



North Carolina Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

Background: Between the years 2003 and 2006, North Carolina lost 5,500 farms and 300,000 acres of farmland, this is equivalent to the average size of one of our counties (USDA-2007). In addition, thousands of acres of forestlands have been converted to development. This has put a strain on our county budgets, our local and state economy, our natural resources, and is a loss to our agricultural heritage. The foundation of North Carolina's #1 industry needs to be protected from unwise and unplanned conversions to other uses.

Today, approximately 90 percent of all North Carolina lands are privately owned. The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that our state's population will expand by 4 million people by 2030, and this growth threatens our farm and forestland. We must act now to protect our natural resources, wildlife habitat, and water resources, all of which reside on our farmland.

NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund: The Farmland Preservation Trust Fund was originally established in 1986. In 2005, the legislature renamed the program, the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFP), and broadened the definition to include three grant priorities:

- ◆ conservation easements
- ◆ agricultural agreements
- ◆ programs that develop sustainable or viable agriculture

At that same time a 19- member Advisory Committee was established to help guide funding priorities and application selection. County governments and non-profit groups are eligible to submit grant proposals to the ADFP Trust Fund.

Pilot project: In September 2006, 5 projects were voted on by the Advisory Committee to be the first grant recipients of the ADFP Trust Fund. These five projects totaled at \$44,000 and have a value of \$3.8 million.

2008-09 ADFP Trust Fund Grants: Grant award recipients for the 2008 grant cycle will be announced in the summer of 2008. The total funding available for the 2008 grant cycle is \$7.6 million. The ADFP Trust Fund received 93 applications for projects requesting over \$29 million. The Trust Fund received applications from 27 counties and 22 non-profit organizations.

For more information contact the NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund at:

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