



The two-year **Farm Energy Efficiency Project** grant with the NC Farm Bureau Legal Foundation is assisting farmers across the state with money-saving energy audits. During 2009, over 50 audits have been conducted with an average cost savings of more than \$16,000 per farm. During October, farmers could apply to qualify for the second cycle of energy audits. Go to www.ncfarmenergy.org for more information.



The NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Service's monthly publication, **"The Agricultural Review"** is supported by the NCTTFC. This newspaper reaches nearly 40,000 subscribers and provides current ag-related news and stories. It's also a valuable resource for those who wish to buy/sell farm equipment and livestock. Go to www.ncagr.gov to see the online version or to subscribe.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW GRANT CYCLE FOR 2010

The **NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Board** met on September 25, 2009 and approved a new grant cycle for 2010. Applications will be accepted until December 4th and are available online at www.tobaccotrustfund.org. The Commission will consider projects that meet one or more of the following funding classifications: Community Economic Development, Diversification Initiatives, Development of Natural Resources, Increasing Farm Profitability, or Skill & Resource Development.

In a press release issued after the announcement, Chairman Billy Carter said, *"Grant ideas that target tobacco-dependent regions, assist current and former tobacco farmers, or have the potential to generate additional income for farming sectors will be given top priority. The Commission currently serves hundreds of thousands of people through the various grants we fund across the state, and we feel confident that there are additional projects that could utilize our assistance."* Grant awards will be announced in late April. The Commission also welcomed seven new board members recently appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tempore. The Board represents a variety of agricultural backgrounds from across NC.



NCTTFC Board Members (Beginning at back row): Jeff Simpson, Al Leonard, Layten Davis, Pete Burgess, Vice-Chairman, Bill Teague, Keith Beavers, Bill Holbrook, Chairman Billy Carter, Richard Enoch, Rick Smith, Susan Barnes, Gwen Pitt, Sue Leggett, & Willard Small.

FIRST STATE-WIDE GRASS-FED BEEF CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!

A 2007 grant to study NC's grass-fed beef industry culminated in a first-time conference in Raleigh. The **Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center of Mount Olive College** managed the grant which conducted surveys and held regional workshops about grass-fed production and processed products. A two-day August conference attracted over 200 agents and producers where they learned about marketing and research and also toured local beef farms. For more information on this project, contact Dr. Sandy Maddox at smaddox@moc.edu.



Attendees listen during one of the many workshops.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES TARGET CITIZENS WITH PROJECT SKILL-UP!

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.

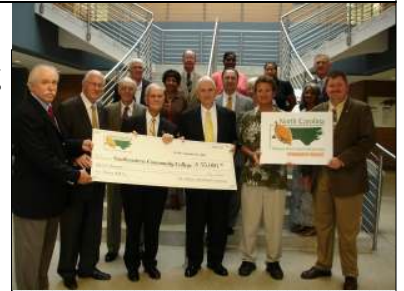
Community colleges across the state are providing financial aid for students and developing new job training



Wayne Community College receives a check from Keith Beavers, TTFC Board Member and NC Rep. Davis and Rep. Sager.

programs thanks to a major NCTTFC grant. "Project Skill-UP" continues to expand and assist

citizens. A total of 14 colleges are now helping students with financial assistance, "second career" evaluations and enhanced skills training. The Commission has been a Project Skill-UP supporter for three years and currently has two grants totaling over \$800,000 to support the program. Another five colleges and several existing Project Skill-UP sites are developing job training programs directly affecting agricultural industries in their area. These programs will impact local farmers and farm workers with



TTFC Board Members and Legislative Members present a check to Southeastern Community College.

new skills and education. Examples include green agri-business projects, natural chef training programs, bio-fuels training, surviving job lay-offs and good agricultural practices (GAP) training programs. Project Skill-UP has already assisted and impacted over 1,000 people in 2009 alone.

NEW STRAWBERRY WEB PORTAL LAUNCHES!

Current and future farmers can find everything they need to know about strawberry production right on the internet. Launched in August, the **Strawberry Information Portal** offers information on research, production hints, association meetings and more. It's all part of NC State's Center for Value-Added Agriculture's "One-Stop Shopping" grant whose team developed the portal. Other produce items will come online soon, offering an extensive array of resources for growers. Go to www.ncvalueadded.org for more information.



For more information on these and other grants, click to www.tobaccotrustfund.org

or call our office at 919.733.2160



LOOKING FOR ENTREPRENEURS...

Targeting entrepreneurs who wish to develop ag-related businesses is the objective of the **Regional Agribusiness Development Initiative** grant. Managed by NC REAL Enterprises, the project targets the Upper Coastal Plain counties of Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton

and Wilson. A series of workshops designed to develop business skills, planning, financial management, product marketing and more will begin this Fall. NC REAL trained instructors will lead the workshops and over 30 new businesses are ex-

pected to be developed as a result. Valuable input from local extension agents, community colleges and partners of the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments have been utilized. Go to www.ncreal.org for more information.