



Email Update

MARCH 27, 2009

WWW.NCADFP.ORG

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

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ADFP Trust Fund Email Update Schedule

In order to provide you with regular information and updates, the ADFP Trust Fund has decided to send its Email Updates quarterly – in March, June, September, and December. Special Edition Email Updates will be sent as necessary.

ADFP Trust Fund News: 2009-2010 Grant Cycle Update

For the 2009-2010 Grant Cycle, the ADFP Trust Fund received 70 applications requesting \$15,698,319.50 in funds for projects with a combined total budget of \$49,118,639.00. The applications were for 14 agricultural plans, 9 agricultural development projects, and 47 agricultural conservation easements. The applicants are as follows:

Applicant Organization	Application Type	Requested Grant Amount	Total Budget
Anson County	Plan	\$8,500.00	\$17,045.00
Catawba County Planning Parks and Development and CE	Plan	\$5,750.00	\$9,950.00
Clay County SWCD	Plan	\$35,000.00	\$57,250.00
Columbus SWCD	Plan	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00
Davidson County CE	Plan	\$25,000.00	\$35,725.00
Duplin County	Plan	\$39,530.00	\$72,250.00
Edgecombe County	Plan	\$37,700.00	\$57,000.00
Franklin County CE	Plan	\$34,000.00	\$56,800.00
Lee County SWCD	Plan	\$8,212.00	\$16,420.00
Pasquotank County CE	Plan	\$11,000.00	\$14,500.00
Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.	Plan	\$31,200.00	\$41,600.00
Rockingham County SWCD	Plan	\$30,000.00	\$39,700.00
Wake SWCD	Plan	\$32,500.00	\$57,850.00
Watauga County	Plan	\$30,000.00	\$43,250.00
Appalachian Sustainable Agricultural Project	Development	\$9,250.00	\$14,250.00
NC Farm Center	Development	\$66,000.00	\$3,331,500.00

NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation	Development	\$50,000.00	\$100,100.00
North Carolina Farm Transition Network	Development	\$35,500.00	\$59,500.00
Piedmont Farmers Market, Inc.	Development	\$50,000.00	\$65,000.00
Polk County Farmland Preservation and Agricultural Economic Development Board	Development	\$42,000.00	\$64,500.00
The Abundance Foundation	Development	\$30,000.00	\$40,000.00
Triangle Land Conservancy	Development	\$50,000.00	\$186,500.00
WNC Communities	Development	\$50,000.00	\$2,667,000.00
Alamance County	Easement	\$428,000.00	\$584,000.00
Alamance County	Easement	\$449,000.00	\$612,000.00
Alamance County	Easement	\$545,000.00	\$740,000.00
Beaufort SWCD	Easement	\$46,500.00	\$183,080.00
Brunswick SWCD	Easement	\$17,000.00	\$1,337,500.00
Buncombe County	Easement	\$442,572.00	\$688,760.00
Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Easement	\$87,623.00	\$125,175.00
Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy	Easement	\$398,856.00	\$1,596,370.00
Catawba Lands Conservancy	Easement	\$161,337.50	\$597,250.00
Catawba Lands Conservancy	Easement	\$178,600.00	\$672,040.00
Chatham SWCD	Easement	\$321,000.00	\$1,206,900.00
Durham County	Easement	\$111,875.00	\$429,750.00
Durham County	Easement	\$217,625.00	\$436,500.00
Edgecombe SWCD	Easement	\$51,800.00	\$81,100.00
Fishing Creek SWCD	Easement	\$180,500.00	\$250,600.00
Foothills Conservancy of NC, Inc.	Easement	\$265,750.00	\$439,120.00
Haywood County	Easement	\$345,400.00	\$406,400.00
Haywood SWCD	Easement	\$213,363.00	\$730,500.00
Haywood SWCD	Easement	\$214,860.00	\$561,000.00
Haywood SWCD	Easement	\$341,275.00	\$401,500.00
Hyde County SWCD	Easement	\$212,845.00	\$273,993.00
Hyde County SWCD	Easement	\$254,595.00	\$363,150.00
North American Land Trust	Easement	\$1,120,000.00	\$2,270,000.00
North Carolina Coastal Land Trust	Easement	\$20,000.00	\$275,500.00
North Carolina Coastal Land Trust	Easement	\$20,000.00	\$308,000.00
Orange County	Easement	\$290,000.00	\$597,000.00
Piedmont Land Conservancy	Easement	\$378,660.00	\$548,000.00
Piedmont Land Conservancy	Easement	\$400,000.00	\$830,400.00
Piedmont Land Conservancy	Easement	\$577,200.00	\$839,600.00
Pitt County SWCD	Easement	\$42,000.00	\$50,700.00
Polk County Farmland Preservation and Agricultural Economic Development Board	Easement	\$63,600.00	\$113,600.00
Rowan County SWCD	Easement	\$594,000.00	\$862,000.00
Rowan County SWCD	Easement	\$677,000.00	\$1,014,000.00
Saluda Community Land Trust, Inc.	Easement	\$196,460.00	\$441,820.00
Sandhills Area Land Trust	Easement	\$1,323,420.00	\$1,891,600.00
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Easement	\$185,000.00	\$599,000.00
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Easement	\$200,000.00	\$6,063,600.00
Southwestern NC RC&D	Easement	\$91,211.00	\$134,463.00
Southwestern NC RC&D	Easement	\$796,000.00	\$1,932,392.00
The Land Trust for Central NC	Easement	\$105,500.00	\$154,200.00
The Land Trust for Central NC	Easement	\$347,600.00	\$1,354,700.00
The Land Trust for Central NC	Easement	\$524,200.00	\$1,061,036.00
The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, Inc.	Easement	\$505,450.00	\$1,854,250.00
Triangle Land Conservancy	Easement	\$96,000.00	\$169,500.00
Triangle Land Conservancy	Easement	\$372,500.00	\$970,000.00
Wake SWCD	Easement	\$273,000.00	\$1,452,400.00
Wake SWCD	Easement	\$300,000.00	\$3,562,500.00

Total:		\$15,698,319.50	\$49,118,639.00
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Feature Article:

NCDA&CS and SAHC close easement on Hickory Nut Gap Farm!

By: Tom Ellis and Shelly Biggs, NC ADFP Trust Fund



Hickory Nut Gap Farm Easement Closing



David Steinbock Presents NCDA&CS Check

Hickory Nut Gap Farm, located in Buncombe County, is one of the first properties to close on an easement designed to protect the landowner's ability to farm. This 82 acre perpetual easement was granted by Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler, through the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Troxler stated, "This easement ensures that Hickory Nut Gap Farm's historical production of livestock and produce will continue to benefit local markets and citizens. It also provides a building block for the continuation of farming in this part of the state."



Hickory Nut Gap Farm is located along one of the most historic routes in western North Carolina. From Indian trail to providing access to our earliest settlers, the road winding up to the gap has provided access for market bound farmers and travelers for hundreds of years. Settlement of this region began shortly after the Revolutionary War. Sherrill's Inn survived the little known cross-mountain excursions of Union Troops during the Civil War and became an important resting spot for travelers, merchants and families seeking a new life in the west.

An amazing family relationship with this farm began in 1916 when Jim and Elizabeth McClure, the great-great-great-grandparents of current operators Jamie Ager and Annie Louise Perkinson, purchased the Inn and surrounding land. Love of the land and the need to make a living from its resources led the family through production of apples and crops to focus on raising livestock. Jamie and his wife Amy sell Hickory Nut Gap Farm Meats at a small store on the property and to local restaurants. Through their brand "Flying Cloud Farm," Annie Louise and her husband Isaiah produce a variety of vegetables for a Community Supported Agriculture program, consumer direct marketing and tailgate market sales in Asheville.

Although the rapidly expanding population of the Asheville metropolitan area has placed pressure on many farms in the rural fringes of Buncombe County, the McClure descendants have worked to diversify their income from the land. This has protected the integrity of their land by preventing conversion. A significant threat to the farm is best seen by the ever increasing real estate value of its beautiful location.

This complicated the diverging goals of its six owners, making a conservation easement the best – and possibly only – way to save the farm from conversion.

Hickory Nut Gap Farm symbolizes the marriage of tradition and progress and serves as a model farm. In order to learn and implement farming best practices, its operators meet with other farmers and agricultural specialists from across the state and the nation. They study what other farmers are doing and then adapt these best practices for their farm. For example, the livestock production focuses on rotational grazing for both beef and pork. This method requires constant management to protect the steep slopes from eroding while maintaining good quality waters for the stream on the farm. Additionally, Annie Louise and Isaiah Perkinson's Community Supported Agriculture program was the first of its kind in the area.

The McClure family focuses on understanding consumer needs and building viable relationships with local businesses and industries. Hickory Nut Gap Meats are served at a variety of Asheville area restaurants ([Click here for a list of restaurants serving Hickory Nut Gap Meats.](#)) while the farm is actively engaged in agritourism with tours and seasonal activities including visiting with the animals, a corn maze, Frisbee golf, tether ball, a hay pile, and picnics. Annie Ager, the farm's General Manager and one of the six current owners, also teaches horseback riding lessons and hosts summer camps on the farm.

The Hickory Nut Gap Farm family's commitment to North Carolina agriculture goes beyond just their own farm. In 1920, Jim McClure was a leader in the effort to create the Farmers Federation, a unification of farm interests that created a significant force in the history of Western North Carolina agriculture. Additionally, James McClure "Jamie" Clarke was a farmer and orchardist who served first in the North Carolina House of Representatives and then in the North Carolina Senate. In the 1982 election, he was elected to the 98th United States Congress. This dedication to the State of North Carolina and to the protection of its agricultural integrity was clearly shown in the farm's application to the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. Furthermore, the family's agricultural conservation plans are not limited to the 82-acre NCDA&CS ADFP Trust Fund easement. In 2008, the family not only permanently preserved this farmland but also 207 acres of adjacent forestland. With further support from the NCDA&CS, the family and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy plan to close on the final quarter (28 acres) of the Hickory Nut Gap Farm project in 2009-2010

The importance of the NCDA&CS conservation easement in saving Hickory Nut Gap Farm is best heard from the owners themselves:

Dumont Clarke IV, co-owner, said: "This was an extremely complex conservation easement transaction and would not have been possible without the grant from the Farm Land Preservation Trust Fund and the technical assistance provided by the Commissioner of Agriculture and his employees. We are truly grateful for all they did to help make it possible for us to keep the family farm... This easement will take the pressure to develop the property off and allow the current and future generations of the family to continue farming it. But above all else, the easement will provide the public benefits of open space preservation, educational opportunities for school kids, and diversity of farming activities."

Doug Clarke, co-owner, noted: "We are so appreciative of the support we have received from Commissioner Steve Troxler and the North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture in putting this conservation easement on our family farm. Hickory Nut Gap Farm is a unique and storied place, serving as a landmark for travelers and holding a special place in the hearts of the many people who have worked, visited or grown up here. This conservation easement was the only option our family really had to keep our farm intact for future generations. I am grateful that the State of North Carolina is willing to give the financial and administrative support which is needed to keep North Carolina's farmland from being lost forever."

Annie Clarke Ager expressed it best in saying: "The Clarke Family is very grateful to the citizens of North Carolina and NCDA for making it possible for us to keep our family farm into the future. We have great respect for the citizens of our state and appreciate Commissioner Troxler's vision for the future of North Carolina."

William Hamilton, Farmland Program Director at the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, notes: "It's extremely gratifying to have a role in conserving an important working family farm that will have a positive impact on current and future generations. Closing this transaction was a historical day for the future of agriculture and for the future of natural resource conservation in North Carolina. This could not have been done without the vision of Commissioner Steve Troxler and the creation of the NC ADFP Trust Fund. Working with the experienced staff of the Trust Fund to successfully close this transaction was a delight, and we are excited about the prospect of conserving more family farms next year."



3 Generations of Clarke Family at Hickory Nut Gap Farm Store with NC ADFP Trust Fund Sign

Other News and Articles

Farmland preservation support is growing

Asheville Citizen Times

March 19, 2009

Farmland preservation support is growing ASHEVILLE - Ed Hemphill takes pride in the Reems Creek farm that has supported his family over the last 150 years. But looking to the future, the 88-year-old farmer has fretted about the housing developments he sees creeping up the valley toward his pastures and timberland. "I wanted my place to stay a farm," said Hemphill, who has surrendered any rights to develop his 64 acres under a conservation easement with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Buncombe County commissioners earlier this month approved a \$50,000 grant to the conservancy, which has worked with Hemphill to protect the rural views of the property overlooking the Zebulon Vance Birthplace Historic Site for generations to come. The grant is the latest example of the county's efforts to conserve farmland. Commissioners since 2007 have awarded \$3.3 million to the conservancy to secure about dozen conservation easements on Buncombe's surviving farms...

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009903190330>

Funds for farmland

The News & Observer

March 13, 2009

Your March 1 editorial "Farmland, paved" laid out in stark terms the changes affecting North Carolina's agricultural land. A drive across the state illustrates those changes. So many developments are named after the farms that once thrived where subdivisions now grow.

North Carolina's agricultural lands are more than just tradition. They are also the cornerstone of a \$70 billion a year industry -- the state's largest. That economic cornerstone will be lost if we continue to develop our farmlands.

There is a way to reverse this trend. The N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund purchases conservation easements on farmland, ensuring it will be available for farming in the future. It also supports agricultural development projects that will help sustain small family farms.

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler is asking the legislature to put \$15 million into that fund this year. That will be money well spent during tough economic times, real stimulus funding that will benefit all of us -- the farmers, the people who rely on those farms and all who benefit from the continued strength of North Carolina's economy.

Charlie Bolton, Pittsboro

North Carolina lost more than half a million acres of farmland from 2002-2007, latest ag census shows

NCDA&CS

February 24, 2009

RALEIGH – North Carolina lost more than 600,000 acres of farmland from 2002 to 2007, according to the latest U.S. Census of Agriculture.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts an agricultural census every five years, and the results of the 2007 survey were released earlier this month. The new census reported 8.5 million acres of farmland in the state, compared with 9.1 million acres in 2002...

<http://www.ncagr.com/paffairs/release/2009/2-09agcensus.htm>

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program Rule

The rule for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (as titled in the Federal Register) was released and published in the Federal Register on January 16, 2009 (Federal Register, Volume 74, No. 11, Page 2809). It became effective on January 16, 2009 as well.