



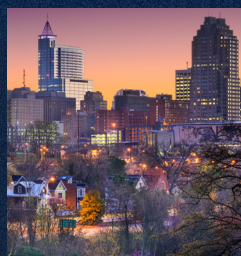
NORTH CAROLINA

LEADING INNOVATION FOR THE
FUTURE OF FOOD & BEVERAGE



**NORTH CAROLINA
REPRESENTS AN
IDEAL GEOGRAPHICAL
LOCATION FOR US –
BRINGING US CLOSER
TO OUR NATIONAL
CUSTOMERS AND THEIR
DELIVERY POINTS.**

Michael Iaslovits,
President, Meel Corp



NORTH CAROLINA:

PRIMED FOR THE FUTURE OF FOOD & BEVERAGE

INDUSTRY LEADERS CHOOSE NORTH CAROLINA

Campbell's

Smithfield

Nutkao

 **Poppies
Bakeries**

BELIEVER

 **Mt. Olive**
SINCE 1926


MORINAGA

 **Tyson**

WHERE FOOD AND BEVERAGE THRIVE

180M+
CUSTOMERS

North Carolina's mid-Atlantic location and superb transportation network provide access to over 180 million hungry customers within a day's drive.

#4
LARGEST FOOD INDUSTRY

North Carolina's statewide food and beverage processing industry generated \$15 billion of the state's GDP in 2021, making it the fourth largest in the US.

FOOD INNOVATION

North Carolina's rich history in agriculture, combined with strong life sciences and biotechnology communities, make this an optimal location for innovative food and beverage companies. Food technology companies, including cultivated meat company Believer Meats, continue to select North Carolina to grow their business.

POSITIONED FOR SUCCESS

North Carolina's geographic position and superb transportation network provide access to millions of hungry customers. Our prime Eastern seaboard location is especially invaluable as it enables the variety of foods produced here to quickly join the Food and Beverage supply chain locally, domestically and internationally.

North Carolina's Top Contributions to the Food & Beverage Supply Chain



THE PERFECT CLIMATE FOR GROWING TALENT

North Carolina has 52 colleges and universities including three Tier 1 research universities, and the second most historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the country. North Carolina State University's resources include the Center for Advanced Processing & Packaging Studies and the Sensory Service Center, which provides targeted food testing that helps solve flavor problems.

The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) is the nation's third-largest community college system. It offers degrees and certificates relevant to the food processing industry such as food science and technology, foodservice technology, applied animal science technology, and horticulture technology to name a few.

1,000+ OPERATIONS

North Carolina is home to over 1,000 food and beverage manufacturing operations. 21 of the 50 largest food and beverage companies in North America have operations in North Carolina.

70K+ EMPLOYEES

More than 70,000 people work directly in North Carolina's food and beverage industry, ranking second in the Southeast US for total jobs in this sector. Jobs in the industry have grown 13% in the past 10 years, ensuring a pipeline of talent.

INDUSTRY RESOURCES

North Carolina has numerous programs and research centers that support food and beverage businesses, including:

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) operates research and support facilities across the state. The organization provides agribusiness development services for food-related businesses. The inhouse Food & Drug Protection Division meets with prospective and existing companies to explain, review, and plan for regulations. The department is also responsible for "Got to Be NC", a marketing initiative aimed at increasing the visibility of local products.

The NC Food Innovation Lab (NCFIL) is a partnership between the NC Department of Agriculture, NC State University, and the NC Research Campus. NCFIL is a state-of-the-art, cGMPcertified, pilot-scale facility that offers resources for plant-based food research, development, and commercialization for entrepreneurs and established food manufacturers

North Carolina Biotech Center (NC Biotech) is committed to accelerating life sciences technology-based economic development through innovation, commercialization, education, and business growth. It connects companies with university researchers, introduces entrepreneurs to potential funders and ensures that virtually any ag tech company, researcher, investor or intellectual property holder will find unique opportunities to transform ideas into products.

The Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC) is a unique, cross-disciplinary instructional center that provides educational and training opportunities to develop skilled professionals for the biomanufacturing industry. It also provides bioprocess

development and analytical services to a wide range of customers from academia and industry.

North Carolina State University (NCSU) and North Carolina A&T State University's (NC A&T) NC Cooperative Extension supports agricultural extension services across the state. Agricultural specialists assist with in-field research and provide educational programs and research-based information to both the agricultural community and the public.

The NC BioNetwork offers curricula and training tailored to address the specific needs of food, natural products, and biomanufacturing industries. Training can be delivered at company sites, at one of the state's training facilities, online, or via the state's 58 community colleges. BioNetwork resources include the Natural Products Lab and the Test Kitchen that provides onsite equipment rental.

NCWorks is a free job screening, recruiting, and training program for new and expanding businesses.

NC A&T State University's Center for Excellence in Post-Harvest Technologies (CEPHT) fosters interdisciplinary research in post-harvest technologies such as functional food R&D, shelf-life extension, food packaging, and food processing engineering.

NCSU's Plant Sciences Building is a state-of-the art facility that houses 185,000 square feet of research labs, growth chambers, environmental rooms, and rooftop greenhouses.

34 K + FOOD PROCESSING WORKERS

North Carolina is among the top five states for total number of food processing workers. This sector's workforce has grown 16% over the past 10 years and is projected to continue growing.



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP of
NORTH CAROLINA

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