

A PROPOSAL TO  
**NORTH CAROLINA SMALL GRAIN GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

FOR RESEARCH OR EDUCATION ENTITLED  
**Small Grains Program Data Collection and Harvest Support 2023-24**

COVERING THE PERIOD FROM **10/01/2023** TO **09/30/2024**

REQUESTING SUPPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$115,035**

SUBMITTED BY:

Project Leader	Departmental Affiliation
<b>Angela R. Post</b>	<b>Crop and Soil Sciences</b>

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
IRS No. 56-6000-756  
Second Congressional District

Contact Information:

North Carolina State University  
Sponsored Programs Office  
2701 Sullivan Drive; Suite 240  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7514  
Phone: (919) 515-2444  
Facsimile: (919) 515-7721  
Website: <http://www.ncsu.edu/sparcs/>  
e-mail: [sps@ncsu.edu](mailto:sps@ncsu.edu)

*Note: This is a fundamental research or scholarly project and, as such, the University shall be free to publish or disseminate the results of this research or otherwise treat such results as in the public domain, and it will conduct the research in an open forum consistent with the University's mission of research, instruction and public service.*

**OBJECTIVE(S):**

- 1. Execute a statewide agronomic research testing program evaluating best management practices for NC wheat producers**
- 2. Support County level testing efforts for planting, harvest, and data analysis in cooperation with the State Specialist**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND RELEVANCE:****Field and Data Support Personnel**

Each year we support a portion of our technical field staff salaries and benefits for their work in Small Grains Extension and Research through this proposal. For 2022-23, we are requesting support for a portion of Jeremy Davis' salary. Jeremy has been with the program for over 5 years starting as an undergraduate hourly worker. He assists in all aspects of field data collection and management for Small Grains including harvest support and serves in the role of "Extension Assistant" in many capacities even without the title. In 2021, Jeremy supported both whistle stop tour dates, as well as the Small Grains field day in Rowan. In 2022, Jeremy supported all small grains field days and whistle stop tours. In 2023, Jeremy also supported the program by presenting two national-level research presentations at the American Society of Agronomy Meetings. This request will be 35% of his annual time and his travel costs as associated with Small Grains field activities for planting, field maintenance, data collection, scouting, and harvest. The remainder of his salary is supported through other grants and the Official Variety Testing program,

We will not be requesting support of Jonathan Moore, he has moved on to a new position. In order to maintain integrity of the field program, we have hired two new PhD students. In lieu of requesting support for a second technical staff, we are requesting support for one of these students, both of whom work full time in the program on wheat projects. It is important to support students moving forward as they are the key to executing the research designed at the state level for advancing knowledge in small grains. In addition, they only receive their funding based on satisfactory performance from year to year. We are requesting full support of one student including stipend, tuition, and benefits. The second student is currently supported on a grant through the Ag Foundation

**Data Collection & Harvest Support**

A portion of this proposal is to pay temporary and undergraduate labor, travel to locations for data collection and plot quality checks, and to repair and maintain vehicles and equipment. The current hourly and graduate staff includes: Eliza Hardy, Khadeja Sadki, Robert Monk, and Taylor Brinkley. The Small Grains Extension program, in conjunction with the NC OVT, assists multiple programs with planting, plot maintenance, and harvest support. In addition, we support these activities for agents across many counties each year, sometimes at as many as 20 locations. Funding support is imperative for general maintenance of all small grains equipment to keep it in good working condition. The majority of our repair and maintenance budgets each year are spent on combines and sprayers, some of which are aging in the program. However, we are able to keep them going with regular and preventative maintenance so we can continue to support programs who do not own this equipment, but have need of its capacity once or twice per year, particularly in the counties. For programs which require our support regularly, we request funding from them directly; however, for agent support we try to offer our services for as free or low cost as possible so they can execute tests and get relevant data back to growers at the local level. The number of supported harvest activities varies by year. In the past we have supported harvests for, Stephanie Kulesza, Peter Ojiambo, Kristin Hicks, Miguel Castillo, Luke Gatiboni, Ramon Leon, Wes Everman, Carl Crozier, and Christina Cowger.

In the past we have supported testing for the following agents: Andrew Baucom, Mikayla Graham, Tim Hambrick, Tim Britton, Daryl Anderson, Al Wood, Austin Brown, Jenny Carleo, Scott Tilley, Rod Gurganus, Andrea Gibbs, Matthew Leary, Adam Formella, Dylan Lilley, Morgan Menaker, Morgan Watts, and Mac Malloy.

Data from agronomic field trials are released as individual factsheets, research reports and are incorporated into the Small Grains Production Guide when changes to best management practices are warranted. We also utilize these data to educate growers at the Winter Grain Production Meetings each year.

**RELATIONSHIP TO SIMILAR PROJECTS, IN NC AND OTHER STATES:**

Each state with small grains acreage has their own program for agronomic testing. We are one of the few states remaining which still has an extension presence in every county. Support of these county operations to execute field trials and disseminate data to growers at a local level is a great strength of our system here in NC. The state specialist should offer that support and underpinning wherever possible. However, funding for these activities is very competitive. Access to producer's checkoff dollars is a privilege and these funds should be used carefully to support local efforts so that producers can see their dollars at work and those local efforts should then add value to the state-level efforts for all growers. Here in North Carolina we strive to do an excellent job providing value back to growers from the checkoff dollars they dedicate to research and extension.

**FUNDS REQUESTED:**

**2023-24 ..... \$115,035**