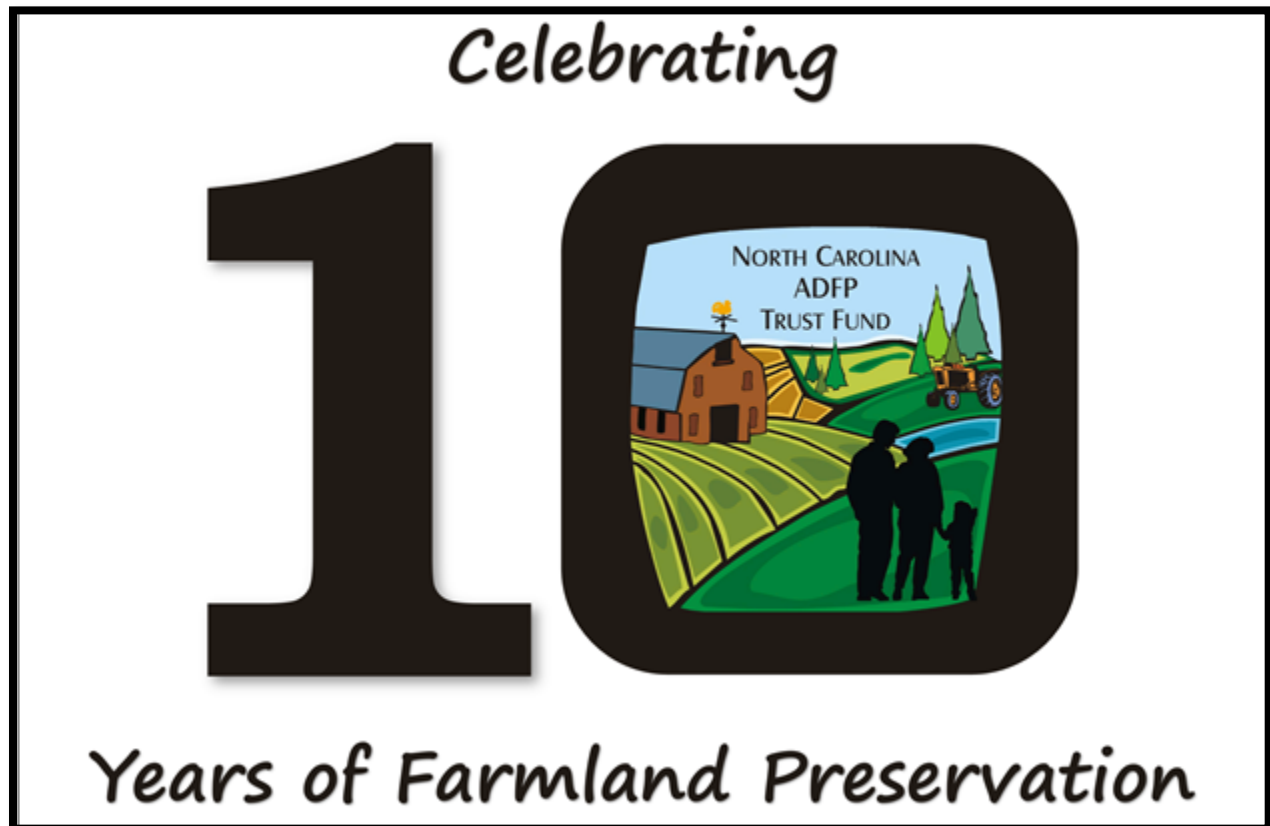




NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

FARMLAND PRESERVATION DIVISION

NC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND



2014-2015 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

October 1, 2015

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.)

Table of Contents

Why Preserve Farms and Forests in North Carolina?	3
NC ADFP 10 th Anniversary	4
Advisory Committee and Staff	5
Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program	6
Farmland Protection Plans Program	7
NC ADFP Trust Fund Grants, Match, and Acres Figures	8
NC ADFP Trust Fund Military Buffers Conservation Easements	9
Cycle VIII Overview	10-13

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-fifth of the state's economy and employees.

-Agriculture and agribusiness amounts for more than 17 percent, or \$76 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.

This Year Marks the 10th Anniversary of the NC ADFP Trust Fund

Join Commissioner Troxler and the ADFP Trust Fund staff in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the ADFP Trust Fund!



In March 2005, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler delivered his "Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Strategy" to the General Assembly.

Governor Mike Easley signed House Bill 607 into law on September 13, 2005, establishing the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

Since 2005, the ADFP Trust Fund has preserved **10,321 acres of farms and forestlands**. There have been **90 conservation easement projects** awarded.

The ADFP Trust Fund has provided funding for **47 agricultural development projects**, including farmers markets, livestock facilities, marketing programs, shared-use equipment programs, and other agriculture and agribusiness initiatives.

Additionally, funding from the ADFP Trust Fund has established **15 Voluntary Agricultural Districts programs** and **38 Farmland Protection Plans** for counties throughout the state.

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
B. Ray Jeffers	NC Association of County Commissioners
Jimmy Johnson	NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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
John Skvarla	Secretary of Commerce
Darelle Tennie	NC Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association
Manly West	NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
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	
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	

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.

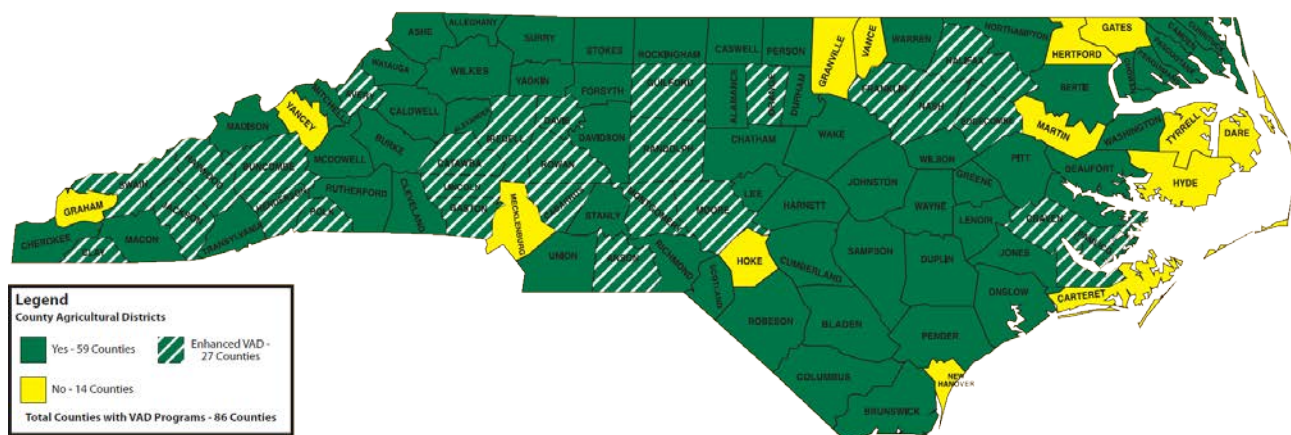
Farms enrolled in the VAD program may reduce the threat of nuisance conflicts, may allow for waivers for water and sewer assessment and may provide public hearings for proposed condemnations. Program provisions vary by county.

Enhanced VAD member benefits are the entire above, 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 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	9,343
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	767,105
Farms Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	505
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	40,566

Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	9,848
Total Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	807,671

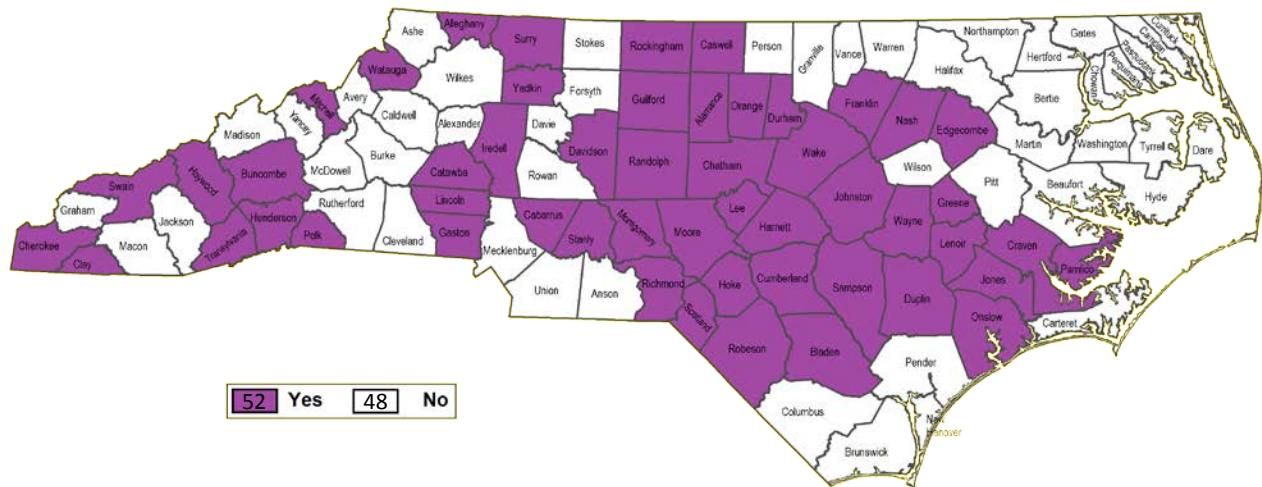
Total Acres Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide Increased by 80,386 Acres, or 11.1%
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide Increased by 1,422 Farms, or 16.9%



Guiding Counties to a Viable Agricultural Future

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

<i>Figures include conservation easements, development projects and agricultural plans.</i>				
Cycle	Confirmed Match	Anticipated Match	Grant Expended	Funds Under Contract
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	\$3,230,088.53	\$0.00
Cycle III	\$6,001,118.74	\$0.00	\$2,151,866.32	\$0.00
Cycle IV	\$3,585,116.97	\$678,436.73	\$1,360,097.65	\$378,370.12
Cycle V	\$2,220,888.03	\$682,484.00	\$1,423,025.09	\$361,045
Cycle VI – General Appropriations	\$0.00	\$1,845,358.24	\$119,744.00	\$541,298.50
Cycle VI - TVA	\$1,391,818.11	\$4,022,278.84	\$474,099.23	\$454,757.67
Cycle VII-General Appropriations	\$0.00	\$1,019,968.00	\$11,200.00	\$585,404.00
Cycle VII-TVA	\$19,506.20	\$1,706,442.28	\$66,778.47	\$1,338,201.53
Cycle VII-Sentinel Landscapes	\$0.00	\$171,828.06	\$114,780.00	\$169,930.00
Totals	\$38,740,961.06	\$10,126,796.15	\$15,953,485.68	\$5,437,023.48

Cycle	Easement Acres Recorded
Pilot	394.5
Cycle I	3,295.0
Cycle II	3,167.5
Cycle III	1,207.0
Cycle IV	576.7
Cycle V	819.1
Cycle VI - GA	92.06
Cycle VI - TVA	333.9
Cycle VII - Military	435.6
Totals	10,321.4

Cycle	Acres Under Contract for Easements
Cycle IV	172.0
Cycle V	228.8
Cycle VI - GA	402.5
Cycle VI - TVA	600.7
Cycle VII - GA	423.0
Cycle VII - TVA	589.0
Cycle VIII – MIL	2,221.0
Totals	4,637.0

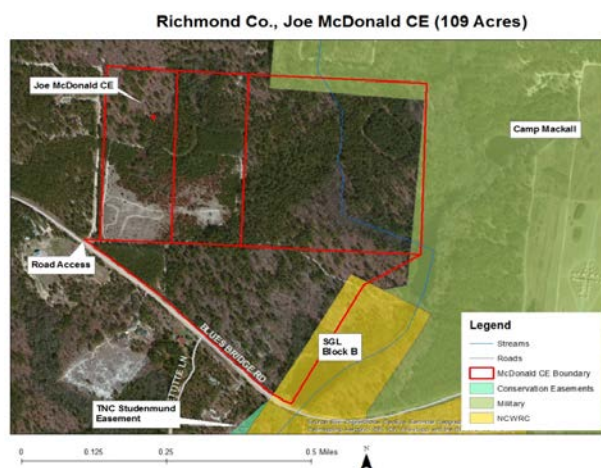
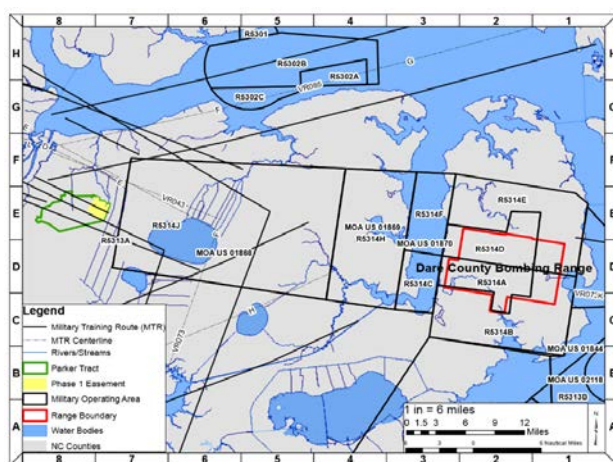
NC ADFP Trust Fund Military Buffers Conservation Easements

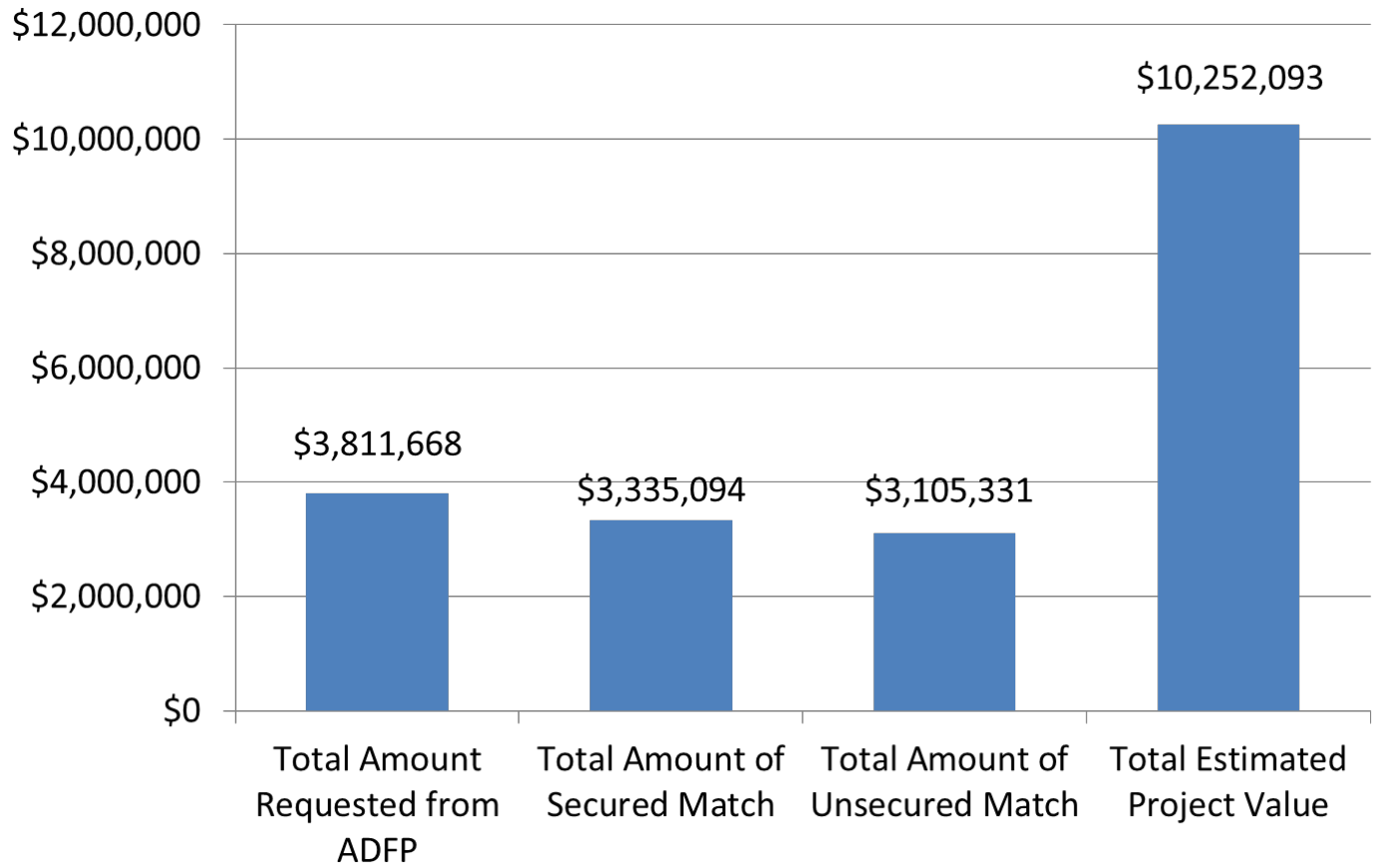
Protecting Against Military Base Encroachment and Reduction in Airspace

In 2014, the General Assembly appropriated \$1 million in nonrecurring funding to match federal funds for the purchase of development rights from agricultural operations located near military bases in North Carolina. These funds were required to match funding from the federal government for that purpose on at least an equal basis.

2015 Contracted ADFP Trust Fund / Military Easement Projects

Project	Grantee	Type	Military Affiliation	County	Acres	ADFP Grant	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
Hawkes Farm Easement	The Nature Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Army – Fort Bragg	Hoke	42	\$97,950	\$101,450	\$1,000	\$200,400
Weyerhaeuser Parker Easement	The Nature Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Air Force – Seymour Johnson AFB	Washington	2,070	\$817,550	\$817,550	-	\$1,635,100
McDonald Farm Easement	The Nature Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Army – Fort Bragg	Richmond	109	\$84,500	\$86,900	\$1,000	\$172,400
Totals					2,221	\$1,000,000	\$1,005,900	\$2,000	\$2,007,900

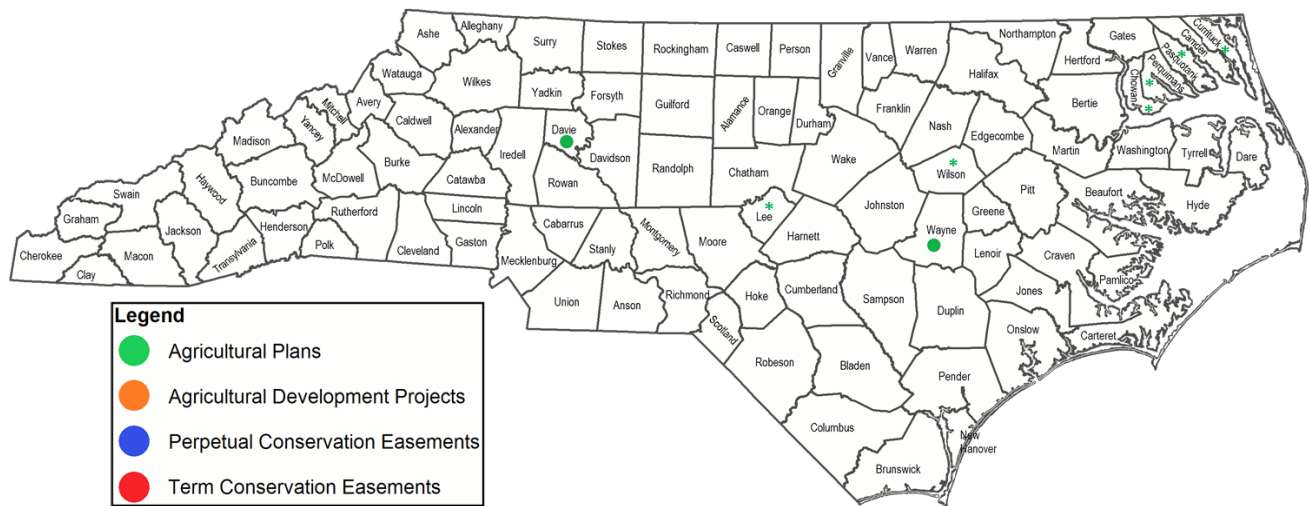


ADFP Trust Fund Cycle VIII Grant Requests

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle VIII Agricultural Plans Application Summary

Number of Plans	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Amount ADFP Grant Proposal	Total Secured Match	Total Unsecured Match	Total Project Value
2*	\$102,000	\$110,000	\$33,000	-	\$143,000

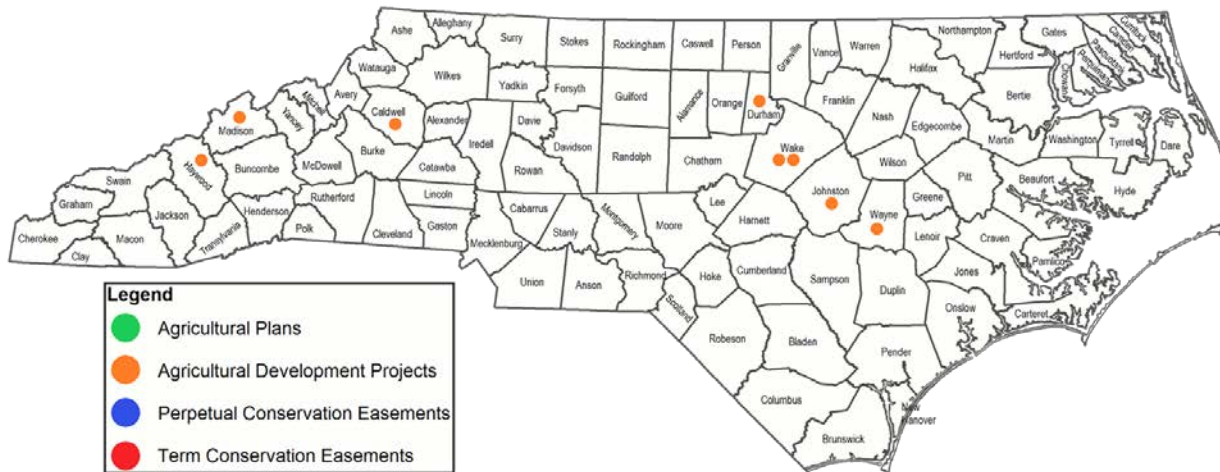
*One agricultural plan application proposes the development of five (5) Farmland Protection Plans and two (2) Costs of Community Services studies



ADFP Trust Fund Cycle VIII Agricultural Development Projects Application Summary

Number of Projects	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Amount ADFP Grant Proposal	Total Secured Match	Total Unsecured Match	Total Project Value
8*	\$416,223	\$317,500	\$234,456	\$80,765	\$632,721

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



ADFP Trust Fund Cycle VIII Perpetual Conservation Easements Application Summary

Number of Easements	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Amount ADFP Grant Proposal	Total Secured Match	Total Unsecured Match	Total Project Value	Total Number of Acres
22	\$3,081,645	\$2,856,760	\$3,334,530	\$2,920,360	\$9,111,650	1,870

