



## **Keeping North Carolina's Farms and Forests Vibrant and Resilient**

### **Process for Developing an Adaptive Management Strategy**

Now that the Adaptation Summit has introduced the concerns, examined the challenges, and set the stage for the next phase of activity, the development of a North Carolina Agriculture and Forestry Adaptive Management Strategy (NC-STRAT) is the next objective. The NC-STRAT document will outline the actions, initiatives, and recommendations that are needed to help North Carolina producers adapt to changing climatic conditions and improve resiliency in the face of extreme weather events. These actions, initiatives, and recommendations will be formulated from stakeholder input captured at various forums. The final NC-STRAT report will be targeted to producers, policy makers, researchers, academia, risk management program providers, community business leaders, conservationists, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, and agriculture and forestry value-chain partners.

### **Planning Team Formation**

As outlined in the report, [Keeping North Carolina's Farms and Forests Vibrant and Resilient: An Adaptive Management Planning Strategy](#) (page 6-7), a Planning Team SubCommittee was created to guide the process for constructing the NC-STRAT report. Members of this Planning Team SubCommittee currently include: RC Hunt, Chip Miller, Dave Halley, Debbie Hamrick, Laura Lengnick, Mark Megalos, Richard Reich, Deborah Thompson, and Sarah Wiener. Building upon the breakout session discussions at the August 11<sup>th</sup> Adaptation Summit, the Planning Team SubCommittee is on track to create and facilitate four (4) stakeholder SubTeams: Commodity Crops; Livestock; Forestry; and Specialty Crops.

Those volunteering to lead and facilitate the four stakeholder SubTeams include:

- Forestry – Mark Megalos and Chip Miller
- Specialty Crops – Laura Lengnick and Debbie Hamrick
- Commodity Crops – David Heath and Sarah Wiener
- Livestock - TBD

### **SubTeam Work Strategy**

Each SubTeam will establish their own process to identify adaptation needs, priorities and strategies, but will follow generalized steps that encourage consistency among the information provided and recommendations obtained. To help build a record of recommendations, SubTeams can utilize previous work from other projects, use survey

tools, hold listening sessions, organize focus groups, and other appropriate outreach measures.

Each SubTeam will identify strategies and actions to:

- Increase resistance to changes in climate in order to maintain existing practices;
- Improve resiliency by investing in steps that preempt disasters and restore systems in the wake of them; and
- Transform operations (e.g. diversifying production systems).

Areas of focus for which to craft recommendations could include research, production systems and best management practices, risk management and insurance, decision-making tools, communications/outreach/education, etc. These recommendations and priority action items should outline needs that will help ensure the long-term viability of the agriculture and forestry sectors as well as address any short-term needs that address immediate issues.

Solutions from the Land staff will support the SubTeams and will provide discussion guides and survey questions that will help stimulate dialogue among participating stakeholders.

## **NC-STRAT Report**

The recommendations developed by the SubTeams will be reviewed by the Planning Team SubCommittee and integrated into a draft report that will then be forwarded to the NC-ADAPT Steering Committee for review, comment and consideration.

## **Producer Outreach and Engagement Program**

As the NC-STRAT draft report undergoes review, a Communications and Outreach Team will be formed to develop and guide a Producer Outreach and Engagement Program for the purpose of informing and educating producers on adaptive management implementation strategies. Examples of activities that could be included in the Producer and Outreach Engagement Program include peer-to-peer training and communication, online tools and resources, as well as larger training sessions for producers on implementing adaptive management strategies. The Communication and Outreach Team in conjunction with the Solutions from the Land staff will also monitor the number of producers that implement adaptive management strategies and help to produce a case study report on North Carolina for other states to follow.