



"People to match our mountains."
Buncombe County, North Carolina

Buncombe County, North Carolina is seeking a Director of Agriculture and Land Resources.

The community boasts unparalleled aesthetic beauty in tandem with established and ever growing cosmopolitan amenities. With a population of nearly 260,000 people and spanning 660 square miles, Buncombe County is the perfect intersection of mountain charm and creature comforts. Asheville is the county seat, and there are five other municipalities as well as a diverse mix of unincorporated areas. Here you'll find a unique mix of urban and rural communities, all a short drive from cities such as Charlotte, Atlanta, Knoxville, and more. Buncombe is known for its natural beauty and is surrounded by multiple national parks. An evening drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway is an unforgettable scenic trip with breathtaking views of our majestic mountains.

More than 225 years old, Buncombe County has compiled an impressive roster of historically notable visitors and residents such as George Vanderbilt, E.W. Grove, Thomas Wolfe, Lillian Exum Clement, Edward W. Pearson Sr., F. Scott Fitzgerald, and others whose imprints are scattered throughout the county. The iconic Biltmore House is the country's largest privately owned residence, still owned by George Vanderbilt's descendants and receives more than one million visitor every year.

Buncombe County is home to two innovative public school systems, charter schools, a community college with diverse offerings, private colleges, and the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Whether it be venerable institutions or up-and-coming businesses, Buncombe County has the infrastructure, outdoor amenities, and quality of life that continues to attract top-notch talent from around the world.





The Position: Agriculture and Land Resources Director

Buncombe County seeks an innovative leader for the position of Agriculture and Land Resources Director. Our long-term vision is to foster stewardship of our rural and urban lands' natural resources and ensure the economic vitality of working farms to preserve the agricultural heritage and diversity of the county. This position provides services and programs that promote and improve agriculture, agribusiness and forests, and conserves Buncombe County's farmland and natural resources for future generations. This position is governed by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, the Soil and Water Conservation District Board, and the Agricultural Advisory Board, and administratively reports to the Assistant County Manager.

The primary purpose of this position is to manage the administrative and strategic operations and functions of the Agriculture and Land Resources Department implementing programs and partnerships focused on conserving, protecting and promoting land resources in order to ensure that our land will continue to be productive and economically viable in Buncombe County.

Essential Functions of the position:

- Develop departmental strategy, long-range plan goals and objectives based on Board of Commissioners, the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board, and Cooperative Extension's priorities to properly target funds and implement strategic programs
- Provide direct and indirect supervision of assigned staff in the department's two Divisions – 1) Cooperative Extension and 2) Soil and Water – to ensure adherence to established policies, procedures, and standards.
- Plan implement, monitor, and evaluate the operations and activities of the Agriculture and Land Resources Department, such as assessing community needs, promoting programs, facilitating meetings and presentations, and scheduling activities and outreach events.
- Ensure department compliance with all Federal, State and Local regulations and policies of the conservation district, county, and department and provide administrative oversight for the department.
- Function as the liaison between Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative Extension, and the N. C. Soil and Water Conservation Partnership.

Minimum Education, Training and/or Experience:

Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university with major coursework in Agricultural, Biology, Forestry, Conservation or related field, and five (5) years of experience in supervising and managing administrative and technical program work, preferably involving public contact; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Additional Training and Experience:

Minimum of 5 years of supervisory experience

License or Certification Required by Statute or Regulation: Possession of a valid driver's license issued by the State of North Carolina

Duties, Responsibilities, and Other Functions:

- Direct the selection, recruitment, and development of professional, technical, and supportive personnel.
- Plan and design agricultural and conservation practices which include conducting resource inventories on farms and other tracts of land; analyze resource data and assessing threats.
- Provide assistance to landowners to work out practical solutions for present and potential resource problems, conduct engineering surveys, and assist with development of conservation plans.
- Promote the Agriculture and Land Resources Department through various outlets and provide educational presentations to school classes, civic groups, and other organizations.
- Provide oversight of grant programs for preserving land resources.
- Provide oversight of the Buncombe County's farmland preservation program, including the Farmland Preservation Plan and conservation easements.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for citizens and landowners and respond to inquiries of County officials and the public regarding program services.
- Submit the department's budget to the Board of County Commissioners in cooperation with the SWCD Board and Cooperative Extension.
- Support SWCD Board of Supervisors; attend SWCD meetings; assist the SWCD Board of Supervisors with development of strategic plans, annual plans of work, and annual reports.
- Perform construction checks during installation of planned conservation practices to ensure that installation is according to drawings and NRCS or North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission standards and specifications, and making final checks of completed projects.
- Oversee and assist with the administration of the North Carolina Cost Share Program, the Community Conservation Assistance Program, the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program, and other SWCD programs; check completed practices for compliance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and specifications or standards adopted by the N. C. Soil and Water

Conservation Commission.

- Ensure the completion and maintenance of reports detailing department operations and activities as mandated.
- Represent the department at Board of County Commissioner meetings as needed.
- Meet with Cooperative Extension regional director regularly.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Note: The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of the work being performed by an employee assigned to this work. This is not an exhaustive list of all duties and responsibilities. This job description does not create a contract of employment and Buncombe County reserves the right to amend or change responsibilities to meet business and organizational needs as necessary.

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and Other Abilities:

- Knowledge of agricultural practices and businesses
- Knowledge of farmland preservation practices
- Knowledge of environmental education
- Knowledge of the agricultural economy; agri-business; agri-tourism, etc.
- Knowledge of the principles and practices of civil engineering as applied to the conservation projects.
- Knowledge of the practices and principles of soil and water conservation, drafting and surveying.
- Knowledge of applicable local, state, and federal statutes and ordinances.
- Knowledge of topography, geography and soils of the County.
- Skill in the use of civil engineering and surveying instruments and equipment.
- Skill in applying ecosystem principles to manage and improve land and water resources.
- Skill in reading and interpreting maps and plans.
- Skill in preparing and giving presentation for educational purposes
- Ability to plan and carry out programs and projects that relate to agriculture and land resources
- Ability to plan, lay out, and direct engineering work.
- Ability to plan projects and prepare related sketches, estimates, and specifications
- Ability to perform difficult engineering computations and to make comprehensive recommendations for the solution of engineering problems.

Department: Agriculture and Land Resources Department

Location: Asheville, NC

Job Posting End Date: 11/26/2019

Compensation: The hiring range is \$79,853.25- \$105,805.55. The County offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits depending on qualifications. To apply, visit buncombecounty.org/jobs

