

Minutes

April 8, 2009

N. C. Board of Agriculture

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Maurice K. Berry, Jr.

Elbert R. Pitt, Jr.

Jean Boseman

Larry Sampson

William E. Holliday

Douglas I. Torn

C. Osmond Kearney, Jr.

Jeffery B. Turner

Kirk Mathis

Hyman Young, Jr.

Steve Troxler, Chairman

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Call to Order

Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2008

Referendum Request – Tobacco Research Assessment

Referendum Request – NC Cattlemen’s Association

Update on Legislative Issues

Report on State Budget

N. C. Board of Agriculture

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April 8, 2009

The April 8, 2009 Board of Agriculture meeting was held beginning at 2:00 pm in the Hall of Fame Room, Agriculture Building, 2 West Edenton Street, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler called the meeting to order, read the ethics reminder and called on Dr. Richard Reich to begin the meeting with prayer. The following Board members were in attendance: Maurice Berry, Jean Boseman, Billy Holliday, Bert Pitt, Larry Sampson, Doug Torn, Jeffrey Turner, and Hyman Young.

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Before taking up the agenda items, Commissioner Troxler asked the Board member to provide an update on weather and crop conditions in their area.

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The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the last Board meeting. Upon MOTION by Hyman Young, seconded by Billy Holliday, the minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting were approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Commissioner Troxler called on David McLeod to review the current requirements for ethics training for Board members.

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The second item before the Board was a petition for approval to conduct a referendum among tobacco growers for continuation of the tobacco research assessment. Since Keith Oakley from the North Carolina Tobacco Foundation was not in attendance, David McLeod was called upon to explain the petition. Mr. McLeod explained that the law provides that the four organizations (NC Farm Bureau, NC State Grange, NC Tobacco Growers Association, and the NC Tobacco Foundation) petition the board for permission to conduct a referendum. The first assessment was held in 1991 and is held every six years. The proposed assessment would be for an additional six-year period beginning with the 2010 crop year at the same rate of ten cents per hundredweight.

MOTION to approve the referendum petition was made by Jeff Turner and was seconded by Doug Torn. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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The Commissioner then called upon Bryan Blinson of the NC Cattlemen's Association to explain their request for the Board to approve a referendum reinstating the state beef cattle

assessment. Mr. Blinson noted that the Board had already approved a referendum request last year but it did not pass. They would like to reinstate the previous assessment at a flat one dollar per head. The funds will be used to address the following issues: education, research, youth, promotion, and issues management.

David McLeod mentioned that the Department of Agriculture would be involved in the collection of the assessment.

After no questions from Board, MOTION was made by Maurice Berry and seconded by Jean Boseman to approve the request. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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The next item on the agenda was a summary and overview of legislation pending in the current Session affecting agriculture. The Commissioner called upon Ray Starling, General Counsel, to provide the Board with the update.

Mr. Starling noted that there were several folks at the Department monitoring activity at the General Assembly. He mentioned that the filing deadlines had now passed in both the House and Senate and as of the day of the Board meeting, 1,120 bills had been introduced in the House and 1,098 had been introduced in the Senate.

Mr. Starling reviewed numerous legislative items affecting agriculture. Because of the importance to the Board members, a detailed discussion on potential water legislation ensued. At the end of his update, Ray Starling turned it over to Joy Hicks, Policy Development Analyst, for an update on the budget situation.

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Ms. Hicks reviewed two introduced bills regarding the Research Stations. One bill is favorable for the Department and resembles the resolution passed by the Board last year. The other bill requires that a panel from out of state do a comprehensive review of the Research Stations and make recommendations. This bill would delay the strategic plan.

Ms. Hicks then provided an update on the strategic plan noting that they have made great strides. They have had four public hearings across the state and have had three external advisory committee meetings with over 300 people weighing in on the issue.

Moving on to the budget, Ms. Hicks discussed the Governor's versus the Senate's budgets. She reminded the Board that for the current Fiscal Year, ending June 30, that we were under a nine percent reversion equating to \$5.9 million. She noted that Department is doing what it can to work within that budget.

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Following discussion of some of the issues presented by Ray Starling and Joy Hicks, a MOTION was made by Doug Torn to strongly oppose the Water Resources Policy Act, S. 907/H. 1101, in its current form and that the rights of landowners to use the water on their land not be taken away or restricted. The motion was seconded by Jeff Turner and carried by

unanimous vote.

A MOTION was then made by Jeff Turner and seconded by Hyman Young, to endorse the policy statement in support of the research stations study, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A. A copy of the statement would be sent to the Governor and the General Assembly. The motion was voted on and passed.

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Commissioner Troxler then recognized Herb Vanderberry, Director of Ag Statistics, for a report on spring planting intentions.

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Discussion ensued on several current issues, including the salmonella problem in processed peanut paste from Georgia, farm credit problems, and damage caused by beavers.

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Mr. Holliday made the MOTION, which was seconded by Mr. Turner that the meeting be adjourned.

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THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:29 P.M.

Recorded & Prepared by:  
Christina L. Waggett

Adopted by the Board this 10<sup>th</sup> day  
of November, 2009.



Steven W. Troxler  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
Chairman



David S. McLeod  
Secretary

## EXHIBIT A

We share a common vision and a continuing commitment to work together to enhance the future of agriculture and agribusiness in North Carolina because we believe that:

- Advances in agricultural research are vitally important to economic growth and jobs across our state, especially in our rural communities.
- Producers depend on new technologies to increase productivity, profitability and sustainability to meet local food demands and global competition.
- Strong partnerships within our agricultural research system provide greater efficiencies, better resource utilization and mutual benefits.

Agricultural Alliance of North Carolina	North Carolina Greenhouse Growers Association
Agritourism Networking Association	North Carolina Potato Association
Apple Wedge Packers & Cider	North Carolina Strawberry Association
Biofuels Center of North Carolina	North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission
Blackland Farm Managers Association	North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association
Board of Agriculture	North Carolina Wine & Grape Council
Cape Fear Vineyards	North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association	North Carolina Blueberry Council, Inc.
Carolina Feed Industry Association	North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
Carolina/Virginia Dairy Products Association	North Carolina Christmas Tree Association
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative	North Carolina Cotton Producers Association, Inc.
Circle Grove Seeds, Inc.	North Carolina Egg Association
Cooperative Council of North Carolina	North Carolina Meat Goat Producers, Inc.
Corn Growers Association of North Carolina	North Carolina Peanut Growers Association
Eastern North Carolina Christmas Tree Growers Association	North Carolina Pecan Growers Association, Inc.
Eure Seed Farms, Inc.	North Carolina Pork Council
North Carolina Tomato Growers Association	North Carolina Poultry Federation
North Carolina Plant Food Association	North Carolina Seedsmen's Association
North Carolina Tobacco Growers Association	North Carolina Shellfish Growers Association
North Carolina Agribusiness Council, Inc.	North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association
North Carolina Apple Growers Association	North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
North Carolina Biotechnology Center	North Carolina State Grange
North Carolina Commercial Flower Growers Association	North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission
North Carolina Dairy Producers Association	North Carolina Watermelon Association
North Carolina Farm Bureau	Southeastern Grain & Feed Association
North Carolina Green Industry Council	The Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA

(Inclusion in the above list does not represent an endorsement of the strategic plan.)