

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2  
**PLANT PATHOLOGY**  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**

*February 15, 2010*

**“Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.” — Martin Luther King, Jr., - Strength to Love, 1963**

## ATTENTION! UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/17-18/10 Winter Vegetable Conference**—Hosted by NC Tomato Growers Association at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville, NC. For more information contact Dr. David Monks at [david\\_monks@ncsu.edu](mailto:david_monks@ncsu.edu).
- 2/18/10 NC Commercial Blackberry & Raspberry Growers Association Annual Meeting**, to be held at Cleveland County Extension Center in Shelby, NC. For more information contact Dr. Tom Monaco at [tom\\_monaco@ncsu.edu](mailto:tom_monaco@ncsu.edu).
- 2/18/10 International Agriculture Marketing: Lessons from North Carolina’s Experts** will be held at **4 pm in 104 Fox Hall**. This is part of the Commissioner’s Speaker Series, who’s mission is to combine the resources of the CALS and Dept. of Ag. & Consumer Services to further prepare college students to lead in the agricultural business.
- 3/6-11/10 Graduation Education Week**—celebrating the work of graduate students, for more information log onto [www.ncsu.edu/grad/GEW](http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/GEW)
- 3/10/10 5th Annual NCSU Graduate Student Research Symposium**—Held at the Jane S. McKimmon Center. Plant Pathology’s Ph.D. students-Heather Olson, Cristiano Nunes, Lei Cheng, Geromy Moore, and Andrea Dolezal-will be presenting at the poster session that will be from **1:30 pm-4 pm**.
- 3/8/10 Successful Grant Writing Workshops**, 2 workshops will be held and registration is \$100 each. For more information log onto <http://www.srainternational.org/sra03/template/tntbNCcM10.cfm?id=2945>, membership is not required.
- 3/1/10 The Realities and Rewards of Farming as a Career Choice**—Ag Awareness Week Forum and part of the Commissioner’s Speaker Series will be held at **6 pm** in 3712 Bostian Hall.
- 3/15-19/10 Spring Break**; no classes
- 4/20-22/10 Bio-It World Conference and Expo ‘10**, will be held in Boston, MA, at the World Trade Center. Keynote Panel: The Future of Personal Genomics—a special plenary panel discussion. For more information log onto <http://Bio-ITWorldExpo.com>
- 4/26-30/10 Dead Week**; last week of Spring Semester Classes
- 5/3/10 Celebration of Teaching**—CALS Teaching and Advising Effectiveness Committee from **3 pm-4:30 pm**. This will be a reception and awards program recognizing the **2009-10 CALS Outstanding Teachers/Adviser**. Location and registration will follow at a later date.
- 5/18/10 CALS Teaching Effectiveness Workshop**; to be held in 308 Ricks Hall from 9 am-4 pm.

**Departmental 2010 Spring Seminars** will be held on Mondays at 4 pm in the Toxicology Auditorium, room 2104, located on Centennial Campus. The schedule can be viewed at <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/seminars/>

**Seminars of interest from other departments —**

2/17/10 **“De novo Shotgun Sequencing of Complex Genomes. Examples from Blueberry”** by *Dr. Allan Brown*, Associate Professor at Plants for Human Health Institute-NCSU Kannapolis, NC, in **2405 Williams Hall at 3:50 pm.**

3/23/10 **“Evolution of major patterns of intercontinental plant disjunctions”** by *Dr. Jun Wen*, from Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, in **101 David Clark Labs at 4 pm.**

3/30/10 **B.W. Wells Seminar. “Pattern Formation by Mobile Small RNAs”** by *Dr. Marja Timmermans*, from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory,

## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE

- ▶ **2010 APS Annual Meeting** will be held at **Opryland in Nashville, TN, from August 7 –11.** This year’s theme is **‘Creating Possibilities’**, which encourages attendees to embrace societal changes and create new opportunities for growth. Online submission for papers will be accepted until March 15, visit <http://meeting.apsnet.org> for details.
- ▶ **‘The Business Side of Agritourism’** workshop will be held on **March 10 from 9 am to 3:30 pm** at the Harnett County Extension Center. This is a follow up workshop to the agritourism workshop that was conducted April 2009. For information on this workshop, contact Gary Bullen at [gary\\_bullen@ncsu.edu](mailto:gary_bullen@ncsu.edu)
- ▶ University of Georgia (UGA) and Int’l Consortium for Ag. Systems Applications (ICASA) will be presenting **DSSAT 2010—Assessing Crop Production, Nutrient Management, Climate Risk, and Environmental Sustainability.** This international training program will be **held May 10-19, 2010**, at the UGA’s Griffin Campus. **Registration** before April 10 is \$1,500 and after April 10, it will be \$1,650. To register or to learn more about this event log onto <http://www.ICASA.net>
- ▶ The **NC MarketReady** website, <http://www.ncmarketready.org/>, provides access to a number of resources for growers and potential growers. One relatively new component is the **“Growers Information Portals”** area, which currently contains strawberry and blackberry/raspberry sections. These Growers Information Portals address various aspects of production of the respective crops. Other components of the NC MarketReady website include sections related to marketing, budgets, grants, food safety, and more.
- ▶ NC State will be outsourcing student e-mail to Google. **Mid Spring Semester Google Apps @ NC State beta will go live.** Approximately 5,000 students will be set up with Google Apps accounts, to ensure that authentication systems between NC State and Google adequately handle the new load. The goal is that by July 2010, the official student e-mail solution at NC State is in full production. This service is only for students at this time. This will provide greater e-mail storage capacity and an estimated savings of \$60K per year. For further detailed information log onto <http://google.ncsu.edu/about/>

## Keeping PP Connected...

☺ **Dr. Jean Ristaino** has been participating over the last 4 years in the Haitian Goat Project which, in light of the catastrophic earthquake recently, was featured on WRAL.com.

<http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/6876568/>

☺ **Mr. Troy Taylor** presented and successfully defended his Master's thesis on Monday, February 8th. Please join Drs. Lane Tredway, Ignazio Carbone and David Shew in offering your congratulations to Mr. Taylor.

☺ **Mr. Lee Miller** presented and successfully defended his doctorate also on Monday, February 8th. Please join Drs. Lane Tredway, Marc Cubeta, Mike Benson and Larry Grand in offering your congratulations to Mr. Lee. Also, guiding Lee's research are Candace Vick (Parks, Recreation & Tourism) and Michael Fidanza (External Member, Penn State University).

## BI-WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT REMINDER

Bi-weekly prospective employees who **are full-time students at NCSU** do not need to pass a background check before beginning work, but the Hiring Manger for bi-weekly employees does need to be notified so that the proper forms can be completed and the individual is entered in the system in a timely fashion.

Time sheets will need to be signed in blue ink. Time sheet signatures can not look like they have been photocopied and thus would raise a question of concern when being audited. It is not the Department's intent to add unnecessary and cumbersome processes. Instead, we want to pre-empt any negative situations. The timesheets need to be handed into the appropriate tray in the Accounting Office by the employee's supervisor. The official and preferred timesheet for the Department can be found at

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/administration/>

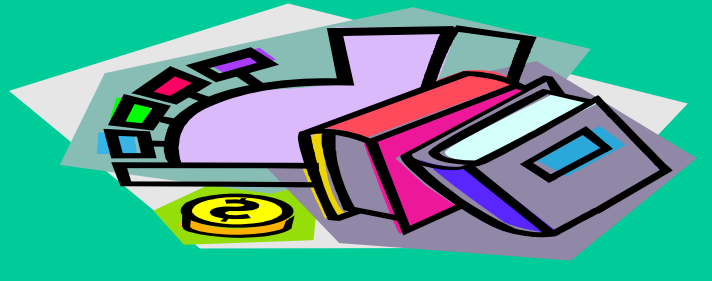
### FURTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Oklahoma State University is introducing a new graduate program, which blends classwork and research in **plant pathology and forensic sciences**.

The University has received funding from the USDA's National Needs Fellowship Program, which prepares young scientists for high priority careers in areas identified as National Needs (disciplines in which there are likely to be shortages in the near future). The NNF funding covers 4 graduate Fellows; two in the **M.S.** track and two in the **Ph.D.** track.. The University also has an USDA Plant Biosecurity Grant, which will support 3 graduate Fellows, all of whom should be **Ph.D.** students. Interested students should visit the website of the **National Institute for Microbial Forensics & Food and Agricultural Biosecurity** (<http://entopl.okstate.edu/nimffab/>), which has stories and photos of current NNF students and other activities that can help to give you a sense of our programs.

New graduate students should be able to begin at the start of either the Summer or Fall Semesters of 2010 (June or August). For application instructions, visit the website of the OSU Entomology and Plant Pathology Department (<http://entopl.okstate.edu/index.html>), and click on Graduate Program Application Guide.

From Accounting



**NEW SPARCS WEBSITE**—Under the direction of Vice Chancellor Terri Lomax, the creative eye of Lisa Currin Fogarty, Director of Communications in Research and Graduate Studies and the capable programming expertise of Kim Dick and Peter Schledorn of SPARCS, NCSU is proud to announce a newly designed SPARCS website: <http://www.ncsu.edu/sparcs/>

This new website capitalizes on lessons learned about navigation and content as demanded by our clientele - the faculty focused on discovery and scholarship and the staff who support them. The tabs across the top of the new site are organized in the same fashion as the old Faculty Toolbox while the left hand menu is organized in categories of administrative importance.

And the future is bright too. Contracts and Grants is redesigning their website also. It will have similar features and both SPARCS and C&G are endeavoring to build seamless integration between our sites for improved cradle-to-grave service for our clientele.

Finally, the SPARCS site is a subordinate site of the newly designed and deployed Research and Graduate Studies Research Gateway site created and maintained by Lisa Currin Fogarty. As you will find, that site is packed with new content and functionality never before seen on a Research site at NC State. Check it out while you are browsing at: <http://www.ncsu.edu/research/gateway/rgs/index.php>

If you have any questions, concerns, or appreciation of the new website please contact the Jennifer Williams at 515-6999 or Sheree Avent at 515-6669.

## **REMINDEERS:**



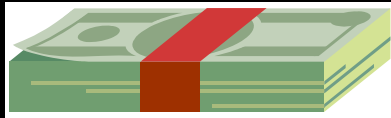
Don't forget when submitting a **personal reimbursement form**, make sure your [home address](#) is at the top of the form under your name, despite the fact the reimbursement will be direct deposited. It is important to also make sure that the form is signed by all required parties, as stated on the form that can be located by going to <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/administration/> and then clicking on the form.



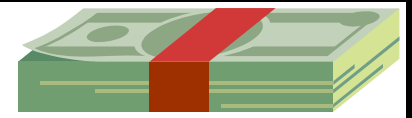
**VOUCHER REQUEST** need to be e-mailed to [ppvouchers@gm.ncsu.edu](mailto:ppvouchers@gm.ncsu.edu). Please give up to 24 hours of turn around time from requesting the voucher to actually receiving the voucher via e-mail.



Orders made to **ABD Serotec** no longer need to be made through Fischer Scientific, but can be made by ordering directly from their website, <http://www.abdserotec.com/>, which will save money on the orders and shipping costs.



## Proposals & Grants



**Sponsors:** University Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development Seed Grant Program

**Deadline:** March 12, 2010

Seed Grants are available for NC State faculty and EPA professionals to pursue one or more of the following program goals:

Program Development – initiate new and innovative programs that utilize NC State personnel expertise to address critical issues.

Professional Development – develop skills of faculty and EPA professionals to enhance the application of appropriate methodologies and the capacity to do extension work.

Student Engagement – Engage students with faculty and professionals to address critical issues and participate in the selection and implementation of appropriate methodologies.

Partnership Development – Develop and position collaborative, interdisciplinary and external partnerships to create comprehensive responses to critical issues. Position interdisciplinary teams to attract external funding and resources for extension efforts by providing support for grant writing expertise and assistance.

Successful proposals must address the use of the seed funds towards sustainability of the project, whether through internal or external funding sources. Proposals that include interdisciplinary collaborations during the planning and implementation phase, substantive student involvement, and strategies to become self-sustaining are strongly encouraged.

Proposals should address one of the five focus areas:

- Producing leaders for the state, nation, and world
- Creating educational innovation
- Improving health and well being
- Fueling economic development

Driving innovation in energy and the environment

*Proposals that are deemed by reviewers to be only research proposals will not be considered.* Extension, engagement, and economic development proposals are distinguished from research proposals in that EEED projects:

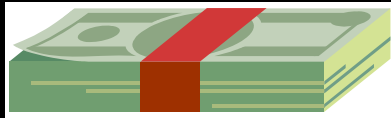
- Apply research-based knowledge to a well-defined problem;
- Test innovative solutions and applications for expected results;
- Influence professional practice;
- Improve quality of life and benefit the public good, particularly NC citizens;
- Identify and develop reciprocal relationships with external constituencies;

Include a communication and dissemination plan.

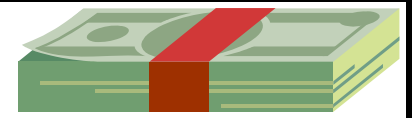
Approximately \$150,000 will be available for fiscal year 2010-2011. The maximum Seed Grant award will be \$10,000. The funding cycle will end June 30, 2011, at which time any unused or unencumbered funds will transfer back to the Office of Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development. Projects will not be renewed. Carry-over from one fiscal year to the next is contingent upon approval.

Applicants will enter proposals into PINS by the submission deadline of March 12 through the following web site: <http://www.ncsu.edu/sparcs/pins/>

Details, questions, or concerns please contact Jennifer Williams at 515-6999.



## Proposals & Grants



**Sponsors: Corn Growers Assoc. Of NC, NC Soybean Producers Assoc., NC Cotton Producers Assoc., and NC Small grain Growers Assoc.**

At the annual Joint Conference that occurred in New Bern, NC, the above sponsors approved financial support of the following programs:

Corn Growers Association of NC: 6 scholarships, **\$63,000 research**, \$20,000 support to county agents

NC Soybean Producers Association: **\$470,000 research and extension projects**

NC Cotton Producers Association: Approximately **\$221,160 research and extension projects**

NC Small Grain Growers Association: **\$198,000 research and extension projects**, \$5,000 to 4-H

For more information please contact Jennifer Williams at 515-6999

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### **OTHER FINANCIAL OPPROTUNITIES:**

The **National Science Foundation** has announced its 13<sup>th</sup> annual competition for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Program. **Pre-proposals are due by March 29, 2010**, and full proposals (by invitation only) are due by September 30, 2010. **Each award will be up to \$3.0 million total over a period of 5 years.**

Give your project the best possible chance of success by working with ITECS Innovative Consulting. They can help develop the right proposal team, manage the proposal writing process, and differentiate your proposal from the competition.

ITECS helps businesses, universities and nonprofits fund, develop and commercialize research. ITECS proposal development process can improve the probability of capturing this research funding. To date, we have helped our clients win over \$100 million in federal and state research funding, and we have a 44 percent hit rate with universities proposals.

Time is of the essence. If interested in assistance in positioning your submission for successful funding, please contact **Barbara McCutchan**, Ph.D., Proposal Management, at [BMcCutchan@ITECS-Innovative.com](mailto:BMcCutchan@ITECS-Innovative.com) or 203-912-1976.

### **Background**

The IGERT program has been developed to meet the challenges of educating U.S. Ph.D. scientists and engineers who will pursue careers in research and education, with the interdisciplinary backgrounds, deep knowledge in chosen disciplines, and technical, professional, and personal skills to become, in their own careers, leaders and creative agents for change. The program is intended to catalyze a cultural change in graduate education, for students, faculty, and institutions, by establishing innovative new models for graduate education and training in a fertile environment for collaborative research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. It is also intended to facilitate diversity in student participation and preparation, and to contribute to a world-class, broadly inclusive, and globally engaged science and engineering workforce.

For more information see <http://itecsinsider.com/?p=12668#more-12668>.

# Employment Opportunities

## **Professor & Director, School of Food Science** University of Idaho & Washington State University

*Position start date 7/1/10*

The Director will provide transparent leadership in strategic direction, oversight of planning activities, professional development and promotion, Academic and Research Program assessment and enhancement, personnel recruitment and management. The Director must actively promote and foster interaction among Programs at our various locations and supports external development opportunities. The Director will integrate the School's teaching, outreach and basic and applied research activities, to provide appropriate, innovative, timely and novel technologies and practices for the well-being and benefit of commercial food processing industries and the citizens of Idaho, Washington and the world. The Director will facilitate the continued rise in the School's national and international reputation. In addition, the Director must be proficient in developing, overseeing and managing budgets and resources efficiently and instrumental in building and strengthening Departmental relationships with professionals, processors, commodity groups, industry and professional organizations and other stakeholders. The Director reports to the Deans of the College of Agricultural and Life Science (CALs, UI) and the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS, WSU). Review of applications begins January 15, 2010. Applicants must have earned Doctorates in Food Science or a related discipline. An overall record tenurable at the rank of Professor. A record of excellence in leadership in at least two of the following four areas: (1) Food Science related research; (2) teaching and learning or interactive communication; (3) outreach or Extension Programs; or, (4) academic administration. Proof of excellence in attracting competitive funding, promoting productive teamwork and facilitating and developing the full potential of diverse individuals and disciplines. Screening of application materials will begin January 15, 2010. To apply, please submit: 1) a letter of application, addressing each of the required and desired qualifications;

2) your vision to lead the School toward its potential; 3) a Curriculum Vita; and 4) please have three individuals provide (directly to us) a signed, written evaluation of your qualifications, relative to the position responsibilities. For information and application status, contact:

Larry Branen by phone, 208-292-2540, or e-mail / [branen@uidaho.edu](mailto:branen@uidaho.edu).

Send all materials to:

Lisa Clyde, EEO Coordinator; Washington State University, CAHNRS/WSU Extension; P.O. Box 646248; Hulbert Hall, Rm. 413; Pullman, WA 99164-6248

[eeocoord@wsu.edu](mailto:eeocoord@wsu.edu)  
509-335-2822

Fax: 509-335-2926

## **Assistant Professor**

The University of Texas at Tyler

*Open until filled*

**Seeking individuals with a Ph.D. and evidence of teaching excellence and research productivity.** Successful candidates should have a strong commitment to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and to develop a productive research program involving undergraduate and Master's-level students that can attract external funding. The successful candidate will be **expected to teach introductory courses in Plant Biology and an advanced course in their area of expertise.** Preferred areas of research interest include plant pathology, plant ecology, and plant physiology. **Please submit** (in PDF format) a letter of application, curriculum vitae, unofficial transcripts, a description of research plans, statement of teaching philosophy, and names and email addresses of at least three references to Blake Bextine, Search Committee Chair, [bbextine@uttyler.edu](mailto:bbextine@uttyler.edu). **Review of applications will begin February 15, 2010** and will continue until the position is filled. This position is security-sensitive and subject to Texas Education Code Section 51.215. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Blake Bextine at the e-mail address above or by calling, 903-566-7323.

For additional details on this position, visit

[http://apsnet.org/careers/jobfind\\_details.asp?job=3648](http://apsnet.org/careers/jobfind_details.asp?job=3648)

# Employment Opportunities

## Soybean Pathology and Discovery Lead

Monsanto Company—St. Louis, MO

*Open Until Filled*

**Monsanto's Soybean Breeding Agronomic Traits Group**, an innovative research group that provides support to the Global Soybean Breeding organization in developing superior soybean varieties with excellent disease and stress tolerance. This **position will require** the initiative and foresight to oversee daily routine operations associated with a comprehensive soybean germplasm disease resistance screening and discovery program. **The primary objective** will be to ensure the timely delivery of disease data to the Global Soybean Breeding organization in support of variety development and other customers including various molecular marker development teams in support of marker-facilitated breeding. **The incumbent is expected** to develop high throughput screening protocols, map quantitative trait loci underlying resistance, and develop marker-assisted selection strategies for target diseases of soybean by combining cutting edge technologies in plant pathology, robotics and automation, imaging, IT, genomics and molecular markers. **Responsibilities include:** Plan and schedule routine activities for the program; Data management, analysis and report generation; Development of innovative high throughput disease assays; Manage a diverse team of scientists; coordinate short, mid, and long term collaborative research activities with the rest of the Agronomic Traits team, Soybean Breeding, Breeding Technology, and Biotechnology personnel in a timely and efficient manner. **A PhD degree in Plant Pathology** or a related plant science discipline and 4 or more years in research experience focused on plant pathology, genetics or related field is required. Experience with plant breeding methodologies, molecular marker technology, and experimental designs preferred. Proficiency with database management. Experience in people management and proven leadership are a plus. Excellent track record of scientific research in academia or industry. Interested parties need to **contact Sara Schwabe at 314-694-2319**.

## Assistant Professor (tenure-track)

Goodnight Family Sustainable Development Program—Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)

*Position starts August 2010*

Seek a talented scholar/practitioner to strengthen the BS concentration in Agroecology & Sustainable Agriculture. This is a **9 months position with possibility for summer teaching**. **Candidates are expected** to provide classroom and laboratory instruction in Farm Management and Livestock Production & Management, as well as in courses such as Science for Sustainability, Global Systems Science, Principles of Sustainable Development, and Principles of Agroecology. **Responsibilities also include** developing new undergraduate/graduate courses in Agroecology/ Sustainable Agriculture; advising undergraduate and graduate students; serving on thesis committees; producing scholarly work in research, publications and grant writing; and participating in university and community service. **Preferred qualifications:** PhD and experience in one or more of the following areas: Animal Science/Husbandry, Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness or Farm Management. ABD with completion by December 2010 may be considered. Dedication to quality learner-centered teaching in both theory and practice; applied professional experience in small farm management and sustainable livestock production; evidence of experience in outreach and community service. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, which includes a statement of your understanding of sustainable agriculture, curriculum vitae, and the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of five references. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. **Applicants may contact Dr. Christof den Biggelaar at 828-262-7268 or [denbiggelaar@appstate.edu](mailto:denbiggelaar@appstate.edu).**

Please submit applications electronically (pdf only) to [agresearch@appstate.edu](mailto:agresearch@appstate.edu).

# HR News

## TAX “EXEMPT” STATUS MUST BE RENEWED BY FEBRUARY 16TH

If you filed “*Exempt*” status in 2009 on either your federal W-4, Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate and/or NC-4, North Carolina Department of Revenue Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate, **the exemption ends on February 16, 2010.** This exempt status stops either federal or state withholding taxes from being deducted from your paychecks depending on which form is filed. **The last payrolls with will be covered by this exemption are 20102R17 for biweekly employees and 2010R08 for monthly employees.** If an employee qualifies for exempt status for 2010, a new W-4 and/or NC-4 form via **My Pack Portal>Employee Self Service>Payroll and Compensation>NC4/24 Tax Application.**

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## PREPARE FOR STATE HEALTH PLAN CHANGES

On July 1, 2009, the NC General Assembly voted to provide eligible State employees with insurance coverage in the State Health Plan (*SHP*) at the **PPO Basic 70/30** level, with incentives to qualify for a higher level by meeting certain wellness criteria—focus on tobacco use and weight management. The first wellness initiative will be implemented **effective July 1, 2010.** If you and your covered family do not use tobacco products or are participating in a qualified smoking cessation program, you will be able to elect a higher level of coverage (*PPO 80/20 plan*) during annual enrollment. Annual enrollment is around mid-March and all employees and their dependents will automatically default to the **PPO Basic 70/30** plan.

If you and your covered dependents do not use tobacco, you must take action during annual enrollment in order to take advantage of the **80/20** plan. To opt for the **PPO 80/20** plan, you must complete the required **Attestation Form** during annual enrollment, this form is legally binding and must be completed each year to enroll in the **80/20** plan. The Attestation Form states that you nor your covered dependents use tobacco products.

If you and/or your covered family members use tobacco products and are not participating in a qualified smoking cessation program, or if no one uses tobacco and you want the **70/30** coverage anyway, you do not have to take any action during annual enrollment and you will remain in the **PPO Basic 70/30** plan.

If you and/or your covered family members do use tobacco products **BUT** are participating in a qualified smoking cessation program, you must take action during the annual enrollment. To **opt for the PPO 80/20** plan under the exemption provisions, you must complete the required online or paper **Attestation Form** during annual enrollment confirming participation in a qualified smoking cessation program. Additionally plan members who attest to qualify for this exemption must **obtain a Physician Certification Form.** The completed form **must include a dated signature from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant.** Members should keep the original, completed certification form for their records, as the Plan may request it at any time. This form will be available during annual enrollment.

For additional questions contact Michael Boykin, Plant Pathology’s Benefits Consultant, by phone at 515-4316 or by e-mailing [michael\\_boykin@ncsu.edu](mailto:michael_boykin@ncsu.edu).