A. PROJECT TITLE
Factors Affecting Youth Decision-making Concerning Agricultural Tasks

B. PROJECT OFFICER(s)
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C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This study addresses the heightened need for information regarding the ways youths working on North Carolina farms make decisions regarding the hazards of working in agriculture. It is designed as a pilot project to lay the groundwork for a longer-term project that assesses the occupational risks facing young farm workers throughout the U.S. South. Using Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Procedures (e.g. open-ended interviewing, focus groups, social and cultural mapping), project staff are collecting data from African-American, Latino, and White males and females under the age of 18 who are working on farms, as well as from knowledgeable individuals who work with young women and men on the farm. Data collected includes probing about working and living conditions, risks of occupational injury/illness, and the social contexts of injuries and illnesses, etc. Group interviews and other methods are used to flesh out data collected in open-ended interviews. Data will be analyzed by post-coding for SPSS and with the use of a text analysis program, searching for key themes to use in constructing hypotheses for the larger, multi-state project.

D. PROJECT START AND END DATES
October 1, 2001 – September 30, 2003

E. PROJECT BUDGET
1) Total project expenditure for the year (Oct 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003) excluding in kind contributions and other funding aside from NIOSH. $20,205.00

2) In kind project funding for the year (Oct 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003) none

3) Outside funding (other than NIOSH) for the year (Oct 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003). none

F. PROJECT ACTIVITIES / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1) Griffith has traveled to the target counties in the southeast portion of the state (Duplin, Craven, Bertie, Henderson and Bladen) to observe farming practices and the layouts of farms and to make contacts with local members of the farming communities. Major crop and livestock production on these farms are apples,
tobacco, cucumbers, cotton, hogs, chickens and turkeys.

2) The PIs have been collecting background data (census, cropping statistics, etc.) in each of the target counties. Activities and resultant findings include:
   a) Hired farm labor -- Duplin, Henderson, Bladen, Craven, Bertie, Rowan rated most to the least dependent of hired labor in that order.
   b) Interviews with 27 male and female youths including Anglo, Hispanic, and African Americans showed youths engage in variety of hazardous behaviors in part because they perform the same tasks as adults, are subject to peer pressures, and move between work and play around hazardous areas of the farm.
   c) Interviews with over 30 others knowledgeable about farming practices and youth in the target counties were done looking at hazardous tasks and the use of protective equipment.
   d) Transect walks on farms (walks through farms with youth and farm owners to locate hazards) revealed many hazards are not perceived as hazardous by youths or farm operators, (e.g. small machinery like weed eaters or lawn mowers, livestock confinement areas, or livestock).

G. PROJECT PRODUCTS
   1) Presentations:
   2) Publications: None
   3) Education / Training / Outreach:
      a) Training Seminars: None
      b) Short Courses: none
      c) Hazard Surveys / Consultations:
      d) Focus Groups conducted with African American youth, White Male youth and White Female youth
      e) Academic Training
      f) Web Site: www.ncagromedicine.org/scac
      g) News Letters: None
      h) CDROMs or other Computer Based Training Programs: None
      i) Other: None
   4) Conferences / Meetings Sponsored: None
   5) Other Products: none

H. STATES THE PROJECT WAS ACTIVE IN
   North Carolina

I. COLLABORATION
   None