



## Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program for Disadvantaged Farmers

**Applications due: December 22, 2015 (email or postmarked)**

Dear Landowners and Farmers,

As the year comes to a close, we hope you have had a great 2015 growing season! We understand that it takes more than a successful crop to ensure a profitable farming operation; it also takes good recordkeeping, tax knowledge, and business practices. For this reason, the Natural Capital Investment Fund is taking applications for the **Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program for Disadvantaged Farmers**. Visit <http://www.conservationfund.org/ncif-accounting-assist> for more information and to download the application. The application is also attached to this announcement.

The **Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program** is a financial assistance program designed to help cover the cost of hiring and working with an accountant. Working with an accountant can improve your farm's overall profitability and sustainability by helping improve recordkeeping, utilizing all possible tax deductions, and providing information you need to apply to lenders and government agencies. ***This program is made possible through a grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.***

The Cost-Share Program will **cover 80% of your accounting costs in calendar year 2016, up to \$1,000. You would be responsible for 20%, up to \$250.** Participating farmers will also be eligible to receive crop planning assistance from The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities Program Food and Farm Initiative: <http://www.conservationfund.org/projects/food-and-farm-initiative>.

To be eligible for the program:

- You must be able to show **at least \$10,000 in farm revenue** for the previous year. You may submit receipts of transactions of commodity sales, contracts, W-9s, Schedule F's, etc.
- You **have NOT used an accountant** for the previous two years.
- You agree to **pay 20% of the cost of accounting services**, up to \$250.
- Your farm operation must be **located in Eastern NC or the Sandhills** region.
- You agree to **complete a survey and interview** at the end of 2016 to help assess this program.
- You agree to utilize an accountant from a pre-approved list, OR an accountant of your choice who can show experience working with farmers and is current on all certifications and licenses.

This is a competitive application program. Priority will be given to **farmers of color** in the following counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Columbus, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pitt, Sampson, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson. In addition, we will try and ensure a broad representation around the region and farm enterprises. **Applications are due December 22, 2015.**

If you have questions about this program or to receive an application, please contact:

### Rick Larson

Senior VP & Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Natural Capital Investment Fund  
[rlarson@conservationfund.org](mailto:rlarson@conservationfund.org), Ph: 919-951-0113

### Julius Tillery

Farm Resources Coordinator  
The Conservation Fund, Resourceful Communities  
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**APPLICATION: ACCOUNTING ASSISTANCE COST-SHARE  
PROGRAM FOR DISADVANTAGED FARMERS**

**DEADLINE: DEC. 22 2015 FOR COMPLETED AND SIGNED APPLICATIONS**

**FARMER INFORMATION**

Name of Applicant/ Farmer:

Home Address:

County:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Preferred method of contact:

Preferred contact time:

Are you a current or former tobacco farmer?  Yes  No

Are you a farmer of color?  Yes  No

If yes, how do you identify (ex: African American, Latino, Asian, American-Indian, other)

When was the last time you worked with an accountant? If never, please write "Never"

Year:

Is there an accountant you'd like to work with? Please provide their name, address & phone:

**FARM INFORMATION**

Name of Farm:

Address of Farm:

County:

Total Acres Owned:

Total Acres Leased:

Acres in Production for **your** farm:

Revenue from farm in 2014:

***You must submit/ attach documents to show your farm revenue in 2014 or 2015. You may submit receipts from commodity sales, contracts, Schedule F's, etc. You may black out any personal or private information (ex. social security number).***



## SUPPLEMENTAL FARM INFORMATION

Do you have farm insurance coverage?  Yes  No

Do you have season extensions tools? (Ex: greenhouses, hoop houses, storage barns, etc.)  
 Yes  No If yes, which tools:

Do you have a will?  Yes  No

Have you participated in USDA programs?  Yes  No

## ASSURANCES

If I am selected for the Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program, I agree to pay 20% of accounting services rendered, up to \$250.

I agree.  I do not agree.

Signature

Date

If selected, I also agree to participate in a survey and interview at the end of program period that will be used to help evaluate the program.

I agree.  I do not agree.

Signature

Date

Please **print and sign**. Please also **remember to submit documents to show 2014 or 2015 revenue**.

***Questions? Please call Rick Larson, NCIF, at 919-951-0113.***

Signed and completed applications can be submitted via **email** or **mail** to:

Rick Larson  
Senior Vice President & Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Natural Capital Investment Fund  
P.O. Box 271  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
[rlarson@conservationfund.org](mailto:rlarson@conservationfund.org)

**Application form must be emailed or postmarked by: December 22, 2015.**