



North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Steve Troxler, Commissioner

***North Carolina Bioenergy Research Initiative  
Research Stations Division***

[www.ncagr.gov/bioenergy](http://www.ncagr.gov/bioenergy)

**Mission &  
Responsibilities**

The North Carolina Bioenergy Research Initiative supports the research and development of agricultural and forestry based feedstocks for bioenergy production and agribusiness development.

**History of Program**

In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly allocated funding to support bioenergy development to stimulate energy production from North Carolina agricultural and forestry based products. The Bioenergy Research Initiative was created with a focus on research and development of dedicated feedstocks for bioenergy production.

The funding supports 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.

**Employees**

3 Full-Time Positions: Agricultural Program Specialist, Agricultural Research Specialist, and Administrative Assistant II

**First Four Years  
Impact Points**

Switchgrass, giant miscanthus and biomass type sorghums are being researched to better understand nutrient utilization in waste management plans. These biomass grass crops have potential to be used to supply low-cost feedstocks for cellulosic ethanol, forage, fiber, animal bedding and erosion control.

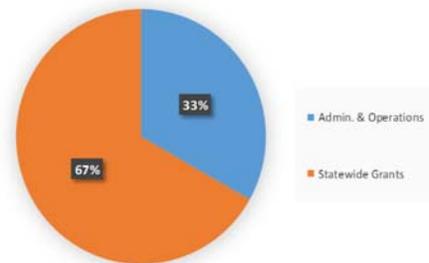
Based on BRI funded research, silviculture practices for short rotation woody crops have been incorporated into production and economic modeling tools. These tools can help landowners select species for their land, estimate cash flows and calculate rates of return for biomass forestry enterprises.

Wood pellets to fuel poultry house furnaces are proving to be economical not only based on fuel costs but also improves flock health. Ultimate outcomes from using wood pellets for fuel are (1) to develop a use for forest/lumber residues and purposefully grown trees; (2) to stimulate local wood pellet manufacturing; and (3) increase profitability of poultry farms.

**FY 2017  
Allocation of  
Funding**

Admin & Operations: \$500,000

Statewide Grants: \$1,000,000



**Contact  
Information**

Sam Brake, Agricultural Programs Specialist  
Phone (919) 693-2483; Fax (919) 693-6848;