

# Buncombe County Ag Awareness Day

**WHEREAS**, March 19, 2024, has been designated as National Agriculture Day to remind the public of the importance of agriculture to everyone, and;

**WHEREAS**, Buncombe County has over 1,000 farms and more than 78,000 acres of farmland which produce almost \$50 million in cash receipts in Buncombe County, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Buncombe County Commissioners have recognized the importance of preserving farmland in the county through its support and funding of the Farmland Preservation Program, which helps preserve working farms and open space in Buncombe County and contributes to the economic health and environmental well-being of Buncombe County, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Buncombe County Commissioners have set a goal of 20% of Buncombe County will be conserved by 2030, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Buncombe County Commissioners continue to support the State of North Carolina's Forever Farm Initiative which provides support for the conservation of farm and forestlands. Buncombe County currently has 26 forever farms in the initiative and a total of 82 farms and forestlands permanently protected, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Buncombe County Commissioners recognize and value that Buncombe County has a rich agricultural history as demonstrated by the 27 century farms recognized by the State of North Carolina as being owned and operated by local families for at least 100 years, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Buncombe County Commissioners recognize the strong development of the next generation of agricultural stewards as evidenced by the vibrant FFA (Future Farmers of America) programs we have in our local high schools, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Buncombe County Commissioners understand the important role Buncombe County farmers and agriculture contribute to maintaining a strong economic base in Buncombe County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buncombe County Commissioners recognize that Buncombe County farmers produce safe, affordable, and abundant food and fiber products that are used and consumed by Buncombe County residents and visitors every day; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buncombe County Commissioners desire to recognize the vital role of agriculture and the unique and irreplaceable value that farmers, foresters, and other agricultural stewards bring to Buncombe County.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners hereby resolves and declares March 19, 2024 as "**Buncombe County Ag Awareness Day.**"

This 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024,

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Brownie Newman  
Chairman, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners