

N.C. Cooperative Extension
Office of the Director of County Operations
NC State University
2501 Founders Drive, Suite 120
Campus Box 7602; Patterson Hall
Raleigh, NC 27695-7602



Henderson County

County/Worksite Location: Henderson County Cooperative Extension

Proposal/Program Area: ANR/CRD

Project Title: Improving Cultural Practices for Trees and Small Fruits

Immediate/ Site Supervisor: William Terry Kelley, Ph.D.

Other mentors/supervisors:

1	Karen Blaedow
2	Denise Sherrill
3	Steve Pettis

Project summary and intended outcomes:

This project is intended to help improve the production and profitability of small fruits and tree fruits in Henderson County. This industry is worth over \$35 million to the Henderson County Economy. While tree fruits are an established commodity, small fruits are emerging. There is much work to be done to establish best practices for Henderson County producers. In small fruits, variety selection is critical and varieties are being evaluated for their local suitability. In tree fruits, proper fertilization and irrigation practices are lagging in the local industry and proper techniques for these practices must be established to improve tree establishment, survivability and long term production. Various small fruit varieties will be trialed as well as various fertility regimes and irrigation practices on tree fruits. The outcome will be that producers will adopt more suitable cultivars and practices for these industries to ensure their long term profitability.

What qualifications and previous coursework does the student need in order to be prepared for this internship, if any?

Basic plant systems knowledge is preferred but not required. Knowledge of soils and plant nutrition is also preferred but not required.

What benefits/skills will the student gain through this internship?

The student will learn how to establish and maintain research plots and will also learn how applied research



is conducted and how it can benefit extension clientele. The student will participate in planning, implementation and completion of these studies and in the delivery of information to growers. The student will learn how the Land Grant system works, experience hands on experience in plant systems, learn to work with the public, help set up and organize meetings and speak to audiences about projects that are in process in a field day setting.