

## DID YOU KNOW....

The NCTTFC has a variety of ongoing projects across the state? Here are just a few...

The **NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation** utilized their 2009 grant to purchase three no-till seed drills. The equipment will be used to restore/establish pasture and hay land in western NC counties. Farmers rent the drills from their local SWCD offices.



FSWC Director Cecil Settle, TTFC Officials Bill Hollbrook, Bill Teague & William Upchurch with a drill.

Wilmington's **Poplar Grove Plantation** recently completed parking lot renovations at its weekly Farmer's Market. Their 2009 grant was used for grading, gravel, fencing and new signs. The Wednesday market located on Hwy. 17 N., serves several hundred customers and about 30 vendors featuring a variety of produce, meat and other items.

Go to [rafiusa.org](http://rafiusa.org) to learn how NC farmers can apply for small grants that will help increase their farm income. It's part of the NCTTFC's 3-year partnership with RAFI and its **Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Project!**

## AGRICULTURAL MARKETS EXPLORED IN CHINA

A delegation of over 20 N.C. agriculture officials embarked on a one-week trade mission to China in August to learn how markets for NC products can be expanded. Funded in part by a 2008 NCTTFC grant, **N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services** representatives, led by Commissioner Steve Troxler, and other major commodity directors and farmers met with Chinese officials.

In Beijing, Troxler met with Commissioner Jiang Chenking, the head of **China's State Tobacco Monopoly Administration (STMA)**, to discuss increasing N. C. tobacco exports to the Asian country. "STMA is interested in buying high-quality leaf, something North Carolina farmers know how to produce," said Troxler. "Commissioner Jiang also is interested in long-term planning and continuing to develop the relationship in a way that benefits their business and our farmers."

Meetings in Beijing, Kunming, Guangzhou and Hong Kong focused on soybeans, cotton, pork and poultry and generated several sales leads. Some members of the delegation visited an aquaculture research farm that is studying the use of soy protein concentrate as feed for several species of freshwater fish, including black carp. China is the world's largest aquaculture producer, and researchers there believe that soy-based feed is integral to the sustainability of this industry. "More demand for soy-based fish and animal feeds could open up numerous opportunities for N.C. soybean farmers," Troxler said. "Our soybeans are higher in oil and protein than those grown in other U.S. states, and we are developing a niche by shipping containers of soybeans out of Wilmington." Troxler also signed a memorandum of understanding with officials from the Yunnan Dept. of Agriculture in Kunming. This represents the beginning of a dialogue between the NCDA&CS and the Yunnan Dept. of Agriculture about ways the two can work together to benefit agriculture in both regions. Like our state, Yunnan Province is a major tobacco producer and both N.C. and the province produce several other common commodities. "China purchased \$271 million worth of North Carolina ag products in 2008, and while that sounds like a lot, there is still a huge amount of room for growth," Troxler said. "I'm confident we opened doors to new opportunities for N.C. farmers."



Commissioner Troxler and officials of a Chinese Egg Farm during a tour.



Members of the NC Delegation meet with Commissioner Jiang of China Tobacco as well as other tobacco officials.



**DID YOU KNOW....**

*The NCTTFC is one of three agencies that issues grants from the annual Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) funds paid by the major tobacco companies?*

*The NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission is committed to funding projects that sustain and improve the vibrant agricultural economy in North Carolina. The Commission currently funds nearly 60 active projects across the state. Our funding targets projects designed to increase income for farmers and their ag-communities.*

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



## NASH AREA MARKET WELCOMES NEW ADDITION!

The **Nash Area Farmer's Market** opened its new 52' x 105' open shelter in August. This 2008 grant funded all construction costs, expanded the current concession area and provided 48 additional parking spaces. The current building shown



on the left in the photo could no longer accommodate its vendors or customers. The two buildings provide ample shelter and additional spacing for nearly 40 vendors each weekend. About 65 area

farmers utilize the market during the year. The market opened in 2005 and vendors and customers have grown steadily ever since. The market is located just off Hwy. 64, Exit 468B in Rocky Mount and also hosts other community meetings and events.

## STATE-WIDE FINANCIAL TRAINING

Applications for a state-wide online financial planning course are being accepted. This joint effort by **AgCarolina Financial, Cape Fear Farm Credit** and **Carolina Farm Credit** will target Young, Beginning, Small & Minority farmers in the state. The NCTTFC grant will cover tuition, workshops and other expenses for 60 farm families over a 2-year period. Farmers will work on modules at their own pace and also work with Farm Credit mentors for guidance.



TTFC officials William Upchurch, Willard Small & Dan Ward join Chairman Ronald Allen of Cape Fear FC to kick off the program.



AgCarolina Financial Chairman Dick Tunnell and CEO Eugene Charville accept a check from TTFC's Gwen Pitt.

## SILK HOPE COMMUNITY GROUNDBREAKING

**The Silk Hope Ruritan Club**, a 2009 NCTTFC Grantee, held its groundbreaking ceremony on August 10th for the new Silk Hope Community Building. The new 3,000 sq. ft. facility will host up to 300 meetings a year and will also provide kitchen services. It will be located at the Ruritan's Farm Heritage Center in Chatham County. Grant funds are being lever-

aged with club funding and combined with a USDA Rural Development loan. The facility is expected to open by March, 2010.



Chairman Billy Carter joins with Silk Hope Ruritan Club members and other community leaders for the ceremony.



