



CONSERVATION FACT SHEET

NC Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (NC ADFPTF)

What is NC ADFPTF?

The North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF) aids in the fight for protecting and preserving significant farmlands and agricultural enterprises in the state. Supported through state appropriations, donations and other funding sources, the ADFPTF provides financial resources to local governments and nonprofit organizations to implement farmland preservation and development projects. These projects are focused on a combination of the following: 1) purchasing conservation easements, 2) funding enterprise programs that promote sustainable and profitable family farms and 3) funding conservation agreements. Funding is provided through grants given to applications selected by the Advisory Committee.

Eligibility

General Requirements:

1. Property must be privately owned and located within the borders of the state of North Carolina and must be in working lands use.
2. The minimum acreage required is 5 acres for horticulture, 10 acres for agriculture and 20 acres for forestry.
3. Must be partnered with a land trust or county agency who will hold easement and apply.

Priority is given to projects that involve one or more of the following:

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| 1. Counties with farm protection plans | 5. Limited resource farmers |
| 2. Goodness grows farmers | 6. Beginning farmers |
| 3. Enhances voluntary agricultural district farmers | 7. Groups and individuals with other agricultural and forestry affiliations |
| 4. Farms with forest management plans | 8. Grant requests that meet or exceed a one-to-one match ratio to state funds |



Benefits

NCADFP will allow a land trust to apply for 25% of the value of a conservation easement on a farm if matched with ALE funding. If no ALE funding will be contributed to the project, then the state will contribute as much as 50% of the easement value. There is no limit to the number of applications a land trust can submit in a given year.

For the landowner, the ADFPTF program helps farmers retain their lands, for lasting generations. The ADFPTF program also makes agriculture more affordable by limiting development that would typically increase the price of nearby land. Other benefits include compensation for conservation practices and management strategies.

Application Process

Each year, the grant cycle for the NC ADFPTF opens in mid-October and closes in mid-December. Landowners interested in ADFPTF must be partnered with a nonprofit conservation organization or a county agency to successfully submit an application. Landowners interested can reach out to their local nonprofit land trust or county agency to receive more information regarding the program.

More Information

NC ADFPTF Application Guidelines

<https://www.ncadfp.org/documents/ApplicationGuidelines.pdf>

NC ADFPTF Policies and Guidelines

<https://www.ncadfp.org/documents/ADFPPoliciesandGuidellines.pdf>

Three Rivers Land Trust: Conservation Easements

<https://threeriverslandtrust.org/land-owners/what-is-a-conservation-easement/>