

# Annual Report of the Research Stations for Calendar Year 2011

## Summary

Agriculture is now, and always has been, extremely dependent on research. Advancements in agricultural research have boosted production and provided us the ability to feed an ever-growing population. Americans spend far less on food and clothing than anyone in the world and America is among countries with the lowest undernourished population, in large part due to the research-based advancements in agriculture over the last 60 years. At the heart of those advancements in North Carolina have been our agricultural research stations.

### **Agricultural Research Stations Facts:**

- 18 strategically placed locations representing the diverse soils and climates from the mountains to the coast.
- Operated in a unique partnership with N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, N.C. State University and N.C. A&T State University.
- Long-term and short-term projects working with over 70 different agricultural commodities and biofuels.

*The Agricultural Research Stations provide the platform, facilities, and infrastructure to support North Carolina Agriculture moving forward based on sound, science-based research. Our Research Stations are critical for keeping our farms efficient and productive, developing new crops, and industries, growing the green industry, expanding biofuels, and developing new and improved plant varieties, to name just a few. The Agricultural Research Stations support some key facets of North Carolina Agriculture in the following highlighted ways:*

### **North Carolina Agriculture contributes \$70 billion annually to the State's economy, and accounts for 18% of the State's income, and employs over 17% of the work force.**

#### ***The Research Stations supported this in 2011 by:***

- Conducting 476 research projects on over 70 commodities.
- Providing support for 86 different faculty and researchers from N.C. State University, N.C. A&T State University, and the USDA-ARS.
- Partnering with researchers to support over \$40 million in grant-supported agricultural research.
- Generating data that are used for recommendations by Cooperative Extension to support, large, medium, and small farming operations across North Carolina.

### **North Carolina Agriculture is one of the most diverse in the nation, with production in over 80 different commodities utilizing over 8.6 million acres of farmland.**

#### ***The Research Stations supported this in 2011 by:***

- Playing a leading role in the development of new varieties. N.C. State University is an internationally recognized leader in breeding higher yielding, pest-tolerant varieties for blueberries, corn, cotton, Irish potatoes, ornamentals, peanuts, small grains, soybeans, tobacco, tomatoes, sweet potatoes and wheat to name just a few.
- Expanding research efforts in the organic production of corn, soybean, peanuts, wheat, and tobacco as well as vegetable crops.
- Providing facilities for N.C. State University researchers to enhance the competitiveness and profitability of our \$890 million "green" industry, including new cultivars of maiden grass, dogwood, butterfly bush, redbud, hydrangea and flowering quince.
- Supporting North Carolina's swine, beef, dairy, poultry, and goat industries through innovative research that explores feeding efficiency, antibiotics, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical applications for livestock industries.

### **North Carolina Agriculture is forward-thinking and addressing the challenges of feeding the world's burgeoning population.**

#### ***The Research Stations supported this in 2011 by:***

- Serving as a training ground for future agricultural leaders and researchers. A total of 148 graduate students conducted work on Research Stations in 2011.
- Providing educational and Extension-related activities for 325 events and almost 10,000 visitors to workshops/trainings, field days, tours, and youth activities.