



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Date: October 12, 2016

### **Wayne County AG Update**

Wayne County, NC – As Wayne County continues to respond to this historical flooding event, the Emergency Operations Center wants to share the latest agricultural update from Kevin Johnson, County Extension Director for the Wayne County Center and the NC Cooperative Extension:

“We have been trying to get around and assess the damage,” states Mr. Johnson. “The damage from Saturday alone was monumental. Between 10 am and 5pm we got 11 inches of rain, including three inches between 2:00 and 3:00 pm. NASS/USDA monitor weather and Goldsboro got over 16 inches from Matthew which was the highest total in North Carolina.”

Saturday’s rainfall created flash flooding county wide, putting Wayne County fields, roads, homes, schools, and livestock operations in jeopardy. At that time, a minimum of eight poultry houses were lost to high water, killing over 100,000 birds. Thousands of acres of crops were underwater. Many areas of the county lost power, which prevented Ag facilities from being able to operate.

With Matthew’s initial impacts over, more Wayne County livestock facilities are at risk from flooding rivers and creeks. Just getting feed and other needs to facilities can be difficult and in many cases impossible.

It is difficult to judge the losses in the county’s field crops. Most tobacco and corn have been harvested. Many acres of soybeans, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and cotton have been damaged or lost.

“The situation is grave,” adds Mr. Johnson. “There is also damage from wind. Many barns sheds buildings were damaged. Now farm equipment could be lost to flooding. We’ve got a long road ahead.”

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