

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, 2023

CONTENTS

Contents Page	page 2
Letter to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources	page 3
Letter to the Co-Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee	page 4
Letter to the Co-Chairs of the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee	page 6
Letter from the Chairman	page 7
Commission Members	page 8
Commission History	page 9
 <u>UPDATE ON ACTIVE GRANTS</u>	
2018 - 2022 Grants	page 11
 <u>NEW GRANTS</u>	
2023 Grants	page 51
 <u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
Operating Statement (FY 23)	page 68
Operating Statement (FY 24)	page 70
 <u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	
Project Highlights	page 72
 <u>CONTACTS</u>	
Contact Information	page 92

November 1, 2023



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

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

Dear Representative Dixon 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



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

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

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

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

The Honorable Jeffrey Elmore
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 301D
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

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

The Honorable Kyle Hall
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 305
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Brendon H. Jones
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1227
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

The Honorable Wayne Sasser
N.C. House of Representatives
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 529
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

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

Dear Representative Arp and Representative Lambeth and Representative Saine and Representative Brisson and Representative Elmore and Representative Faircloth and Representative Hall and Representative Jones and Representative Sasser and Representative Strickland:

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

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

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William H. Teague". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

November 1, 2023



The Honorable Ralph Hise
N.C. Senate
Chair, Senate Appropriations/
Base Budget Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 300-A
Raleigh, NC 27603

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

The Honorable Michael V. Lee
N.C. Senate
Chair, Senate Appropriations/
Base Budget Committee
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 523
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Senator Hise and Senator Jackson and Senator Lee:

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

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

Respectfully,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604



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

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

When I think of agriculture in our state one word keeps coming to mind, diversity. Of course, we live in one of the most agriculturally diverse states. From the sea to the mountains, we produce many different commodities, but we also have a diverse range of operations. In NCSU's Farm Business Management program that we support, you will meet some of the largest operators in North Carolina that are growing their business and financial management skills. One piece of their equipment costs more than twice or more of most people's homes. They are the economic engines of their rural communities. Then there are other farms that are equally as important, but function on a smaller scale. Recently I had the opportunity to meet and hear from one of the recipients of our UMO AgPrime cost share program. He is a military veteran that got involved in beekeeping and honey production. Our program provided a cost-share grant to help him obtain resources to move his small operation to the next level. In 2021 he made \$1,000 in sales. In 2022 he made \$10,000 and in 2023 he will do over \$150,000 in sales. His product can be found in a major grocery store chain in 12 states up and down the east coast. An economic engine in his own right.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's work is **critical** because agriculture remains an essential part of our state's economy, contributing **\$103.2** billion annually, accounting for almost **16%** of the state's income and employing **16%** of North Carolina's workforce. Our board and staff have worked diligently in the past year to make efficient and productive investments that strengthen North Carolina's core business. We have accomplished this by implementing projects to support agricultural 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.

Information on active grants and the impacts of our funded projects are included in this report. We have provided a synopsis of each project and its impressive results, which were only possible because of the financial assistance provided.

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

Sincerely,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604



COMMISSION MEMBERS
2023

ASHE, John

Reidsville, NC
County- Rockingham
Appointee Officer-
Governor

BARNES, Susan

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

BATTEN, Brandon

Four Oaks, NC
County-Johnston
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

BISSETTE, Edward

Spring Hope, NC
County-Nash
Appointee Officer –
Governor

BYRD, Mark

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

CARTER, J.W. (Billy)

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

COLLINS, William K.

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

DANIELS, Jennifer

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

DRAKE, Matt

Pinetops, NC
County-Edgecombe
Appointee Officer –
Governor

GARNER, III, George

E. (Elwood)
Kenansville, NC
County-Duplin
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

FORTNER, Kendra

Cullowhee, NC
County-Jackson
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

HAMM, Maggie

Conover, NC
County-Catawba
Appointee Officer-
Governor

HARRELL, Mark

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

IVEY, Marlowe

Goldsboro, NC
County-Wayne
Appointee Officer-
Governor

JONES, Frankie T., Sr.

Burlington, NC
County-Alamance
Appointee Officer-
Governor

MCPHERSON, David

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

PHILPOTT, Julian

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

TEAGUE, William H.

(Bill) CHAIRMAN
Leicester, NC
County-Buncombe
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House



COMMISSION HISTORY 2023

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 uses 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 those adversely effected by the MSA, including 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. 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 on February 15, 2001, at which the members were given their charges and sworn in.

Since November 1, 2022

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

In 2023, a total of **43** grant applications were received requesting over **\$9.7** million in funding. After a very detailed review process, the TTFC approved grants totaling **\$6.2** million for **30** projects.

The TTFC is very proud of the investments made this past year to help people in North Carolina continue to improve their business and their rural communities. Below are examples of a few of our projects.

- The University of Mount Olive will work with county representatives in 33 counties across south central and eastern NC to implement the *TTFC AgPrime* projects. Each project will be funded based on its potential to positively benefit the economic development of the respective local communities, agricultural diversification, farm profitability, and skill and resource development for current and future farmers. The

project will be administered as a cost share grant program seeking to fund projects that can be implemented in other regions of the state by agricultural producers and agribusinesses. This is a three-year project with the potential impact of this project includes: 450 jobs created or sustained, \$200,000.00 of new income for former tobacco workers, 600 people receiving training, 8,000 acres of farmland impacted, \$300,000.00 worth of product sold, and \$52,000.00 in dollars leveraged.

- CAFE's new commercial kitchen facility at the WNC Farmers Market will serve early-stage food entrepreneurs preparing foods, cosmetics, and natural products. The desired outcome is to achieve self-sufficiency while supporting the growth of over 50 businesses using agricultural inputs. Earlier TTFC support helped leverage over \$2 million in additional funds for constructing and equipping this 5,000 sq ft facility. The potential impact of this project includes: 90 jobs created or sustained, \$2,500,000.00 worth of product sold, and \$150,000.00 in dollars leveraged.
- The Forest Education and Conservation Foundation (FECF) will educate logging business owners to support historically tobacco-dependent communities to weather the current economic turbulence. The FECF will leverage the North Carolina Forestry Association's Prologger certification program to host new business training workshops, increase video resources made available to address logging/forestry-specific challenges, develop business training resources, and increase access to training materials throughout North Carolina's logging community. The potential impact of this project is: 9,800 jobs created or sustained, 138,100 people served, 9,500 people receiving training, 18,082,710 acres of farmland impacted, \$10,000.00 in dollars leveraged, \$19,500,000.00 In state tax generated.
- Warren County will create a permanent market for farmers & local food manufacturers, as well as access to healthy and local foods for consumers, by building a farmers' market. This facility will be the only farmers market in the county and be located on the historic agricultural fairgrounds. The area will also provide an office for a new position for the Warren County Farmers Market Manager. The potential impact of this project includes: 42 jobs created or sustained, 29 people receiving training, 5,000 people served, \$54,000.00 worth of product sold, and \$300,000.00 in dollars leveraged.
- Working Landscapes will expand the capabilities and efficiency of the ByWay Foods value-added vegetable processing hub by adding new specialized equipment that enables the serves to a broader wholesale market in North Carolina and Virginia; these improvements will help to increase sales more than five-fold. The potential impact of this project includes: 27 jobs created or sustained, 105 people receiving training, 500,000 people served, \$700,000.00 worth of product sold, and \$227,000.00 in dollars leveraged.

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION

2018 CYCLE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2022, OR

ACTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 2023

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 conducted 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 the current price per bushel of malting barley being three to four times that of feed barley, changing nitrogen management to obtain high-quality barley will increase farm profitability and provide farmers with a high-value winter crop.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <https://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/>

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 the 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 three hours of Continuing Education Credit as a participant. The Institute includes training opportunities for both FFA members and advisors including training on leadership, proficiencies, student SAEs, and other in-service opportunities.

Status: The 2023 SAE Institute was held July 10-14 at UMO. FFA members and teachers earned credit toward their SAE project and continuing education respectively. The program is designed to develop interest in agriculture opportunities that the students may not know exist in the industry.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.umoag.com

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 implemented safety improvements and enhancements for the regional livestock market located in Haywood County dedicated to serving producers in the westernmost counties of North Carolina.

Status: Complete

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

Website: 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 continued and expanded the WNC AgOptions program. This project provided at least 100 new demonstration grants to help family farmers in Western North Carolina diversify and expand their farming operations and replace tobacco-based income.

Status: Complete

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

Website: 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 upgraded its farm-to-cafeteria fresh-cut produce processing hub in Warrenton, NC, by equipping the facility to safely process a high volume of ready-to-eat products. These upgrades will position Working Landscapes to source more produce from local farms and increase healthy food access for consumers statewide.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.workinglandscapesnc.org

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2019 CYCLE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2022, OR
ACTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 2023

Project: Engaging and Educating Agricultural Educators

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

Grant Amount: \$25,000.00

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

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Project SkillUP

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

Grant Amount: \$200,000.00

Project Skill-UP was a North Carolina Community College workforce development initiative with three core components: 1) providing access to short-term training programs supporting local

workforce needs; 2) developing educational programs supporting diverse utilization of agriculture resources and enterprises; and 3) creating educational opportunities to assist farmers in accessing new methods to support business sustainability.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Project: Organic Stevia Pest Control

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

Grant Amount: \$159,425.00

Grantee engaged scientists who assessed weed and disease damage to stevia and evaluated the efficacy of biocontrol products in greenhouse and field trials. The research resulted in a disease and weed management strategy for organic stevia production.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.ncbiotech.org

Project: Leadership Development Builds Conservation Capacity

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

Grant Amount: \$40,000.00

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

Status: Grantee held a leadership training breakout session at the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting. The "Leadership & Conservation Easement Programs" session was held in partnership with ADFP and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation staff. Basic Training for District Supervisors was held four times from January to June 2023. Leadership development opportunities are woven throughout the training, improving the skillsets of not only newly elected/appointed Supervisors but also the seasoned Supervisors in attendance. Additionally, a group exercise is held at the end to go through mock scenarios that a District may face and how to address the issues and create unique opportunities to position the District as a community leader. This increased the skillsets of staff to be able to provide quality on-farm conservation planning.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.ncsoilwater.org

Project: Farm Stress Response

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

Grant Amount: \$191,260.00

ECU-North Carolina Agromedicine Institute will grow its Tape & Twine program to help the state's farm community cope with escalating farm stress. This expansion was accomplished by conducting education/outreach sessions and exhibits at farm-related events, training farmers who will conduct peer support sessions, conducting sessions to educate primary and behavioral healthcare providers about the unique culture of agriculture, and working with farm community and providing counseling sessions at no cost to farming community members needing additional support.

Status: Grantee conducted 36 outreach sessions during this reporting period. 85 social media posts have been posted across the NC Agromedicine Institute's Institute and FRISAN-NC Facebook and Instagram pages. Grantee consulted with NC Farm Bureau on the development of a farm stress video with a Cabarrus County farmer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vD7-QlwLeg> Worked with NC State University, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences on a blog entitled 'Black Farmers Address Mental Health and Find Strength in Community' <https://cals.ncsu.edu/news/black-farmers-address-mental-health-and-find-strength-in-community/> Print ad in Farmers Connection in February and March. Three new providers have been identified during the current reporting period. Forty-eight sessions were provided for twelve individuals from five farms across six counties.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: Bringing the Farm to Consumers

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

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

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

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

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

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: \$1,459,800.00

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

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION

2020 CYCLE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2022, OR

ACTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 2023

Project: Investing in NC Agriculture Opportunities

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

Grant Amount: \$692,000.00

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

Status: A total of 35 applications were completed and submitted to the grantee for review for the 2022 cycle. Grantee worked with a team of reviewers and ranked those applications based on overall merit, ability to replicate projects on other farms, and their ability to increase economic sustainability through growth and diversification of farm businesses and reinvest in former quota holders or current/former tobacco farmers.

Area Served: 33 eastern counties

Project: Scaling Vacationer Supported Agriculture

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

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

The project's purpose is to develop opportunities for farmers to sell produce directly to tourists renting vacation homes. Grantee worked with farmers to define the content and delivery of produce bags to vacationers; with realties and tourism authorities to promote the bags; and with internet retail companies to manage sales and disburse payments. The project works with farmer groups from economically depressed counties neighboring popular tourism destinations to tap into those tourism economies.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Coastal Counties

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

Project: Depot Hill Project

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

Grant Amount: \$125,000.00

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

Status: The Town of Louisburg is moving forward to rehabilitate the property located at 444 South Main Street, Louisburg, NC. Grantee has made progress by purchasing the hood and installing the outdoor portion on the roof. However, due to other pressing matters, such as personnel changes and a wall collapse, they have had to pause construction on the kitchen. They are currently working on finalizing the plans and recommendations so that the project can move forward.

Area Served: Franklin

Website: <http://www.townoflouisburg.org>

Project: Building Capacity for Farmland Preservation

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

Grant Amount: \$71,111.44

Grantee partnered with the Working Lands Trust, to provide a series of training to producers, landowners, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts on the importance of preserving working lands. Project Partners collaborated with NC Cooperative Extension and the NC Association for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to offer a three-pronged approach to increase understanding of land transition opportunities and build capacity to support farmland protection programs. The Foundation led regional training for Conservation District boards on establishing a Farmland Protection Program and workshops for landowners on Land Transition Opportunities. The Working Lands Trust offered Conservation Easement technical training for Conservation District staff.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.ncsoilwater.org>

Project: Eastern Christmas Tree Marketing Promotion

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

Grant Amount: \$39,150.00

The Eastern NC Christmas Tree Growers Association will produce a series of short videos promoting the industry. The Association will redesign its consumer-focused website and association-focused website. All promotional videos and the updated website will be advertised via digital marketing. Through digital marketing, consumers are exposed to choose and cut farms located in the Eastern region of NC. This program intends to provide greater opportunities for the

eastern Christmas tree growers to reach consumers using modern marketing methods which will encourage a greater quantity of consumers to visit local Christmas tree farms.

Status: Promotional videos were used to direct traffic to ENCCTGA websites. These websites were updated and redesigned by the Public Relations and Marketing committee this year. The ENCCTGA websites include a public site for anyone interested in becoming a member or anyone trying to locate a Christmas tree farm. While this was a work in progress, much progress was completed this year with ENCCTGA advertising and websites.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.realtreenc.com/>

Project: Leadership Coaches

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

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

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

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Agriculture Education Center Classroom

Contact: Mr. Eddie Pitzer
General Manager, Wayne County Livestock Development Association
Wayne County Livestock Development Association Incorporated
PO Box 1100
Goldsboro, NC 27533

(919) 735-7277

Grant Amount: \$35,000.00

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

Status: Complete

Area Served: Wayne

Website: <http://www.waynefair.com>

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION

2021 CYCLE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2022, OR

ACTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 2023

Project: Horticulture Lab Facility

Contact: Mr. Billy Askew
Agriculture Teacher
Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience
1215 Saint Andrews St.
Jamesville, NC 27846
(252) 792-0241

Grant Amount: \$85,861.00

The NERSBA FFA Chapter designed and built a greenhouse to facilitate student instruction, promote career and job shadowing, and facilitate community outreach and support. The construction of the horticulture lab facility has impacted students enrolled at NERSBA, Jamesville Elementary School, Martin Community College, and members of the Jamesville community.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Martin

Website: <https://www.neregionalschool.org/>

Project: Weathers Livestock Arena Improvements

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

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Cleveland County Fair completed improvements to Weathers Livestock Arena by pouring a concrete floor arena making the livestock facilities more attractive to spectators and walk-through visitors. Additionally, it makes the facility cleaner, safer, and more comfortable for animals and exhibitors. Also, the concrete flooring will significantly improve the interaction

between individuals and livestock by providing a more sterile environment. This project compliments recent improvements to the facility, including a new roof, energy-efficient lights, and roof expansion to cover the animal wash bay.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Cleveland

Website: <http://www.clevelandcountyfair.com/>

Project: Tomato Gray Leaf Spot Management

Contact: Ms. Inga Meadows
Extension Plant Pathologist
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$57,890.00

NC State will address integrated pest management strategies for the management of gray leaf spot of heirloom tomatoes in North Carolina to foster farm profitability and optimally use natural resources in the agricultural economy.

Status: 20 tomato fields are identified for the study, the grantee has surveyed 6. Gray leaf spot of tomato was found in each field at a severity ranging from 20% to 90% leaf area affected. Further results and conclusions are not available currently because it is too early to draw any conclusions. Tests are underway to identify effective fungicide spray schedules for control of GLS on tomatoes. One field trial was conducted in 2022 to evaluate eight spray programs (seven conventional plus one organic) for efficacy in controlling gray leaf spot on tomatoes. Disease pressure was moderate to high. All eight program-controlled diseases were statistically better than the non-treated ones. However, there were no differences among the marketable fruit counts.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Farmer's Market Renovations

Contact: Ms. Jessica Anderson
Greene County Cooperative Extension

229 Kingold Blvd. Ste. E
Snow Hill, NC 28580
(252) 747-5831

Grant Amount: \$56,000.00

The project resulted in a conference room for Extension staff to host educational meetings and commodity training for farmers, producers, youth, and adults in Greene County. This project also adds needed storage for office supplies and some furniture.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Greene

Website: <http://www.greene.ces.ncsu.edu>

Project: High Country Slaughter-Processing Facility

Contact: Dr. Jim Hamilton
County Extension Director
Watauga County
814 King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607
(828) 265-8000

Grant Amount: \$220,236.00

Watauga County is creating a "High Country Kill & Chill" livestock slaughter and processing center to meet a critical shortage of local slaughter and processing capacity for meat producers in the county (which will also benefit regional producers). Watauga County will construct a commercial slaughter facility to immediately support over 20 local cut-and-pack operations and commercial meat producers as well as family custom processing serving, conservatively, 500 family farms and livestock producers in the region. The project will bolster farm sustainability and provide additional infrastructure to support our local food infrastructure and agricultural economy.

Status: The grantee is continuing to pursue funding to commence the project. ARC and EDA proposals for a total of \$1.3 million are being submitted for additional potential awards, the Grantee has received a costing estimate & preliminary plans for the facility.

Area Served: Watauga

Website: <http://www.watgov.org>

Project: EnergyCAP AgEnergy Program

Contact: Ms. Jessica Hocz
Executive Director
Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council
4388 US Hwy 25-70, Suite #3
Marshall, NC 28753
(828) 206-6159

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), through its Energy Cost-share Assistance Program (EnergyCAP), aims to continue the successes of its AgEnergy Grant Program. Since 2008 EnergyCAP has reduced energy costs on 50+ farms with funding from NC TTFC, USDA-REAP, NCDA-ADFP, TVA, and NARCS-Conservation Innovation Grants. The current request would administer 50% cost-share grants to qualified WNC farmers to assist in the development of energy improvement projects that will decrease farm energy expenses. Projects may include solar PV or solar hot water renewable energy generation systems, lighting and insulation upgrades, high tunnel plastic replacement, greenhouse improvements, and more.

Status: Grantee received 14 applications and completed 3 projects and has 3 in progress. All projects should be complete by the end of the year.

Area Served: Western Counties

Website: <http://mountainvalleysrcd.org>

Project: Collection Stabilization and History Expansion

Contact: Mr. Mike Rhodes
Tobacco Farm Life Museum Inc
PO Box 88
Kenly, NC 27542
(919) 284-3431

Grant Amount: \$158,401.00

The Tobacco Farm Life Museum is seeking to improve artifact preservation and update current exhibits with a more comprehensive history of the farming community between 1880 and 1950. The Museum will make necessary repairs to the 35-year-old gallery building and update existing some key exhibit displays' visual look and content. This update will make the museum's collections and stories more accessible to current and future generations who may not be familiar with agriculture's significant impact on our past and present. Educating the public about agriculture promotes farmers and helps visitors relate to where their food and fibers come from.

Status: Grantee has repaired and replaced the leaky roof, purchased a new Camera and installed a new security system with monitoring, repaired the broken Tobacco Barn and added side roofing structures, and updated the heating and air-conditioning plus added a humidity-controlled environment for artifacts upstairs.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org>

Project: Agricultural Learning Through Farm Development

Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Riley
Department Head, Horticulture Technology & Agricultural Biotechnology
Alamance Community College
1247 Jimmie Kerr Road
Graham, NC 27253
(919) 230-4925

Grant Amount: \$380,550.00

Alamance Community College will begin the initial development of their 47-acre farm, The Bill and Nancy Covington Education Center, to expand opportunities for more hands-on and real-world learning for agriculture and horticulture students. ACC is seeking funds to provide access to a more reliable water source, a teaching space, a restroom facility, and animal production facilities.

Status: The Grantee has hired an architect who has completed the designs for the teaching classroom and the restrooms. In addition to those architectural designs, they have also completed the architectural designs for the chicken coop and the animal husbandry barn. Unfortunately, all bids were well over our funding budget. Due to this, the grantee is currently working with the architectural firm on the purchase and installation of a modular mobile unit. By doing this they can still effectively meet project goals. This process has taken a few months longer than anticipated to complete.

Area Served: Alamance and surrounding counties

Website: <http://alamancecc.edu>

Project: NCTTFC Commodity/Marketing Facility

Contact: Mr. Edward Olive
Director, Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center
University of Mount Olive
634 Henderson St

Mount Olive, NC 28365-1263
(919) 658-7682

Grant Amount: \$175,000.00

North Carolina is the third most diverse agricultural economy in the nation. To remain viable, NC farmers must find ways to expand or diversify their agricultural operations. The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at the University of Mount Olive through this project will provide an educational platform for students and the farming community. The proposed project will create an outreach, demonstration, and research facility to demonstrate the knowledge, practices, and viability of multiple crop production and market diversification models to more than 500 agricultural students and members of the farming community.

Status: The building construction was completed, and signage was added. Grantee also held a Ribbon Cutting Celebration with about 100 community members and supporters to celebrate the occasion. The building has been utilized for produce storage and marketing for the 2023 season and has worked well. Project staff are working through the GAP certification process. Additional events and tours have been held. Project staff has held meetings with local farmers and produce businesses to discuss partnerships and further impacts that can be realized from the utility of the building.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <https://umo.edu>

Project: Rental Equipment for Small Farms

Contact: Dr. Jennifer Harrison
 Buncombe County Ag and Land Resources Director
 Buncombe County Agricultural and Land Resources
 49 Mt Carmel Road
 Asheville, NC 28806
 (828) 255-5522

Grant Amount: \$24,499.00

The Buncombe County Agricultural and Land Resource Department will purchase a lime and a manure spreader to make available for rent to small farms. Liming and manure application aid in soil fertility, soil health, and increased water retention, along with providing a responsible outlet for animal waste. This equipment will be available to any Buncombe County landowner; we estimate 100 using it in the first 5 years. Just about any type of crop or pastureland can benefit from the application of lime and/or manure. Locally we have significant pastureland/hay production, corn, vegetables, and fruits. We have received interest from all producers.

Status: Grantee has finalized the purchase of the manure spreader and the trailer to haul the lime spreader. They have also secured the storage of the equipment at County facilities. They have held the first of several field days to demonstrate the equipment to the community. The grantee is having a legal review of all the rental equipment agreements.

Area Served: Buncombe

Website: <http://www.buncombecounty.org>

Project: Small Farmers Value-added Agricultural Opportunities

Contact: Dr. Obed Quaicoe
Assistant Professor
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
1601 East Market Street
Greensboro, NC 27411
(336) 334-7995

Grant Amount: \$92,713.00

The Department of Agribusiness at NC A&T SU's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences will implement this project to provide access to value-added training for socially disadvantaged farmers throughout the state. These targeted farmers also include former and current tobacco farmers. Through a series of workshops, farmers will be empowered with knowledge, skills, and resources to develop value-added as an alternative enterprise on their farms. The project outputs will allow more socially disadvantaged farmers to expand their farming enterprises and increase farm income.

Status: The project team attended the Small Farm Leader 360 Initiative Conference. The team gave a presentation on the project and provided a sign-up sheet for farmers who were interested in applying for the value-added stipend and the NC ANA Conference scholarship.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.ncat.edu>

Project: Improvements to Fairgrounds Arena

Contact: Mr. Tom Fife
Chair, Board of Directors, Duplin County Agri-Community Center Foundation
Duplin County Agri-Community Center Foundation
195 Fairgrounds Drive
Kenansville, NC 28349
(910) 271-5118

Grant Amount: \$90,112.00

The main tasks of this project were to obtain a tractor and groomer to maintain the surface outside of the arena; to obtain aluminum bleachers for spectator seating; and to obtain additional portable lights, fence panels, and gates. All these items have been obtained and used during the grant period.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Duplin

Website: <https://duplinevents.com>

Project: Project SkillUp: Worker Retraining Program

Contact: Nate Humphrey
Associate Vice President for Workforce Continuing Education
North Carolina Community College System
5001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-5001
(919) 807-7159

Grant Amount: \$250,000.00

Project SkillUp: Worker Retraining Program is an NC Community College System workforce development initiative to grow short-term training programs aligned to local workforce needs. It creates educational opportunities assisting farmers and agribusinesses with transitions in the state's tobacco-related agricultural economy that support business sustainability and community vitality. Using a call for proposals, NCCCS will work with local NC community colleges to support the startup or expansion of education and skills training programs addressing shifts in the tobacco-related segment of the state's agricultural economy to alleviate and avoid unemployment, increase local tax bases, and encourage economic stability of participants.

Status: The grantee is in the beginning stages of this project. During this reporting period, both staff positions assigned to this project were no longer working for the grantee.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu>

Project: VisitNCFarmsApp Administrators Economic Development/Marketing Support

Contact: Ms. Anna Barcafer
Agritourism Administrative Specialist
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 707-3102

Grant Amount: \$200,000.00

The N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services' core Visit NC Farms App team will design, deliver, and service the county App Administrators through an education-based webinar series. Administrators are the keystone to app success and are responsible for asset/agribusiness content management and local-level marketing support. The goal is to elevate economic development, marketing efforts, and relationship-building skills for the county-based Administrators. To boost the local agribusiness economy, Administrators will also access additional marketing items (specific to each county's unique objectives) to enhance the base promotional tool kit employed at app adoption.

Status: Grantee identified and developed training webinars and accompanying resources for app administrators based on needs. Presented these opportunities to over 50 tourism offices statewide. 14 counties participated: Grantee has developed a cost-share financial voucher system to meet the needs of NCDA&CS and for the project. This includes the development of an on-demand website portal for app administrator access to training and corresponding marketing materials. The Visit NC Farms App administrators can onboard the portal to gain access to either live or recorded training sessions and to use the cost-share program to buy county-derived promotional items to market their county.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.ncagr.gov>

Project: Caswell CEAD Incubator Farm Program

Contact: Ms. Emily Buchanan
Director, Caswell Campus Operations
Piedmont Community College Foundation
1715 College Drive
Roxboro, NC 27537
(336) 322-2103

Grant Amount: \$368,300.00

Piedmont Community College, in partnership with the local Cooperative Extension Service, will transform historic tobacco fields into a 10–12-acre incubator farm at its Center for Agriculture Education and Development (CEAD) to facilitate education, production, and retail opportunities

for Caswell County farmers and entrepreneurs. This project will help build new markets and visibility for Caswell's local food products. Incubating local food and agriculture enterprises will build a thriving rural economy and food system in Caswell County.

Status: The old structures that were present have been demolished and the well has been filled in. A roadside fence has been installed. The NC Department of Transportation Traffic Impact Analysis was completed. The forestry plan was executed; professional contractors came to the site and cleared the brush in accordance with the plan developed by the NC Forestry Service. Processes and procedures for incubator farm applications and use continue to be developed in partnership with the local Cooperative Agriculture Extension agent. PCC's marketing department published ads in local publications advertising the farm plots on the site.

Area Served: Caswell and surrounding counties

Website: <http://https://www.piedmontcc.edu/>

Project: Increasing Small Farm Profitability

Contact: Ms. Molly Nicholie
 Local Food Campaign Director
 Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
 306 West Haywood Street,
 Suite 200
 Asheville, NC 28801
 (828) 236-1282

Grant Amount: \$79,000.00

ASAP (Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project) will provide farmers with training and technical assistance on innovative marketing strategies and administer a cost-share program to support farmers in the implementation of marketing projects to increase the economic stability and viability of Western North Carolina (WNC) farms. The project will serve small farms in the region; many are limited resources and/or socially disadvantaged. By the end of the project, 200 farmers will have greater knowledge of pertinent marketing trends and key marketing strategies. About 60-80 marketing cost-share projects will be implemented supporting a total of 100 to 140 farmers.

Status: Cost share program outreach was conducted to 638 NC farmers through email, as well as through newsletters, workshop presentations, and regional partner networks. 11 approved projects were completed. Throughout this grant, 99 applications have been received, 62 projects have been approved for funding, and 46 projects have been completed. Approved farm grantees represent 16 counties in Western North Carolina.

Area Served: Western Counties

Website: <http://asapconnections.org>

Project: Soldier to Ag

Contact: Mr. Lee Ivy
Soldier to Ag Director
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

The NCSU Agricultural Institute "Soldier to Agriculture" program is a 6-week intensive introduction to agriculture for transitioning service members, veterans, and spouses interested in a career in agriculture in North Carolina. The program currently serves approximately 75 students per year with a waiting list of over 500 prospective students. Since becoming part of the DOD bridge program, soldiers from all NC bases now have access to the program. With this bigger audience, we intend to recruit more students to become small farmers or employees in the 33 counties designated in the NC Sentinel Landscape Program.

Status: The grantee has performed several activities to achieve the project objectives including providing two sessions of the Soldiers to Agriculture course which included coursework, on-farm hands-on experiences, and an internship. Hired a Program Coordinator. Provided weekly recruitment efforts at Fort Liberty through setting up during "table days." Re-established a Facebook page with an updated logo and content. Secured space for an outdoor classroom where soldiers and veterans can experience horticultural hands-on learning.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant

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

Grant Amount: \$186,945.00

The grantee has provided 14 grants to local agricultural education programs in North Carolina. The project funded transformational projects that were focused on growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture for high- and middle-school agricultural education programs across the state. Grants were used to fund innovative, sustainable, and relevant projects that assisted the local teachers and students in meeting the current needs of the agricultural industry in our state and their specific communities.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Shared Use Community Kitchen

Contact: Mr. Fedd Walker
City of Sanford (Downtown Sanford Incorporated- DSI)
PO Box 3729
Sanford, NC 27330
(919) 770-1106

Grant Amount: \$213,600.00

The shared-use community kitchen is a growing trend in the food industry and is attracting major interest from food entrepreneurs and small businesses. The model we are proposing is a commercial space that has been licensed, certified, and equipped for professional food production and nutrition education demonstrations. The space will be available for rent with users having access to the space and all of the equipment and regulatory compliance it provides. The kitchen will also host cooking demonstrations by Extension Agents and local chefs, which will educate the public about preparing fresh and local foods purchased at the market.

Status: The grantee is currently 5 months behind schedule when comparing the actual progress made with the project's initial goals. However, when considering the objectives set, they are on track. It is important to note that the Sanford Agriculture Marketplace Project is progressing smoothly, and there are no anticipated obstacles or interruptions expected at this juncture.

Area Served: Lee

Website: <http://www.sanfordnc.net>

Project: Consumers/Farmers: Bridging the Gap

Contact: Ms. Donna Bailey-Taylor

President/CEO
Johnston County Tourism Authority
234 Venture Drive
Smithfield, NC 27577
(919) 989-8687

Grant Amount: \$111,900.00

The Johnston County Tourism Authority, in partnership with NC Cooperative Extension Johnston County Center staff and the JoCo Grows Agriculture Steering Committee, will endeavor to bridge the gap between consumers and the farming community by executing several innovative marketing projects, holding public on-farm events, designing a cost-share grant program, and engage in educational outreach to support agricultural profitability and productivity for Johnston County farmers. The target audience for these campaigns is local Johnston County residents, the five surrounding counties, and visitors traveling through the county to drive visitation and revenues for the county's farming community.

Status: Outreach activities and events have been very active. Grantee hosted the JoCo Grows "Keeping Your Farm on the Map" Workshop. They had resource stations for farmers set up to visit around the room. These resource stations included MeatSuite, JoCo Grows Agriculture, Got to be NC, People-First Tourism, Johnston County Farm Bureau, AgCarolina Farm Credit, NC Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom, JCC Small Business Center, Johnston Soil & Water, and Farm Service Agency. The keynote speaker spoke about the importance of social media to farmers. Another Keynote speaker taught farmers about SMART goals because if we fail to plan, we plan to fail. This event hosted about 66 people in total. The JoCo Grows Agriculture Marketing Committee has approved 12 additional Cost Share Grants with local farmers, and 8 projects have been completed.

Area Served: Johnston

Website: <http://www.jocogrows.org>

Project: Meet NC Egg Farmers

Contact: Ms. Lisa Prince
Executive Director
North Carolina Egg Association Inc.
1224 Secotan Place
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
(919) 309-1195

Grant Amount: \$106,800.00

The NC Egg Association launched a multilevel awareness campaign to educate urban and suburban consumers on how the state's egg farmers produce safe, healthy eggs while providing

excellent animal care, protecting the environment, and being active in their communities. Through video, social, and combined paid and earned media outreach, the campaign conveyed how egg farming positively impacts local economies where egg farms are located, which is primarily in rural tobacco areas. The outreach will increase consumer confidence in, and demand for, eggs, which will benefit North Carolina's rural economy and increase jobs within the egg and poultry industries.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.ncegg.org>

Project: Western North Carolina Agricultural Options

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

Grant Amount: \$849,900.00

The WNC AgOptions program provides small cost-share demonstration grants to help family farms in Western North Carolina diversify and expand their farming operations. Current and former tobacco farmers are given priority. Farmers utilize these funds to embrace new crops, practices, and methodology, new farm products, and new marketing activities. In the process, these projects not only strengthen the farming operation of the grant recipients but contribute to the larger agricultural community and provide other farmers with the information, local examples, and confidence to pursue similar efforts on their farms, extending the impacts of the program and strengthening farming in NC.

Status: All awardees accepted their grants. The New Recipient Orientation remains one of the most important elements of the WNC AgOptions program. Not only does it bring all of the grantees together. This sets the tone for the grant period and serves as a tool for motivating, inspiring, and educating the grantees. The workshops offered provide the participants with the opportunity to learn new skills and stretch and strengthen existing abilities. The grantee is a meeting with each recipient and has a farm site visit as well.

Area Served: Western Counties

Website: <http://wncagoptions.org>

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION

2022 CYCLE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2022, OR

ACTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 2023

Project: Mobile Beef Cattle Working Facility

Contact: Mr. Paul Gonzalez
Extension Agent - Livestock
NC Cooperative Extension - Sampson County Center
55 Agriculture Place
Clinton, NC 28328
(910) 592-7161

Grant Amount: \$24,400.00

NC Cooperative Extension Centers in Bladen, Cumberland, Hoke, and Sampson Counties will purchase a portable cattle working facility that will include a portable squeeze chute with headgate and scales, as well as corral panels and trailer to transport panels. This working facility will be shared among the four counties and will be made available, for a small rental fee, to any cattle producer in those counties. This program will allow the farmer to safely and efficiently handle their animals to perform routine management tasks that should increase animal performance and profitably.

Status: All equipment has been ordered. The panels and trailer have arrived, and the chute is being built and delivered separately. Everything will be in place by late 2023.

Area Served: Bladen

Website: <http://Sampson.ces.ncsu.edu>

Project: Harnett Agriculture Academy-Triton High School

Contact: Mr. Justin Wilkinson
CTE Director
Harnett County Schools Career and Technical Education
PO Box 1029
Lillington, NC 27546
(910) 893-8151

Grant Amount: \$214,000.00

Harnett County Schools Career and Technical Education Department will design and build a multipurpose structure to facilitate the operations of the Harnett Agriculture Academy at Triton High School. This facility will impact the entire agricultural education program at Triton by providing a venue for cohorts of students to access college-level instruction on their home campus. Having a dedicated structure for training at the agricultural academy will help students attain technical, conceptual, and soft skills identified by employers as critical for meeting future workforce needs in Agriculture.

Status: The grantee hired a Grading company to clear the lot. Harnett County Schools Custodial and Grounds installed two gravel driveways with culverts. They had a survey of the lot completed per the city zoning permit department. They also had an architect draft a blueprint for the barn. This print was used to aid in bids on the project. PSU required three bids for the job. The Board of Education approved a general contractor for the barn build.

Area Served: Harnett

Website: <https://www.harnett.k12.nc.us>

Project: From Bright Leaf to Berkshires

Contact: Dr. Derrick Coble
Swine Specialist
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
1601 East Market Street
GREENSBORO, NC 27411
(336) 334-7995

Grant Amount: \$210,152.00

"From Bright Leaf to Berkshires" is an alternative swine production course and outreach program that will be held at the N.C. A&T State University Farm. Its goal is to improve the profitability of farmers who have been financially impacted by tobacco-related policy and social changes by cost-sharing Berkshire pigs using hoop-structure barns. Graduates of the program and attendees of the extension workshops will learn about alternative swine production systems, stocking rates, nutrition, reproduction, breeding systems, waste management, welfare/behavior, diseases, and niche marketing opportunities.

Status: Upon preparation to purchase sows, schedule guest speakers, plan for the Cooperative Extension workshops, and maximize the footprint of the program by presenting the implementation methods used at a national conference, the PI, has proposed several amendments to the original budget program. The Grantee has held several meetings and training events since this request was approved.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.ncat.edu>

Project: CCCC State-of-the-Art Large Animal Facility

Contact: Mr. Justin Pedley
Veterinary Medical Technology (VMT) Animal Facilities Manager
Central Carolina Community College
1105 Kelly Drive
Sanford, NC 27330
(919) 718-7281

Grant Amount: \$196,800.00

Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) will outfit its new, state-of-the-art, 3,690-square-foot large animal facility with equipment to support the training of Veterinary Medical Technology students on common domestic large animal species. Students will learn basic husbandry and handling of large animal species, while simultaneously understanding the importance of pasture management and the nutritional requirements of livestock species. Completion of the facility will facilitate training of approximately 105 students per year with an estimated 83% of new full-time students receiving credentials within three years. These students will help address the dire need for large-animal veterinary services in rural areas.

Status: Grantee has received all our equipment for equine and bovine handling. They are gathering quotes to be able to order the remaining equipment from the original budget. They were able to teach the first cohort of students in the facility from January-May 2023.

Area Served: Harnett

Website: <http://www.cccc.edu>

Project: Certified NC Christmas Tree Seed

Contact: Mr. Tracy Taylor
Agriculture Research Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 414-4982

Grant Amount: \$383,685.00

The Upper Mountain Research Station will construct a metal building on a concrete slab that will serve as the main hub to process, store, and distribute the most elite Fraser Fir seed in the world. This building will also have a lab and office space with the capability to fully support the Fraser Fir breeding program from NC State University. This building will be located in Ashe County, which is in the heart of Christmas tree country. It will be uniquely suited to support the rapidly growing Christmas tree industry.

Status: The grantee has secured the septic permit, grading contract, and the contract for the building and the concrete slab. The order for the building should be placed soon with the expectation that it will be erected by Christmas.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.ncagr.gov>

Project: Greenhouse Supporting Local Agricultural Industry

Contact: Ms. Carol Ann Lydon
Associate Dean of Research
Southeastern Community College
4564 Chadbourn Highway
P.O. Box 151
Whiteville, NC 28472
(910) 642-7141

Grant Amount: \$374,500.00

Southeastern Community College will design and erect an educational greenhouse on its campus to facilitate the exploration and acquisition of science-based agricultural skills and practices through hands-on classroom instruction. The greenhouse will be designed based on input from employers in the local agricultural industry to ensure their workforce needs are met. Skills developed and experience gained in the greenhouse will lead directly to stackable credentials in agriculture and horticulture, allowing graduates to enter the local workforce quickly. Having a head start on credentials, skills, and experience, will allow these students to support, and one day lead, the Columbus County or even the SE NC agricultural industry.

Status: According to state purchasing guidelines, quotes were solicited and accepted from three greenhouse manufacturers. The grantee obtained the greenhouse designs and specifications from the selected greenhouse company. A pre-bid meeting with general contractors to provide them with greenhouse infrastructure needs and specifications was held. The grantee will solicit general contractors by informal quotes before starting construction this fall.

Area Served: Columbus

Website: <https://www.sccnc.edu>

Project: No-Till Grain/Grass Drill for Landowners

Contact: Mr. Quinton Cooper
Resource Conservationist
Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District
101-B S. Bickett Blvd.
Louisburg, NC 27549
(919) 496-3137

Grant Amount: \$30,000.00

The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District will purchase a no-till drill and construct a building for storage of the drill. With the combined effort of the Soil and Water District and Cooperative Extension, the grantee will promote the use of the no-till drill for planting cover crops, pasture renovation, and increasing yields by annual forage plantings. The users of the no-till drill will be mainly small acreage and limited-resource farmers in the county.

Status: Drill and shelter have both been purchased. Grantee has had one workshop on how to use the drill. They have had 5 renters with a total of 15 acres of planting last spring.

Area Served: Franklin

Website: <http://www.franklincountync.us/services/soil-and-water-conservation>

Project: Princeville's Farmers Market

Contact: Dr. Glenda Knight
Princeville Town Manager
Town of Princeville
201 South Main Street PO Box 1527
Princeville, NC 27886
(252) 823-1057

Grant Amount: \$300,000.00

The Town of Princeville, North Carolina, is constructing a regional Farmers Market that will support local farmers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. The Princeville Farmers Market building will have a commercial kitchen. It will be located at Heritage Park, the Town-owned public park. The project's objectives are to provide access to locally sourced food and consumer goods and to provide economic development opportunities for community members. The project will benefit the citizens of Princeville, Edgecombe County, and surrounding counties by providing a local space to access fresh foods and locally made items.

Status: Grantee reports the progress of this project is well underway. The procurement process was advertised, and contractors were invited to the pre-construction session by which the lowest bidder was selected. The Board of Commissioners approved the selection, and the contract is before the Town's attorney for review and recommendations preparation for the Board.

Area Served: Edgecombe

Website: <http://www.townofprinceville.com>

Project: Ashe Regional Agricultural Center

Contact: Ms. Judy Bare
Project Coordinator
Ashe County
150 Government Circle Suite 2500
Jefferson, NC 28640
(336) 846-5501

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Ashe County will construct a multi-purpose agricultural center consisting of a livestock aggregation facility and a meeting room for training, commodity group meetings, and conferences. The purpose of the livestock facility is to facilitate local sales that will increase income for cattlemen, provide infrastructure to aid producers with herd management and assist youth programs with animal science training. The structure will consist of pens, scales, a load-out ramp, and a squeeze chute. A show ring will host special livestock sales, demonstrations, and 4-H livestock judging.

Status: The engineer/architect has finished the conceptual plans. They are currently developing full architectural plans. The steering committee is working on procedures and use rules for the cattle facility. Agreement has been reached with the Town of Jefferson regarding the use of the site, i.e. the Town is supportive of the project.

Area Served: Ashe

Website: <http://www.ashecountygov.com>

Project: Agricultural Machining with Plasma Cutters

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

(919) 934-4061

Grant Amount: \$64,406.22

Johnston County Public Schools added a plasma cutter to the three high schools with agricultural programs that do not yet have this equipment. Students are now gaining the necessary instruction to use these tools. This better prepares students for diverse careers in agriculture as they enter the workforce.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Johnston

Website: <http://www.johnston.k12.nc.us>

Project: NCTTFC ALDP Alumni Event

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

Grant Amount: \$31,930.00

The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Agricultural Leadership Development Program will host an alumni professional development weekend. During this weekend event, alumni from all programs will be invited to participate in leadership development workshops and sessions focused on personal and professional topics such as succession planning, mental health awareness, and issues facing North Carolina agriculture. This program will keep graduates engaged, expand networking, and enhance leadership skills.

Status: The Grantee held a summer alumni event. Grantee sent out save-the-date information, and Keynote speakers and workshop presenters were coordinated that focus on the topics of leadership development, succession planning, mental health, and crucial conversations. The guarantee secured an event location and hotel accommodations. Invitations were emailed to all alumni with a google form to manage registration.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Needs Assessment: Masters of Agribusiness

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

Grant Amount: \$15,450.00

This project supports needs assessment and road-mapping for the development of a Masters of Agribusiness degree program at NC State. The project will survey stakeholders across NC, prospective students, and comparable programs across the country. Project outcomes to be addressed in a report are quantified needs for the program; features most wanted by stakeholders; and specific engagement of leaders to steer program development. Beneficiaries include agriculture-related agencies, and rural organizations via upgraded management education. It will be available to students from every NC county.

Status: A contract service provider was hired to collect and analyze data and prepare a report as described in the scope of work for this project. A student assistant was hired with matching funds to an assistant. The team has completed most of the tasks set out in the scope of work.

Conclusions include a market analysis showing that there is a strong demand for graduates for MABM programs and that they can earn substantially higher salaries upon completing the degree. Also, current projections estimate the cost of the new NCSU MABM program to be just below \$1 million per year. This cost is primarily salary, benefits, and overhead for three new professors of the practice, two new program administrative staff members, payments to departments and current and adjunct instructors to expand courses and add sections, and salary for student teaching assistants and clinical assistants.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: GrowDairy: Growing NC dairy farms

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

Grant Amount: \$264,498.00

Through NC State Extension, the GrowDairy Initiative will provide educational and financial resources to North Carolina dairy farmers to sustain and grow the dairy industry. Producers will work directly with Extension to cost-share consultant's fees to troubleshoot problem areas and identify solutions. Grant funds from SDBII (new Federal cost share program) would be used for equipment and/or technology. Both farm families and their communities benefit economically when local dairies grow.

Status: An extension program associate has been hired to help manage and develop the NC GrowDairy program. Her official start date was 06/26/2023. Now someone is on board, the Grantee has adjusted the timeline to reflect the delayed start date for that person and maintain the same project completion date.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: NC AgVentures Farmer Grant Program

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

Grant Amount: \$1,569,968.00

The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc. is requesting a three-year NC AgVentures Grant on behalf of NC State Extension. The program would award cost-share grants to family farms to diversify, expand, or enhance their agricultural operations. The overall goal is to increase farm profits. The program would benefit at least 150 family farms in 46 counties that were negatively impacted by the downturn in the tobacco economy.

Status: This is in the first year of a three-year grant. Grantee opened the submission period for applications in the fall of 2022. The review committee had the first two weeks in January to review 191 grant proposals. There were 40 participants on the review committee. The applications were separated into six regions. Grantee used this process to broadly disperse the funds across the eligible counties. The committees awarded 68 grants from applicants in 31 counties. Grant recipients were asked to attend a virtual orientation. The purpose of the orientation is to provide an overview of the grant recipient's responsibilities.

Area Served: Alamance

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

Project: Enhancing Agriculture through CASE Institute

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

Grant Amount: \$99,072.00

Agricultural education faculty in CALS will provide a 10-day, intensive Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Institute training for North Carolina agriculture teachers. CASE is an inquiry-based, STEM-oriented agriculture curriculum. CASE enhances the rigor and relevance of agriculture, food, and natural resources content and provides purposeful enhancement of science, mathematics, and the English language. Tasks include purchasing laboratory materials and teacher support for training through the CASE Institute. CASE has increased both the preparation of agriculture students for and enrollments in high-need agriculture majors. CASE enables graduates to be better prepared for admission to colleges of agriculture and success in agricultural careers.

Status: Grantee held the training for the Summer 2023 CASE Institute, from July 24-August 2. NC State initiated registration for the 2023 NC State CASE AFNR Institute on January 5. The hybrid delivery format enables more teachers to engage with the CASE Institute because they will have 5 days to travel to Raleigh instead of 10 days, and can save some costs by residing at home, and can work collaboratively in their own schools on the CASE Institute professional development.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Agricultural Education Teacher Leadership Cohort

Contact: Mr. Joshua Bledsoe
State Agricultural Education Leader
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695

(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$51,500.00

The NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc., and North Carolina Agricultural Education and FFA will provide a purposeful leadership and personal growth experience for sixteen North Carolina agriculture teachers with five to 15 years of experience. These sixteen teachers will participate in a two-year cohort program that will allow them to learn more about themselves, how to lead others and connect with state leaders in agriculture and education. The outcomes of this professional development experience include growing the leadership of our participants and providing an opportunity to retain the best agriculture teachers in the state.

Status: The Agricultural Education Cohort program has not launched yet. Grantee reports having been delayed in selecting the teachers to participate due to timing and availability of staff.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Cultivating the Classroom Project

Contact: Ms. Marlowe Ivey
 Executive Director
 Feed The Dialogue NC Foundation
 5301 Glenwood Ave.
 Raleigh, NC 27612
 (919) 922-5241

Grant Amount: \$11,500.00

Feed the Dialogue NC Foundation Cultivating the Classroom project will create "ag accurate" lesson plans for grades (6-8) middle school students. We will host a farm tour for teachers related to the lesson plans. Lesson plans will concentrate on food and farming-related issues and will be written the teachers themselves. They will receive continuing education units from the NC Department of Public Instruction for attending the farm tour. These lesson plans will be hosted on the Feed the Dialogue NC and Ag in the Classroom websites. They will be available to all middle school teachers.

Status: Applicant declined funding

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.feedthediologuenc.com>

Project: Farm & Food-Hub Post-Pandemic Revitalization

Contact: Ms. Terry Billie
Development Manager
Farmer Foodshare
902 N. Mangum Street
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 701-2543

Grant Amount: \$165,048.13

Through a one-time, post-pandemic investment in improving infrastructure and optimizing operations, Farmer Foodshare will rebuild the capacity needed to expand sales for small/mid-scale NC farms. Over the course of two years, the grantee will return to pre-pandemic levels of service, extending their food hub's customer base to include institutions (such as schools and universities), businesses (including grocery stores and restaurants), and nonprofits. Sales to these customers will increase revenue for the farmers in their Farmer Network.

Status: Grantee hired a Program Coordinator who will expand the capacity to bring new farmers into their network. This role will assist the food hub staff with farmer prospects by visiting 12 new farmers in the next 6 months. Mid-summer is a busy time for farmers but can also be a good time to connect with new farmers looking to move their produce while they stay busy farming. Since January, they have added 15 new farmers to our network and 22 new customers, including NC State University dining. Additionally, studio MESH, a marketing firm, has concluded and the grantee now has a new brand kit with which we are more effectively able to communicate the mission and work of Farmer Foodshare to community supporters and stakeholders.

Area Served: Orange

Website: www.farmerfoodshare.org

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2023 CYCLE - AWARDED SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Project: Certified NC Christmas Tree Seed

Contact: Mr. Tracy Taylor
Agriculture Research Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 414-4982

Grant Amount: \$50,000.00

Current efforts are underway at the Upper Mountain Research Station to construct a metal building on a concrete slab that will serve as the main hub to process, store, and distribute the most elite Fraser Fir seed in the world directly to the NC Christmas tree industry. These efforts are currently supported through a TTF grant that was awarded to the project team during the 2022 cycle. The funds requested here as part of the 2023 granting cycle are meant to help offset and supplement the rapidly rising costs of inflation and supplement this initial investment.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.ncagr.gov>

Project: Supporting Small Farm Viability

Contact: Ms. Molly Nicholie
Local Food Campaign Director
Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
306 West Haywood Street,
Suite 200
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 236-1282

Grant Amount: \$83,250.00

ASAP (Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project) will offer farmers a cost-share program to support marketing projects with the goal of increasing the economic viability of Western North Carolina farms. Cost share will be paired with training and technical assistance on marketing strategies. The project will serve small farms that have been adversely affected by changes to the tobacco industry with a focus on limited resources and historically disadvantaged farmers. Two hundred farmers will have greater knowledge of marketing trends and marketing strategies, and

60-80 marketing cost-share projects will be implemented supporting a total of 100 to 140 farmers.

Area Served: Buncombe

Website: <http://asapconnections.org>

Project: Harnett Agricultural Center Educational Kitchen

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

Grant Amount: \$130,000.00

NC Cooperative Extension, Harnett County Center will create an Educational Kitchen. This kitchen will enable former and current tobacco farmers to expand their businesses by receiving two marketing videos per farm. The first video will be a cooking video to increase business for a product of their choosing. The second video will tell the story of their farm and the products they offer. With the current video cost, the farms we work with will receive an added value of \$24,000. Online video is the fastest-growing media source. This will put our farmers on the cutting edge of marketing strategies.

<https://youtu.be/0bhn4N7UJ30>

Area Served: Harnett

Website: <http://harnett.org/>

Project: From Tobacco to Sustainable Forestry

Contact: Dr. John Hatcher
Executive Director
Forest Education and Conservation Foundation
1600 Glenwood Ave
Suite 1
Raleigh, NC 27608
(919) 834-3943

Grant Amount: \$75,000.00

The Forest Education and Conservation Foundation (FECF) will educate logging business owners to support historically tobacco-dependent communities to weather the current economic turbulence. The FECF will leverage the North Carolina Forestry Association's Prologger certification program to host new business training workshops, increase video resources made available to address logging/forestry-specific challenges, develop business training resources, and increase access to training materials throughout North Carolina's logging community.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://https://www.ncfecf.org/>

Project: Haywood County Outdoor Agriculture Classroom

Contact: Ms. Sarah Smart
Agriculture Instructor & FFA Advisor
Haywood County Consolidated School System
1233 North Main Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
(822) 456-2408

Grant Amount: \$150,000.00

The Haywood County Consolidated School System will lead the building of an outdoor agriculture classroom where schools and FFA Chapters from within the county and in surrounding western counties may use hand-on learning to teach agriculture practices to students and community members. The outdoor classroom will also be utilized as an education exchange hub for other Haywood community events such as agriculture-related trainings and demonstrations.

Area Served: Haywood

Website: <http://https://www.haywood.k12.nc.us>

Project: NC Real-Time Network Upgrade

Contact: Mr. Gary Thompson
Chief, NC Geodetic Survey
NC Department of Public Safety/Emergency Management
45105 Reedy Creek Road
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 733-3836

Grant Amount: \$50,000.00

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 accuracy.

Funding from this grant will be used to upgrade the GPS/GNSS receivers at CORS located in two (2) tobacco-producing counties (Forsyth and Lenoir) and a new CORS in Bertie County.

Area Served: Bertie

Website: <http://https://ncgs.state.nc.us>

Project: Soil Health for Farmland Preservation

Contact: Ms. Amanda Egdorf-Sand
Executive Director
NC Foundation For Soil And Water Conservation Inc
5171 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 330
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 510-4599

Grant Amount: \$200,000.00

The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation will further statewide farmland preservation initiatives by providing mini-grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to increase technical capacity through the purchase of equipment and software that increases on-farm efficiencies, improves soil health, and ultimately leads to increased participation in VAD/EVAD and conservation easement programs. The outcomes will include a greater number of landowners that have a clear path forward to maintain profitable farm operations thereby promoting multiple pathways for the preservation of North Carolina’s working lands.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.ncsoilwater.org>

Project: N.C. PSI Extension Agent Network

Contact: Dr. Rachel Vann
N.C. PSI Platform Director for Extension, Outreach, and Engagement, Asst.
Prof. Crop and Soil Sci.
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State

Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$301,338.00

The N.C. PSI Extension Agent Network, a network of dynamic and motivated Extension Agents, will beta-test PSI developed technologies and accelerate the pace by which agricultural solutions are delivered to end users across the state through interdisciplinary research efforts. This network will be instrumental in connecting PSI developed technologies to farmers in North Carolina to ensure seamless integration of technology into on-farm production situations. Involvement in this network will also catalyze the evolution of Extension to be on the cutting edge of agricultural technology.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Promoting Local Beekeeping in NC

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

Grant Amount: \$263,860.00

This extension training will be conducted by the NC State University Apiculture Program through the NC Agricultural Foundation. We will provide economic opportunities to growers interested in expanding into bee-dependent crops or pollination services directly. We will hold numerous BEES Academies to train growers and beekeepers in proper apiculture management, as well as several advanced bee-breeding clinics to capitalize on the demand for local queens and nucleus hives. In doing so we will enhance pollination services for growers of bee-dependent crops in the state, as well as augment the local community of micro-breeders who promote sustainable local beekeeping.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant

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

Grant Amount: \$311,400.00

The NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. and NC Agricultural Education and FFA, with a grant from the Tobacco Trust Fund Grant Program, will provide 20 grants to local agricultural education programs in North Carolina. The twenty \$15,000 grants per program will fund transformational projects that will focus on growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture for high- and middle-school agricultural education programs across the state. Grants will be used to fund innovative, sustainable, and relevant projects that will assist the local teachers and students in meeting the current needs of the agricultural industry in our state and their specific communities.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: NECP Greenhouse Modernization Project

Contact: Dr. Mark Cockrell
Director
North East Carolina Preparatory School
274 Husky Way
Tarboro, NC 27886
(252) 641-0464

Grant Amount: \$85,500.00

The NECP Agricultural Education Department will enclose a portion of the school grounds with a chain link fence and modernize the existing greenhouse structure by adding cooling fans, a cool cell, a heat source, replacing the wooden parts of the structure with metal, spreading rock on the floor, and installing tables. Secondly, funding will be used to build a headhouse to store pots, potting soil, seeds, etc., and a large shade house to diversify production methods. Finally, funding will be used to build a new, state-of-the-art 35' x 48' greenhouse.

Area Served: Edgecombe

Website: <https://necprepschool.com>

Project: Northeastern Agriculture Complex Facility Improvements

Contact: Ms. Monica Manzer
Agriculture Teacher
Northeastern High School Agricultural Complex Elizabeth City Pasquotank
County Public Schools
963 Oak Stump Road
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
(252) 335-2932

Grant Amount: \$145,152.00

Northeastern High School Agriculture and FFA will update the existing 44' X 84' Jaderloon polycarbonate greenhouse to include new polycarbonate siding and roofing, fans, heaters, and evaporative cooling pad, update the existing 25' X 50' Quonset polyethylene greenhouse to include a new heater, plastic covering, and exhaust shutters, and will build a new 20' X 46' raised center barn in the animal science facility to accommodate our growing livestock herd on campus.

Area Served: Pasquotank

Website: <https://www.ecpps.k12.nc.us/northeastern-high-sc>

Project: CEAD Agriculture Equipment

Contact: Ms. Emily Buchanan
Director, Caswell Campus Operations
Piedmont Community College Foundation
1715 College Drive
Roxboro, NC 27537
(336) 322-2103

Grant Amount: \$125,210.00

Piedmont Community College's Agribusiness Technology department will partner with the NC Cooperative Extension office to design a program that allows local farmers to use equipment housed at the Center for Educational and Agricultural Development (CEAD) site as they learn about and implement new farming methods and techniques. Caswell County farmers are exploring ways to grow new commodities for a regional client base. In order to supply farmers with what they need, PCC will need to purchase new equipment. The purpose of this grant application is to purchase the equipment needed for this farming program.

Area Served: Caswell

Website: <http://https://www.piedmontcc.edu>

Project: Caswell County Farmers Market

Contact: Ms. Kamara Barnett
Town Manager
Town of Yanceyville
PO Box 727
158 East Church Street
Yanceyville, NC 27379
(336) 694-5431

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

The Town of Yanceyville collaborating with Caswell County Local Food Council has developed plans for a 15-stall farmers market shelter located at the Yanceyville Pavilion. It includes a cold storage unit and public restrooms. Beginning construction in November 2023, it will be completed in early 2024. The facility will enable Caswell farmers (and producers from surrounding counties) to conveniently sell offerings from a centralized location where the bulk of workers and town residents are. Convenient to Highway 86 this provides a larger market for farmers and fresh farm produce to those in town not able to drive to the previous location.

Area Served: Caswell

Website: <http://www.YanceyvilleNC.gov>

Project: Wayne Community College Ag Building

Contact: Ms. Tiffany Creech
Director of Grants Development & Management
Wayne Community College
P.O. Box 8002
Goldsboro, NC 27533
19197396957

Grant Amount: \$250,000.00

Wayne Community College (WCC) has plans to construct a 3,600 SF metal building with a brick façade on their main campus that will serve as an agricultural lab space for all Agriculture & Natural Resource programs at the college. This new building will be part of the ‘Lamm Agricultural Complex’ and will showcase training equipment for recruiting events, provide space for hands-on training to reinforce classroom learning and provide a space for summer camps for middle and high school students to promote career exploration in the field of agriculture.

Area Served: Wayne

Website: <http://www.waynecc.edu>

Project: Research and Education Farm Equipment

Contact: Ms. Gena Moore
Director and Instructor of Agricultural Food Systems Program
Wingate University
PO Box 159
Wingate, NC 28174
(704) 233-8000

Grant Amount: \$49,391.00

Wingate University launched an agricultural food systems concentration in the fall of 2022 to build on Union County's agricultural strength while also addressing pockets of food insecurity. To support the program, the University has leased eight acres of land over the next ten years at the Union County Agricultural and Event Complex to develop a research and education farm that will benefit students and local farmers. Much-needed equipment will be purchased for the Wingate University Research and Education Farm which will include a storage container to house farming tools and supplies and a greenhouse with a remote monitoring system.

Area Served: Union

Website: <http://https://www.wingate.edu>

Project: Connecting farmers to wholesale markets

Contact: Dr. Gabriel Cumming
Associate Director
Working Landscapes
108 South Main St, Suite C
Warrenton, NC 27589
(252) 257-0205

Grant Amount: \$251,440.00

Working Landscapes will expand the capabilities and efficiency of our ByWay Foods value-added vegetable processing hub by adding new specialized equipment that enables us to serve broader wholesale markets in North Carolina and Virginia; these improvements will help us to increase sales more than five-fold. We will also increase the financial sustainability of 30 farm suppliers by 1) increasing their access to markets and 2) decreasing their input costs through the implementation of soil health practices.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://www.workinglandscapesnc.org>

Project: Healthy Farm, Strong Agriculture Community

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

Grant Amount: \$194,888.00

NC State Extension Community and Rural Development will lead and execute the project in partnership with The NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

The project will provide a menu of training options to farmers, helping them to target farm health and safety needs and assist with mandatory training compliance needed for GAP certification and EPA Worker Protection Standards. The training will be available to be conducted on-farm and multi-farm at the Community sites.

The project outcomes include increasing knowledge and preventive behaviors to produce high-quality crops, providing a healthy work environment, and increasing the ease of compliance with mandatory training.

Status:

Area Served: Wilson

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

Project: Executive Farm Management

Contact: Dr. Michael Best
Director, Executive Farm Management School
The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc
Campus Box 7645
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$119,981.00

This grant submitted by the NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. will support the Executive Farm Management (EFM) program. EFM was established in 2017, and trains managers of larger commercial farms in North Carolina and the southeastern U.S. through an ongoing intensive educational program. The program participants learn how to enhance their strategic business planning and management competencies, which are needed now more than ever in today's large, diverse farms due to their increasingly sophisticated nature.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Raising Consumption of NC Sweetpotatoes

Contact: Ms. Vanessa Spiron
Grant Administrator
North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission Foundation
700 W. Parrish Dr. Suite C
Benson, NC 27504
(919) 894-1067

Grant Amount: \$133,380.00

Over a two-year period, the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission Foundation will further develop its nutrition influencer program by creating three audience-specific Dietary Toolkits and hosting two Harvest Tours for Registered Dietician Influencers. These projects will increase the consumption of sweetpotatoes by promoting their health benefits resulting in a profitability increase for farms in previously tobacco-dependent North Carolina communities as well as producers and industry professionals adversely affected by changes in the tobacco industry.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <https://ncsweetpotatoes.com/about-us/foundation>

Project: TTFC SAE Institute 2024-2025

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

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

The NCTTFC SAE Institute is a week-long residential camp held at the University of Mount Olive. The camp provides industry and leadership training to FFA members providing 45 hours of Supervised Agricultural Experience used toward various FFA chapter, state, and national awards. The Institute allows student attendees to understand agricultural operations and facilities. FFA members are also exposed to hands-on learning experiences in agriculture. The Institute includes chapter advisors and provides 3 hours of Continuing Education Credit as a participant. The Institute includes training opportunities for both FFA members and advisors on leadership, awards, SAEs, and other opportunities.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: www.umoag.com

Project: TTFC AgPrime 2024-2027

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

Grant Amount: \$692,000.00

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

Area Served: Beaufort

Website: www.umoag.com

Project: Warren County Farmers Market

Contact: Ms. Charla Duncan

Director of Community & Economic Development
Warren County
602 W. Ridgeway St.
Warrenton, NC 27589
(252) 257-3115

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

To create more stable access to markets for farmers & local food manufacturers, as well as grow access to healthy and local foods for consumers, Warren County will build a 9,000 sq. ft. farmers' market. This facility will be the only farmers market in the county and be located on the historic agricultural fairgrounds. The permanent area will also provide an office for creating a new position- the Warren County Farmers Market Manager. The open-air pavilion with attached indoor space will allow for COVID-safe practices in the future, as well as allow vendors to accept EBT.

Area Served: Warren

Website: <http://www.warrencountync.com>

Project: Mount Olive Area Farmers' Market

Contact: Dr. Barbara Kornegay
Commissioner, Town of Mount Olive
Town of Mount Olive
114 East James Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-9539

Grant Amount: \$278,537.00

The Town of Mount Olive will design/build/operate a 36' by 60' open-air area farmers' market on a concrete slab with vendor spaces, parking, restrooms, and signage in cooperation with NCTTFC. Bordered by a fence/sidewalk, the market will provide southern Wayne-Duplin farmers an outlet for products, residents with accessible fresh produce, and merchants with increased customers. The town will monitor/rent spaces; and gather data about the project's success with support from Mount Olive Community Development Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce, Mount Olive Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, and local businesses. The project will begin in November 2023 and be completed by December 2025.

Area Served: Duplin

Website: <http://townofmountolivenc.org>

Project: Educational Opportunities for Pecan Growers

Contact: Mr. Phil Ricks
NCPGA Board Member & Chair of NCPGA Funding Committee
North Carolina Pecan Growers Association Inc
95 Simon Collie Road
Louisburg, NC 27549
(910) 367-2836

Grant Amount: \$54,000.00

The NC Pecan Growers Association will design and provide educational opportunities for all NC pecan growers to help enhance their abilities to sustainably and profitably produce and market pecans regardless of the size of their operation. This will include conducting various educational workshops/field days. Republishing "Growing Pecans in NC" and producing educational videos for use in Field days/workshops and for posting to the association's web page.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://NCPECANGROWERS.com>

Project: Farm, Food, and Family Education Center

Contact: Dr. Kenneth Sherin
County Extension Director
NC Cooperative Extension- Randolph County Center
1003 S. Fayetteville St.
Asheboro, NC 27203
(336) 318-6000

Grant Amount: \$596,851.00

Randolph County will build a new Farm, Food, and Family Education Center (F3EC) that will be a dynamic, innovative, and collaborative place for people and organizations to build systems that strengthen economies, enhance resilience, and build community. This Education facility will serve as a "hub" for innovative and collaborative sharing of resources and ideas. It will house a food hub, shared kitchen, demonstration spaces, and an agricultural event center that will be an integral part of strengthening the local food and agricultural systems in Randolph County.

Area Served: Randolph

Website: <http://https://randolph.ces.ncsu.edu>

Project: WNC Regional Livestock Center Refurbishment

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

Grant Amount: \$80,000.00

After 12 years of successful operation - where over 193,000 head of cattle totaling more than \$135 million has been sold benefitting farmers in western North Carolina - WNC Communities is seeking to restore life into the WNC Regional Livestock Center facility to match the expectations of the participating partners with critically needed refurbishments. Due to a significant increase in both participants using the market and the center's overall profile, the need exists to improve the facility to better serve its constituents. The plan includes both initiatives that restore the physical appearance and enhance the operation.

Area Served: Haywood

Website: <http://www.wnccommunities.org>

Project: WNC FoodWorks Sustainability Plan

Contact: Mr. Smithson Mills
Board Treasurer
Center For Agricultural and Food Entrepreneurship
1461 Sand Hill Road
Candler, NC 28170
(828) 348-0130

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

CAFE's new commercial kitchen facility at the WNC Farmers Market will serve early-stage food entrepreneurs preparing foods, cosmetics, and natural products. The desired outcome is to achieve current-account self-sufficiency within 3 years while supporting the growth of over 50 businesses using agricultural inputs. TTFC support would cover a portion of start-up operating expenses while the project ramps up fee-for-service revenues. Core expenses will include rent, utilities, management, insurance, and supplies. Earlier TTFC support helped leverage over \$2 million in additional funds for constructing and equipping this 5,000 sq ft facility opening in Spring 2023.

Area Served: Buncombe

Website: <http://www.blueridgefoodventures.org>

Project: FCEMC Hydroponic Farm

Contact: Ms. Carrie Shields
Key Accounts and Economic Development Specialist
Four County Electric Membership Corporation (FCEMC)
P.O. Box 2000
Burgaw, NC 28425
(910) 259-6374

Grant Amount: \$165,400.00

Four County Electric Membership Corporation (FCEMC) will purchase a hydroponic smart farm container. FCEMC Smart Farm will be a controlled-environment shipping container, creating community-centered programs targeting health and wellness, job skills, mental health, and education. In partnership with James Sprunt Community College, the hydroponic smart farm will provide benefits to students, local farmers, and businesses by encouraging hands-on learning and onsite tours. The space allows for a 24/7 controlled environment with irrigation and LED lights creating an environment for learning and growing. Annual harvest will be between 2-4 tons of fresh, hyper-local produce without pesticides or herbicides.

Area Served: Bladen

Website: <http://www.fourcty.org>

Project: Mobile Soils Classroom

Contact: Ms. Kayla McCoy
Natural Resource Conservationist/Grants Administrator
Wilkes Soil & Water Conservation District
416 Executive Drive, Suite A
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
(336) 838-3622

Grant Amount: \$122,473.00

The Wilkes Soil & Water Conservation District (WSWCD) will build a Mobile Soils Classroom to provide students with an interactive, walk-thru learning experience about soil and its role in the ecosystem and their lives. The classroom will allow WSWCD to “take the field trip to the classroom.” The Mobile Soils Classroom will promote agriculture in NC through soil and water health education, while also providing pre-K-12 students an unforgettable and fun learning experience, inspiring them to learn more, and hopefully pursue a related career in agriculture. The classroom will be used statewide and reach 18,500 participants in the first year.

Area Served: Statewide

Website: <http://wilkesswcd.org>

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 (FY23)

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$7,684,544.79												
INTEREST INCOME	\$4,068.66	\$5,790.50	\$6,529.53	\$7,026.00	\$14,421.59	\$17,585.21	\$21,421.48	\$22,985.90	\$22,504.34	\$28,296.19	\$27,650.16	\$30,690.91	\$208,970.47
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$1,494,649.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,494,649.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$418.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$418.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue	\$4,486.68	\$5,790.50	\$4,006,529.53	\$1,501,256.98	\$14,421.59	\$17,585.21	\$21,421.48	\$22,985.90	\$22,504.34	\$28,296.19	\$27,650.16	\$30,690.91	\$5,703,619.47
EXPENSES													
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$75.00	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$420.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$163.95	\$20.00	\$4.00	\$68.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$334.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$590.95
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$206.21	\$41.30	\$112.60	\$165.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$251.42	\$0.00	\$82.60	\$75.86	\$935.19
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$98.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$98.39
	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$415.16	\$189.69	\$191.60	\$368.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$645.67	\$0.00	\$97.60	\$75.86	\$2,044.53
<u>Staff Personnel Expenses</u>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$31,539.03	\$36,018.29	\$31,628.86	\$31,541.43	\$31,550.69	\$33,842.26	\$38,140.88	\$31,345.75	\$32,966.37	\$31,345.74	\$31,353.20	\$31,345.74	\$392,618.24
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$692.63	\$577.40	\$0.00	\$243.75	\$231.88	\$988.23	\$117.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,012.46	\$90.39	\$0.00	\$3,954.24
	\$32,231.66	\$36,595.69	\$31,628.86	\$31,785.18	\$31,782.57	\$34,830.49	\$38,258.38	\$31,345.75	\$32,966.37	\$32,358.20	\$31,443.59	\$31,345.74	\$396,572.48
<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	\$0.00	\$1,311.91	\$64.40	\$214.54	\$205.41	\$48.43	\$21.20	\$58.73	\$336.20	\$28.95	\$0.00	\$186.80	\$2,476.57
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$344.61	\$245.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$589.99
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	\$1,537.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$99.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$540.00	\$282.90	\$0.00	\$2,459.53
Communication/Office Equipment	\$198.92	\$180.14	\$40.02	\$574.84	\$751.04	-\$256.72	\$508.56	\$368.43	\$378.60	\$378.53	\$9,226.28	\$621.33	\$12,969.97
Other Administrative Expenses	\$433.94	\$7.48	\$127.13	\$0.00	\$975.95	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$80.03	\$269.49	\$16.20	\$139.00	\$2,169.22
Vehicle	\$92.61	\$160.42	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$229.00	\$512.03
Telephone Services	\$408.99	\$409.35	\$409.35	\$330.10	\$382.59	\$218.97	\$709.23	\$219.09	\$369.40	\$382.41	\$309.24	\$301.12	\$4,449.84
	\$2,671.96	\$2,069.30	\$640.90	\$1,494.09	\$2,560.37	\$109.81	\$1,358.99	\$646.25	\$1,164.23	\$1,599.38	\$9,834.62	\$1,477.25	\$25,627.15
<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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. (Temporary Solutions)	\$462.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$746.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$159.36	\$1,633.41	\$0.00	\$3,002.44
	\$462.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$746.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$159.36	\$1,633.41	\$0.00	\$3,002.44
Fiscal Year 2023 Expenses													\$427,246.60

2018 Grant Cycle	FY 18-22	FY 23
NCDA&CS	\$88,584.24	\$10,104.31
University of Mt. Olive	\$39,682.33	\$32,044.96
Working Landscapes	\$37,795.75	\$1,989.25
WNC Communities - Safety Impr	\$166,311.21	\$21,192.63
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$65,331.15

2019 Grant Cycle	FY 19-22	FY 23
East Carolina University	\$42,218.20	\$66,695.58
NC Foundation for Soil & Water	\$4,148.43	\$12,250.15
NC Biotechnology Center	\$101,946.86	\$29,339.11
NC Community College System	\$117,768.54	\$14,723.13
NCAF - Ed Ag Educators	\$38,672.46	\$15,080.36
NCAF - NC AgVentures	\$928,181.17	\$523,918.17
NC Sweet Potato Commission	\$25,327.91	\$29,672.09
Wayne Regional Ag. Fair	\$1,400.00	\$5,027.18
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$696,705.77

2020 Grant Cycle	FY 20-22	FY 23
Eastern NC Christmas Tree Grow.	\$19,597.50	\$0.00
Lenoir County Coop.	\$87,024.16	\$4,580.22
NCAF - Leadership Coaches	\$36,182.88	\$19,646.23
NCAF - Scaling Vac Supp Ag	\$33,060.63	\$26,657.37
NCAF - Executive Farm Mgt	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
NC Found for Soil & Water Con	\$6,682.73	\$52,828.63
Town of Louisburg	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wayne Co. Livestock Dev Assoc	\$15,136.49	\$7,508.26
University of Mt. Olive	\$163,495.12	\$218,498.95
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$389,719.66

2021 Grant Cycle	FY 21-22	FY 23
Alamance Comm. College	\$0.00	\$11,990.00
ASAP	\$0.00	\$43,415.30
Buncombe Co. Ag & Land Res	\$0.00	\$23,274.05
City of Sanford	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cleveland County Fair, Inc.	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Duplin Co. Agri Comm Ctr Fd	\$32,701.36	\$52,905.34
Green Co. Coop Ext	\$0.00	\$53,200.00
Johnston Co. Tourism Auth	\$0.00	\$42,094.12
Mountain Valley Resource Cons.	\$0.00	\$42,175.61
NCAF - Ag Ed	\$0.00	\$183,981.33
NCAF - Solider	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Tomato	\$0.00	\$24,162.97
NC A&T University	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Community College	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCDA&CS	\$0.00	\$40,815.00
NC Egg Association	\$0.00	\$91,341.22
NERSBA	\$0.00	\$81,567.95
Piedmont Comm College Fd.	\$38,190.00	\$87,257.32
Tobacco Farm Life Musuem	\$21,475.00	\$37,534.63
University of Mt. Olive	\$0.00	\$166,250.00
Waynesville Public Market	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
Watauga County	\$0.00	\$0.00
WNC Communities	\$199,500.00	\$274,595.04
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$1,356,559.88

Cash Carried Forward	\$7,684,544.79
Total Revenue FY23	\$5,703,619.47
Total Expenses FY23(-)	\$427,246.60
Subtotal	\$12,960,917.66
Total Grants Pd Out FY23 (-)	\$2,652,272.39
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY23 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$10,308,645.27
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$8,610,644.62
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/Enforcement of the MSA	\$1,698,000.65
Encumbered Funds	
2016 Granting Cycle	\$9,869.93
2017 Granting Cycle	\$1,411.78
2018 Granting Cycle	\$257,371.10
2019 Granting Cycle	\$470,423.73
2020 Granting Cycle	\$704,925.55
2021 Granting Cycle	\$2,803,689.46
2022 Granting Cycle	\$4,362,953.07
TOTAL	\$8,610,644.62

*This report is based on data from
7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023*

2022 Grant Cycle		
Ashe County		\$0.00
Central Carolina Comm. College		\$0.00
Farmer Foodshare		\$45,268.21
Feed the Dialogue		\$0.00
Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District		\$27,556.50
Harnett County Schools		\$0.00
Johnston County Schools		\$64,406.22
NC A&T State University		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Ag Ed		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - CASE		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - GrowDairy		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - AgVentures		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - ALDP Alumni		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Masters of Agribusiness		\$0.00
NCD&CS		\$0.00
NC Cooperative Ext - Sampson Co.		\$6,725.00
Southeastern Comm. College		\$0.00
Town of Princeville		\$0.00
TOTAL		\$143,955.93

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

Total Grants Paid Out Since Inception	
Barn Retrofit	\$41,090,228.00
Burley Marketing Center	\$2,509,555.21
NCD&NCSU Barn Retrofit	\$168,254.00
Hay Relief	\$5,000.00
FCTCC	\$1,880,113.85
2002 Granting Cycle	\$2,534,958.56
2003 Granting Cycle	\$3,525,839.12
2004 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$435,130.26
2005 Granting Cycle	\$2,817,630.15
2007 Granting Cycle	\$3,186,010.81
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$17,651,886.89
2008 Granting Cycle	\$5,076,135.23
2009 Granting Cycle	\$2,581,846.24
2010 Granting Cycle	\$5,471,915.76
2011 Granting Cycle	\$2,904,790.48
2012 Granting Cycle	\$2,008,334.72
2013 Granting Cycle	\$1,601,159.13
2014 Granting Cycle	\$2,227,193.50
2015 Granting Cycle	\$1,695,096.26
2016 Granting Cycle	\$4,482,496.59
2017 Granting Cycle	\$2,162,263.97
2018 Granting Cycle	\$2,321,155.82
2019 Granting Cycle	\$3,138,657.23
2020 Granting Cycle	\$875,074.45
2021 Granting Cycle	\$1,254,517.54
2022 Granting Cycle	\$143,955.93
TOTAL	\$113,749,199.70

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY24)

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$10,308,645.27												
INTEREST INCOME	\$30,563.09	\$31,860.64											\$62,423.73
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue	\$30,563.09	\$31,860.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62,423.73
EXPENSES													
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$75.00	\$0.00											\$75.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$20.00	\$0.00											\$20.00
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$41.30	\$0.00											\$41.30
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
	\$136.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$136.30
<u>Staff Personnel Expenses</u>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$31,356.19	\$35,076.52											\$66,432.71
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$112.66	\$1,198.72											\$1,311.38
	\$31,468.85	\$36,275.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$67,744.09
<u>Office Expenses</u>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$9.65	\$1,209.65											\$1,219.30
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$18,312.65											\$18,312.65
Communication/Office Equipment	\$27.96	\$192.08											\$220.04
Other Administrative Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Vehicle	\$0.00	\$63.61											\$63.61
Telephone Services	\$304.93	\$304.96											\$609.89
	\$342.54	\$20,082.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,425.49
<u>Professional Services</u>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Misc. (Temporary Solutions)	\$398.38	\$129.34											\$527.72
	\$398.38	\$129.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$527.72
Fiscal Year 2024 Expenses													\$88,833.60

2018 Grant Cycle	FY 18-23	FY 24
NCDA&CS	\$98,688.55	\$0.00
University of Mt. Olive	\$71,727.29	\$0.00
WNC Communities - Safety Impr	\$187,503.84	\$15,996.16
TOTAL	\$357,919.68	\$15,996.16

2020 Grant Cycle	FY 20-23	FY 24
Eastern NC Christmas Tree Grow.	\$19,597.50	\$2,875.00
NC Found for Soil & Water Con	\$59,511.36	\$0.00
Town of Louisburg	\$0.00	\$0.00
University of Mt. Olive	\$381,994.07	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$608,544.40	\$2,875.00

2022 Grant Cycle	Cycle	FY 21-23	FY 24
Ashe County		\$0.00	\$0.00
Central Carolina Comm. College		\$0.00	\$57,783.01
Farmer Foodshare		\$45,268.21	\$0.00
Franklin County Soil & Water Con. District		\$27,556.50	\$0.00
Harnett County Schools		\$0.00	\$0.00
NC A&T State University		\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Ag Ed		\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - CASE		\$0.00	\$1,820.14
NCAF - GrowDairy		\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - AgVentures		\$0.00	\$328,883.20
NCAF - ALDP Alumni		\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Masters of Agribusiness		\$0.00	\$11,909.66
NCDA&CS		\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Coop Ext - Sampson Co.		\$6,725.00	\$0.00
Southeastern Comm College		\$0.00	\$0.00

2019 Grant	FY 19-23	FY 24
East Carolina University	\$108,913.78	\$19,016.58
NC Foundation for Soil & Water	\$16,398.58	\$10,273.65
TOTAL	\$125,312.36	\$29,290.23

2021 Grant Cycle	FY 21-23	FY 24
Alamance Comm. College	\$11,990.00	\$71,875.22
ASAP	\$43,415.30	\$0.00
Buncombe Co. Ag & Land Res	\$23,274.04	\$0.00
City of Sanford	\$0.00	\$0.00
Duplin Co. Agri Comm Ctr Fd	\$85,606.70	\$0.00
Green Co. Coop Ext	\$53,200.00	\$0.00
Johnston Co. Tourism Auth	\$42,094.12	\$0.00
Mountain Valley Resource Cons.	\$42,175.61	\$0.00
NCAF - Solider	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Tomato	\$24,162.97	\$20,204.04
NC A&T University	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Community College	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCD&CS	\$40,815.00	\$0.00
NC Egg Association	\$91,341.22	\$15,458.78
NERSBA	\$81,567.95	\$0.00
Piedmont Comm College Fd.	\$125,447.32	\$0.00
Tobacco Farm Life Museum	\$59,009.63	\$17,128.00
University of Mt. Olive	\$166,250.00	\$0.00
Watauga County	\$0.00	\$0.00
WNC Communities	\$474,095.04	\$40,463.34
TOTAL	\$1,364,444.90	\$165,129.38

Cash Carried Forward	\$10,308,645.27
Total Revenue FY24	\$62,423.73
Total Expenses FY24(-)	\$88,833.60
Subtotal	\$10,282,235.40
Total Grants Pd Out FY24 (-)	\$613,686.78
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY24 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$9,668,548.62
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$8,448,102.22
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	\$1,220,446.40

Encumbered Funds	
2016 Granting Cycle	\$9,869.93
2017 Granting Cycle	\$1,411.78
2018 Granting Cycle	\$241,374.94
2019 Granting Cycle	\$555,270.27
2020 Granting Cycle	\$702,924.55
2021 Granting Cycle	\$2,901,322.93
2022 Granting Cycle	\$4,035,927.82
2023 Granting Cycle	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$8,448,102.22

This report is based on data from 7/1/2023 - 8/31/2023

MEET NC EGG FARMERS

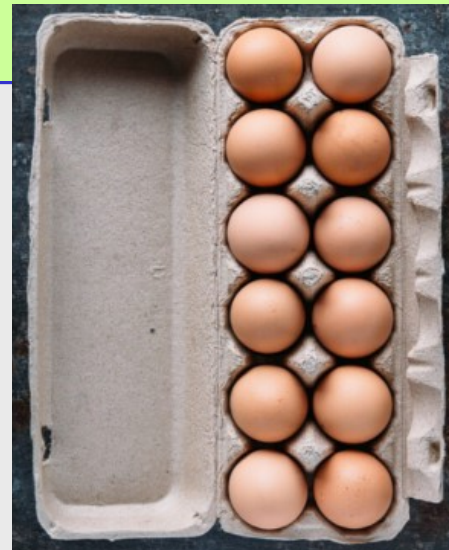
**NORTH CAROLINA
EGG ASSOCIATION**

Representing NC Farmers.

Accomplishment:

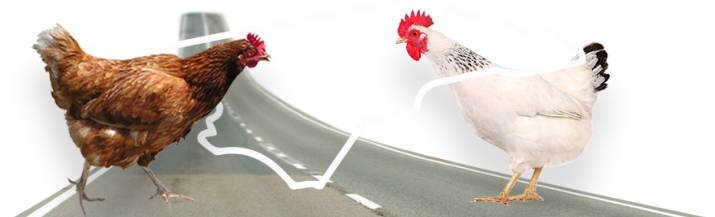
Grantee has produced videos featuring North Carolina egg farmers, focused on topics including animal care, environmental responsibility, food safety, community involvement and egg pricing. So far the videos have received 136,000+ views on YouTube in both English and Spanish.

NC Egg Farmer's Overview



Project Potential impacts:

- 3,788 Jobs Created or Sustained
- 650 Acres of Farmland Impacted
- \$35,000 Leveraged from Other Sources
- \$2,000,000 estimated State tax revenue Generated



NCTTFC COMMODITY/MARKETING FACILITY



Purpose: This project will provide an educational platform for students and the farming community. The project created an outreach, demonstration, and research facility which will prepare and demonstrate to more than 500 agricultural students and members of the farming community, the knowledge, practices, and viability of multiple crop production and market diversification models.



Project Potential impacts:

- 65 Jobs Created or Sustained
- \$47,725 Leveraged form Other Sources
- 500 Estimated People Served



UMO Cuts Ribbon on New Agricultural Commodity Building

Facility is first of its kind in a private college agriculture program setting in N.C.

PUBLISHED ON MARCH 22, 2023



Nearly 100 people gathered at the University of Mount Olive's Kornegay Student Farm for the ribbon cutting of its new agricultural commodity building.

MOUNT OLIVE, N.C. – Nearly 100 people gathered at the University of Mount Olive's Kornegay Student Farm for the ribbon cutting of its new agricultural commodity building.

Named for the project's lead donors, the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Agricultural Commodity Building, the facility is a first of its kind in a private college agriculture program setting in North Carolina.

According to Dr. Sandy Maddox, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at UMO, the 5,000 square foot building will serve as a commodity handling facility, food hub, and training and demonstration site for students and local farmers.

“The building was constructed to meet GAP certification standards and is equipped with cooler storage capacity, cleaning, grading, and sorting capacity, and limited freezer capacity,” she said.

Maddox indicated that the facility will handle, store and process commodities grown at the Kornegay Student Farm and consolidate commodities from local growers to distribute to various market channels including CSAs and mobile farmers markets.

“The agricultural commodity building will create a hands-on educational environment for students and farmers to observe operational and production practices that could be implemented on the family farm,” Maddox said. “It will also provide a platform to demonstrate traditional and organic agronomic and horticultural crop production diversification principles, strategies, and market development options with business models for new and existing farmers, resulting in risk reduction through demonstration and education.”

Representatives from the project’s funding partners including Evan Davis, Director of the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and Bill Teague, Chairman of the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Board praised the work being accomplished at the University to train and educate the next generation of agricultural leaders. Davis noted the growing number of farmland acres being lost annually to development. “Programs such as these, at the University of Mount Olive, are critical to the sustainment of agriculture in North Carolina,” he said.

Teague echoed the statement saying, “We have partnered with the University of Mount Olive on many projects and this latest will add significant value to the University’s ag program and the local community.”

UMO President Dr. H. Edward Croom thanked the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, and private donors. “Thank you for your belief in what we are doing and your support to make it happen,” he said. “Our location as an educational institution in the heart of agricultural country provides us with unique opportunities and sets us apart from any other private college in North Carolina. Today’s ribbon cutting is an expansion of our role to serve as a leader in agricultural education and community outreach.”

UMO Board of Trustee member and contributor Donnie Lassiter praised the University and specifically Dr. Maddox and Dr. Croom for their leadership.

“What all of them are doing here is giving these students the opportunity to come and get an education in agriculture, get a good career, and provide for their families not only here in North Carolina, but everywhere.”

Construction on the commodity building began in November 2021 and was completed in February 2023. The new facility will be used immediately to expand production and meet the needs of the community for a central distribution location. Future expansion plans include commodity processing, which will add value to and increase profitability. “Students and farmers will be trained to understand and implement food safety handling principles, organic production, handling and marketing opportunities, and value-added diversification strategies for production and marketing to allow for operational diversification and increased profitability potential,” said Maddox.

The event closed with a ribbon cutting and dedicatory prayer.

Central Carolina receives grant for large animal facility

- The Daily Record, Sanford
- Mar 7, 2023 Updated Mar 7, 2023



Central Carolina Community College's new large animal facility is located on the CCCC Lee Main Campus in Sanford. Looking over the new equipment, purchased through a grant from the North Carolina Trust Fund Commission, are, from left: Kelly Klug, CCCC director of Grants Development; Dr. Lisa M. Chapman, CCCC president; Meghan Brown, CCCC executive director of Institutional Advancement; Justin Pedley, CCCC VMT animal facilities manager; and Dr. Kim Browning, CCCC VMT instructor.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College has received a \$196,800 grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC). The money is being used to outfit the college's new, state-of-the art, 3,690-square-foot large animal facility with equipment to support training of

Veterinary Medical Technology students on common domestic large animal species.

The CCCC Veterinary Medical Technology program is one of five VMT programs in North Carolina and is the longest running and oldest VMT program in the state, reported a release from CCCC. The only other large animal dedicated teaching facility in North Carolina is located at N.C. State University.

The new large animal facility will allow students to learn basic husbandry and handling of large animal species, while simultaneously understanding the importance of pasture management and the nutritional requirements of livestock species. Completion of the facility will facilitate training of approximately 105 students per year with an estimated 83 percent of new full-time students receiving credentials within three years. These students will help address the dire need for large-animal veterinary services in rural areas.

Grant funding will be utilized for: Large animal medical equipment; repro ultrasound; microscopes; CBC/Chemistry Blood Analysis machines; thermography camera; shockwave; pasture improvements, maintenance and equipment; manure spreader; pasture drag; hay feeders and field water troughs; pasture maintenance; cross fencing gates; large animal handling equipment; bovine alleyways; bovine squeeze chutes; equine and bovine stalls, exterior housing and shelters; teaching equipment; interactive projection system; and tablets for students to utilize while in labs.

CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman is grateful for the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission grant. “While our Vet Tech program has included instruction in handling large animals for many years, until now, we have not been able to provide this learning experience on campus,” said Chapman. “With the support of the Tobacco Trust Fund dollars, our faculty have designed our new facility to provide the best learning experience for our students, so that they can provide the best large animal care as our graduates.”

Dr. Kim Browning, CCCC VMT instructor, notes: “For the past 30-plus years, the CCCC VMT program has leased a barn which has been retrofitted to become a teaching facility. Having the opportunity to design a facility with student, instructor, and animal safety in the forefront will allow us to continue serving our students and our communities with the tools and learning opportunities to succeed in their future endeavors.”

Justin Pedley, CCCC VMT animal facilities manager, adds: “I am excited to see what opportunities this facility brings not only to our college and students, but also to our community. The space will give us the ability to partner with stakeholders, business, industry, and professional agencies to provide more community engagement opportunities.”

The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission was created to assist current/former tobacco farmers, former quota holders, persons engaged in tobacco-related businesses, individuals displaced from tobacco-related employment, and tobacco product component businesses in North Carolina that have been affected by the adverse effects of the MSA (Master Settlement

Agreement). The NCTTFC can disburse funds through compensatory programs and qualified agricultural programs.

The CCCC Veterinary Medical Technology Department is looking to host a future open house of the new large animal facility.



Admiring one of the horses at Central Carolina Community College's new large animal facility are, from left: Dr. Kim Browning, CCCC VMT instructor; Dr. Lisa M. Chapman, CCCC president; Meghan Brown, CCCC executive director of Institutional Advancement; Justin Pedley, CCCC VMT animal facilities manager; and Kelly Klug, CCCC director of Grants Development.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To learn more about the CCCC Veterinary Medical Technology program, visit www.cccc.edu/vetmed.

Grants Expand Options for North Carolina Farmers

December 9, 2022 [Staff](#)



Jacqueline Murphy Miller, Susan Jakes, John Dole, Brandon Batten, William Upchurch, Rich Bonanno, Rep. Larry Strickland, Bill Collins, Susan Barnes

By Chris R. Gonzalez

A \$1.5 million grant from the [North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission](#) (NCTTFC) will help farmers upgrade, diversify and maintain family farms throughout the state. It is the latest in continued funding by the Commission to NC State’s AgVentures.

NCTTFC board members and staff presented a check to Interim Dean John Dole and NC State Extension Director Richard Bonanno in a ceremony on campus on Dec. 7, 2022.

“We have a long partnership with the Commission. With each grant we administer, I find it extremely rewarding to know that farming needs are being met to sustain traditional practices as well as encourage new ventures,” Interim Dean John Dole said.

NC State Extension awards grants through [NC AgVentures](#) to support family farms and community organizations that bolster family farms. The grant will be used to benefit at least 150 farms in 46 counties that were negatively impacted by the downturn in tobacco farming. To date, the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation has been granted over \$4.4 million in support of the NC AgVentures program.

Previous grants administered through the NC AgVentures program have enabled farmers to utilize 21st-century technology, from peanut-drying shacks to high-flying drones.

I find it extremely rewarding to know that farming needs are being met to sustain traditional practices as well as encourage new ventures.

The NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission was created following the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement, which instructed cigarette manufacturers to pay over \$200 billion to 46 states over the first 25 years of the legal agreement. The funds are to assist tobacco farmers and persons engaged in tobacco-related businesses adversely affected by the downturn in crop production.

In 2020, farmer Brett Sears applied for a grant to build a peanut drying shelter to shave thousands off the cost of his business operations each year. While discussing peanut farming ideas with Harnett County Extension Agent [Brian Parrish](#), he was urged to apply for an NC AgVentures grant. Sears received the grant and quickly built his planned 90' x 118' shelter.

Winning the grant has helped Sears Farms save money by drying their own peanuts, and it has the added benefit of protecting the hauling trailers during the off-season.

"I grow 350 acres of peanuts. We get them out of the field and put them in a semi, 45-foot-long van-body trailer, and we dry them. When you get them out of the field, they are not low enough in moisture to deliver," Sears said of the process.

Previously, he was paying to have the crop dried. But now that the farm has a shelter, he can back the two semis under it and turn on the dryer. "Even if it is raining, we are good to go," he said. "It will save me a minimum of \$7,000 to \$8,000 every year. And honestly, I see a lot of people with trailers who don't have a shelter, and they look worn. Having that shelter is a two-fold gift."

Sears launched his family farm, Sears Farms, with 125 acres of peanuts.

"This was my fourth peanut season. I've increased 50 to 75 acres every year," he said.

The farm, which Brett and his father Ricky manage, now produces tobacco, peanuts, corn, wheat and beans, among other crops.

Five years ago, NC State [agricultural engineering](#) alumnus Brandon Batten applied for a grant to buy a drone for use on his 50-year-old family farm in Johnston County.

“I was trying to figure out how to talk my dad and uncle into letting me get a drone. I thought they were cool, so I wanted one. When the grant came along, I wrote up a proposal, and I was lucky enough to get awarded,” Batten said.

Having a drone has benefited the Batten’s crops and has also been the source of a startup business. [Flying Farmer, LLC](#) has assisted many area farms search for crop damage and has helped in culling back the overuse of chemicals.

“The drone has allowed us to be more efficient. It has improved our scouting, as well as helped us reduce some of our inputs, as far as fertilizer and chemicals go, by targeting those where needed and not putting a flat rate across the field like we used to. Now we can make a custom application depending on the needs of the crop,” Batten said.

Extension Director Richard Bonanno said, “Drone technology is proving invaluable in hunting crop damage and diseased plants. Spotting trouble quickly allows a farmer to replant or take other measures to minimize loss.”

Batten shares two examples of assisting nearby farmers following floods in the area.

“I was able to use the drone to do a stand count and made replant recommendations based on what plants had drowned or were washed away, and we could document all that for insurance and the farmer’s benefit,” he said.

Another flood damaged many of the 250 acres of a tree farm.

“I gridded it off and showed them where the trees were and were not so they could target their efforts without having to hire a consultant to walk this huge tract,” Batten said.

NC AgVentures grants are administered to farmers via an application process and cover almost anything grown or raised in the state. Award categories in the past have ranged from aquaponics, livestock, crops, technology and agritourism.

Dole said, “AgVentures grants benefit the economic stability of communities across the state. Over 300 grants have been awarded since 2014.”

The [NC AgVentures website](#) gives instructions for applying for grants, and there are workshops to assist in the grant proposal process.

Some of the [50 grants awarded in 2021 and 2022](#) included: building storefronts to increase agritourism, expanding livestock, planting gourmet root vegetables, increasing goat herds for a dairy program, creating new and expanded elderberry farming, and building sheds to protect valuable equipment.

The following are a variety of specific awards most recently granted:

- Valarie Jarvis of Durham will use the grant to open a fully functioning, solar-powered farm store offering proteins and local produce for the community.
- Emma Hendel of Pfafftown will use the grant funds to purchase retail displays and cold storage to transform an existing barn into a year-round farm store.
- Robert Stovall of Wadesboro received a grant to purchase cheese-making equipment.
- Gary Foote from Farmville will use the grant to construct a greenhouse to extend the growing season for ginger and turmeric crops.
- Adam and Mecca Lowe of Glade Valley received a grant to create a working sorghum syrup production facility.

To learn more about the AgVentures grant program and to read about grants awarded in the past several years, visit [NC AgVentures](#).

Groundbreaking held for Christmas Tree Improvement Center

- [By Nathan Ham nathan.ham@ashepostandtimes.com](mailto:nathan.ham@ashepostandtimes.com)
- Nov 29, 2022 Updated Nov 29, 2022



- Photo courtesy of Brandon Herring



- Photo courtesy of Brandon Herring



- Photo courtesy of Brandon Herring



LAUREL SPRINGS — Shovels hit the dirt for a special groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 18 at the Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs to mark a new era of Christmas tree growth and research in the High Country.

Among those in attendance at the groundbreaking event included Upper Mountain Research Station superintendent Tracy Taylor, North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, Christmas tree growers, plant researchers and numerous cooperative extension staff.

Once it is completed and operational, the Christmas Tree Improvement Center will conduct the research needed to produce the “most genetically superior” Fraser fir Christmas trees. The research center will include a seed bank that, according to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, will be the only seed bank in the United States for certified Fraser fir seeds. The seed bank will be available to Christmas tree growers to find the seeds that will most fit the type of tree

they want to grow. Seed production is expected to begin in 2028, according to information provided by the NCDA&CS.

As part of the event, a check was presented from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission in the amount of \$383,685. The grant money from the tobacco trust fund played a key role in the construction and creation of the Christmas Tree Improvement Center.

The Upper Mountain Research Station first opened in Ashe County in 1944 and covers approximately 454 acres of land at an elevation over 3,200 feet.

Ashe County receives \$500,000 grant from NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission for agriculture center

- Staff report
- Nov 7, 2022 Updated 16 min ago

RALEIGH - The N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (N.C. TTFC) awarded more than \$4.5 million through 18 grants for agricultural and economic initiatives across the state. These grants place a high priority on projects that stimulate the agricultural economy, train current and future farmers and help farmers execute innovative ideas.

“North Carolina has a strong agriculture history, and we are proud to offer opportunities to strengthen agriculture for the future. These grants will assist producers of livestock, field crops and specialty crops in every part of the state.” said Bill Teague, Chairman of the N.C. TTFC.

The \$4.5 million supports projects that assist with commodity and livestock facilities, FFA instructional equipment and training, food distribution, and farmers with operations improvements and diversification.

Ashe County received a \$500,000 grant that will be used for the new agriculture center that will be built in the county.

Many of the awarded projects are to improve agricultural programs and facilities at high school, community colleges and universities. One such project involves the creation of a facility to improve the Fraser Fir breeding program through a partnership with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and North Carolina State University. Another anticipated project will see the completions of the new Vet Tech facility at Central Carolina Community College.

The Town of Princeville received a grant to help build a new farmer's market, allowing for fresh fruits and vegetables to be purchased from local farmers without leaving town.

In addition to these grants, the N.C. TTFC has renewed its partnership with The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation - AgVentures program. This program's purpose is to provide small grants directly to on-farm projects that support increasing farm profitability.

The N.C. General Assembly created the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission in 2000 to lessen the financial impact to farmers and tobacco-related businesses caused by the sharp decline of tobacco in the

agricultural economy. The commission's original funding was established through tobacco industry annual payments as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement. Its current funding comes from a set appropriation of funds. Since 2002, the N.C. TTFC has awarded more than 390 grants to public and nonprofit agencies that meet the goals of strengthening the rural and tobacco-dependent economies of North Carolina.

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



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

William Upchurch
Executive Director

Jeff Camden
Program Officer

Susan Hernandez
Administrative Officer

1080 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1080

919.733.2160
Fax 919.733.2510

tobacotrufund@ncagr.gov

www.tobacotrufund.org

