

Home Grown in North Carolina Council Patch Program

Girl Scouts - North Carolina Coastal Pines
6901 Pinecrest Road
Raleigh, NC 27613
(800) 284-4475

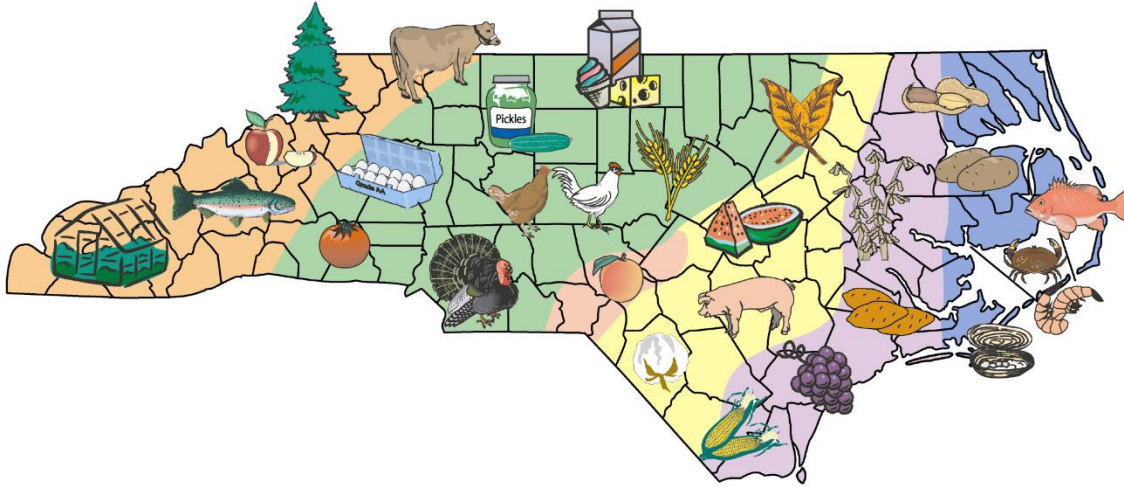
programteam@nccoastalpines.org



North Carolina's agriculture and agribusiness industry – including food, fiber, and forestry – account for one-sixth (or 16%!) of the state's income and employment. The agricultural [industry](#) contributes over \$100 billion to the state's economy and employs over 777,000 people. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) is the leading state agency for agriculture. Their goal is to provide services that improve agriculture, agribusiness, and forests, protect consumers and businesses, and conserve farmland and natural resources.

Activity Requirements

There are two pathways to earning the Home Grown in North Carolina patch. Girl Scouts may choose to complete either path. If girls are feeling ambitious, encourage them to complete both!



PATH A:

Required activity: Take a trip! Make plans to visit two of the following locations:

- Research Station (locations can be found at: <https://www.ncagr.gov/research-stations-our-18-locations>)
- State-run or local Farmers Market (locations can be found at: <https://gottobenc.com/find-local/farmers-markets/>)
- Agricultural Fair (fairs can be found at: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/marketing/fairs> or <https://ncagfairs.com/tracker>)
- Farm

While visiting, interview an employee and ask them what type of job they do and why this place is important to agriculture. After your visit, make a scrapbook page or write a journal entry about your experience.

Optional activities: choose three!

- **Go to Grocery Store!** Visit your local grocery store and look for the Goodness Grows in North Carolina label or the Got to Be NC label.
 - Write down five products with this label.
 - What does it mean if a product has this logo on the label?
 - Why is this label important to agriculture in our state?
 - What does it mean when you see the green local sign?
- **Weights and Measures.** The NCDA&CS inspect gas pumps and scales statewide. An inspection sticker is placed on the pump or scale once it is inspected. Name five places in your community you have seen this sticker.



- **Explore the Web.** Visit the NCDA&CS website (<https://www.ncagr.gov/>) and answer the following questions:
 - Who is the Commissioner of Agriculture and what is their job?
 - What is the name of the newspaper published monthly by the NCDA&CS?
 - Visit the Ag Statistics Division page. Find the top five commodities in our state.
 - Name the four farmer's markets and two fairs the department runs.
 - Go to the Human Resources Division and visit job listings and choose two jobs. What type of education must you have to take the jobs?
- **Food Diary.** Make a list of all the foods you eat for one week. Which foods are grown in North Carolina?
- **Visit a roadside produce stand or farmer's market booth.** With an adult, visit a roadside produce stand or booth at the farmer's market. Ask the grower the following questions:
 - What are they growing?
 - How many acres do they farm?
 - What is the easiest commodity to grow? What is the most difficult?
 - How long have they been farming?
 - Why do they farm?
- **Find the following things at a local farmers market and try them:**
 - Two seasonal fruits
 - Two seasonal vegetables
 - Honey
 - Salsa, jam, and/or butter

You can use this PDF to help you figure out what is in season:

https://files.nc.gov/ncoshr/Wellness_AvailabilityChart.pdf

- **Visit a local dairy farm.**
 - Learn how to milk a cow
 - Pet a cow
 - Learn what a cow eats
 - Ask the farmer what they do every day
 - Learn about the different types of cows
- **As a troop or with your family, order a local farm produce box delivery to experience local North Carolina goods at your home.**
 - The Produce Box (Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Hillsborough) <https://theproducebox.com/>
 - The Beet and Berry (Pitt County, Wayne County, Lenoir County, Greene County, and most of Craven County) <https://thebeetandberry.com/pages/where-we-deliver>
- **Plant your own garden** and be a part of the agriculture industry in North Carolina. Gardens come in all shapes and sizes – all it takes is one plant! Pick your favorite in-season vegetable or herb and plant it in a pot, container, or straight into the ground.
- **Make a map!** Research the different agricultural industries in North Carolina. Make a map that shows five different types of agriculture and where they are located. Is there a reason why these different industries are located where they are?

PATH B:

Go to the NC State Fair or a County fair! Write a summary of your visit and complete 5 additional activities from the list below. Please note that most activities must be completed while you are at the fair.

- Draw a picture or make a scrapbook page of your day at the fair.
- Visit a youth livestock show or auction and take a picture of the winner.
- Take a picture of the largest fruit and vegetable in the state.
- Visit the arts and photography section and write a description of a winning entry.
- Make a map of the fairgrounds and show the places you visited.
- Interview a fair employee or volunteer. Ask what job they do for the fair and how long they have worked for the fair. Write a brief summary of your interview.
- Make a list of the food you ate while at the fair. List the agricultural products used to make the food.
- Enter an item into competition at the Fair. This item can be in any category.
- List five animal breeds that were in competition or on display at the fair. What role does the animal play in agriculture?

Girl Scout Leader Resources

Please use the following websites for more information: www.ncagr.com and www.ncagfairs.org.