

COUNTY OF HYDE

Board of Commissioners

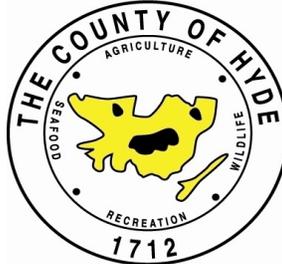
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Office of Planning & Economic Development Department Report Spring 2013

Airport Activities: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Project:

April marks a year that the Hyde County Office of Planning & Economic Development (OPED) has been working with the NC DOT Division of Aviation, the NextGen Air Transportation (NGAT) Center at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) at North Carolina State University and the NC's Northeast Commission on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) project at the Hyde County Airport in Engelhard. Over the past year, much work has been done and many great accomplishments made including the approval by the FAA of an Agricultural Certificate of Authorization to fly UAVs for agricultural purposes in the general vicinity of the Hyde County Airport. Please see attached article, "Unmanned Drones May Have Their Greatest Impact on Agriculture."

In February, Kyle Snyder from the NCSU NGAT Center spoke at the Blackland Farmer's Annual Meeting on Hyde County's UAV project. His presentation was well received. On March 1, Mr. Snyder spoke at NC's Northeast Commission's State of the Region held at the Bob Martin Agricultural Center in Williamston on Hyde's UAV efforts. The Planner attended both events in support of the project. The Planner and Airport Manager also attended the NC Airport Association Legislative Reception in Raleigh during the month of March. The Airport Manager also attended the NCAA Annual Conference in April.

March 21, 2013 marked the first flight of a UAV under the agricultural COA at the airport by a team from NCSU and Bosch. The two groups partnered to make the first flight possible with support of Hyde County, NC DOT – Aviation and the Northeast Commission. Flights are scheduled in May and throughout the summer. No flights will be made during waterfowl season.

As flights take place under the agricultural COA, the team is still working towards designation as one of the six test sites designated by the FAA across the nation. The Hyde County OPED continues to work with project partners to achieve maximum direct and indirect economic impact including but not limited to job creation, educational outreach and infrastructure improvements.