Mission & Responsibilities
The North Carolina Bioenergy Research Initiative will support the research and development of forestry and agricultural based feedstocks for bioenergy production, agribusiness development, and cooperative research for biofuels production.

History of Program
In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly allocated funding to support the development of energy production from North Carolina agricultural and forest-based products. The funding will support staffing, operating expenses and a competitive grant program. The Bioenergy Research Initiative is part of the Department’s Research Stations Division and is based at the Oxford Tobacco Research Station.

The focus of the Bioenergy Research Initiative will be on research and development of dedicated feedstocks for bioenergy production. By leveraging current technology, developing more applied technology, and identifying existing gaps, the state can help best position feedstock producers and the bioenergy industry moving forward.

Employees and Assigned Areas
3 Full-Time Positions: 1 Agricultural Program Specialist; 1 Agricultural Research Specialist; 1 Administrative Assistant II

FY 2014 Accomplishments
- The Agricultural Research Specialist was hired to support research projects at the Clinton Research Station and Williamsdale Field Laboratory.
- Continued the grants program supported by the 2014-2015 NC General Assembly.
- Co-hosted Bioenergy Field Day with NCSU partners.
- Hosted a Research & Industry Update meeting at the NC Biotechnology Center.

Current Grant Portfolio
Projects and Studies Originally Funded by The Biofuels Center of N.C.: $1,533,027

2013 N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative Grant Program Funding (appropriated): $500,000

2014 N.C. Bioenergy Research Initiative Grant Program Funding (appropriated): $1,000,000

Total Grants Portfolio: $3,033,027

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