



# North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund



# *2008 Annual Report*



# North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

In September 2005, the General Assembly passed House Bill 607, establishing the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFP). This legislation established a 19-member Trust Fund Advisory Committee to advise the Commissioner of Agriculture on the prioritization and allocation of funds, the development of criteria for awarding funds, program planning, and other areas of growth and development relating to farming in North Carolina. This bill also broadened the mission of the Trust Fund to include three grant priorities:

- conservation easements (permanent easements)
- agricultural agreements (term easements)
- sustainable and viable agriculture programs



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Cover photos:

Back: Anne Lancaster, Farmland Values Project

Front: top three by Maximilian Merrill; bottom by Trip Huxley (flight provided by SouthWings)

# Media Coverage of Farmland Preservation

Local and state news organizations have covered farmland preservation efforts across the state.

## **“Fewer And Fewer NC Farms: State Tops Nation In Farm Loss”**

*The Daily Record, March 01 2007*

## **“Our View: Our Dwindling Agrarian Legacy Might Still Be Preserved In ‘Trust’ ”**

*FayObserver.com, Feb. 27th, 2007*

## **“Polk Enacts Farmland Preservation Effort”**

*BlueRidgenow.com, Dec. 4th, 2007*

## **“Dairy Farms Dwindle As Owners Sell Land”**

*Leland Tribune News, Oct. 2nd, 2007*

## **“Funding Available for Farmland Preservation Projects”**

*Leland Tribune News, Oct. 2nd, 2007*

## **“Time Short For Farmland Preservation”**

*The News & Observer, Raleigh, NC,  
July 24th, 2007*

## **“Family Farms Threatened by Davidson County’s Vision for Development”**

*Winston-Salem Journal, Feb. 13th, 2007*

## **“North Carolina losing some farm charm”**

*News 14, April 6th, 2007*

## **“State Should Act to Save Our Farmlands”**

*Winston-Salem Journal, Feb. 25th, 2007*

# Local Farmland Preservation Efforts

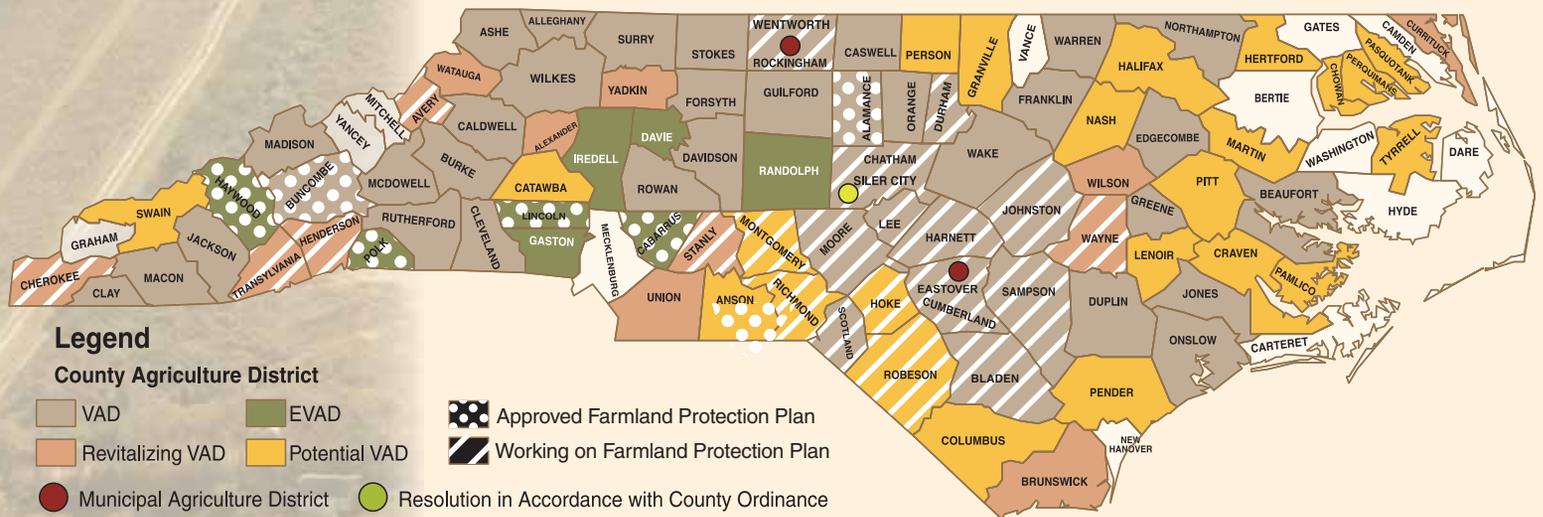
In the last 2 years the farmland preservation program has seen the following growth:

- 3 additional counties have slated county funds to match state and federal farmland preservation funding programs. 5 counties now have line items in their budgets for farmland preservation.
- from 1 county with an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District to 7 counties.

- 2 municipal Voluntary Agricultural District ordinances.
- from 47 counties with Voluntary Agricultural District ordinances to 63 counties.
- 5 countywide Farmland Protection Plans written and **implemented**.

Please visit our website at [www.ncadfp.org](http://www.ncadfp.org) for additional information.

## County & Municipal Farmland Preservation Initiatives



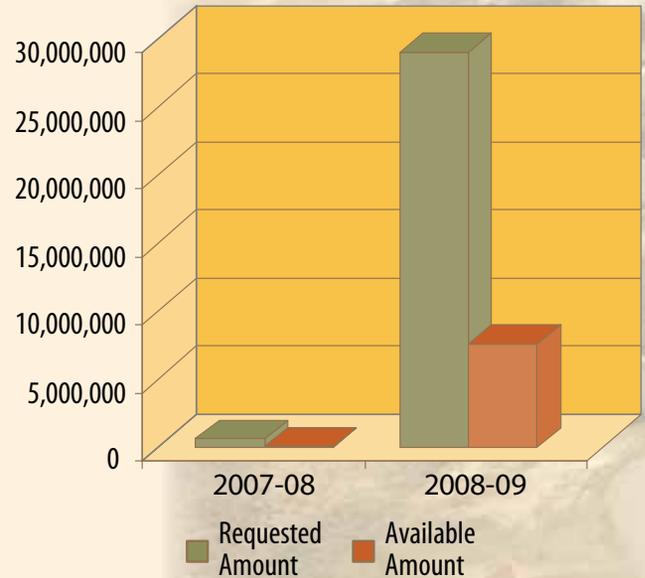
# Trust Fund Grant Applicants

## 2008-09 Grant Cycle Applicants

| Application Type                | Number of Applications | Requested Grant Amount   | Estimated Project Value    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Perpetual Conservation Easement | 55                     | Over \$21.5 million      | Over \$55.5 million        |
| Term Conservation Easement      | 4                      | Over \$1 million         | Over \$1.5 million         |
| Enterprise Projects             | 34                     | Over \$6.5 million       | Over \$15.5 million        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>93</b>              | <b>Over \$29 million</b> | <b>Over \$72.5 million</b> |

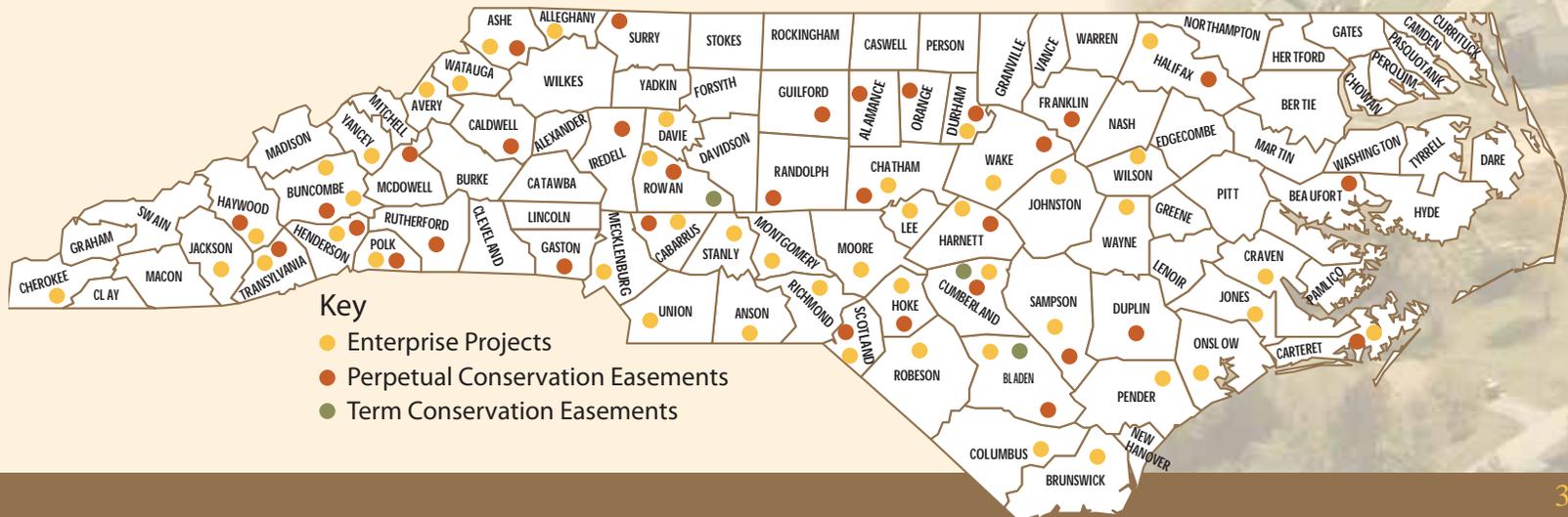
*The Trust Fund received applications from 27 counties and 22 non-profit organizations.*

## ADFP Trust Fund Application Requests 2008-2009

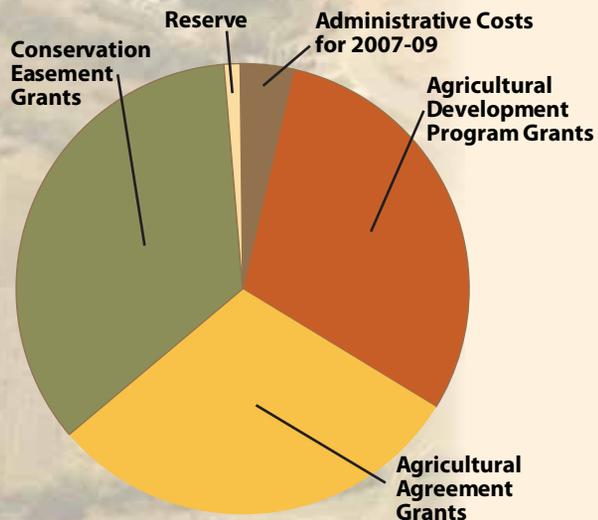


## 2008-09 Grant Applicants

The following counties submitted an application to the ADFP Trust Fund for its 2008-09 grant cycle. This list contains only specific counties named in the applications and does not include regional or statewide projects.



# Budget



| 2007-08 ADFP Trust Fund Budget            |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Administrative Costs (2007-2008)          | \$160,000          |
| Administrative Costs (2008-2009)(reserve) | \$160,000          |
| Agricultural Development Program Grants   | \$2,432,715        |
| Term Conservation Easement Grants         | \$820,771          |
| Perpetual Conservation Easement Grants    | \$4,345,950        |
| Reserve                                   | \$80,000           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$8,000,000</b> |

## Eastern States Program Comparison

Many states, including Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, established farmland preservation programs decades ago and are funding these programs with \$15 million to \$141 million annually. States throughout the nation fund their farmland preservation programs with bonds, agricultural transfer taxes, recording fees and general appropriations. New Jersey has an excellent farmland protection program, but it was established only after the state lost more than 45 percent of its farmland to development (New Jersey Department of Agriculture).

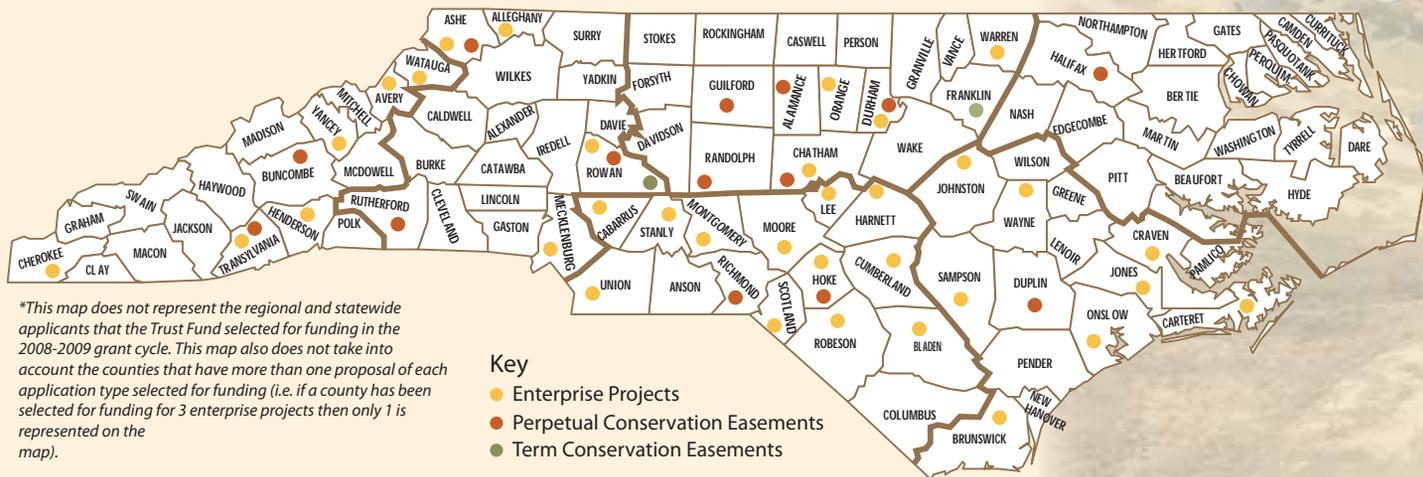
| State | Funds Available             | Total Funding Committed      | Acres protected      | Funding Source                              |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| NC    | \$5.204 million             | \$7.709 million <sup>3</sup> | 7,945 <sup>1</sup>   | Appropriations                              |
| SC    | \$1.23 million <sup>4</sup> | \$4.702 million              | 8,650 <sup>2</sup>   | Property Transfer tax, recording fees       |
| PA    | \$33 million                | \$630.54 million             | 382,845 <sup>2</sup> | County & State Appropriations, bonds        |
| NJ    | \$100.34 million            | \$647.902 million            | 161,281 <sup>2</sup> | County & State Appropriations, bonds        |
| MD    | \$76.976 million            | \$428.208 million            | 323,090 <sup>2</sup> | Agricultural Transfer tax, bonds            |
| KY    | \$181.977 million           | \$13.823 million             | 23,209 <sup>2</sup>  | Appropriations, Clean Water Revolving Funds |

<sup>1</sup>Newest figures; <sup>2</sup>Source: American Farmland Trust, [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org); <sup>3</sup>Total funding spent on easements only; <sup>4</sup>[sscbook.sc.gov](http://sscbook.sc.gov) Advisory Committee

# Grants Awarded

## 2008-2009 Grant Recipients

The following counties have been selected for funding in the NC ADFP 2008-2009 grant cycle. This map contains only specific counties named in the applications and does not include regional or statewide projects. This map has been divided by NC Extension Districts.



### Public & Private Enterprise Programs

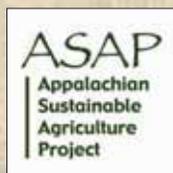
|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Awarded:</b><br>\$2,432,715            | <b>Match:</b><br>\$1,873,920              | <b>Est. Project Total:</b><br>\$4,306,635 |
| <b>Agricultural Development Projects</b>  | <b>Farmland Protection Plans</b>          |   |
| <b>Awarded:</b> \$1,259,020               | <b>Awarded:</b> \$1,173,695               |   |
| <b>Match:</b> \$1,036,248                 | <b>Match:</b> \$837,672                   |   |
| <b>Est. Project Total:</b><br>\$2,295,268 | <b>Est. Project Total:</b><br>\$2,011,367 |   |

### Easements

|  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Awarded:</b><br>\$5,166,721           | <b>Match:</b><br>\$7,182,799 | <b>Est. Project Total:</b><br>\$12,349,520 |
| <b>Term-Easements</b>                    |                              | <b>Perpetual Easements</b>                 |
| <b>Awarded:</b> \$820,771                |                              | <b>Awarded:</b> \$4,345,950                |
| <b>Match:</b> \$412,054                  |                              | <b>Match:</b> \$6,770,745                  |
| <b>Est. Project Total</b><br>\$1,232,825 |                              | <b>Est. Project Total</b><br>\$11,116,650  |
| <b>Federal Match = \$814,809</b>         |                              |  |

# Agricultural Programs Grants

## Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project



**Award: \$12,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$16,200**  
**Target Area: Western NC**

**Match: \$4,200**

The purpose of this project is to create *The Mixing Bowl*, a listing of local food buyers and suppliers. Project activities will include farm and chef workshops, field days and meetings. The Mixing Bowl and related documents will be tied back to the NCDA&CS Marketing Division's website ([www.ncagr.com/markets/](http://www.ncagr.com/markets/)).

Partner: WK Kellogg Foundation

Contact: Charlie Jackson, Executive Director

## Avery County VAD Advisory Board



**Award: \$16,500**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$22,550**  
**Target Area: Avery County**

**Match: \$6,050**

This grant will be used to establish a VAD program and develop a Countywide Farmland Protection plan.

Partners: Avery County CES, Avery County SWCD, Avery Co. Tax Assessors, Avery Co. Register of Deeds, Carter Wisman DDS

Contact: Jerrold T. Moody, County Extension Director

## BRAC Regional Task Force

**Award: \$400,000**

**Match: \$390,000**

**Estimated Project Value: \$790,000**

**Target Area: Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland counties**

This grant will provide funding for Farmland Protection Plans for the 11 counties surrounding Fort Bragg. The BRAC Regional Task Force applied to the ADFP Trust Fund on behalf of the counties. The Task Force is working with the counties to protect their farm and forestlands and will be responsible for completion of the farm and forest protection plans.

Partners: Bladen County, Cumberland County, Harnett County, Hoke County, Lee County, Montgomery County, Moore County, Richmond County, Robeson County, Sampson County, Scotland County, Mount Olive College, Resourceful Communities Program

Contact: Donald Belk, Regional Planner



## Cabarrus County

**Award: \$675,000**

**Match: \$199,250**

**Estimated Project Value: \$874,250**

**Target Area: Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union Counties**

Funding will provide for a value-adding slaughter facility, food council and marketing plan. This harvest facility will allow goats, cattle, sheep and pigs to be packaged for direct markets in the surrounding area, thus adding value and increasing profit for local farmers. The direct market opportunities are increasing greatly as the Cabarrus and Mecklenburg area grows. The marketing plan will be completed before the harvesting facility is built. The scope of the marketing plan will include marketing commitments for the harvesting center and identify the market of customers for the harvesting facility. The county is a partner in the project and is also providing funds for the harvest facility.

Partners: Cabarrus County, Cabarrus County Cooperative Extension Service

Contact: Deborah Bost, County Extension Director



## Carteret County



**Award: \$100,000**

**Match: \$322,750**

**Estimated Project Value: \$422,750**

**Target Area: Carteret, Jones and Onslow counties**

The primary goal of this project is to build a facility where farmers may deliver crops and from which broad distribution may originate. The Bogue Sound Watermelon Growers Association will also hire a full-time facilitator to organize various activities associated with the facility. The ADFP Trust Fund grant is designated to purchase the equipment for this storage and distribution center.

Partners: Carteret CES, Carteret County Economic Development Council, Bogue Sound Watermelon Growers Association, NC Rural Center

Contact: John Langdon, County Manager

## Chatham County



**Award: \$35,000**

**Match: \$18,380**

**Estimated Project Value: \$53,380**

**Target Area: Chatham County**

In response to the county's concern with unchecked development and farmland loss, Chatham County will use this grant to develop a County Farmland Protection Plan. Chatham County will select an experienced consultant to oversee the project.

Partners: Triangle Land Conservancy, Chatham County

Contact: Charlie Horne, County Manager

## Cherokee County



**Award: \$33,500**

**Match: \$27,502**

**Estimated Project Value: \$61,002**

**Target Area: Cherokee County**

With this grant, Cherokee County will develop a County Farmland Protection Plan and move towards VAD adoption.

Partners: Cherokee County CES, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, Andrews Valley Initiative

Contact: David Badger, County Manager

## Craven County

**Award: \$6,195**

**Match: \$8,936**

**Estimated Project Value: \$15,131**

**Target Area: Craven County**

Craven County was awarded a grant to establish a VAD Ordinance. It would also like to examine long-term plans for an EVAD, a Farmland Protection Plan, Conservation Easements and Purchase of Development Rights programs.

Partners: NRCS, Craven SWCD, Craven County Extension

Contact: Mike Carroll, Extension Agent



## Durham County

**Award: \$30,000**

**Match: \$14,042**

**Estimated Project Value: \$44,042**

**Target Area: Durham County**

Durham County will prepare and adopt a County Farmland Protection Plan with this grant award.

Durham County Soil & Water Conservation Service is administering this project.

Partners: Durham County Open Space and Real Estate Dept., Durham County Farmland Protection Board, Durham County

Contact: Jane Korest, Open Space & Real Estate Manager



## The Forest Education & Conservation Foundation

**Award: \$228,000**

**Match: \$69,000**

**Estimated Project Value: \$297,000**

**Target Area: Statewide**

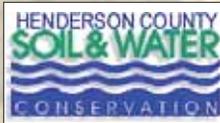
Funds will help establish a working forest land trust, administer educational workshops across the state for forest landowners and create a working forest toolbox for landowners.

Partner: North Carolina Forestry Association

Contact: Bob Slocum, Secretary-Treasurer



## Henderson County



**Award: \$22,500**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$36,700**  
**Target Area: Henderson County**

**Match: \$14,200**

Henderson County will develop a County Farmland Protection Plan. Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation Service is the lead agency on this project.

Partners: Henderson County CES, Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District

Contact: Jonathan Wallin, District Director/Conservationist

## Henderson County Agricultural Advisory Board/Henderson County



**Award: \$300,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$633,348**  
**Target Area: Western NC**

**Match: \$333,348**

One of the biggest challenges to the NC apple industry is having enough high quality post harvest storage capabilities. This grant will provide a new cold-storage facility that will make it possible to extend the storage life of the apples, thereby allowing growers the ability to sell to retailers over a longer period of time. This will allow the profitability of growers to increase from a longer season of fresh apple sales. The goals of this project are to increase the profitability and economic sustainability for North Carolina apple growers. Increasing profitability for these farmers improves local commerce and will keep farmers on the land, thus preserving the farmland.

Partners: Apple Wedge Packers, Henderson County

Contact: J. Carey McLelland, Henderson County Finance Manager

## Johnston County

**Award: \$31,500**

**Match: \$34,880**

**Estimated Project Value: \$66,380**

**Target Area: Johnston County**

Johnston County will use grant funds to establish a Farmland Protection Plan.

Johnston County Cooperative Extension Office is administering this project for the county.

Partners: Johnston County GIS, Johnston County Planning & Zoning, Johnston County Soil & Water Conservation District, Johnston County CES, Johnston County Agricultural Center, WTSB Radio

Contact: Bryant Spivey, County Extension Director



## NC Association for Dairy Stabilization and Growth, Inc.

**Award: \$80,000**

**Match: \$49,000**

**Estimated Project Value: \$129,000**

**Target Area: Statewide (particularly eastern and southern counties)**

This grant will allow the continuation of the dairy strategic plan through the recruitment, relocation and expansion of dairies. The ADFP Trust Fund grant is to provide for a project consultant, promotions, agricultural development consulting and farm transition workshops. The dairy strategic plan will focus resources towards improving opportunities for conventional and grass-fed dairies to locate in North Carolina.

Partners: NCSU, NC A&T, Carolina Farm Credit, NC Farm Transition Network, NC Dairy Producers Association

Contact: Billy Johnston, President



## Natural Capital Investment Fund



**Award: \$216,000**

**Match: \$153,000**

**Estimated Project Value: \$369,600**

**Target Area: Eastern NC (16 counties)**

This grant is to assist in the purchase of farm storage bins for limited-resource farmers in eastern NC. The strategy of the project is to purchase grain bins for grain storage, which will allow farmers to sell at the most favorable market value. Approximately 90 farmers will be targeted. Funds will be used to cost-share the purchase of the bins.

Partner: NC Coalition of Farm & Rural Families

Contact: Mikki Sager, Executive Director

## New River Community Partners



**Award: \$22,020**

**Match: \$105,400**

**Estimated Project Value: \$127,420**

**Target Area: Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties**

The goals of this project are to increase the market volume and quality of produce sold by organic growers in the northwest region of NC and to establish a positive impact on their income stream, while transforming farming into a sustainable livelihood. Funds will be used to purchase equipment specialized for organic farming.

Partners: Tobacco Trust Fund Commission

Contact: Ken McFadyen, Executive Director

## Operation Spring Plant

**Award: \$30,000**

**Match: \$35,000**

**Estimated Project Value: \$65,000**

**Target Area: Central and Eastern NC**

Funds will be used to help limited-resource farmers develop alternative fuels by providing a soybean crusher. Operation Spring Plant will set up a processing facility that will enable limited-resource farmers to develop alternative fuels and add value to their crops for increased profitability.

Partner: USDA

Contact: Dorathy E. Barker, Executive Director



## Orange County

**Award: \$132,000**

**Match: \$40,500**

**Estimated Project Value: \$972,990**

**Target Area: 15-county region within 60-mile radius of Hillsborough**

This grant will help establish a regional shared-use, value-added food and agricultural processing center serving farmers and food entrepreneurs within a 60-mile radius of Hillsborough. Funds will be used primarily for facility renovation. A feasibility study has already been conducted, and it has shown positive returns for the farmers using the facility and selling directly to consumers in the area and at local farmers markets.

Partners: Alamance County, Durham County, Chatham County, Weaver St. Market, Whole Foods, Orange County

Contact: Laura Blackmon, County Manager



## Stanly County



**Award: \$27,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$36,476**  
**Target Area: Stanly County**

**Match: \$9,476**

This project will develop and implement a Farmland Protection Plan for Stanly County. Stanly County will also develop and adopt an EVAD ordinance.

Partners: Stanly County CES, Stanly County Planning & Zoning Dept., Stanly County Citizens Group, Stanly County SWCD

Contact: Lori Ivey, County Extension Director

## Transylvania County Agricultural Advisory Board



**Award: \$17,500**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$44,846**  
**Target Area: Transylvania County**

**Match: \$27,346**

The Agricultural Advisory board will develop a Farmland Protection Plan and provide educational programs to protect agriculture operations.

Partners: Transylvania County Farm Bureau, Transylvania County, Transylvania County SWCD, Transylvania County CES

Contact: Eric N. Caldwell, County Extension Director



## Wayne County



**Award: \$15,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$25,160**  
**Target Area: Wayne County**

**Match: \$10,160**

This project will develop and implement a County Farmland Protection Plan and also institute an EVAD Program in Wayne County. ADFP funds will be used to hire a consultant, provided by the Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College.

Partners: Mount Olive College, Wayne County CES

Contact: Howard Scott, County Extension Director



## Yancey County

**Award: \$3,000**

**Match: \$900**

**Estimated Project Value: \$3,900**

**Target Area: Yancey County**

Funding will establish farmland preservation workshops to explore implementing farmland preservation programs in the county. County officials will also appoint a VAD planning committee.

Partners: Yancey Co. CES, Yancey Co. SWCD, Yancey Planning & Econ. Dev. Commission, Yancey Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Michele Lawhern, County Manager



# Easement Grants

## The Braeburn Farm

**Acreage: 120 Acres**

**Production: Livestock and Poultry**

**Award: \$235,000**

**Match: \$155,000**

**Estimated Project Value: \$390,000**

**County: Alamance**

Alamance County received \$235,000 to assist in purchasing a conservation easement on 120 acres of the Braeburn Farm, a very innovative livestock and poultry farm.



## The Baldwin Farm



**Acreage: 87 Acres**  
**Award: \$9,300**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$385,900**  
**County: Ashe**

**Production: Livestock**  
**Match: \$376,600**

Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust received \$9,300 to assist with the transaction costs associated with the purchase of an 87-acre conservation easement on the Baldwin Farm, a livestock farm in Ashe County.



## The Whitmire Farm



**Acreage: 78 Acres**  
**Award: \$291,500**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$564,000**  
**County: Transylvania**

**Production: Hay, Corn Silage, Sweet Corn, Cattle**  
**Match: \$272,500**

Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy was awarded \$291,500 to assist with purchasing a conservation easement in Transylvania County on 78 acres of the Whitmire Farm, which produces hay, corn silage, sweet corn, hay and cattle.



## The Hargrove Farm

**Acreage: 87 Acres**  
**Award: \$232,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$301,600**  
**County: Duplin**

**Production: Livestock and Hay**  
**Match: \$69,600**

Duplin Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded \$232,000 to assist in purchasing a conservation easement on 87 acres of the Hargrove Farm, a small-grain and tobacco farm that is transitioning to livestock and hay production.

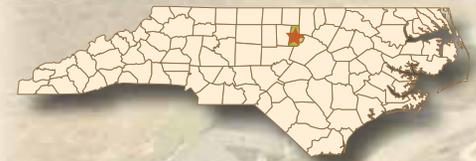


## The Tilley Farm

**Acreage: 165 Acres**  
**Award: \$398,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$720,235**  
**County: Durham**

**Production: Corn, Soybeans, Tobacco**  
**Match: \$322,235**

Durham County received \$398,000 to assist in purchasing a conservation easement on 165 acres of the Tilley Farm, which produces corn, soybeans and tobacco.



## The Short Farm



**Acreage: 108 Acres**  
**Award: \$157,500**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$268,150**  
**County: Halifax**

**Production: Timber**  
**Match: \$110,650**

Fishing Creek Soil and Water Conservation District received \$157,500 to help purchase a conservation easement on 108 acres owned by the Shorts, a young couple focusing on timber production.



## The Francis Farm



**Acreage: 370 Acres**  
**Award: \$442,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$655,855**  
**County: Halifax**

**Production: Livestock, Row Crops**  
**Match: \$213,855**

Fishing Creek Soil and Water Conservation District received \$442,000 to help purchase a conservation easement on the 370-acre Francis Farm.



## The Flack-Bovender Farm

**Acreage: 566 Acres**

**Award: \$658,500**

**Estimated Project Value: \$1,316,500**

**County: Rutherford**

**Production: Livestock**

**Match: \$658,000**

Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina was awarded \$658,500 to assist with purchasing a conservation easement on 566 acres of the Flack-Bovender Farm. This Rutherford County farm has been operated by the same family for six generations.



## The Harris Farm

**Acreage: 110 Acres**

**Award: \$323,400**

**Estimated Project Value: 473,000**

**County: Franklin**

**Production: Row Crops and Tobacco**

**Match: \$149,600**

North American Land Trust was awarded \$323,400 to purchase a 50-year term easement on 110 acres of the Harris Farm, which produces row crops, hay and tobacco. The easement will allow the continued production of agricultural commodities on this Franklin County land for 50 years.



## The Robinson Farm



**Acreage: 60 Acres**  
**Award: \$10,500**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$143,600**  
**County: Ashe**

**Production: Livestock**  
**Match: \$133,100**

High Country Conservancy received \$10,500 to help with purchasing a conservation easement on 60 acres of Ashe County farmland owned by the Robinson family.



## The Rollans Farm



**Acreage: 271 Acres**  
**Award: \$135,271**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$242,225**  
**County: Rowan**

**Production: Row Crops and Hay**  
**Match: \$106,954**

The Land Trust of Central North Carolina was awarded \$135,271 to assist with purchasing a 25-year term easement on 271 acres of the Rollans Farm in Rowan County, which produces row crops and hay.



## The Knox Farm

**Acreage: 195 Acres**  
**Award: \$23,650**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$819,650**  
**County: Rowan**

**Production: Livestock and Grains**  
**Match: \$796,000**

The Land Trust of Central North Carolina also received a grant of \$23,650 to assist with the transaction costs associated with the donation of an easement on 195 acres of the Knox Farm in Rowan County, which produces livestock and grains.

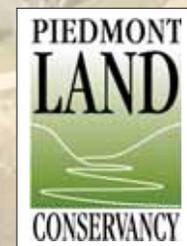


## The Rising Meadows Farm

**Acreage: 64 Acres**  
**Award: \$96,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$211,350**  
**County: Randolph**

**Production: Sheep, Wool by-products, Agritourism**  
**Match: \$115,350**

Piedmont Land Conservancy received a grant of \$96,000 to assist with purchasing a conservation easement on 64 acres of Rising Meadows Farm in Randolph County. This farm produces sheep, wool by-products and also provides agritourism opportunities.



## The Hough Farm



**Acreage: 119 Acres**  
**Award: \$12,200**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$190,200**  
**County: Hoke**

**Production: Organic Produce**  
**Match: \$178,000**

Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded \$12,200 to assist with the transaction costs associated with the donation of a 119-acre conservation easement on the Hough Farm.



## The Starnes Farm



**Acreage: 149 Acres**  
**Award: \$362,100**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$517,600**  
**County: Rowan**

**Production: Row Crops and Poultry**  
**Match: \$155,500**

Rowan County Soil and Water Conservation District received \$362,100 to assist with purchasing a 50-year term easement on 149 acres of the Starnes Farm, which currently produces poultry and row crops.



## The Hickory Nut Gap & Flying Cloud Farms

**Acreage: 110 Acres**  
**Award: \$703,500**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$2,849,000**  
**County: Buncombe**

**Production: Livestock, Poultry, Vegetables, Agritourism**  
**Match: \$2,145,500**

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy received \$703,500 to assist with the purchase of a conservation easement on 110 acres of Hickory Nut Gap and Flying Cloud Farms in Buncombe County. This multi-generational farm produces natural meat and vegetables and provides agritourism opportunities.



## The Chestnut Hill Farm

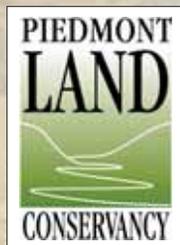
**Acreage: 170 Acres**  
**Award: \$664,300**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$949,000**  
**County: Chatham**

**Production: Livestock and Poultry**  
**Match: \$284,700**

Triangle Land Conservancy was awarded \$664,300 to assist with purchasing a conservation easement on 170 acres of Chestnut Hill Farm, a livestock and poultry farm in Chatham County.



## The Whitaker Farm



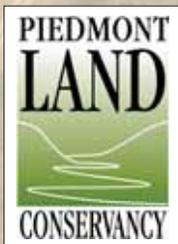
**Acreage: 98 Acres**  
**Award: \$160,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$316,175**  
**County: Randolph**

**Production: Row Crops**  
**Match: \$156,175**

Piedmont Land Conservancy received \$160,000 to assist with purchasing a conservation easement on 98 acres of the Whitaker Farm in Randolph County, which produces a variety of crops.



## The Gerringer Dairy Farm



**Acreage: 306 Acres**  
**Award: \$252,000**  
**Estimated Project Value: \$1,034,700**  
**County: Guilford**

**Production: Livestock and Dairy Products**  
**Match: \$782,700**

Piedmont Land Conservancy was awarded \$252,000 to assist with purchasing a conservation easement on 306 acres of the Gerringer Dairy Farm in Guilford County.



**“Farmland means much more than food. Well-managed farmland shelters wildlife, supplies scenic open space and helps filter impurities from our air and water. These working lands keep our taxes down and maintain the legacy of our agricultural heritage. It makes no sense to develop our best farmland. Instead, we have a responsibility to protect this most valuable resource for future generations.”**

*—American Farmland Trust*



# Why Preserve Farmland?

## #1 Industry in North Carolina

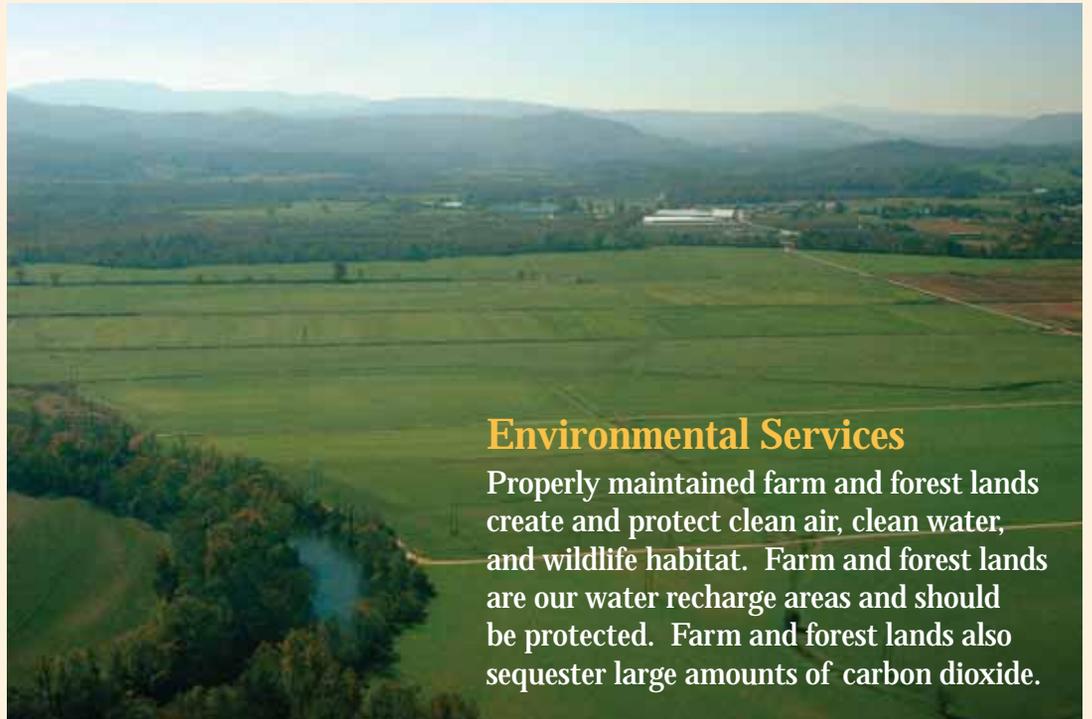
North Carolina agriculture is the foundation that supports the \$70 billion agribusiness industry. The ADFP Trust Fund plans to sustain our agricultural economy by preserving the lands that produced it. The success of the program will maintain farm family income, retain agriculture-related jobs and increase public awareness about the importance of farms and farm families to North Carolina's economy. North Carolina accounts for:

- **72.6%** of all US flue-cured tobacco production.
- **43.2%** of all US sweet potato production.
- **26.2%** of all US Christmas tree receipts.
- **14.3%** of all US turkeys.

In addition, North Carolina is 8th in US cash receipts in agriculture and produces \$2 billion in agricultural exports. 17% of the NC labor force is in agriculture or agribusinesses.

## Quality of Life

Keeping farms and forests in productive agriculture maintains the quality of life of North Carolinians. Rural working landscapes are an integral part of our heritage that should be preserved for future generations. If we do not save our agricultural areas, we will destroy the rustic landscape that attracts people and industry to North Carolina.



## Environmental Services

Properly maintained farm and forest lands create and protect clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat. Farm and forest lands are our water recharge areas and should be protected. Farm and forest lands also sequester large amounts of carbon dioxide.

Photo by Trip Huxley (Flight provided by SouthWings).



## Ability To Buy Locally Grown Products

Maintaining the agriculture industry in North Carolina allows consumers to purchase and consume products from local agricultural producers. Recent concerns regarding produce from other parts of the country and the world highlight the value of using local farm products. North Carolina has many types of climates and soils, which allow farmers throughout the state to produce a wide range of commodities throughout the year.



## Countywide Economic Benefit

Cost of Community Services (COCS) studies in five North Carolina counties have determined that residential properties actually cost each county more in needed services than they provide in revenue, while farm and forest landowners require less in services.

Farms require little from their counties, while new housing developments require a great deal of public funds for new infrastructure and services. COCS studies have important implications for policymakers charting a future course for their communities. It is important for them to consider the importance of balancing various community goals that include open space and working lands when overseeing housing developments and employment opportunities. With good planning, these goals can be balanced for the benefit of all citizens.

### North Carolina Cost of Community Services Studies [cost of providing services per dollar of revenue]

| County       | Residential | Commercial/<br>Industrial | Farm/<br>Forestland | Source        |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Chatham      | \$1.11      | \$.47                     | \$.92               | Renkow, 1998  |
| Wake         | \$1.54      | \$.18                     | \$.47               | Renkow, 2001  |
| Union        | \$1.30      | \$.41                     | \$.24               | Dorfman, 2004 |
| Orange       | \$1.31      | \$.24                     | \$.72               | Renkow, 2006  |
| Alamance     | \$1.47      | \$.23                     | \$.59               | Renkow, 2006  |
| National AVG | \$1.15      | \$.29                     | \$.37               | AFT, 2006     |

# NC ADFP Outreach



## Fair Exhibit

In October 2007, the ADFP Trust Fund staff re-developed an educational booth as part of the Our Land Our Legacy exhibit at the NC State Fair. This booth provided fair visitors with information on the ADFP Trust Fund, voluntary agricultural districts, enhanced voluntary agricultural districts, conservation easements and county Farmland Protection Plans. The booth contained maps, brochures, an interactive game and a computer survey.

## Agricultural Group Meetings

During the course of each year, the staff is invited to speak at many commodity meetings, county meetings, agribusiness board meetings, agritourism conferences and land-use workshops to talk about farmland preservation. Each public engagement continues to solidify our understanding that there is overwhelming support for farmland preservation by the residents of North Carolina.

## Website: [www.ncadfp.org](http://www.ncadfp.org)

We are currently enhancing the program's website to make it more user-friendly. The website will include an example of a completed grant application, a frequently asked questions section and an interactive map that provides information about nonprofit groups and county agencies that can assist landowners in completing a grant application. The website will also include links to sample Voluntary Agricultural District ordinances, samples of County Farmland Protection Plans and a discussion board for VAD advisors to post questions and receive answers regarding Voluntary Agricultural Districts.

## Farmland Preservation Workshops

The NC ADFP Trust Fund administered 9 educational workshops on the topic of farmland preservation in November of 2007. These workshops targeted county and state government officials, non-profit conservation groups, landowners and others who recognize the importance of agriculture in North Carolina and are interested in the growth, development, and sustainability of North Carolina farms. Topics for the workshops included: NC ADFP Trust Fund Application Process, Agricultural Districts, Farmland Protection Plans, State and Federal Farmland Preservation Programs and Funding Sources, Conservation Easements and Agricultural Agreements, Farm Transition and Agricultural Development Programs.

### Location and Dates of Meetings:

- 10/31: Lake Junaluska Conference Center, Terrace Hotel, Lake Junaluska
- 11/1: Edwin McGee Center, Wilkesboro
- 11/2: Polk County
- 11/6: Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Office, Fayetteville
- 11/7: Mount Olive College, Mount Olive
- 11/19: Cabarrus Arena & Event Center, Concord
- 11/20: Alamance County Cooperative Ext Office, Burlington
- 11/29: Halifax Community College, Weldon
- 11/30: Pasquotank Cooperative Ext Center, Elizabeth City



# ADFP Advisory Board

- Chairman Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture
- Bruce Andrews, N.C. Department of Commerce
- Andrew Branan, N.C. Farm Transition Network
- Jimmy Gentry, N.C. State Grange
- Billy Guillet, N.C. Rural Economic Development Center
- William Holbrook, Haywood County Farmer (Appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate)
- Jane Iseley, Alamance County Farmer (Appointed by the Speaker of the House)
- Dr. Ed Jones, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, N.C. State University
- Anthony Allen, N.C. Association of County Commissioners
- Edgar Miller, Conservation Trust for North Carolina
- Erica Peterson, N.C. Agribusiness Council
- Bobby Stanley, N.C. Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Gilistine Richardson, Black Farmers & Agriculturalists Association
- Robert Slocum Jr., N.C. Forestry Association
- Jackie Thompson, Wake County Farmer (Appointed by the Governor)
- Dr. Alton Thompson, School of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, N.C. A&T State University
- Manly Wilder, Department of Environment & Natural Resources
- Steve Woodson, N.C. Farm Bureau

## Staff

As legislated, the NCDA&CS provides staff to assist the Advisory Committee with the distribution of funds. Staff ensure applications are complete and within the legislated scope of the ADFP Trust Fund. Staff have been selected from other related areas and will assist the program on an as-needed basis. NCDA&CS staff members include:

|                    |   |                              |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Dewitt Hardee      | Project leader – Environmental Program Manager                    | dewitt.hardee@ncagr.gov      |
| Maximilian Merrill | Environmental Programs Specialist                                 | maximilian.merrill@ncagr.gov |
| Holly Gilroy       | Office Manager  | holly.gilroy@ncagr.gov       |
| James Davis        | Minority, Small and Limited Resource Farmers Marketing Specialist | james.davis@ncagr.gov        |
| Martha Glass       | Agritourism Marketing Specialist                                  | martha.glass@ncagr.gov       |



**North Carolina  
Agricultural Development  
and Farmland Preservation Trust  
Fund**



**Report prepared by the  
NC Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
Steve Troxler, Commissioner**

**For more information contact the NC  
Agricultural Development and Farmland  
Preservation Trust Fund at:**

**1001 Mail Service Center**

**Raleigh, NC 27699-1001**

**Phone: 919-733-7125**

**[www.ncadfp.org](http://www.ncadfp.org) [ncadfp@ncagr.gov](mailto:ncadfp@ncagr.gov)**