

## 2024-2025 Request for Proposals

September 2024

Agriculture is North Carolina's number one industry and contributes over \$100 billion to the state's economy each year. With funding provided by the North Carolina General Assembly since 2013, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has led the N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative with the mission to support the research and development of agricultural and forestry-based feedstocks for bioenergy production, agribusiness development and cooperative research for biofuels production within the state. In 2018 the General Assembly allocated funding at the Commissioner's request for a New and Emerging Crops Program. Its mission is to identify potential new crops and value-added products, and then provide the agricultural research, marketing support and grower education needed to make these crops viable options for North Carolina growers. In 2024 the General Assembly voted to expand the scope of the combined programs to include Innovations to Advance the Agricultural Economy. Hence referred to as "this/the Program." This expansion is a commitment to address the needs of an ever-evolving agricultural economy by supporting innovative agricultural research projects.

This Program is organized under and administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Research Stations Division. A competitive grant process will support this Program with \$1,500,000 for the 2024-2025 grant cycle.

While not a requirement, research projects funded through the Program can be supported by one or more of the research stations or field laboratories strategically located across the state. North Carolina has a vast network of research farms with varying soil types and climatic conditions, plus an aquaculture facility, to support the production of a wide range of crops, livestock, and aquatic species.

The Research Stations Division request research proposals that support:

- Bioenergy Research
- New and Emerging Crops
- Innovations to Advance the Agricultural Economy

Eligible applicants include universities of higher learning, Cooperative Extension, commodity associations, non-profit organizations, and for-profit businesses.

Funding from this Program will NOT be granted for start-up businesses, collecting proprietary data, or indirect/overhead costs.

Grant applications should not exceed \$150,000.

Multi-year projects are allowed.

Applicants are welcomed to submit multiple applications if differences in proposed projects are sufficient to warrant separate consideration. The grant application and other required documents may be downloaded from the program website at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/research-stations/BRI/NECPIAAE>

Applications must be postmarked by COB October 25, 2024.

Questions concerning the Program should be directed to Sam or Hunter at the numbers below.

For more information concerning the application process, contact Allison Medlin at [Allison.medlin@ncagr.gov](mailto:Allison.medlin@ncagr.gov) or by phone at (919) 693-2483.

Sincerely,



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