

INTRO – MANY FARMERS LIVE WITH A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT THIS IS THE YEAR THEY LOSE THEIR FARM. THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION HAS SAID THE SUICIDE RATE FOR MALE “FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL MANAGERS” IS DOUBLE THAT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.

VO

FARM STRESS – WASHINGTON, NC

FARMERS SAY THINGS LIKE BAD WEATHER, RISING COSTS OF MACHINERY AND SEED -- WITH DIMINISHING RETURNS CAN PUT THEM ON THE VERGE OF LOSING THEIR FARM.

THIS DESPITE ALL OF THE LONG HARD HOURS THEY WORK.

HEADQUARTERED AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY... THOSE WITH NORTH CAROLINA AGROMEDICINE INSTITUTE SAY THEY ARE HERE TO HELP FARMERS GET THROUGH THESE TOUGH TIMES.

SOTS –

Archie Griffin – Griffin Farms, INC

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.

Or

Archie - 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.

Or

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

Or

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

Or

Dr. Robin Tutor Marcom – NC AGROMEDICINE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

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

Or

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.

VO CONT – THE NORTH CAROLINA AGROMEDICINE INSTITUTE IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ECU, NC STATE AND NORTH CAROLINA A & T STATE UNIVERSITY.