

NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' divisions have responsibilities in regulatory and service areas covering agronomy; animal health; weights and measures; gas and oil inspection; crop and livestock statistics; USDA commodity distribution; state farm operations; food, drug and cosmetic testing for purity; agricultural marketing and promotion; agricultural marketing grading; international agricultural crop and livestock marketing; operation of the North Carolina State Fair and North Carolina Mountain State Fair; operation of five state farmers markets; research station operations; seed and fertilizer inspection; nursery and plant pest eradication activities; regulation of the structural pest control industry; agricultural environmental issues; state and federal agricultural legislation; and agricultural economic analysis.

Please see the list below to find marketing services available to you.

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

Agribusiness Development: Whether yours is an existing agribusiness ready for expansion, or a new idea for a value-added agricultural product, our agribusiness developers can provide you with assistance in business planning or expansion, financing and site location. We partner with other agencies to provide you with a comprehensive approach to developing your business.

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/agbizmarketing.htm>

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Agritourism: Agritourism can generate additional revenue for small and medium-sized farms. Activities include a variety of on-farm activities, ranging from hunting and fishing to pick-your-own operations and hayrides. NCDA&CS provides you with tools to decide if agribusiness is right for you, and creates networking opportunities through membership the Agritourism Networking Association.

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/agritourism/index.htm>

Martha Glass, Manager
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Aquaculture: Aquaculture is the farming of fish and aquatic plants. NCDA&CS is the state's lead agency to offer guidance and assistance in the development of aquaculture business.

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/aquaculture/index.htm>

Warm Water

Matt Parker (office in New Bern)

(252) 633-1477

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Cold Water

Debra Sloan (office in Franklin)

(828) 524-1264

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Dairy: North Carolina has embarked on a strategic plan to promote the development of dairies within the state. Find out about the state's plan and determine whether or not it provides you with a potential business opportunity.

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/commodit/dairy/index.htm>

Scott Bissette, Dairy Specialist

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Green Industry: The state's green industry includes nursery, landscape, herbs, turfgrass and sod, and Christmas trees. NCDA&CS agribusiness development and green industry specialists can work with you to identify business opportunities in this agricultural area.

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/commodit/horticul/greenind/index.htm>

Horticulture Marketing

Ross Williams, Assistant Director

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Horticulture: Whether you are considering growing fruits and vegetables for the farmers market, looking for larger market opportunities or thinking about organic certification, NCDA&CS Horticulture Marketing Specialists can provide you with current information about fertility, crop selection and market information.

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/commodit/horticul/index.htm>

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Legal Issues: Ray Starling, Legal Affairs
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Livestock: North Carolina offers many opportunities to develop a successful livestock business. NCDA&CS livestock specialists provide guidance on developing a dairy or beef cattle herd, or raising sheep, goats or swine. The Department's Livestock Section has several resources available to help you make your business decisions.
<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/livestock/index.htm>

Bruce Shankle, Manager
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Meat & Egg Marketing: Are you processing your animals and marketing meat or processed items? NCDA&CS can provide you with current information concerning the marketing of meat items.

Kim Decker, Marketing Specialist
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Small Farms: NCDA&CS provides assistance for owners of small farms. The Small Farms section offers expertise on crop selection, insurance options, and market opportunities.

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