Nickels for Know-How
Makes Good Sense!
The Nickels for Know-How referendum began in 1951. It has been approved every six years since then – by more than 90% – because it made good sense. I believe it still makes good sense today.

Most of our state’s advances in agricultural research have utilized “Nickels” funds. So have the educational programs that help tomorrow’s farmers get into NC State. And every county benefits from our Cooperative Extension agents and programs.

Your vote on November 1st can help fund the vital research and important programs that make North Carolina a great agricultural state. And that just makes good sense.

Dr. Richard H. Linton, Dean
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NC State University

How it began
Farmers started Nickels for Know-How in a referendum held November 3, 1951. The General Assembly authorized a vote on this self-help program after it had been requested by the North Carolina Farm Bureau and the NC State Grange.

How it works
Manufacturers originally added a nickel – five cents – to the price of their feed and fertilizers to support the referendum. Over time, the amount collected has increased to 15 cents.

Who can vote
If you or your family buy feed or fertilizer, you can vote. Consumers decide every six years if they wish to continue the program. If two-thirds of the voters vote “Yes” in the referendum, the Nickels for Know-How program will continue for another six years.

Where to vote
Polling places will be established in each county. A list of polling places can be obtained from your county Cooperative Extension Service Center. Every County Center will have at least one polling place onsite. The referendum is Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

Nickels for Know-How:
A self-help program for farmers.

Nickels for Know-How is a 65-year-old voluntary assessment on feed and fertilizer produced and purchased in North Carolina.

North Carolina’s Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services collects the money from the manufacturers of feed and fertilizer. Manufacturers build the cost – three nickels per ton – into the price of their products.

The money is transferred to the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation. The funds are then used to support research, teaching and extension projects at NC State University.

The Foundation’s board of directors allocates the funds. The Foundation includes farmer members from each county, as well as agribusiness leaders who approve each proposal for support from faculty at NC State.

Voters can renew this program on November 1st. By voting “Yes” they will assess 15¢ for each ton of feed and fertilizer they purchase.

Nickels for Know-How raises about $1.4 million annually. That’s about $40 per farm for research.

Supporting Nickels for Know-How keeps a good thing growing!

2016 Nickels for Know-How Referendum Co-Chairs
Larry Wooten, President, North Carolina Farm Bureau
Jimmy Gentry, President, N.C. State Grange
Albert Corbett, Chairman, N.C. Agricultural Foundation, Inc. and New Hanover County farmer

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Nickels for Know-How funds support NC State’s ASPIRE program, which helps rural high school students who want to attend NC State’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Nickels for Know-How funds support Cooperative Extension in every county in the State. Extension puts NC State’s research into action, providing farmers with new methods and products to grow and sell.

Nickels for Know-How funds support many new agricultural research projects at NC State.

How Nickels for Know-How Has Helped

Nickels for Know-How funds help rural agricultural students come to – and stay at – NC State. CALS Spend a Day at State program, Student Ambassadors program, workshops for high school vocational agriculture teachers, on-campus internships and annual scholarships are all funded by Nickels.

Nickels support helped the college raise funds for nearly 900 endowments valued at more than $135 million. That provides over $1 million in scholarships to 620 undergraduate students each year.

Nickels provides operating support for the N.C. Cooperative Extension Agriculture Programs Foundation, the N.C. 4-H Development Fund, the N.C. FFA Foundation, the N.C. Family and Consumer Sciences & Extension and Community Association Foundation, the N.C. Dairy Foundation and the JC Raulston Arboretum Board of Directors.

Nickels helps fund CALS recognition events for outstanding volunteers; individual and corporate donors; current and retired faculty and staff; and the CALS Alumni & Friends Society.

Nickels supports ag commodity, leadership and legislative efforts through its support of agricultural awareness campaigns, CALS commodity relations activities and the annual CALS Tailgate – NC State’s largest alumni and friends event.

These are just a few of the ways Nickels for Know-How works to support North Carolina farmers and agribusinesses. Help continue these good works by voting on November 1, 2016. For information on where to vote in your county, please contact your County Cooperative Extension Service Office.

How Nickels for Know-How Has Helped

- Support for the ASPIRE program – ACT preparation for rural students
- Strengthening 4-H ag programs with commodity group partners
- Support for CALS Marine Aquaculture Research Center
- NC State Feed Mill Project for efficient milling and feed mill training
- North Carolina Dairy Advantage Program for dairy farmers

Current Research Projects

- Embryonic manipulations to increase poultry muscle growth and yield
- Foot-pad dermatitis and commercial turkey welfare
- Myofibular myopathies in breast muscle of large broilers
- Effect of LED lighting on turkey performance, welfare and quality
- Reducing salmonella and campylobacter contamination in turkeys
- Feed formula and particle size effects on energy and enteric health
- Production of biomass for bio-fuel production
- On-farm energy production and nutrient recovery from swine manure
- Effectiveness of evaporative cooling in swine facilities
- Development of effective human pathogen control in fresh produce
- Establishing elements of an organic peanut value chain
- Maintaining healthy honey bee colonies
- Novel alternatives to conventional antibiotics in swine feeds
- Evaluation of sow longevity differences on N.C. farms
- Using genomic tools to select pigs for efficient nutrient utilization
- Reducing heat stress and improving reproduction of sows
- Dietary approaches to sow productivity in gestation group housing
- Improved productivity of heat stressed sows via nutritional mgmt
- Genomic characterization of response to fescue toxicity in beef cattle
- Interactions of fescue toxins and heat stress in cattle
- Managing Palmer amaranth and other herbicide resistant weeds
- Nitrogen and fertilizer rate study for contemporary crop varieties
- Kudzu bug management in different environments
- Managing stink bug species in field and fruit crops
- Managing spotted wing drosophila in berry crops
- Managing exotic white grub in sweet potato
- Sweet potato internal necrosis
- Managing phytophthora root rot in Fraser firs
- Managing of glomerella leaf spot and colletotrichum diseases in apples
- Solutions to soil-borne diseases in tomatoes
- Controlling fire ants

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