

# North Carolina



**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, 2014

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November 1, 2014



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 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](http://www.tobaccotrustfund.org)  
E-MAIL: [tobaccotrustfund@ncagr.gov](mailto:tobaccotrustfund@ncagr.gov)

**LOCATION:**  
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2014



The Honorable Harry Brown  
Co-Chair, Senate Appropriations/  
Base Budget Committee  
300-B Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Kathy Harrington  
Co-Chair, Senate Appropriations/  
Base Budget Committee  
2113 Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

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

The Honorable Brent Jackson  
Co-Chair, Senate Appropriations/  
Base Budget Committee  
2022 Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Brown and Senator Harrington and Senator Hunt and Senator Jackson:

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

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**LOCATION:**  
537 NORTH BLOUNT STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27604

November 1, 2014



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

The Honorable Justin Burr  
Co-Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
307A Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Bryan Holloway  
Co-Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
305 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

The Honorable Pat McElraft  
Co-Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
634 Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Representative Dollar and Representative Burr and Representative Holloway and Representative Johnson and Representative McElraft:

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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**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.

2014 concludes a very historic year for members of the tobacco family. The final tobacco buyout check was issued this past month culminating a ten year process of compensating tobacco farmers and former tobacco quota holders. For the first time in recent history, the tobacco industry moves into the unknown where company contracts dictate the success or failure of what was North Carolina's agricultural economic cornerstone. For a few, the beat carries on. For so many more, the need to diversify becomes paramount.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission's work is **critical** because agriculture remains a very important part of our state's economy, contributing **\$78** billion annually, accounting for over **17%** of the state's income and employing **16%** of the workforce. Our board and staff have worked very hard in the past year to make investments that strengthen a core business with limited funding. We have accomplished this by implementing projects to support diversification, education, job creation/sustainability and environmental preservation. We applaud our legislative leadership for allowing the Commission to continue to serve the number one industry of our state's economy.

Active grant information, the 2014 grant awards, and information showing the impact of our funds are included in this report. We have provided a synopsis of each recipient's project and, with the guidance of the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, their impressive results with the financial assistance provided.

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

Sincerely,

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

William H. "Bill" Teague  
Chairman

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RALEIGH, NC 27604



## COMMISSION MEMBERS 2014

**AVERETT, Ernest B.**

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

**BARNES, Susan**

Kenly, NC  
County-Wilson  
Appointee Officer-  
Governor

**CARTER, J.W. (Billy)**

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

**COLLINS, William K.**

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

**LEE, Jeffrey C.**

Benson, NC  
County-Johnston  
Appointee Officer-  
Speaker of the House

**DAVENPORT, David**

Greenville, NC  
County-Pitt  
Appointee Officer-  
Governor

**DAVIS, Layten**

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

**GRAY, Albert D. (Dial)**

**III**  
Whiteville, NC  
County-Columbus  
Appointee Officer-  
Governor

**HOLBROOK, Bill**

Waynesville, NC  
County-Haywood  
Appointee Officer-  
Governor

**MCLAWHORN,**

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

Hookerton, NC  
County-Greene  
Appointee Officer-  
Governor

**MINTON, Tim**

Clayton, NC  
County-Johnston  
Appointee Officer-  
Speaker of the House

**SCOTT, Linwood H. III**

Lucama, NC  
County-Wilson  
Appointee Officer-  
Speaker of the House

**SMITH, Steve**

Reidsville, NC  
County-Rockingham  
Appointee Officer-  
President Pro Tem

**STRICKLAND, Clay**

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

**TEAGUE, William H.**

**(Bill) CHAIRMAN**

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

**WARD, Dan**

**VICE CHAIRMAN**

Clarkton, NC  
County-Bladen  
Appointee Officer-  
Governor

**WEBSTER, Thomas**

Madison, NC  
County-Rockingham  
Appointee Officer-  
President Pro Tem

**WILSON, Kevin**

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



## COMMISSION HISTORY 2014

### 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, 2013

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 2014, a total of **40** grant applications were received requesting over **\$5.8** million in funding. After a very detailed review process, the TTFC approved grants totaling **\$2,383,525 for 22 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.

- Three regional cost share programs will fund innovative farm projects and keep small farms in business
- Supporting sales of NC grown products through our support of the “Got to Be NC” program
- New farmers markets opened in Vance and Bladen counties with new markets set to open in Concord and Elkin too
- Construction will begin soon on a new diesel mechanic training facility in Duplin County

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 former 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.

**NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION**  
**2010 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS: COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2013**  
**& ACTIVE as of OCTOBER, 2014**

**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 were to leverage an \$820,000 grant from the US Department of Commerce for a permanent revolving loan fund. After much research, discussion and evaluation, the grantee and the NCTTFC determined that the prospects were not strong enough to warrant continuing the grant.

STATUS: DISCONTINUED

Area Served: Mecklenburg and surrounding counties

[www.centralina.org](http://www.centralina.org)

**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 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 was to sustain and open new markets for food producers across the state. This assisted some traditional tobacco operations to shift to other consumable product production, and provided growth opportunities for value-added companies. Four commodity associations utilized cooperative advertising funds in various media. Based on industry surveys/feedback, the project is estimated to have reached over 13 million consumers in-stores, over 331,000 consumers reached at specialty food shows and foodservice events. Sales increases were reported at all participating industry partners, retailers reported adding up to 66 new NC items and the Competition Dining series (which featured chefs competing with NC ingredients) grew in both participants and media exposure. The project directly assisted over 600 food companies or producers. More NC product displays were placed in stores, with over 300 stores featuring NC sections.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncagr.gov/markets](http://www.ncagr.gov/markets)

**NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION**  
**2011 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS: COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2013**  
**& ACTIVE as of OCTOBER, 2014**

**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

The goal of this project was that Mount Olive College would partner with four counties to develop regional forest landowner associations. Forest management plans can help landowners keep from paying unnecessary taxes and increase income with better managed timber land. Seven counties are now part of four regional associations. A dozen workshops were held for over 500 landowners. The project has resulted in an increase in management plan assistance and it is projected that an additional \$13.9 million in income will be realized. The associations will provide ongoing sources of information and support to area land owners.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pender and Wayne counties

[www.moc.edu/agribusiness](http://www.moc.edu/agribusiness)

**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 educated and trained 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 applying them to their own operations,

businesses and careers. The funding was leveraged with over \$300,000 in additional funds and the grant covered operational support and instructional costs. The participants conducted meetings in-state and also took part in educational trips to California and Brazil (which was paid for from other funders.)

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.cals.ncsu.edu](http://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 trained 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 were taught so that better/healthier calves would be produced. The final goal being that these calves would bring higher prices at market. The program was based on a model in Missouri that has shown QA heifers demand higher prices. Before completion, the project leader left for another position so all objectives were not quite met.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.cals.ncsu.edu](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu)

**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 promoted and marketed roadside stands and nearly 40 farmers markets in the state. Through various media, consumers were encouraged to support their local markets and buy NC products. Farmers markets utilized cost-share funds to help with their own marketing costs which included various media, signs and promotional materials. Over \$500,000 was leveraged with other funds to secure advertising. Markets reported visitor traffic increased on average 15% with sales increases of \$5.8 million. A total of 850 jobs were sustained on family farms.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncagr.gov/markets](http://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 two years, the NCRNLA has utilized funds to promote and market NC retail and wholesale nursery companies in order to increase sales of these products. The economy hit the industry with lower sales and reduced employment. The campaign has utilized various media including social media and print ads along with trade shows to help stem losses and increase sales of products. Campaigns targeted wholesale buyers in/out of state and NC consumers. Based on industry surveys, the grantee projects that 7,000 jobs were sustained with 25,000 acres of land used for nursery products impacted. Surveys also indicate a sales increase of nearly 10% by the end of 2013. Consumer website visits increased substantially due to advertising.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncnla.com](http://www.ncnla.com)

**Project: Piedmont Farmers Market at Rotary Square**

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

Grant Amount: \$75,000

The project focused on a new farmers market at “Rotary Square.” Located in downtown Concord, the open air shelter and park will serve the community with another location for farmers to sell their products. The park will open by early November, 2014.

STATUS: Construction is almost complete.

Area Served: Cabarrus and surrounding counties

**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

Funds were 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 Vance and surrounding counties. The new market opened in April, 2014.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Vance and surrounding counties

www.vancecounty.com

**NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION**  
**2012 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS: COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2013**  
**& ACTIVE as of OCTOBER, 2014**

**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

This 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.

STATUS: Four farm tours showcasing over 75 farmers have been supported with very good success. Over 4,000 acres were impacted. CFSA carried out a new farm tour in the Triad area in June, 2014.

Area Served: Statewide

**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

This vital 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.

STATUS: Project has reached over 1,200 people so far through workshops and events. Farmers have been quick to take advantage of cost share assistance for respirators. Nearly 200 people have had health screenings. Project will be completed by Jan. 1, 2015.

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. During the grant project, the facility processed over 41,000 animals. The retail value of animals processed was nearly \$750,000 with over 170 farmers served. Products are packaged and sold throughout the southeast region. The grant funds were used for plant operations and administration.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.isampa.org](http://www.isampa.org)

**Project: JSCC Diesel Mechanic Program**

Contact: Mr. Jeffery Myers  
James Sprunt Community College  
PO Box 398  
Kenansville, NC 28349  
910-296-2531

Grant Amount: \$100,000

This 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.

STATUS: The college received its notice from the State Construction office to proceed with building plans. The construction budget will just over \$1.3 million. Partnerships with three county school systems have been established so that students can earn both high school and college credit through the Diesel Tech Academy.

Area Served: Duplin and surrounding counties

[www.jamessprunt.edu](http://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

Grant funds were used to update an existing commercial kitchen facility at Mayland Community College in Mitchell County that complies with local, state and national standards. The space features industrial ovens, ranges and storage for food entrepreneurs in the region. The college hired two kitchen managers in early 2014 to oversee the facility and work with kitchen users. TTFC grant funds were used solely for infrastructure improvements and equipment.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area served: Mitchell and surrounding counties

[www.marketonoak.com](http://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

This research 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.

STATUS: Over 200 acres in production. Two major summer workshop were held to educate growers on production, disease control and marketing. Leaders expect to expand production to over 1000 acres in 2015 compared to 400 in 2014. Meetings have been held with Sweet Green Fields and other users of the product. The project will be complete in December 2014.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation](http://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 will be awarded for processors adding value to NC-Grown agricultural commodities and for producers of value-added products made from raw commodities that they grow/raise. 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.

STATUS: Awards of over \$300,000 total were designated for 20 different food processors. Projects began in the Fall of 2013 and all funds were distributed and projects completed by Summer, 2014. Final reports and results from grantees are forthcoming.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation](http://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

This program 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. This project was implemented at 24 community colleges and served over 1,000 students.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.nccommunitycolleges.edu](http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu)

**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

This project's goal was to provide pertinent and accurate information specific to tobacco farming and the broader tobacco industry. The grant was to fund a quarterly newsletter and resource guide. However, the project shifted its focus to providing online resources to its members and the grantee's website was updated and online news was delivered. The majority of grant funding was saved and not used.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation)

**Project: Farmers Manage Deer**

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

Grant Amount: \$150,000

This one of a kind project will help farmers in nine tobacco dependent counties implement best deer herd management practices on thousands of acres of NC farmland. It 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.

STATUS: As of October, 2014, nearly 20,000 acres of farmland had been leased during the 2013 deer season and start of 2014 season. Around 400 hunters and farmers participated in the program in 2013. Over 10,000 pounds of venison was donated to food banks. Farmers will earn over \$100,000 in additional income through hunting leases. Six counties are improving their drop-off, processing and distribution models for the new season.

Area Served: Specific tobacco production counties in eastern NC.

[www.ncwildlife.org](http://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

The plans were to expand the Food Safety Forum as the only program in the state that brought together all the stakeholders in the food safety system for a discussion of important food safety initiatives. This included education directed toward farmers, retailers, manufacturers, and food safety officials on major food safety regulations that released in 2013. A forum was held in Raleigh of August 2013, reaching over 300 people. Only 25% of grant funds were utilized due to lower than expected costs.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov)

**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

This program provided cost-share grants to individual farmers and producer groups in North Carolina for innovative projects designed to increase farmers' incomes. Priority was given to former and current tobacco farmers. 24 farm projects in 22 counties received about \$190,000 in grant funding. Farmers

leveraged over \$250,000 of their own funds. Projects included community supported agriculture endeavors, diversification into new crops, agri-tourism and more.

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Area Served: Coastal Plains, Piedmont and Western Piedmont regions

[www.ncfarmgrants.org](http://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

Funds were 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 Vance and surrounding counties. The new market opened in April, 2014.

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Area Served: Vance and surrounding counties

[www.vancecounty.com](http://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 about 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.

**STATUS:** Several seminars for livestock farmers have been held in the region. The extension livestock specialist was hired and has conducted meetings and research on using spent brewer's grain as an alternative feed stock. Cattle prices continue to be exceptional.

Area Served: Western NC counties

[www.wnccommunities.org](http://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

This project will continue the successful WNC AgOptions program. Cost share funds of around \$150,000 enabled 28 new demonstration grants of \$6,000 or less to help farmers diversify and expand their farming operations and replace tobacco-based income. In spite of extreme wet weather, projects were very successful. Over 1,800 acres were impacted, Over \$130,000 in new income was generated, over \$400,000 was leveraged against grant funds and most recipients surveyed said grant funds made all the difference in the success of their new ventures.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Western NC counties

[www.wncagoptions.org](http://www.wncagoptions.org)

**Project: Yadkin Valley Agriculture Center**

Contact: Ms. Lisa Hughes  
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.

STATUS: Architect has been hired and bids were due in October, 2014. Scheduled completion is now late 2015 to early 2016.

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

Program leaders purchased a refrigerated truck to help establish deliveries of produce from TRACTOR (Toe River Aggregation Center Training Organization Regional). TRACTOR is a collection, cleaning, storage and distribution facility for fresh produce that began operation in September, 2012. The project is serving about 65 farms and has sales to over 30 grocery stores and restaurants.

STATUS: COMPLETED

Area Served: Yancey and surrounding counties

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

**NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION**  
**2013 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS: COMPLETED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2013**  
**& ACTIVE as of OCTOBER, 2014**

**Project: Bladenboro Community Farmer's Market**

Contact: Ms. Joyce Walters  
Boost the 'Boro  
PO Box 771  
Bladenboro, NC 28320  
910-648-2940

Grant Amount: \$48,500

The town of Bladenboro will construct a farmers market that will serve local farmers and drive business into downtown. The facility will also be used for community events.

STATUS: Market building is almost complete. Grand opening was held in August, 2014.

Area Served: Bladen and surrounding counties

[www.borobooster.org](http://www.borobooster.org)

**Project: Renovation, Lenoir County Farmers Market and Market Annex**

Contact: Ms. Tammy Kelly  
Lenoir County Cooperative Extension

1791 Hwy 11/55  
Kinston, NC 28504  
252-527-2191

Grant Amount: \$42,000

The successful, year-round farmers market in downtown Kinston will use funds to improve the surrounding grounds and expand the paved parking area. Customer and vendor safety will also be addressed as the market seeks to improve its location.

STATUS: Parking lot has been paved, building has been repainted and new trellis work is installed for solar panels which will power market annex. Sidewalks remain to be poured and project will be finished in late 2014.

Area Served: Lenoir

[lenoir.ces.ncsu.edu](http://lenoir.ces.ncsu.edu)

**Project: Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grants**

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel  
NC Ag Foundation  
Box 7645 NCSU  
Raleigh, NC 27695  
919-515-9262

Grant Amount: \$180,000

The NC FFA Office will offer a competitive grant program for the state's high schools. At least 30 schools will win grants of up to \$5,000 each to improve their agricultural education programs. This grant continues the highly successful pilot grant awarded during the 2011 cycle.

STATUS: All projects are underway and some are complete. Over 3,000 students have been involved and/or benefitted from the projects so far. Projects include

Area Served: Statewide

[www.cals.ncsu.edu/advancement/ag\\_fnd.htm](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/advancement/ag_fnd.htm)

**Project: AgriSafe-NC and Certified Safe Farm Expansion**

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel  
NC Ag Foundation  
Box 7645 NCSU  
Raleigh, NC 27695  
919-515-9262

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Farmers, their families and their workers will benefit from learning how maintaining a healthier lifestyle can reduce medical expenses. On-site health screenings, seminars and ag-related events will be utilized to reach thousands of people. Farmers in 18 counties can apply for free farm safety evaluations and can qualify for up to \$500 in cost-share funds to make safety improvements on their operations.

STATUS: Over 3,000 farmers, family members and workers have been served so far through educational events or farm visits. Over 450 people have received health screenings.

Area Served: 18+ key agricultural counties

[www.cals.ncsu.edu/advancement/ag\\_fnd.htm](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/advancement/ag_fnd.htm)

**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

The successful “Project Skill-Up” program will continue at 24 community colleges. Students who have a “tobacco connection” either through direct work in the tobacco industry or through their family’s previous employment can qualify for tuition and/or school supply assistance. The project will serve over 1,500 students.

STATUS: Almost all schools have expended the majority of funds for 2014. There has been high demand in health-care fields as well as industry –specific positions in certain areas. Projections show that over 1,000 students will be assisted.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.nccommunitycolleges.edu](http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu)

**Project: Got to Be NC Marketing Program**

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

Grant Amount: \$200,000

The project will support the “Got to Be NC” marketing campaign. Cooperative marketing funds will support efforts in the grocery and foodservice industries as well as through various commodity associations.



STATUS: Several campaigns were carried out during the summer. 10 commodity associations held cooperative advertising campaigns that included various media. A major foodservice distributor reported an 80% increase in sales of NC products while a supermarket chain reported sales of 100%+ over the previous year of NC strawberries.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.gottobenc.com](http://www.gottobenc.com)

**Project:** Weed Free NC

Contact: Mr. Charles Hall  
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, Inc.  
211 Six Forks Road, Suite 102  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
919-839-5700

Grant Amount: \$40,000

Grant funding supports a marketing and media campaign that encourages farmers to aggressively address weeds in row crops that are herbicide resistant. The project will impact thousands of farmers across the state.

STATUS: A state-wide radio campaign reached thousands of listeners. The project was utilized at several major farmer meetings and crop events. Digital ads were also used on specific ag-websites. The project will be completed in December, 2014.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncsoy.org](http://www.ncsoy.org)

**Project:** Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund

Contact: Mr. Scott Marlow  
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA  
PO Box 640  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-542-1396 x210

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Farmers can apply for cost share funds which can be used for innovative projects designed to increase farm income. The projects also serve as demonstrations to other farmers on how they can incorporate the lessons learned. The project will target farmers in top producing tobacco counties.

STATUS: 20 projects were underway in 2014 with all set to be completed by end of October. Comprehensive summaries of all projects are being developed.

Area Served: Top producing tobacco counties

**Project: Promoting North Carolina's Agriculture Community**

Contact: Ms. Gayle Kildoyle  
Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Inc.  
PO Box 88  
Kenly, NC 27542  
919-284-3431

Grant Amount: \$50,000

A regional marketing campaign will increase attendance to the Tobacco Farm Life Museum. The educational facility touts the history of tobacco and agriculture in NC and serves as an economic driver for the region.

STATUS: A major television campaign has run throughout the year. Attendance was up 100% during the third quarter. The director has met with multiple touring companies to draw them to the area in 2015.

Area Served: Johnston and surrounding counties

www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org

**Project: Meet Me at the Market**

Contact: Ms. Laura Gaylord  
Town of Elkin and Main Street Advisory Board  
PO Box 857  
Elkin, NC 28621  
336-794-6469

Grant Amount: \$75,000

The project will construct a permanent open air shelter for Elkin's downtown farmer's market. Vendors currently use tents and have no permanent location. A city-owned parking lot will become a destination point for the market and other community events and will drive additional business and income to the downtown area.

STATUS: Builder has been selected and construction has begun with completion scheduled for January, 2015.

Area Served: Surry and surrounding counties

www.elkinfarmersmarket.com

**Project: WNC Ag Options Program**

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

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Farmers in western NC counties can apply for cost share funds designed to improve farm income. Over 20 farmers will receive funding. Demonstration projects are required.

STATUS: 29 projects in 20 western counties received grants from \$3,000 to \$6,000. Most were near completion and had held outreach events for their communities and for other farmers. Projects included improved cattle handling equipment, new cold storage units for processed meats, irrigation for raspberries and more.

Area Served: 22 NC Counties

[www.wnccommunities.org](http://www.wnccommunities.org)

**Project: Increasing WNC Livestock Sales**

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

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The highly successful Western NC Livestock Marketing Center will leverage grant funds to expand the overhead walk-way. This will enable the increasing number of buyers and farmers to better evaluate cattle prior to selling.

STATUS: Grantee secured additional funding to match with NCTTFC grant. Grantee is working with firms to secure bids on the walkway and hope to have project completed by first of year.

Area Served: Western NC

[www.wnccommunities.org](http://www.wnccommunities.org)

**NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION**  
**2014 CYCLE ACTIVE GRANTS - AWARDED SEPTEMBER, 2014**

**Project:**                   **Appalachian Grown Marketing Support**

Contact:                   Mr. Charlie Jackson  
                                  Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project  
                                  306 West Haywood Street, Suite 200  
                                  Asheville, NC 28801  
                                  828-236-1282

Grant Amount:           \$76,000

Project will provide cost-share funds for marketing and promotional costs incurred by WNC farmers. In addition, ASAP will provide a produce boxes under a group buying plan that will lower costs for farmers. Both programs are designed to reduce expenses and increase sales and income for farm families.

Area Served: 23 Advantage West counties

[www.asapconnections.org](http://www.asapconnections.org)

**Project:**                   **Local Produce Safety Initiative**

Contact:                   Ms. Karen McSwain  
                                  Carolina Farm Stewardship Association  
                                  PO Box 448  
                                  Pittsboro, NC 27312  
                                  919-542-2402

Grant Amount:           \$45,000

CFSA will target smaller farmers who apply for assistance to develop food safety plans. Farmers will be prepared to implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audits.

Area Served: Selected counties

[www.carolinafarmstewards.org](http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org)

**Project:**                   **Martin County Farmers Market Manager**

Contact:                   Mr. Al Cochran  
                                  County of Martin  
                                  104 Kehukee Park Rd.  
                                  Williamston, NC 27892  
                                  252-789-4370

Grant Amount:           \$5,000

The project will establish a farmer's market manager at the existing market located in Williamston.

Area Served: Martin County

[www.martin.ces.ncsu.edu](http://www.martin.ces.ncsu.edu)

**Project: First On Scene**

Contact: Mrs. Robin Tutor-Marcom  
East Carolina University - NC Agromedicine Institute  
1157 VOA Site C Road  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252-744-1008

Grant Amount: \$140,000

Farms will learn the critical steps in addressing on-farm emergencies and accidents. "First on Scene" training will be provided to emergency responders. Cost share for emergency equipment will be available to participants.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncagromedicine.org](http://www.ncagromedicine.org)

**Project: Buy Local, Cut Fresh**

Contact: Ms. Misty Gil  
Eastern North Carolina Christmas Tree Growers Association  
1713 NC 55 E  
Dunn, NC 28334  
910-658-8759

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Grant funds will be used to develop regional marketing campaigns to encourage consumers to visit and purchase "choose and cut" Eastern Christmas trees. The grantee's website will be improved for more complete consumer information.

Area Served: Eastern tree growing regions

[www.nc-chooseandcut.com](http://www.nc-chooseandcut.com)

**Project: Agricultural Plastics Recycling**

Contact: Terry Albrecht  
Waste Reduction Partners, Land of Sky Regional Council  
339 New Leicester Hwy., Suite 140  
Asheville, NC 28806  
828-251-6622

Grant Amount: \$40,000

The project will develop a pilot demonstration program that will promote the cost benefits and increased marketing potential of discarded agricultural plastics and overwintering film for recycling.

Area Served: Johnston County

[www.wastereductionpartners.org](http://www.wastereductionpartners.org)

**Project: FPP: Expansion to Year-Round Operation**

Contact: Ms. Amanda Carter  
Foothills Pilot Plant  
PO Box 1289  
Marion, NC 28752  
828-803-2717

Grant Amount: \$75,000

Funds will assist Foothills Pilot Plant with expansion into pork processing and serve the needs of small pork producers.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.foothillspilotplant.com](http://www.foothillspilotplant.com)

**Project: Developing Future NC Farmers**

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel  
NC Ag Foundation  
Box 7645 NCSU  
Raleigh, NC 27695  
919-515-9262

Grant Amount: \$209,150

This new program will identify up to 20 NCSU Agricultural Majors who plan to enter farming upon graduation. Students will be matched with established farming operations for summer apprenticeships.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation](http://www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation)

**Project: NC AgVentures**

Contact: Ms. Kathy Kennel

NC Ag Foundation  
Box 7645 NCSU  
Raleigh, NC 27695  
919-515-9262

Grant Amount: \$304,365

Farmers in targeted counties may qualify for cost-share grants designed to support innovative projects and ideas that will increase farm income. Between 20-30 projects will be implemented.

Area Served: Anson, Stanley, Richmond, Cabarrus, Nash, Edgecombe, Union, Wilson, Pitt, Martin

[www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation](http://www.go.ncsu.edu/agfoundation)

**Project: Project Skill-UP**

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

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Qualifying community college students will receive financial assistance towards tuition, books and/or supplies. The project targets short term training opportunities designed to get students into the workforce.

Area Served: Specific community colleges in tobacco-connected areas

[www.nccommunitycolleges.edu](http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu)

**Project: Agricultural Emergency Response Teams Expansion Project**

Contact: Ms. Sharron Stewart  
NCDA&CS - Emergency Programs Division  
1035 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699  
919-807-4300

Grant Amount: \$90,000

The project will establish protocols for agricultural emergency preparedness. Targeted areas will receive assistance on best coordination and communication of activating and deployment of emergency plans to farms and agricultural communities.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov)

**Project:                    Branded Produce Box Program**

Contact:                    Mr. Joe Sanderson  
                                  NCDA&CS - Marketing Division  
                                  1020 Mail Service Center  
                                  Raleigh, NC 27699  
                                  919-707-3143

Grant Amount:            \$20,000

This is a cost-share program for small small farm owners directly marketing to the consumer. The group-buying program will offer an essential item are a reduced cost.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov)

**Project:                    NC REAL Ag-Entrepreneurship**

Contact:                    Ms. Malinda Todd  
                                  North Carolina REAL Enterprises, Inc.  
                                  3739 National Drive, Suite 100  
                                  Raleigh, NC 27612  
                                  919-781-6833 x126

Grant Amount:            \$65,000

200 Agricultural education instructors will be trained on how to better teach entrepreneurship to their students. The curriculum will be utilized in high schools to reach thousands of students.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.ncreal.org](http://www.ncreal.org)

**Project:                    Farmers and Communities Manage Deer**

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

Grant Amount:            \$130,350

The project will expand the successful Farmers Manage Deer program to establish specific community programs which implement deer reduction programs on farms, further processing opportunities and expand the distribution of protein to the food insecure. A key goal will be a reduction in crops lost to deer and an increase in yields.

Area Served: Columbus, Wilson, Edgecombe, Bladen, Beaufort and surrounding counties



www.ncwf.org

**Project: Keep on Truckin'**

Contact: Ms. Sally Thiel  
New River Organic Growers  
PO Box 1223  
West Jefferson, NC 28697  
336-384-2546

Grant Amount: \$55,800

Expand the sales and distribution of NROG products into the Winston-Salem and Charlotte regions. Over 60 farmers will be impacted.

Area Served: Farmers in northwestern NC and targeted regions

www.newrivergrowers.com

**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: \$220,000

Through cost-share grants the project will target small farms who implement innovative ideas to expand farm income. Their projects will serve as demonstrations for other farmers from which they can learn.

Area Served: Piedmont and Coastal Plain region

www.rafiusa.org

**Project: From Tobacco to Family Forests**

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

Grant Amount: \$41,000

TRLC personnel will assist landowners with forest management plans and provide cost-share towards consultation costs of plan developers.

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

[www.tarriver.org](http://www.tarriver.org)

**Project: Troutman Farmers Market & Park Pavilion**

Contact: Ms. Erika G Martin  
Town of Troutman  
PO Box 26  
Troutman, NC 28166  
704-508-3012

Grant Amount: \$50,000

Funds will be used towards construction of a new pavilion that will serve as a farmers market and concession area at the new Troutman Town Park.

Area Served: Iredell

[www.townoftroutman.org](http://www.townoftroutman.org)

**Project: Revitalizing NC's Working Forest Landowner Summits**

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

Grant Amount: \$65,000

The project will implement up to four regional seminars that target forest landowners. The summits will feature industry speakers and education on how landowners can benefit from forest management plans, estate planning and other areas.

Area Served: Statewide

[www.mocagbiz.com](http://www.mocagbiz.com)

**Project: WNC Agricultural Options Program**

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

Grant Amount: \$440,000

Funding will allow the WNC AgOptions program to continue for over two years. By offering cost-share grants to farmers and communities qualified farmers will be able to diversify or expand operations and replace tobacco income

Area Served: 22 W NC Counties

[www.wncagoptions.org](http://www.wncagoptions.org)

**Project:** WNC Livestock Market Expansion

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

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The project will help WNC livestock producers earn more for their livestock by selling their cattle at the WNC Regional Livestock Center. Logistical challenges for livestock producers to deliver cattle to the center will be addressed.

Area Served: 20 NC Counties

[www.wnccommunities.org](http://www.wnccommunities.org)

**Project:** **TRACTOR**

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

Grant Amount: \$71,860

The project will enhance the objectives of the TRACTOR produce distribution facility and provide support for personnel and cold storage equipment.

Area Served: Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties

[www.yancey.ces.ncsu.edu/](http://www.yancey.ces.ncsu.edu/)

**Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014 (FY14)**

	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$5,357,502.79												
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>	\$1,770.21	\$1,867.69	\$1,873.07	\$1,811.89	\$2,482.67	\$2,561.81	\$2,536.75	\$2,449.25	\$2,027.44	\$1,837.04	\$1,884.05	\$1,283.00	\$24,384.87
<b>TOBACCO SETTLEMENT</b>	\$0.00	\$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
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$176.84	\$10,423.52	\$8,449.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$619.66	\$103,639.24	\$215.00	\$0.00	\$2,072.26	\$125,596.46
<b>Fiscal Year 2014 Revenue</b>	\$1,770.21	\$1,867.69	\$2,049.91	\$2,012,235.41	\$10,932.61	\$2,561.81	\$2,536.75	\$3,068.91	\$105,666.68	\$2,052.04	\$1,884.05	\$3,355.26	<b>\$2,149,981.33</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>													
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$135.00	\$45.00	\$165.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$675.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$144.50	\$189.50	\$461.50	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$143.00	\$69.30	\$423.75	\$0.00	\$6.25	\$1,462.80
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$143.16	\$111.90	\$614.01	\$37.30	\$0.00	\$37.30	\$0.00	\$123.64	\$37.30	\$514.84	\$203.30	\$74.60	\$1,897.35
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$159.64	\$0.00	\$159.64
	\$422.66	\$346.40	\$1,240.51	\$77.30	\$0.00	\$127.30	\$15.00	\$281.64	\$136.60	\$1,073.59	\$362.94	\$110.85	\$4,194.79
<b>Staff Personnel Expenses</b>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$23,453.89	\$25,172.44	\$23,537.52	\$23,538.69	\$24,095.27	\$23,542.28	\$26,937.17	\$23,587.53	\$27,858.39	\$23,587.51	\$23,587.50	\$23,587.52	\$292,485.71
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$0.00	\$203.12	\$0.00	\$99.44	\$0.00	\$369.98	\$0.00	\$174.91	\$120.96	\$49.84	\$0.00	\$1,288.51	\$1,288.51
	\$23,453.89	\$25,375.56	\$23,537.52	\$23,638.13	\$24,095.27	\$23,912.26	\$26,937.17	\$23,762.44	\$27,979.35	\$23,637.35	\$23,587.50	\$23,857.78	\$293,774.22
<b>Office Expenses</b>													
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$520.90	\$172.54	\$0.00	\$53.62	\$0.00	\$92.00	\$507.70	\$27.47	\$159.87	\$16.32	\$28.60	\$259.90	\$1,838.92
General Office Supplies	\$137.43	\$110.25	\$0.00	\$137.97	\$0.00	\$27.86	\$134.74	\$526.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$112.96	\$458.29	\$1,645.50
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$625.00	\$0.00	\$625.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$156.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,045.97	\$0.00	\$1,202.46
Communication/Office Equipment	\$118.62	\$144.46	\$128.19	\$128.19	\$128.19	\$128.19	\$128.19	\$125.64	\$125.64	\$125.64	\$125.64	\$125.64	\$1,532.23
Other Administrative Expenses	\$60.16	\$144.24	\$17.99	\$1,103.74	\$500.00	\$30.86	\$0.00	\$16.88	\$0.00	\$1,029.60	\$90.31	\$1,403.32	\$4,397.10
Vehicle	\$113.32	\$383.11	\$28.15	\$152.81	\$196.50	\$0.00	\$217.74	\$157.52	\$36.49	\$30.02	\$273.75	\$260.21	\$1,849.62
Telephone Services	\$267.20	\$275.62	\$294.58	\$287.17	\$287.75	\$276.23	\$273.03	\$287.65	\$277.01	\$277.11	\$288.00	\$276.71	\$3,368.06
	\$1,217.63	\$1,230.22	\$468.91	\$1,863.50	\$1,268.93	\$555.14	\$1,261.40	\$1,141.16	\$1,224.01	\$1,478.69	\$2,590.23	\$2,784.07	\$17,083.89
<b>Professional Services</b>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,242.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,242.45
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
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
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,242.45	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$31,242.45
<b>Fiscal Year 2014 Expenses</b>													<b>\$346,295.35</b>

2010 Grant Cycle		
	FY 10-13	FY 14
ASAP	\$140,494.28	\$27,955.72
Centralina EDC	\$110,000.00	\$0.00
NC Ag. Foundation-Scholarship	\$107,352.00	\$0.00
NCDA&CS - Got to Be NC	\$434,449.93	\$159,275.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$792,296.21</b>	<b>\$187,230.72</b>

2011 Grant Cycle		
	FY 11-13	FY 14
AdvantageWest	\$4,177.72	\$5,822.28
Cabarrus County	\$17,598.16	\$0.00
Mount Olive College	\$40,996.77	\$27,511.73
Mountain Valleys RC & D	\$85,000.00	\$40,000.00
NC Ag Foundation-Education	\$105,959.53	\$60,957.33
NC Ag Foundation-Leadership	\$50,000.00	\$33,190.55
NC Ag Found - Heifers	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
NCDA&CS - Marketing	\$62,500.00	\$41,288.70
NC Nursery & Landscape Assoc.	\$182,540.05	\$65,337.54
NC Sweetpotato Foundation, Inc.	\$47,346.35	\$9,594.78
Vance County	\$30,885.63	\$269,114.37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>682,004.21</b>	<b>552,817.28</b>

2012 Grant Cycle		
	FY 12-13	FY 14
Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc.	\$15,000.00	\$6,304.63
ECU - NC Agromedicine Institute	\$27,782.59	\$45,394.23
ISAMPA	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
James Sprunt Community College	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mitchell Co. Development Foundation	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
NC Ag Foundation - Stevia	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Value-Added	\$125,000.00	\$220,677.92
NC Community College System	\$185,801.61	\$171,450.04
NC Tobacco Found - '13 Short Course	\$32,140.38	\$0.00
NC Tobacco Found - Growers Assist	\$16,000.00	\$0.00
NC Wildlife Federation	\$75,000.00	\$6,505.64
NCDA&CS - Food Safety & Outreach	\$0.00	\$765.00
NCDA&CS - Southeastern Ag Center	\$0.00	\$0.00
RAFI	\$230,739.67	\$44,260.33
Vance County	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
WNC Communities - AgOptions	\$148,902.85	\$54,607.58
WNC Communities - Livestock	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Yadkin County	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yancey County Government	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,661,332.47</b>	<b>\$732,465.37</b>

Cash Carried Forward	\$5,357,502.79
<b>Total Revenue FY14</b>	<b>\$2,149,981.33</b>
<b>Total Expenses FY14 (-)</b>	<b>\$346,295.35</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,161,188.77</b>
<b>Total Grants Pd Out FY14 (-)</b>	<b>\$2,175,673.50</b>
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY14 (-)	\$0.00
<b>Current Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$4,985,515.27</b>
<b>Encumbered Funds (-)</b>	<b>\$4,267,354.98</b>
<b>TOTALGrant/Mgmt/Admin/Enforcement of the MSA</b>	<b>\$718,160.29</b>
<b>Encumbered Funds</b>	
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$1,443,212.11
2008 Granting Cycle	\$177,463.78
2009 Granting Cycle	\$439,936.76
2010 Granting Cycle	\$634,316.24
2011 Granting Cycle	\$112,851.69
2012 Granting Cycle	\$427,234.53
2013 Granting Cycle	\$1,032,339.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,267,354.98</b>

*This report is based on data from 7/1/13- 6/30/14*

2013 Grant Cycle	
	FY 13
Boost the 'Boro	\$11,370.86
Lenoir County Cooperative Extension	\$25,977.50
NC Ag Foundation - FFA	\$90,000.00
NC Ag Foundation - AgriSafe	\$150,000.00
NC Community College System	\$112,978.31
NCDA&CS - Marketing Division	\$3,641.00
NC Soybean Producers Association, Inc.	\$0.00
RAFI	\$152,262.98
Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Inc.	\$25,000.00
Town of Elkin	\$0.00
WNC Communities - AgOptions	\$131,929.48
WNC Communities - Livestock	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$703,160.13</b>

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	<del>\$5,000,000.00</del>
FY 11 Designated Interception	<del>\$176,825.25</del>
FY 13 Agency Transfer (2%)	\$40,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$380,197,252.59</b>

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	\$17,651,886.89
2008 Granting Cycle	\$5,076,135.23
2009 Granting Cycle	\$2,581,846.24
2010 Granting Cycle	\$5,471,915.76
2011 Granting Cycle	\$2,837,519.23
2012 Granting Cycle	\$1,638,339.25
2013 Granting Cycle	\$703,160.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$94,113,522.69</b>

**Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Operating Statement July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015 (FY15)**

	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Total Amounts
Cash Carried Forward	\$4,985,515.27												
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>	\$1,851.89	\$1,982.65	\$1,641.81										\$5,476.35
<b>TOBACCO SETTLEMENT</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
<b>Fiscal Year 2014 Revenue</b>	\$1,851.89	\$1,982.65	\$1,641.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,476.35
<b>EXPENSES</b>													
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>													
Per Diem-BD MEM	\$75.00	\$90.00	\$195.00										\$360.00
Trans-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$368.00	\$741.50										\$1,109.50
Subsistence-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$475.89	\$933.00										\$1,408.89
Other-BD MEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
	\$75.00	\$933.89	\$1,869.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,878.39
<b>Staff Personnel Expenses</b>													
Sal, Ins, Ret, SS Bene.	\$23,662.50	\$25,977.05	\$23,989.20										\$73,628.75
Travel, Exp Acts, Reg Fees, Train.	\$0.00	\$137.80	\$276.59										\$414.39
	\$23,587.50	\$26,114.85	\$24,265.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$73,968.14
<b>Office Expenses</b>													
Repairs	\$1,735.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$1,735.00
Postage, Freight & Delivery	\$410.88	\$298.09	\$176.95										\$885.92
General Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Computer Equipment/Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Communication/Office Equipment	\$125.64	\$133.39	\$116.70										\$375.73
Other Administrative Expenses	\$3.96	\$25.99	\$909.17										\$939.12
Vehicle	\$200.29	\$255.44	\$0.00										\$455.73
Telephone Services	\$275.84	\$281.70	\$280.89										\$838.43
	\$2,751.61	\$994.61	\$1,483.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,229.93
<b>Professional Services</b>													
Legal Services/Office Equip.-DOJ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00										\$3,000.00
Misc.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Fiscal Year 2015 Expenses</b>													\$85,076.46

2011 Grant Cycle		
	FY 11-14	FY 15
Cabarrus County	\$17,598.16	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation-Leadership	\$83,190.55	\$3,937.42
NC Ag Found - Heifers	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$125,788.71</b>	<b>\$3,937.42</b>

2012 Grant Cycle		
	FY 12-14	FY 15
Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc.	\$21,304.63	\$7,195.37
ECU - NC Agromedicine Institute	\$73,176.82	\$25,645.56
James Sprunt Community College	\$0.00	\$0.00
NC Ag Foundation - Stevia	\$50,000.00	\$15,001.57
NC Ag Foundation - Value-Added	\$345,677.92	\$0.00
NC Wildlife Federation	\$81,505.64	\$11,116.78
WNC Communities - Livestock	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Yadkin County	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$581,665.01</b>	<b>\$58,959.28</b>

2013 Grant Cycle		
	FY 13-14	FY 15
Boost the Boro	\$11,370.86	\$33,506.66
Lenoir County Cooperative Extension	\$25,977.50	\$8,790.00
NC Ag Foundation - FFA	\$90,000.00	\$10,480.91
NC Ag Foundation - AgriSafe	\$150,000.00	\$0.00
NC Community College System	\$112,978.31	\$30,382.92
NCDA&CS - Marketing Division	\$3,641.00	\$14,976.00
NC Soybean Producers Association	\$0.00	\$18,294.00
RAFI	\$152,262.98	\$37,737.02
Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Inc.	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Town of Elkin	\$0.00	\$0.00
WNC Communities - AgOptions	\$131,929.48	\$47,896.81
WNC Communities - Livestock	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$905,224.45</b>	<b>\$202,064.32</b>

Cash Carried Forward	\$4,985,515.27
<b>Total Revenue FY15</b>	<b>\$5,476.35</b>
<b>Total Expenses FY15 (-)</b>	<b>\$85,076.46</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,905,915.16</b>
<b>Total Grants Pd Out FY15 (-)</b>	<b>\$264,961.02</b>
DebtSvc/Cancer/GenFund FY15 (-)	\$0.00
<b>Current Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$4,640,954.14</b>
<b>Encumbered Funds (-)</b>	<b>\$4,002,393.96</b>
<b>TOTAL Grant/Mgmt/Admin/Enforcement of the MSA</b>	<b>\$638,560.18</b>
<b>Encumbered Funds</b>	
2008 Out-of-Cycle Grants	\$1,443,212.11
2008 Granting Cycle	\$177,463.78
2009 Granting Cycle	\$439,936.76
2010 Granting Cycle	\$634,316.24
2011 Granting Cycle	\$108,914.27
2012 Granting Cycle	\$368,275.25
2013 Granting Cycle	\$830,275.55
2014 Granting Cycle	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,002,393.96</b>

*This report is based on data from 7/1/14 -9/30/14*



# Project Highlights

ADVOCATING A STRONG AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY FOR NORTH CAROLINA

## GOT TO BE NC CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS FOOD PRODUCERS



NC Strawberry Display at Piggly Wiggly



NC Product sections now appear in over 200 grocery stores across the state



NC Sweet Potatoes on display at a new Publix Supermarket



## FARM TOURS TAKE CONSUMERS DOWN TO THE FARM!



Farm Tours in four different regions connected families with farmers to learn how they grow and care for their produce, plants and livestock. Over 4,000 acres were impacted with thousands of consumers participating.





# FARMERS MARKETS CONNECT FARMERS & CUSTOMERS!



The brand new Rotary Square will open for business in downtown Concord offering a new market for area farmers.



The Town of Bladenboro now has a new downtown market that also serves as a community meeting facility.



Spring 2014 saw the opening in Henderson of the Vance County Regional Farmers Market and Community Center.

A grant awarded to the NC Wildlife Federation helped reduce the crop losses caused by deer. Row crop farmers endure over \$30 million in lost crop value each season. Farmers and hunters partnered in key tobacco-dependent counties to harvest just over 400 deer. This

will result in over 1,000 less deer on farmland in 2014! Over 10,000 pounds of protein was processed and transported to community food banks and kitchens for distribution to those who are food insecure.

For more information on these and other grants, click to [tobaccotrustfund.org](http://tobaccotrustfund.org) or call our office at 919.733.2160



## KEEPING FARMS SAFE

The Certified Safe Farm program trains agricultural extension agents on how to do conduct safety audits on NC farms. The agents work with farmers to make improvements to their equipment and facilities that will ensure a safer work environment.



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## Notebook

# Outdoors Notebook: Hunters thin deer herd, feed hungry people

By Teri Boggess

Correspondent October 22, 2014

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In an area with empty bellies and much venison on the hoof, hunters and nonprofit organizations got together to find a solution.

Hunters donated 19 deer to N.C. Hunters for the Hungry on Saturday during the Chocowinity Community Doe Drive. The approximately 3,000 servings of venison will be distributed through food pantries in the eastern N.C. community.

"It takes two problems in the East – we have too many deer and too many people hungry – and we put two problems together and come up with a good solution," said Kevin Keyzer, a Hunters for the Hungry board member from Grimesland.

The event also raised \$650 toward discounted processing fees of about \$50 per deer. Acre Station Meat Farm in Pinetown will be process the lean meat.

"We have found an incredible partner in the N.C. Wildlife Federation and their Farmers Manage Deer program, which is of course made possible by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission," Keyzer said. "They have put that money to good use in trying to create a program that offers help to the hungry and to farmers. Uncontrolled deer populations have a very negative impact on the production for certain crops."

Sometimes Pate Howell sees up to 50 deer on the Howell Farms property in Beaufort County where he, his father, two uncles, his grandfather and a cousin grow beans, corn and wheat.

Howell said coyotes and red wolves do a good job of managing the deer population, and he helps out when he has time. Saturday, he took two does to the mobile walk-in cooler parked at Chocowinity Fire Department, including one that weighed 119 pounds and won the heaviest doe contest. Cousin Chris Howell also donated a doe.

"We don't hunt them like we could, but when we get an opportunity to hunt and donate like this, we know it's going for a good cause," Pate Howell said.

Deer, which average about 160 servings of protein, may be donated at Acre Station Meat Farm or a drop-off station at Old Ford Ruritan Club in Washington this season.

Donate deer Oct. 24-Nov. 3 at Country Boy Outfitters in Whiteville and Nov. 7 and Nov. 28-30 at Springhill Outfitters in Selma. Find events, processors and drop-off sites or donate toward processing fees at [www.nchuntersforthehungry.org](http://www.nchuntersforthehungry.org).

The NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission supports this multi-year project with grant funding through the end of 2014.

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## North Carolina farmers experiment with stevia crops

By Kara Bettis

[kbettis@newsobserver.com](mailto:kbettis@newsobserver.com) July 21, 2014

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Hal Teegarden, vice-president of agricultural operations for Sweet Green Fields, is working with a local tobacco farmers to make the sugar substitute and natural sweetener, stevia, one of their crops when they rotate to rejuvenate soil between tobacco plantings.

JILL KNIGHT — [jhknight@newsobserver.com](mailto:jhknight@newsobserver.com) [Buy Photo](#)

- Want to learn more?

**What:** A workshop on stevia production, sponsored by a grant from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. Topics will explore disease management, research on genetic resistance and fungicide use, basic production and marketing information.

**When:** Aug. 19, 2014, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Where:** Caswell Research Farm, 2415 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, N.C.

**Register:** <http://go.ncsu.edu/stevia14> or email [molly\\_hamilton@ncsu.edu](mailto:molly_hamilton@ncsu.edu)

ERWIN — Denny Lee and Benny Lee, 66-year-old twin brothers, have spent their lives running several thousand acres at R.D. Lee Farms, Inc., mostly growing tobacco.

Now, along with a small handful of other farmers around the state, they are experimenting with a newer and sweeter crop: stevia.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the number of North Carolina tobacco farms [shrank 35.9 percent](#) between 2007 and 2012, although the amount of tobacco each farmer is producing is increasing. While some North Carolina farmers are seeing little decline and [shipping overseas](#), other farmers are experimenting with alternative crops.

Tobacco needs a long rotation between seasons – usually about three years – so farmers often grow other crops in the fields during that time.

Stevia could be one of them. The perennial plant is a shrub-like herb that can grow to about 3 feet tall, and its season lasts from about May through September.

The most prevalent extract from stevia is called rebaudioside A (Reb A), an all-natural sweetener that is up to 300 times sweeter than sugar.

Domestically, the crop has generally been cultivated on the West Coast before its recent trial run in the Southeast. There are fewer than 500 acres of stevia in North Carolina today, although the number is rapidly increasing.

“It is not a lot, but it is exciting because it is an alternative,” said Molly Hamilton, extension assistant for crop science at North Carolina State University. She says they will have to experiment throughout the next few years, but if it proves successful farmers could increase their demand for it.

#### Expansion in the South

There is a force behind the experimentation. Sweet Green Fields is a 7-year-old Washington-based company that is turning to domestic farms for stevia production. It planted its first plot in North Carolina in 2011 and has expanded throughout the state and even through northern Georgia each year.

“Our goal is to have several thousand acres in the next few years. We feel that the market can support that,” said Hal Teegarden, vice president for agriculture operations at Sweet Green Fields.

In 2012, North Carolina State University received a \$100,000 grant from the Tobacco Trust Fund to partner with Sweet Green Fields in researching winter hardiness, weed and disease management and to provide potential growers with answers about its profitability.

Demand for stevia has increased since the FDA approved it in 2008, as well as its qualities of being zero-calorie and all-natural.

More than 1,100 products that use stevia as a sweetener launched globally last year, Lu Ann Williams, head of research at Innova Market Insights, Duiven, The Netherlands reported to Food Business News last year.

Coca-Cola reports using stevia in more than 25 products worldwide, mostly in Sprite. PepsiCo added stevia to Sobe Lifewater and its Tropicana orange juice Trop50 product. Vitamin Water also uses stevia in its products.

Originating in Paraguay, stevia is mostly farmed in China. Even with some U.S. farms growing stevia, extraction still occurs in China. Teegarden and others are hoping a U.S. extraction plant can be built to keep the entire process domestic.

#### Uses existing equipment

Farmers find stevia growth an easy transition because it uses a lot of the same machinery used for tobacco production. Peanut farmers could also use their equipment to grow stevia.

Initially, the plants start in a greenhouse to outlast the spring frost. During harvest, the foliage must be separated from the stem, dried and shipped to China to extract the glycoside.

North Carolina Grower's Association Deputy Director Lee Wicker had only heard of stevia as a crop three weeks ago. He says that growing stevia could be a "hit or miss."

Wicker does not believe it will be a strong candidate to replace tobacco, but views it as a possible complementary crop during rotation.

Stevia does not require many years of historical knowledge like tobacco, he said.

"No one crop will replace tobacco," Wicker said.

A cash crop?

Denny Lee is growing his first stevia crop with Teegarden. He hopes that this crop will survive winter and last for up to four more years, as the plants grow larger and the expense decreases.

"I don't know what to feel about it right now, but if it's not profitable, we can't grow it," he said of the water-loving plant. "That's the bottom line."

Researchers are still studying disease and soil similarities.

So far, stevia producers and researchers are discovering that the climate is excellent for stevia. The soils used for tobacco are also conducive for the sweet plant. Fortunately, the sweet herb does not seem to draw deer, bears or even insects.

Researchers have discovered some potential diseases that also affect tobacco plants, but most are manageable.

Many questions still remain. In North Carolina, it is hard to determine the life of stevia plants because the oldest crop is only about 3 years old.

David Shew, professor of plant pathology at NCSU, says that the project is trying to stay ahead of the curve, addressing issues as the plants grow. He has witnessed a surprising amount of excitement and enthusiasm about the crop's potential from growers.

"We are trying to get North Carolina into this early," Shew said. "We think we have potential to garner a large part of the market."

Bettis: 919-829-8955; Twitter: @whatakaracter

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## TTFC funds expansion of AgriSafe and Certified Safe Farm programs

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Becky Kirkland Photo

CALS Dean Richard Linton (left) and Dr. Joe Zublena accept the contribution from TTFC's William Upchurch (right).

Through a recent grant to the N.C. Agricultural Foundation Inc., the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (TTFC) is providing funds to expand and continue the work of the AgriSafe and Certified Safe Farm programs in North Carolina. The expanded support was announced November 4 during the state Extension conference at N.C. State University.

Representing the TTFC were William Upchurch, executive director, and Susan Barnes, commission board member. They presented a \$300,000 check for the AgriSafe and Certified Safe Farm expansion to the N.C. Agricultural Foundation, N.C. State University, Cooperative Extension and partners at the N.C. Agromedicine Institute. Dr. Richard Linton, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Dr. Joe Zublena, director of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, accepted.

"Thanks to the overwhelming support of farmers in our state, we're here today to announce a grant for the expansion of the AgriSafe and Certified Safe Farm programs in North Carolina," Barnes said.

She then explained that these programs started as pilot projects in Duplin, Johnston and Sampson counties in 2009 with a three-year Tobacco Trust Fund Commission grant of \$500,000.

Among those leading the efforts to establish the AgriSafe Network of North Carolina and the Certified Safe Farm program were Dr. Greg Cope, CALS professor and campus coordinator for agromedicine at N. C. State; Robin Tutor-Marcom, director of the N.C. Agromedicine Institute, a partnership of East Carolina, N.C. State and North Carolina A&T State universities; and Dr. Ed Jones of Cooperative Extension. The program was initially offered in the three pilot counties, where Extension agents, specially trained in safety, conducted 120 on-farm safety reviews, as part of the Certified Safe Farm program. During these one-on-one reviews, farmers received tailored recommendations for safety improvements on their farms. AgriSafe nurses, trained through the N.C. Agromedicine Institute's Agricultural Medicine course, provide health screenings, assistance with personal protective equipment and health care referrals to farmers.



Becky Kirkland Photo

Representatives from TTFC, Certified Farm Safe, AgriSafe, Cooperative Extension and the counties participating in the safety programs gather at the state Extension conference in November 2013.

"AgriSafe and Certified Safe Farm are saving lives, improving health, and lowering costs on North Carolina farms. They are protecting agriculture's most important asset, our people," Barnes said. "We are proud that our state, through its strength in Extension and agromedicine, is leading the way in its commitment to health and safety in agriculture. This new funding will allow even more farmers, in more counties, to benefit from these programs."

The expansion will take the program from the three pilot counties to 18 more counties, including Alexander, Anson, Ashe, Craven, Franklin, Gates, Granville, Hoke, Randolph, Robeson, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly, Union, Vance, Warren, Watauga and Wilson.

Zublena thanked the TTFC for the award and the commission's confidence in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cooperative Extension and the AgriSafe and Certified Safe Farm project team.

Also in attendance at the check presentation were, from Certified Safe Farm, Julia Storm, Tim Britton, Dr. Catherine LePrevost and Dr. Ernest Hodgson; from AgriSafe, Robin Tutor-Marcom and Barbara Gallagher; from the N.C. Agricultural Foundation, Kathy Kennel; and representatives of the 18 expansion counties.

"Our award-winning team of agriculture agents in Duplin, Johnston and Sampson counties and agromedicine partners were successful in adapting this research-based program to North Carolina agriculture," Zublena said. "We know our expansion counties will build on that success and continue to make a difference for farmers, families and workers in agricultural communities throughout the state." — Terri Leith

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Farmer Steve Modlin is showing AgOptions Project Coordinator Jennifer Ferre the features of his new sheep handling equipment at his farm in Sunny View.

## WNC AgOptions Grants Make a Difference

Since 2009 Polk County farm families have benefited from a special grant program for WNC farmers, with a total of \$36,000 in grants being awarded to farmers in our county. Most years only one farmer in Polk County is awarded a grant. In 2014 two local farm families received a \$3000 grant payment. The purpose of these grants is to assist farmers with farm projects that will help enhance their agricultural income.

The first recipient was the Old Mule Farm and its owner Steve Modlin. Modlin and his wife have a farm which raises Katahdin sheep. His \$3000 grant was used to help streamline his handling facilities for his animals. The funding was used to purchase equipment which will allow Modlin to expand his production. The AgOptions grant helped supplement the cost of the equipment designed specifically for sheep production. (pictured)

The second recipient was the Ruff-B Farm and its

owners Chauncey & Monica Barber. They raise Angus-Herford beef cattle and their \$3000 grant is being used to expand their fenced pasture. This effort will allow the Barbers to expand their herd numbers.

The WNC AgOptions program has been exclusively funded by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission since 2004. In 2014 \$153,000 was available to help farmers in the 22 western counties in North Carolina. The purpose of the program is not to pay the entire cost of a project but to serve as a catalyst for farm families to initiate much needed projects. The WNC AgOptions program works closely with NC Cooperative Extension in the mountain region. The AgOptions program provides resources directly to farmers who are diversifying or expanding their farming operations. For more information go to [www.wncagoptions.org](http://www.wncagoptions.org)



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

William Upchurch  
*Executive Director*

Jeff Jennings  
*Program Officer*

Susan Hernandez  
*Administrative Officer*

1080 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1080

919.733.2160  
Fax 919.733.2510

[tobaccotrustfund@ncagr.gov](mailto:tobaccotrustfund@ncagr.gov)

[www.tobaccotrustfund.org](http://www.tobaccotrustfund.org)

