

**INTRO** – MANY FARMERS LIVE WITH A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT THIS IS THE YEAR THEY LOSE THEIR FARM. A PARTNERSHIP THAT INCLUDES EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY IS DOING THEIR PART TO HELP COMBAT FARM STRESS.

**PKG TRT - 1:37**

**0:00 – 0:05 - Archie Griffin – Griffin Farms, INC**

**1:03 – 1:07 - Dr. Robin Tutor Marcom – NC Agromedicine Institute Director**

**Archie** - You're on the verge of losing everything. You're on the verge of losing what has been in the family for multiple generations.

You don't want to be the person that lets the family down.

The crops that we grow are corn, wheat, soybeans and our major crop is tobacco.

Generally, we start just after sunrise. I come in, get a bite to eat.

Then I'm going back out until I can't work any longer.

The weather recently is one thing after another.

When it comes to planting time, you are rushing against Mother Nature.

This year we had so much rain early on in the season.

Currently, we're facing a drought.

The stress that we face -- it's hard to put it into words and year after year it's getting tougher and tougher. Our input costs have risen drastically over the past 20 years. Our machinery costs -- three or four times, maybe five times more -- yet the price that we receive has continued to shrink.

At the end of the year, if we don't provide money, we don't survive.

There are days that you feel like throwing your hands up in the air and saying, 'I'm done,' and walking away from it.

**Robin** - We're here to help. The North Carolina Agromedicine Institute helps farmers by being the "go to source" for their health and safety both physical and emotionally.

**Archie** - It means a lot that people are actually thinking about us. It gives us a sense of comfort that we're not alone.

**Robin** - Agriculture is what drives our state. Agriculture contributes over 92 billion dollars to North Carolina's economy -- more than the military, more than tourism, more than technology, more than medicine. The most important thing is we need to sustain our farmers.

**PKG TAG** – THE NORTH CAROLINA AGROMEDICINE INSTITUTE IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ECU, NC STATE AND NORTH CAROLINA A & T STATE UNIVERSITY.

