



## North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

March 25, 2020

Dear Members of the Law Enforcement Community,

I want to thank you for what you do every day for the citizens of North Carolina. Your work is even more critical in these difficult times than it has ever been. I have always relied on and appreciated the collaborative relationship that the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the agricultural community as a whole has had with the law enforcement community. I know I can count on that relationship as we meet head on our current challenge of serving North Carolina amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

As our state and nation continue to meet this challenge, some states, counties, and cities have adopted travel restrictions such as “shelter-in-place” and lock down orders. As the virus spreads, we can expect to see more such restrictions adopted. With such orders in place it will no doubt fall upon our great law enforcement officers in North Carolina to ensure that such measures are being followed responsibly.

It is to this end that I write to advise you of my plans moving forward and to request your help. Consistent with the Department of Homeland Security’s identification of the production and supply of food and agriculture as one of 16 critical infrastructure areas providing vital service to the nation, I will be designating certain personnel of the state’s agricultural commodity groups and associations as essential personnel that must continue to travel and perform their job duties amid various travel restrictions that may be implemented.

In addition to the permits I am issuing for NCDA&CS employees, I am also issuing a “Notice of Essential Food and Agriculture Employee” to agricultural commodity groups and other entities that are part of the food and agriculture critical infrastructure (a copy of which is attached to this letter). Like NCDA&CS employees, these workers have been instructed to present the notice signed by me along with a government issued identification if stopped by law enforcement. Should the law enforcement officer have any questions, each permit will contain a signed verification by the head of the agricultural group along with contact information. The agricultural groups are working to get these forms out to the appropriate personnel, but this may take a few days to fully implement.

Once more, I would like to reiterate how important the relationship between NCDA&CS, the agriculture community, and law enforcement is to me and ask for your cooperation as we continue to perform our

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essential functions. I greatly appreciate all that our great officers do every day and request your assistance as we as a society continue to battle these unprecedented conditions. Please share this letter with your membership and anyone else you deem appropriate. Please let me know if I can ever be of assistance to NCSA and the law enforcement community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven W. Troxler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven W. Troxler  
Commissioner

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