



## County Farm & Forest Land Protection Planning



### What is a Countywide Farmland Protection Plan?

- **Described in N.C.G.S. § 106-744 (e)**  
***A countywide farmland protection plan means a plan that satisfies all of the following requirements:***
  - 1) *The countywide farmland protection plan shall contain a list and description of existing agricultural activity in the county.*
  - 2) *The countywide farmland protection plan shall contain a list of existing challenges to continued family farming in the county.*
  - 3) *The countywide farmland protection plan shall contain a list of opportunities for maintaining or enhancing small, family-owned farms and the local agricultural economy.*
  - 4) *The countywide farmland protection plan shall describe how the county plans to maintain a viable agricultural community and shall address farmland preservation tools, such as agricultural economic development, including farm diversification and marketing assistance; other kinds of agricultural technical assistance, such as farm infrastructure financing, farmland purchasing, linking with younger farmers, and estate planning; the desirability and feasibility of donating agricultural conservation easements, and entering into voluntary agricultural districts.*
  - 5) *The countywide farmland protection plan shall contain a schedule for implementing the plan and an identification of possible funding sources for the long-term support of the plan.*
- No county in N.C. currently is known to have a County Farm & Forest Land Protection Plan that meets the statute requirements
- Some counties do have land use plans that contain some of the information necessary for a county farm & forest land protection plan already

### What needs to be in a plan...

- Existing agricultural & forestry activity in that county
- Acknowledge challenges to continued family forestry and farming in the county
- Opportunities for maintaining or enhancing small, family-owned farms and the local agricultural economy
- How the county plans to maintain a viable agricultural community
- Listing of farm & forest land preservation tools:
  - Agricultural economic development
  - Farm diversification and marketing assistance;
  - Farm infrastructure financing
  - Farmland purchasing,
  - Linking with younger farmers
  - Estate planning
  - Conservation easements, VAD and EVAD programs
- Need to also consider land use regulations such as zoning and coordination with comprehensive land use plans
- Schedule for implementing the plan and an identification of possible funding sources for the long-term support of the plan
- County Farm & Forest Land Protection Plan could be a section of the comprehensive land use plan

## Why do a plan?

- Assess the state of farming and forestry in the county
- Coordinate activities, agencies, and funding for farmland and forestland preservation
- Lower matching percentage required for funds received from Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund if county has a plan
  - ADFP Trust Fund Matching Requirements:
    - Tier Two and Three Counties
      - with a Farmland Protection Plan- 15%
      - without a Farmland Protection Plan- 30%
    - Tier One Counties
      - with a Farmland Protection Plan- 0%
      - without a Farmland Protection Plan- 30

## Models

- Models available at this URL:  
[www.cals.ncsu.edu/wq/lpn/modelordinances.htm](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/wq/lpn/modelordinances.htm)
- Flexible documents - modify as needed
- Notes provide additional explanation
- Review by legal counsel is required
- All models currently in **DRAFT** format
- Model comments can be e-mailed to:  
Ted Feitshans  
ted\_feitshans@ncsu.edu  
NCSU Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Technical website questions can be e-mailed to:  
Brandon King:  
brandon\_king@ncsu.edu  
NCSU Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Model are for Counties and Municipalities as designated - the Countywide Farmland Protection Program is solely for Counties

## Contact Information

Dewitt Hardee  
Environmental Program Manager  
NCDA&CS  
Dewitt.Hardee@ncmail.net  
919-733-7125 ext. 256