



North Carolina Dairy Producers Association

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May 6, 2008

Commissioner Steve Troxler
N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001

Dear Commissioner Troxler,

The North Carolina Dairy Producers Association, NCDPA, is very concerned with the recommended findings of the Program Evaluation Divisions suggested change in ownership of the state's Research Stations from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, NCDA&CS to North Carolina State University, NCSU. The NCDPA has historically worked with both organizations and will continue to have ongoing relationships with both. The NCDPA is concerned about the future of the dairy research at both the Piedmont Research Station in Salisbury and the Tryon Road facility in Raleigh due to the potential changes. Both locations are critically important to the future of the North Carolina Dairy Industry.

In addition, any transfer and possible sale and closure of any Research Station is very troubling to the NC Dairy Industry due to the fact of the diminished ability to respond to emergency situations. The Research Stations are strategically located all across the state that would greatly aid in staging a response to any outbreak of any foreign animal disease. Most recently, another example of the strategic use of the Research Stations was using 5 of the Research Stations as a staging ground for selling hay to dairy and cattle producers to help in the critical drought relief efforts.

Additionally, the transfer of the Research Stations to NCSU and potential sale of lands would not provide the benefit to our environment that the current operations of the farms provide.

The NCDPA is opposed to the transfer of the management of the Research Stations from NCDA&CS to NCSU. The NCDPA is pleased with the current cooperation between NCDA&CS and NCSU with respect to mutual cooperation in regards to the management of the Research Stations.

Respectfully,
Norman Jordan Jr.

President of N.C. Dairy Producers Association