



# NEWS TO USE

ADVOCATING A STRONG AG ECONOMY FOR OUR STATE

## DID YOU KNOW...

### *The NCTTFC Impacts Farmers and Consumers Across North Carolina?*

Here are 3 2008-09 Grants that affect All NC Counties:

Improving the **NCDA&CS Agronomic Lab Information System** so that farmers and consumers can receive more soil and nematode test data faster and more accurately. The lab processes over 400,000 requests a year!



A new marketing campaign designed to increase sales of **NC Peanuts in Major Drug Store Chains** will benefit NC Peanut processors and farmers! The NC Peanut Growers Association is our grantee

The **Drought Response Recovery Program** aids farmers with pasture renovation, well drilling, and pond replenishment. The NC Rural Center and NC Soil & Water Conservation Division are coordinating the effort. There are currently 87 counties with 740 projects underway.



## TOBACCO TRUST FUND GRANT MEANS JOBS FOR NC!

North Carolina farmers and citizens received invaluable career and skills training assistance through the efforts of a \$242,000 grant project. The **NC Community College Systems' "Project Skill Up,"** served nearly 900 people during 2008. Clients received tuition aid, new job

skills training, financial assistance for tuition, books and other supplies, as well as, career development and assessments. Clients secured jobs in occupations such as nursing, teaching assistance, law enforcement, HVAC and more. Twelve counties affected by the decline in the local tobacco industry benefitted from the project.

Colleges were awarded grants ranging from \$30,000 to \$40,000 after submitting an action plan to implement the program. Each college focused on its own unique ideas, but the impacts on securing needed training and specific jobs were the largest benefits for their clients.

### Preparing People for Success in the Workplace!

## Project Skill-UP

### Need Computer Skills? Need short-term training for employment?

Project Skill-UP is specifically designed to provide short-term training leading to employment to those adversely affected by the changes in the tobacco industry.

Training areas may include: employability skills, BioWork, healthcare, computer skills, small business development, construction, landscape gardening, truck driver training and other short-term continuing education and curriculum programs. Financial assistance may include tuition, fees, books and materials.

The Employability program at JCC continually offers these types of programs and resources to the citizens of Johnston County. Classes are starting soon. Call today!



Funding for Project Skill-UP is provided through a grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

### Participating Colleges:

- Forsyth Technical College
- Johnston Community College
- Lenoir Community College
- Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
- Southeastern Community College
- Vance-Granville Community College
- Wilkes Community College
- *In 2009, these colleges will continue their efforts and Asheville-Buncombe Technical and Central Carolina Community Colleges will implement Project Skill-Up Ag-related programs*

## JOBS & TRAINING FOR WILSON COUNTY

Unemployed workers in Wilson County are benefiting from the efforts of a NCTTFC grantee. **"Project New Start"** has kicked off its third year with the energetic and caring people of Opportunities Industrialization of Wilson (OIC). OIC provides skills assessments, emergency finan-

cial aide and job placement to Wilson's unemployed. Taking advantage of a NCTTFC grant of \$173,000, the staff at OIC served over 280 people and placed nearly 150 into jobs in the Wilson area. Total new income for these workers will be over \$1.17 million! OIC will continue

"Project New Start" in 2009 with a \$240,000 grant. Economic conditions are causing an assortment of financial and job challenges and the OIC staff has a goal to place over 200 people into full-time employment this year.

**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.*

*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 40 active projects across the state.*

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



**PROJECT TO TARGET SMALL FARMERS ACROSS THE STATE**

Small farmers will benefit from a state-wide program launched in the Fall of 2008. A major initiative to offer grants for innovative farm projects is being coordinated by RAFI-USA. The **Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Project** offers grants up to \$30,000 for projects which farmers implement to replace lost tobacco income. In January, 2009, 17 western North Carolina counties



were awarded \$240,000 for 40 projects. The successful WNC AgOptions program coordinated grant requests and selection. Projects will include organic vegetable production, greenhouse construction, value-added

processing equipment, wool production, and more. Western Piedmont grant projects will be chosen soon. In April, a request for proposals will go out for Central and Eastern NC counties. Local extension offices will be notified, as well as local media outlets. Interested parties may get more information, at the [rafi-usa.org](http://rafi-usa.org) website.

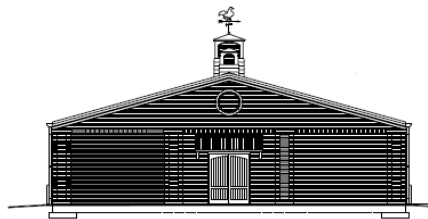
**NASH COUNTY FARMERS WILL EXPAND THEIR PRODUCE SELECTION**

A \$400,000 grant to the Nash Area Farmers Market will mean increased room for area farmers. The covered 52' x 72' facility will enable the 65+ vendors to have more selling space and offer more selections to the 16,000+ customers

who enjoy the variety of products offered at the market. Additional parking

spaces will also be added. The ground-breaking will occur early Spring, 2009.

The current market was built with the help of a NCTTFC grant in 2005, and is located on Peachtree St. in Rocky Mount.



**GRANT WILL DEVELOP LOCAL FOOD CAMPAIGNS**

A \$205,000 grant to Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) will assist two other regions who wish to develop their local food systems. ASAP's mission is to work with western NC growers, develop regional markets, promote "Appalachian Grown" products and develop partnerships with institutions across the region. ASAP personnel

will assist two other multi-county regions with their own programs over the next 2-3 years. The grant

check was presented during ASAP's annual farmer's reception and conference.



Jeff Jennings, TTFC; Layten Davis, Bill Teague, TTFC Board Members; Charlie Jackson, ASAP Director; Sen. Joe Sam Queen, Rep. Bruce Goforth