NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

FARMLAND PRESERVATION DIVISION

NC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

2015-2016 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

September 30, 2016

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler
Chief Deputy Commissioner N. David Smith

Pursuit to G.S. 106.744 (i) … The Advisory Committee shall report no later than October 1 of each year to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Environmental Review Commission, and the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources regarding the activities of the Advisory Committee, the agriculture easements purchased, and agricultural projects funded during the previous year. (1991, c. 734, s. 1; 2000-171, ss. 1, 2; 2005-390, ss. 4, 17; 2006-252, s. 2.12; 2007-495, s. 23; 2009-303, ss. 1, 2, 3; 2009-484, s. 12.)

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Why Preserve Farms and Forests in North Carolina?

The NC ADFP Trust Fund Saves the Family Farm for Future Generations

-Agriculture and agribusiness is North Carolina's top industry, accounting for almost one-sixth of the state's economy and employees.

-Agriculture and agribusiness amounts for more than 17 percent, or $84 billion, of the $482 billion gross state product.

-Working lands provide fresh, local foods to North Carolina residents and quality products to the agriculture, forestry and fiber industries.

-Agriculture is a compatible industry with the military and military training, which is second in economic importance in the state at $66 billion.

-Working lands provide scenic rural landscapes for tourism, the third largest economic sector in North Carolina.

-Farms and forests are critical in providing a healthy environment. Working lands are actively managed by farmers, providing key benefits like erosion control, carbon sequestration and waterway buffers.

-Cost of community services studies in the state show that agricultural lands use less tax dollars than are collected. Working lands are a net provider of local tax dollars.

Advisory Committee and Staff

NC ADFP Trust Fund Advisory Committee	
Chair - Steve Troxler	Commissioner of Agriculture
Jimmy Gentry	NC State Grange
Pryor Gibson	NC Forestry Association
William Holbrook	Farmer appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate
Clarence Hood	Farmer appointed by the Speaker of the NC House of Representatives
Shirley Hymon-Parker	Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T University
B. Ray Jeffers	NC Association of County Commissioners
Jimmy Johnson	Designee of the NC Department of Environmental Quality
Ben Knox	NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Scott Marlow	Rural Advancement Foundation International
Tom Melton	Designee of the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Science at NC State University
Edgar Miller	Conservation Trust for NC
Erica Peterson	NC Agribusiness Council
Stuart Pierce	Farmer appointed by the Governor
John Skvarla	Secretary of Commerce
Darelle Tennie	NC Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association
Steve Woodson	NC Farm Bureau Federation

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Dick Fowler	Field Staff	
Scott Shoulars	Field Staff	
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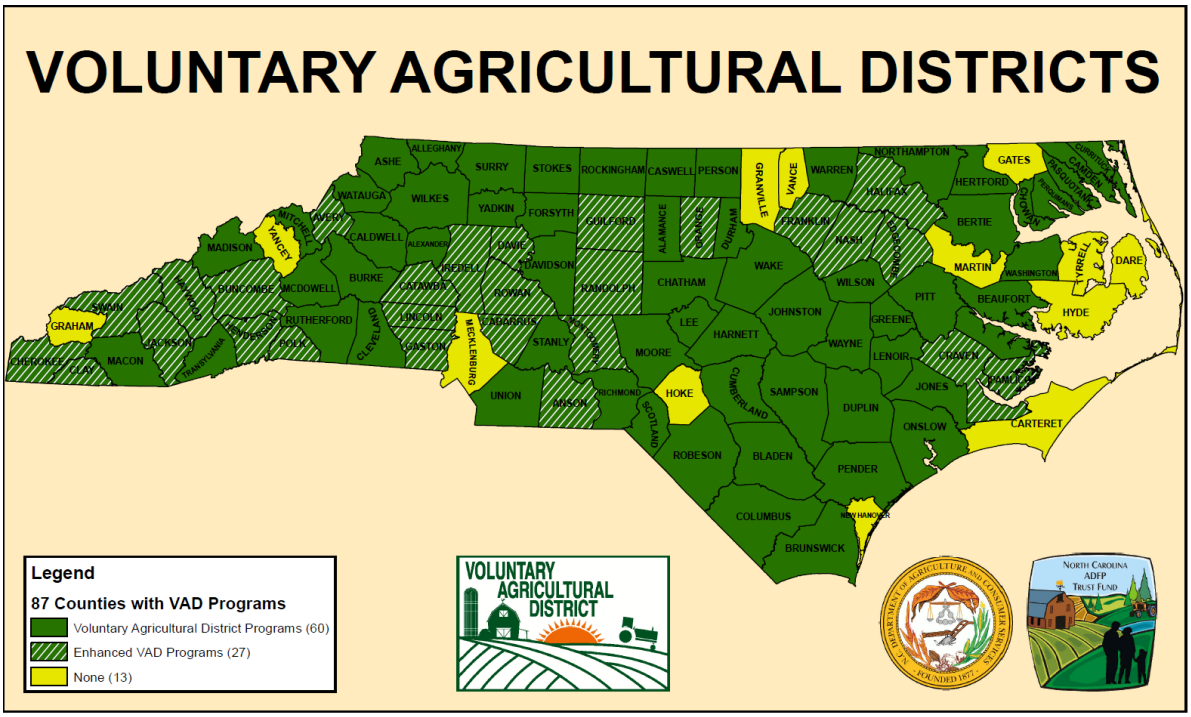
Voluntary Agricultural Districts

The Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD) program encourages the preservation and protection of farmland by allowing landowners to publicly recognize their farms. The VAD program is a county-level ordinance that establishes an Agricultural Advisory Board that provides a voice for farm, forestry and horticultural interests in local government. Farms enrolled in the VAD program may reduce the threat of nuisance conflicts, may allow for waivers for water and sewer assessment and may provide public hearings for proposed condemnations. Program provisions vary by county. Enhanced VAD (EVAD) member benefits are the same as VAD, plus: May receive up to 25% of its gross sales from the sale of nonfarm products and still qualify as a bona fide farm and are eligible to receive a higher percentage of cost share funds under the Agriculture Cost Share Program. The EVAD conservation agreement is irrevocable for 10 years. The conservation agreement is automatically renewed for three (3) years absent a written notice to the county revoking the conservation agreements.

Farms Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	9,103
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	784,316
Farms Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	517
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	124,911
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	9,620
Total Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	909,227
Total Acres Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide **Increased by 101,556 Acres, or 12.57%, since 2015.**	
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide **Decreased by 228 farms, or 2.32%, since 2015.**	



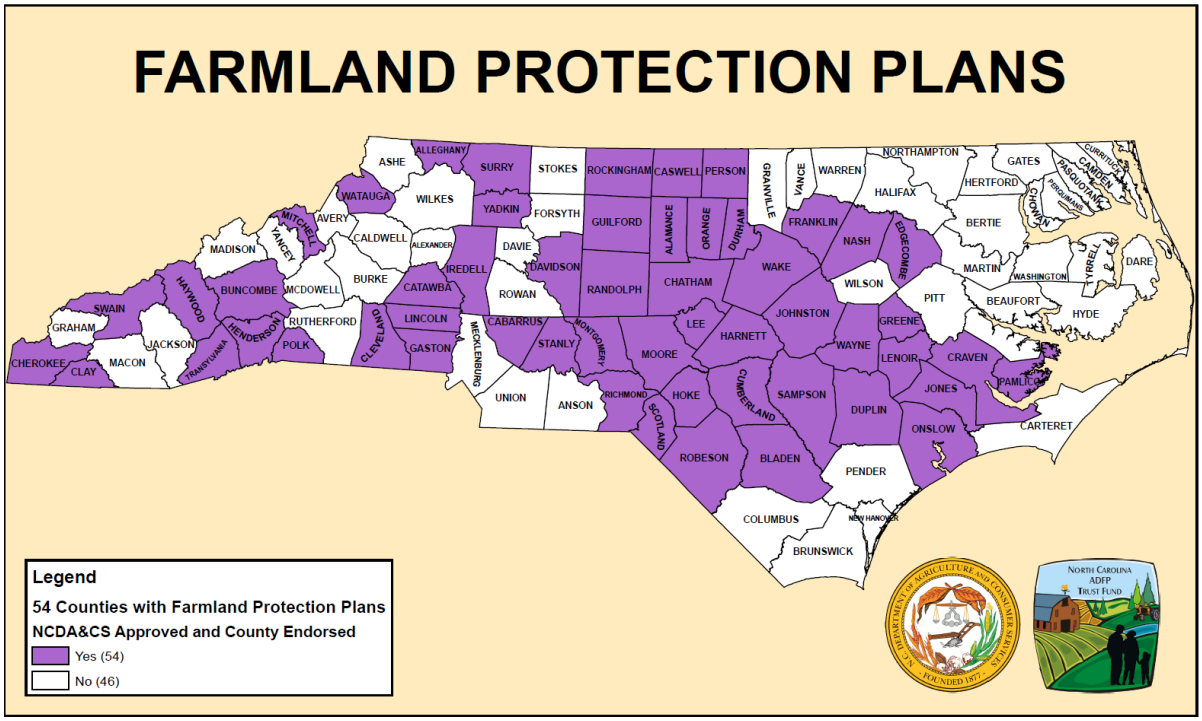
Farmland Protection Plans

Guiding Counties to a Viable Agricultural Future

Farmland Protection Plans are strategic proposals that define how to maintain a viable agricultural economy in a county.

These plans describe existing agricultural activity in a county, list challenges to continued family farming in the county, list opportunities for enhancing the local agricultural economy, create a schedule for implementing the plan and identify possible funding sources for long-term support of the plan.

Farmland Protection Plans are approved by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and endorsed by the county Board of Commissioners.



NC ADFP Trust Fund Grants, Match and Acres Figures

As of September 1, 2016

Figures include conservation easements, development projects and agricultural plans.					
Year	**Cycle**	**Confirmed Match**	**Anticipated Match**	**Grant Expended**	**Funds Under Contract**
2006	Pilot	$3,418,700.00	$0.00	$44,000.00	$0.00
2008	Cycle I	$8,897,643.68	$0.00	$7,001,806.39	$0.00
2009	Cycle II	$13,206,169.33	$0.00	$3,230,088.53	$0.00
2010	Cycle III	$6,001,118.74	$0.00	$2,151,866.32	$0.00
2011	Cycle IV	$3,593,741.00	$0.00	$1,432,695.00	$0.00
2012	Cycle V	$2,394,677.00	$0.00	$1,763,770.00	$0.00
2013	Cycle VI - General Appropriations	$219,835.00	$1,356,513.00	$196,442.00	$451,412.00
2013	Cycle VI – TVA	$5,200,639.00	$0.00	$927,843.00	$0.00
2014	Cycle VII - General Appropriations	$22,048.00	$1,003,468.00	$91,658.00	$503,381.00
2014	Cycle VII - TVA	$829,198.00	$620,400.00	$1,237,864.00	$155,893.00
2014	Cycle VII - Sentinel Landscapes	$310,317.00	$0.00	$284,646.00	$0.00
2015	Cycle VIII - Military	$84,500.00	$915,500.00	$84,500.00	$915,500.00
2015	Cycle VIII - General Appropriations	$9,044.17	$3,439,064.00	$104,277.00	$1,627,970.00
2015	Cycle VIII - Sentinel Landscapes	$6,130.00	$0.00	$16,000.00	$0.00
Totals		**$44,193,760.92**	**$7,334,945.00**	**$18,567,456.24**	**$3,654,156.00**

Cycle	**Easement Acres Recorded**
Pilot	474.7
Cycle I	3,295.0
Cycle II	3,167.5
Cycle III	1,207.0
Cycle IV	715.3
Cycle V	1,038.0
Cycle VI - GA	92.1
Cycle VI - TVA	726.5
Cycle VII - SL	435.6
Cycle VII - TVA	466.2
Cycle VIII - MIL	108.2
Totals	**11,726.1**

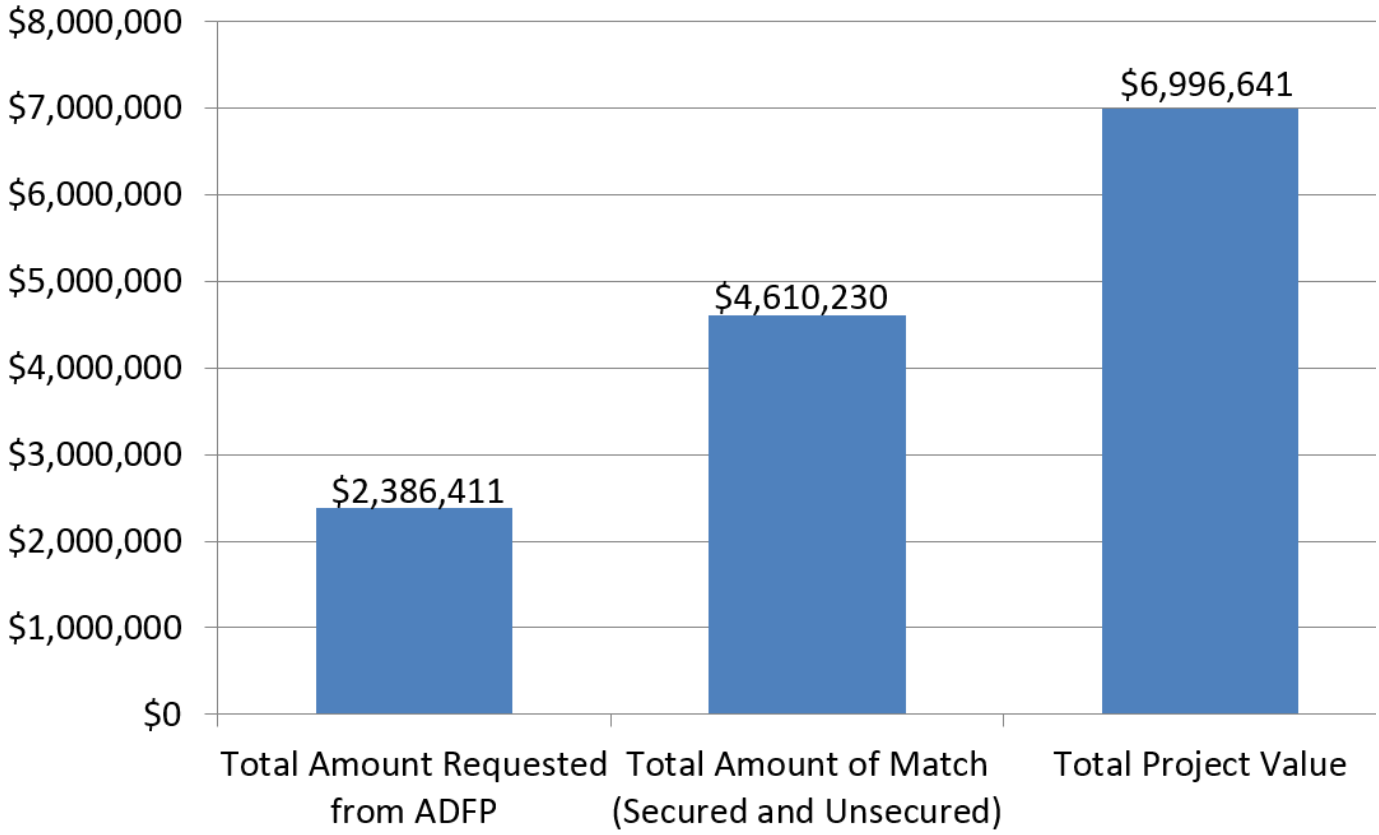
Cycle	**Acres Under Contract for Easements**
Cycle VI - GA	402.5
Cycle VII - GA	423.0
Cycle VII - TVA	175.0
Cycle VIII - MIL	2,112.0
Cycle VIII - GA	702.0
Cycle VIII - TVA	159.0
Totals	**3,973.5**

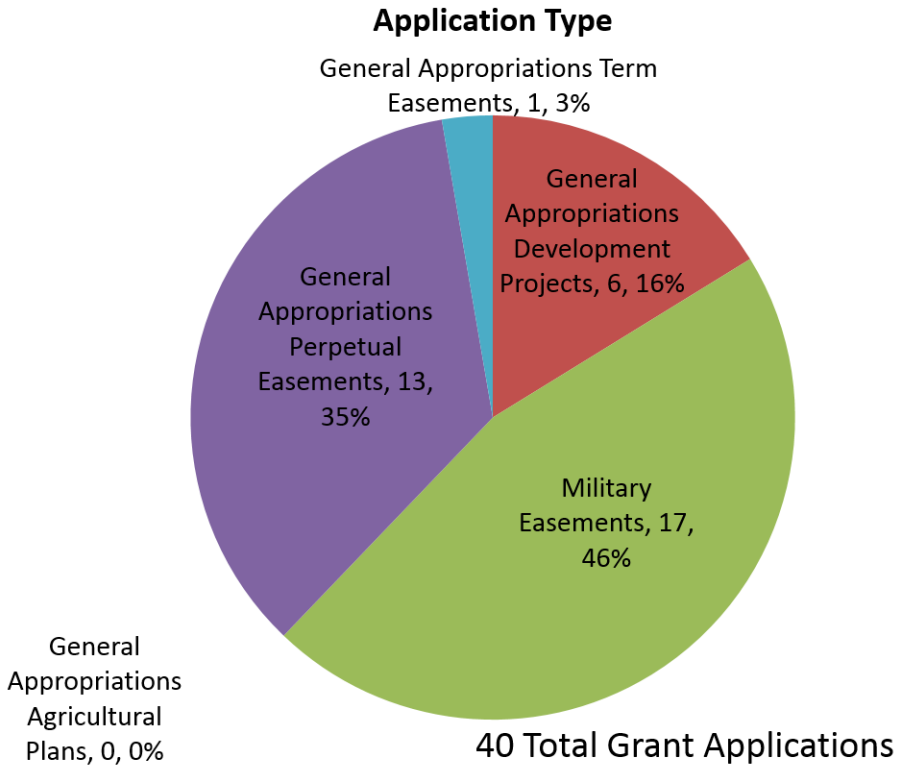
Cycle	**New Contract Acres**
Cycle IX - GA	1,168
Cycle IX - MIL	1,247
Totals	**2,415**

**4,130.7 farmland preservation acres were preserved in perpetuity prior to the establishment of the ADFP Trust Fund and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has third party enforcement rights.*

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle IX Grant Requests

General Appropriation Requests:



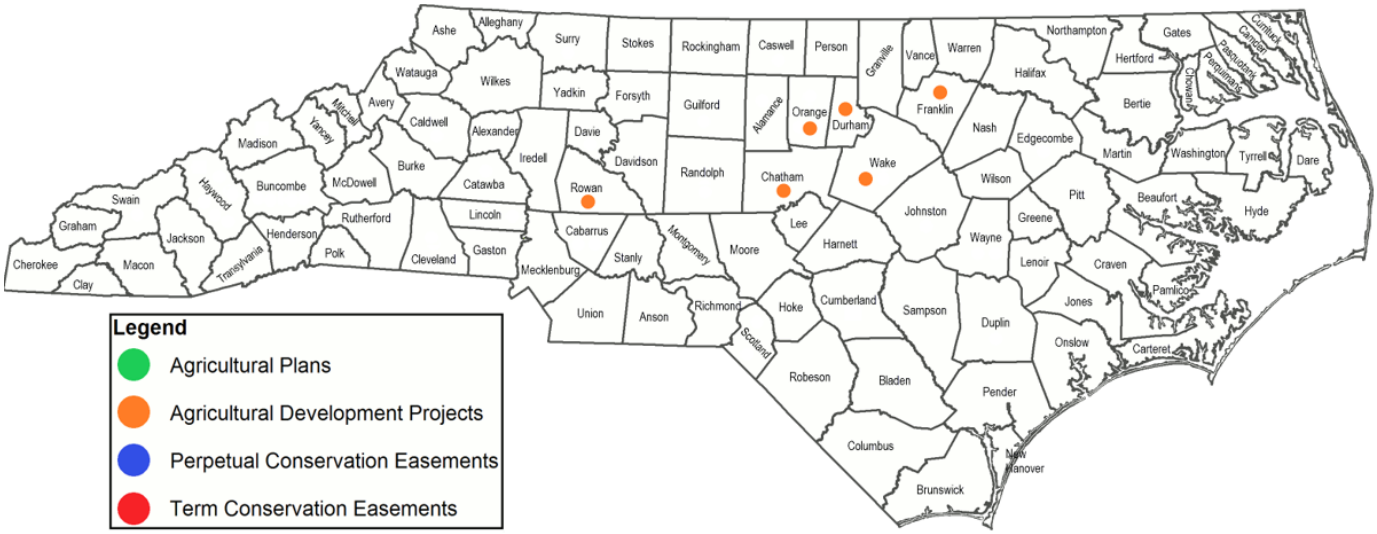


40 Total Grant Applications

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle IX Agricultural Development Projects Application Summary

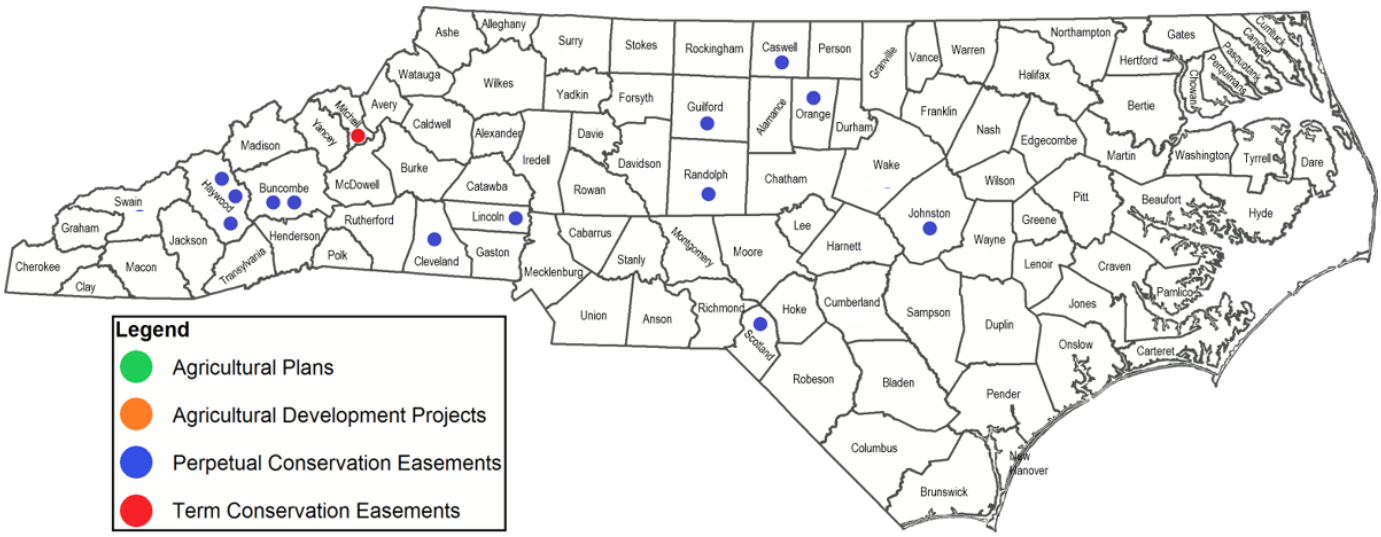
Number of Projects	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Match	Total Project Value
6*	$280,908	$90,222	$371,130

*This includes one (1) local project (1-3 counties), four (4) regional projects (4-20 counties), and one (1) statewide project (21+ counties).



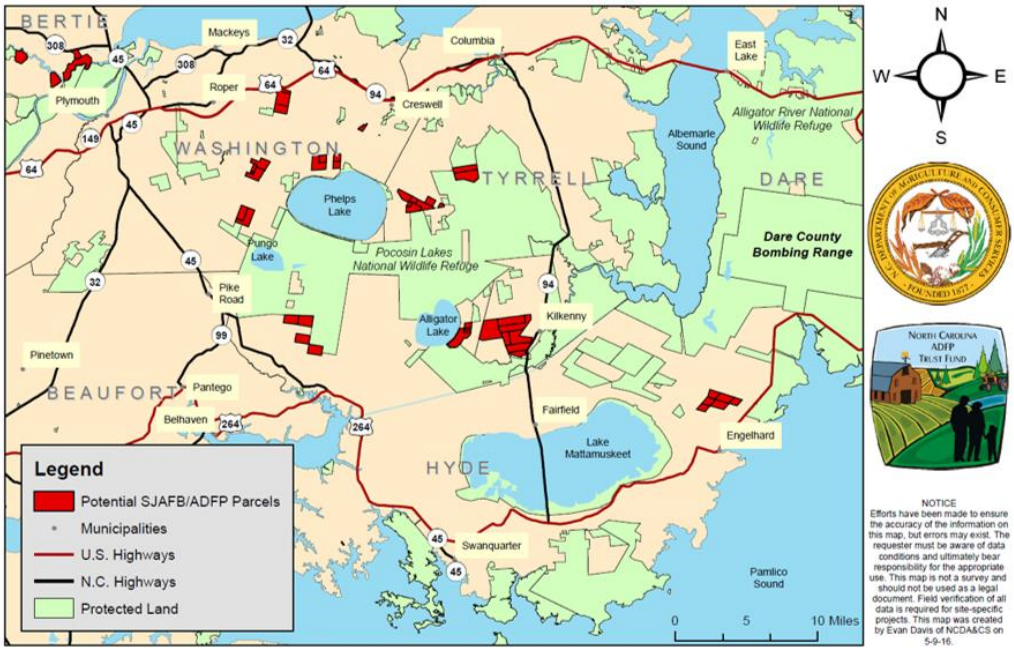
ADFP Trust Fund Cycle IX Conservation Easements Application Summary

Number of Easements	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Match	Total Project Value	Total Number of Acres
13 Perpetual	$1,993,773	$4,411,428	$6,405,201	1,266
1 Term	$111,730	$108,580	$220,310	125
Totals	**$2,105,503**	**$4,520,008**	**$6,625,511**	**1,391**



ADFP Trust Fund Cycle IX Military Conservation Easements Application Summary

	Number of Applications	Estimated Total Requests (County Tax Values and Transaction Costs)	Estimated Military/REPI Funds Needed	Total Number of Acres
Perpetual Easements	17	$9,488,969	$4,744,484	8,434



ADFP Trust Fund Cycle IX Grant Awards Summary

Military Conservation Easements

Project	Grantee	Type	Military Affiliation	County	Acres	ADFP Grant	Federal Match	Project Value
McAden Farm Easement	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual Easement	Air Force – Seymour Johnson AFB	Hyde	462	$859,406	$859,406	$1,718,812
Hubers Farm Easement	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual Easement	Air Force – Seymour Johnson AFB	Hyde	386	$857,888	$857,888	$1,715,776
Tadlock Farm Easement	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual Easement	Air Force – Seymour Johnson AFB	Bertie	186	$186,890	$186,890	$373,780
Ward Farm Easement	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual Easement	Air Force – Seymour Johnson AFB	Bertie	213	$166,800	$166,800	$333,600
Totals					**1,247**	**$2,070,984**	**$2,070,984**	**$4,141,968**

General Appropriations Agricultural Development Projects

Project	Grantee	Scope	Headquartered County	ADFP Grant	Secured Match	Project Value
Working Lands Trust Development	NC Forestry Association	Statewide	Wake	$30,000	$30,000	$60,000
Franklin Farmers Market Feasibility Study	Franklin County Cooperative Extension	Regional	Franklin	$20,000	$10,000	$30,000
Orange County CROP Fund	Orange County	Regional	Orange	$32,500	$32,500	$65,000
Agritourism Biosecurity	Carolina Farm Stewardship Association	Regional	Chatham	$7,420	$3,180	$10,600
Totals				**$89,920**	**$75,680**	**$165,600**

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle IX Grant Awards Summary

General Appropriations Conservation Easements

Project	Grantee	Type	County	Acres	ADFP Grant	Secured Match	Project Value
Byrd Farm Easement	Mitchell Soil and Water District	20 Year Term Easement	Mitchell	125	$109,730	$108,580	$218,310
Ridgeview Farm Easement	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Buncombe	115	$157,500*	$736,000	$893,500
Mitchem Farm Easement	Catawba Lands Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Lincoln	104	$89,700	$255,300	$345,00
Baldwin Farm Phase II Easement	Piedmont Lands Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Caswell	344	$476,416	$476,416	$952,832
Gainey Farm Phase IV Easement	Sandhills Area Land Trust	Perpetual Easement	Scotland	57	$44,787	$46,210	$90,997
Smart Farm Easement	Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council	Perpetual Easement	Haywood	50	$213,719	$211,741	$425,460
Clover Hill Farm Easement	Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina	Perpetual Easement	Cleveland	180	$278,000	$303,208	$581,208
Uwharrie Ridge Farm Easement	LandTrust for Central North Carolina	Perpetual Easement	Randolph	72	$71,500	$57,030	$128,530
AK and Sons Farm Easement	Haywood Soil and Water District	Perpetual Easement	Haywood	22	$78,278	$81,300	$159,577
Antioch Road Farm Easement	Triangle Lands Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Johnston	53	$18,500	$126,210	$144,710
M. Swanger Farm Easement	Haywood Soil and Water District	Perpetual Easement	Haywood	46	$173,000	$169,800	$342,800
Totals				**1,168**	**$1,711,129**	**$2,571,795**	**$4,282,924**

**This ADFP grant award is comprised of $87,318 of general appropriation funds and $70,182 of unused TVA funds.*