



**THE TOBACCO TRUST FUND
COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
AND THE CHAIRS OF THE HOUSE AND
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEES**

November 1, 2012

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November 1, 2012



The Honorable Phil Berger
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Commission on
Governmental Operations
2008 Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

The Honorable Thom Tillis
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Commission on
Governmental Operations
2304 Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Senator Berger and Representative Tillis:

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

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

Respectfully,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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

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

LOCATION:
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2012



The Honorable James W. Crawford, Jr.
Co-Chair, House Appropriations Committee
304 Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Nelson Dollar
Co-Chair, House Appropriations Committee
307B1 Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Mitch Gillespie
Co-Chair, House Appropriations Committee
307B2 Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Linda P. Johnson
Co-Chair, House Appropriations Committee
301D Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Representative Crawford and Representative Dollar and Representative Gillespie and Representative Johnson:

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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537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2012



The Honorable Peter S. Brunstetter
Co-Chair, Senate Appropriations/
Base Budget Committee
2022 Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

The Honorable Neal Hunt
Co-Chair, Senate Appropriations/
Base Budget Committee
308 Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Senator Brunstetter and Senator Hunt:

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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November 1, 2012



**TO: THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
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 Commission on Governmental Operations and the Co-Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

During the past year I have traveled all across North Carolina talking, observing, and learning from many citizens that depend on our agricultural industry for their existence. A common shared theme is a proud way of life in a challenging livelihood. Returns never seem to keep up with input costs, but each person knows they provide an immeasurable value of service to a rapidly growing population.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's work is **critical** because agriculture remains a very important part of our state's economy, contributing **\$71.6** billion annually, accounting for **17%** of the state's income and employing over **17%** of the workforce. Our board and staff have worked very hard in the past year to make investments that strengthen a core business with limited funding. We have accomplished this by implementing projects to support diversification, education, job creation/sustainability and environmental preservation. We applaud our legislative leadership for allowing the Commission to continue to serve the cornerstone of our state's economy.

Active grant information, the 2012 grant awards, and information showing the impact of our funds are included in this report. This report provides a synopsis of each recipient's project and, with the guidance of the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, their impressive results with the financial assistance provided.

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

Sincerely,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague
Chairman

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RALEIGH, NC 27604



COMMISSION MEMBERS

2012

BARNES, Susan

Kenly, NC
County-Wilson
Appointee Officer-
Governor

BEAVERS, Keith R.

Mount Olive, NC
County-Duplin
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

**BURGESS, Talmadge
R.**

Henderson, NC
County-Vance
Appointee Officer-
Governor

CREWS, Sam

Oxford, NC
County-Granville
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

DAVIS, Layten

Hot Springs, NC
County-Madison
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

EMERSON, Thomas

Siler City, NC
County-Chatham
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

HOLBROOK, Bill

Waynesville, NC
County-Haywood
Appointee Officer-
Governor

LEGGETT, Sue T.

Nashville, NC
County-Nash
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

LEONARD, Al J. Jr.

Tabor City, NC
County-Columbus
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

**MCLAWHORN,
John (Johnny) B. Jr.**

Hookerton, NC
County-Greene
Appointee Officer-
Governor

PITT, Gwen

Macclesfield, NC
County-Edgecombe
Appointee Officer-
Governor

REEVES, Kenneth

Leicester, NC
County-Buncombe
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

SIMPSON, Jeff

Roseboro, NC
County-Cumberland
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

SMALL, Willard

Fair Bluff, NC
County-Columbus
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

SMITH, Rick

Greenville, NC
County-Pitt
Appointee Officer-
Speaker of the House

TEAGUE, William H.
CHAIRMAN

Leicester, NC
County-Buncombe
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem

WARD, Dan

VICE CHAIRMAN
Clarkton, NC
County-Bladen
Appointee Officer-
President Pro Tem



COMMISSION HISTORY

2012

Background

North Carolina's share of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) was divided into three different parts. Under the terms of the consent decree in North Carolina, 50% of the funds are directed to a non-profit corporation, Golden LEAF, to be used for economic development in tobacco-dependent communities. By statute the remaining 50% is equally divided between two state Commissions. The Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission utilizes their portion for health-related needs (HWTFC). The final portion is allocated to the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (TTFC). With the passage of the 2011 budget, the TTFC now receives funding via non-reoccurring appropriations and the HWTFC is no longer in existence.

The TTFC was created on August 2, 2000 with the approval of House Bill 1431. The purpose of the Commission is to assist tobacco farmers, former tobacco quota holders, persons engaged in tobacco-related businesses, individuals displaced from tobacco-related employment, and tobacco product component businesses in this State due to the adverse effects of the MSA. Funds can be disbursed through **compensatory programs** and **qualified agricultural programs**.

Membership is made up of 18 people, six appointed by the Governor, six by the Speaker of the House and six by the President Pro Tem of the Senate. The board met for the first time February 15, 2001 at which the members were given their charges and sworn in.

Since November 1, 2011

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

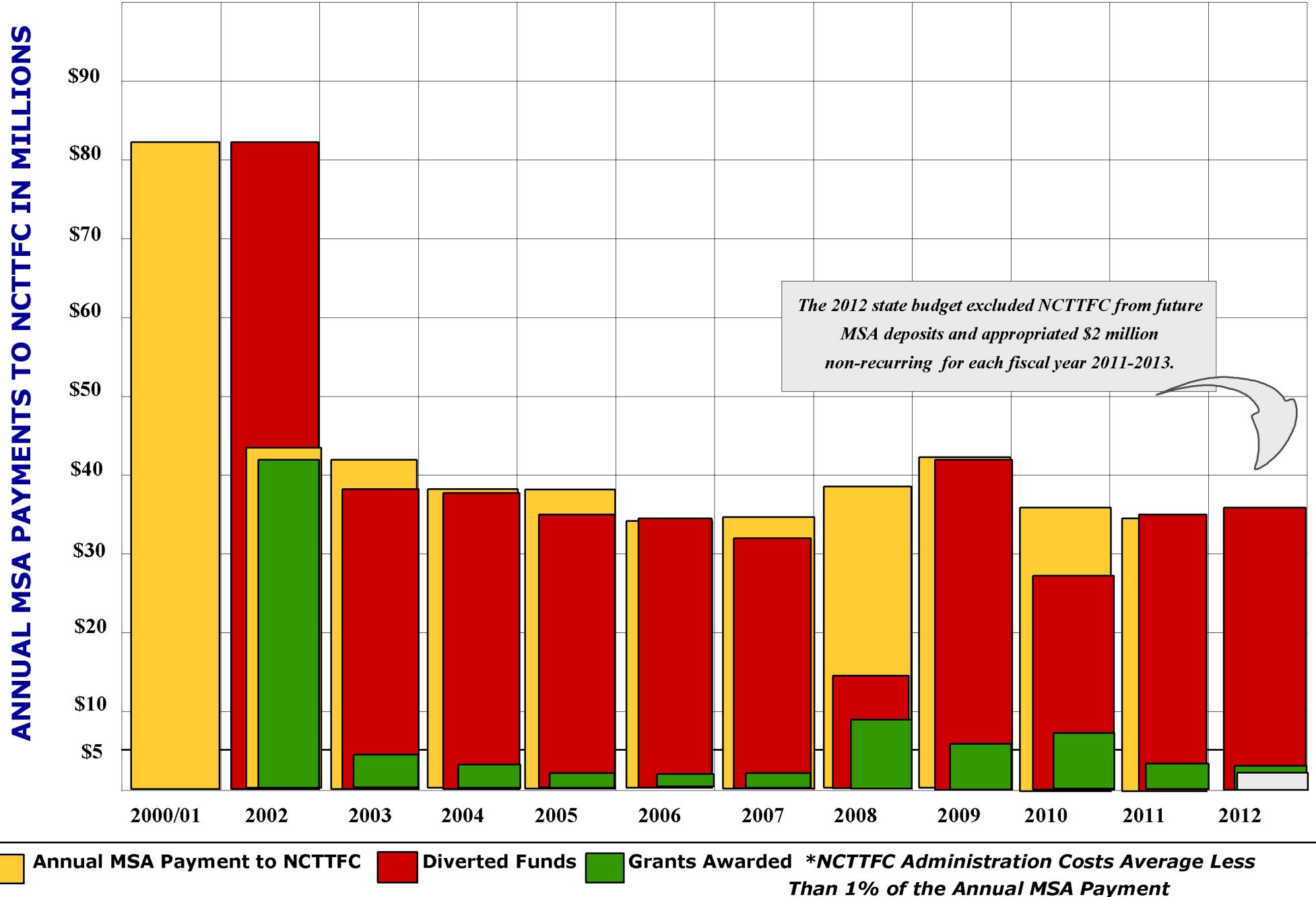
In 2012, a total of **41** grant applications were received requesting over **\$10** million in funding. After a very detailed review process, the TTFC approved grants totaling **\$2,058.567 for 19 projects**. The diversion of funds, to balance the state budget and other non-statutory projects, prevented the board from addressing many more of these worthy applications.

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

- Over \$600,000 in product sales, since inception, for Piedmont Local Foods, a farm cooperative based in Rockingham County.
- The 24 community colleges which oversee the “Project Skill-Up” program assisted over 3,000 students with career training and skills enhancement.
- The marketing efforts of the “Got to Be NC” marketing campaign have reached over 11 million consumers in retail stores over the last two years.
- Since opening in 2011, the “WNC Regional Livestock Market” has sold over \$16 million in livestock!
- Farmers markets in Cabarrus and Vance counties will soon have new structures thanks to TTFC funding. Our funds are being leveraged with other funders to help renovate and/or build new facilities for job training in Surry, Yadkin and Duplin counties.

Even in the light of an unprecedented recession, new enterprises are continuing to take hold, new markets are being developed, and new job opportunities are being provided. These contributions, detailed throughout this report, illustrate the passion of North Carolinians to restore prosperity to formerly tobacco-dependent communities and businesses. Agriculture is still a key industry in the state driving an important economic engine in the rural areas. Our state leaders have shown their ability to address current challenges and future opportunities by providing financial resources through our program that will pay dividends for years to come. On behalf of the board and the many people we serve, the TTFC thanks you for your support.

Annual MSA Payments, Diverted Funds & Grant Awards



NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2008 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS as of OCTOBER, 2012

Project: **An Improved Laboratory Information Management System to Meet the Agronomic Data Needs of NC Growers**

Contact: Dr. Colleen Hudak-Wise
Agronomic Division, NCDA&CS
1040 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-733-2655

Grant Amount: \$455,600

Project implemented a custom designed new Lab Information Management System for the NCDA&CS Agronomic Lab. Services include nematode assays, plant tissue and waste analysis. Lab can now handle increased sample and testing demands placed on it by farmers and consumers. The new system went operational in the summer of 2012.

STATUS: COMPLETED.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: **Value-Added Cost Share Program**

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
Box 7645, NCSU
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-2000

Grant Amount: \$1,396,430

The goal of this project is to address the value-added equipment needs of producers and to assist farmers/food companies with feasibility studies and grants related to the federal Value-Added Producer Grant program. Qualified applicants can receive up to 50% cost-share funding towards processing equipment that adds value to raw/processed food products. In addition, qualified producers could be eligible for cost-share assistance towards grant writing and feasibility studies which enable them to qualify for federal grant assistance.

STATUS: For the first time ever, 10 NC producers received over \$1 million in USDA funding to expand their value-added operations. Over 50 producers have received value-added equipment cost-share assistance. The project is scheduled to end December 31, 2012.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Farm Energy Efficiency Project

Contact: Mr. Julian Philpot, Jr.
NC Farm Bureau Legal Foundation, Inc.
5301 Glenwood Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27766
919 783-3572

Grant Amount: \$1,099,800

The project's purpose is to reduce energy costs for farmers across the state. Energy audits done by private companies will provide critical information to farmers on improvements that can be made to reduce energy expenses. In addition, cost-share funds will be available to qualifying farms who wish to install energy saving equipment. Finally, cost share funds will assist with the federal Rural Energy for America Program, which enables farmers to install energy saving projects. The project is scheduled to close on November 1, 2012.

STATUS: Over 340 energy audits completed. Over \$3.4 million in federal grant funding has been awarded for 70 projects, 23 renewable energy grants awarded, 213 FEEP farms have received funding for the REAP program, and over 100,000 acres have been impacted with over 1,700 people served.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncfarmenergy.org

Project: Piedmont Value-Added Shared Use Food and Agricultural Processing Center

Contact: Mr. Noah Ranells
Orange County
PO Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-245-2300

Grant Amount: \$479,000

Facility located in Hillsborough provides a full service food processing center for 22 counties. Funds were used for equipment and renovations. Project leveraged over \$1 million in additional funding. Grand opening was held October 21, 2011. At contract's end, over 20 clients were utilizing the facility.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area served: Orange and surrounding 22 counties.

www.co.orange.nc.us

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2009 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS as of OCTOBER, 2012

Project: AgriSafe & Certified Safe Farm Program

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
NC Tobacco Foundation, Inc.
Box 7645, NCSU
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-2000

Grant Amount: \$500,000

The project's purpose was to establish the AgriSafe and Certified Safe Farm program in cooperation with the NC Cooperative Extension Service and the NC Agromedicine Institute. The project targeted a three-county region and improved the health and safety of farm families through health screenings, educational programs and incentives for farming operations that became "certified safe." The result was a reduction in on-farm injuries and decreased health-care costs. The project has served as a pilot for a potential state-wide project and reached over 40 other counties. Nearly 4,000 people received clinical services, 18,000 received educational training and 120 farms received safety audits.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Duplin, Johnston and Sampson counties

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

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2010 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS as of OCTOBER, 2012

Project: **APC Processing Facility**

Contact: Ms. Charlene Jacobs
American Prawn Cooperative
831 Meadow Road
Walstonburg, NC 27888
252-747-2347

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Project leveraged grant funds to purchase a freezing unit and install electrical equipment for the APC processing facility. The unit has been used to quick freeze prawns to ensure top quality product for marketing and shipping of the APC prawns. Growers have successfully used the equipment and product was put in storage for shipment. Orders with distributors and retailers were filled.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Central and Eastern NC

www.prawncoop.com

Project: **Appalachian Grown: Marketing Support for Mountain Farms**

Contact: Mr. Charlie Jackson
Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
729 Haywood Road #3
Asheville, NC 28806
828-236-1282

Grant Amount: \$168,450

Project funds a marketing cost share program for farmers, farmer groups and farmer tail-gate markets in western North Carolina. Cost share is utilized as a direct one-to-one match for marketing and promotional materials.

STATUS: Over 1,000 farmers have been supported by the project either through direct cost-share assistance or through their membership in farmers markets. Over \$80,000 has been leveraged against the same amount of cost-share. Farmers have reported the decreased marketing costs have increased profits and the additional marketing tools have generated more sales.

Area Served: 23 Advantage West counties

www.asapconnections.org

Project: Loan Fund: Partnership with Community Banks

Contact: Mr. Mike Manis
Centralina Economic Development Corporation
1300 Baxter Street Suite 450
Charlotte, NC 28304
704-348-2720

Grant Amount: \$220,000

Funds are leveraging an \$820,000 grant from the US Department of Commerce for a permanent revolving loan fund to encourage banks to make loans to businesses targeting agriculture and advanced manufacturing, particularly small companies developing new value added products at the Kannapolis research campus. Loans will be for fixed assets and must create jobs, and are subordinated to other creditors providing an additional \$1,000,000 in loans. Companies will be linked to worker training services to upgrade workforce skills.

STATUS: Grantee received the grant from USDC. Partnering banks have begun to promote the program and review applications.

Area Served: Mecklenburg and surrounding counties

www.centralina.org

Project: Risk Mitigation Measures (RMM)

Contact: Ms. Robin Tutor
East Carolina University - NC Agromedicine Institute
1157 VOA Site C Road
Greenville, NC 27834
252-744-1045

Grant Amount: \$184,542

Project helped farms across NC implement stringent risk mitigation measures (RMMs) that began in 2010 and were required by the EPA. Over 40 workshops were held to train individuals on RMM, including development of a Fumigant Management Plan and requirements for buffer zones. Required safety equipment was also provided at a reduced

cost. Educational materials, including a directory of occupational health services and respiratory protection suppliers, was widely disseminated. Over 700 people received medical clearance/fit testing with over 2,000 people served.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagromedicine.org

Project: Agricultural Heritage Legacy Scholarship Program

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

Grant Amount: \$115,000

Grant has provided 2-year scholarships and internships to 14 students in NCSU's Agricultural Institute. Students who were first in their family to attend college received priority. Goals encourage higher education, enable enhanced agriculture career opportunities, and create long term economic benefits to students' local communities. Focus will be on counties classified as tobacco dependent and still deriving most of their income from agriculture. Students have paid for their own room, board, and expenses.

STATUS: Seven students completed their two years of school. Three have graduated and secured jobs. Four have continued studies at NCSU.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Farm Safety and Health Improvement Fund

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

Grant Amount: \$153,000

Farmers in the three counties currently participating in the AgriSafe/Certified Safe Farm of NC program were reimbursed for up to 75% of costs associated with recommended safety and health improvements. The project awarded cost share funds to 38 farmers providing an incentive for them to make priority safety improvements. Examples of reimbursable items included roll-over protection systems for tractors, machinery shielding, personal protective equipment such as respirators, electrical improvements, equipment lighting and marking, and fire extinguishers.

STATUS: COMPLETED.

Area Served: Duplin, Johnston, Sampson

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Farmhand Foods Soft Launch

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

Grant Amount: \$72,000

This project executed the soft launch of Farmhand Foods, a branded meat company that aggregates pasture-based beef and pork products from independent farmers and partners with existing processing businesses. The company markets/distributes products to local restaurants and retail groceries in NC. By the end of the grant period, over \$300,000 in product had been sold with over \$600,000 leveraged. Project has utilized over 20 beef and pork suppliers. The “Sausage Wagon” which sells various pork products continues to generate strong brand awareness.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Food Safety for Farmers' Markets

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

919-515-9259

Grant Amount: \$86,568

Through this project an evidence-based food safety training program for NC Farmers' Markets operators and vendors has been established and evaluated for efficiency. This program is built specifically for the actual practices of vendors by assessing the current food safety practices across the state. The program is based on best available risk-reduction practices, provides practical solutions to food safety issues and helps create a food safety culture within farmers markets.

STATUS: Observations and data were collected from the 32 test farmers markets. The safety curriculum was developed and training sessions for agricultural agents were implemented. The curriculum is available for all agents and markets in the state.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Organic Canola and Spelt Production

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

Grant Amount: \$75,000

This project demonstrated and researched organic canola and spelt production so that North Carolina farmers would have research-based information to successfully grow and market these crops. Through field trials, workshops and demonstrations, farmers had the chance to learn how row spacing, seeding rates, and disease play a part in successful production. Regional markets for organic canola hold the most promise. Several growers contracted with canola and spelt processors to provide crops on an annual basis.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Strengthening Markets - Educating Farmers, Consumers

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

Grant Amount: \$91,937

Project strengthens markets by educating farmers on ways to increase sales at direct markets. It educates consumers about NC produce to increase their purchases of fruits and vegetables. The program consists of 22 educational videos featuring the “Produce Lady” about selection, preparation, and storage of fresh produce. It includes a resource section online consisting of videos, recipes and news columns that Extension agents may localize to support farmers markets. It features demonstrations, a blog and appearances capturing 75,000 weekly viewers of UNC-TV's Almanac Gardener.

STATUS: The Produce Lady has appeared in several print media articles, television segments, radio (both in-state and national) and on the internet. It is estimated that over 33,000 people have been served through online and personal presentations. Program has produced over 40 instructional videos since inception.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Plasticulture Technology Training

Contact: Mr. Kent Messick
NCDA&CS Agronomic Division
1040 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-733-2655

Grant Amount: \$27,255

Project developed three workshops to educate current and former tobacco growers and other ag professionals on crop production under plasticulture. NCDA&CS agronomists made follow-up visits to participant growers to check on their progress and ensure they were sampling and using agronomic tests appropriately. This project improved resource management, farm profitability, developed new skills, and assisted in family farm preservation.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov/agronomi

Project: NC Agricultural Products Marketing Initiative Continuation

Contact: Mr. Joe Sanderson
NCDA&CS
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-733-7912

Grant Amount: \$825,000

This project has continued and enhanced the "Got to be NC" marketing program to assist producers, farmers and value added food companies in growing sales with retail, food service and specialty food companies. The goal is to sustain and open new markets for food producers across the state. This will enhance ability of traditional tobacco operations to shift to other consumable product production, and provide growth opportunities for value added companies.

STATUS: Various marketing campaigns are underway and/or completed with restaurants, grocers and distributors. National specialty food shows in Washington DC and other in-state locations have been held. Stores have utilized displays, signs, ads and promotional events. Combined with media impressions to reach 22 million customers/consumers. Sales increases of 20% and up have been reported and over 500 farm and food producers have been served.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov/markets

Project: Clean Water for North Carolina Tobacco Farmers

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

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Project provides cost share assistance to up to 80 farmers transitioning from tobacco production or diversifying to additional agricultural enterprises for installing Best Management Practices that prevent sediment, nutrients, or other pollutants from entering

streams within the boundaries of their farms. Typical BMPs include cropland conversion to grass or trees, grassed waterways, field borders, filter strips, diversion terraces, and similar practices.

STATUS: 63 landowners throughout 13 counties have been assisted through cost share grants. Projects impacting over 1,200 acres have been completed or approved.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncfoundationforsoilandwater.org

Project: Risk of Alternative Crops to Bacterial Wilt of Tobacco

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
NC Tobacco Foundation Inc.
Campus Box 7405
Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-9259

Grant Amount: \$75,000

Over 250 strains of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Rs), the cause of bacterial wilt, have been collected from eleven tobacco fields in NC between 2006 and 2008. The project investigated whether the Rs strains infected other crop hosts of the pathogen, such as tomatoes, peppers, and peanuts. Results showed that tomato plants are much more susceptible to bacterial wilt and that tomato strains are much more diverse than tobacco. Materials produced by the study will help farmers and gardeners identify which strains will cause most damage to crops.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

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

Project: Tobacco Growers Communication Assistance

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

Grant Amount: \$50,000

Project completed its goal to produce and distribute at least 4 issues of the association's newsletter to 6,000 monthly readers and the annual 36-page Growers Resource Guide to tobacco growers and tobacco industry officials. The materials provide current and specific information about ongoing issues/changes in the tobacco industry.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation

Project: Expansion of NROG

Contact: Ms. Sally Theil
New River Organic Growers
P.O. Box 1223
West Jefferson, NC 28694
336-384-2546

Grant Amount: \$54,549

This project supported New River Organic Grower's growth and development as they moved forward towards their goal of being a self-sufficient farm cooperative. This project helped develop a business plan, goals for long term sustainability, continued market expansion for produce, and the development of markets for meat producers. By the end of the project, over 24 new jobs were created and the project had assisted 30 farmers. Nearly \$150,000 in product sales had been generated.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Northwestern NC counties

www.newriverorganicgrowers.org

Project: Regional Local Food Distribution Project

Contact: Ms. Brenda Sutton
Rockingham County Local Food Coalition
525 Hwy 65, Suite 200
Reidsville, NC 27320
336-342-8230

Grant Amount: \$44,500

This project implements the sale and distribution of local foods produced throughout the rural north-central region of North Carolina into neighboring urban areas. Utilizing a comprehensive website which allows businesses or consumers to place orders, the project delivers produce and meat orders to specific locations in the region for customer pick-up.

STATUS: By October, 2012, nearly 1,000 people had registered on the website, over 3,600 acres of farmland were affected and farmers experienced over \$630,000 in sales!

Area Served: Rockingham and surrounding counties

www.piedmontlocalfood.com

Project: "3-E" Experiment, Experience, Extend

Contact: Mr. Colby Martin
Yancey County Schools
PO Box 190
Burnsville, NC 28714
828-682-6101 x322

Grant Amount: \$84,327

Project constructed an up-to-date instructional greenhouse and provided supplies to help expand the hands-on curriculum integration for agricultural students at Mountain Heritage High School. Mayland Community College also utilized the structure. The goal of students served surpassed estimates with over 200 students enrolling in ag-related studies. The greenhouse not only served as an instructional resource but also served the community by providing nursery items for area non-profits and plant sales.

STATUS: COMPLETED.

Area Served: Yancey, Mitchell, Avery counties

www.yanceync.net

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2011 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS as of OCTOBER, 2012

Project: Growing Successful Food Businesses

Contact: Mr. Scott Hamilton
AdvantageWest Economic Development Group

134 Wright Brothers Way
Fletcher, NC 28732
828-687-7234

Grant Amount: \$40,000

Project supports efforts of Blue Ridge Food Ventures to continue to offer marketing and product development assistance to food producers. The facility offers equipment for further processing of various food products including fresh produce. Many users need additional assistance with marketing and facility staff will provide this service.

STATUS: A new competitive marketing campaign for food vendors has begun. The facility is serving over 50 different food companies.

Area Served: Primarily western NC but also other counties

www.blueridgefoodventures.org

Project: Farm Credit University – AgBiz Planner

Contact: Maggie Hamm
Carolina Farm Credit
PO Box 1827
Statesville, NC 28687
800-521-9952

Grant Amount: \$54,500

In the fall of 2012, project has begun to recruit, assist and train 30 different farm families who are young, beginning, small and minority farmers to become successful business people through training of financial and business management topics. The participants will utilize an online learning module and receive assistance from Farm Credit personnel to improve their business skills. Three NC Farm Credit offices administer the project.

Area Served: Statewide

www.carolinafarmcredit.com

Project: Duplin County Livestock Facility

Contact: Mr. Brandon Cox
Duplin County
PO Box 910
Kenansville, NC 28349
910-296-2100

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Project will construct a livestock marketing facility at the Duplin County arena and fairgrounds site. Its primary purpose is to assist the Coastal Carolina Cattle Alliance with marketing truckloads of cattle. The facility will also be used for community and agricultural events/meetings and to assist with events for the county arena.

STATUS: The facility is under construction and will open by winter 2013.

Area Served: Duplin and surrounding counties

www.duplincountync.com

Project: Lenoir County Farmer's Market

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

Grant Amount: \$15,000

The downtown farmer's market utilized grant funds to improve the market facilities and renovate restrooms for the public and vendors. The market is a vital link for area farmers and consumers and is a proven sales facility which has helped keep farmers in business. The market is open twice a week throughout the year.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Lenoir and surrounding counties

www.ces.ncsu.edu/lenoir

Project: Multi-Purpose Building

Contact: Mr. Steve Garrison
Madison County
PO Box 579
Marshall, NC 28753
828-649-2854

Grant Amount: \$150,000

Funds will be used towards construction of a new 200' x 285' livestock and agricultural facility at the Madison County Fairgrounds. The open air shelter will be utilized during the county fair and for various agricultural and community events throughout the year.

STATUS: The facility is complete except for minor equipment that is needed. The grand opening was held in October, 2012.

Area Served: Madison and surrounding counties

www.madisoncountync.org/

Project: Regional Forest Landowners Association

Contact: Dr. Sandy Maddox
Mount Olive College
652 R. B. Butler Drive
Mount Olive, NC 28362
919-658-7510

Grant Amount: \$72,500

Mount Olive College will partner with four counties to develop regional forest landowner associations. These groups will help educate landowners on how forests can be used to enhance land values and estate planning. Associations will be established as ongoing sources of information and support to area land owners.

STATUS: Workshops have begun in two counties with very good participation. Feedback from audience members has been positive.

Area Served: Four eastern NC counties

www.moc.edu/agribusiness

Project: Renewable Energy for Farms

Contact: Ms. Jessica Hocz
Mountain Valley Resource Conservation & Development
4388 Hwy 25/70, Suite 3
Marshall, NC 28753
828-649-3313 ext. 5

Grant Amount: \$125,000

Grantee will educate farmers in western NC about the cost-savings and advantages of alternative energy. Cost-share assistance will be offered to qualified applicants and the goal is to implement at least 12 projects. The projects will be monitored for efficiency and cost-savings will be tracked.

STATUS: Project has several projects underway and some have been completed.

Area Served: Western NC

www.mountainvalleysrcd.org

Project: Agricultural Education Improvement Grants

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

Grant Amount: \$180,540

The NC Future Farmers of America office offered a competitive grant program to the state's high schools. Up to 32 grants were awarded to schools to improve their agricultural education programs. Schools with healthy FFA chapters average higher graduation rates and students are trained in leadership and agricultural skills.

STATUS: All grant projects are underway at the schools.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Agricultural Leadership Development Program

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

Grant Amount: \$100,000

This intensive, two-year program will educate and train 30 farm leaders from across the state providing leadership, problem-solving and business skills. The program has a

successful track record of empowering farm leaders to take the skills learned and apply them to their own operations, businesses and careers. The funding will be leveraged with over \$300,000 in additional funds and covers operational, support and instructional costs.

STATUS: The program held its first meeting with all 30 participants in October, 2012. The project is on track with a comprehensive meeting agenda for the next two years.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Quality Assured Replacement Heifers

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

Grant Amount: \$50,000

The project is training veterinarians, livestock producers and extension agents on how to add value to heifer calves raised on beef cattle operations. Specific technology in regards to weaning, vaccinations, and physical characteristics of “quality assured” heifers will mean better calves demanding a higher price at market. Various workshops and one-on-one training sessions will educate a large number of people across the state. The program is based on a model in Missouri that has shown QA heifers demand higher prices.

STATUS: Various workshops and presentations have been made to producers and trainees.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Rapid Response to New Pest

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

Grant Amount: \$40,000

The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) is an invasive pest that attacks ripe small fruit crops. The species has begun making its way across the state and NCSU researchers are studying ways to combat the insect and reduce crop loss. Preventive measures will help reduce chemical usage and increase profits on crops such as strawberries and blueberries.

STATUS: SWD traps were set at research farms across the state. A national website to track the insect has been established. SWD was found in NC at higher levels and treatment plans are being developed.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation

Project: Project Skill-Up

Contact: Ms. Barbara Boyce
NC Community College System
5001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-5001
919-807-7100

Grant Amount: \$450,000

24 community colleges have used funds to assist students who have an agricultural background or have lost income due to changes in the tobacco industry. Assistance with tuition and supplies goes to qualified applicants who wish to train for new careers or attend agricultural-related classes. The project hopes to assist over 2,000 students and is a continuation of a proven, successful model used over the last four years.

STATUS: Demand for project assistance is strong. Over 1,500 students have been assisted as of October, 2012.

Area Served: Statewide

www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Project: Nematode Molecular Diagnosis

Contact: Dr. Weimin Ye
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1040 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1040
919-733-2655

Grant Amount: \$48,500

Farmers must battle a variety of nematode species which can bring extensive damage to crops. The Agronomics Lab will obtain new equipment which will more quickly and effectively identify specific nematodes so that more direct/effective treatment can be applied by farmers. Producers will not waste money on unnecessary treatments and test results will help in proper chemical usage. 200 tobacco farmers will be part of the first round of testing.

STATUS: Equipment is in place and testing is underway.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/

Project: NC Local Market Promotions

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

Grant Amount: \$125,000

This two-year project promotes and markets the hundreds of roadside stands and farmers markets in the state. Through various media, consumers have been encouraged to support their local markets and buy NC products. Producers and markets also applied for cost-share funds to help cover their own marketing costs.

STATUS: 31 small farmers markets received cost-share funds for their 2012 season. Media ads ran on various TV stations and in state-wide publications.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov/markets

Project: Market Recovery Initiative

Contact: Mr. Ross Williams
NC Retail Nursery & Landscapers Association
968 Trinity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607

919-816-9119

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Over the next two years, the NCRNLA will utilize funds to promote and market NC retail and wholesale nursery companies in order to increase sales. The economy has hit the industry with lower sales and reduced employment. The campaign has utilized various media and trade shows to help stem losses and increase sales of products.

STATUS: A wide variety of industry trade publications have featured NC nursery products. The association has also exhibited at a number of state and national trade shows and distributed its grower directory to several thousand wholesale buyers.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncnla.com

Project: Sustainability Initiative

Contact: Mr. John Kimber
NC Sweet Potato Foundation, Inc.
700 E. Parrish Drive, Suite C
Benson, NC 27504
919-845-0969

Grant Amount: \$60,000

Sweet potato quality can be adversely affected by substandard and inefficient storage facilities. The grantee will work with NCSU researchers to gather data on the means to increase storage capabilities to ensure a top quality product. The results will mean better products, increased sales and increased profits for producers.

STATUS: Several on-site reviews are now completed. More growers will be encouraged to participate and results will be shared with other farmers.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncsweetpotatoes.com

Project: Succeed IV

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel
NC Tobacco Foundation, Inc.
Box 7645, NC State

Raleigh, NC 27695
919-515-9259

Grant Amount: \$33,126

Facilitators at NCSU continued a proven program which targets young tobacco farmers from across the state. The week-long session focused on better tobacco production methods, tours of processing facilities and workshops by trained leaders on how the 37 farmers could improve their operations and increase profitability.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu

Project: Tobacco Growers Communication Assistance

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

Grant Amount: \$43,146

NC tobacco growers have little access to current crop and governmental information that can affect their operations. The NC Tobacco Growers Association will utilize four newsletters and an annual resource guide for all tobacco growers and related industries. These publications will provide critical and timely information for producers.

STATUS: Project is proceeding.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation

Project: Winecoff Expansion

Contact: Mr. Jonathan Caldwell
Cabarrus County
PO Box 707
Concord, NC 28026-0707
704-920-2100

Grant Amount: \$75,000

The established Piedmont Farmers Market in Concord is at full capacity. The Winecoff market will build an open air shelter designed to house 34 additional vendors. Funds will be used for site development and leveraged with other funders to cover actual building construction costs.

STATUS: The facility plans are almost finalized and construction will be underway in late 2012.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cabarruscounty.us

Project: Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund

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

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Farmers and community groups will be awarded cost-share funds, after a competitive grant process, for innovative projects designed to increase farm income. Projects will also serve as demonstration/educational sources for other farmers. This grant builds upon the proven and successful TCRF model supported by the grantor in previous years.

STATUS: Over 25 projects received cost-share funding. Final reports will be completed in Fall of 2012.

Area Served: Statewide

www.rafiusa.org

Project: Pilot Center

Contact: Mr. Homer Dearmin
Surry County
124 N. Main Street
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041
336-368-2248

Grant Amount: \$35,000

Grant funds will be leveraged with other funders to cover extensive renovation costs of the Pilot Center. This multi-purpose facility will expand its reach into the community by offering more classroom/training space for farmers and the public. The center also houses the Pilot Mountain Pride farmer cooperative which markets fresh produce.

STATUS: Renovations have begun after some delay. The project should be completed in early 2013.

Area Served: Surry and surrounding counties.

www.co.surry.nc.us

Project: Vance County Regional Farmers Market

Contact: Mr. Paul McKenzie
Vance County
305 Young Street
Henderson, NC 27536
252-438-8188

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Vance County has no permanent facility for farmers to sell their products. Funds will be used for site development and towards construction of a new multi-use facility that will house numerous vendors during produce season and serve as a much-needed meeting space for the community. This funding is contingent upon the county securing other necessary funds to complete the project.

STATUS: Site plans and engineering drawings are complete with construction set to begin in early 2013.

Area Served: Statewide

www.vancecounty.com

Project: WNC AgOptions

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

828-252-4783

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Western NC farmers and community groups in 18 counties applied for and received cost-share funds for innovative farm projects. Current/former tobacco farmers are a priority for funding projects that will increase farm income. At least 30 projects could receive assistance.

STATUS; 23 individual farmers and three community groups received \$150,000 in cost-share grants on projects ranging from trout farming to fresh produce delivered directly to homes.

Area Served: Western NC

www.wnccommunities.org/

NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION
2012 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS AWARDED IN SEPTEMBER, 2012

Project: Growing Income with Farm Tours

Contact: Ms. Laura Wurts
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
PO Box 448
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-2404

Grant Amount: \$30,000

Project will empower NC communities to increase profitability of farms through local food marketing by organizing events based on the model of CFSA's successful farm tours. CFSA tours, and similar tours across NC, bring thousands of consumers to dozens of farms annually, providing sales and marketing benefits to participating farms. Cost-share funds will be available for up to four farm tour organizations.

Area Served: Statewide

www.carolinafarmstewards.org

Project: Risk Mitigation Measures II

Contact: Ms. Robin Tutor-Marcom

North Carolina Agromedicine Institute - East Carolina University
1157 VOA Site C Road
Greenville, NC 27834
252-744-1045

Grant Amount: \$125,000

Project will help farmers implement Phase II Risk Mitigation Measures for soil fumigants being released by the US Environmental Protection Agency in December 2012. 25 interactive workshops will be conducted to train farmers on Phase II RMM. 20 train-the-trainer workshops will be conducted to enable farms to conduct their own annual respirator fit tests. A Fit-to-Farm component will be included in respirator fit test events and workshops to address health issues adversely affecting respirator use.

Area Served: Statewide

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/agromedicine/>

Project: Value-Added Penetration of New Markets

Contact: Ms. Amanda Carter
Independent Small Animal Meat Processors Association of
Western North Carolina (ISAMPA)
PO Box 1212
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
360-304-0948

Grant Amount: \$25,000

ISAMPA manages the Foothills Pilot Plant, a new facility that processes small farm animals such as chicken and rabbits. Products are packaged and sold throughout the southeast region. The grant will provide financial support for plant operations and administration.

Area Served: Statewide

www.isampa.org

Project: JSCC Diesel Mechanic Program

Contact: Mr. Mark Lennon
James Sprunt Community College
PO Box 398
Kenansville, NC 28349

910-296-2431

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Project will establish a nationally recognized Continuing Education Diesel Mechanic Program at James Sprunt Community College. This grant request is to build a new facility on existing land owned by Duplin County in Warsaw, NC. Mechanics will be trained and placed into high demand jobs in the region. Grant funds will be leveraged with other funders.

Area Served: Duplin and surrounding counties

www.jamessprunt.edu

Project: Heritage Industry Expansion Project

Contact: Ms. Shirley Hise
Mitchell County Development Foundation
PO Box 858
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-9033

Grant Amount: \$40,000

Project will update an existing commercial kitchen facility at Mayland Community College in Mitchell County to comply with local, state and national standards. The space will be used for local farmers in Western NC to produce sustainable agricultural and value added products to be marketed by the foundation. Funds will be used for infrastructure and equipment.

Area served: Mitchell and surrounding counties

www.marketonoak.com

Project: Stevia Production in North Carolina

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

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Project will establish the feasibility of commercial production of stevia in multiple tobacco regions in eastern NC. Best management practices for conventional and organic production will be developed to insure highest return to growers while being good stewards of the state's natural resources and environment.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation

Project: Value Added Cost Share Program

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

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Funding for the Value Added Cost Share program will continue the activities initiated in 2008. Cost-share funding for processors adding value to NC-Grown agricultural commodities and for producers of value added products made from raw commodities that they grow/raise will be administered. The funds will off-set the costs of specialized equipment involved in the value-adding processes directly related to the processing and/or packaging of those products.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation

Project: Project Skill-UP

Contact: Ms. Barbara Boyce
NC Community College System
5001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-807-7158

Grant Amount: \$375,000

Project is a workforce development initiative with three core components - Develop and implement outreach and recruitment activities to individuals, communities, and businesses adversely impacted by changes in the tobacco industry; Provide skills assessment and short term occupational skills training; and Provide financial assistance

towards books, tuition and other supplies to meet their educational goals. Project will be implemented at 20+ community colleges.

Area Served: Statewide

www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Project: 2013 Tobacco Short Course

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

Grant Amount: \$36,567

Project is a four day short course on tobacco production and marketing skills for young tobacco farmers, new extension agents and related agribusinesses. The course will address good agricultural practices related to economics of tobacco production, agronomy, insect management, disease management, mechanization of production, curing with an emphasis on energy use efficiency, and marketing to buyers who must comply with FDA requirements and competition in a global market.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation

Project: Tobacco Growers Communications Assistance

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

Grant Amount: \$32,000

Project is designed to provide pertinent and accurate information that is specific to tobacco farming and the broader tobacco industry. It is the only communication specifically focused on tobacco and available to growers statewide as well as government leaders at all levels, university leadership and allied industry interests. Project is achieved by producing and distributing at least four issues of the Association Newsletter, a single 36 page Growers Resource Guide, and utilization of website.

Area Served: Statewide

www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation

Project: Farmers Manage Deer

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

Grant Amount: \$150,000

Project will help farmers in nine tobacco dependent counties implement best deer herd management practices on 50,000 acres of farmland. This pilot project will coordinate farm participation from the Hunt NC Farmlands Program of the NCDA&CS, the Bonus Antlerless Deer Tag Program of NCWRC and Hunters for the Hungry.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncwildlife.org

Project: Food Safety Outreach and Education

Contact: Ms. Chrissy Waggett
NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
1001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-707-3008

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Project will expand the Food Safety Forum as the only program in the state that brings together all the stakeholders in the food safety system for a discussion of important food safety initiatives. This includes education directed toward farmers, retailers, manufacturers, and food safety officials on major food safety regulations that will be released in 2012. Education is vital to curbing food safety risks and providing safe food for those who have transitioned from tobacco into other areas of agriculture and may be unaware of the different risks they face.

Area Served: Statewide

www.ncagr.gov

Project: Southeastern Agricultural Center Multipurpose Pavilion

Contact: Ms. Mariah Gallagher
NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-707-3145

Grant Amount: \$75,000

This project will leverage other funds to purchase portable flooring that will complete a 48,000 square foot multipurpose pavilion located in Robeson county. The addition of the flooring will allow for use of the facility to be expanded, accommodate trade shows, auctions, meetings, and other activities that will serve Robeson and the surrounding counties.

Area Served: Robeson and surrounding counties

<http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/facilities/agcenters/southeastern/index.htm>

Project: Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund

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

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Program provides cost-share grants to individual farmers and producer groups in North Carolina for innovative projects designed to increase farmers' incomes. Priority is given to former and current tobacco farmers.

Area Served: Coastal Plains, Piedmont and Western Piedmont regions

www.ncfarmgrants.org

Project: Vance County Regional Farmers Market

Contact: Mr. Paul McKenzie
Vance County
305 Young St.
Henderson, NC 27536

252-438-8188

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Vance County will build a multi-purpose retail farmers market structure off of Beckford Dr. in Henderson, NC. Funds will be used to complete phase one of the project and leverage other funding. The building will serve as a farmers market and community events facility.

Area Served: Vance and surrounding counties

www.vancecounty.com

Project: Adding Value to WNC Livestock

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

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Project will help 350 WNC livestock producers earn higher prices for their cattle by delivering a series of educational workshops and one-on-one guidance on proven ways to add value to their livestock.

Area Served: Western NC counties

www.wnccommunities.org

Project: WNC AgOptions

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

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Project will continue the successful WNC AgOptions program. These funds will enable up to 25 new demonstration grants to help farmers diversify and expand their farming operations and replace tobacco-based income.

Area Served: Western NC counties

www.ncagoptions.org

Project: Yadkin Valley Agriculture Center

Contact: Mr. Aaron Church
Yadkin County
PO Box 146
Yadkinville, NC 27055
336-679-4200

Grant Amount: \$100,000

The scope of the project consists of constructing a two story multi-purpose Agricultural center at the Yadkin County Center. Classroom space for Surry Community College will be included. It will provide office space for NC State Cooperative Extension, NC Forestry, Soil & Water, and other agencies, as well as a 300 person conference center, commercial kitchen and lecture halls. Grant funds will be leveraged with other funding for completion.

Area Served: Yadkin and surrounding counties

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

Project: Truck for TRACTOR

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

Grant Amount: \$30,000

Project will purchase a refrigerated truck to help establish deliveries of produce from TRACTOR (Toe River Aggregation Center Training Organization Regional) in 2013. TRACTOR is an aggregation facility for fresh produce and began operation in September, 2012. The project expects to serve 65 farms.

Area Served: Yancey and surrounding counties

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

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012 (FY12)

	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$9,503,558.31												
INTEREST INCOME	\$8,623.28	\$9,951.33	\$7,555.19	\$5,378.53	\$6,421.77	\$5,856.63	\$4,687.66	\$4,603.49	\$4,140.06	\$3,282.17	\$3,414.79	\$3,387.86	\$67,302.76
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$2,000,000.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$936.01		\$1,503.86	\$677.65	\$661.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53.74	\$18,843.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$22,675.41
Fiscal Year 2012 Revenue	\$9,559.29	\$9,951.33	\$2,009,059.05	\$6,056.18	\$7,082.92	\$5,856.63	\$4,687.66	\$4,657.23	\$22,983.06	\$3,282.17	\$3,414.79	\$3,387.86	\$2,089,978.17
EXPENSES													
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$30.00	\$210.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$165.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$705.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$2.00	\$176.50	\$0.00	\$145.50	\$0.00	\$775.50	\$64.50	\$45.00	\$367.00	\$13.50	\$150.50	\$0.00	\$1,740.00
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$35.15	\$181.10	\$0.00	\$144.74	\$0.00	\$440.09	\$201.85	\$109.05	\$350.54	\$0.00	\$144.75	\$176.00	\$1,783.27
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$81.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$81.35
	\$52.15	\$387.60	\$0.00	\$410.24	\$30.00	\$1,506.94	\$311.35	\$199.05	\$882.54	\$28.50	\$325.25	\$176.00	\$4,309.62
<u>Staff Personnel Expenses</u>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$17,191.71	\$22,808.33	\$22,862.96	\$22,926.76	\$22,926.75	\$22,926.76	\$26,193.58	\$22,926.75	\$25,935.12	\$23,047.57	\$22,926.77	\$22,926.58	\$275,599.64
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$0.00	\$946.42	\$130.04	\$60.73	\$36.35	\$39.96	\$0.00	\$61.05	\$965.49	\$320.74	\$320.74	\$1,117.60	\$3,678.38
	\$17,191.71	\$23,754.75	\$22,993.00	\$22,987.49	\$22,963.10	\$22,966.72	\$26,193.58	\$22,987.80	\$25,935.12	\$24,013.06	\$23,247.51	\$24,044.18	\$279,278.02
<u>Office Expenses</u>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,536.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,028.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$104.74	\$0.00	\$11,669.40
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$218.58	\$0.00	\$10.93	\$221.31	\$94.16	\$296.07	\$425.55	\$11.06	\$135.50	\$153.95	\$1,842.11
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29.99	\$0.00	\$109.30	\$66.73	\$95.31	\$966.38	\$1,554.63	\$408.29	\$3,230.63
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$562.74	\$924.48	\$821.00	\$2,308.22
Communication/Office Equipment	\$144.00	\$99.04	\$95.14	\$126.39	\$77.95	\$32.22	\$267.81	\$77.95	\$205.88	\$1,313.95	\$103.60	\$314.50	\$2,858.43
Other Administrative Expenses	\$9.19	\$54.24	\$48.81	\$390.99	\$0.00	\$540.27	\$383.00	\$334.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$469.98	\$0.00	\$2,230.75
Vehicle	\$287.05	\$129.48	\$112.72	\$32.40	\$96.47	\$97.20	\$55.88	\$60.24	\$169.64	\$158.80	\$235.11	\$502.81	\$1,937.80
Telephone Services	\$289.59	\$420.73	\$197.19	\$315.62	\$370.65	\$278.61	\$292.12	\$301.91	\$279.31	\$294.57	\$324.35	\$281.19	\$3,645.84
	\$1,004.83	\$703.49	\$672.44	\$865.40	\$11,122.65	\$1,169.61	\$1,202.27	\$2,165.17	\$1,175.69	\$3,307.50	\$3,852.39	\$2,481.74	\$29,723.18
<u>Professional Services</u>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$17,204.66	\$11,194.77	\$0.00	\$13,825.58	\$13,767.21	\$3,246.07	-\$2,191.97	\$59,717.34	\$11,973.13	\$0.00	\$11,973.13	\$24,747.56	\$165,457.48
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$29,000.00
Misc.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fiscal Year 2012 Expenses	\$17,204.66	\$11,194.77	\$0.00	\$13,825.58	\$13,767.21	\$12,746.07	-\$2,191.97	\$61,217.34	\$11,973.13	\$0.00	\$18,973.13	\$35,747.56	\$194,457.48
													\$507,768.30

2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants			2009 Granting Cycle			2010 Granting Cycle				
	FY 08-11	FY 12		FY 09-11	FY 12		FY 10-11	FY 12		
RAFI-USA	\$6,128,572.05	\$237,077.08	NC Ag Foundation-Switchgrass	\$147,637.40	\$15,662.60	American Prawn Cooperative	\$179,461.00	\$17,940.00	Cash Carried Forward	\$9,503,558.31
NC Ag Foundation	\$666,858.04	\$198,731.88	NC Ag Foundation-AgriSafe	\$350,680.06	\$65,166.80	ASAP	\$84,225.00	\$2,989.46	Total Revenue FY12	\$2,089,978.17
NC Farm Bureau Legal Foundation	\$592,028.81	\$497,458.22	NC REAL Enterprises	\$47,192.83	\$14,422.99	Centralina EDC	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	Total Expenses FY12 (-)	\$507,768.30
NC Rural Center	\$3,487,084.14	\$242,595.00	TOTAL	\$545,510.29	\$95,252.39	ECU-NC Agromedicine Institute	\$92,271.00	\$76,915.66	Subtotal	\$11,085,768.18
TOTAL	\$10,874,543.04	\$1,175,862.18				NC Ag. Foundation-Scholarship	\$57,500.00	\$47,702.00	Total Grants Pd Out FY12 (-)	\$4,442,719.63
2008 Granting Cycle						NC Ag. Foundation-Farm Safety	\$76,500.00	\$42,617.87	DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY12 (-)	\$0.00
	FY 08-11	FY 12				NC Ag. Foundation-Farmhand	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00	Current Cash Balance	\$6,643,048.55
ASAP	\$175,280.98	\$27,726.33				NC Ag. Foundation-Food Safety	\$43,134.00	\$7,422.61	Encumbered Funds (-)	\$6,062,106.94
Natural Capital Inv. Fund	\$339,285.00	\$152,500.00				NC Ag. Foundation-Canola	\$37,500.00	\$15,207.41	TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/ Enforcement of the MSA	\$580,941.61
NCDA&CS Agronomic	\$286,387.28	\$169,212.72				NC Ag. Foundation-Strengthening	\$45,968.50	\$13,430.60		
Orange County	\$190,406.43	\$257,876.59				NC Community College System	\$531,096.34	\$170,233.91	Encumbered Funds	
Mountain Valleys RC&D	\$242,952.16	\$0.00				NCDA&CS - Agronomic	\$13,627.50	\$3,381.13	2003 Granting Cycle	\$10,641.52
TOTAL	\$1,234,311.85	\$607,315.64				NCDA&CS - Got to Be NC	\$100,000.00	\$201,643.48	Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$174,927.35
						NCDA&CS - International	\$15,086.51	\$0.00	2005 Granting Cycle	\$57,063.37
						NCDA&CS - Caneberries	\$98,897.31	\$33,709.32	2007 Granting Cycle	\$381,971.19
						NCDA&CS - Strawberry	\$51,526.86	\$0.00	2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$2,044,694.78
						NC Foundation for Soil and Water	\$179,660.04	\$85,968.96	2008 Granting Cycle	\$208,180.76
						NC Nursery and Landscape Assoc.	\$180,166.00	\$63,292.36	2009 Granting Cycle	\$452,490.04
						NC Tobacco Found - Bacterial Wilt	\$37,500.00	\$0.00	2010 Granting Cycle	\$1,235,843.62
						NC's Northeast Econ Dev Foundation	\$0.00	\$0.00	2011 Granting Cycle	\$1,496,294.31
						New River Organic Growers	\$33,077.20	\$21,471.80	TOTAL	\$6,062,106.94
						OIC of Wilson	\$80,012.25	\$23,187.75		
						Rockingham County	\$27,491.82	\$10,168.97		
						UNC-W, SENCFS	\$12,500.00	\$12,475.00		
						Tobacco Farm Life Museum	\$68,843.79	\$11,156.16		
						Town of Elizabethtown	\$149,908.92	\$200,091.08		
						Town of Fair Bluff	\$136,875.71	\$13,124.29		
						Yancey County Schools	\$73,327.00	\$3,051.91		

**This report is based on data from
7/1/11- 6/30/12**

TOTAL	\$2,552,156.75	\$1,113,181.73
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2011 Granting Cycle	
	FY 12
AdvantageWest	\$0.00
Carolina Farm Credit	\$0.00
Duplin County	\$70,000.00
Lenoir County	\$15,000.00
Madison County	\$95,616.00
Mount Olive College	\$36,250.00
Mountain Valleys RC & D	\$62,500.00
NC Ag Foundation-Education	\$90,270.00
NC Ag Foundation-Leadership	\$50,000.00
NC Ag Foundation-Replacement Heifers	\$25,000.00
NC Ag Foundation - Rapid Response	\$20,000.00
NC Community College System	\$189,941.60
NCDA&CS - Agronomic	\$41,616.14
NCDA&CS - Marketing	\$62,500.00
NC Nursery & Landscape Association	\$125,000.00
NC Sweetpotato Foundation, Inc.	\$30,000.00
NC Tobacco Foundation - Succeed IV	\$30,489.51
NC Tobacco Foundation - Growers Communication	\$21,573.00
Cabarrus County	\$0.00
RAFI-USA	\$319,115.74
Town of Pilot Mountain	<u>\$0.00</u>
Vance County	<u>\$14,125.00</u>
WNC Communities - Ag Options	<u>\$152,110.70</u>
Total	\$1,451,107.69

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	<u>\$5,000,000.00</u>
FY 11 Designated Interception	<u>\$176,825.25</u>
TOTAL	\$380,157,252.59

Total Grants Paid Out Since Inception	
Barn Retrofit	\$41,090,228.00
Burley Marketing Center	\$2,509,555.21
NCDA/NCSU Barn Retrofit	\$168,254.00
Hay Relief	\$5,000.00
FCTCC	\$1,880,113.85
2002 Granting Cycle	\$2,534,958.56
2003 Granting Cycle	\$3,525,839.12
2004 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$435,130.26
2005 Granting Cycle	\$2,817,630.15
2007 Granting Cycle	\$3,186,010.81
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$17,050,404.22
2008 Granting Cycle	\$5,045,418.25
2009 Granting Cycle	\$2,569,292.96
2010 Granting Cycle	\$4,870,388.38
2011 Granting Cycle	\$1,451,107.69
TOTAL	\$89,139,331.46

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013 (FY13)

	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$6,643,048.55												
INTEREST INCOME	\$3,275.04	\$2,826.36	\$2,488.73										\$8,590.13
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Fiscal Year 2012 Revenue	\$3,275.04	\$2,826.36	\$2,488.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,590.13
EXPENSES													
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$240.00	\$15.00	\$60.00										\$315.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$1,072.00	\$0.00	\$95.50										\$1,167.50
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$881.40	\$0.00	\$584.20										\$1,465.60
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
	\$2,193.40	\$15.00	\$739.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,948.10
<u>Staff Personnel Expenses</u>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$23,453.89	\$24,999.35	\$23,453.89										\$71,907.13
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$0.00	\$237.50	\$1,046.07										\$1,283.57
	\$23,453.89	\$25,236.85	\$24,499.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$73,190.70
<u>Office Expenses</u>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$321.75	\$0.00										\$321.75
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$277.24	\$290.12	\$0.00										\$567.36
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$205.64	\$103.30										\$308.94
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$195.96										\$195.96
Communication/Office Equipment	\$108.02	\$114.22	\$405.33										\$627.57
Other Administrative Expenses	\$597.69	\$335.06	\$75.95										\$1,008.70
Vehicle	\$235.08	\$30.00	\$75.87										\$340.95
Telephone Services	\$291.04	\$274.03	\$274.10										\$839.17
	\$1,509.07	\$1,570.82	\$1,130.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,210.40
<u>Professional Services</u>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$0.00	\$24,260.66	\$12,243.87										\$36,504.53
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Misc.	\$0.00	-\$5,616.06	\$0.00										-\$5,616.06
	\$0.00	\$18,644.60	\$12,243.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,888.47
Fiscal Year 2013 Expenses													\$111,237.67

2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants		
	FY 08-12	FY 13
NC Ag Foundation Value-Added	\$865,589.92	\$87,552.00
NC Farm Bureau Legal Foundation	\$1,089,487.03	\$118,793.00
TOTAL	\$588,478,161.95	\$206,345.00

2008 Granting Cycle		
	FY 08-12	FY 13
Orange County	\$448,283.02	\$30,716.98
TOTAL	\$448,283.02	\$30,716.98

2009 Granting Cycle		
	FY 08-12	FY 13
NC Ag Foundation - AgriSafe	\$458,464.73	\$12,553.28
TOTAL	\$458,464.73	\$12,553.28

2010 Granting Cycle		
	FY 10-12	FY 13
ASAP	\$87,214.46	\$11,750.14
Centralina EDC	\$110,000.00	\$0.00
NC Ag. Foundation-Scholarship	\$105,202.00	\$0.00
NC Ag. Foundation-Farm Safety	\$76,500.00	\$68,869.99
NC Ag. Foundation-Food Safety	\$50,556.61	\$12,242.83
NC Ag. Foundation-Canola	\$52,707.41	\$13,806.73
NC Ag. Foundation-Strengthening	\$59,399.10	\$0.00
NCD&CS - Got to Be NC	\$301,643.48	\$14,500.00
NC Foundation for Soil and Water	\$265,629.00	\$9,862.00
NC Tobacco Found - Bacterial Wilt	\$37,500.00	\$28,883.44
Yancey County	\$76,378.91	\$4,653.77
Rockingham County	\$37,660.79	\$3,867.99

2011 Grant Cycle		
	FY 12	FY 13
AdvantageWest	0.00	\$7,915.00
Cabarrus County	0.00	\$17,598.16
Carolina Farm Credit	0.00	\$0.00
Duplin County	70,000.00	\$0.00
Lenoir County	15,000.00	\$0.00
Madison County	95,616.00	\$6,885.00
Mount Olive College	36,250.00	\$0.00
Mountain Valleys RC & D	62,500.00	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation-Education	90,270.00	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation-Leadership	50,000.00	\$0.00
NC Ag Found - Heifers	25,000.00	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Pest	20,000.00	\$0.00
NC Community College System	189,941.60	\$51,427.74
NCD&CS - Agronomic	41,616.14	\$0.00
NCD&CS - Marketing	62,500.00	\$0.00
NC Nursery & Landscape Assoc.	125,000.00	\$0.00
NC Sweetpotato Foundation, Inc.	30,000.00	\$0.00
NC Tobacco Found - Communicat	21,573.00	\$0.00
RAFI-USA	319,115.74	\$42,386.52
Town of Pilot Mountain	0.00	\$0.00
Vance County	14,125.00	\$0.00
WNC Communities - Ag Options	152,110.70	\$15,784.56
TOTAL	1,420,618.18	\$141,996.98

Cash Carried Forward	\$6,643,048.55
Total Revenue FY13	\$8,590.13
Total Expenses FY13 (-)	\$111,237.67
Subtotal	\$6,540,401.01
Total Grants Pd Out FY13 (-)	\$560,049.13
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY13 (-)	\$0.00
Current Cash Balance	\$5,980,351.88
Encumbered Funds (-)	\$5,502,057.81
TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/Enforcement of the MSA	\$478,294.07

Encumbered Funds	
2003 Granting Cycle	\$10,641.52
Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$174,927.35
2005 Granting Cycle	\$57,063.37
2007 Granting Cycle	\$381,971.19
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$1,838,349.78
2008 Granting Cycle	\$177,463.78
2009 Granting Cycle	\$439,936.76
2010 Granting Cycle	\$1,067,406.73
2011 Granting Cycle	\$1,354,297.33
2012 Granting Cycle	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$5,502,057.81

*This report is based on data from
7/1/12- 9/30/12*

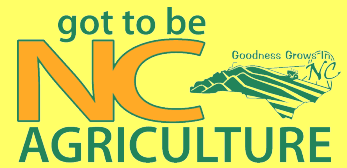
TOTAL	\$1,260,391.76	\$168,436.89
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2012 Grant Cycle	
	FY 13
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association	\$0.00
ECU - NC Agromedicine Institute	\$0.00
ISAMPA	\$0.00
James Sprunt Community College	\$0.00
Mitchell County Development Foundation	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Stevia	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Value-Added	\$0.00
NC Community College System	\$0.00
NC Tobacco Foundation - 2013 Short Course	\$0.00
NC Tobacco Foundation - Growers Assistance	\$0.00
NC Wildlife Federation	\$0.00
NCDA&CS - Food Safety & Outreach Education	\$0.00
NCDA&CS - Southeastern Ag Center	\$0.00
RAFI	\$0.00
Vance County	\$0.00
WNC Communities - AgOptions	\$0.00
WNC Communities - Livestock	\$0.00
Yadkin County	\$0.00
Yancey County Government	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$0.00

Budget Transfers/Debt Service and Cancer Research Payments	
FY 02 Designated Interceptions	\$82,004,511.11
FY 03 Designated Interceptions	\$38,000,000.00
FY 04 Designated Interceptions	\$37,146,734.06
FY 05 Designated Interceptions	\$35,000,000.00
FY 06 Designated Interceptions	\$32,134,175.77
FY 06 Debt Service Payment	\$1,979,096.00
FY 07 Designated Interceptions	\$30,000,000.00
FY 07 Debt Service Payment	\$2,816,688.46
FY 08 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 08 Debt Service Payment	\$6,353,724.00
FY 09 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 09 Debt Service Payment	\$10,722,025.50
FY 09 Designated Interceptions	\$24,398,290.94
FY 10 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 10 Debt Service Payment	\$15,308,738.50
FY 10 Designated Interception	\$5,000,000.00
FY 11 Cancer Research Pmt	\$8,000,000.00
FY 11 Debt Service Payment	\$17,116,443.00
FY 11 Designated Interception	\$5,000,000.00
FY 11 Designated Interception	<u>\$176,825.25</u>
TOTAL	\$380,157,252.59

Total Grants Paid Out Since Inception	
Barn Retrofit	\$41,090,228.00
Burley Marketing Center	\$2,509,555.21
NCDA/NCSU Barn Retrofit	\$168,254.00
Hay Relief	\$5,000.00
FCTCC	\$1,880,113.85
2002 Granting Cycle	\$2,534,958.56
2003 Granting Cycle	\$3,525,839.12
2004 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$435,130.26
2005 Granting Cycle	\$2,817,630.15
2007 Granting Cycle	\$3,186,010.81
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$17,256,749.22
2008 Granting Cycle	\$5,076,135.23
2009 Granting Cycle	\$2,581,846.24
2010 Granting Cycle	\$5,038,825.27
2011 Granting Cycle	\$1,593,104.67
2012 Granting Cycle	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$89,699,380.59

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING INITIATIVE



The "Got to Be NC" marketing program was launched in 2005 in an effort to enhance and expand the NCDA&CS flagship program, "Goodness Grows in North Carolina." **The campaign touts the wide variety of fresh and processed food products available from NC farmers, fisherman and food companies.** The grant has implemented



NC Produce Display at Lowes Foods

promotional campaigns with major grocery stores, restaurants, specialty food stores and foodservice distributors by leveraging cost-share funds to promote NC food products. Additional shelf space and market-share has been gained by many NC food producers and companies. Commodity associations have leveraged their funds with grant funds to increase their promotional activities also.



NC Specialty Food Products have been featured at the National Fancy Foods Show in Washington DC and at the 10-day Charlotte Christmas Show. Thousands of wholesale buyers and consumers purchased a variety of NC products!

THE RESULTS SO FAR....

- Over 11 million consumers reached by store promotions, ads and trade shows!
- Over 500 food companies and/or producers have been assisted
- Food companies already report sales increases of 20% and up
- Over 22 Million Media impressions to consumers

Harvest Time Foods, Inc., makes of "Anne's Old Fashion Dumplings" reported increased shelf space and distribution in several key grocery chains. As a result, the company is expanding its equipment line in order to keep up demand for its products!



The NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services received a \$875,000 grant in 2010 to utilize for 3 years. The funds are strictly used for cooperative advertising costs, consumer marketing and to help off-set industry trade show rental space for NC food companies.

APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT

APPALACHIAN GROWN: MARKETING SUPPORT FOR MOUNTAIN FARMS



Appalachian Grown is a branding program whose purpose is to provide cost-share assistance directly to Western North Carolina farmers, farmer groups, and farmers tailgate markets for promotions and marketing. The project serves farmers located within the 23 western-most counties of NC. Appalachian Grown labeling helps distinguish local farm products and is used to represent food and agricultural products grown by certified Appalachian farms.



Mitchell County potato growers used ASAP cost share assistance to unify their branding and save money on bags for delivery. They benefitted from this cost share assistance by realizing a \$0.20-0.30 savings per bag. The project purchased 10,000 bags for its farmers, 80% of whom are current or former tobacco growers. Potatoes were sold in local Ingles Supermarkets.

THE RESULTS SO FAR....

- Over 1,300 jobs sustained
- 120 current or former tobacco workers assisted
- Over 43,800 acres of farmland protected
- \$80,200 leveraged from other sources



Rita Stepp of Stepp Farms Hillcrest Orchard in Henderson County says "it has been a blessing" to be a part of ASAP's cost share grant program. They received ASAP cost share funds for redevelopment of their website, website management training and for construction of an informational billboard on a high traffic portion of Hwy 64. The website averages over 12,000 hits a month. Many new customers have learned about the farm from the new marketing outreach.



ASAP received a \$168,450 grant during the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's 2010 grant cycle. This program required a 1:1 in-kind or cash match from participating farms. Since 2010, 35 farms, three farmers groups and seven farmers markets received cost share funds. Matching funds helped farm businesses purchase Appalachian Grown marketing materials, including product labels, banners, ad placements and billboards. This direct support has also helped farmers to conduct additional advertising and marketing activities that would have been otherwise cost prohibitive, such as logo and website development.

FINANCING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES



Natural Capital Investment Fund (NCIF) provides business loans to create employment opportunities, advance sustainable economic development, support business expansion and develop the rural tax base. NCIF made loans totaling \$491,785 to 13 businesses—11 current and former tobacco farmers, and two businesses that have created important markets for tobacco farmers seeking to diversify their production. Ten of the farmers received loans as part of NCIF's On-Farm Grain Storage Program. Repayments to NCIF will be redeployed for ongoing support as a revolving loan fund.



Simply Natural Dairy Farm's Neil Moyer received a loan to purchase 89 cows and complete construction of his milking parlor. He has secured a contract with the Dairy Farmers of America to provide conventional milk, which will be processed in Wilmington. He now plans to increase the herd size to nearly 200 cows with projected volume of over 370,000 gallons of milk!

THE RESULTS

- Due to loan financing, the project has created and sustained over 60 jobs among the companies that received initial financing
- Over \$2 million was leveraged among the various projects
- Annie's Bakery in Asheville utilized financing to help increase sales by 28%

Company Shops Market in Burlington is an important outlet for North Carolina farmers who need stable buyers for their farm products. The market serves at least 12 counties through direct sourcing from nearly 50 farmers or value-added producers. CSM received assistance for working capital during the store's ramp-up phase, and now employs 18 full-time and 13 part-time employees.



NCIF received a \$500,000 grant during the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's 2008 grant cycle. Funds were used for assistance ranging from business plan counseling to financial projections, managing construction financing, training for the usage of on-farm storage bins, conversion of farm acreage to sustainable production, and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The program has also funded small loans ranging from \$9,000-\$16,000 for on-farm improvements. Participating farmers installed grain bins ranging from 5,500-12,000 bushels. These provided the potential for more income for farmers since they could store grain in anticipation of higher prices.

RISK MITIGATION MEASURES PROJECT



In 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released Re-registration Eligibility Decisions (REDs) that have had a major impact on production practices for NC crops, including strawberries, tobacco, peanuts and more. These new safety measures are intended to reduce the exposure to fumigation chemicals and increase protection to farmers, workers and

the public. NC farmers and their employees strive to apply chemicals safely and effectively and these new regulations have increased costs, paperwork and time in order to implement. Experts from several agencies with support from several NC commodity associations joined to help farmers understand these regulations and reduce their expenses. This grant offered education sessions, cost-share help for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and training. Fumigant handlers must be medically cleared, fit-tested annually for respirators, understand label regulations, maintain extensive records and receive training on safety equipment usage. In addition the EPA requires buffer zones around treated fields so farmers must be trained on how to inform landowners/businesses about fields. The partner agencies combined their expertise to reach out to as many NC farmers as possible.



THE FAST FACTS:

- NC is the **ONLY** state to offer extensive training and services to farmers that address the new EPA regulations
- Over 2,000 farmers have been served through educational efforts
- Over 700 farmers have been professionally fit-tested
- Farmers have saved over \$94,000 in equipment costs

In 2010, East Carolina University received a \$184,542, two-year grant to administer the program. Done in partnership with the NC Agromedicine Institute at East Carolina University, the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and NC State University, the project has efficiently addressed farmer concerns about the EPA regulations and has worked closely with the agency to reduce label restrictions for 2012, thus *reducing* regulations on farmers. ECU received a grant in 2012 for \$125,000 to continue this beneficial program.



AGRISAFE® OF NC & CERTIFIED SAFE FARM PROGRAM



Keeping farmers, workers and their families healthy and working in safe farming conditions can be challenging. Many farmers have little or no health-care coverage. The AgriSafe® of NC component utilized health professionals to conduct free health screenings at agricultural events, in county clinics and on farms. Blood pressure, lung function, blood sugar and other functions were analyzed. If problems were found, “patients” were referred to their primary care physician. The “Certified Safe Farm” component put trained Cooperative Extension agents on farms to review conditions and offer guidance on how to prevent on-farm injuries. Equipment, building improvements and proper chemical storage were just some of the many areas reviewed. Agents also traveled into other counties to conduct educational sessions and train other agents. The end result of both projects have been effective medical intervention and awareness in the prevention of farm accidents—either of which could lead to unnecessary deaths.



THE FAST FACTS:

- Over 3,400 people received clinical services
- Safety audits conducted on over 120 farms
- Over 35,000 people served through educational sessions, demonstrations, the internet and printed materials
- National recognition in “Successful Farming” magazine—circulation of over 420,000

A Johnston County farmer has saved \$10,000 in annual insurance costs thanks to his investment in safety improvements.



Brothers of one farming operation reported that using air-purifying respirators eliminated the “coughing and hacking” they had experienced when moving soybeans among their grain bins.



In 2009, NC State University's NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. received a \$500,000, three-year grant to administer the program. Done in partnership with the NC Agromedicine Institute at East Carolina University and the NC Cooperative Extension Service, the project is only the second program in the nation that offered these intensive services.

WNC REGIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER



Opened in Haywood County in Spring 2011, the WNC Regional Livestock Center has hosted weekly sales through the auction arena of more than 13,000 cattle. Utilizing both live auctions and a nationwide video auction system, the center has proven to be a critical partner for WNC livestock producers. Over 300 cattle are sold each Monday. The center provides ample meeting space and also serves as a sales and exhibition arena for goat and sheep producers. The early results show the facility is addressing the sales and auction needs of WNC's livestock producers by putting more money into the pockets of family farmers and keeping them in business.



Jerry Roberts of Cherry Lane Farm in Weaverville believes this center "has been a godsend." I had been sending my animals down I-40 into Tennessee," says Roberts. "Now I reduce travel time by going to the WNC Livestock Market instead. This saves money on fuel, and a less stressed animal gives better meat." He receives prices for his animals that are competitive with other markets in the Southeast, but with the benefit of less travel time and lower stress on the animals.

THE RESULTS SO FAR....

- 5 new full-time and over 13 part-time positions; total payroll around \$200,000
- \$8.6 million per year in projected livestock sales
- \$1.2 million back "into pockets" of family farms by reducing transportation costs
- Potential for 500 new part-time jobs at the farm level projected in five years
- Over \$16 million in gross sales since its opening

George Lenze of Everett Farms in Transylvania County didn't believe he would use the WNC Livestock Center much with markets available nearby in SC. However, he has sold 150 stocker calves this year alone through the preconditioning market and sales floor. The convenient location has cut his travel time more than in half. Lenze reports that "exceptional management in bringing buyers to the farmer" also helps farmers obtain prices a few cents higher per pound than at other sales locations.



Over three years, WNC Communities received grant support from the NCTTFC totaling \$1,375,000. This project, serving over 3,000 livestock producers in Western North Carolina, is one of the largest investments that the Commission has made in WNC. Funds were used for permitting, facility design, site preparation, construction, equipment, and marketing. This new facility helps address issues of scale and accessibility for regional farmers, providing a viable and conveniently located regional livestock auction facility.

PIEDMONT LOCAL FOOD COALITION



This coalition of **75 farmers** from Rockingham and surrounding counties sells fresh produce, meat, dairy & value-added products through a custom website. Over 800 consumers are registered to buy and place orders. The orders are completed at a distribution warehouse and packed in the coalition's refrigerated truck. Boxes are taken to specific public drop-off locations each week. Restaurants and private businesses also participate. The project has opened up new markets and increased income for farmers in the region.



Larry Smith, is the county's only certified organic grower. "My sales have grown and my business has benefitted tremendously because of the website." His selection of lettuce, chard, tomatoes and other items are now purchased by a host of new customers.

THE RESULTS SO FAR....

- Due to the increased sales volume, farmers have hired 107 new workers
- Over \$630,000 in total sales with \$130,000 coming from the web
- Over 3,600 acres of farmland protected with 330 acres in new production
- \$100,000 in NEW income for producers

*Anchored by a beautiful home built in 1807, High Rock Farms features pecans, blackberries, raspberries and a grove of chestnuts! Owner Richard Teague produced over **25,000 pounds of chestnuts** in 2011. Sales are growing and the website accounts for up to 20% of his sales. This former tobacco farm is now an agri-tourism treat, hosting chestnut roasts, hayrides and more!*



Rockingham County received a \$44,500 grant during the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's 2010 grant cycle. Funds were used for transportation/delivery costs, marketing and other supplies. The county also received a \$30,000 grant through the "Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund" overseen by the Rural Advancement Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) through another NCTTFC grant. These funds were used to update and improve the web-based ordering system—now easier for customers to use. The improvements mean better sales tracking, ordering and inventory management. The Cooperative Extension office oversees the

LOCAL FOOD MARKETING IN SURRY



Opened in early 2010, Pilot Mountain Pride (PMP) is an aggregation center for small to medium size farms that helps growers access retail, service and institutional markets. More than 65 farms in Surry and surrounding counties provide fresh produce through the center; selling fresh produce to supermarkets, restaurants and consumers. At least 20 businesses receive deliveries of fresh local produce from PMP, with new customers participating each year. The project has allowed small farmers to continue to stay in business.



Approximately 70 farmers received training in Good Agricultural Practices through PMP support. The training was coordinated by Surry Community College, Cooperative Extension-Surry Center, and Pilot Mountain Pride. A Buy Local Campaign was executed that utilized print media, radio ads and dedicated programs, television commercials, and the web.

THE FAST FACTS....

- 750 acres of farmland protected and 150 acres of new crop production
- 4 jobs created and 50 jobs sustained
- Over \$200,000 of local produce sold
- \$198,792 in new income for participating farmers
- Over \$129,000 leveraged from other agencies

PMP farmers sell strawberries, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, potatoes, basil, tomatoes, cabbage, watermelons, beans, red peppers, green peppers, jalapeño peppers, cayenne peppers, table grapes, apples, peaches, fresh cut flowers, okra, sweet corn, broccoli, and sweet potatoes through the center. Unified grading, sorting and packaging has allowed growers to access wholesale and retail markets previously out of their reach.



The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission awarded a \$75,000 grant that funded facility up-fit, operations, marketing, and equipment for PMP. Funds have been used for marketing support for PMP's Buy Local Campaign, installation of a dock lift, personnel travel expenses, construction of a forced-air cooler and flash freezer, clean room and storage. PMP also runs a Saturday morning retail market for produce sales to the public and plans to open a local food retail store in the near future.

PROJECT IMPACTS



The results of NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Grants are on-going. However the impacts of these programs over the last four years are affecting many farmers, citizens and industries across the state.

- **Over 2,900 Jobs Created**
- **Over 35,000 Jobs Sustained**
- **Over 2,000 Workers Re-Employed**
- **14,600 Former Tobacco Quota Holders Assisted**
- **Over 9,300 Worker Skills Upgraded**
- **Nearly 74,000 Received Increased Educational Training**
- **Over \$929,000 in New Income**
- **Nearly 38,000 Current/Former Tobacco Farmers Assisted**
- **Over 940,000 acres of Farmland Impacted**
- **5.9 million People Served/Impacted**
- **Over \$44 million Leveraged**
- **Over \$30.4 million in Value of Products Sold**

***Figures are based on impact data collected from project managers through quarterly and final reports from 2008 through September, 2012. Actual numbers are most likely higher since some projects are more far-reaching and cannot be precisely measured. A certain degree of overlap may have occurred when totaling certain population figures such as tobacco farmers and quota holders served.**

Midway FFA chapter awarded Program Improvement Grant

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Midway's FFA accepts a check. Pictured from, left: Ginger Stone, director for Instructional Management/Curriculum Support; Sessalie Hunter; Cashie Naylor; Caitlin Wrench; Maddie Pope; Rachel Pope; Julie Warren; and Ben Rice, State FFA vice president. Back: Scott Jolly; Jonathan Wilks; Brett Butler; Aulie Strickland; Adam Bryant; Benjie Forrest, Eastern Region Agriculture Education Coordinator; and Jason Davis, State FFA coordinator. (Courtesy Photo)

programs.

"The approximately 200 active agriculture students and many more to follow will benefit greatly from this improvement grant. We are so please that we were selected to receive this grant. There are so many programs across the state who are so deserving. We just feel so fortunate that our students will receive the benefit from it" said Stuart Daughtery.

The NC FFA is a youth organization of more than 19,300 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture, with 253 local

The Midway FFA Chapter has been awarded a \$5,000 program improvement grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. These funds will be used to purchase fencing materials and to construct fencing for a six acre animal land lab behind the school.

During its 2011 grant cycle, the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission awarded a grant of \$180,540 to the North Carolina FFA Association to distribute for its Agricultural Education Improvement Initiative. A total of 34 grants, with awards of up to \$5,000 each, have been directed to schools across North Carolina. Enhancing agricultural teaching programs, developing innovative projects and purchasing much-needed classroom equipment are just some of the goals of the

Wednesday, 29 February 2012 22:25

Farmers get new community kitchen

Written by [Admin](#)



Thanks to an \$8,000 grant from WNC Agricultural Options, the Jackson County Farmers Market in Sylva will open a community commercial kitchen for farmers to process, preserve and package foods.

Classes in cooking, nutrition and food safety and sanitation will also be offered at the venue.

Other farm groups and 23 farmers throughout Western North Carolina were awarded a total of \$150,000 through the grants, intended to increase profitability of diverse farms. Other grants of \$6,000 include:

- Lambert Farms on the Cherokee Reservation to assist with a grass-fed beef grazing operation and pastured poultry processing.
- Water quality improvements at Sunburst Trout Farm in Haywood County.
- A truffle project at Tri-Lynn Plantation in Jackson County.
- Hydroponic greenhouse operations at Nantahala Farms and Nursery in Macon County.
- High Mountain Meadows farm certified creamery and kitchen in Clay County.

The grant program has been funded exclusively by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission since 2003.

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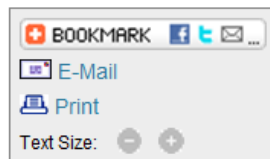
Tuesday, May. 08, 2012

Training gets financial boost

Johnston Community College has received an additional \$25,000 from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission in support of Project Skill-UP.

Through a partnership between the TTFC and the N.C. Community College System, Project Skill-UP provides short-term training to individuals adversely affected by changes in the tobacco industry.

At JCC, these funds offer training in the following areas: teacher assistant, substitute teacher, BioWorks, computers, industrial maintenance, nursing assistant and culinary training.



The N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission recently has given Johnston Community College \$25,000 in Project Skill-UP funds. From left are Barbara Boyce, associate vice president of continuing education and workforce initiatives with the N.C. Community College System; Rosa Andrews, director of small business and economic development at JCC; JCC President David Johnson; Susan Barnes, Tobacco Trust Fund Commission board member; Danielle Hussey, JCC Project Skill-UP coordinator; Joy Callahan, dean of economic and community development at JCC; and Jeff Jennings, program officer with the TTFC.

From 2008 to 2011, JCC has received more than \$126,000 in Project Skill-UP funding, which has provided counseling and training to more than 225 individuals.

Rosa Andrews, director of small business and economic development at JCC, said Project Skill-UP funds have been a lifeline for many individuals. "During the recent economic recession, these funds have allowed citizens the opportunity to retrain for a variety of careers," she said. "In many instances, this is training that they would otherwise have not been able to afford. We are continuously hearing from students about their new careers and how this opportunity is helping them realize their dreams and goals."

For more information about Project Skill-UP training opportunities, call Danielle Hussey at 919-209-2042.

JSCC Small Business Center

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL 2012 SERIES

Sustainable Agriculture

Each session will be in Monk Auditorium at JSCC. First four sessions are \$25 per person per session, and the Nov. 17 session is \$50 per person. All tuition fees will be paid with a grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.



Planning for 2013 and establishing a one-acre farm that can support up to a \$50,000 annual salary



Planning for 2013 Series

It's never too early to start planning for next season. This series will help the students build a farm or garden plan for 2013. Tony Kleese

October 11 - Thursday from 6 to 9 - Develop list of crops and yields. Establish market demand and space needs. Define and record fixed expenses.

October 18 - Thursday from 6 to 9 - Define and record variable expenses and tasks. Create a draft budget/schedule.

November 1 - Thursday from 6 to 9 - Finalize plan with a budget and schedule of tasks.



High Tunnel Series

This series focuses on establishing a one acre organic farm that can support a \$25,000 to \$50,000 annual salary. The students will collaborate with the instructors to build a business plan for a business that could be launched in 2013. Tony Kleese and Steve Moore

November 15 - Thursday from 6 to 9
- Overview of organic



vegetable production in high tunnels and the 1 acre business model.

November 17 - Saturday 8:30 to 4:30 - Developing a three high tunnel business plan that allows a farmer to generate a \$30,000 annual salary with positive cash flow within 3 years on one acre.



Learn more about these programs. Call 910-296-2431 or email us at sbc@jamesprunt.edu

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NC State Program Awards Funding to Expand 13 Agricultural Businesses

BY CHIP CARTER | MAY 14, 2012

A baker's dozen agribusinesses in North Carolina are the 2012 beneficiaries of the North Carolina Value-Added Cost Share program, which has doled out more than \$1 million since 2009 and will award \$269,883 in this, its final year.

Funded by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, NCVACS provides an agricultural producer or processor with up to \$50,000 to purchase new or used specialized equipment to start or grow a value-added operation. NCVACS is coordinated by North Carolina MarketReady, a program of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

"The NCVACS program helps North Carolina agricultural operations grow and adapt to meet the dynamic needs of their clients, including consumers like you and me," said Program Coordinator Brittany Whitmire. "Whether it's helping grape growers expand a winery or dairy farmers start an artisan cheese operation, the program gives these folks a better chance to succeed in today's volatile markets."

The North Carolina Value-Added Cost Share Program was created in 2009 when a \$1.2 million grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission was secured by Dr. Blake Brown, Hugh C. Kiger professor of agricultural economics for NC MarketReady. The program was designed to provide assistance to producers applying for the USDA Value-Added Producer Grant program and to assist producers with the purchase of value-added processing or packaging equipment.

But funding for the program is now in its sunset year. In 2010, NCVACS received additional funding from the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center and





From left, NCC President Bill Carver receives a \$15,000 grant from N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Executive Director William Upchurch to help with Nash Community College's Project Skill-UP program as NCC Board Chairman Bill Marshburn looks on.

MORE

Children's museum to sponsor Halloween-themed sleepover
Local teenager semifinalist in magazine contest
Children celebrate Constitution Day
RMA students honored
Annette Walker named assistant principal
County staff members participate in Six Sigma Training
County farmers can seek supplemental revenue assistance payments

Tobacco Trust Fund boosts NCC job training program

From Contributed Reports
Monday, April 9, 2012

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Nash Community College recently received a \$15,000 grant from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission to fund its Project Skill-Up.

The grant funds will be used to provide training for citizens of Nash County and surrounding areas impacted by the decline in the tobacco industry.

The project will help individuals update their current skills and provide them with additional marketable skills reflective of fast-growing occupations or new industries within the local community. Training is available for EMT, Nursing Assistant, CDL Truck Driving, Manicurist, Welding, Fire Academy, Healthcare Billing and Coding, Intro to Tire Manufacturing, A+ Certification and more.

The objectives of the project are to develop and implement outreach and recruitment activities to individuals, communities, businesses, and/or agencies that have been adversely impacted by the changes in the tobacco industry, to provide skills assessment and short-term occupational skills training to affected workers and when applicable, to provide financial assistance to students in order to help them meet their educational goals.

For more information on Project Skill-Up at Nash Community College, call 252-451-8389.

Friday, Apr. 27, 2012

Winecoff Market to double vendor space

\$150,000 in grants fund Piedmont Farmers Market expansion

By Lukas Johnson

Two grants will allow the Piedmont Farmers Market to expand its Winecoff Market in Kannapolis.

The new building, expected to be built later this year, will allow twice as many vendors to sell items at the Winecoff Market.

Jeff Jennings of the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission on April 14 presented a \$75,000 check to the Piedmont Farmers Market during the seventh annual Plant and Herb Festival. An additional grant of the same amount also was made by The Cannon Foundation.

The groundbreaking ceremony highlighted the local food festival, which was attended by thousands.

Aaron Newton, the local food system program coordinator, counted down as a host of local officials and project volunteers stuck ceremonial shovels into the earth beside a sign proclaiming the project partners.

"The Winecoff Expansion Project will give more local food businesses an opportunity to sell more products and potentially expand beyond the farmers market into other retail locations," said .

Slideshow

« Prev 1 of 2 Next »



The new Winecoff Market building in Kannapolis will be finished by 2013. It will allow twice as many vendors to sell items at the farmers market, which is open year-round 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays. Details: www.piedmont-farmersmarket.com.

Western North Carolina Agricultural Options 2013 CALENDAR





WNC AgOptions Throughout the Year

In January 2012, the WNC Agricultural Options program awarded three community groups and 23 farmers grants totaling \$150,000 to assist them in farm diversification and joint marketing, processing and distribution efforts. Four of the farm businesses received \$3,000 grants and 19 received \$6,000. Community groups each received \$8,000. Projects increase the economic sustainability of farm businesses as well as provide demonstration to other transitioning farmers. This calendar displays images from the year and descriptions of each of the projects.

With these grants, farmers are responding to the high demand for naturally raised and grass-fed beef. They are trying out unique marketing methods such as home delivery systems and cooperative distribution of medicinal plants. They are also experimenting with innovative production techniques such as symbiotic tilapia and greenhouse leafy green production—and generating impressive results. They are creating shared infrastructure to process, preserve and package their produce as well as trying out crops new to their area, such as hazlenuts and pecans.

The WNC AgOptions recipients are also ensuring the survival of their family farms, including an 85-year-old dairy farm and a 64-year-old trout farm. An older generation is creating opportunities for the next generation of farmers—as well as beekeepers. The recipients also proudly share their knowledge with local farm groups, such as the Southern Appalachian Family Farms.

Meanwhile, many recipients struggle with the challenges typical of new endeavors—such as delayed timelines and steep learning curves—as well as trials not anticipated. The Wavras in Jackson County experienced the loss of their husband and father John. In honor of him, Joni Wavra and her children continued with the project to diversify their Christmas tree farm with truffles. The WNC AgOptions team's thoughts are especially with them, and with all farmers struggling to create sustainable businesses in changing times.

Pictured left: Avery King, a future beekeeper at Axios Farms in Swain County



Traci (pictured May 7) and **Joel McMahan** (May 5) of **Mt. Mitchell Produce** in **Yancey County** are expanding sales to Ingles Markets, the farm's primary customer. With the purchase of a cargo transporter utility trailer, lettuce (*above*) can be picked at sunrise and still be fresh when delivered to the store the same afternoon. The trailer is equipped with an air conditioner and fluorescent lights and a portable generator powers the unit. **Bill Hunt** (May 22) of **Kay Farm** in **Henderson County** is expanding the production of an uncommon romaine, Kalura, which is outstanding in all attributes—size, rapid growth, heat and cold tolerance and shelf life. It can endure temperatures in the low 20s or even lower in a hoophouse.



David Hughes (*pictured June 4*) in **Mitchell County** is moving entirely away from growing tobacco with the addition of Kennebec potatoes (*above*). Yields of potatoes in his county are typically at least double the yields in other parts of the country. In comparison to tobacco, David expects to double his net income per acre as well as significantly lower his workload. David sells directly to customers and to local produce stands, and the high demand for the superior quality potatoes of Mitchell County continues to grow.

Pictured right: Nantabala Farms and Nursery in Macon County

Front cover photos: Dairy goat at Donna Gains' High Mountain Meadows Farm in Clay County; filbert trees for truffles at Joni Wavra's Ty-Lyn Plantation in Jackson County; bees at Kevin and Shelley King's Axios Farms in Swain County.

Western North Carolina Agricultural Options builds sustainable farming communities in our mountain region by providing resources directly to farmers who are diversifying and expanding their operations. WNC AgOptions grants also encourage groups of farmers to solve logistical challenges in the local agricultural system. The ultimate goal of WNC AgOptions is to protect mountain farmland through farm profitability.

Since 2004, approximately 335 producers and farm groups in Avery, Buncombe, Clay, Cherokee, the Cherokee Indian Reservation, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey counties received mini-grants for a wide range of capital improvements for their farms. With support from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, the N.C. Cooperative Extension partnered with WNC Communities in 2012 to administer the grants. Current and past partners include the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, HandMade in America and RAFI-USA's Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund.

In 2013, WNC AgOptions continues to offer grants to assist farmers in tobacco-dependent communities generate alternative farm income. The growers also benefit from technical and marketing assistance, business planning training, and increased exposure to their farms. To learn more about the program, contact the Madison County Cooperative Extension Center at 828.649.2411 x 305 or visit www.wncagoptions.org

To learn more about the program, contact the Madison County Cooperative Extension Center at 828.649.2411 x 305 or visit www.wncagoptions.org

Calendar photography by Jennifer Ferre, WNC AgOptions Project Manager.

Calendar text and coordination by Megan E. Riley, www.wncmretc.com

Calendar design by Cindy Wheeler: www.cindywheeler.com





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