



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

**North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**
Research Stations Division

Teresa Lambert
Director

The New and Emerging Crops Program

October 18, 2023

Request for Proposals

Agriculture is North Carolina's number one industry and contributes over \$100 billion to the state's economy each year. To support this growing industry and investigate new market opportunities for growers and agribusinesses, the 2018 North Carolina General Assembly allocated funding at the Commissioner's request for a New and Emerging Crops Program. The mission of the New and Emerging Crops Program 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. The research generated from this program will help lead to increased crop and market diversification opportunities on North Carolina farms with the potential impact of decreasing economic risks and increasing farm income.

The New and Emerging Crops Program is organized under the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Research Stations Division. Contingent upon an approved State budget, a competitive grant program of up to \$1,000,000 will support this program. While not a requirement, research projects funded through this program can be supported by one or more of the Research Stations Division's 18 research facilities strategically located across the state. North Carolina has a vast network of research farms with varying soil types and climatic conditions to support the production of a wide range of crops.

The New and Emerging Crops Program requests research proposals that support the mission outlined above. Topics of high importance include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of emerging crops with economic potential
- Genetic improvement and selection
- Crop physiology, growth, and development
- Identification of appropriate soil and climate needs
- Agronomic management strategies including fertility and pest management

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- Postharvest management strategies
- Education and demonstration
- Creation and evaluation of new value-added products
- Test marketing new crops or products
- or other innovative agricultural initiatives.

Grant applications should not exceed \$100,000 in direct funding from this program; however, the total of direct funding from this program and other matching contributions may exceed \$100,000 per application. Special consideration will be given to multi-year projects that warrant funding in excess of \$100,000. Potential grantees are welcome 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 New and Emerging Crops website at www.ncagr.gov/NECP.

Universities, extension, commodity associations, non-profits and private businesses are all eligible to apply. Funding from this program is intended to support research projects that generate information to advance North Carolina's agricultural industry. Therefore, grantees should solicit support from relevant industry partners when appropriate and to share results with those partners. Funding will not be granted for start-up businesses or collecting proprietary data and cannot be used to cover indirect / overhead costs. Applications must be postmarked by COB November 30, 2023.

Questions concerning the program should be directed to Sam or Hunter at the numbers below. For more information concerning the application process, please contact Allison Medlin, at allison.medlin@ncagr.gov or by phone at (919) 693-2483.

Sincerely,



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cc: Dr. Joe French
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