



**North Carolina Department of Agriculture
And Consumer Services**

June 10, 2008

Dear Friends of North Carolina Agriculture,

For many years, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have worked in partnership for the benefit of agricultural research. We are proud to serve our state's number one industry – agriculture and agribusiness. We are proud that agriculture generates \$70.8 billion in our state's economy. As leaders in our vibrant agricultural community, we are very grateful that we live in a state where agriculture and agribusiness are strongly supported by our farmers, industry and elected officials.

Most of you are aware of recent legislative activities regarding the ownership and management of our agricultural research stations. We are pleased to report to you that we have agreed to continue our work together and to jointly study and develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the management of our agricultural research stations. Our goal will be to identify ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our research system. In the process, we will actively seek input from farm organizations, commodity associations, and other interested parties.

We share a common vision of an agricultural research system that is efficient and up-to-date. We also share a continuing commitment to work together for the best future of North Carolina agriculture. We certainly appreciate and anticipate your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Steven W. Troxler in blue ink.

Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Johnny C. Wynne in blue ink.

Johnny C. Wynne
Dean and Executive Director
for Agricultural Programs

Handwritten signature of Alton Thompson in blue ink.

Alton Thompson
Dean

cc: Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight
Speaker of the House Joe Hackney
Senator Bob Atwater
Representative Dewey Hill
Representative Bill Faison
Dr. Richard Reich