

Debbie Hamrick NC Farm Bureau Federation



UPDATE ON STATE AND NATIONAL ISSUES



Chartered by *Farmers* in 1936

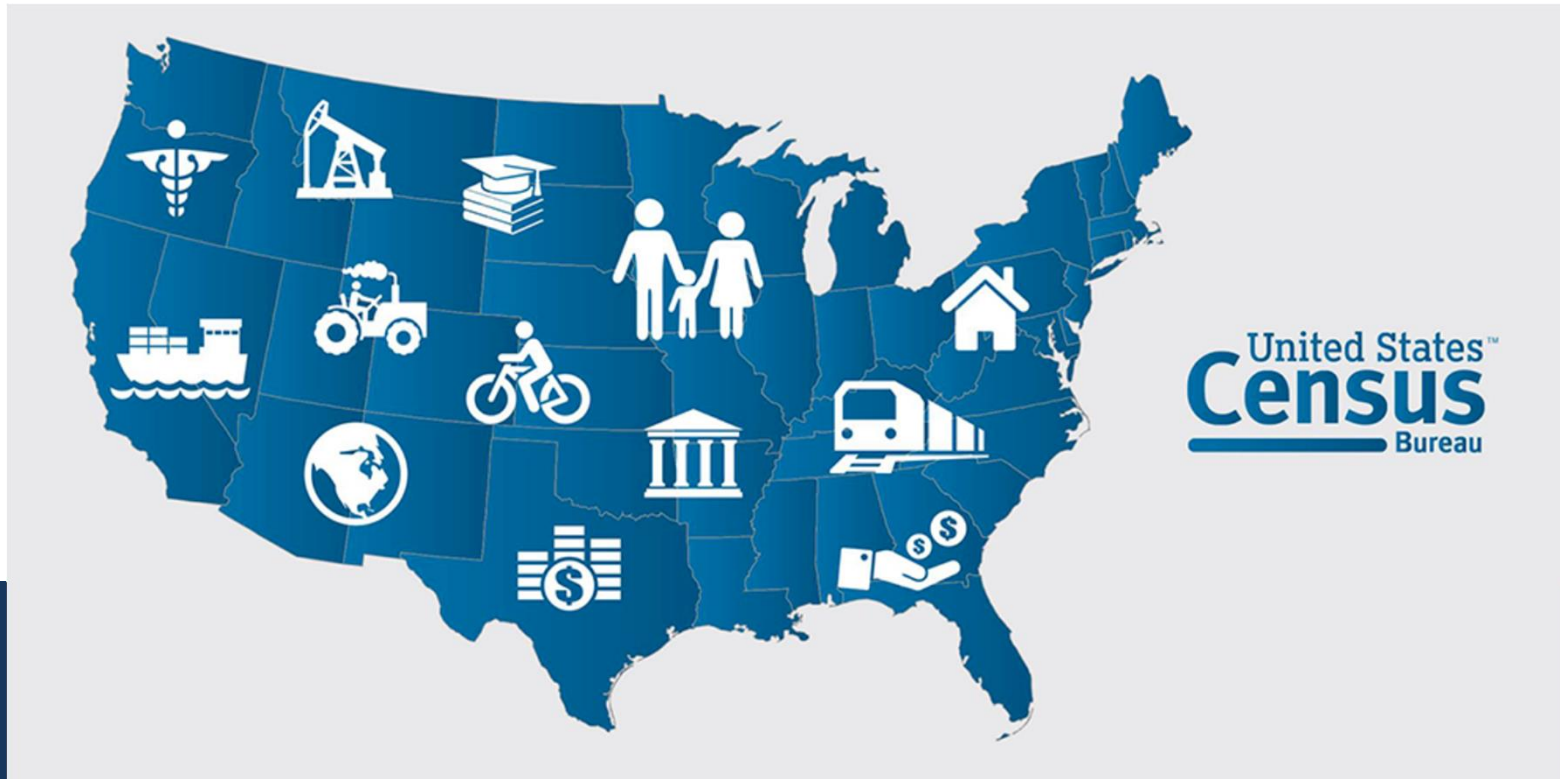
***Improving the quality of life
for farming and rural
families in North Carolina***

Our PRIMARY mission

***Legislative Representation
for Agriculture and
Rural North Carolina***

Outline

- **2020 Census**
- **Elections**
- **Federal Level update**
- **State Level update**
- **Emerging issues on the horizon**



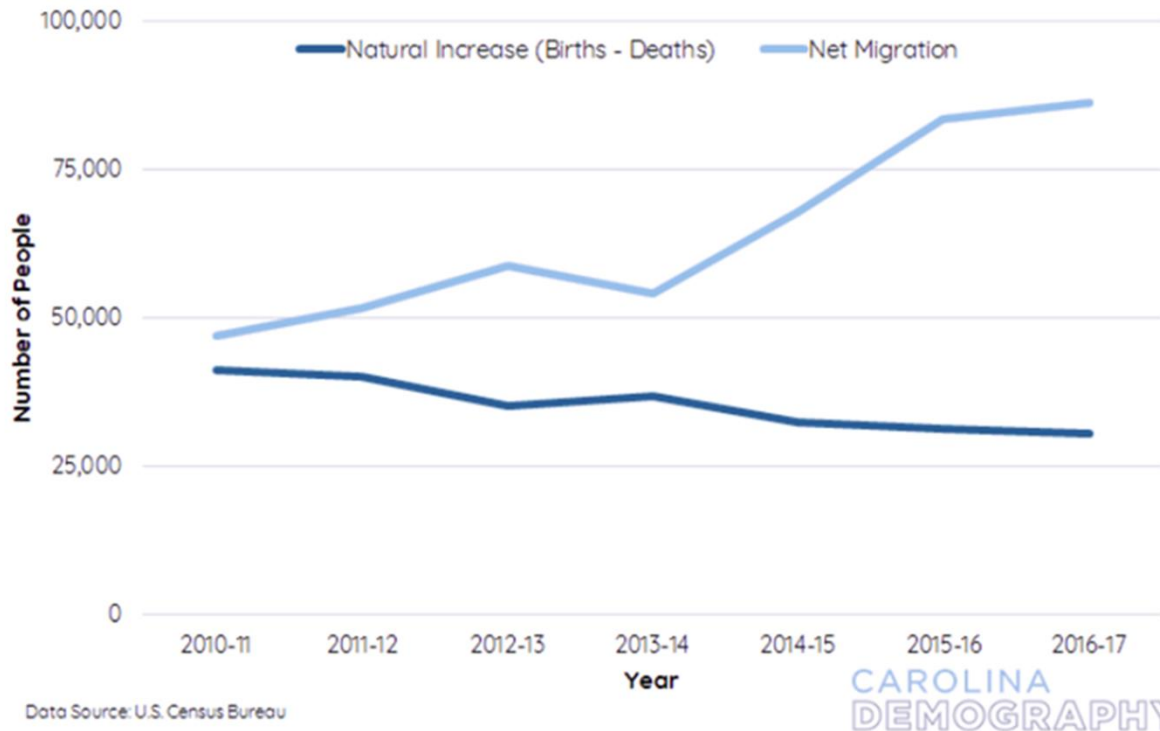
THE 2020 CENSUS

NC Population 10.5 million

Dr. Rebecca Tippet, UNC SOG

Rebounding net migration fuels NC's steady growth

Annual estimates of components of population change, 2010-2017



People want to move here—lots of them

Projected to pick up 14th US House seat in 2020

35% of rural North Carolina was born out of state

American Community Survey B05002, Born in State of Residence



52% of urban North Carolina was born out of state

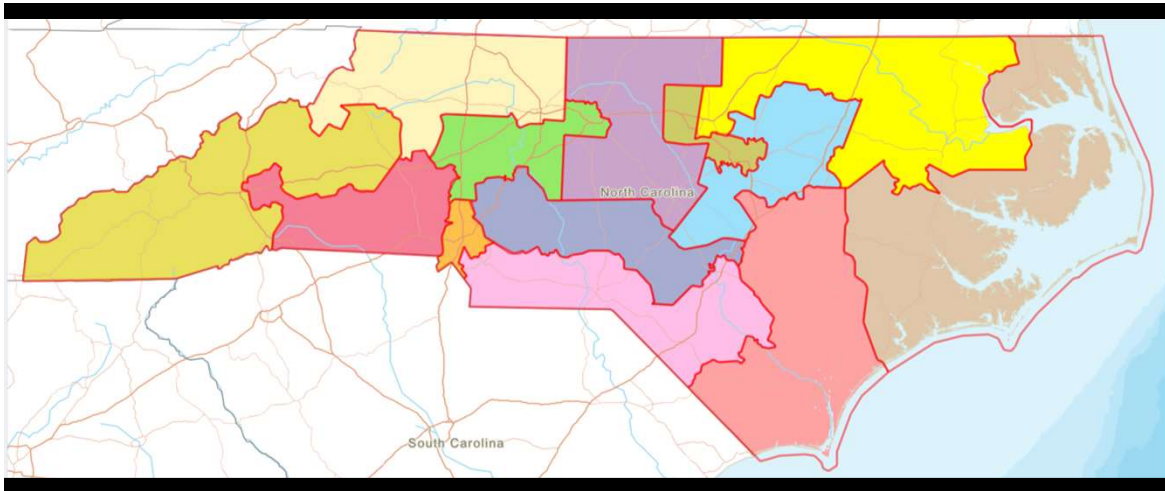


The NC General Assembly elected in 2020 will draw 10-year districts for:

- US House of Representatives
- NC House
- NC Senate

ELECTIONS

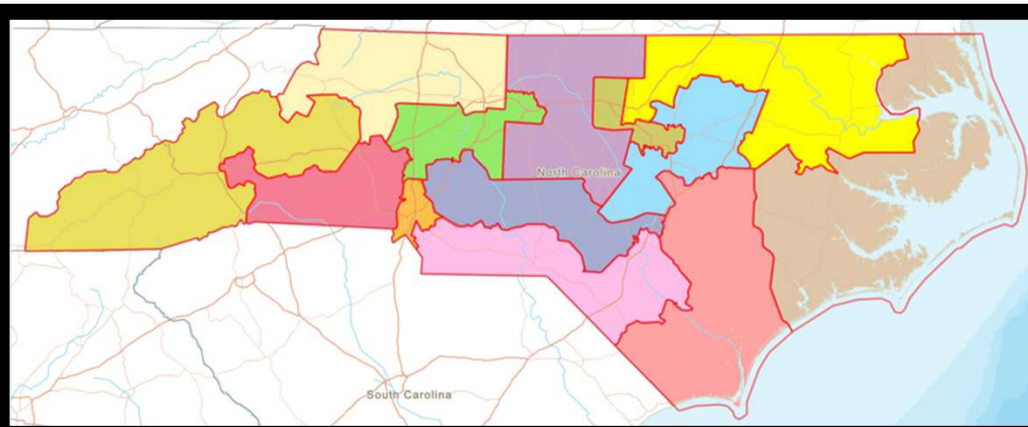
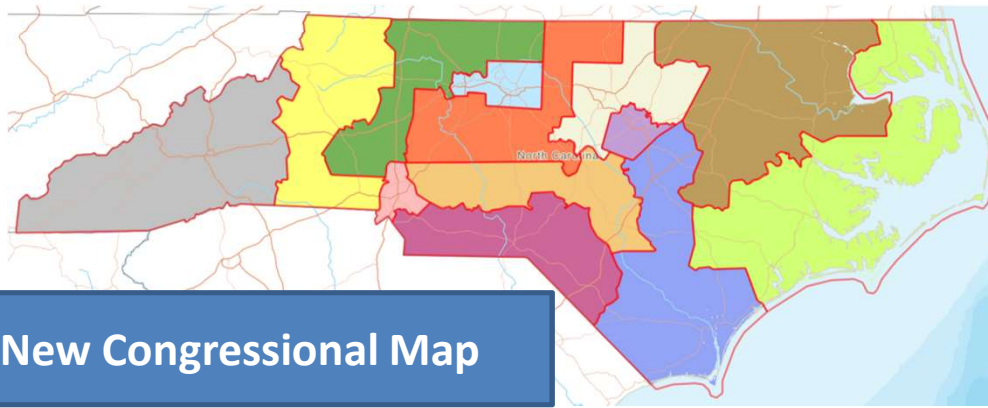
116th Congress



- District 1 Butterfield-D
- District 2 Holding-R
- District 3 Murphy-R
- District 4 Price-D
- District 5 Foxx-R
- District 6 Walker-R
- District 7 Rouzer-R
- District 8 Hudson-R
- District 9. Bishop-R
- District 10 McHenry-R
- District 11 Meadows-R
- District 12 Adams-D
- District 13 Budd-R

Incumbents for the 2020 Election

- Expect the new districts will shift seats from 10-R/3-D to 8-R/5-D



- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| • District 1 | Butterfield-D |
| • District 2 | Holding-R |
| • District 3 | Murphy-R (frmlly Jones) |
| • District 4 | Price-D |
| • District 5 | Foxx-R |
| • District 6 | Walker-R |
| • District 7 | Rouzer-R |
| • District 8 | Hudson-R |
| • District 9. | Bishop-R |
| • District 10 | McHenry-R |
| • District 11 | Meadows-R |
| • District 12 | Adams-D |
| • District 13 | Budd-R |

Retirements NC Legislature

- Sen. Rick Horner, R-Nash
- Sen. Harry Brown, R-Onslow
- Sen. Jim Davis, R-Macon
- Rep. John Fraley, R-Iredell
- Rep. Mary Ann Black, D-Durham
- Rep. Debra Conrad, R-Forsyth
- Rep. Kevin Corbin, R-Macon (running for Senate)
- Sen. Rick Gunn, R-Alamance
- Rep. Chuck McGrady, R-Henderson
- Sen. Floyd McKissick (likely resigning to Utilities Commission)
- Sen. John Alexander, R-Wake
- Sen. Erica Smith, D-Northampton (U.S. Senate candidate)
- Sen. Andy Wells, R-Catawba (LG candidate)
- Rep. Chaz Beasley, D-Mecklenburg (LG candidate)
- Rep. Yvonne Holley, D-Wake (LG candidate)
- Sen. Terry Van Duyn, D-Buncombe (LG candidate)
- Rep. Josh Dobson, R-McDowell (labor commissioner candidate)
- Rep. Holly Grange, R-New Hanover (governor candidate)
- Rep. Michele Presnell, R-Yancey
- Rep. Michael Speciale, R-Craven
- Rep. Derwin Montgomery, D-Forsyth (NC-6 Congress candidate)
- Rep. Lisa Stone Barnes, R-Nash (running for N.C. Senate)
- Rep. Linda Johnson, R-Cabarrus
- Sen. Rob Bryan, R-Mecklenburg (double-bunked with Jeff Jackson)

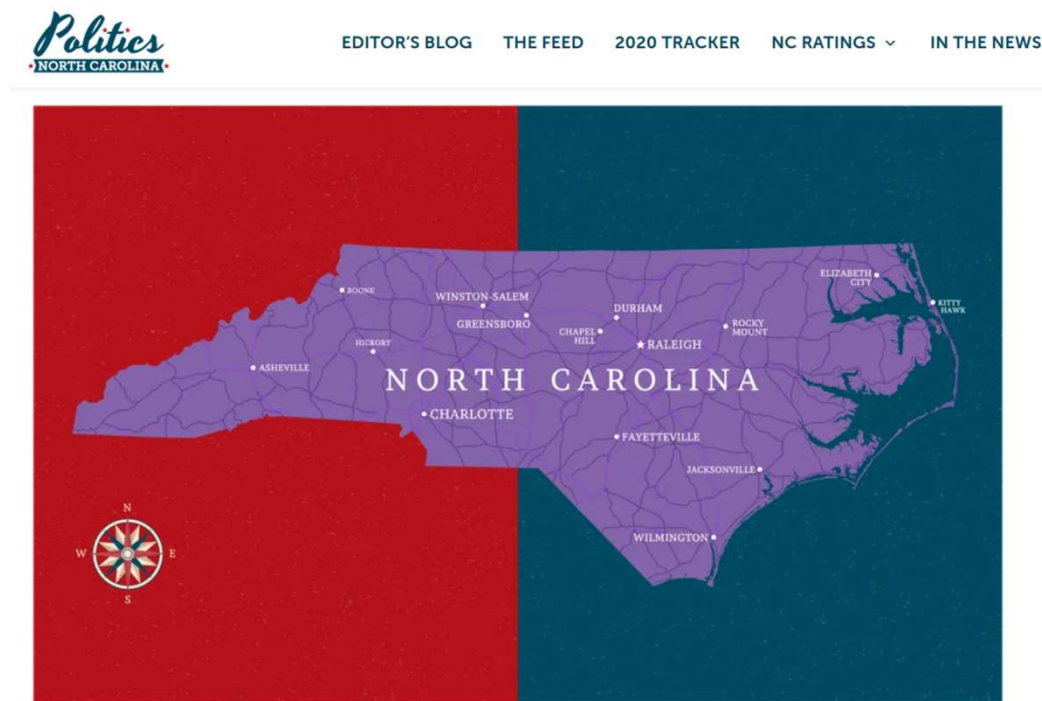
**Seeing more
seats
contested. In
2016 46% of
NC General
Assembly
seats were
unopposed.**

**Reminder: The Legislature
elected in 2020 will draw
new Redistricting Maps**

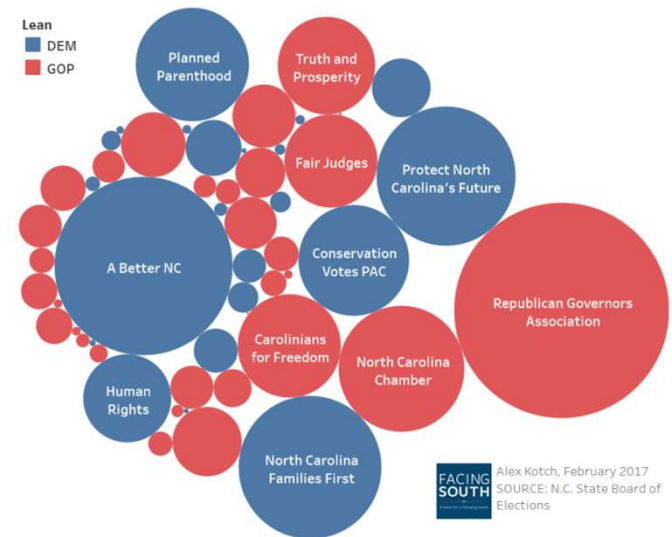
Know your Candidates!



NC is Battleground State



Facing South analyzed all available data for independent, or "outside," political spending committees in the 2016 North Carolina state-level elections. These groups combined to spend a record total of over \$33 million, more than double the amount spent in 2012, the last year with a gubernatorial election. *Hover over the bubbles below for more information.*



Agriculture's issues transcend political party and ideology.



FEDERAL ISSUES

Workforce/Federal Level

- Farmers' labor costs (AEWR) up by an average of 6% year over year
AEWR NC **\$12.67**
- The national average AEWR in last 5 yrs. has increased by **17%** while revenues for fruits/nuts have only increased **3%**; revenues for vegetables and melons have **not increased at all**.

- ***Farm Workforce Modernization Act***



Federal 2018 Farm Bill

- **Disaster Programs**
 - Improves ELAP and TAP; Reauthorizes ECP
- **NAP**
 - Improves buy up coverage, reduces paperwork
- **Supports beginning farmers (\$50 million)**
- **Maintains funding for pest and disease research**
 - \$75 million annually, with the goal of enhancing funding in five years by \$7.5 million to fund the National Clean Plant Network
- **Urban, indoor & emerging ag (\$10 million)**
 - Establishes an Office for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production
- **Organic research and extension (\$395 over 10 years)**
- **Specialty Crops Block Grant Program**
 - \$85 million in mandatory funding

2019 NC SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT RECIPIENTS

\$1.3 million 2019



- Carolina Farm Stewardship: Competitiveness: Food Safety & Quality
- NCDA&CS: NC GAP Program 2020
- NCDA&CS: NC Water Analysis 2020
- N.C. State University
 - Attract and Kill for Managing Brown Marmorated Stink Bug;
 - Breeding Flavorful Disease Resistant Strawberry Cultivars;
 - Comprehensive Christmas Tree Management Using Drones;
 - Elongate Hemlock Scale and Fraser Fir;
 - Heirloom–Type Tomato Hybrids for Niche-Markets;
 - Hemlock Restoration in Nurseries and Landscapes;
 - Horizontal Planting to Improve Sweet Potato Production;
 - Improving Field Production of Grafted Tomatoes;
 - Postharvest Disease Control for Export Sweet Potatoes;
 - Tulip and Dutch Iris Extended Storage

Waters of the US (WOTUS)

- Revised rules released Friday 1/24/2020
 - Appropriate Federal Regulation of water
 - Allows a farmer to better determine what is and is not WOTUS on their property
 - No longer considered WOTUS
 - Ephemeral streams
 - Ditches
 - Does not affect Swampbuster Requirements for those farmers receiving federal payments

FSMA Produce Rules

When do I comply?

Business Size	 Compliance Dates for Sprouts	 Compliance Dates For Most Produce	 Water Related Compliance Dates ¹	Compliance Date for Qualified Exemption Labeling Requirement ²	Compliance Date for Retention of Records Supporting a Qualified Exemption
All other businesses (>\$500K)	1/26/17	1/26/18	1/26/22	1/1/2020	1/26/16
Small businesses (>\$250K-500K) ³	1/26/18	1/28/19	1/26/23		
Very small businesses (>\$25K-250K) ⁴	1/28/19	1/27/20	1/26/24		

Compliance dates modified requirements for farms eligible for a qualified exemption are:

For labeling req. (if applicable): January 1, 2020



For retention of records supporting eligibility for a qualified exemption: Effective date of the final rule

“Exempt Farms” must comply

- sell the majority of the food to qualified end-users in NC or w/i of the farm
- annual monetary value of food is less than \$500,000
- *Comply with limited requirements:*
 - Keep records (to prove you meet the exemption)
 - Labeling
 - Include the name and the business address of the farm where the produce was grown on any food packaging label or when packaging is not required, display at the point of purchase.
 - Address must include: complete business address must include: street address or post office box, city, state and zip code

FSMA

- **Routine inspections began spring 2019**
 - Inspections **by NCDA&CS**
 - Farmer receives a 4056 to document farm inspection
 - First inspection is “educational”
 - 5-day notice
 - Unannounced if complaint, food recall, food borne illness outbreak
- **Water Rules not enforced** (rules are not finalized)

 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Food and Drug Administration		
PRODUCE FARM INSPECTION OBSERVATIONS		
Name of State and Department (if acting under commission with FDA)		DISTRICT OFFICE ADDRESS
DISTRICT OFFICE PHONE NUMBER		DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
		FEI NUMBER
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE INITIAL AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM REPORT IS ISSUED (Most responsible individual present) TO:		
FARM NAME (include business name, if different)		
OWNER/OPERATOR		
FARM MAILING ADDRESS		FARM PHYSICAL LOCATION, IF DIFFERENT FROM MAILING ADDRESS (e.g., location identifiers such as GPS coordinates)
TYPE OF INSPECTION: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input type="checkbox"/> Routine <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up <input type="checkbox"/> For-cause <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		CROPS OBSERVED DURING INSPECTION
<p>This form lists factual observations made by the FDA representative(s) during the inspection of the farm's operation.</p> <p>This is not a final FDA determination of compliance, or non-compliance, with the Produce Safety Rule (21 CFR Part 112) or any other legal requirement.</p> <p>Representatives of the regulatory agency should record their observations on this form as clearly and specifically as possible and should order their observations by significance within each area (most important first). In some cases, an observation may relate to more than one topic area. Representatives of the regulatory agency should record observations in the topic area listed below that, in the representatives' judgment, is the most appropriate topic. Not all topic areas may be applicable in every situation. In addition, representatives of the regulatory agency may not examine every aspect of the farm's operation during an inspection, so a topic area left blank should not be interpreted to mean the farm is in compliance, or not in compliance, with requirements related to that topic area.</p> <p>Representatives of the regulatory agency should discuss all observations with the management of the farm or their representative as they are observed, or on a daily basis, to minimize surprises, errors, and misunderstandings when this form is issued. Discussion should include those observations which may be written on the form and those that will only be discussed with management during the closeout meeting. This form should be issued during the exit conference of all produce inspections, including when no observations have been recorded.</p> <p>The farm may use this opportunity to ask questions about the observations or to request clarification. If the farm has implemented, or plans to implement, corrective action in response to an observation, this may be discussed with the representatives of the regulatory agency during the inspection. Representatives of the regulatory agency should annotate the form, as applicable, with any completed or promised corrections discussed during the inspection. FDA representatives are encouraged to verify the farm's completed corrective actions during the inspection as long as the verification does not unreasonably extend the duration of the inspection. Inclusion of annotations regarding corrective actions does not signify any conclusion by the regulatory agency regarding the sufficiency of the actions.</p>		

What are they finding?

- Employee training
 - Like handwashing ---SOPs
- Sanitation and design of equipment
 - Beware of Listeria it sets up shop in equipment and causes a very high rate of hospitalization
- Beware that biofilms can harbor bacteria and other pathogens
- Sanitation in harvest (goes back to training)



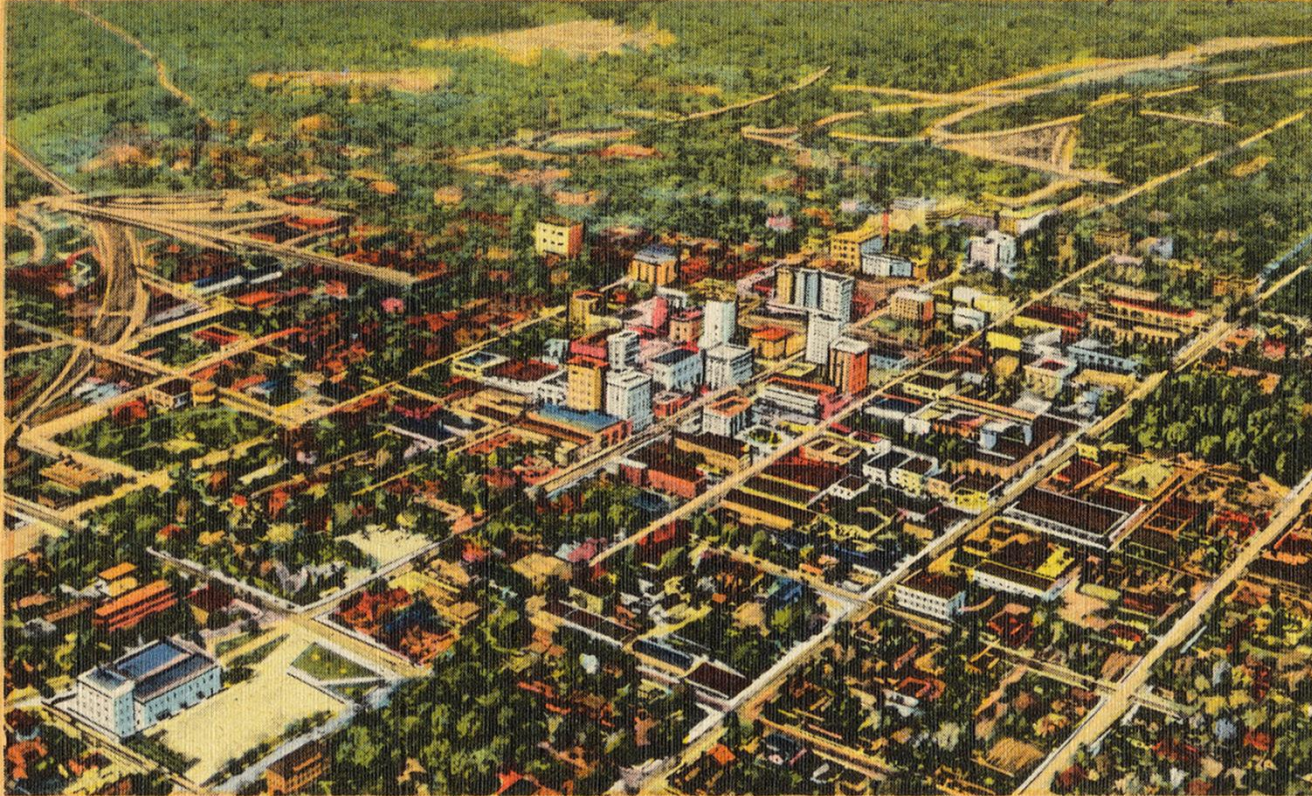
On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRRs)

- Voluntary, non-regulatory review of a farm's readiness for compliance with the FSMA Produce Safety Rule
 - Evaluate on-farm practices and conditions
 - Identify opportunities for improvement in food safety practices
 - Help farmer understand their risks and hazards
 - Provide technical assistance to assist in PSR implementation
 - OFRR may reduce your priority for full inspection
 - Must have PSA training first (PSA training is mandatory for all covered farms)



Air View of Raleigh, N. C.

72 392



72392

NORTH CAROLINA ISSUES

NCGA reaches deal on Farm Act SB 315

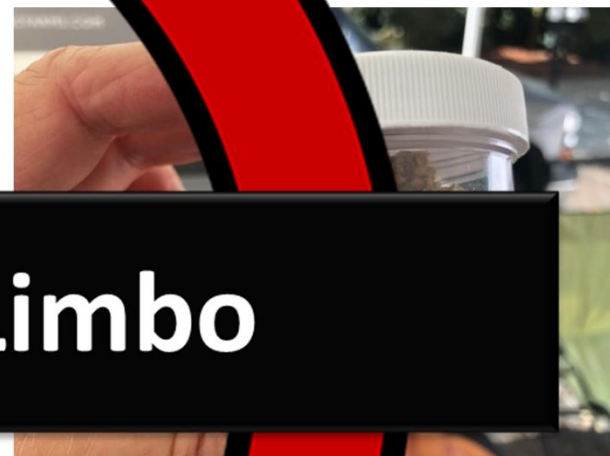
- Gives N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services additional authority to regulate hemp cultivation and the manufacture and labeling of hemp products.
 - Bans smokable hemp as of June 1, 2020.
- The revised bill also:
 - provides a procedure for a landowner to reclaim unused easements from a utility company;
 - clarifies that left-turning farm equipment has the right-of-way when there is a passing vehicle;
 - broadens the allowable uses for farm advertising signs;
 - adds hunting, fishing and shooting sports to the definition of agritourism;
 - clarifies the appeal process for present-use value decisions;
 - makes confidential individual farmer information generated by Soil & Water Conservation districts;



NCGA ready

Act SB 315

- Gives N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services authority to regulate hemp cultivation, processing and labeling of hemp products



Fate of SB 315 in Limbo

- provides a procedure for a landowner to reclaim land from a utility;
- clarifies that turning farm equipment has the right of way if there is a public easement;
- broadens the allowable uses for farm advertising signs;
- adds hunting and shooting sports to the definition of agritourism;
- clarifies the application of present-use value decisions;
- makes confidential information generated by Soil and Water Conservation districts

2020 Budget?



- NC Senate unable to override Gov. Cooper Budget Veto on 1/14/2020
- Under continuing resolution, aka last year's budget and "mini budgets".

Hurricane Florence (and Michael) Recovery



- Gov. Cooper estimate \$1.3B
 - \$1.1B Crop/livestock loss (NCDA est)
 - \$9.7M Cooperatives & associations
 - \$20M Emergency livestock disposal
 - \$61.8M Ag buildings and equipment
 - \$55.9M Ag infrastructure
 - \$13.5M Comm. Fishing & Aquac.
 - \$49.4M Forestry
 - \$57.5M Stream Restor./Debris Removal
- General Assembly
 - Authorized up to \$240 million
 - Troxler—" \$202 given out by Dec 2019"
 - "clean up payments" in early 2020



EMERGING ISSUES

DEQ Regulatory Creep

- ***Ecological Flows***

- *Ecological Integrity is "the ability to support and maintain a balanced, integrated, adaptive community of organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to that of the natural habitat." [1] A living system exhibits ecological integrity if it recovers from a disruption and continues to provide the natural goods and services that normally accrue from that system.*

- <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/basin-planning/ecological-flows>



Climate Resilience as a Topic

YEAR	HR<45°	UNITS
68-69	2108	1709
69-70	1938	1753
70-71	1717	231
71-72	1354	827
72-73	1531	1375
73-74	1294	745
74-75	1666	1164
75-76	1633	1142
76-77	2172	1998
77-78	2169	1701
78-79	1691	1282
79-80	1881	1506
80-81	2097	1647
81-82	1957	1584
82-83	1696	1306
83-84	1837	1444
84-85	1772	1437
85-86	1561	1214
86-87	1974	1613
87-88	1935	1411
88-89	1665	1070
89-90	1450	1028
90-91	1396	974
91-92	1589	1200
92-93	1864	1479
93-94	1664	1384

YEAR	HR<45°	Net Hr.
94-95	661	572
93-94	997	1064
92-93	868	962
91-92	797	895
90-91	594	803
89-90	886	1010
88-89	954	807
87-88	1001	812
86-87	880	890
85-86	792	798
84-85	947	887
83-84	938	920
82-83	632	449
81-82	958	836
80-81	1191	1166
79-80	922	819
78-79	805	648
77-78	992	856
76-77	1347	1378
75-76	997	889
74-75	946	820
73-74	740	498
72-73	777	779
71-72	604	346
70-71	939	805
69-70	1136	1169
68-69	1113	1044

YEAR	HR<45°	Net Hr.
19-20		447
18-19	537	481
17-18	751	746
16-17	619	572
15-16	377	151
14-15	684	678
13-14	641	490
12-13	592	664
11-12	507	309
10-11	919	871
09-10	787	679
08-09	685	535
07-08	563	471
06-07	311	247
05-06	881	758
04-05	657	519
03-04	705	670
02-03	860	929
01-02	556	610
00-01	1370	1285
99-00	823	639
98-99	824	617
97-98	856	825
96-97	933	872
95-96	1522	1205

From 1999 to 2019
There were 4 years
with chilling hours
(33-45F) greater
than 750

PFAS

- FDA collected produce in Southeastern NC (Cape Fear region from Fayetteville to Wilmington) in June 2018 for the purposes of developing testing protocols for PFAS in foods.
- They sourced 16 samples of leafy greens and 4 samples of other produce in Southeastern NC and released the preliminary testing results in May/early June 2019 at a scientific meeting in Europe. They got 36 “hits” above MDL
- FDA: *“The concentrations of the PFAS chemicals found in the 16 produce samples were so low that we affirm our determination that these substances, at the levels found in the samples, are not a human health concern.”*



What's the Plan?

- Invasive species, African Swine Fever/High Path Avian Influenza, etc.
- What are your risks?
- What are the necessary logistics for your operation?
- How can you mitigate?
- What's YOUR plan?



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the app and
go exploring!

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GET IT ON
Google Play

Be sure you're connected to WiFi when
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#VisitNCFarms

Learn more at
visitNCfarmstoday.com

Sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

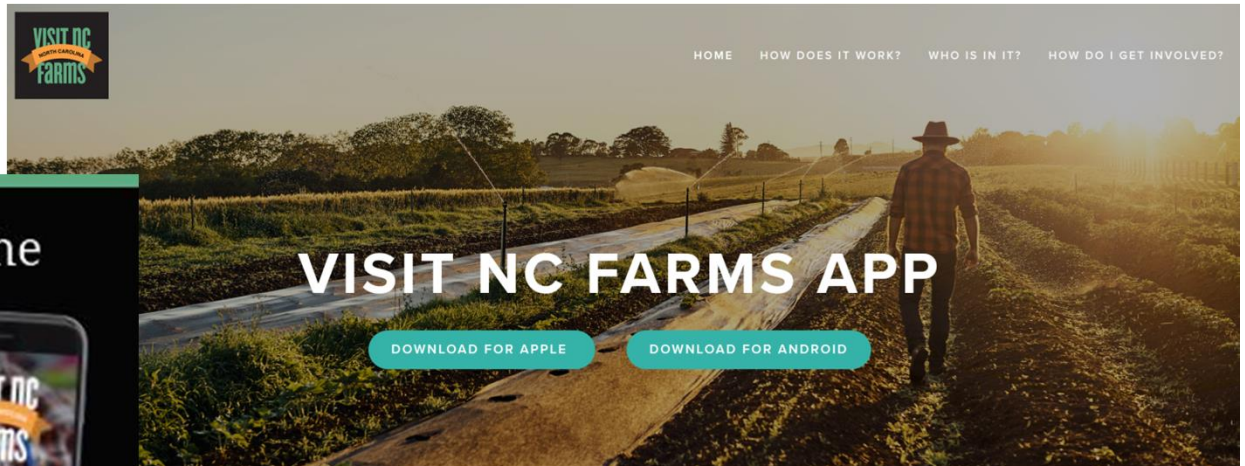



HOME HOW DOES IT WORK? WHO IS IN IT? HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

VISIT NC FARMS APP

DOWNLOAD FOR APPLE

DOWNLOAD FOR ANDROID



Fourteen counties launched nearly 400 destinations in the Visit NC Farms app this summer. Farms included in the app are feeling the power of publicity. Watch the videos by clicking the buttons below to see the value of earned media.

The Visit NC Farms app is expanding statewide. Additional counties are asset mapping now. Stay tuned to more farms and local food destinations coming soon to this new digital marketing tool.



Connectivity & Agriculture

“Farms that Contribute Nearly \$80 Billion to GDP Run on Limited Internet Connections” —US Soybean Board survey



78% of farmers do not have a choice in internet service providers.



40% of farmers have a fixed internet connection, while others rely on satellite connections.



60% of farmers say internet service they do have is slow, with most relying on cell signals or hotspots to connect to the internet.



**Complete
the
survey!**

FCC allocating \$20
Billion in next
decade to rural
broadband

BROADBAND

New NCFB President



Shawn Harding, Chocowinity



Debbie Hamrick
Director Specialty Crops
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