



Tobacco Trust Fund Grant

- BRAC RTF awarded \$203,100 to develop Regional Agriculture Sustainability Program (RASP)
 - Partnership with Sustainable Fort Bragg, Moore County Cooperative Extension Center, and Sustainable Sandhills
 - Provide full-time sustainable agricultural specialist to further Sustainable Sandhills' 'Feed to Fort' initiative as well as agri-tourism and 'niche' farming opportunities
 - Sustainable Agriculture specialist will serve the region and work closely with all County Cooperative Extension Centers
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Regional Working Lands Protection Strategy

- BRAC RTF has applied for \$1.5 million to the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (NC ADFP) to develop a regional strategy to protect working lands (farming and forestry)
 - ADFP project would build upon the RASP to integrate agriculture into BRAC RTF workforce, education, and economic development initiatives
 - Farmland Protection Plans would be developed for each County
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Regional Working Lands Protection Strategy

- Adopted Farmland Preservation Plans would be certified by the NC Department of Agriculture, giving County priority consideration in future Farmland Preservation Trust Fund grant cycles
 - Funds (~\$140,000 for each County) would be used to develop a series of sustainable agriculture 'pilot projects'
 - Selected farmers and forestland owners would participate directly in pilot project to build a sustainable agriculture/forestry enterprise in exchange for cash payments (a lease of development rights for at least 20 years)
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Goals of BRAC RTF Farmland Protection Initiatives

- Strengthen region's agricultural economy by opening new markets for local producers, including Fort Bragg & future biofuel power plants
 - Help preserve the region's cultural heritage of family farms and rural entrepreneurship
 - Link agriculture to new technologies (biofuels, cellulose derivatives) to expand opportunities for the next generation of farmers
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Goals of BRAC RTF Farmland Protection Initiatives

- Position agricultural and forest product producers to succeed in the emerging 'buy local' environment, including growth in organic food markets and greenhouse gas emission offsets as a tradable agricultural commodity
 - Preserve Working Lands near Fort Bragg (Compatible Use for Sustaining the Army's Mission)
 - Help protect North Carolina's 'Green Infrastructure'
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