Troxler announces availability of grants for bioenergy research and new and emerging crops

Application deadline is Nov. 9

RALEIGH – The N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative is seeking grant proposals focused on research and development of agricultural and forestry-based feedstocks for bioenergy production as well as new and emerging crops.

“We are excited that the North Carolina Bioenergy Research Initiative will be offering $1 million in competitive grants for projects focused on bioenergy and the production of new and emerging crops,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Our state’s investment in agricultural research has helped maintain agriculture and agribusiness’ strength as the leading industry in the state. Bio-based industries and new emerging crops and products are potential opportunities to increase N.C. farm income.”

High consideration will be given to projects that focus on crop production in either the field or forest that will provide feedstock for bioenergy-related technologies, potential edible crops, new adaptations of crops and economic analysis. Projects can focus on production and harvesting methods and plant variety work, including:

- 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;
- value-added uses and products
- multiple-crop production practices, such as crop rotation, double cropping and intercropping;
- economic analysis and enterprise budgeting;
- education and demonstration.

For a copy of the grant application and additional information, go to the Bioenergy Research Initiative website at [www.ncagr.gov/bioenergy/Grants](http://www.ncagr.gov/bioenergy/Grants). Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 9. For more information, contact Allison Medlin, at allison.medlin@ncagr.gov or at 919-693-2483.