



NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES



FARMLAND PRESERVATION DIVISION

NC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND



2017-2018 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

September 28, 2018

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler
Chief Deputy Commissioner N. David Smith

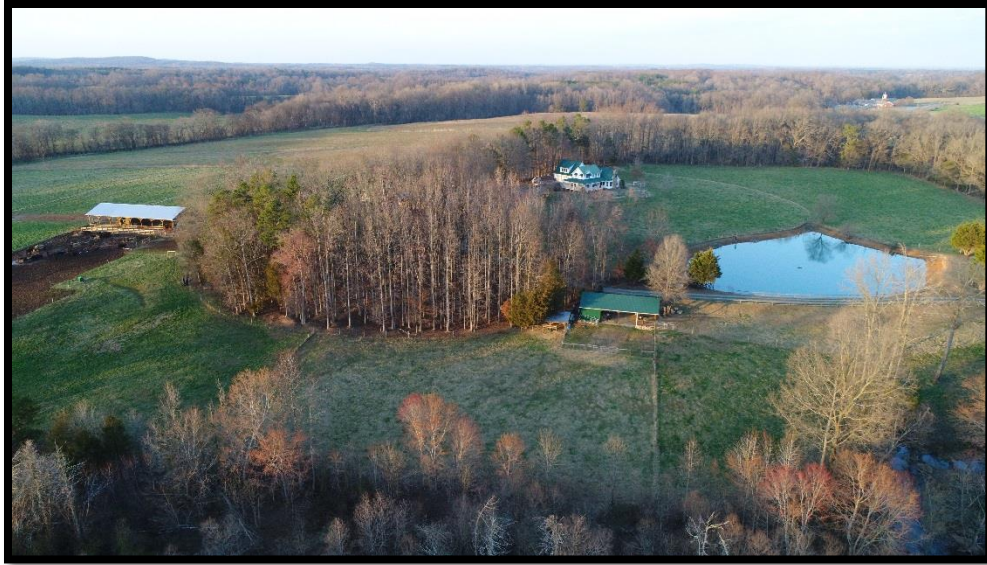
Pursuant to G.S. 106.744 (i) ... The Advisory Committee shall report no later than October 1 of each year to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Environmental Review Commission, and the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic 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.)

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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-sixth of the state's economy and employees.

-Agriculture and agribusiness amounts for almost 17 percent, or \$87 billion, of the \$522 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 \$66 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 provides waterway buffers.

-Cost of community services studies in the state show that agricultural lands use less tax dollars than are collected. Working lands are a net provider of local tax dollars.

Advisory Committee and Staff

NC ADFP Trust Fund Advisory Committee	
Chair - Steve Troxler	Commissioner of Agriculture
Anthony Copeland	Secretary of Commerce
Amy Dalrymple	NC Association of County Commissioners
Jimmy Gentry	NC State Grange
John Hatcher	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
Shirley Hyman-Parker	Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T University
Jimmy Johnson	Designee of the NC Department of Environmental Quality
Dietrich Kilpatrick	NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Scott Marlow	Rural Advancement Foundation International
Tom Melton	Designee of the 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
Darelle Tennie	NC Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association
Steve Woodson	NC Farm Bureau Federation

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Jeff Darnell	Field Staff	
Sim DeLapp	Field Staff	
Dick Fowler	Field Staff	
Scott Shoulars	Field Staff	
Rodney Woolard	Field Staff	

North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee



- In 2016, the federal government designated 33 North Carolina counties as a Sentinel Landscape. The Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape is one of six Sentinel Landscapes designated by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and the Interior.
- North Carolina is the only state to have multiple military branches, military installations and counties named as part of the designation.
- Agriculture and the military are the top two economic sectors in North Carolina. The Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape leverages partnerships between military installations, federal departments, state agencies, local governments and non-profit partners that support North Carolina's top two economic sectors.
- Pursuant to state law, the North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee will:
 - Coordinate the overlapping priority areas in the vicinity of and where testing and training occur near or adjacent to major military installations, as that term is defined in G.S. 143-215.115, or other areas of strategic benefit to national defense.
 - Assist landowners in improving their land to benefit their operations and enhance wildlife habitats while furthering the State's vested economic interest in preserving, maintaining, and sustaining land uses that are compatible with military activities at major military installations and National Guard facilities.
 - Develop and implement programs and strategies that:
 - o Protect working lands in the vicinity of and where testing and training occur near or adjacent to major military installations or other areas of strategic benefit to national defense,
 - o Address restrictions that inhibit military testing and training, and
 - o Forestall incompatible development in the vicinity of and where testing and training occur near or adjacent to military installations or other areas of strategic benefit to national defense.

NC ADFP Trust Fund Military Projects

- On December 15, 2017, the NC ADFP Trust Fund recorded the first two conservation easements in North Carolina using state and military funds. These farms are located in the military training airspace to the Dare County Range.



John and Ingrid McAden Farm – 459.5 acres



R&M Properties of Hyde, LLC – 388.3 acres

- There are 31,932 acres of farms and forests with conservation easement options in areas of military importance. These include 21,220 acres in the United States Air Force priority zones and 10,712 acres in the United States Marine Corps priority zones.

- The NC ADFP Trust Fund has cooperative agreements with the United States Air Force and United States Marine Corps to record more conservation easements on farms and forests in priority training areas.

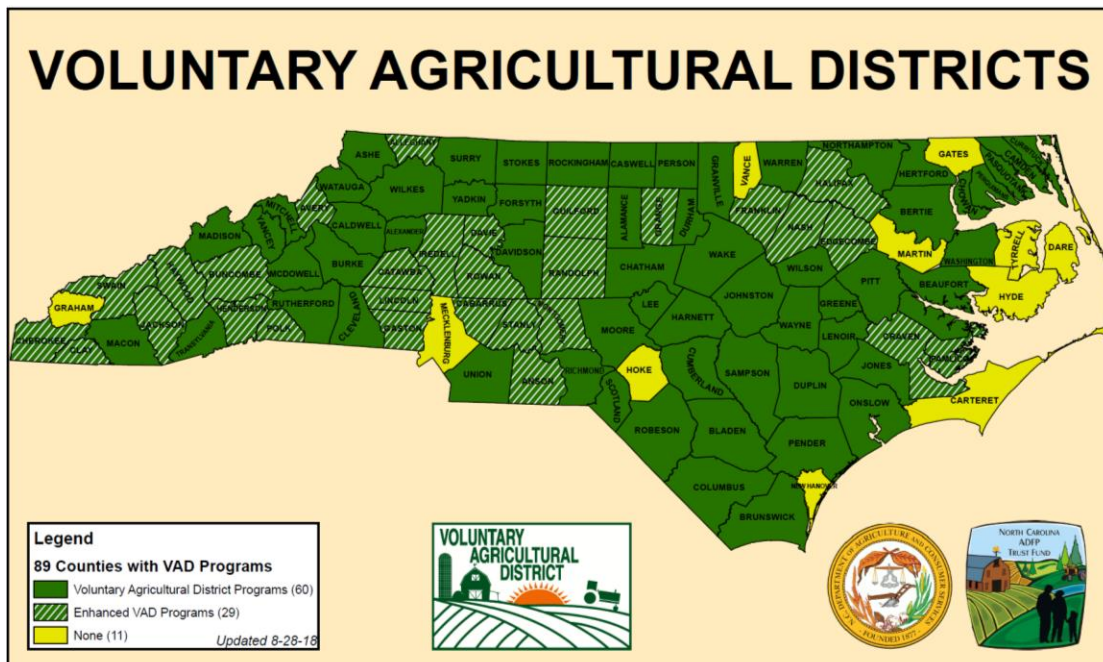
- The NC ADFP Trust Fund has contracted for 2,037 acres of farms and forests using the awarded conservation easement funding of \$1,162,570 from the 2016 Southern Sentinel Landscapes Conservation project through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

- The state was awarded conservation easement funding of \$5,620,000 for the North Carolina Sentinel Landscapes High Priority Protect Program (NCSLHPPP) for 2018 through the USDA NRCS RCPP. The NC ADFP Trust Fund is currently working with military partners and willing landowners to determine priority parcels for the project.

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 (EVAD) member benefits are the same as VAD, 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 are 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. There are 89 counties with VAD programs.

Farms Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	9,393
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	790,816
Farms Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	675
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	53,950
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	10,068
Total Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	844,765
Total Acres Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide Increased by 11,411 Acres, or 1.4%, since 2017.	
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide Decreased by 115 farms, or 1.1%, since 2017.	



Farmland Protection Plans

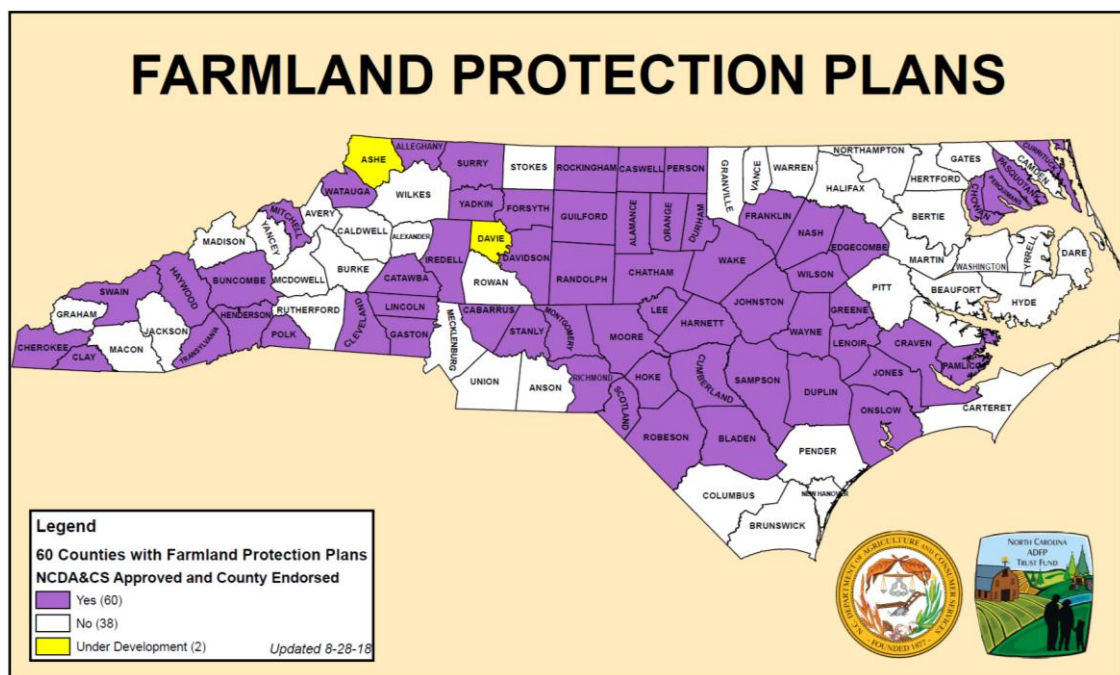
Guiding Counties to a Viable Agricultural Future

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.

There are 60 counties in North Carolina with Farmland Protection Plans. Two counties are developing Farmland Protection Plans.



NC ADFP Trust Fund Grants and Match Figures

As of September 1, 2018

<i>Figures include conservation easements, development projects and agricultural plans.</i>					
Year	Cycle	Confirmed Match	Anticipated Match	Grant Expended	Funds Under Contract
2006	Pilot	\$3,418,700.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	\$0.00
2008	Cycle I	\$8,897,643.68	\$0.00	\$7,001,806.39	\$0.00
2009	Cycle II	\$13,206,169.33	\$0.00	\$3,230,088.53	\$0.00
2010	Cycle III	\$6,001,118.74	\$0.00	\$2,151,866.32	\$0.00
2011	Cycle IV	\$3,593,741.00	\$0.00	\$1,432,695.00	\$0.00
2012	Cycle V	\$2,394,677.00	\$0.00	\$1,763,770.00	\$0.00
2013	Cycle VI – General Appropriations (GA)	\$1,890,499.98	\$0.00	\$647,854.71	\$0.00
2013	Cycle VI – Tennessee Valley Authority Area (TVA)	\$5,200,639.00	\$0.00	\$927,843.00	\$0.00
2014	Cycle VII – GA	\$1,125,659.18	\$0.00	\$ 595,038.61	\$0.00
2014	Cycle VII – TVA	\$1,444,198.45	\$0.00	\$1,385,549.54	\$0.00
2014	Cycle VII – Sentinel Landscapes (SL)	\$310,317.00	\$0.00	\$284,646.00	\$0.00
2015	Cycle VIII – Military (MIL)	\$84,500.00	\$0.00	\$84,500.00	\$0.00
2015	Cycle VIII – GA	\$917,827.63	\$1,830,947.41	\$931,640.51	\$626,967.22
2015	Cycle VIII – SL	\$6,130.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00	\$0.00
2016	Cycle IX – GA	\$877,874.9	\$1,976,599.33	\$1,089,837.79	\$664,938.49
2016	Cycle IX – MIL	\$ 1,213,404.03	\$0.00	\$ 797,718.25	\$0.00
2017	Cycle X – GA	\$71,797.06	\$4,535,030.09	\$221,703.52	\$3,047,189.49
2018	Cycle XI – GA	\$0.00	\$6,046,104.98	\$0.00	\$4,596,813.50
2018	Cycle XI – MIL	\$0.00	\$4,455,446.71	\$0.00	\$2,089,802.79
Totals		\$50,654,896.98	\$18,844,128.52	\$22,606,558.17	\$11,025,711.49

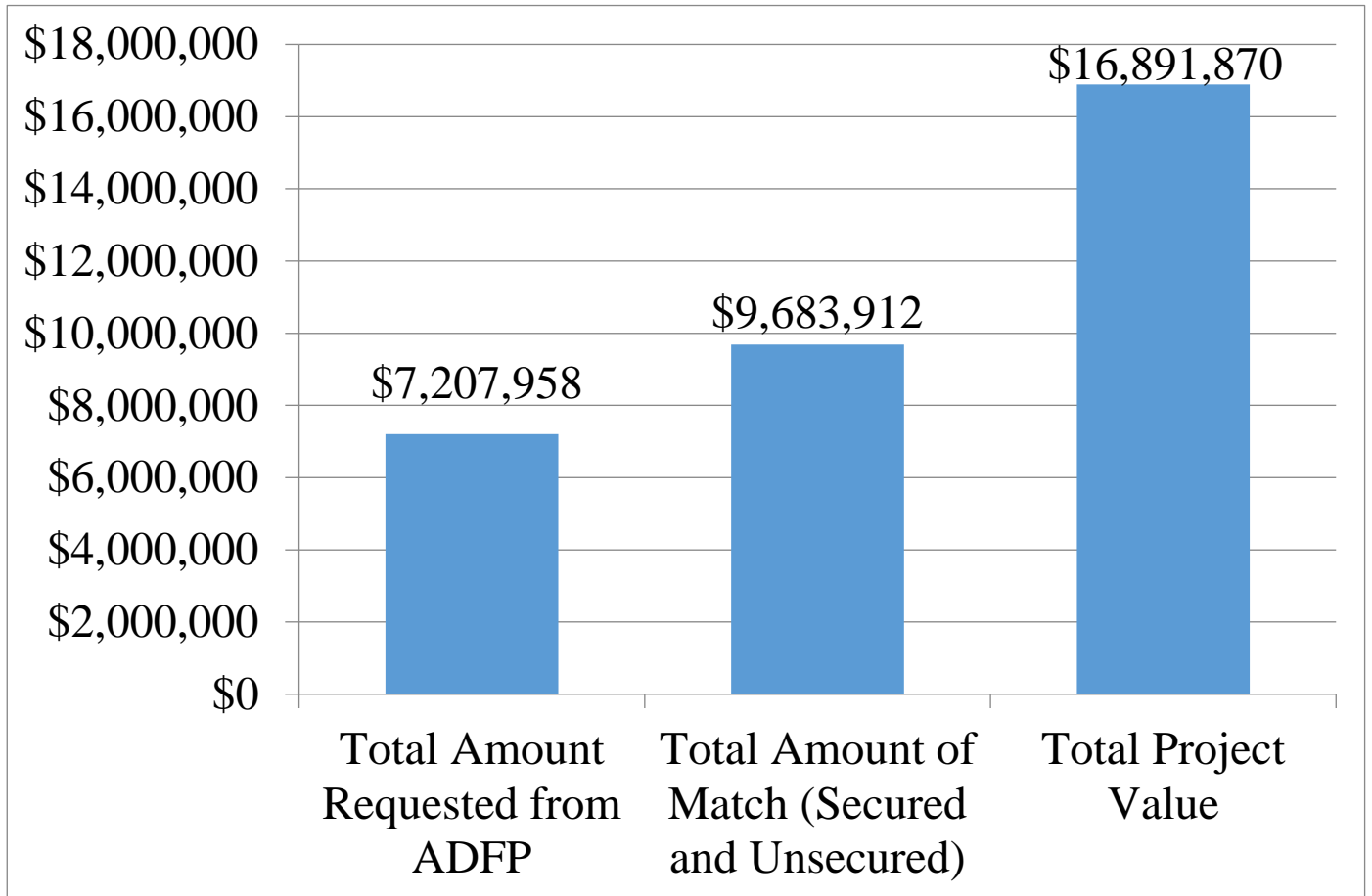
NC ADFP Trust Fund Conservation Easement Acres

As of September 1, 2018

Cycle	Easement Acres Recorded
Pilot	426.7
Cycle I	3,295.0
Cycle II	3,167.5
Cycle III	1,207.0
Cycle IV	715.3
Cycle V	1,038.0
Cycle VI – GA	470.5
Cycle VI – TVA	726.5
Cycle VII – GA	452.2
Cycle VII – SL	435.6
Cycle VII – TVA	498.6
Cycle VIII – GA	268.9
Cycle VIII – MIL	108.2
Cycle IX – GA	824.8
Cycle IX – MIL	847.8
Totals	14,482.6

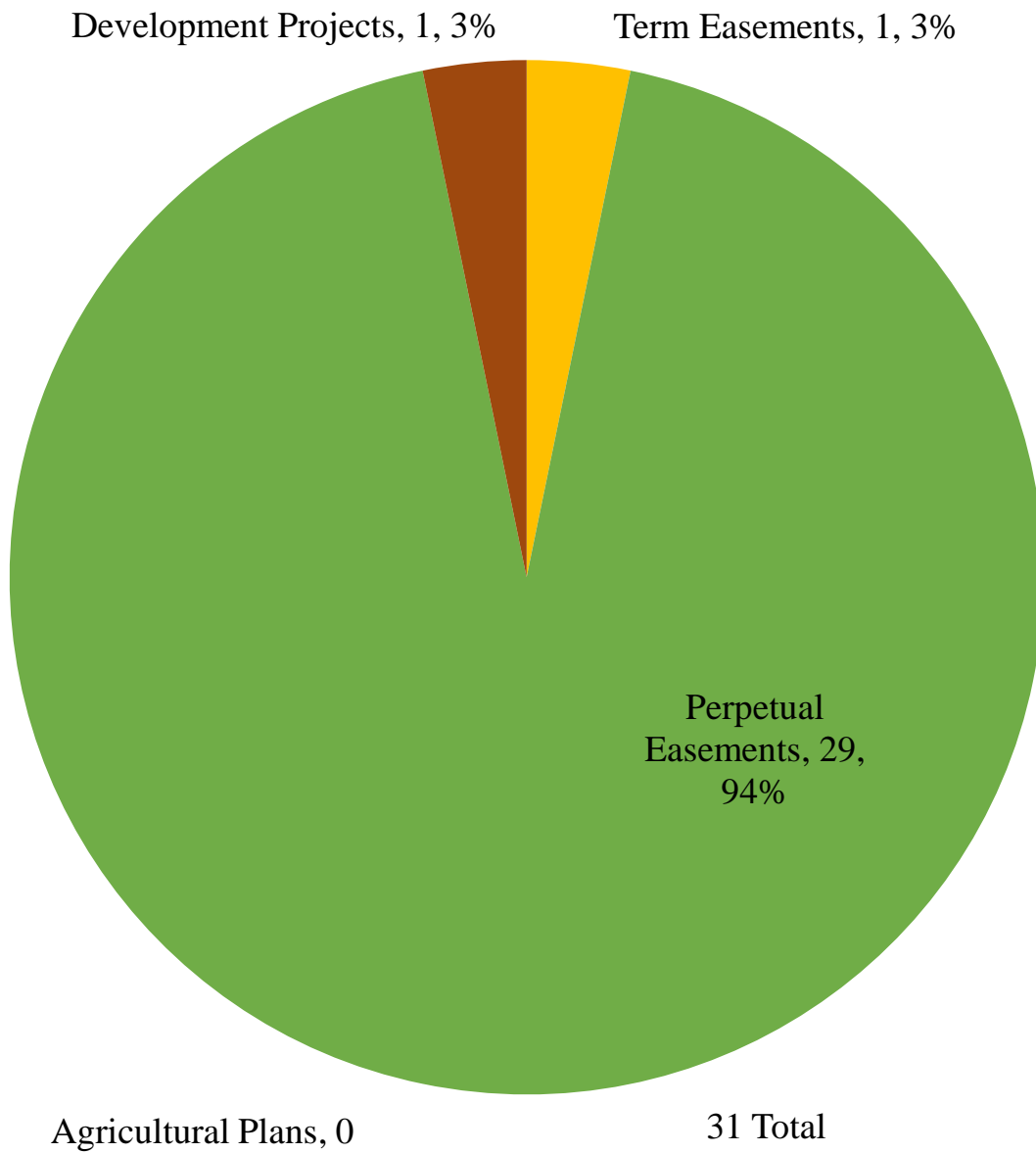
Cycle	Acres Under Contract for Easements
Cycle VIII – GA	382.1
Cycle IX – GA	838.6
Cycle X – GA	1,432.8
Cycle XI – GA	2,300.3
Cycle XI – MIL	2,037.1
Totals	6,990.9

**4,130.7 farmland preservation acres were preserved in perpetuity prior to the establishment of the ADFP Trust Fund and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has third party enforcement rights.*

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle XI Grant Requests**General Appropriation Requests:**

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle XI Application Summary

General Appropriations



ADFP Trust Fund Cycle XI Application Summary

Agricultural Development Projects

Number of Projects	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Secured Match	Total Unsecured Match	Total Project Value
1*	\$65,800	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65,800

*This includes one (1) local project (1-3 counties).

Conservation Easements

Number of Easements	Total Number of Acres	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Secured Match	Total Unsecured Match	Total Project Value
29 Perpetual	3,216.4	\$7,082,978	\$6,006,285	\$3,609,778	\$16,699,041
1 Term	250.0	\$59,180	\$56,649	\$11,200	\$127,029
Totals	3,466.4	\$7,207,958	\$6,062,934	\$3,620,978	\$16,826,070

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle XI Grant Awards Summary

General Appropriations Agricultural Development Project

Project	Grantee	Scope	Headquartered County	ADFP Grant	Secured Match	Project Value
Swain County FFA Animal Husbandry Equipment and Building	Swain Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	Local	Swain	\$65,800	\$815,000	\$1,015,000
Totals				\$65,800	\$1,146,727	\$1,769,361

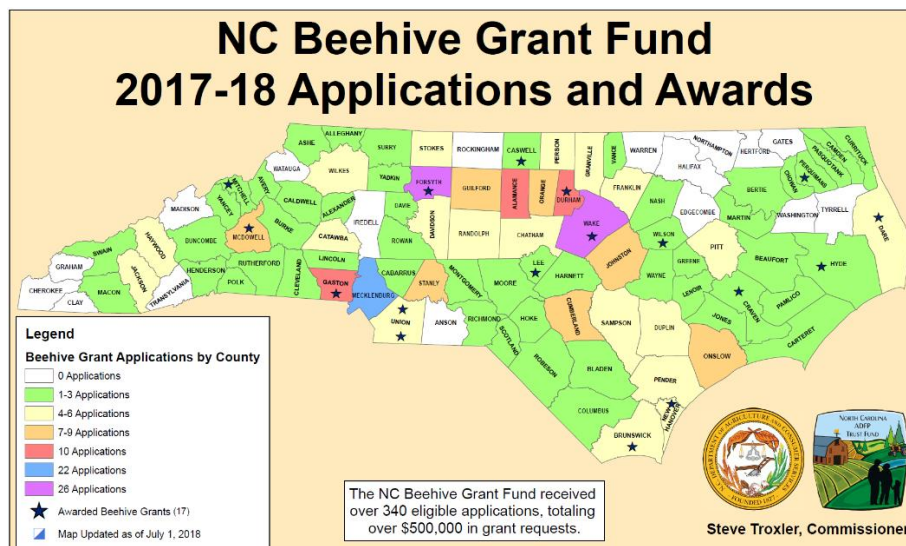
General Appropriations Conservation Easements

Project	Grantee	Type	County	Acres	ADFP Grant	Secured Match	Project Value
Spring Crest Farm	Orange County	Perpetual Easement	Orange	68.4	\$64,000	\$192,000	\$256,000
Wood Farm Phase II	Mainspring Conservation Trust	Perpetual Easement	Cherokee	192	\$635,273	\$619,208	\$1,254,481
Wright Farm Phase II	Piedmont Land Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Randolph	110	\$180,285	\$178,010	\$358,295
Cedar Grove Windy Hill Farm	Eno River Association	Perpetual Easement	Orange	37	\$39,655	\$105,100	\$144,755
Byrd Charolais Farm	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Mitchell	125	\$190,000	\$726,531	\$916,531
Hill Farm	Cabarrus SWCD	Perpetual Easement	Cabarrus	59	\$116,517	\$130,517	\$247,034
Wells Farm	Buncombe SWCD	Perpetual Easement	Buncombe	85	\$198,650	\$239,150	\$437,800
Styer Farm	Piedmont Land Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Rockingham	154	\$468,255	\$466,755	\$935,010
Long Farm	Mainspring Conservation Trust	Perpetual Easement	Cherokee	32	\$114,025	\$20,275	\$134,300
Compton Farm	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual Easement	Caswell	107	\$87,819	\$102,617	\$190,436
Nations Farm	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual Easement	Jackson	16	\$27,555	\$155,316	\$182,871
Hoof-Fin-Hen Farm	Triangle Land Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Chatham	34	\$62,046	\$79,489	\$141,535
Harrell Hill Farm	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Perpetual Easement	Mitchell	89	\$61,250	\$241,350	\$302,600

Ran Lew Dairy Farm	Alamance County	Perpetual Easement	Alamance	88	\$181,935	\$178,660	\$360,595
Medford Farm	Haywood SWCD	Perpetual Easement	Haywood	34	\$269,979	\$277,979	\$547,958
Uwharrie Ridge Phase II Farm	Three Rivers Land Trust (Formerly The LandTrust for Central NC)	Perpetual Easement	Randolph	135	\$135,425	\$122,125	\$257,550
Simpkins Farm	Southwestern NC RC&D Council	Perpetual Easement	Haywood	20	\$128,485	\$136,485	\$264,970
Sorrells Farm	Haywood SWCD	Perpetual Easement	Haywood	49	\$202,221	\$210,201	\$412,422
Chandler Farm	Alamance County	Perpetual Easement	Alamance	75	\$164,805	\$161,530	\$326,335
Bradley Farm	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual Easement	Halifax	108	\$20,759	\$100,239	\$120,998
Misty Meadows Farm	Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina	Perpetual Easement	Burke	194	\$273,125	\$446,500	\$719,625
Sinkhole Creek Farm	Mitchell SWCD	Perpetual Easement	Mitchell	108	\$80,437	\$298,913	\$379,350
Elks Farm	Beaufort SWCD	Perpetual Easement	Beaufort	159	\$147,856	\$14,370	\$162,226
Brown Farm on Line Creek	Conserving Carolina	Perpetual Easement	Henderson	75	\$327,250	\$332,350	\$659,600
Margaret Brown Farm	Buncombe SWCD	Perpetual Easement	Buncombe	135	\$268,950	\$309,450	\$578,400
Holden-Roberts Farm	Eno River Association	Perpetual Easement	Orange	57	\$84,460	\$151,148	\$235,608
Totals				2,344	\$4,531,017	\$5,996,268	\$10,527,285

North Carolina Beehive Grant Fund

- Eligibility:
 - Must be a North Carolina resident
 - Must be at least 18 years of age
 - Must be a Certified Beekeeper as determined by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association at the time of filing the grant application
- Use of Grant Funding:
 - The purchase of a new hive for bees
 - The purchase of materials or supplies to be used for the construction of a new hive for bees
 - Grant funding allocations dependent upon documented expenditures of the grant's contracted items
 - Anticipated time for awarded grantees to redeem funding from the Beehive Grant Fund – February 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018
- Grant Funding Limits and Amounts per Selected Grantee:
 - \$200 limit per new hive
 - \$2,400 maximum grant allowance per selected grantee
- Grantee Commitments for receiving Beehive Grant Funding:
 - Grantee shall provide annual documentation of the ownership and appropriate maintenance of the beehive structure(s) for 5 years following receipt of grant funding
- Definitions:
 - *New hive for bees* - a container for housing domesticated honeybees
 - *Materials or supplies* – purchased construction items used exclusively for the building of a new hive for domesticated honeybees



North Carolina Beehive Grant Fund Grantees

The North Carolina Beehive Grant Fund received over 340 eligible applications, totaling over \$500,000 in grant requests.

Grantee Name	Grant Amount	Amount Paid	Date of Payment	County
Arnold, Leigh Ann	\$400.00	\$317.20	3/2/2018	Yadkin
Barfield, Phillip	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	6/18/2018	Caswell
Blake, Tammy	\$400.00	\$299.94	7/10/2018	Hyde
Chamberlain, Ryan	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	4/2/2018	Durham
Coy Jr., Paul	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	5/21/2018	Craven
Harris, Barry	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	6/18/2018	New Hanover
Hutson, Gladys	\$600.00	\$600.00	5/11/2018	Union
McMahan, Paul	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/14/2018	Gaston
Mejia, Michelle	\$2,400.00	\$2,264.66	3/5/2018	Mitchell
Munely, Michael	\$2,000.00	\$1,867.68	4/16/2018	Union
Randall, Kenneth	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	6/28/2018	Dare
Rosensteel, Jim	\$2,400.00	\$2,243.64	3/20/2018	Lee
Shoemaker, Gary	\$1,600.00	\$1,574.64	3/16/2018	Brunswick
Thomas, Richard	\$1,200.00	\$1,121.10	3/2/2018	Perquimans
Ulberg, Kurt	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	3/5/2018	Wilson
Wells, Thomas	\$600.00	\$600.00	3/2/2018	Wake
Aluminum Tags for Hives		\$3,797.35		
Total		\$27,686.21		

