Feed Milling Research and Education

The Need: Animal agriculture contributes more than 55 percent of North Carolina’s total annual agricultural income. A dynamic feed milling industry that provides the nutrients essential for animal growth and reproduction is critical for a successful animal agriculture industry. Sustainability of animal agriculture in North Carolina depends upon efficient feed utilization and minimization of environmental impact.

Serving the Need: The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has embarked on a Feed Milling Education Initiative to support this key industry. The initiative is designed to develop well-educated men and women for leadership roles in the feed milling industry and to provide the underlying educational and research programs required to support a sustainable industry.

Academic programs are serving undergraduate and graduate students as well as the continuing education needs of industry clientele. The Feed Mill Education Unit at our Lake Wheeler Road Field Laboratory will be a state-of-the-art facility within which to manufacture modern feeds for animals. Its design replicates a commercial feed mill, which will facilitate classroom instruction as well as research projects. Construction is expected to be complete by early fall 2007.

Impact beyond North Carolina: Students who graduate from the Feed Science and Management program have experience in feed mill operations, management and quality assurance. And with completion of the Feed Mill, they will have opportunities to manufacture feed using the latest feed milling equipment.

As part of the University Field Laboratories system, the Feed Mill Educational Unit will allow researchers the opportunity to manufacture feed and conduct feeding trials with broilers, turkeys, swine, beef and dairy animals.

The Feed Mill Educational Unit will be a self-sustaining teaching, extension and research operating unit that provides a hands-on learning environment for students as well as a home for cutting-edge research that will improve efficiency and profitability in the feed manufacturing and animal agriculture industries in North Carolina.

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