



Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund

2008-2009 Demonstration Award Program

The goal of the Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund is to keep farmers in farming and maintain the economic base of North Carolina's rural communities. The Reinvestment Fund aims to assist farmers and rural communities to develop new sources of agricultural income through provision of cost-share grants.

In 2008, the Reinvestment Fund will make two types of demonstration awards: **Producer Grant Awards** of up to **\$10,000** for individuals and **Community Grant Awards** of up to **\$20,000** for collaborative farmer projects.

The Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund will make cost-share demonstration grants to farmers, farm organizations, and community groups in **Alexander, Beaufort, Burke, Caldwell, Caswell, Craven, Cumberland, Davidson, Forsyth, Greene, Guilford, Harnett, Iredell, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, McDowell, Nash, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Wayne, Wilkes, and Wilson** counties.



Tight margins for most commodity crops and changing farm programs provide new challenges for North Carolina farmers. The purpose of the Reinvestment Fund is to help farmers to develop enterprises that allow them to earn more for their products through innovative production, processing, or marketing approaches.

Eligibility:

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS HAVE CHANGED.**

Qualifying **PRODUCERS** must:

- Be farmers who are actively engaged in full or part-time farming,
 - AND have derived a significant amount of their farm income from tobacco at the time of the Master Settlement Agreement (crop years 1997 and 98),
 - AND farm in one of the counties listed above.
 - Farms can be of any size.
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ADDITIONALLY, the 2008 Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Project will make a limited number of demonstration grants to farmers in **Beaufort, Burke, Caldwell, Caswell, Cumberland, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, McDowell, Wayne,** and **Wilson** counties who:

- are under 40 years of age,
- AND have at least three years of farming experience.
- Farmers in this category may or may not have had income from tobacco.

Qualifying **COMMUNITY GROUPS**:

- Must include qualifying farmers from the target counties,
- AND farmers must be active in the leadership of the group.
- Groups of farmers, farm coops, farmer associations, churches, local business, civic organizations, or combinations of these are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Eligible **PROJECTS** are those that:

- have a likelihood of generating new farm income;
- establish new markets for local products and services;
- develop new uses for greenhouses;
- add value to existing farm products by processing, packaging or marketing in a special way;
- make new use of tobacco facilities and equipment;
- maintain or create quality employment, including self-employment or opportunities for home-based businesses;
- make optimal use of on-farm and natural resources.

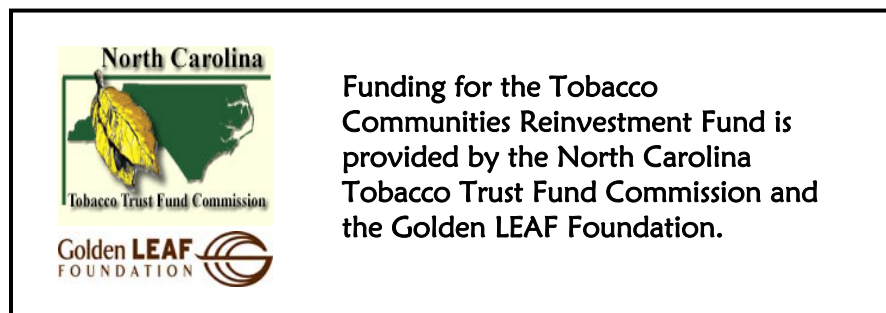
High priority will be given to projects that are innovative and demonstrate a new direction or opportunity for farmers in North Carolina.

To view descriptions of past funded projects click on the following links visit our website: http://www.rafiusa.org/programs/TOBACCO/reinvestment_projects.html.

Application: Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund Demonstration Grants are awarded on a competitive application basis.

The application deadline for the 2008 Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund Demonstration Award Program is **October 1, 2008**. Application materials are being developed. Please, continue to visit this website for up-to-date application information.

If you would like to discuss your project ideas with RAFI-USA staff, please contact Jason Roehrig at **919-621-0534** or jason@rafiusa.org.



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