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## **Collins named new Tidewater Research Station superintendent**

RALEIGH – Stephen R. “Rusty” Collins of Salisbury has been named superintendent of the Tidewater Research Station in Plymouth. Collins replaces Andrew Meir, who served as the interim manager following the retirement of Jewell Tetterton in December. His promotion was effective May 9, and he plans to relocate to the area.

“I am always pleased to have well-qualified and dedicated staff members step into new leadership roles at the department,” Troxler said. “Rusty most recently served as the dairy unit manager at the Piedmont Research Station in Salisbury and has extensive experience in livestock management and crop production that will be valuable in his new role.”

Collins has worked 19 years with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Research Stations Division. He began his career in 1990 as an ag research assistant I at the Piedmont Research Station, before leaving to work in the private sector with Murphy Brown LLC in 1996. He returned to the department as an ag research assistant II in 2006 and was promoted to dairy unit manager in 2015.

Collins earned an associate’s degree in livestock management from North Carolina State University.

The Tidewater Research Station was established in 1943 in Washington County to serve a large area of North Carolina lying between the Coastal Plain region and coastal North Carolina. This region has expanded rapidly in agricultural enterprises during the past 35 years. The station concentrates primarily on research involving grain and swine production, the major focus of agriculture in the area.