

# NC Farm School 2022 REPORT



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# SUMMARY:

NC Farm School is a program in which extension agents, agricultural specialists, and local farmers help advise transitioning or aspiring farmers. Over the 2022-year, NC Farm School worked to cultivate a class that has grown in both the knowledge of farming and economic sustainability.

# 2022 IMPACT

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- 96% of 2022 NC Farm School students know what it cost to start a farm
- 91% of Students found new marketing opportunities
- 85% of NC Farm School students had a completed business plan
- \$264,000 direct farm level impacts in money saved and earnings projected
- 213 Acres of unutilized land put into production

# WHO WE ARE:

NC Farm School is a program in which extension agents, agricultural specialists, and local farmers help advise transitioning or aspiring farmers. As a community, NC Farm School aims to increase the number of successful farms in North Carolina.

## 2022 Statistics

53 Students

15 NC Counties

56% Female,

4% Male

# ADAPTIVE METHODS:

NC Farm School, due to the pandemic continuing into 2022 and the resurgence of COVID-19, felt it necessary to continue providing both in-person and online versions (via Zoom) of the course. This method allowed students more flexibility during these unprecedented times and allowed NC Farm School to further its reach.

**NC STATE**

**EXTENSION**

NC Farm School



## ***Economic Development through NC Farm School***

NC Farm School works to ensure the economic sustainability of the students' farms. We accomplish this by having the students establish a business plan professionally reviewed by our NC Farm School staff. This plan must entail the student's steps to start up and a written plan for marketing that includes cash flow. We emphasize that this plan requires discovering existing markets near them they may not be aware of yet.

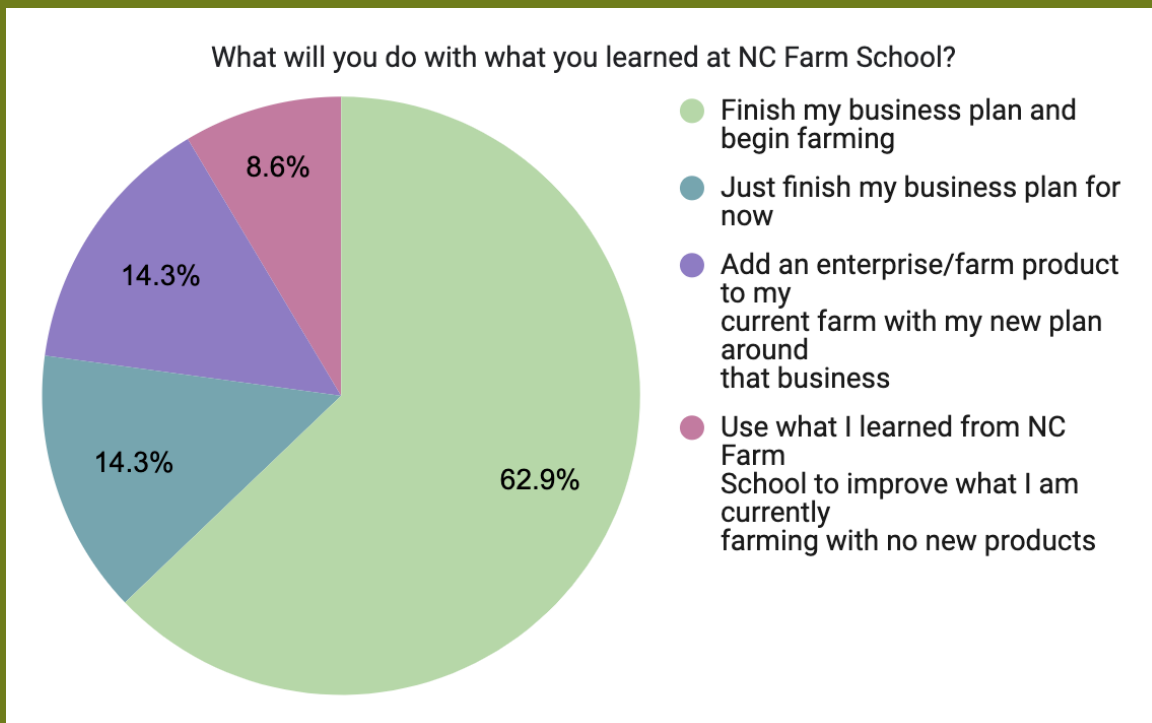
NC Farm School not only connects students to market opportunities, but we also ask students to be realistic about their start-up costs. Students estimate that Farm School helped save them thousands by preventing mistakes they would have made as farmers, and reducing start-up costs.

## Who are NC Farm School students of 2022?

NC Farm School students are transitioning or beginning farmers who range from farming on 0 acres to 75. The program also targets those who dream of owning a farm but are not sure how to get there. 82% of NC Farm School students had never created a balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, or enterprise budget before attending NC Farm School.

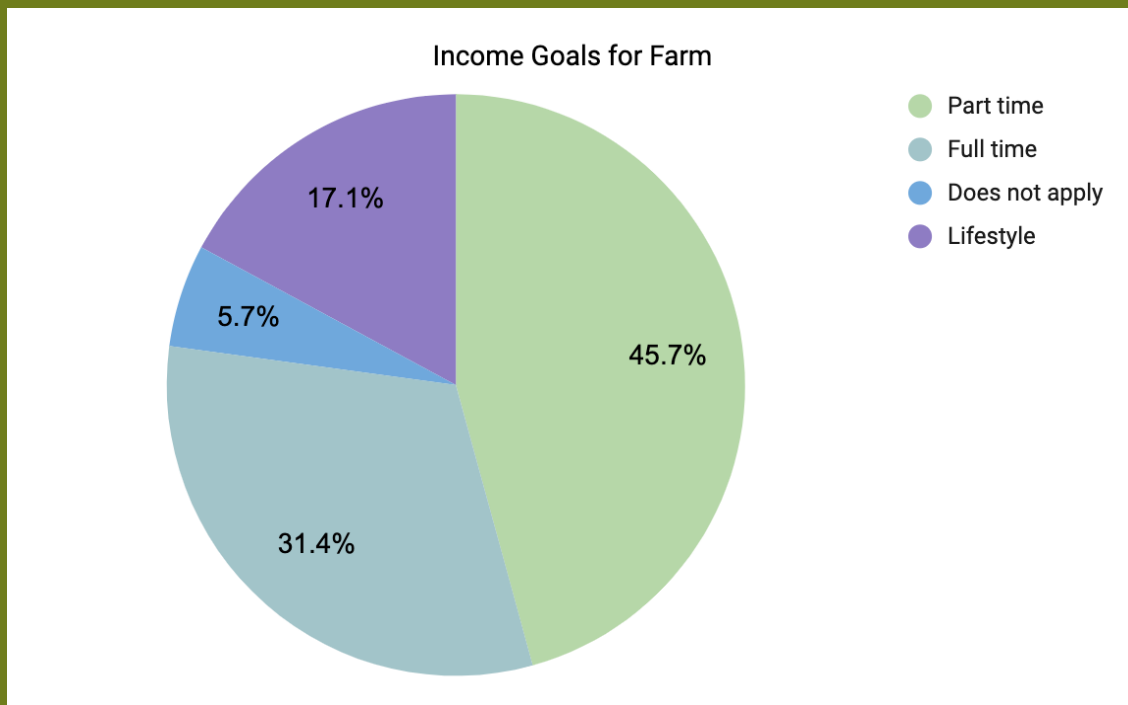
## Why are students attending NC Farm School?

Students join NC Farm School to learn about starting a new farm, adding a new enterprise within their business, or for guidance in creating a business plan for either.



# *Income goals of NC Farm School students:*

Students in NC Farm School have an income goal of supporting at least a part-time salary with the proceeds from their farm or support a full time salary for at least one family member.



## *What is next for 2023?*

NC Farm School has coordinated locations in Albemarle, NC - Stanly County and Elizabethtown, NC - Bladen County. These locations have filled reservations and will host programs through June. NCFS will continue to offer internships for NC State students who may not have agricultural backgrounds and offer practical ag-based experience. The program will secure locations for 2024 and continue to develop its model to reach North Carolina