Rural and Agricultural Health Education: Roots of Knowledge

**What?**

**NC Agromedicine Institute**

The NC Agromedicine Institute is a University of North Carolina inter-institutional organization whose main goal includes identifying and addressing the health and safety risks of farmers, foresters, fishermen, their families and communities in North Carolina.

The NC Cooperative Extension offices in each county across the state help foster communication of University led research between residents of rural North Carolina and health care organizations.

**Fast Facts about NC Agriculture:**

- Farmland makes up 8.4 million acres of the state’s land.
- Agriculture provide jobs for 4.4 million North Carolinians.

**So What?**

**How do Brody students feel about rural health issues?**

Medical students at the Brody School of Medicine may lack foundational knowledge in rural and agricultural health issues. With one of Brody’s missions being to "improve the health status of eastern North Carolina’s residents", it is crucial that the student body understands the population it plans to serve.

**Now What?**

Need for a Rural Health education and advocacy group within our school

The longitudinal purpose of this project is to establish a Rural and Agricultural Health Education and Advocacy Group within the Brody School of Medicine.

**BSOM Students (M1-M4) asked: Would supplemental rural and agricultural health education opportunities be valuable to your medical school learning experience / future career as a physician?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
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(Out of the 57 students who responded)

Survey results (July 2022) preliminarily indicate that a student-led rural health initiative and Agromedicine group would be beneficial to medical education.

Thank you to Bridget Gallagher, M3 SLDT Scholar, Robin Tutor, MPH, and Dr. Tom Irons, MD, for their support, guidance and mentorship.

Reference: https://farmflavor.com/north-carolina-agriculture/