



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

To: Members of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
Kathy Davis, Committee Assistant
Fiscal Research Division

From: North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/N.C. Board of Agriculture

Date: September 30, 2013

Subject: Request for Consultation

Pursuant to G.S. 12-3.1, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is writing to request consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations to increase the basic fee for nutrient analysis of waste and compost samples from \$5 per sample to \$8 per sample.

Background

The N.C. Department of Agriculture is seeking to increase the basic fee for nutrient analysis of waste and compost samples from \$5 per sample to \$8 per sample. Waste analysis helps growers make responsible decisions about the use of farm, municipal and industrial wastes and their by-products as fertilizer for crop production. The last time that the waste sample fee was increased was July 1, 2005. At that time, the fee was increased from \$4.00 to \$5.00/sample. Special tests can be requested for some waste sample types. These optional tests include calcium carbonate equivalence (CCE), heavy metals, and inorganic nitrogen (NO₃-N and NH₄-N). The fee for each optional test is \$10/sample. Out-of-state waste samples are accepted, but these are charged a fee of \$25/sample. Research waste samples are analyzed at cost of \$12/sample. In fiscal year 2013, the Agronomic Division analyzed approximately 15,800 waste samples.

Explanation

This fee increase from \$5.00 to \$8.00 will generate approximately \$39,000 in new receipts. These funds are needed to offset reductions in General Fund appropriations and to help meet the division's projected budget.