



- **-51% of farmland lost in Buncombe County between 1950 and 1978**
- **-Began seeking solutions to the problem in 1980 by meeting with American Farmland Trust and others**
- **Mid to late 1980's - Worked with County Commissioners/Planning Department laying groundwork for an ordinance**
- **Adopted VAD Ordinance in late 1989 – the second one adopted in the state**
- **Currently 347 farms enrolled in VAD and just over 26,400 acres.**
- **Conservation Easements**
 - **1997 – Board began looking at making changes to the VAD – specifically adding Purchase of Development Rights**
 - **Seen as an alternative to multiple use zoning in the County (purchase of development rights)**
 - **To Fund Easements: 2001 - \$109,000 available from sale of County land**
 - **Used as “seed” money and paid transaction costs on two farms.**
 - **County currently holds four three permanent easements and one more to close by early 2010**

Other County Actions:

- **Developed a comprehensive Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Plan for the County**
- **Established a new position at the SWCD to work with conservation easements.**
- **Commissioners have made sustaining the farming livelihood one of its top priorities in their 2009-2012 Strategic Plan**

“I hope the example of those who commit to protecting their farmland from development will take hold and inspire others to follow suit. It’s a worthwhile legacy.”

David Everett, 100% Easement Donation, Sandy Mush