


Protecting Working Lands In North Carolina

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Conservation Trust for North Carolina



CONSERVATION TRUST
FOR NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina
LAND TRUSTS
Saving the Places You Love

- Statewide Land Trust
- Resource for 24 local land trusts in NC
- Services Provided:
 - Public Awareness
 - Government Relations
 - Collaborative Fundraising

Conservation Funding and Incentives In NC

- Natural Resource Trust Funds
 - Clean Water Management (\$50M - \$100M)
 - Natural Heritage (\$12M-\$24M)
 - Parks and Recreation (\$25M-\$50+M)
 - Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation (ADFPTF) (\$50K - \$8M)
- NC Conservation Tax Credit
 - 25% income tax credit on donated land interest
 - Capped at \$250,000 w/ 5-year carry forward

NC Farmland Preservation Chronology

- 1986 – Farmland Preservation Statute Passed
- 1998 – 2003 - \$2.6 M, 4,400+ ac., \$25 M leveraged
- 2005 – Statute Amended to Include Agriculture Development and Term Easements
- 2007 – NC Ranked # 1 in Farm/Farmland Loss
 - 600,000 acres lost between 2002-'07
 - 1,00 farms
- 2007 – '09 - \$14 M
- 2008 – '10 – 5,700+ ac to be Protected, \$8M Leveraged
- 2008 – '09 - \$2 M Invested in Ag Development Projects

How Did We Get Here?



- 2005 Amendments to Farmland Preservation Statute
 - Renamed Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
 - 19-member Trust Fund Advisory Committee
 - Permanent Easements
 - Conservation Agreements (Term Easements)
 - Agriculture Development Projects
 - Farmland Protection Plans
 - Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts

ADFPTF Trust Fund



- Includes Ag/Forestry
- Promote Ag Viability
- Grants/Criteria
- Focus Areas/Mapping
- Funding Levels:
 - '05 – '06 - \$50,000
 - '07 – '08 - \$8 million
 - '08 – '09 - \$4 million
 - '09 – '10 - \$2 million

How Did We Get Funding?



- Leadership
 - Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler
 - Speaker of the NC House Rep. Joe Hackney
 - Rep. Pricey Harrison - NER Appropriations Subcommittee Co-chair
- Broader Coalition
 - Land for Tomorrow – CTNC, NC TNC, TPL, CF, AFT, NCPRA, ENC, BFLT
 - Support of Mainstream Agricultural Groups and Local Government Associations
 - Farm Bureau, Grange, Agribusiness Council, NC Association of County Commissioners, Soil and Water
 - Sustainable Ag Groups
 - Department of the Environment and Natural Resources– One NC Naturally
- Recognize Regional Differences
 - Needs
 - Priorities

Conservation Easements



- 2006-2008 - \$ 4.3 Million
 - Permanently protected more than 3,250 acres
 - 16 working farms
 - Cost to state of \$1,350/acre
 - \$7 million leveraged, including \$1 million in FRPP
- 2009-2010 – \$ 2.6 M
 - Additional 2,500 acres
 - 12 farms
 - \$1,060/acre
- Donated vs. PDR

Term Easements



- 2008 - \$820K
 - 3 projects totaling 381 acres
 - Harris – 50-year
 - Rollans – 25-year
 - Starnes – 50-year
 - \$2,150/acre protected
- 2009 - \$428K
 - 2 projects totaling 646 acres
 - 15-year leases
 - \$662/acres protected

Agricultural Development Projects



- 2008-2009
 - \$2 million invested
 - More than \$2 million leveraged
 - Includes VAD/EVAD, FPP grants
 - Ag Infrastructure/Viability
- Examples
 - Livestock processing facility
 - Local foods guide
 - Apple/watermelon storage and processing facilities
 - Regional kitchen and processing facilities

Lessons Learned



- Agriculture Still #1 Industry
- Advisory Committee Buy-In
- Importance of Planning/Results
- Save the Farmer and the Land
- Environmental Benefits
- Buy Local/Food Safety
- Dedicated Revenue Sources
 - Increased property tax roll back
 - Real estate transfer tax
 - Prepared meals tax
 - License plate
- Wildlife Use Value Taxation
- Partition Sales Reform