



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? Here are just a few...



The City of Lexington will soon renovate a downtown train depot for its 30 Farmer's Market vendors and hundreds of weekly customers. The site is located in the city's warehouse district and draws market shoppers two days a week. The TTFC grant will cover renovation and marketing costs.

The NCDA&CS's Evaluation of Food Safety Traceback Programs project is currently surveying NC produce growers to learn how they track produce grown, processed and sold. Results will be used to educate NC growers on the best systems to ensure their produce is always safe when delivered to your table.



The NC Organic Bread Flour Project will bring together bakers, millers and growers to study the feasibility of a regional co-op for locally grown hard winter wheat used in local baked goods. The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association oversees the grant.

TOBACCO TRUST FUND GRANT LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE RESOURCE!

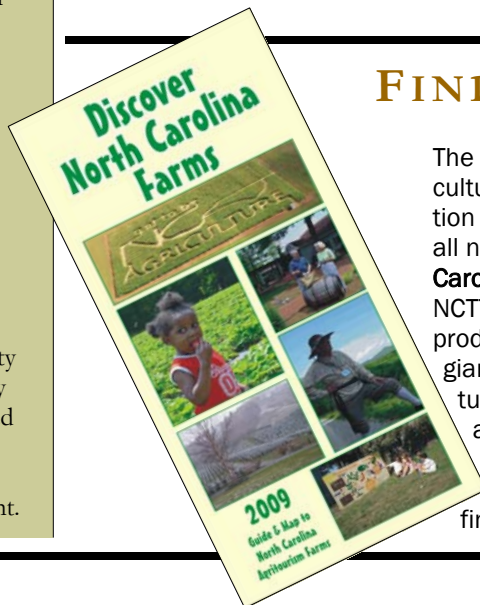
A new website is designed to help consumers and growers learn more about fresh produce. This partnership with the Value-Added & Alternative Ag Program at NC State University has already proven to be a success—generating thousands of hits during its first few months.

The site features vital information on proper produce handling and selection, business management planning and online videos featuring NCSU researchers. Enterprise budgets on a wide variety of meat and produce items are also online for producers. The site even features "Youth Resources" that helps kids learn how to start specific businesses. Long range plans for the site include even more resources for producers, more videos and valuable production information. Check it out at www.ncvalueadded.org.



A unique feature of the site is "The Produce Lady." Rockingham County Agent Brenda Sutton gives consumers helpful advice on proper selection and preparation of several local produce items. UNC-TV's Almanac Gardener has even begun featuring the videos on selected shows this Spring! More produce tips are on the way!

FIND A FARM NEAR YOU!



The NC Department of Agriculture's Agritourism Section has just released the all new "Discover North Carolina Farms" map. This NCTTFC funded project produced 100,000 of the giant fold out maps! Featuring over 200 farms across the state, it's designed to help consumers and visitors find farms that feature

everything from pick-your-own produce, hay rides, corn mazes, choose and cut Christmas trees, wine tours, and more. The map will be distributed through welcome centers and other organizations across the state. To order your free map, simply call 919-733-7912 and you can learn more at www.visitNCFarms.com.

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 or call our office at 919.733.2160



NEW REGIONAL FOOD PROCESSING FACILITY IS UNDERWAY!

The all-new **Piedmont Value-Added Processing Center** held a press conference on April 16th to officially begin the renovations to the present site. A NCTTFC grant will be used towards vital food processing equipment and for first-year administration costs. The 10,000+ sq. ft. facility, located just off of I-85 in Hillsborough will serve a 22 county region. Food entrepreneurs will be able to pro-

duce their value-added products for reasonable rates. Equipment will include a blast freezer, convection oven, meat grinder and more. Users can take advantage of business development educational opportunities and sales assistance. An Executive Director will be hired to manage the site. The project

has been several years in the making and county officials are confident it will prove to be a success.



Alamance, Chatham, Durham & Orange County officials, Congressman David Price and NCTTFC Exec. Dir. William Upchurch.

TTFC GRANT BUILDS SALES FOR NORTHWESTERN NC FARMERS

An organic farmers cooperative in the Blue Ridge Mountains is building sales and customer loyalty. Formed in 2000, **New River Organic Growers** boasts 13 members providing organic items such as asparagus, onions, heirloom tomatoes and



more. The group sells at local farmers markets and has a partnership with

Eastern Carolina Organics to supply produce for the larger co-op's customers. A refrigerated truck, ice machines and other supplies to enable the farmers to make deliveries and serve their customers were purchased with grant funds. Check out newriverorganicgrowers.org

BIO-FUELS INITIATIVE SPURS LOCAL INTEREST

Southeastern Community College, Whiteville, NC will soon launch a new program to educate area farmers on biofuel production. A NCTTFC grant check was formally presented to the college during the dedication of the new Cartrette Technology Center. The grant will fund a mobile biofuels processor, provide necessary equipment for classroom

instruction, and serve as a valuable resource for on-farm demonstrations. The project is designed to stimulate interest and research into other crops that can be grown for fuel also. NCTTFC Chairman Billy Carter stated, "The Commission believes that the southeast region of the state will prove to be a vital partner in biofuel development."



SCC faculty, NCTTFC Board members, Sen. R.C. Soles, Chairman Carter, Congressman Mike McIntyre and Rep. Dewey Hill at the presentation.

