



Osage Farms  
1604 Hale Ridge Road  
Scaly Mountain, NC 28775

May 8, 2008

North Carolina General Assembly  
Raleigh, NC

Dear Representatives and Senators:

I am writing concerning the future of the agricultural research stations that are located around North Carolina and provide valuable services to the agricultural community. Any decisions made concerning the agricultural research stations will seriously affect the future of agriculture in this state.

The research stations are very important to the citizens of North Carolina and this valuable property that belongs to the tax payers should not be sold and forever lost to future generations.

NCDA&CS provides a valuable link to growers and assures their voices are clearly heard with regards to all of their agricultural research operations and we cannot afford to lose this important connection between the researchers and thousands of farmers.

The research stations located in the western mountains of North Carolina are vital to assist the western growers and the needs of the western growers are very different than other parts of the state. On behalf of the North Carolina Tomato Growers Association, I ask that all of the research stations currently operated by the NCDA&CS remain under NCDA&CS.

Sincerely,

*Melinda James*

Melinda James, President  
North Carolina Tomato Growers Association

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