



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 10/19/2021

#### New Business

Department: Budget

Presenter(s): Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director

Contact(s): Jennifer Harrison, Ag and Land Resources Director

Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Manager

#### Subject: Establish Eight Conservation Easement Projects

**Brief Summary:** The Buncombe County Ag Advisory Board in partnership with Buncombe Soil and Water Conservation District would like to request transaction costs for eight Farmland Conservation Easements as well as the purchase price for one of the easements from FY22 Conservation Easement project funds.

- Anthony Cole Farm, 38.3 acres in Leicester - \$32,000
- Gary and Sara Cole Farm, 28.9 acres in Leicester - \$28,000
- Anthony, Gary, Ormond Cole Farm, 208.2 acres in Leicester - \$42,500 + \$142,000 (Purchase Price)
- Cole Sisters Farm, 18.4 acres in Leicester - \$28,000
- Art McCurry Family Farm, 56 acres in Weaverville - \$32,500
- Dorothy and David Sneddon Farm, 54.9 acres in Fairview - \$33,000
- Robert Harvey and Denis O'Doherty Farm, 31.5 acres in Barnardsville - \$28,000
- Diane Rosseter Family Farm, 19.2 acres in Barnardsville - \$28,000

By protecting these eight properties, Buncombe County would be bridging gaps in designated priority regions as well as protecting working family farms that have been within families for over a century. The transaction costs provide match for grant applications for easement funding. This aligns with the 2025 Strategic Plan Goal: *preserve farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts*.

Approving the budget amendment will allocate \$394,000 of the \$750,000 FY22 conservation easement funds.

#### Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve budget amendment establishing eight conservation easement projects

#### County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented