs.state.nc.us

Project: Food-Safe Transportation for Sandhills Produce Farmers

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

Grant Amount: \$16,637

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

Area Served: Richmond

www.sandhillsag.com

Project: Agricultural Reinvestment Fund

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

Grant Amount: \$317,100

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

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

www.rafiusa.org

Project: Shared Equipment for Appalachian Produce Farms

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

Grant Amount: \$67,576

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

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

www.tractorfoodandfarms.com

Project: NCTTFC Supervised Agricultural Experience Institute

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

Grant Amount: \$150,000

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

Area Served: Statewide

www.umoag.com

Project: The Harbor District Market

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

Grant Amount: \$129,843

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

Area Served: Beaufort

www.whda.org

Project: Safety Improvements and Enhancements for WNC RLC

Contact: Mr. LT Ward

Vice President
WNC Communities
594 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 252-4783

Grant Amount: \$203,500

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

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

www.wnccommunities.org

Project: WNC Agricultural Options Program

Contact: Ms. Jennifer Ferre
Project Coordinator
WNC Communities
594 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 252-4783

Grant Amount: \$837,750

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

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

www.wncagoptions.org

Project: Produce Processing Facility Upgrades

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

Grant Amount: \$39,785

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

Area Served: Statewide

www.workinglandscapesnc.org

Project: Southern Guilford Animal Facility Revitalization Completion

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

Grant Amount: \$60,000

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

Area Served: Guilford

www.gcsnc.com

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	\$7,245,524.00												
INTEREST INCOME	\$6,836.27	\$6,972.50	\$6,140.51	\$5,401.23	\$8,482.61	\$8,420.24	\$8,685.21	\$8,732.89	\$7,751.47	\$9,630.54	\$8,761.33	\$8,977.01	\$94,791.81
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,879,704.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,879,704.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$7,275.00	\$0.00	\$810.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,950.75	\$0.00	\$2,470.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,506.18
Fiscal Year 2017 Revenue	\$14,111.27	\$6,972.50	\$6,950.51	\$2,885,105.23	\$8,482.61	\$8,420.24	\$8,685.21	\$12,683.64	\$7,751.47	\$12,100.97	\$8,761.33	\$8,977.01	\$2,989,001.99
EXPENSES													
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$225.59
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$214.00	\$0.00	\$144.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84.00	\$0.00	\$52.00	\$17.50	\$511.50
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$214.38	\$0.00	\$123.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57.20	\$148.79	\$0.00	\$76.60	\$38.30	\$659.05
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$91.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$87.00	-\$23.88	-\$2.30	\$83.19	\$13.29	\$249.05
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$428.38	\$0.00	\$390.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$144.20	\$283.91	\$27.70	\$256.79	\$114.09	\$1,645.19
<u>Staff Personnel Expenses</u>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$24,846.20	\$27,248.21	\$24,846.21	\$24,846.19	\$24,876.79	\$24,840.85	\$30,523.05	\$24,879.24	\$24,903.13	\$24,881.54	\$24,879.24	\$24,900.26	\$306,470.91
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$108.05	\$274.35	\$193.18	\$0.00	\$52.00	\$87.00	\$94.51	\$40.33	\$322.09	\$0.00	\$1,196.51
	\$24,846.20	\$27,273.21	\$24,954.26	\$25,120.54	\$25,069.97	\$24,840.85	\$30,575.05	\$24,966.24	\$24,997.64	\$24,921.87	\$25,201.33	\$24,900.26	\$307,667.42
<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	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$13.32	\$1,314.79	\$42.01	\$0.00	\$3.67	\$0.00	\$0.99	\$140.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$345.30	\$0.00	\$1,860.91
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.71	\$0.00	\$510.84	\$69.92	\$716.67
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$495.00	\$0.00	\$495.00
Communication/Office Equipment	\$105.45	\$97.95	-\$180.10	\$159.70	\$170.38	\$170.38	\$170.38	\$170.38	\$116.95	\$1,282.95	\$7.01	\$207.41	\$2,478.84
Other Administrative Expenses	\$277.65	\$627.04	\$690.00	\$13.97	\$0.00	\$32.79	\$23.94	\$354.88	\$139.63	\$0.00	\$272.09	\$4,712.57	\$7,144.56
Vehicle	\$312.41	\$65.00	\$22.45	\$81.89	\$46.25	\$80.60	\$0.00	\$12.95	\$69.70	\$31.60	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$872.85
Telephone Services	\$309.92	\$315.44	\$283.01	\$273.12	\$290.92	\$291.86	\$272.85	\$272.49	\$155.91	\$288.63	\$271.51	\$316.54	\$3,342.20
	\$1,018.75	\$2,420.22	\$857.37	\$623.88	\$511.22	\$575.63	\$468.16	\$951.53	\$522.90	\$1,603.18	\$1,901.75	\$5,456.44	\$16,911.03
<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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Misc.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,571.43	\$2,421.29	\$149.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,975.00	\$0.00	\$12,117.38
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,571.43	\$2,421.29	\$149.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,975.00	\$0.00	\$14,117.38
Fiscal Year 2018 Expenses													\$340,341.02

	FY 12-17	FY 18
2012 Grant Cycle		
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	\$27,720.63
NCDA&CS - Emergency Programs	\$56,397.57	\$9,279.05
Tar River Land Conservancy	\$13,114.87	\$19,765.10
TOTAL	\$173,930.97	\$56,764.78
2015 Grant Cycle		
	FY 15-17	FY 18
City of Wilson	\$20,765.47	\$139,234.53
Cleveland Community College	\$47,500.00	\$2,500.00
Forsyth Technical Comm College	\$9,275.91	\$3,582.80
Natural Capital Investment Fund	\$0.00	\$11,485.05
NCDA&CS - GTBNC	\$14,442.19	\$303.95
NCDA&CS - NC Food Manufacturing	\$66,465.58	\$36,497.40
PHARMIN	\$0.00	\$0.00
Roanoke-Chowan Comm College	\$21,262.41	\$1,697.00
Southeastern Comm College	\$30,833.61	\$3,855.50
University of Mount Olive	\$76,714.38	\$68,809.59
TOTAL	\$287,259.55	\$267,965.82

	FY 16-17	FY 18
2016 Grant Cycle		
Carolina Farm Stewardship	\$6,092.98	\$18,821.43
Cleveland County Fair, Inc.	\$33,025.12	\$77,322.88
County of Wayne	\$0.00	\$1,255,958.00
Durham Tech Comm College	\$3,666.16	\$12,866.22
Johnston Comm College	\$12,152.20	\$26,934.33
Land of Sky	\$7,826.01	\$31,131.62
Mountain Valley	\$7,312.50	\$56,536.82
NCAF - Future Farmers	\$0.00	\$144,534.07
NCAF - AgVentures	\$104,939.26	\$159,592.19
NCAF - AgMgmt	\$38,171.97	\$83,951.08
NCAF - Workforce & Career	\$2,369.98	\$93,800.31
NC Cooperative Ext In JoCo	\$15,675.00	\$0.00
NCDA&CS Marketing Program	\$15,818.97	\$70,498.75
NC Wildlife Federation	\$12,875.66	\$68,002.67
NERSBA	\$0.00	\$0.00
Piedmont Comm College	\$6,704.65	\$22,808.81
Robeson County Government	\$0.00	\$71,145.98
RAFI	\$180,209.20	\$79,631.89
Southeastern Comm College	\$8,839.81	\$16,105.40
Surry Comm College	\$5,959.00	\$12,532.72
University of Mount Olive	\$190.82	\$25,208.59
WNC Communities	\$204,155.09	\$261,811.63
Tuscola High School FFA	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Mountain Heritage 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	\$60,000.00
TOTAL	\$719,433.16	\$2,655,746.61

Cash Carried Forward	\$7,245,524.00
Total Revenue FY18	\$2,989,001.99
Total Expenses FY18(-)	\$340,341.02
Subtotal	\$9,894,185.37
Total Grants Pd Out FY18 (-)	\$3,481,918.18
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY18 (-)	\$58,000.00
Current Cash Balance	\$6,354,267.19
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$3,901,969.22
TOTALGrant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	\$2,452,297.97
Encumbered Funds	
2012 Granting Cycle	\$132,504.33
2013 Granting Cycle	\$83,583.64
2014 Granting Cycle	\$166,383.45
2015 Granting Cycle	\$313,900.01
2016 Granting Cycle	\$1,190,658.16
2017 Granting Cycle	\$2,014,939.63
TOTAL	\$3,901,969.22

*This report is based on data from
7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018*

2017 Grant Cycle	
	FY 18
Bladen County Schools	\$23,450.00
Carolina Farm Stewardship	\$5,494.11
ECU - Agromedicine Institute	\$0.00
Farmer Foodshare	\$0.00
Green Fields Sandhills	\$24,551.20
Growing Rural Opportunities	\$322.28
Lenoir County Coop Ext	\$0.00
Nash Community College	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Ed Program	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - NC Farm School	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - New Frozen Fruit Markets	\$0.00
NC Community College System	\$8,404.39
NCDA&CS - Agritourism	\$1,766.91
NCDA&CS - Farmers Market Promotion	\$0.00
NC Department of Public Safety	\$209,000.00
RAFI	\$160,271.09
TRACTOR	\$15,800.39
The University of Mount Olive	\$0.00
Wayne Community College	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$449,060.37

Budget Transfers/Debt Service and Cancer Research Payments	
FY 02 Designated Interceptions	\$82,004,511.11
FY 03 Designated Interceptions	\$38,000,000.00
FY 04 Designated Interceptions	\$37,146,734.06
FY 05 Designated Interceptions	\$35,000,000.00
FY 06 Designated Interceptions	\$32,134,175.77
FY 06 Debt Service Payment	\$1,979,096.00
FY 07 Designated Interceptions	\$30,000,000.00
FY 07 Debt Service Payment	\$2,816,688.46
FY 08 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 08 Debt Service Payment	\$6,353,724.00
FY 09 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 09 Debt Service Payment	\$10,722,025.50
FY 09 Designated Interceptions	\$24,398,290.94
FY 10 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 10 Debt Service Payment	\$15,308,738.50
FY 10 Designated Interception	\$5,000,000.00
FY 11 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 11 Debt Service Payment	\$17,116,443.00
FY 11 Designated Interception	\$5,000,000.00
FY 11 Designated Interception	\$5,000,000.00
FY 11 Designated Interception	\$176,825.25
FY 13 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
FY 15 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
FY 16 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
FY 17 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
FY 18 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$58,000.00
TOTAL	\$380,375,252.59

Total Grants Paid Out Since Inception	
Barn Retrofit	\$41,090,228.00
Burley Marketing Center	\$2,509,555.21
NCDA/NCSSU Barn Retrofit	\$168,254.00
Hay Relief	\$5,000.00
FCTCC	\$1,880,113.85
2002 Granting Cycle	\$2,534,958.56
2003 Granting Cycle	\$3,525,839.12
2004 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$435,130.26
2005 Granting Cycle	\$2,817,630.15
2007 Granting Cycle	\$3,186,010.81
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$17,651,886.89
2008 Granting Cycle	\$5,076,135.23
2009 Granting Cycle	\$2,581,846.24
2010 Granting Cycle	\$5,471,915.76
2011 Granting Cycle	\$2,904,790.48
2012 Granting Cycle	\$2,008,334.72
2013 Granting Cycle	\$1,601,159.13
2014 Granting Cycle	\$2,227,193.50
2015 Granting Cycle	\$1,604,565.93
2016 Granting Cycle	\$3,375,179.77
2017 Granting Cycle	\$449,060.37
TOTAL	\$103,104,787.98

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

	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$6,354,267.19												
INTEREST INCOME	\$8,727.17	\$8,783.70	\$7,936.95										\$25,447.82
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,990,199.00										\$1,990,199.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$39,445.98	\$1,031.00										\$40,476.98
Fiscal Year 2019 Revenue	\$8,727.17	\$48,229.68	\$1,999,166.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,056,123.80
EXPENSES													
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00										\$30.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$376.00										\$376.00
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$333.04										\$333.04
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$739.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$739.04
<u>Staff Personnel Expenses</u>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$25,694.79	\$28,178.19	\$25,709.83										\$79,582.81
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$86.74	\$602.22	\$0.00										\$688.96
	\$25,781.53	\$28,780.41	\$25,709.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80,271.77
<u>Office Expenses</u>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$50.29										\$1,250.29
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	\$112.48	\$23,205.00										\$23,317.48
Communication/Office Equipment	\$169.18	\$164.86	\$203.15										\$537.19
Other Administrative Expenses	\$53.96	\$233.20	\$476.00										\$763.16
Vehicle	\$453.35	\$98.67	\$25.67										\$577.69
Telephone Services	\$353.42	\$273.18	\$269.90										\$896.50
	\$1,029.91	\$2,082.39	\$24,230.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,342.31
<u>Professional Services</u>													
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 2019 Expenses													\$108,353.12

2015 Grant Cycle	FY 15-18	FY 19
Forsyth Technical Comm College	\$12,858.71	\$801.14
Natural Capital Investment Fund	\$11,485.05	\$4,514.95
NCD&CS - NC Food Manufacturing	\$102,962.98	\$35,556.20
TOTAL	\$127,306.74	\$40,872.29

2016 Grant Cycle	FY 16-18	FY 19
County of Wayne	\$1,255,958.00	\$169,042.00
Durham Tech Comm College	\$16,532.38	\$0.00
Johnston Comm College	\$39,086.53	\$2,697.83
Land of Sky	\$38,957.63	\$14,326.06
Mountain Valley	\$63,849.32	\$9,200.00
NCAF - Future Farmers	\$144,534.07	\$23,854.34
NCAF - AgVentures	\$264,531.45	\$168,547.23
NCAF - Workforce & Career	\$96,170.29	\$37,441.29
NC Cooperative Ext In JoCo	\$15,675.00	\$0.00
NC Wildlife Federation	\$80,878.33	\$12,227.42
University of Mount Olive	\$25,399.41	\$12,302.27
WNC Communities	\$465,966.72	\$12,207.65
TOTAL	\$2,507,539.13	\$461,846.09

2017 Grant Cycle	FY 18	FY 19
Bladen County Schools	\$23,450.00	\$0.00
Carolina Farm Stewardship	\$5,494.11	\$4,374.07
ECU - Agromedicine Institute	\$0.00	\$15,217.29
Farmer Foodshare	\$0.00	\$0.00
Green Fields Sandhills	\$24,551.20	\$1,496.00
Growing Rural Opportunities	\$322.28	\$23,153.01
Lenoir County Coop Ext	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nash Community College	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Ed Program	\$0.00	\$111,122.23
NC Ag Foundation - NC Farm School	\$0.00	\$14,762.63
NC Ag Foundation - New Frozen Fruit Ma	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Community College System	\$8,404.39	\$0.00
NCD&CS - Agritourism	\$1,766.91	\$4,512.93
NCD&CS - Farmers Market Promotion	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Department of Public Safety	\$209,000.00	\$0.00
RAFI	\$160,271.09	\$64,761.48
TRACTOR	\$15,800.39	\$12,190.38
The University of Mount Olive	\$0.00	\$61,344.80
Wayne Community College	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$449,060.37	\$312,934.82

Cash Carried Forward	\$6,354,267.19
Total Revenue FY19	\$2,056,123.80
Total Expenses FY19(-)	\$108,353.12
Subtotal	\$8,302,037.87
Total Grants Pd Out FY19 (-)	\$815,653.20
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY19 (-)	\$40,000.00
Current Cash Balance	\$7,446,384.67
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$2,703,844.60
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/Enforcement of the MSA	\$4,742,540.07
Encumbered Funds	
2015 Granting Cycle	\$273,027.72
2016 Granting Cycle	\$728,812.07
2017 Granting Cycle	\$1,702,004.81
2018 Granting Cycle	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$2,703,844.60

*This report is based on data from
7/1/2018 - 9/30/2018*

INTERSHIPS FOR NCSU-AGI STUDENTS

WORKFORCE AND CAREER PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVES

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Purpose: The Workforce and Career Preparedness Initiatives grant funds a statewide internship program that assists students at the Agriculture Institute in gaining work experience and on-the-job training. The project matches students with farmers, businesses and other organization to help them develop the professional, interpersonal and leadership skills



they will need to meet the challenges of an increasing globalized economy.



Highlighted Partners providing internships:

- * HD3 Farms
- * Garden Hut Nursery
- * Pace Family Farms
- * Tidewater Agronomics
- * Kornegay Family Farms



MICRO-GRANTS TO FARMER

NC AGVENTURES GRANT PROGRAM



Activities: The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc. is recipient of the NC AgVentures Grant on behalf of NC State Extension. The program awards at least 24 cost-share grants per year to family farms for projects to diversify, expand or enhance their agricultural operations.



The overall goal is to increase farm profits. The grant will benefit family farms in 18 selected counties that were negatively impacted by the downturn in the tobacco economy.

Examples of projects:

- * Specializes Buildings & Equipment
- * E-commerce Improvements
- * Deer Fencing & Feral Hog Traps
- * Livestock & Horticulture Production Upgrades



ROOF REPAIRS FOR AG. BUILDINGS

CLEVELAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR



Grant Activities:

New roofs were installed on four of the Agriculture fair buildings. During the course of this work, some structural damage was discovered, and additional repairs were made to ensure the integrity, appearance, and continued serviceability of each of these buildings.



Project impacted buildings that farmers use to sell and showcase their products...

- \$233,750 dollars leveraged
- 122,879 People Served
- 35,290 Acres of Farmland Impacted
- 225 Jobs Sustained



BARN FOR AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

EAST BLADEN HIGH SCHOOL FFA



Activities: East Bladen High School is constructing an agricultural student learning center/barn to meet their students' educational needs. The learning center will bolster the school's agricultural program curriculum by providing 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.

To accomplish this they are constructing a 50' x 60' enclosed pre-engineered metal building with open shelters on each side to be constructed adjacent to our preexisting greenhouse on the schools campus.



SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR ...

- * 115 people served
- * High student involvement
- * \$5,500 leveraged from other sources

Objectives:

- 1) provide East Bladen High School students additional agriculture learning opportunities about the science, business and technology of plant and animal production, and/or about the environmental and natural resources systems
- 2) support agriculture and agri-science growth and sustainability among high school students with classroom instruction
- 3) enhance the quality of life for Bladen high school students by supporting accessibility to agriculture and agri-science jobs
- 4) create a community culture among high school students that embraces agriculture and agri-science careers as a choice.



Grant Helps Farmer Develop a Christmas Destination



Kevin Gray, of Hickory Creek Farm in Greensboro, was a previous N.C. AgVentures grant winner. He grows several different types of poinsettias.

December 19, 2017 | Dee Shore

Kevin Gray's favorite time of the year is Christmas, and he welcomes people to experience that enchantment on his Greensboro farm. Gray has Christmas trees galore, and, with the help of NC State Extension, he's growing a greenhouse full of poinsettias.

The part-time farmer won a grant from the [NC AgVentures](#) program at NC State in 2016 to start the poinsettia operation. The annual grant program, run by Extension and funded by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, helps family farmers in North Carolina pursue new and innovative agricultural ideas to increase farm profits.

To get his poinsettia operation going, Gray sought Extension's advice on everything from growing the plants to managing the greenhouse. "It's been a really good crop for us," he said. "I couldn't have done it without them."

As it is with Gray, the holidays are big business for many North Carolina farmers. The state ranks second in the nation in the production of both Christmas trees and poinsettias, and it's also a leading producer of two foods associated with the holidays: turkeys and sweet potatoes.

On his century-old family farm, known as [Hickory Creek Farm](#), Gray used to grow tobacco. But in an effort to keep the farm in his family and keep it profitable, he's diversified to other commodities. Now he sells Christmas trees shipped from the North Carolina mountains, but in another year or two, the ag entrepreneur will open a choose-and-cut Christmas tree operation. He's got 500 Christmas trees growing on his farm now, and when they mature, he'll be able to offer customers a wide variety of tree choices. This coming spring, Gray plans to plant another 500 trees.

While the piedmont isn't suited for growing the state's most popular Christmas tree, the Fraser fir, it does support production of Leland cypress, red cedar, white pine and other types of holiday trees.

"The demand for fresh, live Christmas trees is really booming, and we have doubled our sales over the past three years, which is phenomenal," he said. "We get a lot of phone calls from folks wanting to cut trees – to have the experience of ... cutting the tree down but without the drive to the mountains."

As Gray works to fill that demand for a local choose-and-cut experience, Hickory Creek Farm is gaining popularity as an agritourism site.

People "can come out here and take a hayride and roast some marshmallows on the fire and spend a day in the fresh country air and enjoy the farm. We've got lots of games for the kids and pony rides on the weekends — all kinds of fun stuff," he said.

Gray is always dreaming of what else he can do to make his farm the destination for "all things Christmas," as he puts it.

"I love seeing the kids come out and enjoy the farm and play outside and get dirty," Gray said. "And I'd like to add a Christmas craft store and to show Christmas movies — I have lots of ideas."

Have a great agricultural idea? Learn more about the [NC AgVentures Program](#).

The Wilson Times

WILSON'S LOCAL PRINT AND DIGITAL COMMUNITY INSTITUTION SINCE 1896

Sweet, spicy and local: Greenhouse grant helping pepper farm expand



Thomas Webb, of Planters Produce Co., inspects one of 1,300 trays of pepper seedlings growing in a greenhouse partially paid for by an N.C. AgVentures grant funded by the **N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**. Drew C. Wilson | Times



A Beddingfield High School horticulture class visits a greenhouse partially paid for by an N.C. AgVentures grant funded by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. Drew C. Wilson | Times

Posted Monday, April 23, 2018 9:30 pm

By Drew C. Wilson

dwilson@wilsontimes.com | 252-265-7818

STANTONSBURG — Two Wilson County farmers are pushing the envelope when it comes to pepper production.

Walker Shelton and Thomas Webb, owners of Planters Produce Co. in Stantonburg, are the recipients of an N.C. AgVentures grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. The grants are administered by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

Shelton and Webb are 2011 graduates of Beddingfield High School.

“We’ve just been good friends growing up and went to N.C. State,” Shelton said. “Once we got out of school we wanted to diversify into produce whereas traditionally our families have been tobacco and grains production and now the produce side, we think that is a better opportunity long-term than tobacco. We started growing cucumbers in 2015 and added on acreage and started growing peppers in 2016. We added a little more in 2017 and this year we are still growing cucumbers and peppers is our main crop.”

Shelton and Webb were among 27 grant recipients statewide through the program this year.

The pair used the \$9,500 to pay about half of the cost of a 200-by-35-foot greenhouse where they are currently growing about 260,000 pepper plants.

“It’s an old greenhouse we bought secondhand but everything inside of it is new,” Shelton said. “It paid for a lot of the fans and heaters and the T-rail system that holds the plants up, which makes it unique compared to a traditional tobacco greenhouse that would be a little different than that. Currently inside we have jalapeños, banana and some bell peppers in there right now and we will seed a little more next week, some more bell peppers and some specialty-type peppers as well.”

“We started growing the cucumbers because there was a company that was in need of bushels of cucumbers,” Webb said. “After we got started in the cucumbers, they were interested in more pepper acreage and more pepper bushels, so we tried out the peppers in 2016 and really enjoyed the pepper crop.”

The peppers will be transplanted in the field when they are ready.

“We are learning something every year. There’s not a lot of other pepper growers in the county,” Webb said. “There are some neighbors that grow cucumbers. We were able to consult them. The peppers have been a little harder to get answers to questions we have. We have been able to figure it out and learn as we go.”

The company planted 20 acres of peppers in 2016 and 20 acres in 2017 as well.

“We might increase a little bit, maybe five more acres, but we are not going to increase much more than that right now,” Webb. “We are going to get growing these plants under control and if we see that that’s good, we can grow from there.”

Walker said the greenhouse gives them more control over when they have the transplants available to set.

“In the past two years we have been having outside growers produce the transplants for us, a third party,” Walker said. “We had to travel a little bit farther to get to them and hopefully we can do it cheaper and have more control over everything having it done in-house. That is really the main reason we wanted to establish this greenhouse.”

One of the requirements for the grant was that recipients had to do some sort of community outreach.

“We were both members of Beddingfield FFA and got a lot out of it,” Walker said.

Last week, eight members of the current Horticulture 2 class visited the greenhouse and the farm.

Bryant Glover, career and technical education-agriculture teacher and Future Farmers of America adviser at Beddingfield, said seeing the greenhouse was a real opportunity for his class.

“To let these kids see somebody who has been in the class that they have been in, who has going through what they have gone through, to see that they have actually become successful and can actually do something with what they have learned actually gives these kids a chance to say ‘Hey, maybe I could come out here and work with them, learn from them, figure out what I’m doing and maybe go out on my own.’” Bryant said. “It’s really neat

to see. I have known both of these guys all of my life and it is really cool that nobody around here had really done, especially the younger people, with vegetable production and all of that. So it's kind of showing, 'Hey, we have got a new generation. We're trying something new.' And for them to actually bring these young kids out, it's really neat and it helps us out a lot."

Tommy Batts, commercial horticulture agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension office in Wilson County, said the Tobacco Trust Fund was set up to help combat economic losses in the tobacco market especially right after the tobacco buyout. It serves 18 counties, which includes Wilson.

The grants are up to \$10,000.

"They are looking for innovative, different thinking," Batts said. "This is an annual program and they usually open it up about October and if you are interested at that time, let us know and we can get you an application."

Batts can be reached at 252-237-0111.

Sampson Independent News

James Sprunt receives agriculture grant

March 22, 2018



James Sprunt Community College received a \$15,000 grant to assist students in agriculture pathways. -

KENANSVILLE — James Sprunt Community College recently received a \$15,000 grant from the North Carolina Community College System Office through the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. The grant received is to be used towards scholarships for short-term training for those impacted by changes in the tobacco industry.

“Two are two components to the grant,” said Dr. Lawrence Rouse, president of James Sprunt Community College. “The first one is providing access for short-term training and the second one is developing educational opportunities to individuals interested in diversifying utilization of agricultural resources for enterprise.”

For the use of the grant, the college has developed “Growing Your Agribusiness,” a program that will provide employment opportunities in all major agribusiness segments found throughout our county, including helping farmers transition to other products as well as help under/unemployed individuals find gainful employment.

The program will feature two pathways, livestock and horticulture. Both pathways will lead to several credentials that will help make students more marketable and employable.

“The focus on this is to help people improve their employment opportunities and also on credentialing,” said Lee Woodard, director of the small business center at James Sprunt Community College.

Credential opportunities include:

Livestock Pathway

- Type A Animal Waste Operator Certification
- Transport Quality Assurance
- Beef Quality Assurance
- Pork Quality Assurance
- HACCP
- Livestock and Poultry Pesticide Applicator
- Serv-Safe Certification

Horticulture Pathway

- Private Pesticide Applicator Certification
- Ornamental and Turf Pesticide Applicator
- Good Agricultural Practice
- Certified Crop Advisor
- Certified Plant Professional

Both pathways will include drone training, a new course to James Sprunt Community College, that will show those in the agricultural industry how drones can help them become more efficient in their day-to-day activities.

The college hopes to have this new program up and running by the fall semester of 2018.

Farmland Transition Workshops

Laura Douglass, Staff Writer

Feb 23, 2018



Agriculture is one of the state’s top economic drivers, and there will be a huge transfer of wealth in land and farming-related assets in the next decade or two. The challenge is how to capture this value while sustaining the industry.

“The average age of our farmers is 59 years old, and many have children that do not want to take over the family farm,” said Paige Burns, horticultural extension agent for Richmond County. “The farm is a huge asset. How do you negotiate that in a way that does not convert it to a housing development?”

To help answer this question, Green Fields Sandhills will host a series of Farmland Transition workshops to educate and support local farmers and foresters. A nonprofit organization, Green Fields Sandhills was created in 2015, to promote and support the economic viability of agriculture and forestry for the benefit of the Sandhills region. **The workshops are funded by a grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and each event will introduce resources for farmland owners and their families to use in making decisions for retirement and asset planning.**

Each workshop is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. Those who attend the group workshop can then sign up for a private consultation at a later date. To register to attend, call (910) 997-8255 or sign up to attend online at www.greenfieldssandhills.org

Moore County

Saturday, March 3, 2-5 p.m.

Extension Center, 707 Pinehurst Ave., Carthage

Lee County

Tuesday, March 6, 7-9 p.m.

Extension Center, 2420 Tramway Road, Sanford

Richmond County

Thursday, March 15, 7-9 p.m.

Extension Center, 123 Caroline St., Rockingham

Featured speakers are Andrew Branan and Guido van der Hoeven. Branan is an extension assistant professor at NC State and has worked as an attorney in private practice, providing business and estate planning advice for landowners who want to keep their property in farms, forests and other natural resource assets.

Van der Hoeven is an extension specialist and senior lecturer at NC State. He has more than 30 years experience in helping farm and timber landowners develop goals, transfer management or ownership, and blending the needs of the exiting generation with the needs of the incoming generation.

Workshop topics that will be covered include retirement planning tools for farmers and land managers, asset management, family decision-making, and transfer of property to non-family members.

Contact Laura Douglass at (910) 693-2474 or lauradouglass145@gmail.com.

Rocky Mount Telegram

NCC poised to grow programs

BY LINDELL JOHN KAY
Staff Writer

Monday, February 26, 2018

Nash Community College is beginning its Veterinary Medical Technology program early while saving more than \$2 million in the process.

Vet Tech classes were originally going to be housed in an expanded Science and Technology Building with an estimated price tag of \$3 million, said Kelley Deal, the college's dean of marketing.

"That would have required \$1 million of Connect NC Bond money plus \$2 million would have had to be raised in a capital campaign," Deal said. "Instead, the Veterinary Medical Technology program will be housed in Building D, which allows us to move forward without the additional \$2 million in capital expenses. Phase 1 renovations of existing classroom space in Building D are underway and are scheduled to be complete this fall. Phase 2, which includes adding on to the existing Building D, should be complete in 2019."

The basement of Building D will be renovated for training and lab space to include surgery prep, mock examinations, holding and containment, X-rays and pharmacy areas. Additional classroom and clinic spaces will then be added to an expansion of an enclosed corridor adjacent to the renovated basement, according to a recent email from Adrienne Covington, the college's vice president of financing, to Nash County board Vice Chairman Wayne Outlaw, who sits on the NCC Board of Trustees.

"These two phases would provide the needed spaces for the program quicker and more economically with more square footage originally planned with the addition to the S&T Building," Covington said.

The project's breakdown: \$400,000 for Phase 1 renovations; \$400,000 for Phase 2 construction; \$80,000 for professional fees; and \$40,000 for contingencies for a total of \$920,000, according to information provided by Covington to Outlaw and shared during the most recent county commissioners workshop.

Outlaw earlier this week praised the college and President Bill Carver for coming up with an innovative solution to get the Vet Tech program off the ground sooner than thought possible.

"I sit on the board and I pay attention to the numbers and when appropriate, I challenge the numbers and spending," Outlaw said. "But in this case, President Carver gets full credit for what's been accomplished here. They've done an excellent job."

Outlaw said Carver and the college's staff, especially Covington, pay attention to the money and maximize utilization of the college's dollars.

The college made the same decisions with the Early College High School by placing it into Building C, which cost much less money and allowed for a doubling of the student population, Outlaw said.

The bond money helped because the college is able to build two new facilities to make room in Building C for the Early College, Outlaw said.

Those buildings are for Advanced Manufacturing and Cosmetology. The 16,000-square-foot Advanced Manufacturing building will provide space for students enrolled in Computer-Integrated Machining, Electrical Systems Technology, Industrial Systems Technology, Welding Technology and Electronics Engineering Technology programs. The 11,000-square-foot Cosmetology building will house instructional salon areas, academic classrooms and manicure and pedicure spaces, Deal said.

The Vet Tech program at NCC is one of only six such programs offered in North Carolina, and the only one located in the northern and eastern region of the state. College officials said national trends show increased employment opportunities in veterinary medicine.

The N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission recently awarded \$136,739 to the college to provide support for the college's Vet Tech program. Known as From Farm to Vet Tech, the initiative is meant to assist with the purchase of instructional, clinical and lab equipment for students to prepare for careers in the field of veterinary medicine.

NCC students interested in the Vet Tech degree began taking prerequisite courses and general education requirements, including the Vet Assist certification, through Continuing Education late last year. The first Vet Tech student cohort will begin taking classes in the Fall 2018 semester.

Applications are being accepted through May 20. Anyone interested in the program should visit www.nashcc.edu/VMT for information, or contact nccvettech@nashcc.edu.

Morning AgClips

New program addresses the business of farming

Farmers need to know not just how to grow a good crop, but how to effectively lead business wise

PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 25, 2018



The science, technology and business of farming in the 21st century are changing rapidly, and to compete on a global scale, farmers need to know not just how to grow a good crop but how to effectively lead complex, management-intensive operations. (photo by Kolin Toney, creative commons/flickr.com)

RALEIGH, N.C.—The science, technology and business of farming in the 21st century are changing rapidly, and to compete on a global scale, farmers need to know not just how to grow a good crop but how to effectively lead complex, management-intensive operations.

That's why NC State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has teamed with East Carolina University's College of Business and the Center for Innovation Management Studies in NC State's Poole College of Management to launch a new Executive Farm Management Program.

Blake Brown, CALS' Hugh C. Kiger professor of agricultural economics and a specialist with NC State Extension, organized the program and said that the "unique collaboration ... creates a strong curriculum" to help farmers build the specialized agribusiness management skills they need to successfully run large-scale commercial farms.

"NC State's Center for Innovation Management Studies adds new and innovative methods in strategic planning, while ECU's College of Business brings strong program in human-resources management and family business succession planning," Brown said. "CALs' Agricultural and Resource Economics Department brings the strength of agricultural economics and a strong connection to the farm sector."

The program was funded in part by a grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and with gifts from farmers Johnny Barnes of Spring Hope and Richard Anderson of Nashville. It covers such topics as strategic planning, financial management, human resource and labor issues, and management style.

Each month in between the workshops, participants connect with each other and with university faculty through one-hour online sessions on topics ranging from the impact of mergers and acquisitions in the agriculture industry to tax management.

While the first year's program is tailored to North Carolina sweet potato and tobacco farmers, Brown said subsequent programs will likely focus on different segments of the agricultural industry and be open to farmers from throughout the Southeast.

In addition, participants have the chance to obtain business planning for their farms through the program, Brown said.

Altogether, representatives of 21 farms that grow 31,000 acres of sweet potatoes – a fifth of the nation's crop – and 11,000 acres of tobacco signed up, Brown said.

Barnes, who has been to farm management programs in other states, said he especially appreciates the targeted focus of the NC State-ECU program.

“Unlike growers in the Midwest and Great Plains, who can have highly mechanized farms with tens of thousands of acres of one or two crops, many of us are managing, financing and running operations based on specialty crops and labor-intensive crops,” Barnes said. “We needed a program targeted to the challenges we face.”

Gaining Fresh Perspective

“The people who are teaching the workshops don’t necessarily have farming backgrounds – they were mostly in public companies – and that puts a twist on it and makes you think outside the box,” he said. “I also appreciate getting to meet people who are also working on tobacco and sweet potatoes but have a wide range of other crops.”

Bryan Salmons is one of two farm managers Barnes sent to the program. Salmons said that business plans weren’t even a consideration when he was growing up on his grandfather’s farm near Swansboro, and while he has a degree in business management from High Point University, he appreciated the opportunity to get a fresh perspective.

Salmons said he expects that his participation in the program will go a long way in helping with both his day-to-day management work and with longer-term business planning.

Meanwhile, Bill Teague, chairman of the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission’s board of directors, said he expects that the program will have an impact beyond the farms represented, helping strengthen the state’s rural economy.

“These agriculture leaders,” he said, “will certainly take new ideas back to their farms that will benefit not only all aspects of their farming operation but also the communities they are in.”

—Dee Shore, NC State University



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

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