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Blake Brown is the Hugh C. Kiger Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University. Since 1991 Dr. Brown has been a professor and extension economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. He has spent much of his career as a policy analyst working on farm policy, particularly tobacco policy. A major focus was working with policy makers on the \$9.6 billion tobacco buyout. He still focuses much of his effort on tobacco economics, particularly changes in regulatory and trade policies.

After the tobacco buyout Dr. Brown spearheaded efforts to focus additional resources within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on value-added and alternative agriculture. In 2009 in collaboration with the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission he created the North Carolina Value-Added Cost Share Program that has provided over \$1.1 million in cost share funding to assist agricultural producers and processors add or expand value-added operations.

In 2014 Blake became director of the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Commission Agricultural Leadership Development Program. He has previously assisted program director Dr. Bill Collins with this flagship College leadership program for farmers and agribusinesses. Dr. Brown also has responsibility for peanut economics.

Dr. Brown earned his Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University. Before becoming a professor at NCSU, he worked as an area extension agent providing farm management assistance in central North Carolina. He also worked as a livestock extension agent prior to becoming a farm management agent and has a BS in Animal Science. He is married with one son. He grew up on a beef cattle and burley tobacco farm near Boone, North Carolina.

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