HOW TO APPLY

Once you have determined that you meet the qualifications and will accept the Conservation Agreement, you may pickup an application package from the Franklin County Agricultural Extension Center located at 103 South Bickett Boulevard in Louisburg, North Carolina, or by calling the Extension Center at (919) 496.3344.

**STEPS IN THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Fill out the application and Voluntary Information sheet and return it to the Franklin County Extension Service center, along with the application fee.

The Franklin County Agricultural Board will review for completeness and approve or disapprove the application.

Upon signing of the Conservation Agreement by the Chair of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the application will be forwarded to the Register of Deeds for recordation and to the Tax Office for mapping.

Agricultural District Signs will be displayed and farm signs will be made available to each participating farm at a reasonable price.

Pursuant to:
North Carolina General Statutes §§106-735 through 106-744 Article 61, Preservation of Farmland

North Carolina Cooperative Extension
Franklin County Center
103 S. Bickett Blvd.
Louisburg, NC 27549

Phone: (919) 496.3344
Fax: (919) 496.0222
Web Sites: http://franklin.ces.ncsu.edu
www.FranklinCountyFarmFresh.com
WHAT ARE VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Franklin County has historically been a rural, agrarian based county. Today, agriculture is still Franklin County’s number one industry with increased pressures from urban encroachment and rural housing developments.

Many urban dwellers are moving into rural settings but do not understand or appreciate that living next door to a farm may include such issues as noise, odors, dust, insects or the early morning and late night schedules of farmers. This could result in nuisance suits being filed by new rural residents against their farm neighbors. To help prevent some of these problems, the State of North Carolina has enabled counties to create Voluntary Agricultural Districts.

The objectives of Voluntary Districts are:
- To encourage the preservation of farmland.
- To help provide properly managed farms protection from nuisance suits.
- To increase awareness about the importance of agriculture.

WHO QUALIFIES

To qualify a farm must:
- Be participating in, or qualifies to participate in, present use value taxation.
- Be managed according to NRCS Erosion Control practices.
- Agree to a revocable 10-year Conservation Agreement.

The Franklin County Agricultural Advisory Board, following submission of application by the landowner, will determine final qualification.

BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPATING

- Education and awareness to the public about agricultural activities and where they occur.
- Protect agricultural infrastructure.
- Identification as participating in a Voluntary Agricultural District.
- May help prevent nuisance suits.
- Land use decisions shall consider the proximity of Voluntary Agricultural Districts.
- Your agricultural district interests.

NOTIFICATION

For farms participating in a Voluntary Agricultural District, county records at both the Tax Department and Register of Deeds offices will show on maps which farms are a part of any Voluntary Agricultural District. This will serve as prior notification for close proximity to an operating agricultural enterprise.

A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM

This is a voluntary program and no farm will be required to participate. The term of the agreement is ten years. However, a landowner may revoke this agreement at any time by notifying the agricultural board in writing.