ALICIA WILBURN

FOUNDER, THE EMBERBOUND COVE | NORTH CAROLINA FARM SEEKER

Jacksonville, North Carolina • Contact via NC FarmLink

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Founder and project developer preparing to establish Emberbound Cove, a regenerative working farm and rural makers' community in western North Carolina. Brings early, hands-on exposure to dairy and maple operations, small-business experience, a B.A. in Psychology, and extensive independent land and agricultural research. Seeking viable farmland for phased food production, environmental stewardship, and long-term rural livelihoods.

FOUNDATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Family dairy and maple farms | Childhood participation — Through ~age 10

- Helped tap maple trees and run sap tubing; spent time in sugarhouses observing the boiling process and learning basic production practices.
- Occasionally assisted with calf feeding and regularly helped with family vegetable gardens from planting through harvest; all informal, age-appropriate experience.

RELEVANT PROJECT AND BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

The Emberbound Cove | Founder & project developer — 2025–present

- Developed a seven-year phased plan for a prospective regenerative farm: gardens, herbs, microgreens, mushrooms, orchards, maple, eggs, livestock, habitat restoration, farm education and future artisan programs.
- Researched NC mountain properties using public land records, maps, soil/terrain information, hazard screens, access, water and infrastructure indicators; assembled comparison materials and property dossiers.
- Prepared project prospectuses and farm planning materials; researched USDA FSA financing, agricultural assistance, land stewardship, and land-use and permitting considerations.

The Emberbound Quill | Founder & small-business owner — 2025–present

- Manage independent creative retail operations including product development, sourcing, inventory, pricing, budgeting, marketing, order fulfillment and customer communications.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Barnes & Noble | Bookseller — 2025–2026

- Customer guidance, accurate merchandising, inventory organization, transactions and daily retail operations.

Brynn Marr Hospital | Mental Health Technician I — 2024

- Maintained confidential documentation, followed safety procedures, communicated with multidisciplinary teams and supported structured daily operations.

Earlier service experience: Domino's Pizza (2013–2014); SONIC Drive-In (2011–2013).

EDUCATION

The University of Arizona Global Campus — Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, cum laude (2024)

Dean's List, multiple terms • Tau Upsilon Alpha Honor Society

LAND-SEEKING PRIORITIES & CAPABILITIES

Western NC farmland with viable growing areas, reliable water and access, and useful existing infrastructure where available. Strengths include research and documentation, land screening, project coordination, business administration, community outreach, and phased planning. Agricultural operations remain pre-launch; formal training and specialist guidance are part of the development strategy.