



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 8.

DATE OF MEETING: February 4, 2013

REQUESTED BY: Mark Seitz, NC Cooperative Extension Director

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Authorizing Additional Funding for Salary for Pesticide Safety Training for Spanish-Speaking Farm Workers: \$9,800

BACKGROUND: Pender County's 1,600 acres of blueberries and 140 acres of strawberries generate \$16 to \$17 million annually for Pender County farms. Much of the harvest work is done by hand, primarily by seasonal, Spanish-speaking farm workers. The nature of this work puts the workers in direct contact with the crop protection chemicals that farmers use to protect these high dollar crops from insects and disease. Safety training, including pesticide safety training, is mandated by EPA for all farm workers under the Worker Protection Standards Law. Farmers who hire seasonal workers must conduct annual safety training for all workers to comply with this law. To meet this training requirement, trainers must be trained in pesticide safety protocols and be able to communicate with farm workers in both English and Spanish. Between 2010 and 2011, AmeriCorp, the NC Office of Rural Farmworkers Health and the Pender County Health Department employed and supervised an AmeriCorp volunteer to conduct pesticide safety training for these seasonal workers. In 2012, this staff person was moved to NC Cooperative Extension to benefit from Extension's direct contact with the farm community. As a result, in 2012, more than 1,200 of the estimated 1,700 seasonal workers received pesticide safety and heat stroke avoidance training. Federal funding for this AmeriCorp program ended in December 2012, leaving no Spanish-speaking trainer on the NC Cooperative Extension staff to continue this program. NC Cooperative Extension would like to continue this program, starting in mid-February 2013, to support the county's blueberry and strawberry industry. In order to do this, an additional salary allocation of \$9,800 is needed to cover a full time employee through the end of FY 12/13.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution authorizing additional funding for salary for Pesticide Safety Training for Spanish-speaking farm workers.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.



Initial

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that:

the Board hereby authorizes a \$9,800 increase in additional funding to cover the cost of salaries for a Spanish-speaking trainer for Pesticide Safety Training through the end of FY 12/13. The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

Account # 605-400300 \$9,800

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Brown ___ McCoy ___ Tate ___ Ward ___ Williams ___

George R. Brown, Chairman 2/4/13
Date

ATTEST 2/4/13
Date