

## WHY DO WE NEED VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS?

- To promote agricultural values and the general welfare of the county and more specifically, increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and its way of life.
- Encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture, horticulture and forestry.
- Increase protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms.



## ANSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

### Region 1

Nicole Carpenter

### Region 3

George E. Short

### Region 5

Samuel Freeman

### Region 2

Brent Harrington

### Region 4

Eddie Edwards

### Region 6

Jason Kiker

### Region 7

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### Questions about Farmland Preservation?

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## ANSON COUNTY VOLUNTARY & ENHANCED VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS PROGRAM



The purpose of the Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program is to encourage the preservation and protection of farmland. This is in recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic and social well being of Anson County and North Carolina.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

### The Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program provides:

- Preservation and maintenance of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and open land areas.
- Voluntary enrollment for one year with the ability to stop participation.
- Protection of greenspace and natural resources as population and development expands.
- Public identification, indicating that land is committed to agriculture.
- Requirement of public hearings for proposed condemnation, encouraging county government to use agricultural lands as a last resort.
- Eligibility for farmland preservation funding on local, state and federal levels.
- Increased voice in county government concerning decisions affecting the agricultural economy or way of life within the county.



### THE ENHANCED VOLUNTARY DISTRICT PROGRAM PROVIDES GREATER BENEFITS:

- Allowance to receive up to 25% of gross sales from certain types of non-farm products and still qualify for the agricultural zoning exemption.
- Eligibility for a higher percentage of cost-share program funding.
- Priority for other state grant programs.
- Utility assessment waiver.
- Conservation agreement that prohibits non-farm use or development of such land for an irrevocable period of ten (10) years.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Landowners engaged in farming within Anson County.
- Landowners willing to have farms managed, if highly erodible land exists on the land.
- Willingness to be subject to a conservation agreement that prohibits non-farm use or development of their land for a period of at least ten years.

## HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED?

A landowner may apply to participate in either the Voluntary or the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts program by filling out an application with the Anson County Agricultural Advisory Board.

Applications are available online at:

[anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu)