



News Release

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Cooperative Extension Receives \$25,000 Grant For Farmers Market Feasibility Study

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Cumberland County Cooperative Extension has received a \$25,000 grant from the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to conduct a feasibility and location study for a farmers market.

Director Lisa Childers and Extension Agent Kenny Bailey wrote the grant and submitted it to the ADFP Trust Fund Advisory Committee earlier this year. The Cumberland County proposal was one of only 10 in the entire state selected to receive funding.

“More and more families are in search of locally-grown food,” Childers said. “What we hope to accomplish through the grant is enlist the help of a consulting firm to look at the county as a whole, interview key leaders, citizens and officials, and make recommendations on the most suitable locations for a farmers market.”

The study is expected to determine the facility type, required amenities, suggested hours of operation, traffic and parking considerations, and a cost analysis of needs to establish a farmers market.

Cooperative Extension utilized the Cumberland County Working Lands Protection Plan to help secure the grant funding. The plan was adopted in 2010 and called for the establishment of a permanent farmers market with the infrastructure to operate year-round and in inclement weather in order to support the local agricultural economy.

The ADFP Trust Fund provides grants to county governments and nonprofit groups for conservation easements, agricultural agreements and programs that develop agriculture.

For more information about services available at Cumberland County Cooperative Extension, go to <http://cumberland.ces.ncsu.edu> or call (910) 321-6860. Cooperative Extension is located at 301 E. Mountain Dr.

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