



Local food today. A healthier system tomorrow.

Carolina Farm Trust Update to Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners



To change the food system, we must change who it's built for.

AGENDA

- Carolina Farm Trust Mission
- CFT Market Update
- Mecklenburg County Contract Review
- Carolina Farm Trust Current Status



OUR MISSION

We build a regional food system designed to nourish, employ, and empower—by investing in local farms, protecting farmland, expanding access to nutrient-dense food, and training the next generation of growers.

Our mission goes beyond farming. We reconnect people to food as a source of health, restore farmland as a vital part of community infrastructure, and uplift farmers as builders of equity and resilience, promoting systemic food change through health, equity, and sustainability.

This is a system designed for long term *impact*—reducing the burden on healthcare, increasing economic mobility, and ensuring every community has access to food that *truly fuels a better future*.





Change Starts at the *Local Level*

Creating a local food system model in Charlotte that can be replicated, will build equitable access to local, affordable food options, improve key health indicators, and foster environmental sustainability.

01

IDENTIFY
NETWORK OF
LOCAL /
REGIONAL
FARMERS &
GROWERS

02

FACILITATE
PARTNERSHIPS
WITH LOCAL
COMMUNITIES,
GOVERNMENTS,
SMALL & LARGE
Corporations,
Retail
Consumers,,
NONPROFITS
AND SCHOOLS

03

INVEST IN
THE LOCAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
NEEDED TO PROCESS,
DISTRIBUTE &
CREATE FOOD; TEACH
ON-SITE

04

INTENTIONALLY
EMBED IN
COMMUNITIES TO
SUPPORT FOOD
INSECURITY &
ACCESS

05

EXECUTE
COMPREHENSIVE
PROGRAMS TO
SUPPORT
FARMING,
NUTRITION,
HEALTH & FOOD
PRODUCTION /
CONSERVATION



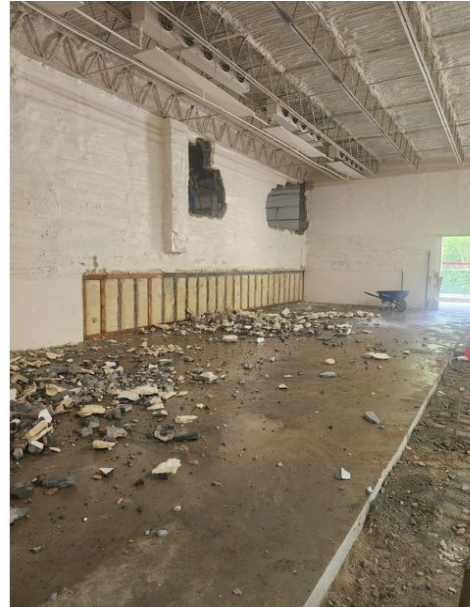
CFT Market: From Vision to Reality

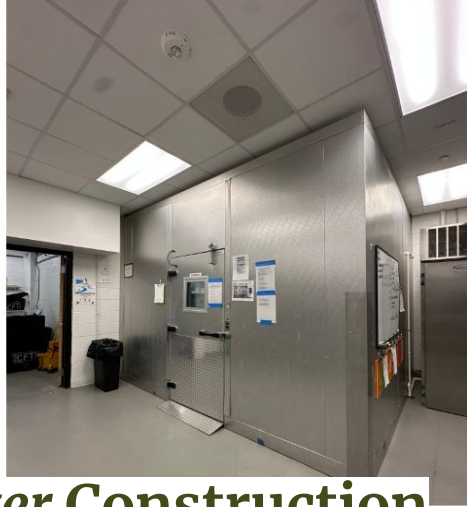
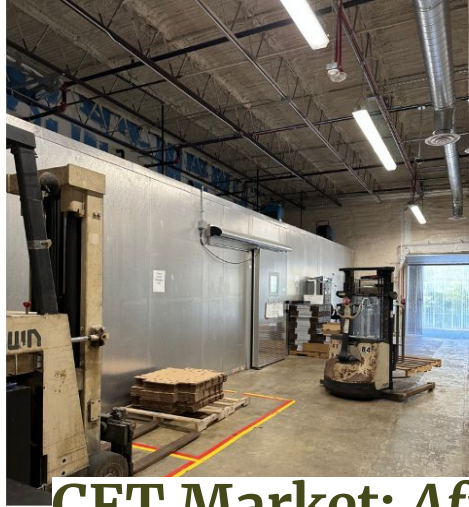


CFT Market: *Before* Construction



CFT Market: *During Construction*





CFT Market: After Construction





CFT Market Investment Breakdown

Every dollar invested supports local food access, infrastructure, and community resilience.

- Renovation Costs: \$6.2 Million
- Equipment Costs: \$1.2 Million
- Fleet: \$275,000
- IT Infrastructure: \$250,000
- Operations:
 - 2022: \$733,473
 - 2023: \$1,708,534
 - 2024: \$2,883,221
 - 2025: \$2,179,265



Impact and Community Outcomes

- 25 local jobs created
- World Central Kitchen: 23,269 Meals Oct/Nov 2024
- 2022 to Date Revenue generated to NC/SC Farms: **\$646,047**
- 147 CFT Pop Up Markets in 2025/Mobile SNAP
- 57 Total NC/SC Farms

Community Partnerships

- The Park Church
- Archwell Health
- Centerwell
- North Carolina Central University
- Brighter Day Ministries
- Freedom Fight Missionaries
- Isabella Santos Foundation
- ART POP
- Heal Charlotte
- Metro School



Mecklenburg County Senior Nutrition

Fiscal Year 2025 (Oct 2024 – June 2025)

- Senior Nutrition provided **20,405 lbs.** of produce to **505** customers per month at **13** locations

Fiscal Year 2026 (July – Aug 2025)

- Senior Nutrition provided **6,045 lbs.** of produce to **470** customers per month at **11** locations



Carolina Farm Trust: Mecklenburg CRC Partnership

Fiscal Year 2025 (Oct 2024 – June 2025)

- Ella B. Scarborough CRC: Served 1,286 households / 3,422 individuals, distributing 9,457 lbs. of food
- Valerie C. Woodard CRC: Served 1,729 households / 4,600 individuals, distributing 10,530 lbs. of food

Fiscal Year 2026 (July – Aug 2025)

- Ella B. Scarborough CRC: Served 204 households / 487 individuals, distributing 945 lbs. of food
- Valerie C. Woodard CRC: Served 466 households / 729 individuals, distributing 1,187 lbs. of food

Challenges and Opportunities

Current Challenges

- \$2.5M loss due to FY25 Federal Budget not passing
- \$850K delayed and tied up in FY26 Federal Budget during the shutdown
- Short-term funding gap impacting operations and program expansion

Emerging Opportunities

- Demand is up – increasing community need and engagement
- More time to grow revenue – focusing on local sales, partnerships, and grants
- First Non Profit Grocery store is permitted and shovel-ready – construction will launch once funding is secured

511

Please post this sign on a window so that it is visible from the street. Failure to do so may delay inspections. For inspections call (704) 336-8000

Mecklenburg County Building Document

Permit No: B4736858
Issued Date: 11/19/2024
Contractor: BALFOUR BEATTY
CONSTRUCT LLC
Parcel No: 06302102
Address: 511 S HOSKINS RD

Lien Agent
Agent: Chicago Title Company, LLC
Phone: (888) 690-7384
Fax: (919) 489-5231
Email: support@liensnc.com
Mailing Address: 19 W Hargett ST Unit: 507,
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Physical Address: 19 W Hargett ST Unit: 507,
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Lien Agent No: 1987763

SCOPE OF WORK

Project Name (Description of Work)

Food Distribution Center- Retail & Meat Processing - Complete renovation of 2 existing buildings. The main building will upgrade and compartmentalize the cold storage areas, convert a warehouse space into a commercial kitchen, and multipurpose event space. A new lobby, restrooms, and primary circulation will be created. The meat building will convert a smaller food processing facility into a meat processing facility. Structural scope is limited to new doors/windows in existing masonry walls and repairing the brick facade of the meat building.

EXPANDED SCOPE OF WORK



Farm Quotes

- *“We love working with Zack and CFT! We’ve been able to sell a lot to them which of course helps our bottom line, but also helps us find homes for some produce that we would otherwise have to toss. They’re great to work with.” – Joe and Amy Rohrer, Boy and Girl Farm*
- *“Russell Brothers Farms has been working alongside Carolina Farm Trust for the last year. In doing so we have been delighted to know that we are able to provide families with 100% grass fed beef. It is so important to us as a business to make people aware that nutritional foods are accessible to them without having to pay top dollar. We look forward to continuing being a beef supplier for Carolina Farm Trust for the years to come.” – Cameron Russell, Russell Brothers Farm*
- *“Working with Carolina Farm Trust has had a great positive impact on our farm. Their ability to purchase larger quantities more often has enabled us to invest in infrastructure improvements that most small farms don’t get to do. Working with CFT has allowed us to build an air chill room for our meat poultry, purchase an egg washer, and increase our feed capacity with large feed bins for feed storage. Their ability to keep purchasing from us makes a huge impact on our farm and local economy!” – Jeremiah Shalvey, Free Folk Pastures*



Thank You

Zack Wyatt

President and CEO, Carolina Farm Trust

zack@carolinafarmtrust.org

(C) 704-264-6088

CAROLINAFARMTRUST.ORG

 @carolinafarmtrust

 @carolinafarmtrust

 @NCSCFarmTrust

*We are the supply chain shift
we've been waiting for.*

APPENDIX

- I. Regional Food System
- II. CFT Map



I.



