



1 of agribusiness or agriculture in an institution of higher education in  
2 North Carolina.

3 (2) All students shall be residents of North Carolina. For purposes of this  
4 section, residency shall be determined by the same standard as  
5 residency for tuition purposes pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1.

6 (3) All students shall enter into a legal agreement and promissory note  
7 with the Authority to accept employment in agribusiness or agriculture  
8 in exchange for receiving any funds, which agreement shall include  
9 stipulation that the student agrees to accept employment in need-based  
10 counties.

11 (4) Any additional criteria that the Authority considers necessary to  
12 administer the program effectively, including all of the following:

13 a. Consideration of the appropriate numbers of minority students  
14 and students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to  
15 receive funds pursuant to this section.

16 b. Consideration of what areas of the State shall be considered  
17 appropriate for work after graduation.

18 c. Consideration of the academic qualifications of the individuals  
19 applying to receive funds.

20 d. Consideration of the commitment the individuals applying to  
21 receive funds demonstrate to the field of agribusiness and  
22 agriculture.

23 **SECTION 3.** The Authority shall ensure that the following loan  
24 cancellations and repayment schedules apply to all funds distributed pursuant to this act:

25 (1) The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree in agribusiness  
26 or agriculture and who works in that field in North Carolina shall have  
27 that amount of the loan cancelled that is based on the amount of time  
28 employed and the number of academic years funds were received. One  
29 full year of employment shall cancel one academic year's loan.

30 (2) The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree in agribusiness  
31 or agriculture and who does not work in that field in North Carolina  
32 for any or all of the equivalent of the number of years funds were  
33 received shall repay the loan to the Authority according to a schedule  
34 prescribed in the promissory note, plus ten percent (10%) annual  
35 interest.

36 (3) The individual who does not graduate with a bachelors degree in  
37 agribusiness or agriculture shall repay the loan according to a schedule  
38 prescribed by the Authority, not to exceed fifteen percent (15%)  
39 annual interest. In establishing a schedule and interest rate, the  
40 Authority shall take into consideration the reasons the individual did  
41 not graduate with a bachelors degree in agribusiness or agriculture.

42 The Authority shall ensure that all repayments, including accrued interest,  
43 shall be placed in the Program.

1           The Authority may forgive or reduce any loan repayment if the Authority  
2 considers that extenuating circumstances exist that would make repayment impossible.

3           **SECTION 4.** The State Education Assistance Authority, in consultation with  
4 North Carolina State University, shall adopt rules to implement the Agribusiness and  
5 Agriculture Fellows Program as described by this act.

6           **SECTION 5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State  
7 Education Assistance Authority the sum of one hundred sixty-two thousand five  
8 hundred dollars (\$162,500) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year to implement this pilot  
9 program.

10           **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.