

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 2255*

Short Title: NCSU Funds/Williamsdale Farm & Ag. Programs. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hill; Church, Faison, Langdon, Tucker, Underhill, and Wilson.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 22, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE
3 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR NORTH CAROLINA STATE
4 UNIVERSITY TO ESTABLISH THE WILLIAMSDALE FARM ENERGY FIELD
5 LABORATORY IN DUPLIN COUNTY AND TO FUND VARIOUS
6 INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE COLLEGE
7 OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES AT NORTH CAROLINA STATE
8 UNIVERSITY.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
11 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of four million one hundred
12 sixty-five thousand six hundred dollars (\$4,165,600) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to be
13 allocated to North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural Research
14 Service to establish the Williamsdale Farm Energy Field Laboratory on the site of
15 Williamsdale Farm in Duplin County. Of the funds appropriated by this act, the sum of
16 three million five hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$3,590,000) shall be used for
17 infrastructure and equipment for the field laboratory, and the sum of five hundred
18 seventy-five thousand six hundred dollars (\$575,600) shall be used for recurring
19 operational expenses of the field laboratory.

20 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
21 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of five million dollars
22 (\$5,000,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to be allocated to the College of Agriculture
23 and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University to fund various innovative
24 agricultural programs that encourage economic growth. The funds shall be allocated as
25 follows:

- 26 (1) \$1,000,000 to develop and promote local agricultural systems and
27 enterprises. Economic development activity will involve expansion of
28 small scale finishing and marketing of cattle; local production and

1 marketing of plant and animal food products, including organic
2 production; enhancing urban landscapes and environments; grass
3 based meat goat and dairy systems; training and assistance in business
4 development and management skills; and agricultural workforce
5 preparedness in the areas of worker protection, efficient workplace
6 management and worker benefits, especially for nontraditional
7 workers.

8 (2) \$1,250,000 to support competitive cropping opportunities. These
9 opportunities may include research and development of strategies and
10 systems that focus on the following: the development of methods that
11 make it possible to convert to narrow-row production of cotton and
12 that optimize nitrogen fertilizer to increase cotton production; the
13 development of intensive disease management strategies, especially in
14 lettuce and berry production that will enable large-scale production of
15 fruits and vegetables for the Dole Initiative and other enterprises; the
16 development of mechanical harvesting and stripping aids to increase
17 production of burley tobacco; supporting a breeding position in
18 turfgrasses research; and support of the AgBiotech initiative that
19 applies functional genomics to systems that have potential for rapid,
20 on-the-ground impacts.

21 (3) \$1,000,000 to be used for specialty enterprise opportunities. These
22 developments will include expansion of the current Specialty Crops
23 Program; development of technology and management systems for
24 profitable production of grapes and grape products; improve the
25 sustainability of plant production by developing transgenic plants that
26 tolerate environmental stresses (temperature extremes, drought,
27 disease); discovery of development of plant derived materials that
28 benefit health, nutrition, and pest management; and enhance the health,
29 productivity and survivability of honeybees, which are critical for
30 sustainable agricultural systems.

31 (4) \$750,000 to be used for animal systems opportunities. Economic
32 development will accrue to research and technical assistance in
33 production systems and genetic improvement of aquaculture species,
34 with an emphasis on hybrid striped bass and flounder; and to
35 significantly increasing the longevity, health, and production levels of
36 swine.

37 (5) \$1,000,000 to be used for value-added bioprocessing. These
38 opportunities will involve development of processes to enhance
39 quality, safety and utility of foods and food products; discovering
40 methods to convert wastes and biomass to energy; and to create
41 profitable, viable markets for byproducts of animal systems and other
42 waste materials.

43 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2006.