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NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES
FROM N.C. COMMERCE



N.C. Commerce Assistant Secretary Kenny Flowers with Peter Johnstone, President of Pamlico Yachtworks earlier today.

Pamlico Yachtworks to create 207 jobs in Washington

Pamlico Yachtworks, a boat manufacturer, will create 207 jobs in Beaufort County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today (November 12). The company will invest \$12 million to operate a manufacturing facility in Washington.

N.C. Commerce Assistant Secretary Kenny Flowers led a ceremony earlier today in Washington.

“Pamlico Yachtworks is establishing their manufacturing plant in North Carolina because of our highly-skilled manufacturing workforce, prime East Coast location and great quality of life,” said **Governor Cooper**.

Pamlico Yachtworks is the new manufacturing division of MJM Yachts, a powerboat company that has been building yachts since 2002. The advanced design and engineering of MJM Yachts makes their market leading express yachts durable, easy to drive, and fuel efficient.

“North Carolina’s talented workforce will continue to attract growing companies,” said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. “With the largest manufacturing workforce in the Southeast and a great business climate, manufacturers know North Carolina is a great place to do business.”

The North Carolina Department of Commerce led the state’s support for the company’s decision.

Although wages will vary depending on the position, the

BRIGHT FARMS. LOCALLY GROWN

Greenhouse Operation to Invest \$21 Million in Henderson County

BrightFarms, a packaged salads company, will create 54 jobs in Henderson County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 30. The company will invest \$21 million to operate a hydroponic greenhouse in the Etowah community of Henderson County.

“Agriculture has always been a strong driver in North Carolina, and BrightFarms’ expansion is good for our state. They are committed to conserving water, land and energy resources while growing their business—green economic development that is good for the company, the community and the workers who will support them,” said **Governor Cooper**.

BrightFarms grows leafy salad greens and herbs including spring mix, spinach, baby kale, romaine and arugula. The company describes its local greens, which are grown in a safe, secure and clean indoor environment without the use of pesticides, as beyond organic. By growing produce close to its consumers, BrightFarms’ produce is delivered to supermarkets in as little as 24 hours of harvest, about a week faster than leafy greens grown on the West Coast.

BrightFarms’ North Carolina greenhouse will be the company’s sixth and one of its largest locations to date. At full production, the 280,000SF state-of-the-art greenhouse in Hendersonville could produce up to two million pounds of leafy greens each year.

“Today’s consumers are searching for produce that’s fresher, safer and responsibly grown. It’s the reason that locally grown food has become the #1 purchase driver in produce for supermarkets,” said **Steve Platt, CEO of BrightFarms**. “We are incredibly grateful for the support from Governor Cooper

average for all new positions could reach up to \$45,637. The current average annual wage in Beaufort County is \$37,611.

Pamlico Yachtworks' project in Washington will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) approved by the state's Economic Investment Committee earlier today. Over the course of the 12-year term of this grant, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by \$432 million. Using a formula that takes into account the new tax revenues generated by the new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$1,712,000 spread over 12 years. State payments only occur following performance verification by the departments of Commerce and Revenue that the company has met its incremental job creation and investment targets. JDIG projects result in positive net tax revenue to the state treasury, even after taking into consideration the grant's reimbursement payments to a given company.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Beaufort County Commissioners](#), [Beaufort County Economic Development](#), [Washington Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce](#), [Beaufort County Committee of 100](#), the [City of Washington](#), and [Stocks & Taylor Construction](#).



Governor Cooper and Winston Tompoe at the NCWorks Partnership Conference October 24.

Federal Workforce Official Meets with Governor Cooper

A top federal workforce official met recently with Governor Roy Cooper and other members of the state's workforce team. The federal government is a significant strategy and funding partner to North Carolina's NCWorks system through the federal law known as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, commonly referred to as WIOA.

Winston Tompoe, acting Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration visited the state during the recent statewide conference for North Carolina's workforce professionals. While here, he met with Governor Cooper, N.C. Commerce's Assistant Secretary

and the North Carolina Department of Commerce and look forward to bringing local, pesticide-free leafy greens to North Carolina and neighboring states."

"North Carolina is a great location for innovators like BrightFarms to do business," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The company will join more than 1,000 food and beverage manufacturers in our state and will have their local produce available to a large supply chain along the East Coast."

Although wages will vary depending on the position, the average for all new positions could reach up to \$41,693. The current average annual wage in Henderson County is \$38,297.

A performance-based grant of \$55,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate BrightFarms's operation in Henderson County. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance to local governments to help attract economic investment and to create jobs. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One NC grants require a matching grant from local governments and any award is contingent upon that condition being met.

In addition to [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Agribusiness Henderson County](#), and [Henderson County](#).

On Our Radar

- [North Carolina Biotechnology Center's 35th Anniversary](#)
- [Upcoming Event]: [RTP company voted healthiest place to work](#) (*WRAL.com* - November 5)

N.C. in the News

- [One of a kind plant-based food pilot plant opens its doors at NC Research Campus](#) *WBTV-TV* - November 12)
 - [NC State Wins APLU National Economic Engagement Award](#) *N.C. State University* - November 11)
 - [Egger projects December opening of offices for Lexington plant](#) (*Winston-Salem Journal* - November 8)
 - [N.C. A&T Celebrates Milestone in ERIC Construction](#) *Yes! Weekly* - Greensboro - November 7)
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for Workforce Linda Cheatham and others to discuss progress for several ongoing programs.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) administers federal government job training and worker dislocation programs, federal grants to states for public employment service programs, and unemployment insurance benefits. These services are primarily provided through state and local workforce development systems.

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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