



The Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

“Preserving North Carolina’s working family farms”

Farmland Preservation Tools

Agricultural Districts: The purpose of the Agricultural District Program is to encourage the preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. This is in recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic state and social well being of North Carolina. As a result, counties throughout North Carolina have begun to adopt Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinances (VAD) and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinances (EVAD).

Countywide Farmland Protection Plan:

This a plan of how the county intends to maintain a viable agricultural community and address farmland preservation tools.

- referenced by County Land Use Plan
- identifies agricultural needs and areas
- spatially shows agricultural resources

Conservation Easements:

A written agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or public agency (Grantee) in which the landowner promises to keep the land for agricultural purposes and the Grantee is granted the right to enforce the covenants of the agreement and to monitor the property.



Agricultural

Agreements: A written agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or public agency (Grantee) in which the landowner agrees to bring into or maintain farmland in active production of food, fiber, and other agricultural products for a specified period of time. This is also known as a “term agricultural easement.”

Programs that Promote Sustainable

Agriculture: Public and private enterprise programs that promote profitable and sustainable family farms through assistance to farmers in developing and implementing plans for the production of food, fiber, and value-added products, agritourism activities, marketing and sales of agricultural products produced on the farm, and other agriculturally related business activities.

ADFP Trust Fund: Funds from the ADFP Trust Fund are used to:

- Fund public and private enterprise programs that promote profitable and sustainable farms.
- Fund farmland conservation agreements.
- Support the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

Farmers should work with counties and non-profit groups to submit applications. County governments and non-profit conservation groups are eligible to submit grant proposals to the Trust Fund.

Benefits of the NC ADFP Trust Fund



Preserving North Carolina's #1 Industry

North Carolina agriculture is an over **\$68 billion** business annually. The NC ADFP Trust Fund plans to sustain the agricultural economy by preserving the lands that produced these products for the economy. The success of the program will maintain farm family income and retain agriculture-related jobs as well as increase public awareness about the importance of farm families to North Carolina's economy.

County-wide Economic Benefit

An American Farmland Trust survey showed that **for every dollar in taxes received from working lands only 34 cents in services is paid by the government.** However, services paid to residential development are an average of \$1.15 per dollar of taxes received. Therefore, it is a net gain of revenue for the tax base and thus an economic benefit for any county to preserve working lands.



Quality of Life

When farms are kept in agriculture it maintains the quality of life that each North Carolinian enjoys everyday. Rural working landscapes are an integral part of our heritage that must be preserved for future generations. If we do not save our agricultural areas we will destroy the rustic landscape that attracts and retains people and industry to North Carolina.

Ability to Buy Locally Grown Products

Maintaining the agriculture industry in North Carolina allows consumers to purchase and consume products from local agricultural producers.

