What is an Agricultural District?

The purpose of the Agricultural District program is to encourage the preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. This is in recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic and social well being of North Carolina.

What Have We Accomplished?

Since we began in 2000, 326 Guilford County farms have signed on as Voluntary Agricultural Districts. This means that almost 14,519 acres of farmland have been preserved.

"My wife and I live on and operate the farm that my grandfather, Walter Causey, purchased in 1907 from the estate of his deceased uncle, John Amick. This farm has been in my family for over 100 years. In 2012 we enrolled our farm in the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program. The EVAD program recognizes the need to preserve farmlands in order to provide the food and fiber needed to sustain the quality of life for future generations.

The Voluntary Agricultural District signing also serves as notice that this land is being used to support a working farm operation. VAD's receive enhanced benefits when participating in NC Soil & Water Conservation cost share programs.

- Harold Alexander
Spring House Farm

"VAD means awareness to me. Bringing awareness through posted signs not only gives me a sense of security when moving by tractor in the area but also for the various crops and livestock surrounding our farm."

-David Bowman
Bowman Dairy Inc.

Why have Agricultural Districts?

The State of North Carolina passed the Farmland Preservation Enabling Act in 1985, authorizing counties to establish farmland preservation programs, including agricultural districts.
In 2000, Guilford County adopted a Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Ordinance, creating the Agricultural Districts Advisory Board (ADAB) and procedures for establishing Voluntary Agricultural Districts.
The purpose of the ordinance is to promote the preservation of farmland in Guilford County so that development and growth will be accompanied by protection of farms from non–farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms, recognizing the importance of agriculture to the economic and cultural life of the county.

Agricultural Districts Advisory Board Responsibilities

- Review and make recommendations concerning the establishment and modification of agricultural districts.
- Review and make recommendations concerning any ordinance or amendment adopted or proposed for adoption.
- Hold public hearings on public projects likely to have an impact on agricultural operations, particularly if such projects involve condemnation of all or part of any qualifying farm.
- Advise the governing board of the county or city on projects, programs, or issues affecting the agricultural economy or way of life within the county.
- Perform other related tasks or duties assigned by the governing board of the county or city.

"The VAD program is an important asset to our farming operations, and a valuable tool used to promote agriculture and its economic significance to Guilford County and the state."

-James Morgan

More Information

If you would like a call back with more information or to receive an application please fill out the attached form and return.

☐ **Please Call**

☐ **Send Application**

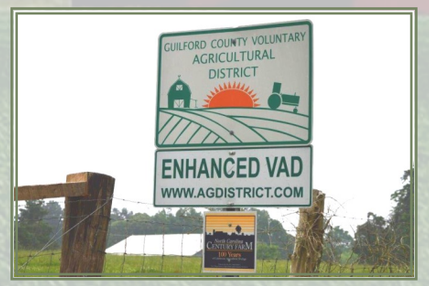
Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



NC Cooperative Extension
Guilford County Center
3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405

Jamey Walker, Soil Technician
Guilford County Soil & Water
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What is the Agricultural Districts Advisory Board?

The Agricultural Districts Advisory Board is composed of a number of County residents, which includes farmers representing newly-formed Agricultural Districts.

ADAB members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

The ADAB reviews and approves applications to the Agricultural Districts program. They also advise the Board of County Commissioners on projects, programs, or issues affecting the agricultural economy or way of life within the county.

"Preservation of farmland since 1901. Our family farm was the 1st EVAD Guilford County farm. The Kearns family farm in Pleasant Garden received the Conservation Farm of the year in 2016. We partnered with Guilford County Soil and water and have fenced in our ponds and waterways to exclude the live stock and installed automatic waterers in all pastures. One section is "off the grid" made possible by a solar powered system.

-Anne Kearns Hice

For More Information:

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VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

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NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

GUILFORD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT