Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Research Stations Division

Teresa Lambert
Director

The North Carolina Bioenergy Research Initiative

September 23, 2022

Request for Proposals

In 2013 the North Carolina General Assembly allocated funding to support Bioenergy Development to stimulate energy production from North Carolina agricultural and forest products. Bio-based industries are potential opportunities to grow N.C. farm income. Contingent upon an approved budget a competitive grant program of approximately $500,000 will support these efforts under the N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative. The Bioenergy Research Initiative is organized under the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services' Research Stations Division and is headquartered at the Oxford Tobacco Research Station. Projects funded through the Bioenergy Research Initiative can be supported by the Division's 18 Research Stations, infrastructure, and resources across North Carolina.

The Mission of the N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative is to support the research and development of agricultural and forestry-based feedstocks for bioenergy production, agribusiness development and cooperative research for biofuels production.

The NC Bioenergy Research Initiative requests proposals that support its mission. High consideration will be given to those projects that focus on crop production in either the field or forest that will provide feedstock for bioenergy related technologies, economic analysis as well as bioenergy production.

Topics of high importance include, but are not limited to:

- Genetic improvement and selection.
- Weed management.
- Harvest management such as methods, timing, transporting and storage.

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- Stand management such as renovation for productivity, planting dates, crop management and eradication when necessary.
- New species with bioenergy potential.
- Education and demonstration.
- Innovative uses of biomass for energy.

Individual grant applications should not exceed $100,000 in direct funding from this program; however, the total of direct funding from this program and other matching contributions may exceed $100,000 per application. Special consideration may be given to multi-year projects that warrant funding in excess of $100,000. Potential grantees are welcome to submit multiple applications if differences in proposed projects are sufficient to warrant separate consideration. The grant application and required forms may be downloaded from the Bioenergy Research Initiative website at www.ncagr.gov/bioenergy/Grants.

Universities, extension, commodity associations, non-profits and private businesses are all eligible to apply. Funding from this program is intended to support research projects that generate information to advance North Carolina's agricultural industry. Therefore, grantees should solicit support from relevant industry partners when appropriate and to share results with those partners. Funding will not be granted for start-up businesses or collecting proprietary data and cannot be used to cover indirect / overhead costs. Applications must be postmarked by COB October 28, 2022.

For more information concerning the program and submissions process, please contact Allison Medlin, at allison.medlin@ncagr.gov or by phone at (919) 693-2483.

Sincerely,

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cc: Dr. Sandy Stewart
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