



N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Farmland Preservation Division

N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Trust Fund



Frequently Asked Questions

When was the ADFP Trust Fund developed?

In March 2005, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler delivered his "Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Strategy" to the North Carolina General Assembly. During the 2005 legislative session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 607, and the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and was signed into law, N.C.G.S. 106-744.

What is the ADFP Trust Fund's mission?

The ADFP Trust Fund encourages the preservation of agricultural, horticultural and forest lands (working lands) to foster the growth, development and sustainability of family farms.

How does the ADFP Trust Fund help the economy?

The ADFP Trust Fund assists in the preservation of North Carolina's agricultural economy by providing grants to county governments and non-profit organizations for perpetual and term conservation easements, county agricultural plans, and agriculture and agribusiness development projects. The preservation of agricultural lands ensures available working farmland for future generations, provides scenic landscapes for the state's tourism industry and helps protect the environment.

What are the requirements for the potential funding of a conservation easement?

- Working land use (agriculture, horticulture, forestry) in North Carolina.
- Land must remain in private ownership.
- Only counties or non-profit conservation organizations may apply on behalf of a landowner.

What are a few of the required documents for a conservation easement?

- Working lands easement language
- Land appraisals (N.C. State Certified Residential or N.C. State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice)
- Survey (Reliable metes and bounds)
- Baseline documentation
- Environmental audit

What is the ADFP Trust Fund grant process?

- The ADFP Trust Fund receives Requests for Proposals (RFPs). These RFPs are designed to meet defined partnership needs, such as compatible military training.
- The ADFP Trust Fund staff evaluates all RFPs, including site visits for easement applications and interviews for plan and project applications.
- The ADFP Trust Fund staff recommends potential funding based on evaluations.
- The ADFP Trust Fund Advisory Committee reviews the funding proposals and advises the Commissioner of Agriculture on its recommendations.
- The Commissioner of Agriculture reviews the recommendations for funding and submits the final approved list of funded easements, plans and projects.
- The grantee and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services sign a contract.

How does the ADFP Trust Fund set its funding priorities?

The Commissioner of Agriculture sets funding priorities. The Commissioner of Agriculture considers legislative directives, ADFP Trust Fund Advisory Committee recommendations, and North Carolina General Statutes and administrative rules while setting these priorities.



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How does the ADFP Trust Fund monitor grants?

- While a grant contract is open, grantees are required to file budget and progress reports. Quarterly reports are required for grants less than \$250,000, while semi-annual reports are required for grants over \$250,000.
- After a grant contract is closed, the ADFP Trust Fund staff works with grantees to monitor easements, plans and projects. Conservation easements are monitored on-site every three years for the length of the easement, either perpetual or term-limited. Agricultural plans and development projects are monitored for five years after the close of the contract.
- More information about reporting and monitoring guidelines can be found at: <http://www.ncadfp.org/downloads.htm>

How does the ADFP Trust Fund compare to other trusts?

- Similar:
 - It is a land easement program.
 - The program is dependent upon state appropriations.
- Different:
 - ADFP Trust Fund conservation easements only remove development rights.
 - The land remains in private ownership.
 - Grant funds can be used for agriculture and agribusiness economic development projects.
 - Grant funds can be used for county agricultural plans.
 - Advisory Committee recommends funding, while the final decision is by the Commissioner of Agriculture.
 - Contract and funding is through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
 - The ADFP Trust Fund may receive private and public partnership donations.

What are the ADFP Trust Fund appropriations and expenditures since 2005?

The ADFP Trust Fund has appropriations and expenditures figures of \$19,925,912.87 as of April 30, 2014.

