Buncombe County Farmland Preservation Program: Priority Mapping

Presented by
Avni Naik & Ariel Zijp
Agriculture & Land Resources
Introduction

Goals:

- To create a map that will serve as a guide in identifying farmland preservation priority regions in Buncombe County
- Build a more strategic approach to conservation easements and funding

Criteria:

1. Proximity to Protected Lands
2. Soils
3. Parcel Size
4. Proximity to Voluntary Agriculture Districts (VAD) and Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture Districts (EVAD)
5. Present-Use Value (PUV) status
6. Water Quality Protection

2/9/2023
Final Rankings

Most desirable

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
Priority Regions

Legend

- **all protected lands**
- **1-3**
- **3.01-4**
- **4.01-6**
- **6.01-11**

Most desirable

Approximately 81,000 desirable acres still unprotected
Current Scenario

- Previous land preservation rate was 250 acres/year at $150,000/year
- Current land preservation rate is 850 acres/year at $750,000/year
  - To reach 20% it would take 9 years
  - To reach 25% it would take 34 years
  - To reach 30% it would take 58 years

Currently Protected:
76,637 acres
18%
Options

- In the next 8 years
  - 19% = 850 acres/year = $750,000/year at current rate
  - 20% = 920 acres/year = $1,150,000/year*
  - 25% = 3,550 acres/year = $4,437,500/year*
  - 30% = 6,170 acres/year = $7,712,500/year*
  - 37% = all desirable property = 10,125 acres/year = $10,125,000/year*

*Based on $1,000/acre
Vision

✓ Joint Open Space Plan
✓ Integration of:
  ✓ Comprehensive Plan
  ✓ Priority Regional Mapping
  ✓ Recreation Services
  ✓ Public Lands