



## Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program for Disadvantaged Farmers

Dear Landowners and Farmers,

As the year ends, we hope you have had a great 2017 growing season! As you know, it takes more than a successful harvest to ensure a profitable farming operation; it also takes good recordkeeping, tax knowledge, and business practices. For this reason, the Natural Capital Investment Fund is taking applications for the **Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program for Disadvantaged Farmers**. The application is found on pp. 2-3 of this document.

The **Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program** is a financial assistance program designed to help cover the cost of working with an accountant or qualified tax preparer. This can increase your farm's overall profitability and sustainability by improving your recordkeeping, utilizing all possible tax deductions, and providing information you need to apply to lenders and government agencies. ***This program is made possible through a grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.***

The Cost-Share Program will **cover up to \$1,000.00 of your tax preparation and accounting costs, once you have paid the first \$250.00 of the bill from your chosen firm.** Participating farmers will also be eligible to receive crop planning assistance from The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities Program Food and Farm Initiative: <http://www.conservationfund.org/projects/food-and-farm-initiative>.

To be eligible for the program:

- You must be a **North Carolina** farmer able to show **at least \$10,000 in farm revenue** for the previous year. Documentation can include commodity sales records, contracts, W-9s, Schedule F's, etc.
- You **have NOT used an accountant** for the previous two years.
- You agree to **pay the first \$250.00 of the cost of accounting services.**
- Your farm operation must be **located in Eastern NC or the Sandhills** region.
- You agree to **complete a survey and interview** at the end of the program to help assess its effectiveness.
- You agree to utilize an accountant from a pre-approved list, OR an accountant of your choice who can show experience working with farmers and is current on all certifications and licenses.

This is a competitive application program, available on a **first come, first served basis.** Priority will be given to farmers in the following counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Columbus, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pitt, Sampson, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson.

If you have questions about this program, or to receive an application, please contact:

**Rick Larson**

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Natural Capital Investment Fund  
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**APPLICATION: ACCOUNTING ASSISTANCE COST-SHARE PROGRAM FOR DISADVANTAGED FARMERS**

**FARMER INFORMATION**

Name of Applicant/ Farmer: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact time: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current or former tobacco farmer?  Yes  No

Are you a farmer of color?  Yes  No

If yes, how do you identify (ex: African American, Latino, Asian, American-Indian, other)

When was the last time you worked with an accountant? If never, please write "Never"

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a tax preparer you'd like to work with? Please provide their name, address & phone:

**FARM INFORMATION**

Name of Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Acres Owned: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Acres Leased: \_\_\_\_\_

Acres in Production for **your** farm: \_\_\_\_\_

Revenue from farm in 2016: \_\_\_\_\_

**You must submit/ attach documents to show your farm revenue in 2015 or 2016. You may submit receipts from commodity sales, contracts, Schedule F's, etc. You may black out any personal or private information (ex. social security number).**



## SUPPLEMENTAL FARM INFORMATION

Do you have farm insurance coverage?  Yes  No

Do you have season extensions tools? (Ex: greenhouses, hoop houses, storage barns, etc.)

Yes  No If yes, which tools:

Do you have a will?  Yes  No

Have you participated in USDA programs?  Yes  No

## ASSURANCES

If I am selected for the Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program, I agree to pay the first \$250.00 of accounting services I receive from a qualified accountant/tax preparer.

I agree.

Signature

Date

If selected, I also agree to participate in a survey and interview at the end of program period that will be used to help evaluate the program.

I agree.

Signature

Date

Please **print and sign**. Please also **remember to submit documents to show 2015 or 2016 farm revenue.**

***Questions? Please call Rick Larson, NCIF, at 919-951-0113.***

Signed and completed applications can be submitted via **email** or **mail** to:

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Natural Capital Investment Fund  
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