North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

2012 Annual Report

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ADFP Advisory Committee

Chairman Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture
Jimmy Gentry, NC State Grange
Billy Guillet, NC Rural Economic Development Center
Donald Heath, NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
William Holbrook, Farmer (Appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate)
B. Ray Jeffers, Person County Commissioner
Jimmy Johnson, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Scott Marlow, Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA
Dr. Tom Melton, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NC State University
Edgar Miller, Conservation Trust for North Carolina
Erica Peterson, NC Agribusiness Council
Dr. William Randle, School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, NC A&T State University
Gilistine Richardson, Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association
David Rose, Farmer (Appointed by the Speaker of the House)
Robert Slocumb Jr., NC Forestry Association
Steve Woodson, NC Farm Bureau

Staff

As legislated in HB 607, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides staffing assistance to the Trust Fund Advisory Committee and the Commissioner of Agriculture. Staff are selected based on area of expertise and on an as-needed basis. The ADFP Trust Fund also secures the services of temporary employees. Staff members include:

Dewitt Hardee: ADFP Trust Fund / Environmental Programs Manager - dewitt.hardee@ncagr.gov
Elizabeth Heath: Office Manager – elizabeth.heath@ncagr.gov
David Mitchell: Budget Officer – david.mitchell@ncagr.gov
Wes Gray: Document Specialist – wes.gray@ncagr.gov
Vernon Cox: Conservation Specialist – vernon.cox@ncagr.gov
David Steinbock: Legal Specialist – david.steinbock@ncagr.gov
John Ray Davis: Field Staff
Sim DeLapp: Field Staff
Lester Weaver: Field Staff

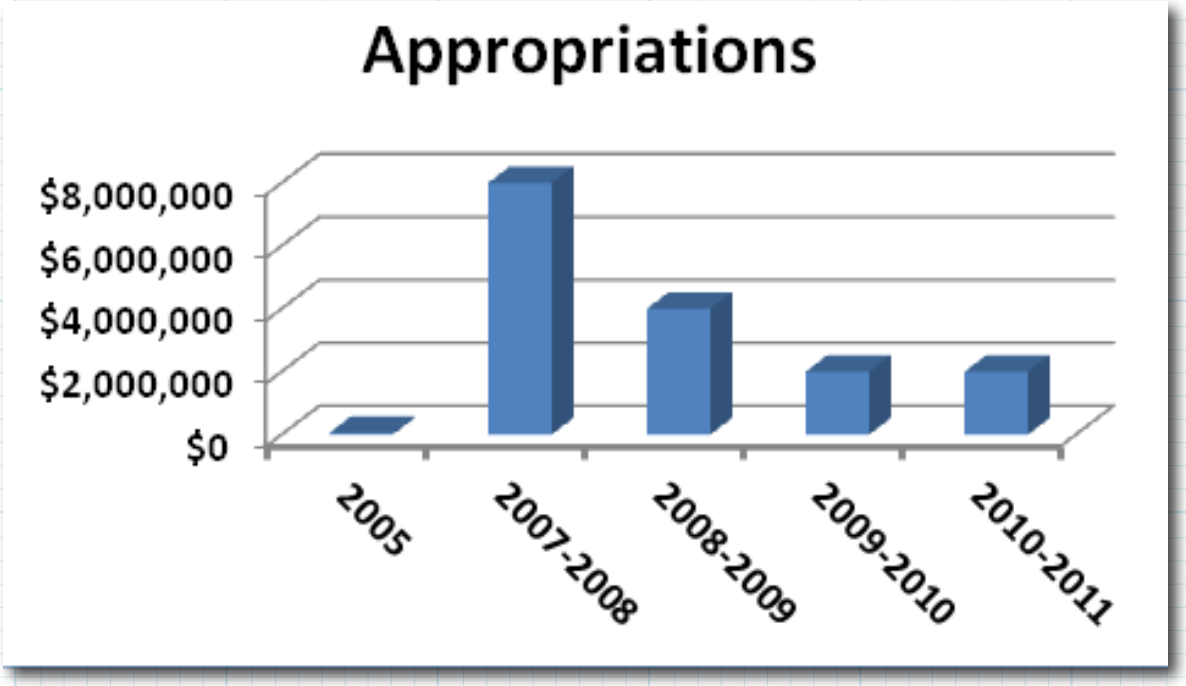
Background

The original Farmland Preservation Trust Fund was established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1986. However, funding was not appropriated until 1998, when the legislature provided an initial appropriation of $250,000 for the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements. Between 1998 and 2004, the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund had a total allocation of $2.65 million. This funding was used to place easements on 33 farms, preserving more than 4,700 acres and leveraging matching funding worth approximately $26 million.

In September of 2005, the General Assembly passed House Bill 607, establishing the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. The legislation created the Trust Fund Advisory Committee to advise the Commissioner of Agriculture on the prioritization and allocation of grant funding. This new legislation also broadened the mission of the ADFP Trust Fund to include three grant priorities:

- **Conservation Easements**: Deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to protect resources such as agricultural land. Most conservation easements are perpetual though some term easements have been awarded. Term easements are awarded for a number of years determined by the landowner.
- **Agricultural Plans**: These plans establish a comprehensive guide for counties and local governments to protect and preserve farms, forests and agribusiness as a whole. Plans also include the formation and/or strengthening of Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) programs.
- **Development Projects**: Agriculturally-based projects geared toward developing a process or facility that will generate income and, in turn, benefit the agricultural community as a whole.

The initial **Pilot Program** received an appropriation of $50,000 for 2005. The **Pilot Program** was followed two years later by **Cycle I** (2007-2008), which had an appropriation of $8 million. **Cycle II** (2008-2009) received $4 million, **Cycle III** (2009-2010) received $2 million and **Cycle IV** (2010-2011) received an appropriation of $2 million. Since 2005, the ADFP Trust Fund has awarded grants totaling $15.5 million and has leveraged private, county and federal funds worth over $36 million.



Importance of Farmland Preservation

#1 Industry in North Carolina

Agriculture and agribusiness remains the number one industry in North Carolina. The economic benefit from to the production of food, fiber and forestry accounts for nearly one-fifth of the state's income. In addition, 17 percent of the workforce in the state is employed in the agricultural sector. Preserving farms and forests will help to strengthen the agricultural sector, maintain family farm income and save agriculture-related jobs.

Agriculture and agribusiness account for:

Agriculture/Food Industry	$62.2 billion
Fiber Industry	$3.9 billion
Forestry Industry	$5.5 billion
TOTAL	**$71.6 billion**
Mike Walden, Extension Economist, NCSU, 2012	

Preserving farm and forest land not only supports the farm economy, but also the manufacturing, wholesaling and retail markets around the state. The loss of farmland and forestry areas not only affects farm families but other sectors of the North Carolina economy as well.

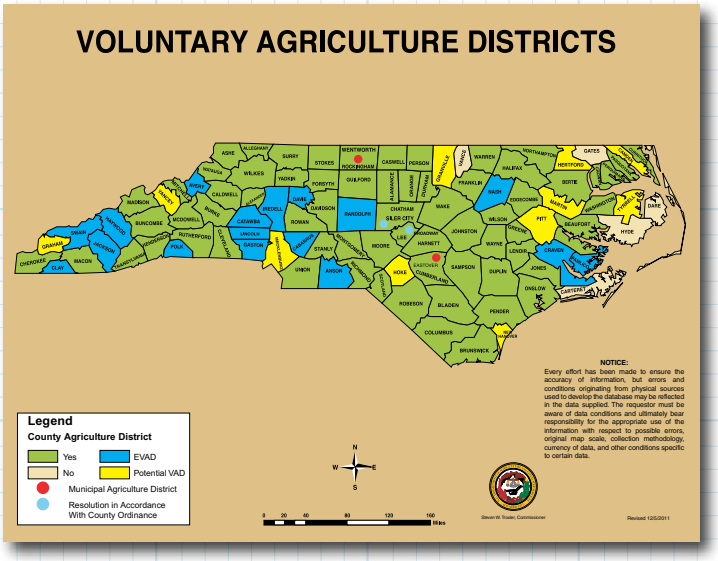
Quality of Life

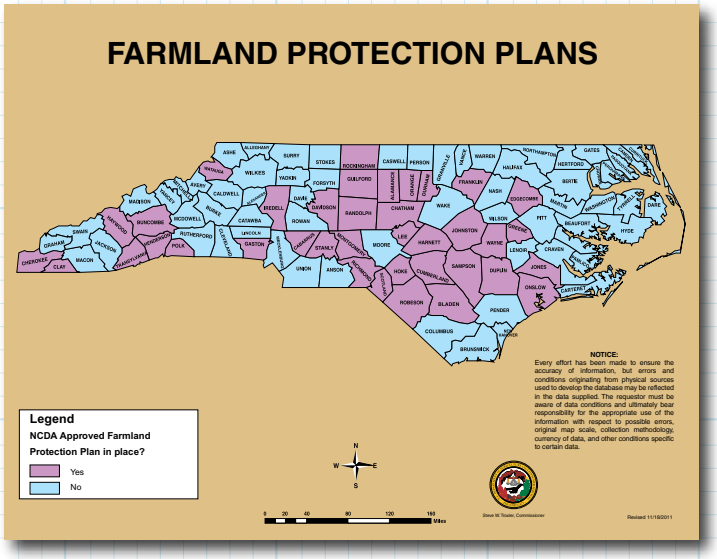
North Carolina's rustic landscape and rural areas attract a significant amount of people and industry. These working farms and forest areas are part of the agricultural heritage of our state. Future generations will benefit from measures that we take today to improve and protect farms and forests.

Environment

Farm and forests are critical to providing a healthy environment. Farm soils help to filter out contaminants, serve as a recharge area for water and help to mitigate the risks associated with flooding. Forests help to filter out carbon dioxide and provide a habitat for wildlife. In addition, farms that provide goods to local communities reduce the amount of fossil fuels associated with transportation.

ADFP Trust Fund Highlights (as of June 30, 2012)





The ADFP Trust Fund has expanded the Voluntary Agricultural District and the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program over the last year. In addition, several counties have completed NCDA&CS-approved farmland protection plans.

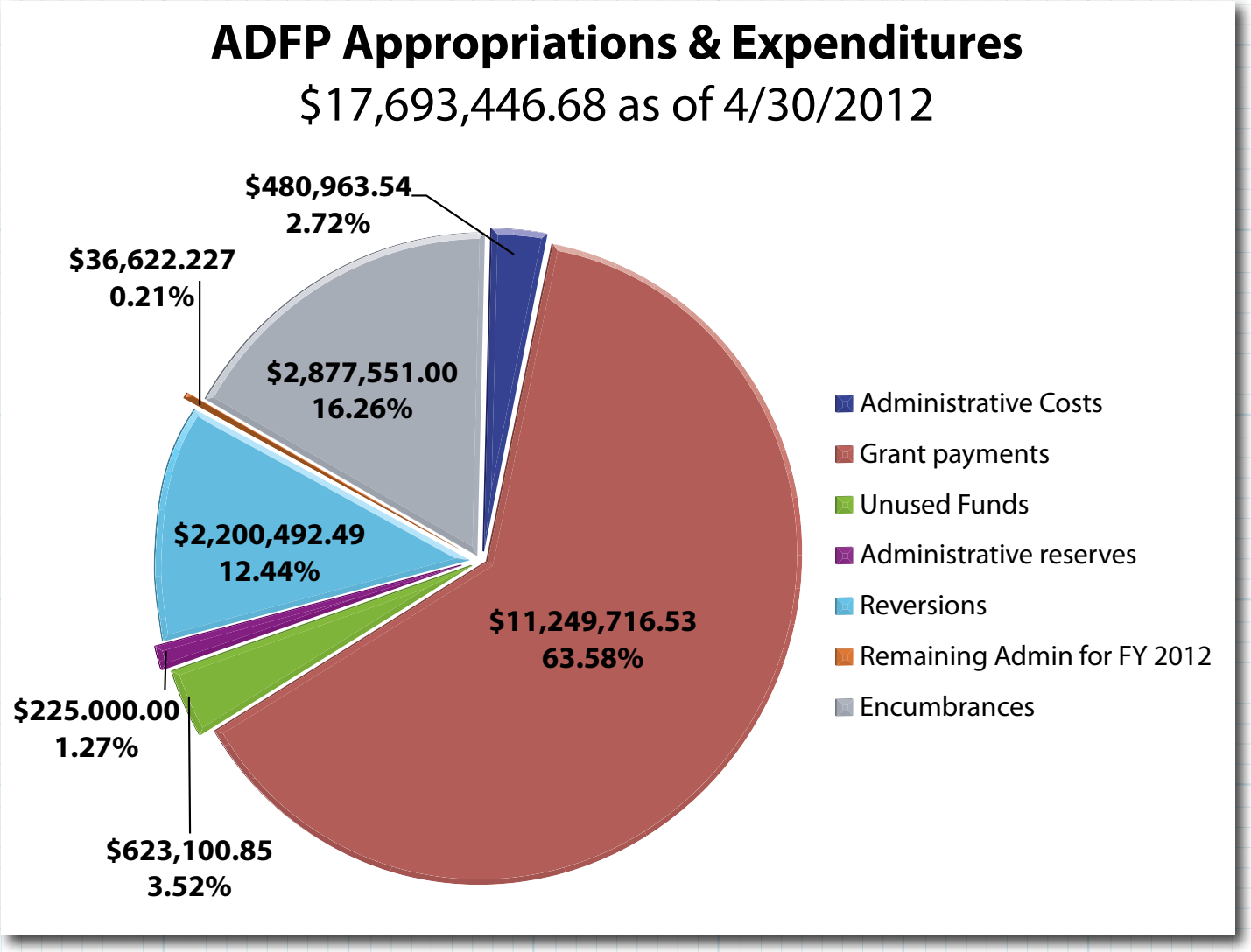
Highlights Include:

- **83** counties currently enrolled in the VAD program, an increase of **7** counties since last year
- Clay County joined the Enhanced VAD program, bringing the county total to **17**
- **12** counties have established VAD exploratory workgroups
- **39** counties have NCDA&CS approved Farmland Protection Plans, an increase of **28** counties since 2009

Budget History

The ADFP Trust Fund has spent more than $11 million dollars on grants since the Pilot Program. The Trust Fund has open obligations of more than $2.8 million for grantees that still have open contracts. $2.2 million dollars was returned at the request of the Governor's Budget Office in 2011. Since 2005, the Trust Fund has spent only 2.7 percent of its funding on administrative costs.

ADFP Trust Fund Spending Since 2005:



ADFP Grant Cycle IV

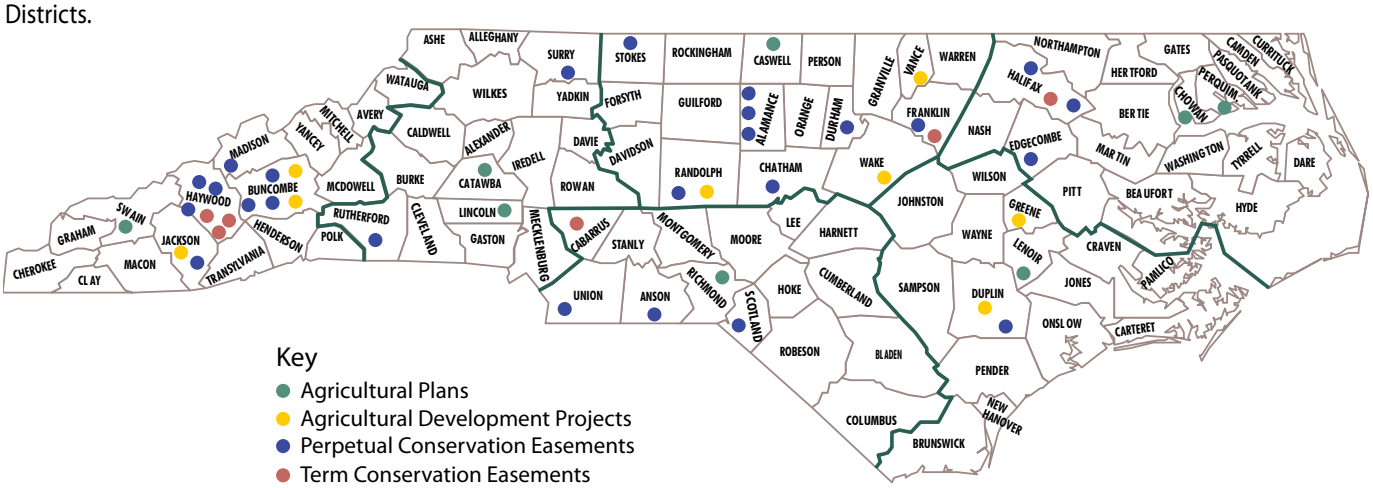
Budget

ADFP Trust Fund Budget (Cycle IV)		
Administrative Costs	$80,000	4%
Administrative Costs (reserve)	$80,000	4%
Development Program Grants (plans & projects)	$400,000	20%
Conservation Agreements (term)	$600,000	30%
Conservation Easements (perpetual)	$800,000	40%
Reserve	$40,000	2%
TOTALS	$2,000,000	100%

ADFP Cycle IV Grant Applications

2010-11 NC ADFP Grant Applicants

The applicants for the NC ADFP 2010-2011 grant cycle propose to benefit the following counties. This map contains only specific counties names in the applications and does not include regional or statewide projects. This map has been divided by NC Extension Districts.

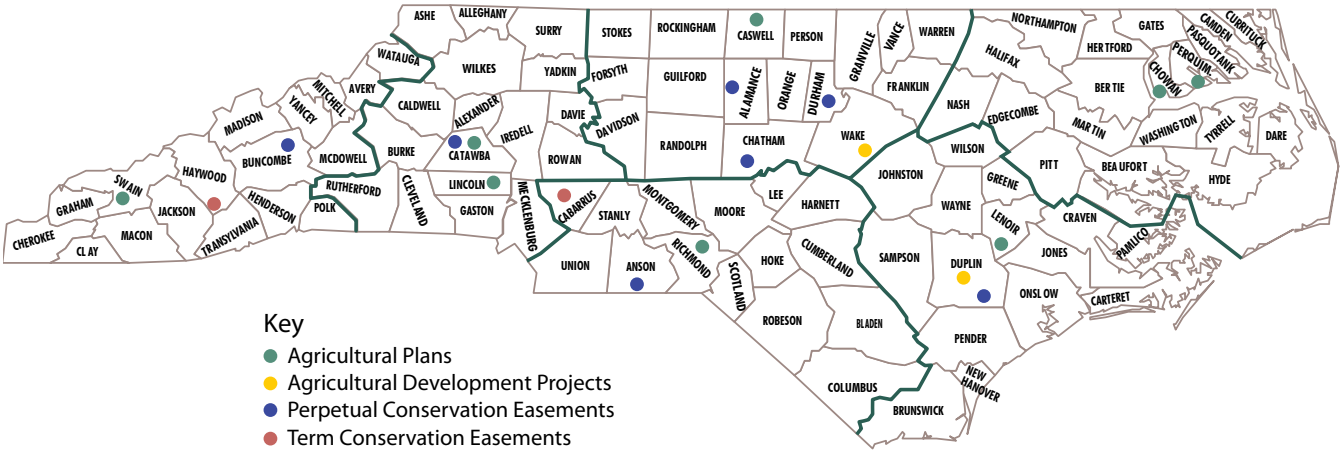


2010-2011 Grant Cycle Applications			
Application Type	Number of Applications	Amount Requested	Estimate Project Value
Perpetual Conservation Easements	23	$5,323,509	$11,776,500
Term Conservation Easements	6	$6,377,315	$11,727,842
Agricultural Plans	8	$206,640	$318,411
Development Projects	8	$530,427	$1,780,087
TOTAL	45	$12,437,891	$25,602,840
The ADFP Trust Fund received applications representing 30 counties throughout the state.			

ADFP Cycle IV Grantees

2011-12 NC ADFP Grant Recipients

The following counties have been selected for funding in the NC ADFP 2011-2012 grant cycle. This map contains only specific counties names in the applications and does not include regional or statewide projects. This map has been divided by NC Extension Districts.



Easements			
Awarded	**Match**	**Total Value**	**Acres**
$1,302,323	**$3,314,073**	**$4,616,396**	**747**

Term Easements		Perpetual Easements	
Awarded:	$248,138	Awarded:	$1,054,185
Match:	$582,991	Match:	$2,731,082
Total Value:	$831,129	Total Value:	$3,785,267
Acres:	90	Acres:	657

Public and Private Enterprise Programs		
Awarded	**Match**	**Total Value**
$503,000	**$279,669**	**$782,668**

Development Projects		Agricultural Plans	
Awarded:	$386,000	Awarded:	$117,000
Match:	$193,400	Match:	$86,268
Total Value:	$549,000	Total Value:	$203,269

Grants Awarded

Agricultural Plans

Caswell County Farmland Protection Plan
Award: $15,000
Match: $31,375
Total Value: $46,375
Target Area: Caswell County
Grantee: Piedmont Conservation Council
Partner: NRCS, Caswell County SWCD, NC Division of Forest Resources
Letter of Support: Caswell County Board of Commissioners
Contact: William Alston, Chairman of the Piedmont Conservation Council
Description: Piedmont Conservation Council received $15,000 to assist with the development and adoption of a farmland protection plan for Caswell County.

Catawba County Farmland Protection Plan
Award: $15,000
Match: $11,300
Total Value: $26,300
Target Area: Catawba County
Grantee: Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development
Partner: Catawba County Cooperative Extension
Letter of Support: Catawba County Manager
Contact: Mary K. George, Catawba County Assistant Planning Director
Description: Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development Department was awarded $15,000 to help with the development and adoption of a county farmland protection plan.

Chowan County VAD program
Award: $4,000
Match: $1,200
Total Value: $5,200
Target Area: Chowan County
Grantee: Chowan County Soil & Water Conservation District
Partners: Chowan County, Chowan Cooperative Extension
Contact: Scott Alons (SWCD) and Tim Smith (CES)
Description: Chowan Soil and Water Conservation District received a grant of $4,000 to help pay for educational meetings and other outreach to landowners on behalf of the county's Voluntary Agricultural District.

Lincoln County Farmland Protection Plan
Award: $15,000
Match: $11,012
Total Value: $26,012
Target Area: Lincoln County
Grantee: Lincoln County Soil & Water Conservation District
Partners: Lincoln County, NC Forest Service, Cooperative Extension, Catawba Lands Conservancy
Contact: Rick McSwain, Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District Director
Description: Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded $15,000 to aid the development and adoption of a county farmland protection plan.

Multi-County Farmland Protection Plans
Award: $45,000
Match: $14,100
Total Value: $59,100
Target Area: Carteret, Craven, Pamlico counties
Grantee: North Carolina's Eastern Region
Partners: Mount Olive College, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Letters of Support: County Managers of Carteret, Craven and Pamlico
Contact: John Chafee, NC's Eastern Region Executive Director
Description: North Carolina's Eastern Region received $45,000 to help with the development and adoption of farmland protection plans for Carteret, Craven and Pamlico counties.

Perquimans County VAD Program
Award: $4,000
Match: $3,050
Total Value: $7,050
Target Area: Perquimans County
Grantee: Perquimans County Cooperative Extension
Partner: Perquimans County
Contact: Lewis Smith, Perquimans County Cooperative Extension Director
Description: Perquimans County Cooperative Extension received $4,000 to help pay for educational meetings and other outreach to landowners on behalf of the county's Voluntary Agricultural District.

Richmond County VAD Program
Award: $4,000
Match: $3,431
Total Value: $7,431
Target Area: Richmond County
Grantee: Richmond County Cooperative Extension
Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Richmond County, Soil & Water Conservation District
Contact: Clinton McRae, South Central District Extension Director
Description: Richmond County Cooperative Extension was awarded $4,000 to help pay for educational meetings and other outreach to landowners on behalf of the county's Voluntary Agricultural District.

Swain County Farmland Protection Plan
Award: $15,000
Match: $10,800
Total Value: $25,800
Target Area: Swain County
Grantee: Swain County Soil & Water Conservation District
Partner: Swain County
Contact: Amanda Buchanan, Swain SWCD Natural Resource Conservationist
Description: Swain County Soil and Water Conservation District received $15,000 to help with the development and adoption of a county farmland protection plan.

Development Projects

Duplin County Livestock Facility
Award: $86,000
Match: $26,000
Total Value: $550,000 (including all partnerships)
Target Area: Brunswick, Duplin, Jones, Pender, Sampson and Wayne counties
Grantee: Duplin County
Partners: Duplin County Cooperative Extension, Duplin County Agribusiness Council, Duplin County Cattlemen's Association, Coastal Carolina Cattle Alliance, Golden Leaf Foundation, NC Tobacco Trust Fund, Hog Slat Inc., Adams Company Inc.
Contact: Mike Aldridge, Duplin County Manager
Description: Duplin County and Duplin County Cooperative Extension received $86,000 to help purchase livestock handling equipment for the proposed southeastern regional area livestock handling and marketing facility. The facility will serve Brunswick, Duplin, Jones, Pender, Sampson and Wayne counties.

Sustaining Agriculture under the MTR
Award: $300,000
Match: $167,400
Total Value: $467,400
Target Area: Beaufort, Bertie, Duplin, Edgecombe, Franklin, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Sampson and Wake
Grantee: NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, Inc.
Partners: US Marine Corps, NC Tobacco Trust Fund, Smithfield Foods/NC Department of Justice
Letter of Support: NC Farm Bureau
Contact: Michelle Lovejoy, NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director
Description: The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation received a grant of $300,000 to assist with creating a 30-year landowner agreement program for the preservation of working farms and forests under the military training route in the following eastern NC counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Duplin, Edgecombe, Franklin, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Sampson and Wake.

Easements

Howey Farm

Award: $286,446
Match: $998,176
Total Value: $1,284,622
Acreage: 114 (perpetual)
County: Catawba
Grantee: Catawba Lands Conservancy
Partner: USDA-NRCS
Contact: RoxAnne Smith, Catawba Lands Conservancy Executive Director
Description: Catawba Lands Conservancy received $286,446 toward the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on the 114-acre Howey Family Farms of Monroe.

Krabbe/Spann Farm

Award: $139,500
Match: $441,850
Total Value: $581,350
Acreage: 96 (perpetual)
County: Durham
Grantee: Durham County
Partner: USDA - NRCS
Letters of Support: Durham County Manager
Contact: Jane Korest, Durham County Open Space and Real Estate Director
Description: Durham County received $139,500 toward the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on a 96-acre dairy and goat farm owned by David Krabbe and Kathryn Spann of Durham.

Lindley/Campbell Farm

Award: $192,000
Match: $313,500
Total Value: $505,500
Acreage: 98 (perpetual)
County: Chatham
Grantee: Triangle Land Conservancy
Partner: USDA - NRCS
Contact: Leigh Ann Ceinek, Triangle Land Conservancy Conservation Planner
Description: Triangle Land Conservancy received $192,000 toward the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 98 acres of a crop and dairy farm owned by Janice Lindley and Patricia Ann Campbell of Snow Camp.

Parks Farm

Award: $150,000
Match: $159,700
Total Value: $309,700
Acreage: 172 (perpetual)
County: Duplin
Grantee: Duplin County Soil & Water Conservation District
Contact: Donna Rouse, Duplin County Soil & Water Conservation District Director
Description: Duplin County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded $150,000 toward the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 172 acres of farm and forest land owned by Francis Parks of Calypso.

Perkinson Farm

Award: $31,609
Match: $251,966
Total Value: $283,575
Acreage: 10 (perpetual)
County: Buncombe
Grantee: Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Partner: USDA - NRCS
Letters of Support: Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board
Contact: Michael Green, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Description: The Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy received $31,609 to assist with the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on a 10-acre produce farm owned by Annie Louise Perkinson of Fairview.

Porter Farm

Award: $175,000
Match: $543,609
Total Value: $718,609
Acreage: 54 (50-year term)
County: Cabarrus
Grantee: Cabarrus County Soil & Water Conservation District
Contact: Dennis Testerman, Cabarrus County Soil & Water Conservation District Director
Description: Cabarrus County Soil and Water Conservation District received $175,000 to assist with the purchase of a 50-year conservation easement on 54 acres of a livestock and poultry farm owned by Thomas E. Porter Jr. of Concord.

Rocky Pee Dee Farm

Award: $154,630
Match: $413,890
Total Value: $568,520
Acreage: 131 (perpetual)
County: Anson
Grantee: The Land Trust for Central NC
Partner: USDA-NRCS
Contact: Crystal Cockman, The Land Trust for Central NC Uwharrie Conservation Specialist
Description: The Land Trust for Central North Carolina was awarded $154,630 toward the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 131 acres of farm and forest land owned by John Bishop of Kannapolis. The land is located in Anson County.

Smathers Farm

Award: $73,138
Match: $39,382
Total Value: $112,520
Acreage: 36 (30-year term)
County: Haywood
Grantee: Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc.
Partners: Bethel Rural Community Organization, Pigeon River Fund
Contact: Tim Garrett, Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council Coordinator
Description: Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc. received $73,138 toward the purchase of a 30-year conservation easement on 36 acres of a beef cattle farm owned by George L. Smathers of Canton.

Wilkins Farm

Award: $100,000
Match: $152,000
Total Value: $252,000
Acreage: 36 (perpetual)
County: Alamance
Grantee: Alamance County
Partner: USDA-NRCS
Contact: Phil Ross, Alamance Soil and Water Conservation District Director
Description: Alamance County received a grant of $100,000 toward the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on 36 acres of Jeff D. Wilkins' crop and livestock farm.

Education and Outreach

ADFP staff and the Advisory Committee have been active in efforts to inform the public about farmland preservation programs, the grant process and how to partner with non-profits to improve farmland preservation efforts in North Carolina.

Exhibits

ADFP Trust Fund staff has attended several conferences and events to display information on ADFP programs. This booth includes a display board highlighting program descriptions, budget and grant updates, contact information and informative brochures. Staff informs the public about VAD/EVAD ordinances, Farmland Protection Plans and the conservation easement grant process. The ADFP Trust Fund exhibit had been displayed at the following events:

NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
NC Forestry Association "Forestry Day at the Legislature"
NC Annual Joint Commodities Conference
Southern Farm Show
Wake County "Keeping the Farm" workshop

Trust Fund Staff also attended the following outreach events:
Bladen County VAD Leadership workshop
NC Association of County Commissioners Agriculture Steering Committee
Perquimans County VAD Kick-off dinner
Tyrrell County Farm Bureau meeting
Western NC Farmland Access and Preservation meeting

Workshops

In March and April, ADFP Trust Fund Staff, members of the VAD work group, Advisory Committee members and conservation professionals held three workshops around the state. These workshops, titled For the Future of Farming, were held in Carthage, Morganton and Wilson. Included in the presentation were orientation sessions for new Agricultural Advisory Board members, personal testimonies from local farmers on the importance of preservation and an overview of the voluntary agricultural districts and farmland protection plans. Other speakers presented topics on signage right-of way issues, transportation planning and informative updates on agricultural legislation and estate tax planning.

The following organizations helped to sponsor these workshops:
Ag. Carolina Financial
Burke County Cooperative Extension
Carolina Farm Credit
Moore County Cooperative Extension
NC Cooperative Extension Service
NC Department of Transportation
NC Farm Bureau
NC State Grange
NC Department of Transportation
Wilson County Cooperative Extension

Dr. Ted Feitshans of NCSU gives a tax update

Display of county VAD signage

Improved Grant Application Process

Beginning with Cycle V, the ADFP Trust Fund now provides a fill-in PDF form that allows applicants to type in the information on their computer and save their work. This gives the applicant more time to fill out the detailed application and the ability to quickly update parts of their application. In addition, this form can be emailed to Trust Fund staff when submitting minor corrections, eliminating the wait time associated with traditional mail.

Recent Events

February 2012: Dewitt Hardee, Manager of the NCDA&CS Environmental Programs Division and the ADFP Trust Fund, spoke at the groundbreaking for the Duplin County Livestock Facility. The project received an $86,000 grant during Cycle IV.

July 2012: Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler attends the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Cruse Meats processing facility. The Cruse Meats facility received a $675,000 grant during Cycle I.

Source: Lukas Johnson, News of Cabarrus

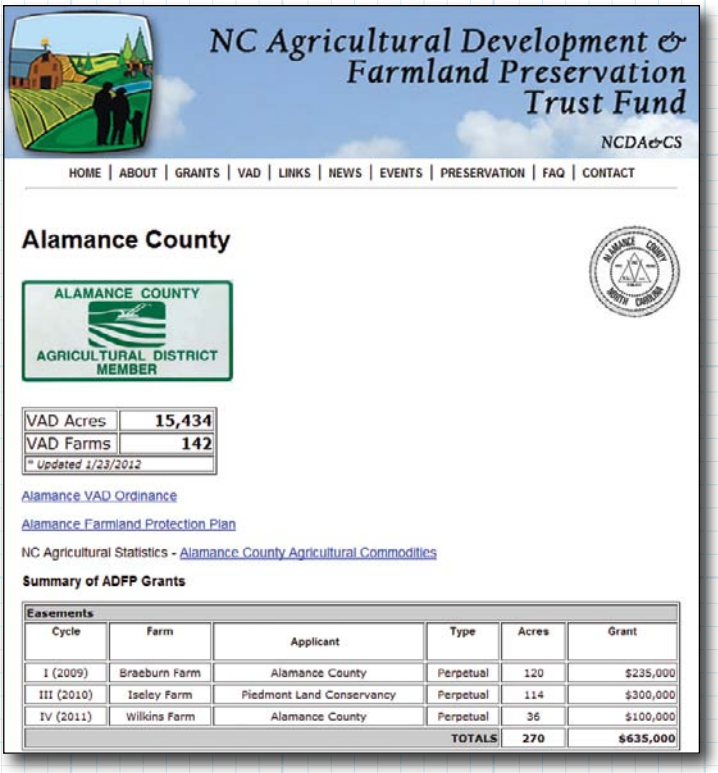
ADFP Website

www.ncadfp.org

The current site is being updated to increase the visibility of all ADFP activities. For instance, each grant cycle now has a dedicated page with a budget summary, a detailed listing of all grants and a grant distribution map. In addition, grantees will be able to easily find required forms on each cycle page. The site also includes a profile for each county. For counties with VAD/EVAD's and Farmland Protection Plans, there are links to online PDF copies for easy access. The county profile pages also list the major commodities, any past ADFP grants received, VAD contact information and photos of county VAD signage. There is also a current listing of acres and farms enrolled in the VAD program on each county profile page. In the future, county contacts will be able to submit information online so that acreage and farm totals will be as up-to-date as possible.

There is also a dedicated page that includes online PDF's of every county VAD/EVAD ordinance and FPP so that counties can research and develop their own documents. An information page also lists all upcoming workshops, events and grantee due dates. An improved contact page includes photos and information on ADFP staff and members of the ADFP Advisory Board.

Homepage



County Profile Page: Alamance

ADFP Trust Fund Highlights

As of June 30, 2012, the ADFP Trust Fund has accomplished the following:

- 83 counties with Voluntary Agricultural Districts
- 17 counties with Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts
- More than 480,000 acres and 6,300 farms enrolled in VAD/EVAD programs
- 39 counties have NCDA&CS-approved Farmland Protection Plans
- 8,654 acres protected by 56 conservation easement grants
- 64 grants awarded for plans and projects
- Awarded more than $15 million in grants, with matching funds totaling more than $36 million, for a total grant impact of $51 million dollars

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
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Raleigh, NC 27699-1001
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