

**Steve Troxler**  
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
*Research Stations Division*

**Teresa Lambert**  
Director

**April 16, 2021**

**Request for Proposals**

In March 2021, the North Carolina General Assembly (HB 196-ratified) allocated additional funding to stimulate North Carolina commerce by increasing meat and seafood processing efficiency and capacity. This effort includes value added processing. This initiative is funded by federal appropriations and is administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Research Station Division. This program will service and continue the Department's "Got to be NC" effort.

To ensure food security for North Carolina, the IMPEC 3 (Increasing Meat Production, Efficiency and Capacity phase 3) initiative will address supply chain vulnerabilities identified by meat shortages during 2020. The food animal industry represents approximately 70% of North Carolina's agricultural economy. This program will support that industry by increasing efficiency and capacity of meat processing and further processing facilities. A competitive grant program of \$6,000,000 will support this initiative.

Recipients shall provide matching funds for the grant in the amount of one dollar (\$1.00) from nongrant sources for every two dollars (\$2.00) provided by the grant. Matching funds with Cash or In-Kind Services must come from non-federal and/or state sources. Matching funds for this project may not be used as a match for any other federal or state cost-share project. **The maximum grant award will be \$400,000.** (Total project of \$600,000 with matching funds)

An eligible meat processing facility must provide sufficient documentation that it either:

A. Meets both of the following requirements:

1. The plant contracts with independent livestock producers or seafood harvesters to process animals or seafood.
2. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) contracts with Department inspectors to conduct federal inspection activities authorized by the Talmadge-Aiken Act of 1962 (7 U.S.C. § 1633) at the plant, the plant is otherwise regulated by the USDA, or the plant is a State-inspected facility, or

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B. A facility producing further processed meat products for which the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) contracts with Department inspectors to conduct federal inspections activities authorized by the Talmadge-Aiken Act of 1962 (7 U.S.C. § 1633) at the plant, or which is a State inspected facility, or which is a USDA inspected processor of shelf-stable meat or meat products.

Project categories can include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment and Infrastructure
- Contractual/Consultation
- Labor; Training and Retention
- Other Identified Needs

For specific statutory requirements of grant eligibility, please see attached House Bill 196 (Session Law 2021-3, Section 4.2A).

Proposals can be for processing and further processing facilities. Proposals should focus on stimulating the economy by increasing the capacity and efficiency of NC meat processing facilities.

The grant application and required forms can be downloaded from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services website at [www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov). Applications must be postmarked by Close of Business May 14, 2021.

For questions about the program in general, please contact Joe Hampton, Kelly Powell-McIver or Sam Brake.

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

Sincerely,

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