

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, 2022

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November 1, 2022



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

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

Dear Representative Dixon and Senator Jackson and Representative McElraft:

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

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

Respectfully,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2022



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 West 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 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 Strickland:

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

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RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2022



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

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

Dear Senator Harrington and Senator Hise and Senator Jackson:

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

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

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Chairman

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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.

What if agriculture could be as simple as a sport. A win is a win, and a loss is, well, you know. At the end of a hard-fought game, or for the farmer, a long hard season, one could smile and the other could shrug their shoulders and prepare for next year. It is never that simple. A farmer can, and does, put their heart and soul into producing the best product they can. Still, a good crop and strong commodity prices do not necessarily translate into higher profit. A win in the field may not equate into a win for the financial bottom line.

Today's farmer must survive in a challenged economy where the cost of fuel, fertilizer, and labor, combined with supply chain issues, continue to hamper North Carolina's number one industry. Now more than ever, the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission is needed to help agricultural families navigate through these challenges.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's work is **critical** because agriculture remains an essential part of our state's economy, contributing **\$92.9** billion annually, accounting for over **16%** of the state's income and employing **15.5%** 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

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RALEIGH, NC 27604



COMMISSION MEMBERS
2022

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

HAMM, Maggie

Conover, NC
County-Catawba
Appointee Officer-
Governor

HARRELL, Mark

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

JONES, Frankie T., Sr.

Burlington, NC
County-Alamance
Appointee Officer-
Governor

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

WARD, Dan

Clarkton, NC
County-Bladen
Appointee Officer-
Governor

WILSON, Kevin

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



COMMISSION HISTORY 2022

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 February 15, 2001, at which the members were given their charges and sworn in.

Since November 1, 2021

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 2022, a total of **24** grant applications were received requesting over **\$5.1** million in funding. After a very detailed review process, the TTFC approved grants totaling **\$4.5** million for **18** 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 North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc. is collaborating with the North Carolina Extension Service in the "*NC AgVentures Farmer Grant Program*", a three-year project. The program will 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 will benefit at least 150 family farms in 46 counties that were negatively impacted by the downturn in the tobacco economy. The potential impact of this project includes: 700 jobs created or sustained, \$199,688.00 of new income for former tobacco workers, 6,017 people receiving training, 13,299 acres of farmland impacted, \$949,200.00 worth of product sold, and \$994,805.00 in dollars leveraged.

- The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 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 lab and office space with the capability to fully support the Fraser Fir breeding program from NCSU. This building will be 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. The potential impact of this project includes: 2,447 jobs created or sustained, 777 current or former tobacco farmers assisted, 13,817 people served, 42,193 acres of farmland impacted, and \$3,791,160.00 volume of product sold.
- 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 also 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. The potential impact of this project is: 51,472 people served, and \$209,000.00 dollars leveraged from other sources.
- The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc. is collaborating with the North Carolina Extension Service on the GrowDairy Initiative program. This program 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 consultants fees to troubleshoot problem areas and identify solutions for which funds from a new Federal cost share program (SDBII) will be used for equipment and/or technology. Both farm families and their communities benefit economically when local dairies grow. The potential impact of this project includes: 150 jobs created or sustained, 50 people receiving training, and \$250,000.00 in dollars leveraged.

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2018 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS – COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2021 OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2022

Project: **Agriculture Promotion and Education Project**

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

Grant Amount: \$50,630

This project was started in 2019 with two “Gate to Plate” in person farm events that resulted in insightful conversations and video production. They were held for social media influencers at beef and a hog farm. The next two were held virtually due to the pandemic. Results from the virtual farm tours were not as strong, but the project was able to pivot to create ag in the classroom and dietitian materials. Each of the four events created items such as videos or educational materials that will be used in future years.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.feedthediologuenc.org

Project: **AgriShop Academy: Specialty Crops**

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

Grant Amount: \$33,381

The purpose of this program was to enhance the viability, profitability, and economic stability of North Carolina's small and limited-resource farmers in formerly tobacco-dependent counties. The AgriShop Academy provided regional trainings on heirloom tomatoes and ginger topics including production, production costs, marketing, value-added, and season extension with high tunnels. The grantee conducted four AgriShops in 2019, six in 2020, and two (virtual) in 2021. Grantee also carried out ginger cultivar evaluations in both open field and high tunnel systems in 2021. AgriShop participants learned a great deal on heirloom tomato and ginger, which has been used in their farming practices. The cultivar trials with nine cultivars provided preliminary data to develop cultivar recommendations.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncat.edu

Project: Reducing Tobacco Equipment Injuries

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

Grant Amount: \$110,045

On-farm accidents are of major concern for all farmers especially tobacco growers, who made up most of the fatal accidents in 2013. To help reduce these life changing incidents, this project reached out to 1,341 persons to increase their safety awareness. Videos have been produced to show workers getting caught in a PTO shaft, a bailer, and getting caught in and under a tobacco harvester. These videos will be used at future grower training opportunities..

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: Nitrogen Management of Malting Barley

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

Grant Amount: \$104,695

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

Status: Grantee has had a great growing season with minimal weather or pest issues. Tissue samples were collected at the specified growth stages, nitrogen treatment rates were applied, grain samples were collected for quality analysis and yield determinations were measured for all five sites. The team determined that a nitrogen uptake curve would be beneficial to the project objectives. No nitrogen uptake studies have been conducted for malting barley and this information would be useful for developing grower recommendations. All events scheduled for this reporting period have been completed.

Area Served: Statewide

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 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: Grantee planned and executed the SAE Institute. SAE credits were awarded to students while learning how SAE projects impact their local communities. Teachers and students returned to in-person camp this year.

Area Served: Statewide

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 will implement 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: Painting continues to be the primary focus and improvements are continuing even through the pandemic and weather have slowed progress. The painting of the pens is 70% complete as of reporting date and the lighting has been upgraded.

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

www.wnccommunities.org

Project: WNC Agricultural Options Program

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

Grant Amount: \$837,750

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

Status: Grantee is dedicated to building sustainable farming communities in our mountain region by providing resources directly to farmers who are diversifying or expanding their operations and replacing tobacco-related income. They have achieved this goal by awarding 117 grantee projects between 2019-2021. This project was an integrated partnership consisting of the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, WNC Communities, NC Cooperative Extension, the NC Department of Agriculture, and innovative farmers from 21 Western North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee. Grantee provided expertise and helped provide financial assistance to help farmers diversify or expand their operations and replace tobacco-based income. They also provided technical assistance to help farmers select, grow, process, and market their products.

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

www.wncagoptions.org

Project: Produce Processing Facility Upgrades

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

Grant Amount: \$39,785

Working Landscapes will upgrade its 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: Grantee has completed construction of produce processing facility and the equipment has been installed. Employees are being trained. The processing hub passed the HACCP audit, and the produce cut/wash operations have been initiated. The hub is servicing area farmers and products are being provided to customers, and partners.

Area Served: Statewide

www.workinglandscapesnc.org

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2019 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2022

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

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

Grant Amount: \$153,063.00

The Visit NC Farms app, referred to as a cooperative marketing initiative, draws on a broad range of support and partners from across the state. It is designed to help North Carolina residents and visitors find and locate farms. The app currently has 83 counties, four state farmers markets, and 1660 farms, fisheries, markets or other agriculturally based destinations, including farm-to-table restaurants and local shops offering value-added products, with more onboarding. The goal is to have all 100 counties represented. While the app is of benefit to farmers and others with agricultural-based businesses, no matter the size, it's also beneficial to consumers who turn to it to find agricultural points of interest, including farms and fisheries, pick your own, farmers markets, local food and drink, shop local, farm stays and lodging, tours and trails, and special events. The Visit NC Farms app is updated every day. About 145 app administrators statewide, the majority of whom are N.C. Cooperative Extension personnel with two representatives in each county, are responsible for maintaining the app's content, securing push notification and special event content. Other administrators represent Soil & Water, and various Chambers of Commerce, economic development, and tourism offices.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: **Agriculture Teacher Training**

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

The NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission funding enabled 12 teachers to participate in the NC State Virtual CASE Institute (CASE VCI). The NC State CASE AFNR Institute provides a robust professional development to NC agriculture teachers and an inquiry-driven, project-based curriculum for their high school agriculture students. Integrating the CASE curriculum into NC agricultural education programs has enhanced the preparation of future generations of agricultural scientists and leaders in our state. By providing a robust, honors-level curriculum, high school agriculture students are prepared better for college and/or careers in NC agriculture, food, and natural resources sectors.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

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

Status: Engaging and Educating Agricultural Educators study tours are planned for fall break. Program leaders have continued with the original planning that was impacted when COVID occurred. Two groups will depart from Raleigh with one group heading west and one group

heading east. Stops include agricultural education programs, Extension offices, agritourism sites, farms, and agricultural operations. In addition, lesson plan rubrics have been edited to reflect the changes in the schedule.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Project SkillUP

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

Status: Project Skill-UP is serving students through WCE at twenty-two colleges to increase viable employment in tobacco impacted and rural areas.. These students were either impacted by the declining tobacco economy or were enrolled in identified agricultural programs. As of reporting date the colleges have spent 65% of the total award.

Area Served: Statewide

www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Project: Workforce and Career Preparedness Initiatives

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
Executive Director
North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. (NCAF)

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

Grant Amount: \$40,170.00

Many of today's AGI students arrive on campus without any direct agricultural experience. This trend paired with the increasing demand from employers for students to be career ready and possess necessary employability skills, has created a need to prepare students with real-world learning experiences and employability skill training. This project was able to build on previously funded grants and further develop the internship program. Additionally, input from employers was used to develop a new course to better prepare students to be leaders in the industry.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Organic Stevia Pest Control

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

Grant Amount: \$159,425.00

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

Status: Stevia is a new specialty crop in the USA and no specific fungicides are labeled yet for the management of diseases. For the greenhouse evaluation of alternative products for the management of stem rot of stevia in NC during 2021, please refer to the information published in the Plant Disease Management Reports from the American Phytopathological Society: 16:V041; A.D. Sanabria-Velazquez, Y.I. Rosado-Rivera, & L.D. Thiessen. For evaluating alternative products for the management of Septoria leaf spot of stevia in NC during 2021, please refer to

the information Published in the Plant Disease Management Reports from the American Phytopathological Society: 16:V042; A.D. Sanabria-Velazquez, Y.I. Rosado-Rivera, & L.D. Thiessen.

Area Served: Statewide

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 has determined that the Association's annual Conservation Employee Training will serve as an additional delivery mechanism for leadership development training. Speakers will cover parliamentary procedure, grant writing, and lead roundtable presentations on Local Work Group topics.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncsoilwater.org

Project: Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant

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

(919) 515-9259

Grant Amount: \$186,945.00

The purpose of this project was for schools to create projects that better prepare college-ready students for careers in agriculture through agricultural education, innovative hands-on learning, sustainability of facilities, use of special equipment, and laboratory experiences. The project engaged students through experiential learning and leadership development, and with the development of communities that are engaged in their local agricultural interests. Fourteen NC Agricultural Education Program Improvement projects were funded. Many of the schools encountered challenges during this sub-grant process due to COVID. Thousands of current and future students have and will be impacted because of this program.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Hemp insect and mite management

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

Grant Amount: \$85,644.00

This project aided in enhancing economic stability of the agricultural economy by providing growers with currently unavailable and much needed research-supported pest management recommendations for industrial hemp. This information has been shared widely through presentations to growers, in publications, and into established resources such as the NC Agricultural Chemicals Manual. More than 300 people have been trained in new hemp pest management practices. The pests focused on in this project are likely to continue to present concern for hemp grain production but are less likely to be damaging in fiber production.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

Project: Farm Stress Response

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

Grant Amount: \$191,260.00

ECU-North Carolina Agromedicine Institute will grow its Tape & Twine program to help the state's farm community cope with escalating farm stress. This 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 54 educational sessions yielding 10 farmers trained as peer supporters holding 34 peer sessions. The sessions provided support for NC's farming community to be equipped with knowledge about and strategies for dealing with farm stress. We identified six new providers and one new counseling organization with 30 locations serving 80 NC counties. Grantee also held 23 training sessions and 83 counseling sessions to support farm community members without third-party reimbursement to have access to up to three free counseling sessions with a licensed behavioral healthcare provider.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: Bringing the Farm to Consumers

Contact: Ms. CoCo Daughtry
Communications Specialist
North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission Foundation
700 W. Parrish Dr. Suite C

Benson, NC 27504
(919) 894-1067

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

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

Status: The video series was completed and placed on the NC Sweetpotato Commission's website. The Ambassador program targeted the Registered Dietician (RD) sector to increase outreach to RDs. Several new RDs were recruited into this program. Each received the toolkit created for RDs to increase their knowledge about the nutritional benefits of sweetpotatoes.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Wholesale & Food Safety Capacity

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

Grant Amount: \$50,000.00

This project provided technical assistance to 388 specialty crop producers to increase their understanding of the potential risks associated with fresh produce production, handling, storage, and transportation. The grantee conducted 17 workshops to 368 attendees and provided one-on-one technical assistance to 20 producers. These events resulted in 137 farmers making best management practice changes on their farms, 14 farmers obtaining GAP certification, and seven farmers accessing new wholesale or intermediate markets. This project served an additional 22 people who receive educational training while employed at a participating farm and ten people who gained employment on a participating farm for a total of 420 persons served through this project.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

www.CarolinaFarmStewards.org

Project: Agriculture Education Center

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

Grant Amount: \$70,000.00

Grantees upgraded an existing steel structure to a multi-use Agriculture Education Center on the Wayne County Fairgrounds. The multi-use building will be used year-round to accommodate training needs for students, teachers, and producers, and to provide a facility that will house the annual Junior Livestock Show and Sale. In addition, our purpose included increasing awareness of where food comes from and the contributions of agriculture.

Status: Complete.

Area Served: Wayne

www.waynefair.com

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 to those that were negatively impacted by the downturn in the tobacco economy.

Status: Grantee opened the submission period for the third round of applications in the fall of 2021. The review committee reviewed 170 grant proposals. There were 40 participants on the review committee. The applications were separated into four regions and the review committee was divided into four sub-committees. Each sub-committee had a similar number of applications to review and funds to award. Grant recipients were asked to attend one of two online orientations. The purpose of the orientation is to provide an overview of the grant recipient responsibilities and the University contracts. Instructions for completing the required paperwork and setting up registration in PaymentWorks was provided by the Program Coordinator. A media announcement of the grant winners was sent to local newspapers in the appropriate counties. From February through April the program coordinator worked with the grant recipients and the University to complete the grant contracts, and to process the forms required to set-up award payments. Grantee has continued to follow-up with grant recipients from the first and second years.

Area Served: Statewide

www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2020 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2022

Project: **Investing in NC Agriculture Opportunities**

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

Grant Amount: \$692,000.00

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

Status: Grantee staff reviewed applications for TTFC AgPrime funding for the 2022 award year for completion and prepared for the review panel. A total of 48 applications were received. Review panel members reviewed and ranked applications individually and returned them to project staff members for compilation. A final review meeting was held to review rankings and make the final recommendation for funding. In total, 23 projects were recommended for funding at a total of \$200,000 in cost-share grants. Project staff made contact with each project to collect the necessary information to provide funding. Once all documents were received to confirm funding, a check request was submitted to UMO's accounting department to send checks to all recipients. Project staff have maintained contact with project participants and have received mid-term reports to collect impact numbers and achievements and to track progress.

Area Served: 33 eastern counties

Project: **A Secure Harbor District Market**

Contact: Mr. Chris Furlough
President
Washington Harbor District Alliance
140 W. Main St.

Washington, NC 27889
(252) 947-1487

Grant Amount: \$75,000.00

This project helped the WHDA to continue to improve and enhance the standards of its year-round farm sales venue at the Harbor District Market, a farmers' market for locally grown products. The upgraded air-conditioning and rear loading dock are essential to the farmer's market operations. A sprinkler system was needed for building code requirements. Installation of building upgrades creates a safe and inviting space positively impacting visitor numbers and vendor sales. Brick masonry was patched to reduce leaks and seal out air and moisture. A camera system was installed inside the building along with a monitor for viewing. New farmers and growers have been added.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Beaufort

<http://www.whda.org>

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. We work with farmers to define the content and delivery of produce bags to vacationers; with realties and tourism authorities to promote the bags; and with internet retail companies to manage sales and disburse payments. The project works with farmer groups from economically depressed counties neighboring popular tourism destinations to tap into those tourism economies.

Status: Grantee held 4 VSA Grower Meetings (Coffee Chat) during the winter and spring of 2022. Meat and flower Extension specialists participated in these meetings to make recommendations and give information on the safety and advisability of adding meat bundles and flowers as add-ons to the base VSA produce bags. Both meat and flowers were added to the order forms for 2022 add-ons in addition to shrimp and eggs. The grantee confirmed the participation of 24 realties and 8 aggregator groups and extended the 2022 VSA season to run from the beginning of April to the end of September. We distributed funding to VSA aggregators

for the purchase of coolers and cold chain equipment. Also, the grantee purchased three additional temperature gauges for new or expanding markets.

Area Served: Coastal Counties

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

Project: Depot Hill Project

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

Grant Amount: \$125,000.00

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

Status: Covid has delayed this project. The building is completely dried in to prevent any further weather damage. The new walls, permanent steel, and kitchen hood vents are installed.

Area Served: Franklin

<http://www.townoflouisburg.org>

Project: LCFM Annex Commercial/Community Kitchen Project

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

Grant Amount: \$91,604.38

Grantees' Construction of the community kitchen, obtain a positive inspection from the Lenoir County Department of Health and Environment, the NCDA Food and Drug and the NCDA Meat and Poultry Divisions. The kitchen will serve as a resource kitchen during hurricanes or other natural disasters to prepare and provide food for first responders, volunteers, and the general community. The Annex is located across from the parking area where emergency and military personnel meet for transport to duties during disaster. In the past, volunteer groups, including churches and community organizations, have set up food distribution areas in the same vicinity. Utilizing the inspected kitchen would add an extra measure of food safety to the distribution. The kitchen also will help reach a greater number of those in high-risk populations with food safety, food preservation, healthy eating educational programs and additional outreach programs targeting that population. This project aims to connect more farmers and food producers with consumers.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Lenoir

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

Project: Animal Agriculture Marketing Campaign

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

Grant Amount: \$75,000.00

This project helps with the challenge to reach a broad audience of consumers with positive messaging when traditional and new media outlets do not adequately scrutinize animal agriculture issues. This grant tested the effectiveness of paid advertising to reach a broad audience and the effectiveness of positive messaging. Positive content was created focusing on three areas of animal agriculture and promoted primarily on social media in the Raleigh and Charlotte metro areas. Messaging was developed in conjunction with the state's beef, pork and dairy associations, and in partnership with the NCDA&CS public affairs office. The campaign highlighted the role farmers play in getting local nutritious food to people's plates safely, ethically, and responsibly while countering negative messages in mainstream media. The campaign achieved its goal of reaching one million adults in the metro regions and exceeded its engagement goal by almost 2,000%-- approximately 92% of which was positive. An estimated 97% of the audience were new to messaging from the NCDA&CS and agriculture community.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Mecklenburg and Wake

<http://www.ncagr.gov>

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

Status: Grantee launched the conservation easement training program at the NC Association of Conservation District's Annual Meeting in Raleigh, NC on January, 2022. Over 28 District staff and supervisors were in attendance. Grantee held three virtual training on conservation easements basics for District staff and supervisors. There were 119 registrants representing 54 counties across North Carolina. In May 2022, the grantee held three regional stewardship trainings in partnership with Working Lands Trust (Coast, Piedmont, and Mountains). These trainings included training in the field at a farm. There were 63 registrations representing 25 counties.

Area Served: Statewide

<http://www.ncsoilwater.org>

Project: Executive Farm Management Program

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

Participants learned and used the Business Model Canvas, a strategic planning tool. Around the core of strategic planning participants studied and used financial management tools such as key ratios. Other core topics were human resource management and succession planning. Other topics surrounding the core topics were big data, automation, blockchain, marketing and branding. Participants applied these tools working in teams on a realistic case study farm. The teams were tasked with developing a new business model canvas for the case study. Each team presented their business plan for the case study to a "shark tank" board led by an EFM faculty team member and composed on program alumni, financiers, and agribusiness entrepreneurs. The 31 participants represented 60,770 of farmland that included 1,175 acres of tobacco.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Eastern Christmas Tree Marketing Promotion

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

Grant Amount: \$39,150.00

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

Status: As of this reporting date, the Grantees' videographer for this project has submitted 12 edited videos for review, most of editing work to be completed for the project. The website designer has completed two additional drafts of the website. They have confirmed that they received the last edits requested by the marketing committee and are working towards the revision. The board will be reviewing and discussing final revisions. They have created a new electronic survey form for data reporting and initiated the new marketing plan.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Sustainable Hemp Production Using Microbes

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

Grant Amount: \$18,396.00

This project supported research efforts to collect and evaluate plant health and plant disease management benefits of beneficial bacteria in hemp. The research will help inform farmers about disease management using low-risk biologicals and supporting plant health. Of the 61 isolates, 45 showed inhibition of the fungi with 13 showing almost complete suppression across all four fungal isolates tested. The 13 bacterial strains showing rigorous, broad-spectrum Fusarium suppression are being further investigated as potential soil inoculant for hemp production. Interestingly, 6 of these 13 strains were isolated from soils previously used to produce hemp or hops (a hemp relative). Locally isolated bacteria may be a viable control measure for Fusarium in hemp production. The natural variation of these biocontrol agents may also explain disparate disease presence in various regions and soil types across the state.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Statewide

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

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

Status: The lead coach continued to receive guidance from the NCTTFC Agricultural Leadership Development Program leadership team to guide coaching sessions following the meetings. Leadership team members provided all materials related to the monthly session then offered suggestions for discussion and leadership development. The lead coach then compiled that information and shared it with the other coaches. Coaches met with mentees and continued to work on achieving those goals that were outlined by the participant's leadership development plan while also discussing how current session topics impacted them in their personal and professional life. Four individuals received promotions and credited the program and the coaching sessions with helping them achieve those promotions. One individual continues to navigate a tough situation with work and has heavily relied on their coach to help them navigate the situation and future with the company.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Swain County Agricultural Event Center

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

Grant Amount: \$130,000.00

This project encompassed gathering quotes, site assessment, grading, and building erection. This building will provide an adequate space for 4-H livestock clubs, pony club, various equestrian events, livestock workshops, and other agricultural informational sessions. The center will encourage our community to stay in Swain County for events instead of traveling to neighboring

counties. It will improve and increase agricultural networking opportunities and bridge the large geographical area. Having an adequate facility for livestock showing will aid in developing the next generation of livestock producers for personal and commercial meal consumption. The space will be used for environmental education workshops and events. The building will continue to be a hub for all these possibilities and more throughout the years.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Swain

<http://www.swaincountync.gov>

Project: Agriculture Education Center Classroom

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

Grant Amount: \$35,000.00

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

Status: Grantee has completed the electrical outlets and overhead lighting upgrades. Walls, insulation, acoustic ceiling, and base cove trim work has also been completed. Bathroom walls, counter tops, plumbing, and fixtures are installed along with the HVAC unit installation. Tables have been purchased for classroom use as well.

Area Served: Wayne

<http://www.waynefair.com>

Project: Grain Drill for Local Farmers

Contact: Ms. Jessica Anderson
Livestock Agent
Wilson County- North Carolina Cooperative Extension

1806 Goldsboro St
Wilson, NC 27893
(252) 237-0111

Grant Amount: \$24,070.48

The Wilson County Cooperative Extension Service, in partnership with Wilson County Soil & Water Conservation District, purchased a Great Plains 606NT no-till grain drill with a small seed attachment to be utilized by Wilson County and surrounding farmers for cover crop and forage production. A no-till drill will be an asset to try to continue an effort to build healthier soil profiles to increase yields. By utilizing cover crops, fields can have reduced erosion, increased water and nutrient holding capacity and develop a healthier soil profile, leading to increased yields.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Wilson

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

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2021 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - COMPLETED AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AND/OR ACTIVE as of OCTOBER 2022

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 will design and build a 30' X 72' greenhouse to facilitate student instruction, promote career and job shadowing, and facilitate community outreach and support. The construction of the horticulture lab facility will impact students enrolled at NERSBA, Jamesville Elementary School, Martin Community College, and members of the Jamesville community.

Status: The greenhouse kit has been ordered and delivered. As of the reporting date, the erection was scheduled to take several weeks to complete construction.

Area Served: Martin

Applicant 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 will complete improvements to Weathers Livestock Arena by enlarging the animal show ring, enclosing the back of the livestock barn with roll-up doors, concreting the floor, reconfiguring tie-out panels, and installing a ceiling, ventilation fans, and a public address

system. These improvements will improve the show environment for exhibitors and their animals and render the barn as a multi-use rental venue for off-season activities and events. 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: Grantee reported no activities relating to the project as of last report.

Area Served: Cleveland

Applicant 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 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: Of the 20 tomato fields to be surveyed, grantee has surveyed six as of reporting date. Gray leaf spot of tomato was found at each field at a severity ranging from 20% to 90% leaf area affected. One field study is underway to evaluate seven spray programs for efficacy in controlling gray leaf spot on tomato. Disease has begun and is about 5 to 20% leaf area affected. In addition, 60 experimental hybrids and breeding lines have been screened phenotypically in the greenhouse as seedlings and genotypically using DNA-based assay (quantitative PCR). Further results and conclusions are not available at this time because it is too early to draw any conclusions.

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Farmers Market Capital/Equipment Improvement

Contact: Ms. Lauren Wood
Market Manager

Waynesville Public Market
P.O. Box 1472
Waynesville, NC 28786
(828) 655-5305

Grant Amount: \$50,000.00

Grantee project improved the safety and ease of use of the farmers market for vendors, customers, and other visitors. This improvement was accomplished by adding a sidewalk where none existed along the driveway entrance of the market and repaving the front half of the customer parking area, which was filled with cracks and potholes. A new sidewalk connecting the existing sidewalk along Pigeon St to the market was viewed as an important safety improvement to prevent pedestrians from sharing a bottle-necked driveway with vehicles or being forced into the grass as they crossed the street from the overflow parking lot or turned from Pigeon St.

Status: Complete

Area Served: Haywood

Applicant Website: <http://www.waynesvillefarmersmarket.com>

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 proposed project will result in a conference room for Extension staff to host educational meetings and commodity trainings for farmers, producers, youth, and adults in Greene County. We moved to the former Parks and Recreation building in front of the farmer's market. It does not have a conference room or the needed storage for office supplies and some furniture. They requested closing in the building with bay doors for storage space.

Status: As of report date, grantee has made little progress on the Farmer's Market Renovations. The contractor is awaiting supplies and to fit the project into his timeline to begin renovations.

Area Served: Greene

Applicant 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: Grantee has had a site evaluation estimate and report for water/sewer infrastructure completed. Soil bores/coring work by Catawba Valley Engineering was approved by county. A consultant, put together a start-up plan for the plant. Additional funding is being sought.

Area Served: Watauga

Applicant 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 has reached out to farms across the western mountains, including meetings with EnergyCAP partners and other outreach meetings and events. Grantee now has five farms committed with approved estimates and applications. Matching funds from producers and matching grants have exceeded expectations.

Area Served: Western Counties

Applicant Website: <http://mountainvalleysrfd.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 collections care specialist, and their visitor services coordinator, have begun working on exhibit research and performing exhibit maintenance. They also met with Design Dimensions and had a local contractor provide a case lighting sample. Roof repairs, HVAC and other capital improvements are at several stages of completion and on schedule.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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: Grantee has secured an architectural firm to complete the design and implementation of the new facilities at the education center including the hook up to the Orange - Alamance water supply.

Area Served: Alamance and surrounding counties

Applicant 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: Grantee has overseen the construction of the TTFC Agricultural Commodity Marketing building and its completion. The contractor satisfied all necessary permits and completed the construction of the building. Project staff have ordered equipment to be installed within the building. Project staff maintained regular communication with contractor to make any needed

changes to ensure the building's optimal utility. Additional exterior needs of the building have been identified and will be added later.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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, 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: The project has been under contract for a very short time. As of report due date, grantee has made little, if any, progress.

Area Served: Buncombe

Applicant 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: Grantee has developed a value-added application, an agricultural informational flyer and a small farmers value-added opportunity application to attend the North Carolina Agritourism Networking Association Conference. The grantee also recruited farmers who were interested in participating in the conference and an upcoming value-added agricultural workshop. The workshop will focus on educating small, socially disadvantaged current and former tobacco farmers about value-added as an alternative enterprise, as well as garner interest in the NC Agritourism Networking Association Conference.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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 will be to obtain a tractor and groomer to maintain the surface outside of the arena; to obtain aluminum bleachers for spectator seating; to obtain additional portable lights, fence panels and gates. Outcomes will be spectator seating; the capability to keep the arena surface maintained and groomed; increased usability during evening hours; and the ability to section off or reconfigure the arena according to the needs and requirements of user events. Beneficiaries of these improvements will be the local agricultural community and the public.

Status: Grantee has ordered six sets of 5-tier, 25-foot aluminum bleachers, which have not yet been delivered. Once assembled, they will be placed at the arena for spectator seating. The tractor and arena groomer have also been purchased. This equipment arrived in time to prepare for three events at the arena, a horse show for the public and two equine workshops for 4-H, all sponsored by Duplin County Cooperative Extension.

Area Served: Duplin

Applicant 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 project has been under contract for a very short time as of report due date, so grantee has made little if any progress.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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 keystone to app success and are responsible for the 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 has identified and developing training webinars and accompanying resources for app administrators based on needs. Grantee presented the opportunity to over 50 tourism offices statewide in July, and 20 counties have expressed interest to date. They are also developing a cost-share financial voucher system to meet the requirements of the NCDA&CS and for the project. This system includes development of an on-demand website portal for app administrator access to trainings and corresponding marketing materials. The system also monitors ongoing efforts with built-in tracking, reporting mechanisms and cost-share funds.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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: Grantee has completed the bid processes for site spraying and land grading in accordance with the recommendations from the IHR design team. The quality of the topsoil of the site is strong. After the completion of the grading work, grantee requested a quote from this same company to rework the remnant irrigation pond that is currently on the site, and this work has also been completed. Additionally, the site was sprayed with pesticides in accordance with the recommendations from IHR.

Area Served: Caswell and surrounding counties

Applicant 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 resource and/or socially disadvantaged. By the end of the project, 200 farmers will have greater knowledge of pertinent marketing trends and of key marketing strategies. About 60-80 marketing cost share projects will be implemented supporting a total of 100 to 140 farmers.

Status: Grantee reviewed applications and evaluated projects. Sixty two applications were received and 37 were approved for funding. Current approved projects total \$34,945 in estimated cost share reimbursement. Applications represent a diverse range of farm size, farm age, and agricultural production. Approved projects have included, but are not limited to custom labels, banners, videos, pop up tents, and rack cards. Approved farm grantees represent 12 counties in Western North Carolina.

Area Served: Western Counties

Applicant 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: Contract pending

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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 NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. and NC Agricultural Education and FFA, with a grant from the Tobacco Trust Fund Grant Program, will provide 12 grants to local agricultural education programs in North Carolina. The twelve \$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 in their specific community.

Status: Grantee shared grant information with agricultural education programs via the NC FFA listserv. Nineteen applications were received. A group of three impartial judges were selected to review and score the grant applications independently. In March, the judges met with agricultural education state staff to review the rankings. Fourteen program applications were selected to receive funding. Seven of the programs were first-time recipients and one middle school received

the grant. Selected programs represented every region of the state. The progress of the 14 grant recipients is varied at this point.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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: There has been no progress on the kitchen. Grantee still evaluating options for building after evaluations form engineers and architects.

Area Served: Lee

Applicant 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, hold public on-farm events, design 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 are 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: Grantee launched the first Strawberry Harvest Season promotional campaign, which included educational pieces for school children, a new promotional video, digital billboards, social media ads, radio ads and give-a-ways, and they attended the Ham & Yam Festival as a vendor to promote JoCo Grows Agriculture and the eight strawberry farms in the county. Other marketing campaigns started include designing, printing, and installing three county billboards for JoCo Grows and sending the Cost Share Applications out to area farmers. Cost Share Grants have been awarded and the JoCo Grows Team will soon be working with the farms on their projects.

Area Served: Johnston

Applicant 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 will launch 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 will convey 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: Grantee has the filming schedules, shot lists and interview questions ready for the egg farmer videos. They began the vetting process for prominent, well-networked NC Food bloggers and influencers to share educational, nutritional and preparation of eggs. They conducted a

promotion with NC dietitians across the state to garner analytics to produce the Q&A style blog posts for the targeted campaign in 2023.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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: A total of 93 applications were received in December. Requests totaled \$724,000 for projects totaling \$1,605,964 including matching funds. Seventeen of the applicants had a tobacco history. Approximately 30 reviewers participated in the selection process. The Steering Committee met in January and made funding recommendations, which were approved by the WNCC Board of Directors and reviewed by the NC TTFC. The 2022 Orientation included three in-person workshops entitled Beginning Business Planning, Marketing for Farmers/Beginners Social Media and Building True Soil Fertility.

Area Served: Western Counties

Applicant Website: <http://wncagoptions.org>

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2022 CYCLE - AWARDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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 farmer to safely and efficiently handle their animals to perform routine management tasks that should increase animal performance and profitably.

Area Served: Bladen

Applicant 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.

Area Served: Harnett

Applicant 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 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.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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 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.

Area Served: Harnett

Applicant 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 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.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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.

Area Served: Columbus

Applicant 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 of 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.

Area Served: Franklin

Applicant 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.

Area Served: Edgecombe

Applicant 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 trainings, 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.

Area Served: Ashe

Applicant 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 will add a plasma cutter to the three high schools with agricultural programs that do not yet have this equipment. Students will gain the necessary instruction to use these tools. This will better prepare students for diverse careers in agriculture as they enter the workforce.

Area Served: Johnston

Applicant 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.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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 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 need 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.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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 in an effort to sustain and grow the dairy industry. Producers will work directly with Extension to cost share consultants 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 dairys grow.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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.

Area Served: Alamance

Applicant 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 rigor and relevance of agriculture, food, and natural resources content and provides purposeful enhancement of science, mathematics, and English language. Tasks include purchasing laboratory materials and teacher support for training through the CASE Institute. CASE has increased both 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.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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 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.

Area Served: Statewide

Applicant 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.

Area Served: Orange

Applicant Website: www.farmerfoodshare.org

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 (FY22)

	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$4,367,285.03												
INTEREST INCOME	\$843.62	\$0.00	\$557.58	\$429.41	\$577.68	\$440.34	\$330.89	\$1,080.87	\$1,007.97	\$1,407.65	\$1,468.04	\$2,399.16	\$10,543.21
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,464,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,464,000.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65.93	\$3,767.75	\$13,233.00	\$275.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,342.03
Fiscal Year 2022 Revenue	\$843.62	\$0.00	\$557.58	\$429.41	\$577.68	\$5,464,440.34	\$396.82	\$4,848.62	\$14,240.97	\$1,683.00	\$1,468.04	\$2,399.16	\$5,491,885.24
EXPENSES													
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$240.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$28.50	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$129.50	\$0.00	\$333.00
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$88.50	\$0.00	\$73.60	\$0.00	\$82.60	\$148.43	\$0.00	\$393.13
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00
	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$258.50	\$0.00	\$132.10	\$0.00	\$192.60	\$307.93	\$0.00	\$981.13
<u>Staff Personnel Expenses</u>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$28,041.25	\$31,731.46	\$28,037.79	\$28,038.05	\$28,037.81	\$31,825.31	\$39,935.75	\$29,944.47	\$31,108.28	\$30,459.64	\$30,461.83	\$30,444.93	\$368,066.57
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$832.96	\$351.68	\$0.00	\$185.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,370.56
	\$28,874.21	\$32,083.14	\$28,037.79	\$28,223.97	\$28,037.81	\$31,825.31	\$39,935.75	\$29,944.47	\$31,108.28	\$30,459.64	\$30,461.83	\$30,444.93	\$369,437.13
<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	\$14.50	\$1,360.60	\$0.00	\$158.62	\$5.67	\$126.00	\$50.88	\$15.04	\$66.50	\$341.81	\$18.10	\$161.10	\$2,318.82
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,942.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$472.29	\$2,414.48
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$849.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,402.73	\$1,012.50	\$17,025.10	\$20,341.85
Communication/Office Equipment	\$165.39	\$165.13	\$172.27	\$264.36	\$257.42	\$122.56	\$392.50	\$259.64	\$263.16	\$265.49	\$265.45	\$256.08	\$2,849.45
Other Administrative Expenses	\$79.63	\$646.67	\$531.78	\$497.90	\$214.47	\$4.17	\$674.92	\$64.51	\$36.74	\$0.00	\$4.39	\$240.47	\$2,995.65
Vehicle	\$0.00	\$34.45	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$48.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$440.90	\$746.00	\$1,300.16
Telephone Services	\$2,347.19	\$348.95	\$488.30	\$0.00	\$518.27	\$487.64	\$181.15	\$570.06	\$552.32	\$398.85	\$408.99	\$408.99	\$6,710.71
	\$2,606.71	\$2,555.80	\$1,192.35	\$1,799.88	\$995.83	\$789.18	\$1,351.97	\$2,851.44	\$918.72	\$2,408.88	\$2,150.33	\$19,310.03	\$38,931.12
<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	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$414.49	\$1,126.83	\$0.00	\$3,541.32
Misc. (Temporary Solutions)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95.67
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$95.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$414.49	\$1,126.83	\$0.00	\$3,636.99
Fiscal Year 2022 Expenses													\$412,986.37

2018 Grant Cycle		FY 18-21	FY 22
Feed the Dialogue NC Foundation		\$23,458.40	\$18,460.00
NC A&T State University		\$20,513.34	\$3,047.78
NC Ag Foundation (ECU)		\$46,846.50	\$30,274.97
NCDA&CS		\$85,664.51	\$2,919.73
University of Mt. Olive		\$38,131.41	\$1,550.92
Working Landscapes		\$37,795.75	\$0.00
WNC Communities - Safety Impr		\$140,772.46	\$25,538.75
WNC Communities - AgOptions		\$762,738.91	\$73,809.91
TOTAL		\$1,155,921.28	\$155,602.06

2020 Grant Cycle		FY 20-21	FY 22
Eastern NC Christmas Tree Grow.		\$11,060.00	\$8,537.50
Lenoir County Coop Ext		\$0.00	\$87,024.16
NCAF - Exec Farm Mgmt		\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Leadership Coaches		\$0.00	\$36,182.88
NCAF - Scaling Vac Supp Ag		\$0.00	\$33,060.63
NCAF - Sust Hemp Prod		\$0.00	\$10,218.43
NCDA&CS		\$60,999.78	\$0.00
NC Found for Soil & Water Con		\$1,182.30	\$5,500.43
Swain County		\$0.00	\$130,000.00
Town of Elkin		\$22,484.31	\$1,183.39
Town of Louisburg		\$0.00	\$0.00
Washington Harbor District		\$5,100.00	\$69,900.00
Wayne Co. Livestock Dev Assoc		\$0.00	\$15,136.49
Wilson Co NC Coop Ext		\$0.00	\$18,900.00
University of Mt. Olive		\$113,460.54	\$53,009.58
TOTAL		\$203,226.93	\$468,653.49

2019 Grant Cycle		FY 19-21	FY 22
Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc		\$0.00	\$45,914.48
East Carolina University		\$23,268.92	\$18,949.28
NC Foundation for Soil & Water		\$2,988.33	\$1,160.10
NC Biotechnology Center		\$66,810.66	\$35,136.20
NC Community College System		\$85,243.14	\$32,525.40
NCDA&CS		\$104,696.71	\$51,605.53
NCAF - Ag Ed		\$134,785.19	\$0.00
NCAF - CASE		\$0.00	\$25,000.00
NCAF - Ed Ag Educators		\$0.00	\$38,672.46
NCAF - Heir's Guide		\$23,397.68	\$10,945.51
NCAF - Hemp Insect		\$49,118.39	\$31,044.51
NCAF - NC AgVentures		\$465,063.61	\$463,117.56
NCAF - Workforce		\$29,731.14	\$6,881.55
NC Sweet Potato Commission		\$25,327.91	\$0.00
University of Mount Olive		\$222,644.06	\$33,164.62
Wayne County Livestock Dev		\$63,572.82	\$1,400.00
TOTAL		\$73,487.29	\$795,517.20

Cash Carried Forward	\$4,367,285.03
Total Revenue FY22	\$5,491,885.24
Total Expenses FY22(-)	\$412,986.37
Subtotal	\$9,446,183.90
Total Grants Pd Out FY22 (-)	\$1,761,639.11
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY22 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$7,684,544.79
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$6,068,570.44
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	\$1,615,974.35
Encumbered Funds	
2016 Granting Cycle	\$9,869.93
2017 Granting Cycle	\$1,411.78
2018 Granting Cycle	\$317,578.25
2019 Granting Cycle	\$1,126,310.26
2020 Granting Cycle	\$897,059.58
2021 Granting Cycle	\$3,716,340.64
TOTAL	\$6,068,570.44

*This report is based on data from
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022*

2021 Grant Cycle		
Alamance Community College		\$0.00
ASAP		\$0.00
Buncombe Co. Ag & Land Res.		\$0.00
City of Sanford		\$0.00
Cleveland County Fair, Inc.		\$0.00
Duplin County Agri Comm Ctr Fd		\$32,701.36
Green County Coop Ext		\$0.00
Johnston County Tourism Auth.		\$0.00
Mountain Valley Resource Cons.		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation Ag Ed		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation Solider		\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation Tomato		\$0.00
NC A&T State University		\$0.00
NC Community College		\$0.00
NCDA&CS		\$0.00
NC Egg Association		\$0.00
NERSBA		\$0.00
Piedmont Comm College Fd		\$38,190.00
Tobacco Farm Life Museum		\$21,475.00
University of Mount Olive		\$0.00
Waynesville Public Market		\$50,000.00
Watauga County		\$0.00
WNC Communities		\$199,500.00
TOTAL		\$341,866.36

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

Total Grants Paid Out Since Inception	
Barn Retrofit	\$41,090,228.00
Burley Marketing Center	\$2,509,555.21
NCDA/NCSSU Barn Retrofit	\$168,254.00
Hay Relief	\$5,000.00
FCTCC	\$1,880,113.85
2002 Granting Cycle	\$2,534,958.56
2003 Granting Cycle	\$3,525,839.12
2004 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$435,130.26
2005 Granting Cycle	\$2,817,630.15
2007 Granting Cycle	\$3,186,010.81
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$17,651,886.89
2008 Granting Cycle	\$5,076,135.23
2009 Granting Cycle	\$2,581,846.24
2010 Granting Cycle	\$5,471,915.76
2011 Granting Cycle	\$2,904,790.48
2012 Granting Cycle	\$2,008,334.72
2013 Granting Cycle	\$1,601,159.13
2014 Granting Cycle	\$2,227,193.50
2015 Granting Cycle	\$1,695,096.26
2016 Granting Cycle	\$4,482,496.59
2017 Granting Cycle	\$2,162,263.97
2018 Granting Cycle	\$2,260,948.67
2019 Granting Cycle	\$2,482,770.70
2020 Granting Cycle	\$682,940.42
2021 Granting Cycle	\$341,866.36
TOTAL	\$111,784,364.88

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											\$9,859.16
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$418.02	\$0.00											\$418.02
Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue	\$4,486.68	\$5,790.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,277.18
EXPENSES													
<i>Personnel Expenses</i>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$60.00	\$0.00											\$60.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00
<i>Staff Personnel Expenses</i>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$31,539.03	\$36,018.29											\$67,557.32
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$692.63	\$577.40											\$1,270.03
	\$32,231.66	\$36,595.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$68,827.35
<i>Office Expenses</i>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$0.00	\$1,311.91											\$1,311.91
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$1,537.50	\$0.00											\$1,537.50
Communication/Office Equipment	\$198.92	\$180.14											\$379.06
Other Administrative Expenses	\$433.94	\$7.48											\$441.42
Vehicle	\$92.61	\$160.42											\$253.03
Telephone Services	\$408.99	\$409.35											\$818.34
	\$2,671.96	\$2,069.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,741.26
<i>Professional Services</i>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00											\$0.00
Misc. (Temporary Solutions)	\$462.70	\$0.00											\$462.70
	\$462.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$462.70
Fiscal Year 2023 Expenses													\$74,091.31

2018 Grant Cycle		FY 18-22	FY 23
NCDA&CS		\$88,584.24	
University of Mt. Olive		\$39,682.33	\$5,124.00
Working Landscapes		\$37,795.75	
WNC Communities - Safety Impr		\$166,311.21	\$12,402.92
TOTAL		\$332,373.53	\$17,526.92

2019 Grant Cycle		FY 19-22	FY 23
East Carolina University		\$42,218.20	\$21,159.64
NC Foundation for Soil & Water		\$4,148.43	\$0.00
NC Biotechnology Center		\$101,946.86	\$6,764.32
NC Community College System		\$117,768.54	\$3,726.00
NCAF - Ed Ag Educators		\$38,672.46	\$0.00
NCAF - NC AgVentures		\$928,181.17	\$409,781.40
NC Sweet Potato Commission		\$25,327.91	\$27,594.42
Wayne Regional Ag. Fair		\$1,400.00	\$5,027.18
TOTAL		\$1,259,663.57	\$474,052.96

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	\$0.00
NCAF - Scaling Vac Supp Ag		\$33,060.63	\$0.00
NCAF - Leadership Coaches		\$36,182.88	\$9,572.23
NCAF - Scaling Vac Supp Ag		\$33,060.63	\$14,980.83
NCAF - Executive Farm Mgt		\$0.00	\$60,000.00
NC Found for Soil & Water Con		\$6,682.73	\$0.00
Town of Louisburg		\$0.00	\$0.00
Wayne Co. Livestock Dev Assoc		\$15,136.49	\$4,665.28
University of Mt. Olive		\$166,470.12	\$145,376.95

2021 Grant Cycle	FY 21-22	FY 23
Alamance Comm. College	\$0.00	\$11,990.00
ASAP	\$0.00	\$21,267.72
Buncombe Co. Ag & Land Res	\$0.00	\$0.00
City of Sanford	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cleveland County Fair, Inc.	\$0.00	\$0.00
Duplin Co. Agri Comm Ctr Fd	\$32,701.36	\$34,801.75
Green Co. Coop Ext	\$0.00	\$0.00
Johnston Co. Tourism Auth	\$0.00	\$5,159.59
Mountain Valley Resource Cons.	\$0.00	\$23,410.61
NCAF - Ag Ed	\$0.00	\$89,738.10
NCAF - Solider	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCAF - Tomato	\$0.00	\$3,812.85
NC A&T University	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Community College	\$0.00	\$0.00
NCD&CS	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Egg Association	\$0.00	\$0.00
NERSBA	\$0.00	\$78,361.00
Piedmont Comm College Fd.	\$38,190.00	\$33,010.00
Tobacco Farm Life Musuem	\$21,475.00	\$304.00
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	\$24,573.67
TOTAL	\$341,866.36	\$492,679.29

Cash Carried Forward	\$7,684,544.79
Total Revenue FY23	\$10,277.18
Total Expenses FY23(-)	\$74,091.31
Subtotal	\$7,620,730.66
Total Grants Pd Out FY23 (-)	\$1,223,434.68
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY23 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$6,397,295.98
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$5,453,793.57
TOTALGrant/Mgmt/Admin/Enforcement of the MSA	\$943,502.41
Encumbered Funds	
2016 Granting Cycle	\$9,869.93
2017 Granting Cycle	\$1,411.78
2018 Granting Cycle	\$305,175.33
2019 Granting Cycle	\$692,009.96
2020 Granting Cycle	\$812,506.52
2021 Granting Cycle	\$3,632,820.05
2022 Granting Cycle	0
TOTAL	\$5,453,793.57

This report is based on data from 7/1/2022 - 08/31/2022

INCUBATOR FARM

CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Purpose: Piedmont Community College, in partnership with the local Agriculture 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.



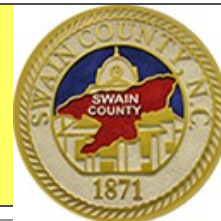
Project Potential impacts:

- 32 Jobs Created or Sustained
- \$8,000 New Farm Income
- \$147,000 Leveraged from Other Sources
- \$100,000,000 estimated State tax revenue Generated



AGRICULTURE EVENTS CENTER

THE SWAIN COUNTY FAIR AND EVENTS CENTER

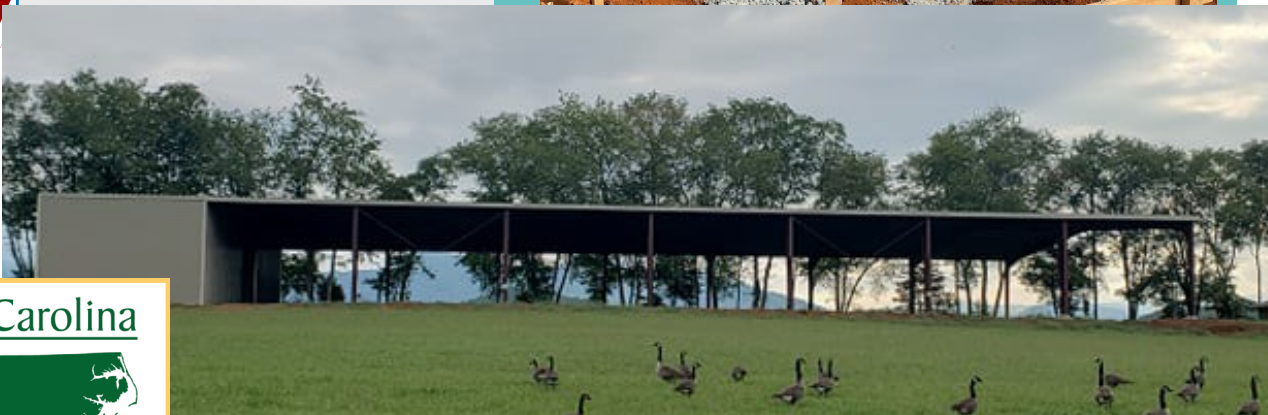


Purpose: Build a 100' x 200' multipurpose building to host agricultural/equestrian events and workshops. The benefits will be for the local farmers and agricultural community that will also expand out to education, small business, and entrepreneurial communities.



Project Impacts:

- \$100,000 leveraged from other sources
- 5,000 people served
- 20 new and sustained Jobs



Tobacco Trust Fund Commission
SPONSORED PROJECT

Smoky Mountain News

Tobacco Commission grants fund WNC ag efforts

WRITTEN BY [SMN STAFF](#)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2022



The N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission awarded 23 grants worth more than \$4 million for agricultural and economic initiatives across the state.

Grant projects impacting the western region include:

- The Waynesville Public Market received \$50,000 for farmers market capital and equipment improvement, serving Haywood County.
- Western North Carolina Agricultural Options, a program that provides small grants directly to on-farm projects, received \$849,900 to serve 21 western counties through a grant to WNC Communities.
- The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, which serves 23 western counties, received \$79,000 for efforts to increase small farm profitability.
- The Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Council received \$100,000 for its Energy CAP AgEnergy Program to serve 28 western counties.

The grant program supports projects that assist counties with facility enhancements, universities with research and educational opportunities, commodity groups with marketing and farmers with operations improvements and diversification.

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.

tobaccotrustfund.org.

The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission awards Alamance Community College \$380,550 grant

[Jordan Massey](#)

Times-News

Alamance Community College recently received a \$380,550 grant from The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, according to a press release from the college.

The college received the grant for their \$9.1 million “Agricultural Learning Through Farm Development” project, which signifies the initial development of the Bill and Nancy Covington Education Center.



The 47-acre farm is located near Mebane and was purchased through funds donated to the school in recent years from an anonymous donor.

The development of this farm will help serve the project’s mission to expand “hands-on and real-world learning for agriculture and horticulture students,” according to the press release.

As a result, several new programs will be implemented into the school's curriculum as of fall 2022, impacting students in the fields of Horticulture Technology, Animal Care and Management, Agricultural Biotechnology, and other related fields of study, according to the press release.

“There is a tremendous amount of potential for new and unique learning opportunities for students at the farm,” said Dr. Elizabeth Riley, Department Head of Horticulture Technology and associated programs.

Some of the new courses that will begin in the fall include Agriculture Education, Sustainable Agriculture, and Agribusiness Technology. The center will also provide two Career College pathways that will offer training in the fields of Horticulture and Animal Care for 25 students each year with intellectual disabilities, according to the press release.

Some amenities of the site will include an Agricultural Sciences building, greenhouses, access to a more reliable water source supporting future growth, barns, as well as crop and animal grazing areas.

From pork tacos to agritourism: Haywood farmers get creative to diversify operations

• Sep 10, 2022

WNC growers and farmers looking to expand or diversify their operations are eligible for mini grants of up to \$8,000 through WNC AgOptions.

The grants are intended to help offset farmers' risk of trying new ventures — from niche crops to value-added farm products to agritourism attractions.

An information session for Haywood County farmers will be held 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, at the Haywood County Extension Office. Several Haywood County farms have gotten grants from WNC Ag Options over the past several years. There's a total of \$220,00 being given out in the next grant round.

The grant pool is funded by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission to help farmers in areas once dependent on tobacco find new sources of agricultural revenue.

“We are extremely impressed with the innovation and resourcefulness that western North Carolina farmers exhibit,” said Bill Teague, Chairman of the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

More than \$3.5 million has been given out since WNC AgOptions inception in 2004.

“By financially supporting projects that increase profitability and sustainability, the WNC AgOptions program is building small family farm resilience to better secure our agriculture community for the future,” said Karen Blaedow, WNC AgOptions Steering Committee Chair.

At the information session, staff from WNC AgOptions will be on hand to explain the grant process. Cooperative extension staff will be present as well, as they provide support and technical assistance for farmers putting together applications.

The intent-to-apply deadline is Oct. 14. For more information, contact the cooperative extension office in Haywood at 828-456-3575. Located at 589 Raccoon Road, Waynesville.

Haywood recipients of WNC AgOptions grants

Three Haywood County farms received grants through WNC AgOptions in 2021:

Smoky Mountain Mangalitsa

This farm that raises a specialty breed of pigs took a hit during COVID when its sales to restaurants declined sharply. Even after pivoting to retail sales to help replace the restaurant sector, business remained sluggish.

So Catherine and Rick Topel, owners of the 95-acre farm along the Pigeon River in Iron Duff, opened a campground to offer farm stays and opened the farm to agritourism. The Topels got an \$8,000 grant to purchase a mobile food unit so they can offer farm-grown pork items to visitors and take on the road to events and festivals.

Cold Mountain Angus

Fourth-generation Haywood County farmer Lucas Sorrells received an \$8,000 grant for his angus cattle operation to purchase a portable cattle working chute with wheel kit and vet cage. Sorrells grazes his cattle on multiple locations, many of which do not have handling facilities for treating and working cattle.

The new equipment will allow him to manage his herd more efficiently and safely on all his grazing pastures, reducing labor and time — and in turn allowing the farm to process and sell more animals directly to consumers.

Two Trees Farm/Sustainabillics

After suspending on-farm classes and tours during the pandemic, Sustainability farm located in the Beaverdam area took advantage of the

hiatus to make numerous improvements to their operation and increase production. Maximizing the farm agriculturally saved the business and created two full time jobs.

A \$4,000 grant helped fund a variety of innovations so the farm could maintain its increased production once it welcomed visitors back to the farm and resumed on-farm workshops. Farm efficiency projects including upgrades to their plant-starts greenhouse like an overhead watering system, purchasing tools to speed farm chores like weeding and harvesting, and adding visitor enhancements like signage, lighting and fencing.

Grant to South Lenoir High's FFA to expand animal science program

Staff Report

Jun 30, 2022



With a replica check representing the grant award that will fund a new animal science facility at South Lenoir High School are, from left, Allison Jennings, eastern region agricultural education coordinator with the North Carolina FFA; LCPS Superintendent Brent Williams; Margo Harper, South Lenoir agricultural science teacher; students and FFA chapter representatives Adilee Rich, Rachel Noble, Callie

Shackelford and Taylor Lane; Amy Jones, LCPS director of high school education and CTE; and Bruce Hill, chair of the Lenoir County Board of Education.

Lenoir County Public Schools/Patrick Holmes

A grant award of \$14,545 to South Lenoir High School's FFA will bolster the school's animal science curriculum and give students a real-world connection to a variety of livestock.

The award is part of the more than \$180,000 provided this year to the North Carolina FFA Foundation by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission for educational grants, according to Allison Jennings, eastern region agricultural education coordinator with the North Carolina FFA.

Jennings announced the grant during a presentation to South Lenoir agricultural science teacher Margo Harper and several students from the school's FFA chapter at the June 6 meeting of the Lenoir County Board of Education.

The grant will fund construction of a 24-by-21-foot temporary animal housing facility.

"Through the establishment of this facility, students taking animal science classes at South Lenoir will have unique hands-on opportunities to learn about a wide variety of animal species and breeds," said Harper, an FFA chapter advisor.

"We are excited the facility will house their animal science supplies and serve as temporary housing for the animal science labs," Jennings said.

The facility is to be built over the summer. "We are looking forward to having everything finished and ready to go by the end of the fall semester," Harper said.

Ena Sellers may be reached at esellers@ncweeklies.com



Local Growers Awarded NC AgVentures Farm Grants

June 13, 2022

Seventy family farms in 46 counties have been named winners in a grant program aimed at supporting family farms. The competitive grant program (NC AgVentures) is administered by the NC State Extension Service, with **funding provided through the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.**

The grants are awarded for innovative projects aimed at diversifying, expanding or implementing new entrepreneurial plans for farm operations. Growers received grant awards of between \$2000 and \$8000.

Farmers in 46 counties — Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Iredell, **Johnston**, Lincoln, Martin, Mecklenburg, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Wayne, Wilson, Wilkes, Warren, and Yadkin, were eligible.

The North Carolina General Assembly created the North Carolina 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.

Cooperative Extension is an educational partnership of the state's two land-grant universities, North Carolina State and North Carolina A&T State University, county governments and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Its mission is to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolina.

JOHNSTON

Eryn Godwin of Benson will the grant to purchase plastic-culture equipment.

Jason Barbour of Four Oaks will use the grant to acquire a precision GPS unit for my self-propelled sprayer.

Jeffrey Wood of Willow Spring will use the grant to construct a farm stand on our existing family farm.

ALAMANCE COUNTY

Geoff Morrison from Liberty received an NC AgVentures grant to expand his livestock production.

Lindsey Chinni from Burlington received an NC AgVentures grant to build a walk-in cooler and beekeeping/honey storage.

Sonya Weavil from Graham received an NC AgVentures grants to expand her microgreens production.

Alamance County Extension received an NC AgVentures grant to purchase portable livestock scales for producers to rent.

ALLEGHANY

Adam and Mecca Lowe of Glade Valley received an NC AgVentures grant to create a working sorghum syrup production facility.

ANSON

Robert Stovall of Wadesboro received an NC AgVentures grant to purchase cheese making equipment.

ASHE

Evan Walker of Crumpler received an NC AgVentures grant to purchase livestock scales for his beef and swine farm.

Paige Smith of Vilas received an NC AgVentures grant to purchase and install portable freezer space to store and transport product.

CASWELL

Sarah Shumaker of Blanch received an NC AgVentures grant to repurpose an old dairy milk parlor to add space for more events and inventory to increase revenue for her cut flower business.

Susanne Hawkins of Burlington received a grant to add a shelter to a roadside vegetable and plant store.

CATAWBA

Tori Ostwinch of Conover will use the grant to build a 20×30 metal building on the farm for storage of amendments, tools, equipment, and vegetables.

CHATHAM

Emily Fuller of Siler City will use the grant to add to the farm's perennial rose garden.

DAVIDSON

Ben Geiger of Denton will use the grant to build a shaded high tunnel with specialty irrigation for summer lettuce and mushroom production.

Janice Fine of Denton will use the grant funds to modernize the produce packing facility and on-farm store.

Jennifer Rosecrans of Lexington to expand market vegetables such as baby greens, and high quality, gourmet root vegetables to grow year round.

DAVIE

Jonathan Almond of Mocksville will use the grant to diversify current farming operation by adding cut flowers and produce.

Nikki Long of Mocksville will use the grant to increase retail store capacity to provide more locally sourced products to the community.

Davie Soil and Water received a grant for portable cattle handling equipment for livestock producers (small, new and with inadequate facilities) to rent and improve the ability to manage cattle on their operations.

DURHAM

Hector Lopez from Durham received an NC AgVentures grant to build facilities for the agri-tourism business.

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.

Durham Farmers Market in Durham will use the grant to purchase a computer to create marketing materials and a tablet to help with vendor sales.

EDGECOMBE

Cody Water of Rocky Mount will use the grant to purchase a stainless steel media filter for crop irrigation.

FORSYTH

Dana Nicholson of Tobaccolville will use the grant to increase livestock grazing capacity.

Emma Hendel of Pfaftown will use the grant funds to purchase retail display, and cold storage to transform their existing barn to a year-round farm store.

STEMZ of Winston-Salem will use the grant to add a second local-only floral distribution hub to expand capacity to serve NC flower farms.

Cobblestone Farmers Market of Winston-Salem will use the grant to purchase cold storage for market vendors to maintain product freshness.

FRANKLIN

Beth Gayden of Louisburg will use the grant to increase the size of the existing indoor mushroom operation by renovating an old schoolhouse trailer into a larger lab facility and spawn growing room.

GASTON

Joel Stroot of Dallas will use the grant funds to add sustainable irrigation to an organic permaculture elderberry and fruit orchard.

Frankie Lineberger of Dallas will use the grant funds to diversify farm income stream through an elderberry products business.

HARNETT

Larry Wester of Fuquay Varina will use the grant to build a new hay shelter.

Harnett County Extension in Lillington received a grant to build an equipment shelter at the Harnett Extension office to house equipment that is used by area farmers.

IREDELL

Paul Krawiec of Statesville will use the grant to add blackberries to his U-Pick Blueberry business.

LINCOLN

Michael McSwain from Lawndale will use the grant funds to renovate/add to a rebaling system to increase efficiency and lower labor costs.

MECKLENBURG

Julia Rogers of Huntersville will use the funds to build a walk-in cooler to store cut flowers.

NASH

Cole Strickland from Nashville will use the grant to build a storefront and increase freezer storage capacity.

Marilyn Fincher from Nashville will use the grant to purchase hoop house materials for her flower farm.

ORANGE

Cynthia Stubbs from Hillsborough will use the grant to add a second well with a solar-powered well pump as a water source for currently underutilized acreage (approximately 10 acres).

Jeff Sykes from Mebane will use the grant to build a store front for their farm store and growing agri-tourism business.

Rebecca Sorensen from Chapel Hill will use the grant to renovate a barn into an ADA compliant structure so that all guests feel welcomed and safe.

Renee McPherson from Mebane will use the grant to purchase equipment to make her wildlife food bagging system more efficient.

Ritchie and Beverly Roberts from Hillsborough will use the grant to purchase a Safety Zone Calf Catcher and ATV to work cattle safely in the field.

Stanley Hughes from Hurdle Mills will use the grant funds purchase a skid steer and sweet potato bins for curing and stacking.

PERSON

Changhe Zhou from Chapel Hill will use the grant to expand his crop of Ecorganic melons and cucumbers.

PITT

Gary Foote from Farmville will use the grant to construct a greenhouse to extend the growing season for ginger and turmeric crops

RANDOLPH

Charles Hickerson from Franklinville will use the grant to expand the number of milking goats in his herd, which will increase the volume of milk to be sold and support expansion of cheese making operations for others.

Lynn Baker will use the grant to renovate a vacant field by installing perennial shrub for cut-flower production.

ROCKINGHAM

Seth Durham from Reidsville will use the grant to convert an old pack barn into a cattle working facility.

ROWAN

Carrie Barnhardt of Mooresville will use the grant to create a safe and efficient area to expand sheep production.

Jessica Evans from Mount Ulla will use the grant to create an on-farm store.

Jessica long from Salisbury will use the grant to transition an old family tobacco/hay farm into a cut flower and produce farm.

SAMPSON

Dixie Jordan from Clinton will use the grant to purchase a pecan tree shaker for my pecan farm and to complete a pecan packing/storage facility.

STANLEY

Garrett Snuggs from Wadesboro will use the grant to install solar-powered electric fences, automated feeding machines to lower cost and increase efficiency.

STOKES

Jerry Manuel from Danbury received an NC AgVentures to purchase cold storage to store fresh produce.

Eric Younts from Walnut Cove will use the grant to purchase a spreader that will help amend the soils in my vineyard as well as other vineyards and farms in my surrounding area.

Jessica Armstrong from Walnut Cove will use the grant to transition a tobacco bulk barn into a mobile, free range, hen house to support our growing farm operation.

John Brasfield will use the grant funds to purchase properly designed and appropriate sheep handling facilities to reduce accidents and injuries to both animals and humans.

SURRY

Joseph Shrum from Mt. Airy will use the grant to install an irrigation system that will allow them to expand their market garden from 1.5 acres to 5.5 acres.

Lorrie Sawyers of Pinnale will use the grant to build a point of sale building for our strawberry farm.

Renee Westmoreland from Mount Airy will use the grant to tag, band and vaccinate cattle at 7 former tobacco farms to obtain GAP certification with a cattle squeeze chute/handling system.

UNION

Patricia Thompson of Indian Trail will use the grant to purchase equipment for honey production, and honey bee production.

Union County Farmers Market in Monroe will use the grant to purchase a freezer for the Union County Food Hub.

WAYNE

Joyce and Jeannette Bowden from Goldsboro will use the grant to convert/refurbish a bulk tobacco barn for use as a walk-in cooler for summer produce.

WILKES

Deanna Prevette from Ronda will use the grant to purchase a plastic mulch layer.

WILSON

Jeffrey Boykin from Sims will use the grant to purchase a pea and bean sheller and cleaner.

Jordan Tyner from Elm City will use the grant to purchase a sand filter for irrigating crops.

Lizzie Griffin from Elm City will use the grant to expand her pasture raised pork operation with farrowing huts, guard rails and pens.

YADKIN

Claudia Townsend from Boonville will use the grant to expand her cut flower operation with hydrangeas and peonies.

North Carolina Egg Association Awarded Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Grant

April 01, 2022, 22:12 GMT

CONTACT: Lisa Prince, Executive Director of the North Carolina Egg Association
919-906-0067, lprince@ncegg.org

North Carolina Egg Association Awarded Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Grant

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Egg Association (NCEA) has been awarded a grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC) for \$106,800, which will be used to support an integrated communications campaign to reach consumers within the state with interesting, relevant information about egg farming, nutrition and preparation.

“We are very pleased and excited to award this grant to the North Carolina Egg Association,” said William H. “Bill” Teague, Chairman of the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. “North Carolina egg producers and processors have strong ties to the tobacco industry in the state, and this project will surely make a tremendous impact on consumers and generate much-needed sales and income.”

Most consumers, now being generations removed from a farm, will never visit an egg farm. Strict biosecurity measures are also in place to protect the health of the hens, making the accessibility of a farm visit challenging. At the same time, 65 percent of American consumers have indicated they are extremely interested in knowing more about agriculture, according to the Center for Food Integrity. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the critical role America’s farmers and food producers perform.

“We greatly appreciate the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission’s ongoing investment in North Carolina agriculture and in the future of our industry, especially its support of our egg farmers,” said Lisa Prince, NCEA’s executive director. “This grant will enable us to provide consumers across the state with a variety of educational resources and information to help them better understand what North Carolina egg farmers do and the impact they have in our local communities.”

NCEA’s Meet North Carolina Egg Farmers campaign will introduce North Carolinians to the state’s egg farmers and provide resources and virtual farm tours. It will use digital tools and tactics to educate consumers on how the farmers produce safe, healthy eggs while providing excellent animal care, implementing responsible farming practices to protect the environment and playing an integral part in local communities. NCEA will also leverage partnerships with top North Carolina food bloggers, influencers and registered dietitians to share recipes and cooking tips that include eggs to a wide audience across the state.

The resource development and outreach conducted through this project will establish a strong foundation to enable NCEA to continue engaging and educating audiences, including additional consumers, educators, health professionals and influencers, to further increase trust in egg farmers, demand for eggs, and job creation in rural communities.

About the North Carolina Egg Association The North Carolina Egg Association (NCEA) is proud to represent North Carolina's egg farmers, whose 9 million hens produce about 2.7 billion eggs each year. To learn more about egg farming, nutrition and safety, and to get egg-inspired recipe ideas, visit www.ncegg.com.

About the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC) was created to assist current and former tobacco farmers, former quota holders, persons engaged in tobacco-related businesses, individuals displaced from tobacco-related employment, and tobacco product component businesses in NC that have been affected by the adverse effects of the MSA. The NCTTFC can disburse funds through compensatory programs and qualified agricultural programs. For more information about NCTTFC visit their website: tobaccotrustfund.org.

Sanford ag marketplace awarded rural transformation grant

sandhillssentinel.com/sanford-ag-marketplace-awarded-rural-transformation-grant

July 6, 2022



The City of Sanford has been awarded \$900,000 by the Rural Transformation Grant Fund to develop the **Sanford Agricultural Marketplace** in downtown Sanford.

The Rural Transformation Grant Fund is a new source of support for rural economic development projects in North Carolina funded by the federal American Rescue Plan. The goal for the fund is to help local governments overcome challenges that limit their economic competitiveness.

“North Carolina’s rural communities are our heart and soul, and we are committed to helping them grow and become more competitive,” stated Governor Roy Cooper in a June 16 announcement. The funding will “provide both the funds and the expertise to help transform and expand North Carolina’s rural economies, create good jobs, and strong communities,” he said.

Sanford’s award came from the fund’s Downtown Revitalization category, which supports downtown development initiatives that help grow and leverage a community’s

commercial core into an asset for economic growth and prosperity — a natural fit for the marketplace.

“The marketplace will be an exciting and vital addition to downtown,” says Mayor Chet Mann. “The goal for this new venture is to help address food insecurity while also meeting the demand for fresh foods and local products,” he says.

The importance of the marketplace to downtown and Sanford has not gone unnoticed. Pilgrim’s Pride granted the project \$505,000 and Farm Bureau has committed \$50,000 to the effort over the next six years. **The project has also been awarded \$213,600 by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.**

“The Sanford Agricultural Marketplace will be a cultural epicenter for the Sandhills region, giving the community a central location to celebrate its rich history and diversity through food and fellowship,” says Bill Stone, Lee County Extension Director for the NC Cooperative Extension. “The current Sanford Farmers’ Market has grown exponentially, showing the demand for an agricultural cornerstone,” he says.

“This funding from the state, the city, the county, and local partners shows our community’s best strength — which is the commitment to work together for the greater good,” says Kelli Laudate, Executive Director for Downtown Sanford, Inc. “Food always brings people together and now we are going to be able to build an agricultural hub that will bring people together for years to come.”

Construction of the marketplace is underway by the City of Sanford. Completion is anticipated for late 2024.

Southeastern Community College receives \$374,500 for development of greenhouse

October 26, 2022

WWAY News

WHITEVILLE, NC (WWAY) — **The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission has awarded [Southeastern Community College](#) \$374,500 for the development of a greenhouse that will support their agriculture program.**

The state-of-the art structure will make way for advancing agriculture, horticulture, and animal science research, according to a press release.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Grant program supports projects that assist counties with facility enhancements, college research and educational opportunities, commodity groups with marketing and farmers with operations improvements and diversification.

"Agriculture has become a high-tech field and the possibilities are endless when we can deliver high-quality, hands-on training with state-of-the-art equipment for our students," SCC Agribusiness Technology Instructor Dawn Hinshaw said. "The new Greenhouse is going to be a sustainable tool that will help our county thrive as we prepare students for agricultural practices that have been changing throughout our state."

The new greenhouse will be located on the campus of Southeastern Community College with construction beginning in Spring 2023.

Camp Provides Insight, Information, and Intrigue into the World of Agriculture

August 2, 2022 Amy Roux

Several high school FFA members and agriculture teachers from all across NC recently participated in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Camp at the University of Mount Olive. Participants traveled from as far north as Tarboro, as far south as Fayetteville, as far east as Plymouth and New Bern, and as far west as Yadkinville for the weeklong experience. Campers visited farms, participated in community outreach projects, learned about SAE project opportunities, and experienced college-life during the overnight camp.

“Service is an integral part of FFA,” said Edward Olive, Director of the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at UMO. “In fact, the last line of the FFA motto is ‘living to serve.’ Service is a big part of what these participants did this week.”

The group volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Goldsboro where they assisted with a new home building project. They gleaned 7,840 pounds of collards with the Society of Saint Andrew, which were donated to Make a Difference Food Pantry in Mount Olive. They also volunteered at the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, where they cleared trails and assisted with other projects.

To help inspire students with their SAE project ideas and diversification, they visited several agriculture operations and businesses throughout the week where they learned about new technologies, agri-tourism, and research. Attendees heard presentations on financial planning, resume writing, interview skills, business etiquette, agriculture communication, and more.

Never failing to end each day with a bang, the campers participated in a number of recreational activities including a rodeo, fun park activities, a visit to Simply Natural Creamery, and a Down East Wood Ducks baseball game.

“I had so much fun at this camp,” said Dalton Overby a North Johnston High School student from Kenly, NC. “We have toured many farms and learned a lot about SAE.”

Sara Zagada Gonzalez, from Cary High School in Wake County, said the highlight of the week for her was the rodeo. "I particularly enjoyed watching the barrel racing," she said. "I also liked learning more about agriculture, which is more than just buying food at the grocery store. Agriculture is about business, family history, technology, and so much more."

Alexa Bishop a rising junior from Pine Forest High School in Cumberland County said, "The highlight of the week for me was the rodeo and the watermelon tasting at the Clinton Research Station."

Callie Shackelford, a rising sophomore from South Lenior High School in Kinston, said, "My favorite part of the week was meeting all of the people and learning about agriculture."

On the final day of camp, participants toured the Clinton Research Station, a Division of the NCDA, as well as heard remarks from **North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, the sponsoring entity of the camp**. At a celebratory luncheon, students received certificates of completion, as well as 45 hours of SAE credit. Teachers and FFA advisors received three CEU credits.

Lyndy Boggs, a 2021 UMO alumnus and a first-time agriculture teacher with Cary High School said, "I have really enjoyed touring the many farming operations and seeing the students' excitement as they have learned and explored more about the agriculture industry."

"This opportunity would not be possible without the support and participation of agricultural educators," said Dr. Sandy Maddox, Dean for the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at UMO. "It is exciting to see our alumni continue to support us in all that we do and encourage their students to participate as well. This continues to grow our UMO family."

Edward Olive said, "FFA members from all across NC are always looking for ways to expand their knowledge in agriculture, learn more about agriculture careers, and gain experience in SAE. This camp provides awesome opportunities for that all in one place. We are thankful for all of our partners who opened their farms and businesses for tours and information sharing. We are especially grateful to the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and the support of our elected officials who support the Trust Fund and do so much for present and former our tobacco-dependent communities. Many of our campers and FFA advisors come from those rural, tobacco-dependent communities."

Olive stated that the camp is in its second of a three-year grant cycle, and plans are already in the works for next year's camp. "Stay tuned," he said. "There is always something new and exciting happening with the UMO School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences."

The University of Mount Olive is a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values. The University is sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. For more information, visit www.umo.edu.



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