



**Steve Troxler**  
Commissioner

## North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

### **Golden Hay Relief EXPANSION (In-State Hay Program)**

A Special Project of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, with funding provided by the Golden LEAF Foundation

#### **Procedures and Guidelines of EXPANSION**

##### **Overview**

Last fall the Golden LEAF Foundation made a grant of \$500,000 to assist with transportation of hay or forage within the state. In March of this year the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services facilitated the payment of over \$238,000 to approximately 344 applicants under the original Golden Hay Relief program. This program helped reimburse applicants for a portion of their transportation costs when transporting hay or forage products within the state between September 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007.

Because the original program did not use all of the available funds, the Department requested and received approval for the Golden Hay Relief EXPANSION. The EXPANSION will provide assistance for the transportation of North Carolina grown hay or forage products within North Carolina, for loads delivered January 1, 2008, through April 30, 2008. The EXPANSION is also open to livestock owners who purchased loads of hay or forage that were delivered between September 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007, as long as the livestock owners had not already submitted an application for reimbursement for those loads under the original Golden Hay Relief program.

##### **How the EXPANSION will work**

###### Eligibility

- Hay purchased must have been grown in North Carolina.
- Reimbursement is available for movement of large bales (750 lbs. or greater per bale) delivered between September 1, 2007, and April 30, 2008. Small bales qualify for reimbursement only if they were purchased and transported in a lot of at least 15 bales at a time and were delivered between January 1, 2008, and April 30, 2008. Please do not re-submit applications for loads already submitted under the original Golden Hay Relief program.
- The Golden Hay Relief EXPANSION funds are to be used solely to offset the cost of transporting hay, forage, stover, or fodder within the state. Feedstock does not qualify.
- Livestock owners will be required to affirm that the hay was needed to feed existing livestock or equine.
- To be eligible for cost-share funds, the hay, forage, stover, or fodder that is moved must be for the farmer's own use, and not be intended for resale.

- Farmers who provide their own transportation must be able to present documentation of expenses.
- Any size load of large round or square bales will qualify for the cost share (assuming other eligibility criteria are satisfied), but the Department encourages farmers to move full, commercial-size loads. Loads of small square bales must include a minimum of 15 bales to qualify for cost share.
- There is no limit on the number of applications a farmer may submit.
- Any cases of fraud or abuse of the program will be prosecuted or pursued to the fullest extent of criminal and civil law and the Department may follow up on any questionable applications before payment.

#### Applying for Cost Share Funds

Applications are available at [www.ncagr.com/hayalert](http://www.ncagr.com/hayalert) or by calling the Hay Alert Hotline at 1-866-506-6222. Applications must be postmarked on or before May 1, 2008, or they will not be processed.

The Department will process complete applications and pay on a weekly basis using average cost data collected from the original Golden Hay Relief program. The amount reimbursed will not exceed 50% of actual transportation costs. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while they last.

*\*Funds are limited and incomplete applications may mean you do not receive payment if funds run out.*

Applicants MUST provide all of the following information on the application:

- Applicant name (*matching the Social Security/Federal Farm Tax ID number provided below*)
- Applicant mailing address and telephone number (*cell number if available*)
- NC Farm ID Premises Identification Number
- Social Security or Federal Farm Tax ID Number for 1099 (*not the tax exempt number*)
- Size of livestock operation
- Seller information
- Transportation information, including cost; farmers are encouraged to keep a copy of the bill of lading or receipt
- Date of delivery
- Number of roundtrip miles the forage was transported
- Number of large round or square bales transported, or the number of small bales transported
- Delivery and origination locations
- Signature and date of application

The Department reserves the right to deny or limit the reimbursement for applicants' transportation expenses that are unreasonably excessive, and to request additional information or documentation before making eligibility determinations. The ultimate discretion for eligibility determinations belongs to the Department, and determinations are final once they are rendered.

The Department reserves the right to amend or further clarify the procedures and guidelines of the Golden Hay Relief EXPANSION in order to ensure fair and timely management of the program.

#### **Additional Information**

Individuals who want to know more about the Golden Hay Relief EXPANSION program are encouraged to visit the Department's Hay Alert website at [www.ncagr.com/hayalert](http://www.ncagr.com/hayalert) or call the Department's toll-free Hay Alert Hotline at 1-866-506-6222. This program received support from The Golden LEAF Foundation.

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