

**NC GROWING TOGETHER**

Connecting Local Foods  
to Mainstream Markets

## GAP Cost-Share Assistance & Training in North Carolina

Updated April 2016

WWW.NCGROWINGTOGETHER.ORG

### Training & Workshops

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The NC Growing Together Project (NCGT), with partners NC Cooperative Extension (NCCE), NC State University (NC State), and the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA), sponsors one- and two-day workshops across the state to assist farms in achieving GAP certification. CFSA also offers free one-on-one audit training sessions. For a comprehensive list of upcoming GAP training events, visit <https://www.ncgrowingtogether.org/for-producers/#GAPs>.

You may also contact the NCGT Extension and Outreach Program Manager, Emily Edmonds, via email at [emelders@ncsu.edu](mailto:emelders@ncsu.edu) or by phone at 828-399-0297.

CFSA members are eligible for one-on-one GAP certification assistance; applications are available at <https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/gaps-one-on-one-training/>.

### Cost-Shares & Grant Programs

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#### **NCDAs Grading Services GAP Certification Assistance Program**

NCDAs GAP Certification Assistance Program provides up to \$900 for first-time certification or \$300 for recertification for qualifying farms. Information is released in early spring each year.

<http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/NCgradesvc/>

Existing GAP-certified farms are able to reserve a reimbursement for their GAP renewal costs. Please visit the website above for more details, or visit [www.ncgrowingtogether.org](http://www.ncgrowingtogether.org).

#### **Carolina Farm Stewardship Association**

Members of CFSA are eligible for the Cost-Share for GAP Certification Program, which provides funds directly to farmers to assist in meeting GAP/GHP requirements.

<https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/usda-gaps/>

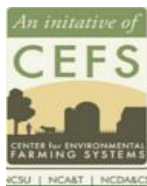
#### **Small Grants through the NC Tobacco Trust Fund**

The NCTTF offers small grants managed by NC Cooperative Extension and RAFI to assist with projects that can help ensure GAP/GHP compliance. *Grants are specific to various regions, and farmers must contact their local extension agent or RAFI's office to begin the application process.* NCTTF also offers direct compensation to farmers whose agricultural business was affected by the MSA. *(Most farms apply through NCTTF's partner agencies listed below.)*

<http://tobaccotruffund.org/grants/> | Compensation programs accept applications on rolling basis

**RAFI-USA Agricultural Reinvestment Fund:** Alamance, Bertie, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, Orange, Person, Randolph, Vance, and Warren  
<http://rafiusa.org/grants/> | Applications released annually in fall

**AgVentures:** Duplin, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Greene, Guilford, Johnston, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pitt, Rockingham, Sampson, Stokes, Surry, Wayne, Wilson, and Yadkin  
<https://agventures.ces.ncsu.edu/grant-program/> | Applications released annually in fall



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**WNC AgOptions:** Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Clay, Cherokee, Cleveland, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey

<http://www.wncagoptions.org/> | Applications released annually in October

**UMO Ag Prime (University of Mount Olive):** Cumberland, Lee, Moore, Richmond, and Robeson

<http://www.umoag.com/AgPrime/index.php> | Applications released annually in fall/winter

### Past Awards

**RAFI's** past awards in recent years have included vegetable cooling and packing infrastructure; loose leaf tea production equipment; restoration of a grain mill; educational facilities for on-farm agritourism; soybean processing for hog feed; fencing; water and irrigation systems; on-farm cooling systems; barns and storage areas; computer technologies; mobile market units; aquaponics systems; packaging systems; flash-freezing; and more.

<http://rafiusa.org/grants/rafi-grant-recipients/>

**WNC Ag Options** has awarded recent grants in the areas of aquaponics systems; on-farm cooling; cold storage; retrofit of existing facilities; new seedling management systems; steam pasteurization; pest management systems; production and packaging equipment; season extension; and others.

<http://www.wncagoptions.org/category/by-county/>

**AgVentures** has provided recent grants in the areas of harvest, planting, and growing equipment; RFID inventory systems; filtering and irrigation systems; new market niche products; flash-freezing and vacuum packaging; value-added manufacturing systems; internships; research of new products and pest control measures; season extension; agritourism; and more.

<https://agventures.ces.ncsu.edu/grant-awards-by-year/>

## Microenterprise Loan Programs

### NC Rural Center Microenterprise Loan Program

For larger projects or to complement grant funding, the NC Rural Center provides microenterprise loans to rural businesses, with a specific focus on supporting agriculture through low-interest loans that many banks will not secure. They also offer technical assistance and training.

<http://www.ncruralcenter.org/business-programs6/microenterprise39>

### The Support Center of North Carolina

The Support Center is a statewide CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution) which approves micro-loans on behalf of the US Small Business Administration (SBA), the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), and US Department of Transportation (DOT). They also offer technical assistance and training.

<https://thesupportcenter-nc.org/lending>

The NC Growing Together Project provides resources to NC producers on vegetable, meat, dairy, and seafood production and processing; accessing wholesale market channels; and strategies for entering the state's retail and wholesale supply chains. Learn more at [www.ncgrowingtogether.org](http://www.ncgrowingtogether.org).