



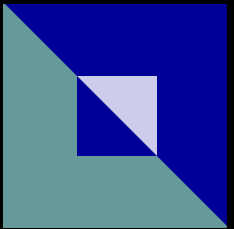
Soil & Water

FY 2025 Agriculture Economic Development Grant Report



June
2025

201 E Main Street Fl. 5, Durham, NC 27701 | www.dconc.gov/swcd



Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program Report

Fiscal Year 2025
July 1-June 30, 2025

June 2025

The Durham County Board of County Commissioners approved an allocation for the Agricultural Economic Development Grant Program of **\$250,000** for the fiscal year 2025. This program's purpose is to offer cost share grants to assist farmers and nonprofits in their agricultural endeavors and to promote Agriculture Development and Outdoor Environmental Learning Centers in schools.

Therefore, two types of grants are available:

- Small grants for Agriculture Development in schools: Up to \$1,500.00
- Grants for farmers: Up to \$10,000.00

The Agricultural Economic Development Grant Subcommittee administers this grant program. This committee is made up of nine (9) members that manage the program and evaluate each application. These nine members represent multiple agencies that assist the farming community as well as members of local non profit advisory boards.

The grant application was released on July 1, 2024. The Application Deadline was August 23, 2024 at 11:59 pm. Upon receipt, staff redacted all personal information of the 44 farm and 3 school applications were received. These 47 applicants requested **\$389,381** with an estimated total project cost of **\$476,655**. The committee reviewed all applications and were able to fund **28 farm and 3 school projects** to utilize this year's allocation.

FY2025 AED Grant Committee

David Harris Chair/ Durham SWCD Board Supervisor	Eddie Culberson Durham Soil & Water Department Director
Ja'Nell Henry Durham SWCD Board Supervisor	Mark Waller Farmland Protection Ad- visory Board member
Donna Rewalt NC Cooperative Extension Director	Tina Miller Farm Service Agency Di- rector
Justin Page NC Farm Bureau Board member	Matthew Eagle Farmland Protection Ad- visory Board member
Kelly Crane Farmer FoodShare, Inc. Executive Director	Lisa Marochak & Sherry Scully Durham Soil & Water Department Staff

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201 E Main St, Fl 5

Durham, NC 27701

919-560-0558

WWW.dconc.gov/swcd



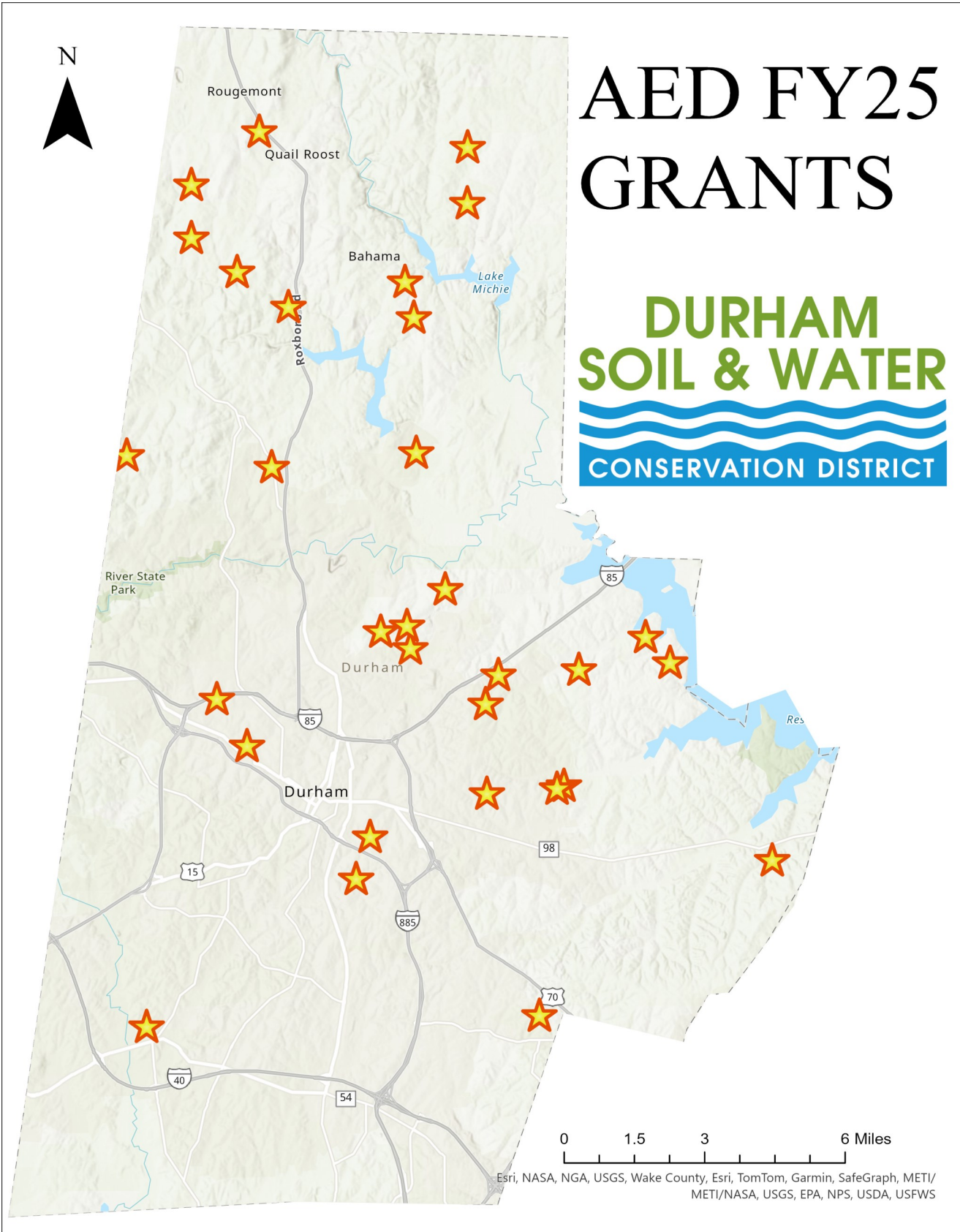
Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program Farm Applications and Service Productivity Data

Program Impact & Data	FY 25
Funding level	\$ 250,000
Request for funding from applicants	\$ 389,381
Number of applications	47
Number of farm applications	44
Number of M/WBE farm applications	35
Number of non profits that applied	8
Number of Schools that applied	3
Number of farm projects funded	28
Percentage of M/WBE contracts awarded	79%
Number of Farms funded for Food Safety Compliance	2
Number of schools funded	3

Break down of Project types	FY25 Applicants	Funded
Number of farm operations that raise livestock only	11	8
Number of farm operations that raise livestock & produce	7	7
Number of farms that grow produce only	14	12
Projects that improved access/equity/non profits with direct sales	8	4
Schools supporting Agriculture Education	3	3
Other Agriculture Commodities produced (Hay, flowers, compost, etc.)	8	6

Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program

AED FY25 GRANTS



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Wake County, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/
METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program



This tower garden has been a highlight for CC Spaulding Elementary School! NCCU students and staff taught students how to plant the garden. After planting, the garden was placed in the school cafeteria so that all students may witness and enjoy watching the plants grow.



C.C. SPAULDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program

“It’s spring time and that means our LEAP families came out to support us to prepare our beds for planting. Our students will plant seed and starts as they learn about plant and water cycles, and about growing food. Our families will support regular gardening days to plant, weed and care for the plants to support food production to supplement our school snacks and our fresh food pantry.



Huge thanks to Durham County Agricultural Economic Development Grant for providing funding to support our community garden.”



Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program

Jordan High School purchased blueberry plants for their horticulture program to teach students about soil pH, fertilization rates and grafting.



“Having a walk in cooler has allowed our farm to increase our mushroom production and sales by providing faster and larger access to refrigeration. Additionally, we have been able to share our cooler with Soul Sanctuary and other farmers at the North Durham Farmers Market, which was a significant help during hot summer months when extra inventory needed to be kept cold.”



Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program



“I cannot express enough how beneficial this grant has been for our 14 farms. The buckets and delivery vessels are critical supplies for our delivery system, our new point of sale terminals have made our check-out process so much faster with more checkout stations available for us to assist our customers (who are all very limited on time and need us to give them quick and efficient service), I cannot express enough the support this brings to us to help sell more product from our farms. THANK YOU for all of your time and commitment to helping usher this grant financial support to our growers.”





Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program

“Thank you for the financial means to upgrade our chick/pullet brooders. We are a Durham County small farm dedicated to raising healthy vaccinated young hens for backyard family coops in North Carolina. The new brooders not only provide safety and security but are efficient for us to clean and access. Many of our early home constructions require us to crawl inside or stoop down. Also, now our chicks are not crowded and have appropriate ventilation. We have had customers drive from as far away as Mississippi and Florida for our pullets. However, mainly we serve Durham, Wake and Orange County customers. We strive to raise healthy, happy hens.”

~ Sunrise Oak Farm



Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program

“The grant has made such a big difference to me and the business. Right now, I'm on track to double egg sales from last year and am expanding the flocks to improve quality. I learned so much during my first year hatching and will be evaluating what will make things easier and more efficient for next year to use the remaining grant funding.”

 Avian
Anarchy



Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program



Continuous losses of fruits and vegetables due to wildlife have cut into profits for years on this farm. “We can already see a difference in our growing operation after a week. We are able to open up the high tunnel when needed and watch deer walk the perimeter of this fence. We set the fence farther than our current space in hopes to fill area with fruit trees which we have been hesitant to add with the deer pressures.”

~ Super Rad Farm



Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program

“I used the funds to buy a specialized piece of equipment and materials for basic infrastructure needs. The grant helped me increase efficiency and scale production in the early stages of my farm's development -- a huge boon at a critical stage.”



Reddbus Farn is expanding!

With more production of mushrooms, flowers, and vegetables a cooler was necessary to extend the amount of time and safer storage of these items between time of harvest and sale. This project increases the quality and amount sold!



Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program



“The corral system facilitates the safe movement of cattle in and out of the pasture for transportation and health assessment. This system allows for cattle to be treated for isolated health conditions and individualized fly treatments in a safe and peaceful way for both cattle and farmer.”

~Marbrey Farm

Durham Flower Farm sells bouquets and plants. This grant allowed this small business “to expand their indoor, conditioned growing space to grow more plants from seed, increasing their profit margins of plant and flower sales greatly.” In addition, the farm offers “hands on workshops allowing them to educate homeowners and gardeners on making a difference in small urban spaces.”

