



NEWS TO USE

ADVOCATING A STRONG AG ECONOMY FOR OUR STATE

DID YOU KNOW....

The NCTTFC has a variety of ongoing projects across the state?



Watch for the series of "Farm Fresh Minute" segments airing on select TV stations across the state. Our partners at the NCDA&CS Marketing Division produced these spots to promote local food products and encourage consumers to support their neighbors.



MID-ATLANTIC GRASS-FED BEEF CONFERENCE

August 11-12 - Sheraton RTP

A 2007 grant to Mount Olive College's Agri-Business Center is helping fund this important conference designed to educate producers about the grass-fed beef market. The event includes farm tours of local producers, educational seminars and a panel discussion. For more information go to www.mocagbiz.com.

For more information on these and other grants go to: www.tobaccotrustfund.org

TOBACCO TRUST FUND ANNOUNCES 2009 GRANT CYCLE WINNERS!

The NCTTFC was directly affected by the state budget shortfall when nearly \$20 million in MSA funds diverted to the general budget. With over 40 applicants requesting \$21 million in financial assistance, the TTFC Board worked very hard to award grants to effective projects ready to make a quick impact. Here are the results...

ASAP

Appalachian Grown Marketing Support for Mountain Farms - \$56,150

Cost-share marketing funds available to over 300 farmers in the ASAP program's western NC region.

CAROLINA FARM CREDIT/CAPE FEAR FARM CREDIT/AGCAROLINA FINANCIAL

Farm Credit University - \$94,500

Targets young, beginning, small and minority farmers through an e-learning curriculum. Families will be trained on financial planning, budgeting, and other aspects of farming operations essential to their success.

MARS HILL COLLEGE

The Inn at Mars Hill - \$50,000

Provides funds towards plans for design and construction of a 21,000 sq. ft. education center for instructional programs will focused on ag-related subjects. NC citizens and visitors will benefit.

MOUNTAIN VALLEYS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Alternative Energy Project - \$245,000

Cost-share program for western farmers

to utilize wind, solar and water energy projects that will reduce their own energy costs.

NC A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

Seasonal Crop Diversification - \$49,000

Project utilizes high tunnel greenhouses to study how produce seasons can be extended, resulting in longer seasons and sustained income for small farmers.

NC AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION, INC.

AgriSafe & Certified Safe Farm - \$500,000

Implements programs designed to diagnose and improve the health of farm families in the Tri-County region. Includes on-site health screenings and testing to identify medical issues before they occur. Farm programs will assist farmers in making their operations safer, resulting in less injuries and fewer medical costs.

Potential of Switchgrass in NC - \$174,300

Funds research equipment to study potential energy usage and savings of utilizing switchgrass and other grass pellets.

Stockpiled Fescue for Wintering - \$41,723

Develops research plots for intensive pasture grazing system to decrease production expenses for cattle producers.

NC COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Project Skill-Up - \$550,000

Continuation of successful grant that provides financial assistance, job training and career enhancement for displaced workers. Project grows to nine community colleges, and implements new job training program.

DID YOU KNOW....

The number of tobacco farms dropped 70% from 2002 to 2008? The end of the federal support system led many farmers to exit farming or diversify to other products. 2007 Statistics show over 150,000 acres of tobacco planted, with a value of just under \$600 million.

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.

**NC DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES****Agricultural Products Marketing Initiative - \$325,000**

State-wide campaign targeting grocery and foodservice outlets. Designed to increase sales of NC products.

Education & Outreach Supporting NC Agriculture - \$50,000

Provides support for continuation of "Agricultural Review" – a monthly publication providing important agricultural information and reaching nearly 40,000 people/month.

Expanding NC Strawberry Marketing Window - \$150,000

Implements research program utilizing greenhouses to lengthen growing season and increase incomes for NC farmers.

NC FOUNDATION FOR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**Rebuilding Pastures and Enhancing Livestock Production - \$50,000**

Purchases a minimum of three pasture-renovating seed drills for specific districts so that farmers can rent at low costs in order to restore grasses to their pastureland.

NC'S NORTHEAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.**Pilot Scale Extraction Facility Location & Design Analysis - \$25,000**

Funds engineering plans for the Pilot Scale Extraction Facility . Targets plant biotechnology companies who could locate to northeastern NC and work with farmers.

NC REAL ENTERPRISES**Regional Agribusiness Development Initiative - \$62,000**

Implements training program for farmers/workers transitioning to higher margin sustainable agricultural and other business ventures in the Upper Coastal Plain region.

POPLAR GROVE FOUNDATION, INC.**Farmer's Market Update & Expansion - \$50,000**

Funds parking and site improvements at weekly farmer's market.

SILK HOPE RURITAN CLUB—COMMUNITY BUILDING - \$350,000

Grant leverages with other funders to assist with construction of new center for agricultural and other community groups in Silk Hope and surrounding area.

TOBACCO FARM LIFE MUSEUM**Agricultural Heritage & Agritourism Program - \$45,000**

Funds staff development, curator projects, and marketing for the museum.

TOWN OF SHALLOTTE FARMER'S MARKET- \$24,110

Assists downtown market with vendor tents, storage and marketing to encourage more customers and increased sales.

WNC COMMUNITIES**Regional Livestock Marketing Center - \$375,000**

Provides construction funds, along with other funding partners, for a new sales center serving western NC livestock producers.

