Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Research Stations Division

Alexander M. Stewart, Ph.D.
Director

The North Carolina Bioenergy Research Initiative

August 29, 2017

Request for Proposals

In 2013 the North Carolina General Assembly allocated funding to support Bioenergy Development to stimulate energy production from North Carolina agricultural and forest products. Bio-based industries are potential opportunities to grow N.C. farm income. A competitive grant program of $1,000,000 will support these efforts under the N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative. The Bioenergy Research Initiative is organized under the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services' Research Stations Division and is headquartered at the Oxford Tobacco Research Station. Projects funded through the Bioenergy Research Initiative can be supported by the Division's 18 Research Stations, infrastructure, and resources across North Carolina.

The Mission of the N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative is to support the research and development of agricultural and forestry based feedstocks for bioenergy production, agribusiness development, and cooperative research for biofuels production.

The 2017-2018 Grant Cycle is funded by the North Carolina General Assembly. Of the $1,000,000 allocated funds, $242,275 has been committed to multi-year projects that were initiated in the 2016-2017 grant cycle. Therefore, $757,725 will be available to fund new and existing projects in the 2017-2018 grant cycle.

The NC Bioenergy Research Initiative requests proposals that support its mission. High consideration will be given to those projects that focus on crop production in either the field or forest that will provide feedstock for bioenergy related technologies as well as economic analysis.

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Topics of high importance include, but are not limited to:

- Genetic improvement and selection.
- Establishment methods.
- Weed management.
- Nutrient uptake, usage and removal.
- Harvest management such as methods, timing, transporting and storage.
- Stand management such as renovation for productivity, planting dates, crop management, and eradication when necessary.
- Physiology, growth, and development of biomass energy crops.
- New species with bioenergy potential.
- Multiple crop production practices such as crop rotation, double cropping, and intercropping.
- Education and demonstration.
- Economic analysis and enterprise budgeting.
- Establishing Short Rotation Woody Crops in a clear-cut environment.

Individual grant applications should not exceed $150,000 in direct funding from this program; however, the total of direct funding from this program and other matching contributions may exceed $150,000 per application. Potential grantees are welcome to submit multiple applications if differences in proposed projects are sufficient to warrant separate consideration. Special consideration may be given to multi-year projects that warrant funding in excess of $150,000. The application, Instructions & Guidelines for Completing Grant Applications, and required forms may be downloaded from the Bioenergy Research Initiative website at www.ncagr.gov/bioenergy/Grants. Applications must be postmarked by COB September 29, 2017.

For more information concerning the program and submissions process, please contact Allison Medlin, at allison.medlin@ncagr.gov or by phone at (919) 693-2483.

Sincerely,

Sam Brake

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cc: Dr. Richard Reich
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