



**NCDA&CS Farmland Preservation Division
NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund**

2013-2014 Annual Report To

Commissioner Steve Troxler
Chair

NC DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER
SERVICES

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NC DEPT. OF COMMERCE

Mr. Jimmy Gentry
THE NC STATE GRANGE

Mr. Pryor Gibson
NC FORESTRY ASSOC

Mr. William Holbrook
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
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PERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER - NC ASSOC
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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NC DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL
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NC ASSOC. OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS

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RURAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL - USA

Dr. Tom Melton
NC STATE UNIVERSITY - CALS

Mr. Edgar Miller
CONSERVATION TRUST FOR NC

Ms. Erica Peterson
NC AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL

Mr. Stuart Pierce
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dr. William Randle
NC A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Darelle Tennie
NC BLACK FARMERS & AGRICULTURALISTS
ASSOC

Mr. Steve Woodson
NC FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Vacant
NC RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER,
INC

**The Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
Operations**

The Environmental Review Commission

**The House and Senate NER Subcommittees on Natural
and Economic Resources**

October 1, 2014

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.)

Steven W. Troxler
North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture

Farmland Preservation in North Carolina

Protecting Our State's Most Precious Natural Resource



Table of Contents

Why Preserve Farms and Forests in North Carolina?	3
Advisory Committee and Staff	4
Partners of the NC ADFP Trust Fund	5
Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program	6
Farmland Protection Plans Program	7
2013-2014 Workshops	8
NC ADFP Trust Fund Grants, Match, and Acres Figures	9
Cycle VII Overview	10
Cycle VII Conservation Easement Grant Awards	11
Cycle VII Development Project Grant Awards	12-13
Cycle VII Agricultural Plan Grant Awards	14

Why Preserve Farms and Forests in North Carolina?

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

Although the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture showed that the rate of farmland loss in North Carolina has slowed in the five years prior to the census, North Carolina is still losing farms and farmlands.

North Carolina had 2,700 fewer farms in 2012 than in 2007, while losing 62,560 acres of farmland during the same period.

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

-Agriculture and agribusiness amounts for more than 17 percent, or \$78 billion, of the \$456 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 \$26 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 they generate. Working lands are a net provider of local tax dollars, rather than a net user.

Advisory Committee and Staff

NC ADFP Trust Fund Advisory Committee	
Chair - Steve Troxler	Commissioner of Agriculture
Sharon Decker	Secretary of Commerce
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
B. Ray Jeffers	NC Association of County Commissioners
Jimmy Johnson	NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
John Langdon	NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Scott Marlow	Rural Advancement Foundation International
Tom Melton	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
William Randle	Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T University
Steve Woodson	NC Farm Bureau Federation

NC ADFP Trust Fund Staff		
David Smith	Chief Deputy Commissioner	david.smith@ncagr.gov
Dewitt Hardee	Program Director	dewitt.hardee@ncagr.gov
Evan Davis	Document Specialist	evan.davis@ncagr.gov
John Ray Davis	Field Staff	
Sim DeLapp	Field Staff	
Michelle Douglas	Summer 2014 Intern	
Elizabeth Heath	Office Manager	elizabeth.heath@ncagr.gov
Jonathan Lanier	Assistant General Counsel	jonathan.lanier@ncagr.gov
David Mitchell	Budget Officer	david.w.mitchell@ncagr.gov
Janine Owens	Paralegal	janine.owens@ncagr.gov
Paul Walker	Field Staff	
Lester Weaver	Field Staff	

The NC ADFP Trust Fund and its Partners

Working Together to Save Our Working Lands

The NC ADFP Trust Fund works with organizations and entities in the public and private sectors to preserve farms and forests throughout the state.

This year, the NC ADFP Trust Fund partnered with the military to preserve lands of importance to both the agriculture industry and the armed forces.



Voluntary Agricultural Districts

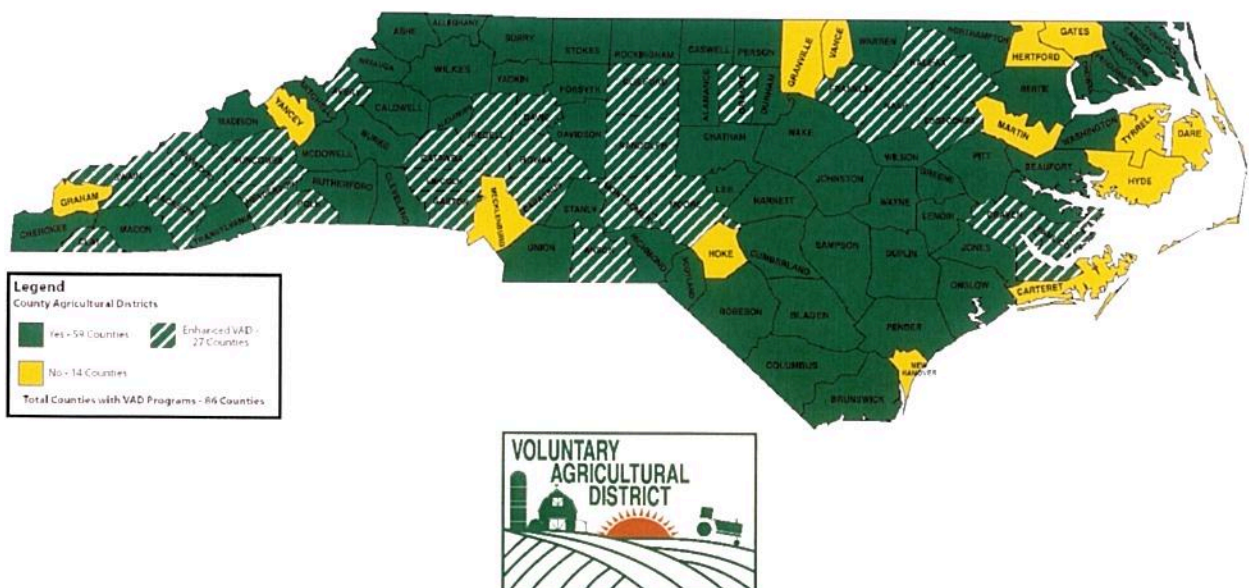
Preserving Farms at the Local Level

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.

Farms Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	8,027
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	692,914
Farms Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	399
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	34,370
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	8,426
Total Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	727,285
Total Acres Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide Increased by 14,731 Acres, or 2%	
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide Increased by 1,033 Farms, or 14%	



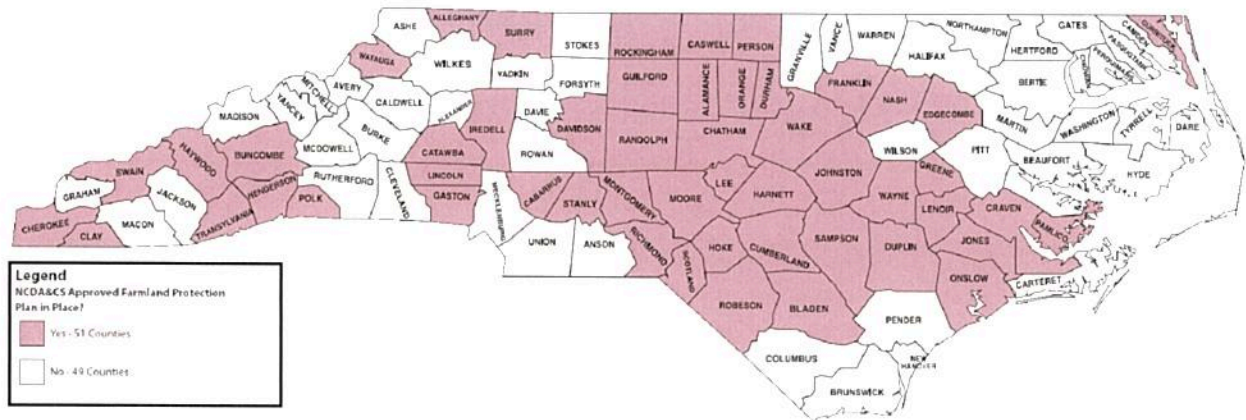
Farmland Protection Plans

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.



Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Farmland Preservation Workshops

Education and Outreach for Farmers, Landowners and Organizational Partners

The NC ADFP Trust Fund worked with strategic partners to host Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Farmland Preservation workshops throughout the state. These workshops were for agricultural advisory board members, county representatives, program staff, farmers, landowners, elected officials and anyone responsible for, or interested in, farmland preservation and the administration of the Voluntary Agricultural Districts program. The workshops were open to the public.

The workshops would not have been a success without sponsors and partners. NC Farm Bureau sponsored workshop breaks and provided snacks and refreshments. The NC State Grange and the Carolina Farm Credit Network provided lunch to attendees and staff. Partner organizations that helped to plan and conduct the workshops include NC State University, NC Cooperative Extension Service, NC Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NC Forest Service, NC Department of Transportation, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, NC State Grange, and NC Farm Bureau.

The workshops conducted sessions on the basics of conservation agreements and easement programs, the essentials of Present-Use Value, the essentials of estate planning and tax preparedness, Voluntary Agricultural District program management, and upcoming changes and challenges to agricultural policy.

Date	Location	Attendees
November 13, 2013	Watauga County Center, Boone	21
November 14, 2013	WNC Regional Livestock Center, Canton	42
February 26, 2014	Pitt County Agricultural Center, Greenville	48
March 12, 2014	McSwain Extension Education and Agricultural Center, Sanford	51
March 26, 2014	Caldwell County Agricultural Center, Lenoir	48

NC ADFP Trust Fund Grants, Match and Acres Figures

Since 2005, the NC ADFP Trust Fund has preserved 8,883 acres of farmland throughout North Carolina.

<i>Figures include conservation easements, development projects and agricultural plans.</i>				
Cycle	Confirmed Match	Anticipated Match	Grant Expended	Open Contract Balance
Pilot	\$3,418,700.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	\$0.00
Cycle I	\$8,897,643.68	\$0.00	\$7,001,806.39	\$0.00
Cycle II	\$13,206,169.33	\$0.00	\$3,231,477.53	\$0.00
Cycle III	\$6,001,118.74	\$0.00	\$2,151,865.88	\$0.00
Cycle IV	\$1,088,219.15	\$1,733,910.00	\$945,430.30	\$814,431.10
Cycle V	\$1,239,413.18	\$1,645,358.24	\$1,072,682.76	\$720,242.50
Cycle VI – General Appropriations	\$0.00	\$5,224,684.05	\$27,800.00	\$652,620.00
Cycle VI - TVA	\$99,591.95	\$3,100,544.31	\$292,400.00	\$2,285,794.00
Totals	\$33,950,856.03	\$12,888,697.60	\$14,767,462.86	\$5,267,093.48

Cycle	Acres Recorded
Pilot	474.7
Cycle I	2,849.2
Cycle II	2,680.1
Cycle III	1,832.3
Cycle IV	264.9
Cycle V	482.0
Cycle VI - GA	15.5
Cycle VI - TVA	284.9
Totals	8,883.6

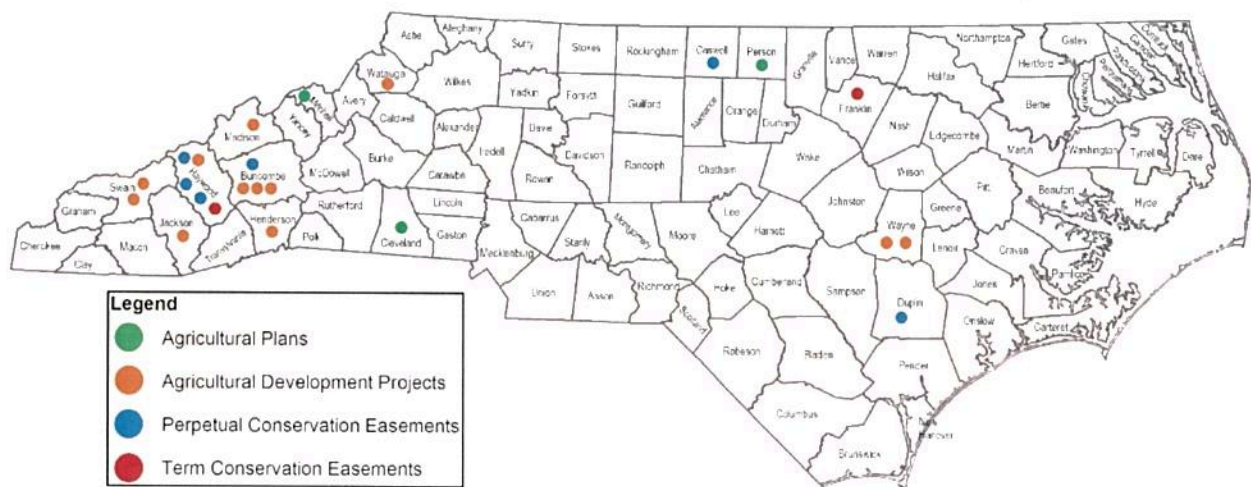
Cycle	Acres to Be Preserved
Cycle IV	358.0
Cycle V	452.8
Cycle VI - GA	495.0
Cycle VI - TVA	1,036.0
Cycle VII	1,448.0
Totals	3,789.8

Cycle VII Overview

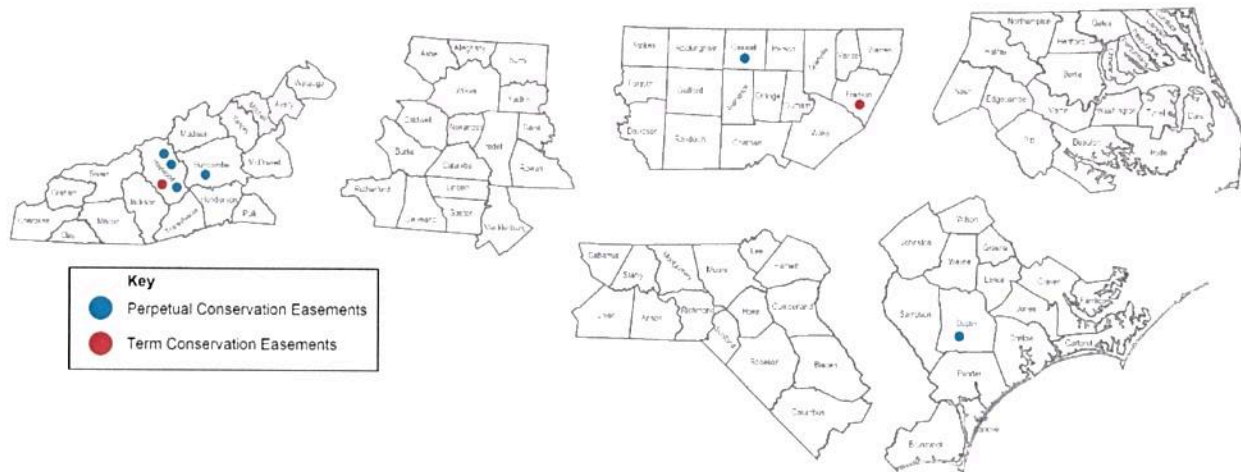
The NC ADFFP Trust Fund awarded nearly \$2.3 million to help communities across the state protect farmland and promote agricultural enterprises. These grant recipients were applicants from the trust fund's Cycle VII request for proposals. Funding resources included statewide general appropriations, Tennessee Valley Authority settlement funds and, for the first time, military funds provided by the Sentinel Landscapes program sponsored by U.S. Marine Corps Installations East.

“The trust fund awarded 23 grants for this cycle, including conservation easements, agricultural projects and plans,” Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said. “Our new partnership with the military will protect and enhance the top two economic sectors in North Carolina: agriculture and the military.”

The trust fund collaborated with the military to support agriculture and agribusiness in areas of the state where military bases and training are located. TVA settlement funds were distributed to a 17-county region in Western North Carolina.



Cycle VII Conservation Easement Grant Awards



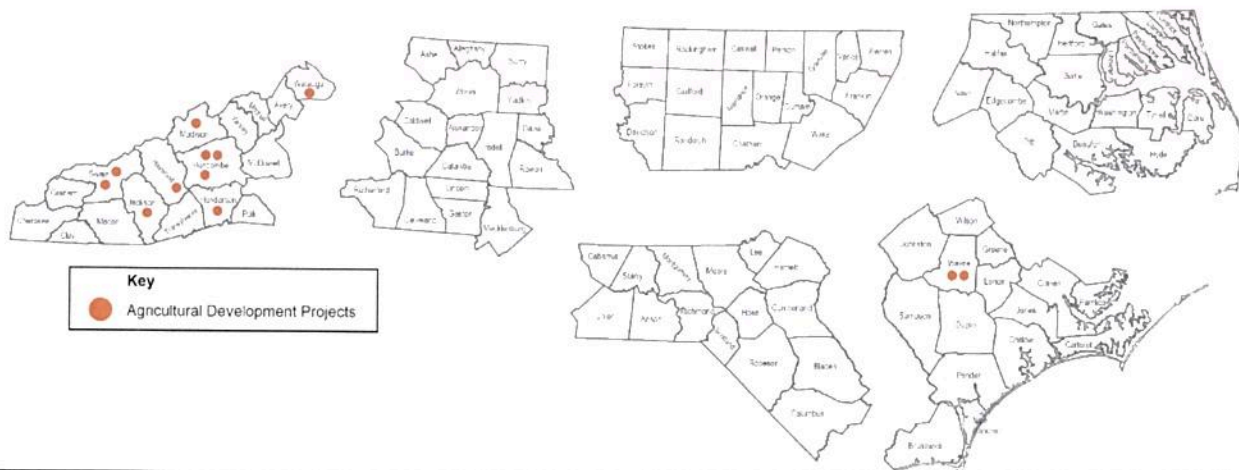
Statewide Perpetual Easements				
Name of Project	Grantee	County	Grant Amount	Acres
Baldwin Farm Easement	Piedmont Land Conservancy	Caswell	\$314,000	363
Paige Farm Easement	Duplin County Soil and Water Conservation District	Duplin	\$172,575	60

TVA Perpetual Easements				
Name of Project	Grantee	County	Grant Amount	Acres
Peterson Farm Easement	Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District	Buncombe	\$375,000	134
Francis Farm Easement	Haywood County Soil and Water Conservation District	Haywood	\$362,500	100
Henson Mountain Farm Easement	Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council	Haywood	\$188,500	80
Kirkpatrick Farm Easement	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Haywood	\$135,780	175

Military Term Easement/Agreement (Grant funded through NCSU/Sentinel Landscapes)				
Name of Project	Grantee	County	Grant Amount	Acres
Mobley Farm Easement/Agreement	Black Family Land Trust	Franklin	\$143,475	436

TVA Term Easement				
Name of Project	Grantee	County	Grant Amount	Acres
AK and Sons Farm Easement	Haywood County Soil and Water Conservation District	Haywood	\$87,500	100

Cycle VII Development Project Grant Awards



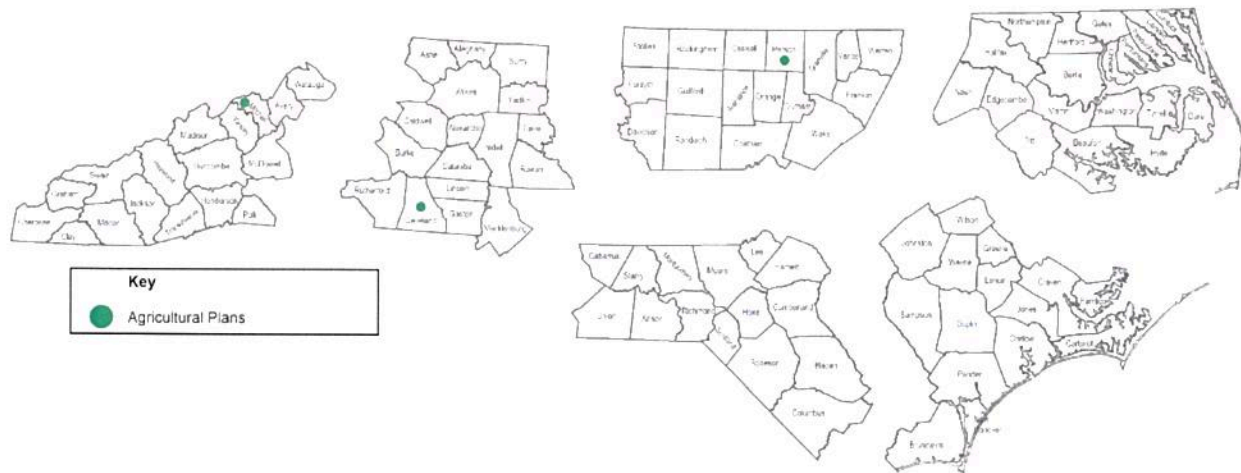
Statewide and Military Agricultural Development Project (Grant partially funded through NCSU/Sentinel Landscapes)			
Name of Project	Grantee	Counties of Impact	Grant Amount
Evaluating Value Added Soybean Processing	Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive University	Alamance, Bladen, Chatham, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Harnett, Hoke, <i>Johnston</i> , Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Nash, Orange, Robeson, Sampson, Vance, Wake, Wayne and Wilson	\$192,764

Military Agricultural Development Project (Grant funded through NCSU/Sentinel Landscapes)			
Name of Project	Grantee	Counties of Impact	Grant Amount
Cost of Community Services Studies	Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive University	Craven, Pamlico	\$30,000

TVA Agricultural Development Projects			
Name of Project	Grantee	Counties of Impact	Grant Amount
No Fruit Left Behind	Henderson County	Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, <i>Henderson</i> , Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey	\$60,000
Increasing WNC's Meat Processing Capacity	Jackson County	Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, <i>Henderson</i> , Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey	\$10,000
<i>Italics denote where regional projects will be headquartered.</i>			

TVA Agricultural Development Projects			
Name of Project	Grantee	Counties of Impact	Grant Amount
Smoky Mountain Agriculture Strategy	Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, <i>Haywood</i> , Jackson, Macon and Swain	\$25,000
Enhancing Agriculture Within Swain County	Swain County Soil and Water Conservation District	Swain	\$10,200
Western North Carolina's Mobile Soil Exhibit	Swain County Soil and Water Conservation District	Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, <i>Swain</i> , Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey	\$16,000
Preservation Through Innovative Crop Diversity	University of North Carolina Asheville Foundation	<i>Buncombe</i> , Haywood, Henderson, Madison, Mitchell and Yancey	\$7,000
Shared-Use Farm Equipment Program	Watauga County Soil and Water Conservation District	Watauga	\$25,000
Brewers Grain for WNC Farmers	WNC Communities	Avery, <i>Buncombe</i> , Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey	\$25,000
WNC Regional Livestock Center Enhancements	WNC Communities	Avery, <i>Buncombe</i> , Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey	\$32,500
<i>Italics denote where regional projects will be headquartered.</i>			

Cycle VII Agricultural Plan Grant Awards



Statewide Agricultural Plans			
Name of Project	Grantee	County	Grant Amount
Cleveland County Farmland Protection Plan	Cleveland County Soil and Water Conservation District	Cleveland	\$14,000
Person County Farmland Protection Plan	Piedmont Conservation Council	Person	\$14,000

TVA Agricultural Plans			
Name of Project	Grantee	County	Grant Amount
Mitchell County Farmland Protection Plan	Mitchell County Soil and Water Conservation District	Mitchell	\$12,000