



The Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

“Preserving North Carolina’s working family farms”

Farmland Preservation Tools

Agricultural Districts: In recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic and social well being of North Carolina, the Agricultural District Program encourages the preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinances (VADs) and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinances (EVADs) are excellent tools to educate the public on agriculture and agribusiness activities.

Conservation Easements: A conservation easement is a written agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or public agency in which the landowner promises to keep the land for agricultural purposes and the easement holder is granted the right to enforce the covenants of the agreement and to monitor the property. The landowner agrees to bring into or maintain farmland in active production of food, fiber, and other agricultural products for a specified period of time – which may be perpetual or for a defined period of years (term).



Programs that Promote Sustainable Agriculture: Public and private enterprise programs that promote profitable and sustainable family farms through assistance to farmers in developing and implementing plans for the production of food, fiber, and value-added products, agritourism activities, marketing and sales of agricultural products produced on the farm, and other agriculturally related business activities.

NC ADFP Trust Fund: Funds from the ADFP Trust Fund are used to:

- Fund public and private enterprise programs and plans that promote profitable and sustainable farms.
- Fund perpetual or term agricultural conservation easements.

County governments and non-profit conservation organizations are eligible to submit applications to the Trust Fund. Farmers should work with counties and non-profit groups to submit applications.

Countywide Farmland Protection Plans:

A countywide Farmland Protection Plan is adopted by county governments to maintain viable agricultural communities and address farmland preservation tools. The countywide plan must address farmland preservation tools and include:

- A list and description of existing agricultural activity in the county.
- A list of existing challenges to continued family farming in the county.
- A list of opportunities for maintaining or enhancing small, family-owned farms and the local agricultural economy.
- A plan to maintain a viable agricultural community.
- A schedule for implementing the plan and an identification of possible funding sources.

Benefits of the NC ADFP Trust Fund



Preserving North Carolina's #1 Industry

Agriculture and related businesses comprise North Carolina's #1 industry with a value of over \$70 billion annually. The NC ADFP Trust Fund plans to sustain our agricultural economy by preserving the lands that produce these valuable products. The success of the program will maintain family farm income and retain agriculture-related jobs as well as increase public awareness about the importance of family farms to North Carolina's economy.

Countywide Economic Benefit

An American Farmland Trust survey showed that farmlands represent an average 63 cent net gain of revenue for every tax dollar received for the tax base. In contrast, for every dollar in taxes received from residential development, governments pay \$1.19 – a 19 cent net loss. Therefore, it is economic benefit for any county to preserve working lands.



Quality of Life

When farms are kept in agriculture it maintains the quality of life that each North Carolinian enjoys everyday. Rural working landscapes are an integral part of our heritage that must be preserved for future generations. If we do not save our agricultural areas, we will destroy the rustic landscape that attracts and retains people and industry to North Carolina.

Ability to Buy Locally Grown Products

Maintaining the agriculture industry in North Carolina allows consumers to purchase and consume products from local agricultural producers.



**North Carolina
Farm Fresh**

For more information, please visit www.ncadfp.org.