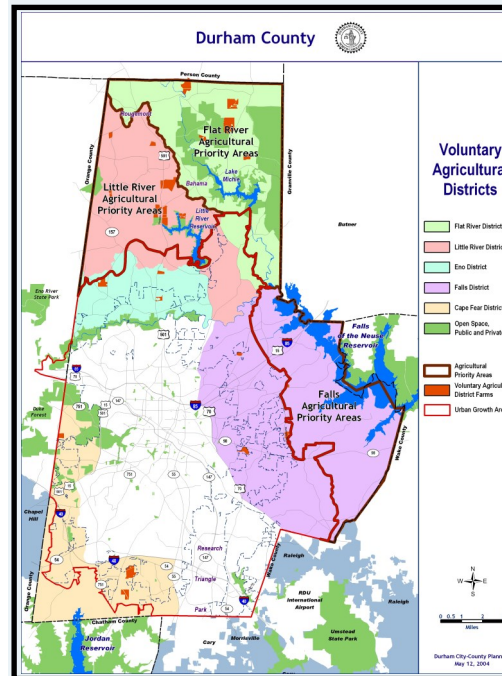


HISTORY OF THE VAD IN DURHAM COUNTY

On May 13, 1996, the Durham Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the original ordinance for the Farmland Protection Program. It was later revised and approved in August of 2003. The Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB) was then formed and members are chosen to provide the broadest possible representation geographically of the county as well as of all segments of agricultural production of Durham. Representatives from the following organizations may also serve on the Board: BOCC, Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Durham Farm Bureau, and the Open Space and Trails Commission. Five at-large members may also be appointed.

The FPAB works to “promote the best use of land in the county so that development and growth will be accompanied by protection of our attractive and ecologically desirable forests and farms” as stated in their Ordinance.

There are five Voluntary Ag districts in Durham County. They are based on the five watersheds: Flat River, Little River, Falls, Eno and Cape Fear.



Since the inception of the Farmland Protection Program, 100+ participants have committed 8,261 acres to the Voluntary Ag District Program in Durham County!

Call 919-560-0558
for more information

WHAT IS THE PROCESS AND HOW DO I APPLY?

If you would like to apply to be a part of the VAD Program, call our office (919) 560-0558 or email Sherry Scully at sscully@dconc.gov.

Once complete and eligibility verified, the application will go before the Farmland Protection Advisory Board to be considered. Once approved, you will have the option to have a sign installed on your property to show passerby your designation as a VAD.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- The right to a public hearing if the VAD is considered for a public project that may condemn land.
- Waiver of water and sewer assessments if owner does not use service
- Higher ranking when applying for conservation easements on property.
- Potential for more influence in future county ordinances affecting agricultural lands

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE VAD PROGRAM?

To be considered eligible, you must own land in Durham County and be eligible for Present Use Value taxation. All landowners must sign the Agreement with Durham County to participate in the VAD.



In order to have PUV tax status on your property, you must own 20 acres of forestland, 10 acres of agriculture land, or have 5 acres in horticulture.

This is a voluntary commitment and not binding. If the landowner chooses to sell the property he/she may do so at any time. Also, the landowner may get out of the program at any time.

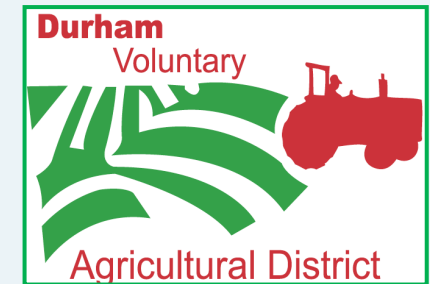


Voluntary Ag Districts protect the heritage of Durham County and the Agricultural way of life. Signage throughout the county publicizes to all that some farms are here to stay.



**Durham County Farmland
Protection Advisory Board**

VOLUNTARY AG DISTRICT PROGRAM



*Bringing pride to our farmers and
awareness to the citizens of
Durham County.*



Durham Soil & Water
200 E Main St; 5th floor
Durham, NC 27701
Staff Contact: Sherry Scully
Phone: 919-560-0558
sscully@dconc.gov

www.dconc.gov/swcd