

## State's Vital Strawberry Industry Readies Crop For Consumers

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - The state's Agriculture Department is looking for an early 2016 strawberry season despite recent cold weather.

Growers in eastern North Carolina are already picking their crops, according to the department. They produced 14.3 million pounds of strawberries in 2015.

“Our growers are very experienced with dealing with late frosts and know how to protect their crops,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler in a statement. “Because of their diligent efforts, this season shows a lot of promise with plenty of strawberries available. Plus, since we had warm weather in winter, consumers will be able to enjoy fresh berries even earlier.”

Only three states produce more strawberries than North Carolina.

State-owned farmers markets will be featuring strawberry events over the next two months.