

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 1079

Short Title: Agricultural Research Farms. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Snow; Atwater and Queen.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 31, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT REGARDING THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS  
3 MANAGED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
4 CONSUMER SERVICES FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND  
5 EXTENSION.

6 Whereas, North Carolina established its first agricultural research station in 1877,  
7 and the system has grown over time to include 18 agricultural research stations under the  
8 management of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

9 Whereas, these 18 agricultural research stations encompass 15,899 acres of land and  
10 are located across the State in the mountain, piedmont, and coastal regions; and

11 Whereas, the agricultural research stations are used by university faculty for  
12 research, teaching, and extension and have produced significant economic, environmental, and  
13 other benefits for the farmers and other citizens of the State; and

14 Whereas, the State's agricultural research stations constitute a unique State resource  
15 having been managed as working research farms with detailed crop and livestock production  
16 records; and

17 Whereas, it is the declared policy of the State to conserve and protect and encourage  
18 the development and improvement of its agricultural lands for the production of food and fiber;  
19 and

20 Whereas, it is also the policy of the State to preserve its working lands and to  
21 maintain open space for the benefit of all its citizens; Now, therefore,  
22 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

23 **SECTION 1.(a)** None of the 18 agricultural research stations currently managed by  
24 the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services named in subsection (e)  
25 of this section shall be sold unless the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, after  
26 consultation with North Carolina State University and North Carolina A & T State University,  
27 determines that a station is no longer needed by the State for agricultural research purposes and  
28 that it is in the best interest of the State to sell that property.

29 **SECTION 1.(b)** The sale, lease, or transfer of an agricultural research station  
30 covered by this act, or any portion thereof, shall be subject to an agricultural conservation  
31 agreement. For purposes of this act, an agricultural conservation agreement is a right, whether  
32 stated in the form of a restriction, reservation, easement, covenant, or condition, in any deed or  
33 other instrument executed by or on behalf of the State, appropriate to restricting residential,  
34 commercial, and industrial development of land for the purpose of maintaining its agricultural  
35 production capability.



1           **SECTION 1.(c)** Subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to the sale, lease, or  
2 transfer of an agricultural research station, or any portion thereof, to another State agency or the  
3 federal government.

4           **SECTION 1.(d)** Due to the significant agricultural and historical nature of the  
5 State's agricultural research stations and the requirement that an agricultural conservation  
6 agreement be placed in the deed conveying a station from the State, these properties shall be  
7 sold by private negotiation and sale, and all such sales shall be approved by the State Property  
8 Office. Property sold pursuant to this act shall be sold in accordance with the procedures set  
9 forth in G.S. 146-27 through G.S. 146-29.

10           **SECTION 1.(e)** The properties covered by this act are:

- 11           a.       Border Belt Tobacco Research Station.
- 12           b.       Central Crops Research Station.
- 13           c.       Horticultural Crops Research Station (Castle Hayne, North Carolina).
- 14           d.       Horticultural Crops Research Station (Clinton, North Carolina).
- 15           e.       Lower Coastal Plain Tobacco Research Station.
- 16           f.       Mountain Research Station.
- 17           g.       Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station.
- 18           h.       Oxford Tobacco Research Station.
- 19           i.       Peanut Belt Research Station.
- 20           j.       Piedmont Research Station.
- 21           k.       Sandhills Research Station.
- 22           l.       Tidewater Research Station.
- 23           m.       Upper Coastal Plain Research Station.
- 24           n.       Upper Mountain Research Station.
- 25           o.       Upper Piedmont Research Station.
- 26           p.       Caswell Research Farm.
- 27           q.       Cherry Research Farm.
- 28           r.       Umstead Research Farm.

29           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.