



April 18, 2008

The Honorable Steve Troxler
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1001

Dear Commissioner Troxler,

The executive committee of our board of directors met on April 17, 2008 and expressed concern over the proposed sale of the Caswell Research Farm. The board of directors resolved in January 2008 to work to preserve the Caswell Research Farm for its value as a soybean research site.

The Caswell Research Farm is recognized as a premier farm for soybean research due to conditions including uniformity and quality of soils. The Caswell Farm includes 150 acres of the most productive and uniform crop land in the research station system. In recognition of the highly important plant breeding research conducted on the Caswell Farm, the board of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association asks that this farm and the Cunningham Research Station be given the highest priority for continuation and expansion of research activities

Practical agricultural research supports soybean farmers by increasing yields and seed quality and by reducing production costs. North Carolina soybean producers support critically important plant breeding and variety testing research on these farms with their own soybean checkoff dollars. The three properties including the Lower Coastal Plains Tobacco Station, the Cunningham Research Station and the Caswell Research Farm are the site of more than one-third of all field crop breeding research conducted by North Carolina State University. The board of directors is particularly concerned about the future of soybean research if these high quality research farms are taken out of production to the detriment of the soybean industry.

Best Regards,

Charles Hall
CEO

Cc: Jacob Parker, president of the Board of Directors