



## The Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Protecting North Carolina's Economy, Environment and Heritage

The Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund protects North Carolina's agricultural economy by providing grants to county governments and nonprofit groups for conservation easements, agricultural agreements and programs that develop viable agriculture.

These grants ensure that working lands stay productive while also providing necessary water recharge areas, wildlife habitat and open landscapes. Funds may be coupled with federal farm and forest protection programs.

The ADFP Trust Fund supports North Carolina's leading industry, agriculture, which has an economic impact of *\$70.8 billion*.

### Disappearing Farmland Threatens State's Economy, Environment, Heritage

Between 2002 and 2007, North Carolina lost *600,000 acres* of farmland, an amount equivalent in size to Sampson County. In addition, thousands of acres of forest have been converted to development.

- Lost farms and forests mean lost economic opportunity, particularly for rural communities.
- When natural resources are lost, we also lose the ability to filter runoff, recharge groundwater and provide habitat for wildlife.
- When farms are lost, our agricultural heritage is lost.

The foundation of North Carolina's top industry needs to be protected from unwise and unplanned conversions to other uses.

By 2030, North Carolina's population is projected to top 12 million, and this growth will further threaten our farm and forest lands. We must act now to protect our natural resources, wildlife habitat and water resources, all of which reside on our farmland.

### Combating Farmland Loss

The Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund helps county governments and nonprofit groups fight the loss of farmland by focusing its grants on three priorities:

- agricultural plans
- agricultural development projects
- agricultural conservation easements (term and perpetual)

In 2008, the trust fund awarded grants totaling \$7.6 million to support 41 projects protecting more than 3,200 acres across the state.

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