



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 25, 2008**

**Contact: Michelle Brady at 804-225-2027**

## **TOBACCO COMMISSION AWARDS AGRIBUSINESS FUNDING**

*~Pittsylvania County Farm Bureau Federation receives grant for the  
Pittsylvania County Agricultural Complex Phase I~*

**CHATHAM, VA.** – The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission has awarded the Pittsylvania County Farm Bureau Federation \$84,000 in grant funding to assist with site preparation of a 15 acre tract on U.S. Route 29, two miles north of Chatham, that has been purchased for construction of a 100,000 square foot multi-use agriculture complex. The Honorable Charles R. Hawkins, Chairman of the Commission, presented today the symbolic check to Tommy Motley, President, Pittsylvania County Farm Bureau, at the former Billy's Restaurant site.

“Pittsylvania County Farm Bureau’s mission is to promote agriculture in the most positive way, and teaming up with the local Agriculture Development Board and the Agriculture Development Director will allow us to further promote both agriculture and this region through a multitude of beneficial community focused programs,” Tommy Motley, President, Pittsylvania County Farm Bureau.

The complex will seek to serve as a regional hub for high-quality agricultural events and products. Facilities will be included to support a farmers market, livestock center, educational and meeting spaces, as well as a covered arena for events such as equine and viticulture shows and competitions to support and enhance regional tourism efforts. Once complete, the center will assist several agribusiness sectors and create a local clearinghouse for technical assistance

“With this facility, agriculture in this region will have a visual presence and serve as a permanent reminder that agriculture is the largest industry for this region and the state as a whole,” Jay Calhoun, Chair, Pittsylvania County Agriculture Development Board.

With 1,304 farms consuming 44.5% of the land in Pittsylvania county, agriculture has been identified as the largest industry in Pittsylvania County. The Virginia Farm Bureau further reports that 748 claim farming as their primary occupation.

---

The Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission is a 31-member body created by the 1999 General Assembly. It has, as a significant part of its mission, the promotion of economic growth and development in tobacco-dependent communities. To date, the Commission has awarded 958 grants totaling more than \$423 million across the tobacco region of the Commonwealth. For complete information on all of the Commission’s history, mission, funding programs and past awards, visit our website at [www.tic.virginia.gov](http://www.tic.virginia.gov).