



NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

FARMLAND PRESERVATION DIVISION

NC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND



2018-2019 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

September 30, 2019

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 Family Farms 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 over 17 percent, or \$91.8 billion, of the \$538 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 essential benefits like erosion control, carbon sequestration, and waterway buffers.

-Cost of community services studies in the state show that agricultural lands use fewer 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
Mohamed Ahmedna	Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T University
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
Jimmy Johnson	Designee of the NC Department of Environmental Quality
Scott Marlow	Rural Advancement Foundation International
Rusty Painter	Conservation Trust for NC
Myles Payne	NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
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
Mike Yoder	Designee of the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Science at NC State University

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Jeff Darnell	Field Staff	
Dick Fowler	Field Staff	
Richard Reich	Field Staff	
Scott Shoulars	Field Staff	
Rodney Woolard	Field Staff	

NC ADFP Trust Fund Military Projects

North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee

The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides administrative support to the North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee.

The North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee has several objectives, including:

- 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 Military Affairs Commission Memorandum of Understanding

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NC Military Affairs Commission, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is contracted to use a portion of the funds and will subcontract the remainder to the College of Natural Resources at NC State University and the North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation to support activities in the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape (ENCSL).

Below is a description of the proposed activities and funding amounts:

Purpose	Amount
Partial funding for three positions within the NCDA&CS dedicated to outreach, technical assistance, legal services, and administrative support for Sentinel Landscape programs.	\$75,000
NCSU will expand coordination and improve shared communication to sustain linking military readiness, inclusion of working lands, and conservation through publications and landowner outreach.	\$40,000
North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation will expand outreach efforts at the community level in the 33-county area of ENCSL. The Foundation, in partnership with local conservation districts and the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Association), will facilitate five landowner outreach meetings and five community meetings.	\$35,000
Total	\$150,000

Priority Parcels in the ENCSL

The ADFP Trust Fund has been working extensively to engage willing landowners to place farms and forests under option for conservation easements and move priority parcels under contract. The ADFP Trust Fund is currently working with landowners to conserve and preserve **40,137.47 acres** in the ENCSL.

The ADFP Trust Fund has contracted **11,440.39 acres** of privately-owned farms and forests determined by military partners to be in areas vital to the training mission of the armed services. The total project value for these conservation easement contracts total \$20.7 million. The ADFP Trust Fund leveraged \$12 million in federal funds for these projects.

Through the work of ADFP Trust Fund field staff, the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, and other partners, there are **28,697.08 acres** of privately-owned farms and forests under option for conservation easements in the ENCSL.

2016 Southern Sentinel Landscapes Conservation Project

The state was awarded \$1.2 million through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). These conservation easement projects total **2,037 acres** and are funded through the ADFP Trust Fund, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFB), and USDA.

Once recorded, these will be the first conservation easements in the nation that combine military, USDA, and state funds. These projects are anticipated to be closed in September 2019.

County	Grant Recipient	Acres	SJAFB Funds	ADFPTF Funds	USDA Funds	Total Project Value
Hyde	Working Lands Trust (WLT)	409.57	\$621,326.16	\$392,726.16	\$245,700.00	\$1,259,752.32
Tyrrell	WLT	290.52	\$540,977.97	\$342,265.17	\$174,312.00	\$1,057,555.14
Tyrrell	WLT	61.60	\$35,445.80	\$26,661.80	\$36,960.00	\$99,067.60
Tyrrell	WLT	120.86	\$231,822.24	\$149,151.84	\$72,516.00	\$453,490.08
Tyrrell	WLT	298.01	\$384,120.36	\$244,623.96	\$178,806.00	\$807,550.31
Tyrrell	WLT	201.25	\$378,190.85	\$240,580.85	\$120,750.00	\$739,521.71
Tyrrell	WLT	655.34	\$1,103,993.33	\$693,793.01	\$333,526.00	\$2,131,312.34
Totals		2,037.15	\$3,295,876.70	\$2,089,802.78	\$1,162,570.00	\$6,548,249.49

North Carolina Sentinel Landscapes High Priority Protect Program (NCSLHPPP) for 2018

The state was awarded \$5.6 million through the USDA NRCS RCPP. In the first round of projects, these conservation easement projects total **2,458 acres** and are funded through the ADFP Trust Fund, SJAFB, Marine Corps Installations East (MCIEAST), and USDA.

SJAFB Priority Area

County	Grant Recipient	Acres	SJAFB Funds	ADFPTF Funds	USDA Funds	Total Project Value
Tyrrell	WLT	395.05	\$333,364.20	\$333,364.20	\$605,977.50	\$1,272,705.90
Tyrrell	WLT	694.50	\$232,853.12	\$232,853.12	\$416,700.00	\$882,406.24
Tyrrell	WLT	505.10	\$172,507.44	\$172,507.44	\$303,060.00	\$648,074.87
Tyrrell	WLT	637.70	\$214,755.79	\$214,755.79	\$382,620.00	\$812,131.57
Totals		2,232.35	\$953,480.54	\$953,480.54	\$1,708,357.50	\$3,615,318.58

MCIEAST Priority Area

County	Grant Recipient	Acres	MCIEAST Funds	ADFPTF Funds	USDA Funds	Total Project Value
Jones	WLT	162.78	\$78,957.54	\$78,957.54	\$126,891.46	\$284,806.54
Jones	WLT	63.10	\$31,679.61	\$31,679.61	\$37,860.00	\$101,219.21
Totals		225.88	\$110,637.15	\$110,637.15	\$164,751.46	\$386,025.75

Military Partnership Contracts

The following contracts are funded through the military services and the ADFP Trust Fund. These conservation easement projects total **6,945 acres**.

SJAFOB Priority Area

County	Grant Recipient	Acres	SJAFOB Funds	ADFPTF Funds	Landowner Donation	Total Project Value
Tyrrell	WLT	2,530.43	\$2,371,475.82	\$2,371,475.82	-	\$4,742,951.65
Bertie	WLT	110.00	\$133,472.91	\$133,472.91	-	\$266,945.82
Hyde	WLT	291.60	\$191,963.13	\$191,963.13	-	\$383,926.27
Washington	WLT	408.00	\$418,573.42	\$418,573.42	-	\$837,146.84
Washington	WLT	405.00	\$383,814.15	\$383,814.15	-	\$767,628.29
Tyrrell	WLT	1,865.00	\$1,165,291.98	\$46,291.98	\$1,119,000.00	\$2,330,583.95
Totals		5,610.03	\$4,664,591.41	\$3,545,591.41	\$1,119,000.00	\$9,329,182.82

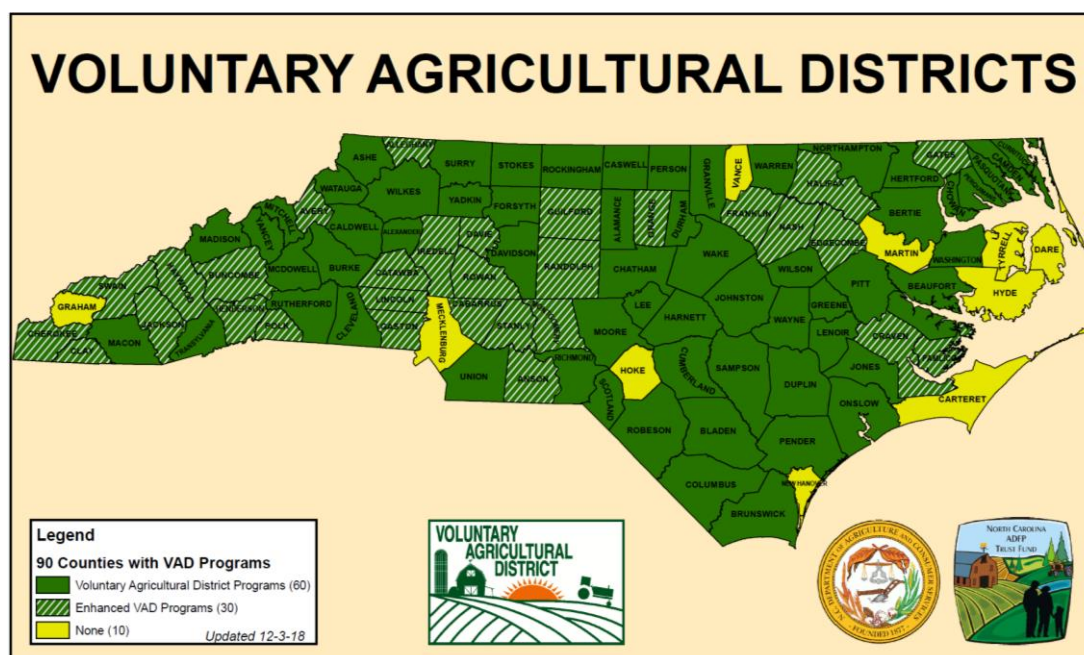
MCIEAST Priority Area

County	Grant Recipient	Acres	MCIEAST Funds	ADFPTF Funds	Landowner Donation	Total Project Value
Pamlico	WLT	110.50	\$28,664.24	\$28,664.24	-	\$57,328.48
Pamlico	WLT	1,030.50	\$649,348.37	\$649,348.37	-	\$1,298,696.75
Jones	WLT	54.98	\$84,903.56	\$84,903.56	-	\$169,807.12
Jones	WLT	139.00	\$97,562.49	\$97,562.49	-	\$195,124.97
Totals		1,334.98	\$860,478.66	\$860,478.66	-	\$1,720,957.32

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 ten years. The conservation agreement is automatically renewed for three (3) years absent a written notice to the county revoking the conservation agreements. There are 90 counties with VAD programs.

Farms Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	9,665
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD Program Statewide	802,825
Farms Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	776
Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the Enhanced VAD Program Statewide	53,151
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	10,441
Total Acres of Farmland Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide	855,976
Total Acres Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide Increased by 11,211 Acres, or 1%, since 2018.	
Total Farms Enrolled in the VAD and EVAD Program Statewide Increased by 373 farms, or 4%, since 2018.	



Farmland Protection Plans

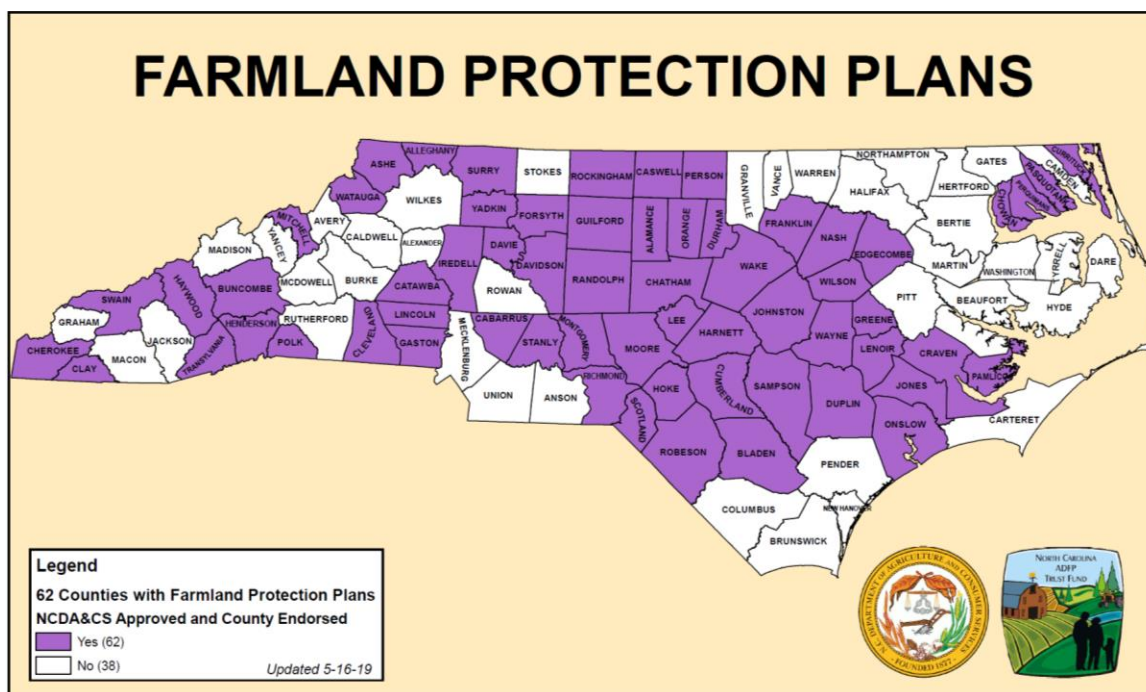
Guiding Counties to a Viable Agricultural Future

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 62 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, 2019

<i>Figures include conservation easements, development projects and agricultural plans.</i>					
Year	Cycle	Match Already Expended	Further Match Expected	Grant Funds Expended	Funds Still Encumbered by 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	\$1,032,466.04	\$790,158.00	\$947,040.51	\$405,438.00
2015	Cycle VIII – SL	\$6,130.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00	\$0.00
2016	Cycle IX – GA	\$3,302,641.89	\$126,210.00	\$1,710,943.23	\$26,000.00
2016	Cycle IX – MIL	\$1,213,404.03	\$0.00	\$797,718.25	\$0.00
2017	Cycle X – GA	\$1,634,550.15	\$3,432,840.09	\$804,883.20	\$2,460,865.90
2018	Cycle XI – GA	\$637,520.00	\$3,390,636.88	\$512,805.00	\$2,528,111.90
2018	Cycle XI – MIL	\$0.00	\$4,455,446.71	\$150,000.00	\$1,939,802.79
2018	Cycle XI – Nonrecurring High Efficiency Funds (NHEF)	\$0.00	\$4,976,123.10	\$9,243.66	\$1,546,652.94
2019	Cycle XII - GA	\$0.00	\$4,596,827.06	\$0.00	\$2,781,875.50
2019	Cycle XII – NHEF	\$0.00	\$17,307,289.53	\$0.00	\$6,595,927.52
2019	Cycle XII – MIL	\$0.00	\$3,245,357.50	\$0.00	\$3,245,357.50
Totals		\$55,394,575.47	\$42,320,888.87	\$24,498,291.95	\$21,530,032.05

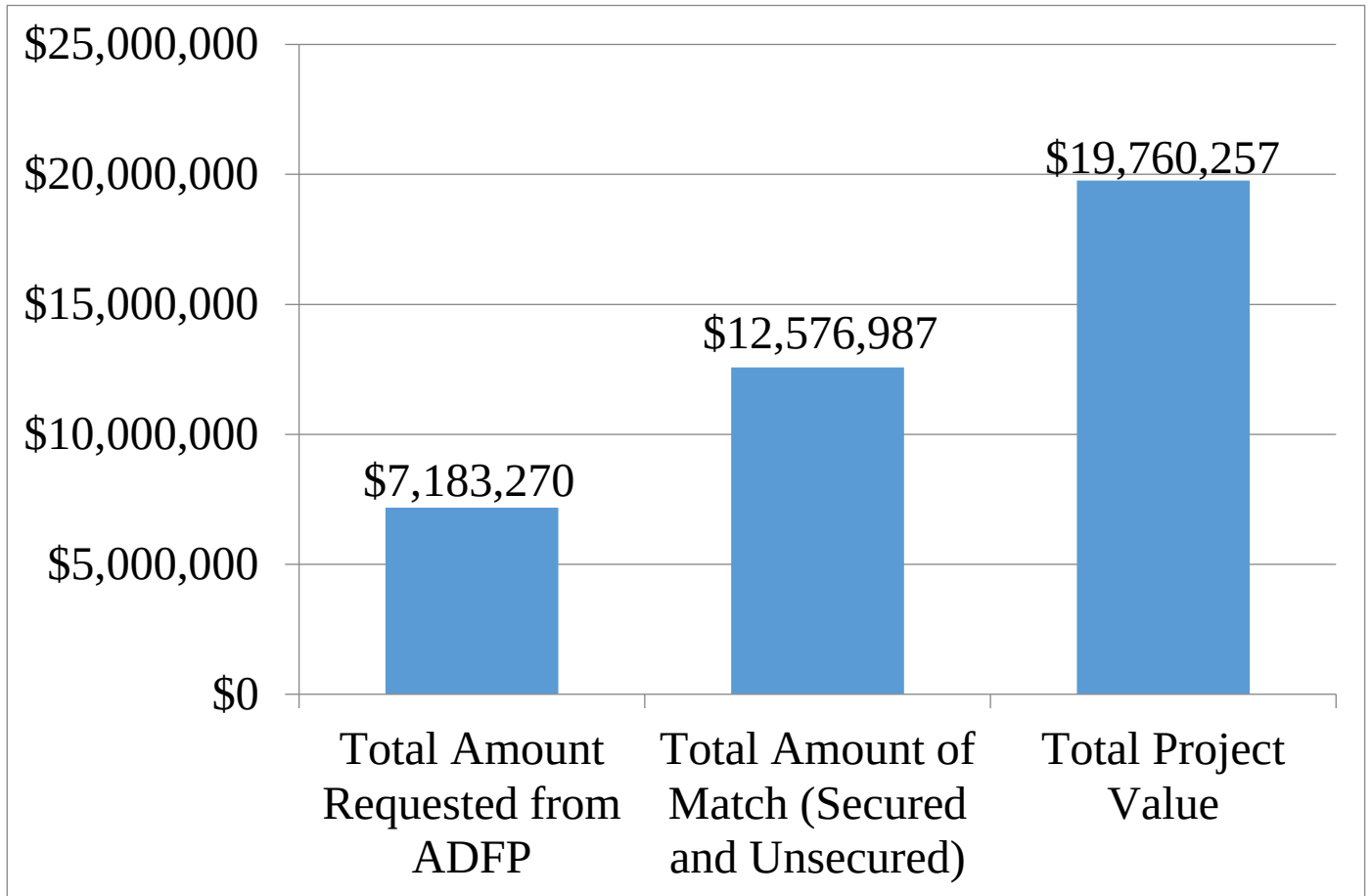
NC ADFP Trust Fund Conservation Easement Acres

As of September 1, 2019

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	637.5
Cycle VII – SL	435.6
Cycle VII – TVA	498.6
Cycle VIII – GA	384.2
Cycle VIII – MIL	108.2
Cycle IX – GA	1,232.0
Cycle IX – MIL	847.8
Cycle X – GA	590.8
Cycle XI – GA	120.9
Totals	15,902.1

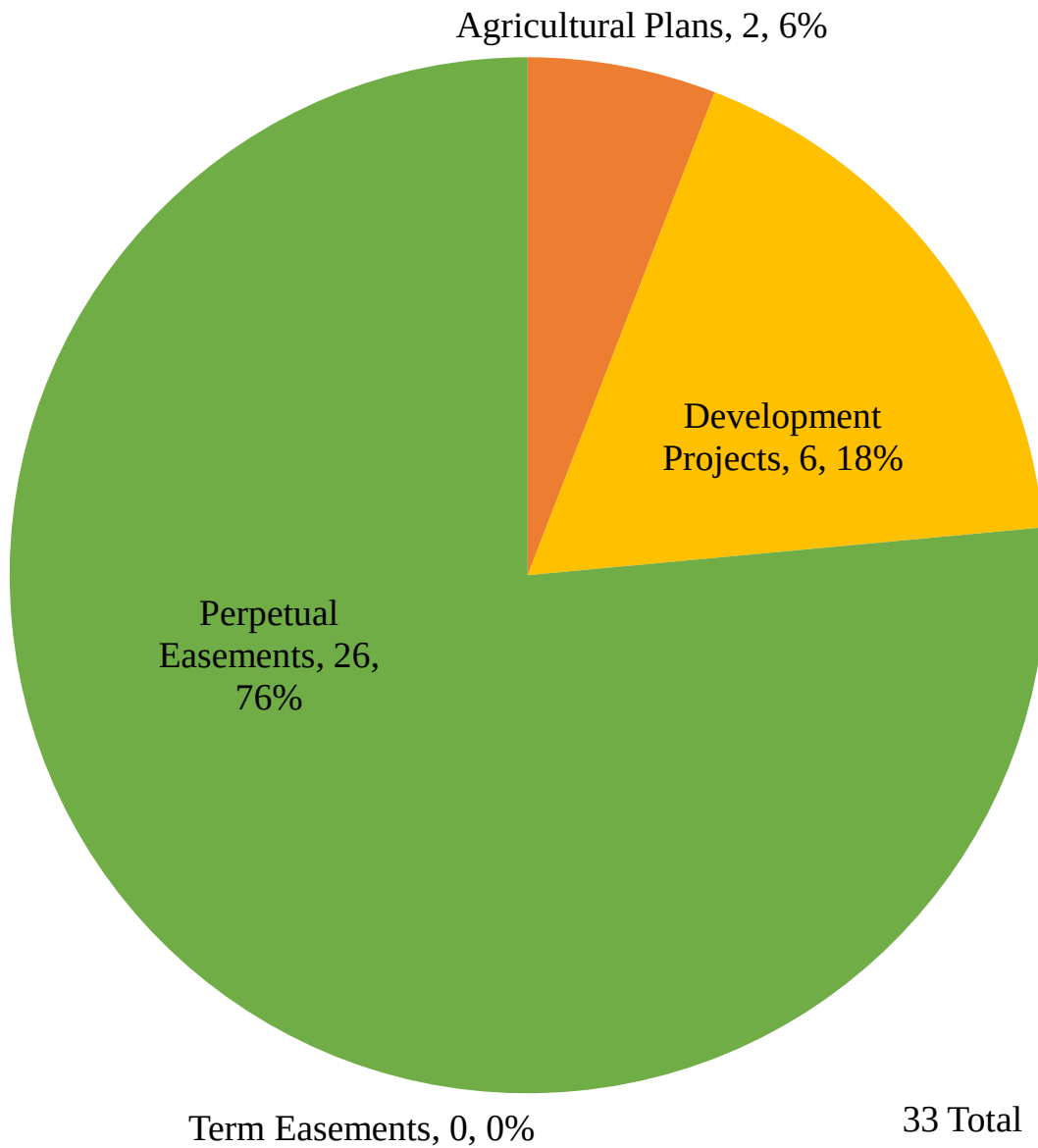
Cycle	Acres Under Contract for Easements
Cycle IX – GA	156.5
Cycle X – GA	830.8
Cycle XI – GA	1,534.3
Cycle XI – MIL	2,037.1
Cycle XI – NHEF	611.6
Cycle XII – GA	1,376.9
Cycle XII – MIL	1,376.9
Cycle XII – NHEF	7,795.4
Totals	15,719.5

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

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

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle XII Application Summary

General Appropriations



ADFP Trust Fund Cycle XII Application Summary

Agricultural Development Projects and Agricultural Plans

Number of Projects	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Secured and Unsecured Match	Total Project Value
8	\$918,977.00	\$798,845.00	\$1,717,822.00

These include local (1-3 counties), regional (4-20 counties), and statewide (21 counties or more) projects.

Conservation Easements

Number of Easements	Total Number of Acres	Total Amount Requested from ADFP	Total Secured and Unsecured Match	Total Project Value
26 Perpetual	4,079.14	\$6,264,292.73	\$11,778,142.41	\$18,042,435.14

ADFP Trust Fund Cycle XI Grant Awards Summary

General Appropriations Agricultural Development Projects and Agricultural Plans

Project	Grantee	Scope	Headquartered County	ADFP Grant	Secured Match	Project Value
Ashe County Regional Livestock Center Feasibility Study	Ashe County	Regional	Ashe	\$27,500	-	\$27,500
EnergyCAP AgEnergy Grant Program	Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council	Statewide	Madison	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Western NC Farm Resilience	NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation	Statewide	Wake	\$55,000	\$17,876	\$72,876
Onslow County No-Till Drill Education & Rental Program	Onslow Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)	Regional	Onslow	\$17,000	\$2,550	\$19,550
Polk County Cost of Community Services Study	Polk County	Local	Polk	\$15,000	\$2,250	\$17,250
NC Trout Farms Best Management Practices	Southwestern NC Resource Conservation & Development Council	Regional	Haywood	\$32,500	\$15,100	\$47,600
Creating and Sustaining Agricultural Opportunities through Farm Diversification and Education	University of Mount Olive	Statewide	Wayne	\$100,000	\$15,000	\$115,000
Wilkes County Farmland Protection Plan	Wilkes SWCD	Local	Wilkes	\$14,000	\$5,000	\$19,000
Totals				\$311,000	\$107,776	\$418,776

General Appropriations Perpetual Conservation Easements

Project	Grantee	County	Acres	ADFP Grant	Secured Match	Project Value
Brown Family Farm	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Buncombe	213	\$418,400.00	\$1,165,200.00	\$1,583,600.00
Cagle Farm	Lincoln SWCD	Lincoln	55	\$360,607.00	\$383,858.00	\$744,465.00
Calton Farm	Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina	Rutherford	385	\$318,618.00	\$319,952.00	\$638,570.00
Dixon Farm	Beaufort SWCD	Beaufort	48	\$22,750.00	\$16,670.00	\$39,420.00
Dobson Family Farm	Three Rivers Land Trust	Iredell	279	\$397,100.00	\$379,000.00	\$776,100.00
Gentry Farm	Blue Ridge Conservancy	Alleghany	355	\$313,300.00	\$379,750.00	\$693,050.00
German Family Farm	Randolph SWCD	Randolph	200	\$222,800.00	\$206,000.00	\$428,800.00
Hadley Farm	Piedmont Land Conservancy	Chatham	64	\$79,060.00	\$73,060.00	\$152,120.00
Hart Farm - Carole Currie Tract Farm	Buncombe SWCD	Buncombe	38	\$84,560.00	\$109,270.00	\$193,830.00
Hart Farm - William Hart Tract Farm	Buncombe SWCD	Buncombe	57	\$178,745.00	\$203,514.00	\$382,259.00
JB Ferguson Farm	Haywood SWCD	Haywood	43	\$183,797.00	\$181,379.00	\$365,176.00
Lazy J Ranch	Triangle Land Conservancy	Wake	90	\$185,065.00	\$161,810.00	\$346,875.00
Maple Ridge Farm	Piedmont Land Conservancy	Surry	285	\$159,221.00	\$75,819.00	\$235,040.00
Mark Rogers Farm	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Haywood	240	\$259,083.00	\$259,083.00	\$1,040,833.00
Myers Farm	Davie SWCD	Davie	84	\$185,000.00	\$201,000.00	\$386,000.00
Patterson School Farm	Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina	Caldwell	210	\$297,850.00	\$296,000.00	\$593,850.00
Plumlea Farm	Conserving Carolina	Henderson	22	\$101,188.00	\$99,970.00	\$201,158.00
Roberts Family Farm	Randolph Soil and Water Conservation District	Randolph	205	\$204,360.00	\$187,560.00	\$391,920.00
Shelton Farm	Three Rivers Land Trust	Davie	600	\$547,100.00	\$529,000.00	\$1,076,100.00

San Felipe Farm	Conserving Carolina	Polk	18	\$98,100.00	\$98,100.00	\$196,200.00
Scott Farm	Duplin SWCD	Duplin	47	\$30,650.00	\$39,750.00	\$70,400.00
Swan Acre Farms	Working Lands Trust	Hyde	138	\$292,908.00	\$261,755.00	\$554,663.00
Townson Farm	Mainspring Conservation Trust	Cherokee	101	\$356,000.00	\$360,000.00	\$716,000.00
Venters Farm	Working Lands Trust	Onslow	191	\$28,600.00	\$440,000.00	\$468,600.00
Wade Farm	Haywood SWCD	Haywood	47	\$158,511.00	\$155,361.00	\$313,872.00
Wilkins Farm	Alamance County	Alamance	65	\$101,054.00	\$100,754.00	\$201,808.00
Totals			2,080	\$5,584,427.00	\$7,206,282.00	\$12,790,709.00

