Agricultural Advisory Board

Update for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
## About Us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Members</th>
<th>Community Represented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Lee, Chair</td>
<td>Candler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Snelson, Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Leicester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Bulluck</td>
<td>Arden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Hensley</td>
<td>Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loring McIntyre</td>
<td>Swannanoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Perkinson</td>
<td>Fairview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Roberts</td>
<td>Jupiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terri Wells</td>
<td>Sandy Mush</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Purpose:

To promote agricultural values and the general welfare of Buncombe County, and more specifically:

• To increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and its way of life

• To encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture, horticulture and forestry and

• To increase protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms.
Board Importance

★ Agricultural voice in the County
  • Board has a voice representing all regions of farming in Buncombe County

★ Increase public awareness of the importance of farming and farmland in Buncombe County

★ Direct focus on Strategic Plan goal
  • Increase funding
  • Increase staffing
Ag Advisory Board County Programs

[Logos and symbols related to agriculture and county programs]
Farm Preservation Successes

- 20 Family Farms Protected
  2,777.71 acres

- Raised over $4 million in grant funding

- Raised over $11 million in charitable donations since 2005
Agricultural Community Successes

✓ Created the national award winning Farm Heritage Trail

✓ Voluntary Agricultural Districts:
  287 farms totaling 20,708 acres

✓ Enhance Voluntary Agricultural Districts:
  14 farms totaling 1,867 acres
Proactive Planning

• Completed Buncombe Farmland Protection Plan 2020 – adopted Aug 2020

• GIS Project generating Farmland Community Prioritization to focus conservation efforts

• MPA Research project identifying potential ongoing funding sources for conservation

• Supporting the BC 2025 Strategic Plan Goal
  • Environmental and Energy Stewardship: Preserve Farmland and Environmentally Sensitive Tracts
Challenges

- Limited county staffing
- Limited transaction cost funding
- Limited easement purchase funding
- Limited number of grant applications allowed per entity
- 38 farms totaling in 3,226 acres still on Farmland Preservation waiting list
Strategic Opportunity

$750,000 annual investment through FY26:

- Anticipate **18 projects** initiated annually
- Approximately **70 projects** initiated by 2025
- Additional **6000 acres** of important farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts conserved

**FY21 Funding Level: $240,000**
- $120,000 for Ag Advisory Board easements
- $120,000 for Land conservation Advisory Board easements