

Jackson County Farmland Preservation Community Outreach Programs

The Agriculture Advisory Board members invite you to attend one of three upcoming outreach events to learn about the Farmland Preservation Program and its benefits in Jackson County

Tuesday, March 13th, 6:30 pm
Yellow Mountain Substation

Thursday, March 22nd, 6:30 pm
Qualla Area-TBD

Thursday, April 5th, 6:30 pm
Canada Fire Department

Food Will Be Provided!

Questions? Please Contact:

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Charles Fowler, Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board
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Jackson County Farmland Preservation



Becoming a Voluntary
Agriculture District or Enhanced
VAD Member



Advisory Board

- Charles Fowler, Chairman
- Bryan Bumgarner, Vice Chair
- Brad Stillwell
- Chet Stephens
- Kent Cochran
- John Brown
- Joe Grasty



2017 Statistics

- NC agriculture generates \$76 billion annually
- Jackson County alone
 - \$9.7 million in production
 - @ 245 farms in County
 - Totaling 16,201 acres in farms
- 316,877 total acres in Jackson
 - 71,688 acres in National Park/Forest land
 - 19,287 acres with the Cherokee Reservation
 - Leaving 162,361 acres in private forests or urbanized land



What is a Voluntary Ag. District

- Agricultural land owners with common characteristics:
 - Desire to preserve the landscape
 - Desire to farm
 - Enrollment in a Comprehensive Conservation plan



Basic VAD Ordinance

- The land must be actively engaged in agriculture as that word is defined in G.S. 106-581.1 and has a written conservation plan as determined by the Agriculture Advisory/Farmland Preservation Board
- Formation of a 10 year agreement to sustain agriculture, forestry or horticulture
- Form an approved agreement
- Approval by Agricultural Advisory/Farmland Preservation Board



Benefits of VAD

- Recorded notice of proximity to farmlands
- Reduction of nuisance actions
- Official role in county government
- Increase public awareness of Agriculture
- Fees waived for Water & Sewer or utility assessment
- Public hearing on condemnation



Benefits of EVAD

- 10 year irrevocable plan
- Automatic 3 year renewal absent notice as required by the ordinance
- Remain bona fide farm exempt from county zoning
- Eligible for 90% Cost Share funds
- Grant Priority Consideration



Qualifying Land

- Be actively engaged in agriculture as that word is defined in G.S. 106-581.1 and has a written conservation plan as determined by the Agriculture Advisory/Farmland Preservation Board
- Highly Erodible Land Standards met (NRCS)
- Subject to a Conservation Agreement
- Exempt three (3) building lots for family homes
- Subject to all applicable building codes



Current Enrolled Acreage

- **EVAD**

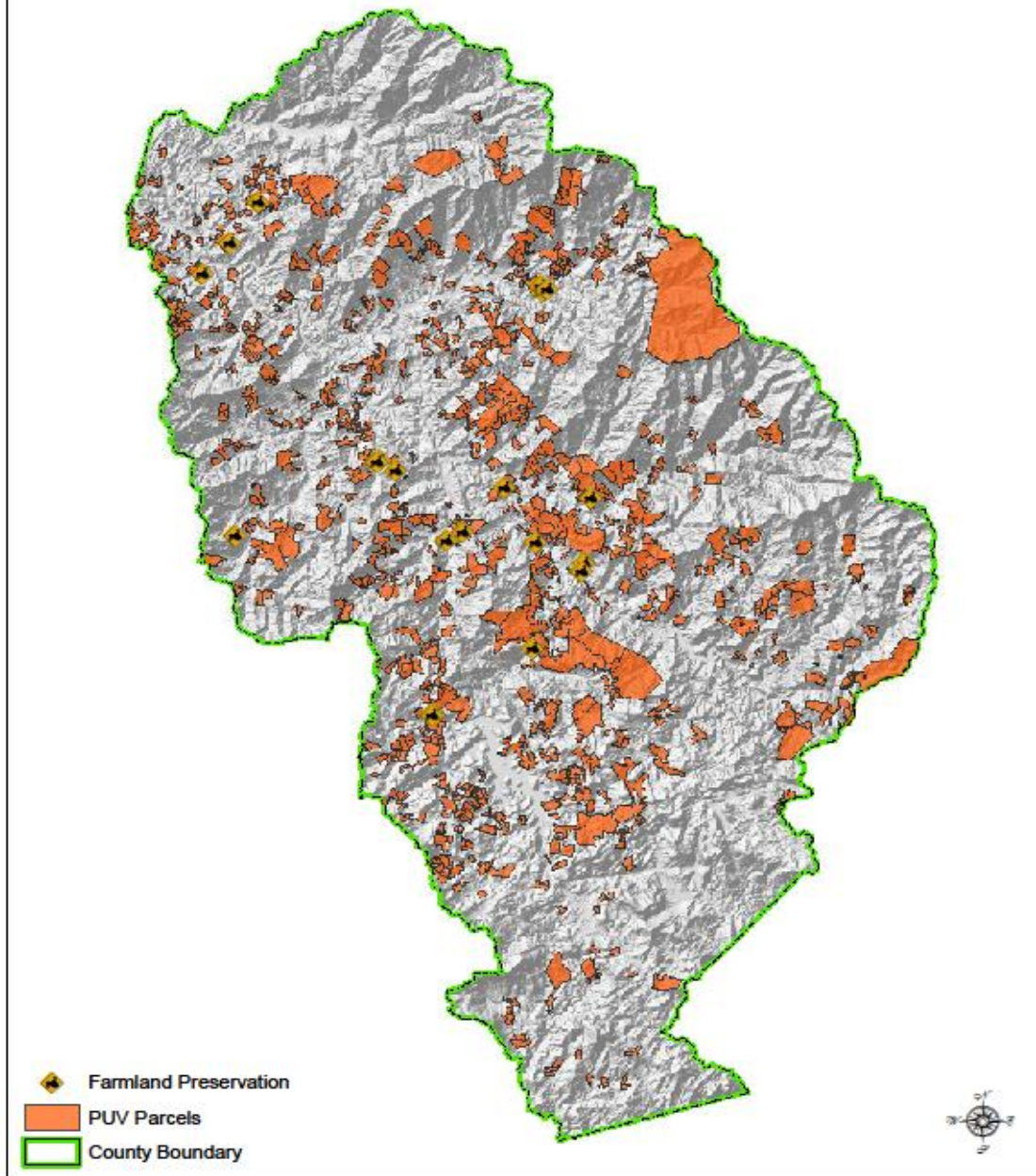
9 Farms totaling 596 acres

- **VAD**

7 Farms totaling 417 acres



Present Use Value and Farmland Preservation



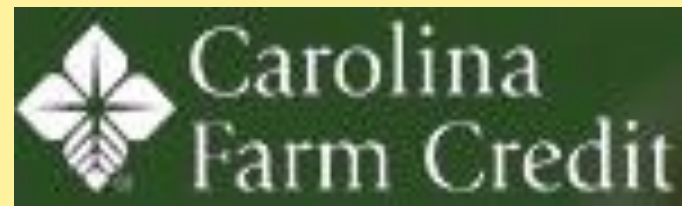


Advisory Board's Role

- Review and recommend regarding establishment and modification of VADs
- Advise Commissioners on Ag and related issues
- Promote Countywide farmland protection planning (Zoning may be affected)
- Other review tasks as assigned
- Members are appointed by Commissioners for a 3 year term, may serve 3 consecutive terms



Special Thanks to:





Questions & Answers

