

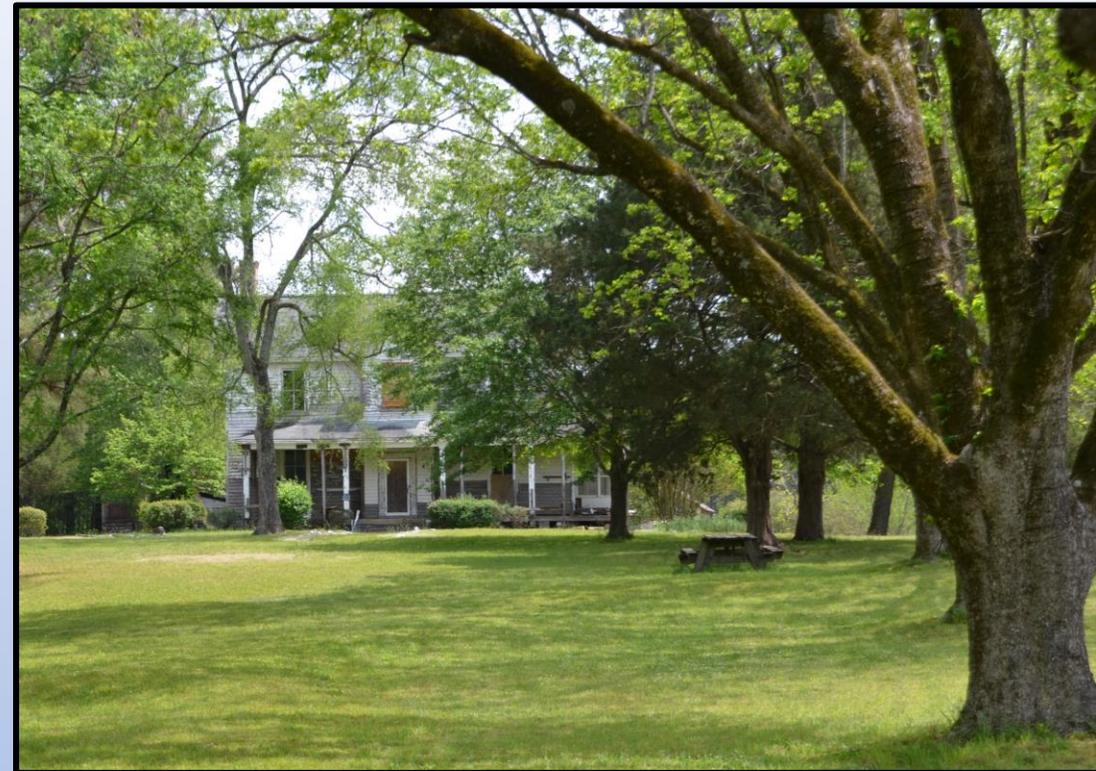
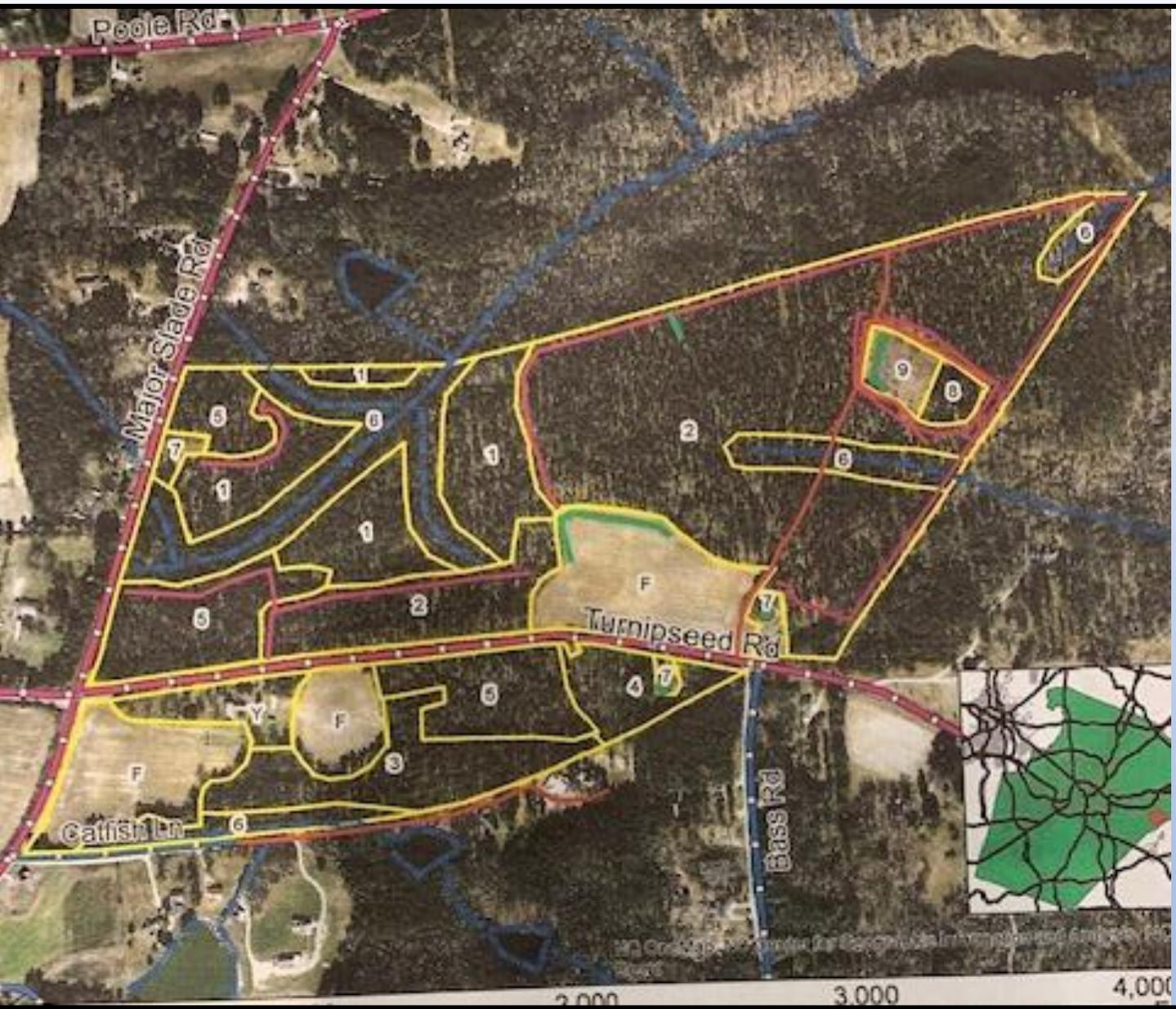
# Oaky Grove – Karen Community Farm

Talmage Brown

Htoo Saw Yaw

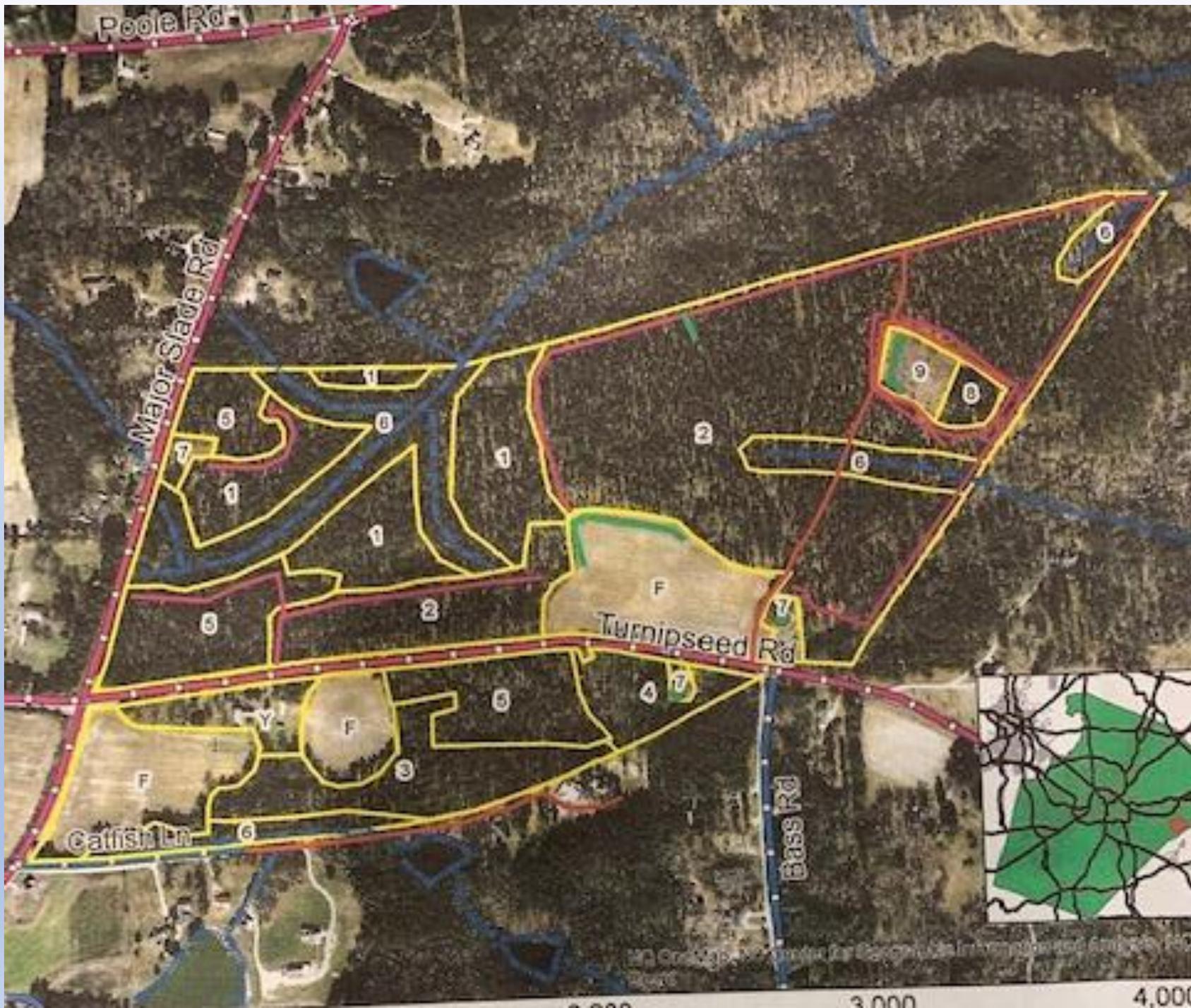
# Thomas Price Estate 1830

- ~4,500 acres planted mostly in cotton and produce crops
- 5 grist mills and a store
- 4 children
  - Washington
  - Needham
  - Fetna
  - Scheherazade



**Oaky Grove  
Circa 1818**





# Karen Farmers at Interfaith Food Shuttle Farm in Raleigh

- Drs. Dara Bloom & Hardison-Mood, Extension Faculty at NCSU
- Kay Coleman – IFFS farm manager about providing space at the IFFS farm for a group of refugee farmers(Karen)
- Karen farmers really enjoyed farming
- 2 years later, IFFS farm had to move & no longer space for Karen farmers
- Talmage Brown offered to lease 3-acre field at Okay Grove to Karen farmers

# Who are the Karen?

- Ethnic group from Burma (Myanmar)
- Fled Burma due to religious & ethnic persecution by the government
- Lived in refugee camps on, Burma/Thailand border, many for 10-20 years
- Karen refugees began emigration to USA in 2004 after being processed for years by US representatives
- Today – the 3<sup>rd</sup> greatest concentration of Karen in USA are in the Research Triangle (~ 3,000)



# Asian Vegetables

Price/lb	Summer (NC)	Winter (MN)
Thia pea eggplant	\$5.00	\$9.00
Long bean	\$2.00	\$3.00
Thia hot pepper	\$2.50	
Climbing wattle	\$10.00	
Penny wort	\$2.50	\$8.00
Rosella		\$7.00
Thia round egg plant	\$3.00	\$2.50



18x48 Greenhouse being built

High tunnel - funded



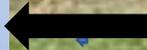
Karen Fund  
Raiser – late  
summer  
2019  
Asian food  
prepared by  
Karen







Volleyball  
court to be  
added this  
spring



Sepak Takraw field

Volleyball-like sport – can only use your feet