

CHAPTER 7 VOLUNTARY FARMLAND PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

(Adopted 6/7/2004)

ARTICLE I TITLE

An ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Rockingham County, North Carolina, entitled, "**VOLUNTARY FARMLAND PRESERVATION ORDINANCE.**"

ARTICLE II AUTHORITY

The articles and sections of this ordinance are adopted pursuant to authority conferred by the N.C.G.S. Sections 106-735 through 106-744 and Chapter 153A.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote agricultural values and the general welfare of the county and more specifically, to increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and its way of life; encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture; and increase protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms.

ARTICLE IV AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

- A. Creation and Membership. The Board of Commissioners hereby establishes a Rockingham County Agricultural Advisory Board consisting of three to seven members appointed by the Board of Commissioners to implement the provisions of this ordinance.
- B. Membership Requirements.
1. Each Advisory Board member shall be a Rockingham County resident, at least eighteen years of age, and an owner of qualifying farmland in the county.
 2. Each Agricultural Area as described in Article VI shall have a representative on the Advisory Board.
 3. At least fifty-one percent of the Advisory Board members shall be actively engaged in farming.
 4. The Advisory Board members shall be selected for appointment by the Board of Commissioners from the names of individuals submitted to the Board of Commissioners by the Rockingham County Farm Bureau, Soil and Water Conservation District/Natural Resources Conservation Service, or the Cooperative Extension Service with an effort to have the broadest geographical representation possible.
- C. Tenure. Members shall serve terms of three years, except that initial board members may serve staggered terms of one, two or three years and members appointed to fill vacancies shall be appointed for the remainder of the unexpired term. After the initial appointment, members may serve a maximum of two consecutive

terms after which the member must be off the board for at least one year before being eligible for re-appointment.

- D. Removal. Members of the Advisory Board serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners.
- E. Funding. The Board of Commissioners may fix the per diem compensation, if any, of the members of the Advisory Board and may appropriate funds to the Advisory Board to perform its duties.
- F. Advisory Board Procedure:
 - 1. Chairperson. The Advisory Board shall elect a chairperson at its first meeting each fiscal year to preside over all regular or special meetings of the Advisory Board and may elect additional officers as needed.
 - 2. Rules of Procedure. The Advisory Board may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with this ordinance or with other provisions of State law.
 - 3. Advisory Board Year. The Advisory Board shall use the Rockingham County fiscal year (which is currently July 1 through June 30th) as its meeting year.
 - 4. Meetings. Meetings of the Advisory Board shall be held at the call of the chairperson and at such other times as the Advisory Board may specify in its rules of procedure. A meeting shall be held at least annually and notice of any meetings to the members shall be in writing, unless otherwise agreed to by the effected Advisory Board member.
 - 5. Majority Vote. The concurring vote of a majority of the members of the Advisory Board shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision, or determination of any administrative official or agency, to decide in favor of an applicant, or to pass upon any other matter on which it is required to act under this ordinance.
 - 6. Records. The Advisory Board shall keep minutes of the proceedings showing the vote of each member and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions which shall be filed in the Office of the Advisory Board.
 - 7. Administrative. The Advisory Board may contract with the Soil and Water Conservation District Office or other appropriate County agency for record keeping, correspondence, application procedures or for other services the Board needs to complete its duties.
- G. Duties. The Advisory Board shall:
 - 1. Review and approve applications for qualified farmland and voluntary agricultural districts and make recommendations concerning the establishment and modification of agricultural districts;
 - 2. Conduct public hearings specifically permitted or required under this ordinance;
 - 3. Advise the Board of Commissioners (at least annually) on projects, programs, or issues affecting the agricultural economy or activities within the county that will affect agricultural districts;

4. Review and make recommendations concerning proposed amendments to this ordinance and/or draft a countywide farmland protection plan as defined in N.C.G.S. §106-744 (e) (1) for presentation to the Board of Commissioners;
5. Study additional methods of farmland preservation and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners; and
6. Perform other agricultural related tasks or duties assigned by the Board of Commissioners.

ARTICLE V CREATION OF VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

- A. Implementation. In order to implement the purposes stated in Article III, voluntary agricultural districts may be created that meet the following standards:
 1. Each District, when initially established, shall contain the minimum amount of land required for taxation based on farm use evaluation: 5 acres for horticulture use, 10 acres for agriculture use, or 20 acres for forestry use. When considering acreage, leased and/or rented land for the purpose of agriculture will be taken into account.
 2. The landowner(s) requesting inclusion in the district shall execute an agreement with the county to sustain agriculture in the district in accordance with the requirements of this ordinance in a form approved by the Advisory Board.
 3. Once a qualifying tract is registered and accepted into the program it shall be designated as an agricultural district and identified as lying within one or more of the following Agricultural Areas:
 - a. Area 1- consisting of the townships of Williamsburg, Reidsville, and Simpsonville.
 - b. Area 2- consisting of the townships of Ruffin, Wentworth, and New Bethel.
 - c. Area 3- consisting of the townships of Leaksville, Price, Mayo, Madison, and Huntsville.
- B. Education. The county may take such action as it deems appropriate through the Advisory Board or other entities or individuals to encourage the formation of the Districts and to further their purposes and objectives, including the implementation of a public information program to reasonably inform landowners of the agricultural district program.
- C. Withdrawal of farmland from existing district. In the event one or more participants in a District withdraws and the acreage in the District becomes less than the minimum acreage required or results in the remaining land being noncontiguous, a voluntary agricultural district will continue to exist so long as there is one qualifying farm in that district.

ARTICLE VI PUBLIC NOTICE

Upon approval of a District, appropriate maps shall be updated so that a person wishing to ascertain the proximity of a particular tract to a District may do so. Such

maps shall contain a notice as follows: "Rockingham County has established Agricultural Districts to protect and preserve agricultural, silvicultural, horticultural and livestock lands and activities. These districts have been developed and mapped by the county to inform all purchasers of real property that certain agricultural activities, including but not limited to pesticide spraying, manure spreading, machinery, tractor, truck operations, livestock operations, sawing, and similar activities may take place in these districts." Agricultural District maps shall be maintained in the offices of the Rockingham County Planning Department with copies or access being available for the convenience of the public in other county offices such as the Register of Deeds Office, Soil Conservation District Office, and Cooperative Extension Office as recommended by the Agricultural Advisory Board and approved by the Rockingham County Commissioners.

ARTICLE VII CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION OF FARMLAND

- A. Requirements. In order for farmland in Rockingham County to qualify for participation under the terms of this program, it shall meet the following requirements:
1. The farm property is participating or is eligible to participate in the farm present-use-value taxation program;
 2. The property is certified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture as being a farm on which at least two-thirds of the land is composed of soils that:
 - a. Are best suited for providing food, seed, fiber, forage, timber, forestry products, horticultural crops and oil seed crops, including Christmas trees and ornamentals;
 - b. Have good soil qualities;
 - c. Are favorable for all major crops common to the county where the land is located;
 - d. Have a favorable growing season; and
 - e. Receive the available moisture needed to produce high yields for an average of eight out of ten years.
 3. As an alternate to requirement 2 above, at least two-thirds of the property has been actively used in agricultural (which includes the commercial production or growing of crops, plants or animals under a sound management program), horticultural or forestry operations as defined by N.C.G.S. §105-277.2 (1), (2) and (3) during each of the five years immediately previous to the date application is made;
 4. The property, if highly erodible land exists on the farm, is managed in accordance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service defined erosion-control practices that are addressed to said highly-erodible land; and
 5. The property is the subject of a conservation agreement, as defined in N.C.G.S. §121-35, between the county and the owner of such land that prohibits non-farm use or development of such land for a period of at least ten years, except for the

creation of not more than three lots that meet applicable county zoning, subdivision and development regulations. The property owner may at any time voluntarily revoke this conservation agreement by submitting a written request to the Advisory Board in accordance with Article VIII.

ARTICLE VIII APPLICATION, APPROVAL AND APPEAL PROCEDURE

A. Application Procedure:

1. A landowner may apply to participate in the program by making application to the chairperson of the Advisory Board or a designated staff person. The application shall be on forms provided by the Advisory Board and accompanied by documentation to establish eligibility as required by the Advisory Board. The application to participate in a district may be filed with the certification for qualifying farmland.
2. A conservation agreement to sustain, encourage, and promote agriculture must be executed by the landowner and recorded with the Advisory Board.

B. Approval Process

1. Upon submission of the application to the Advisory Board, the Advisory Board shall meet within ninety days to approve or disapprove the application. The chairperson or designated staff person shall notify the applicant by first class mail of approval or disapproval of participation in the district within two weeks of the Advisory Board's determination.
2. Upon receipt of an application, the chairperson or designated staff person will forward copies immediately to the following offices which shall have a period of twenty days to provide comments, if any, to the Advisory Board prior to the date set for the Advisory Board vote on the application:
 - a. The Rockingham County tax assessor; and
 - b. The Rockingham County Soil and Water Conservation District office; and,
 - c. The Natural Resources Conservation Service.

C. Appeal. If the Advisory Board denies an application, the petitioner shall have thirty days to appeal the decision to the Board of Commissioners. Such appeal shall be presented in writing. The decision of the Board of Commissioners is final.

ARTICLE IX REVOCATION OF PRESERVATION AGREEMENT

By written notice to the Advisory Board, a landowner of qualifying farmland may revoke the Preservation Agreement or the Advisory Board may revoke a Preservation Agreement based on noncompliance by the landowner, subject to the same provisions as contained in Article X for appeal of denials. Such revocation shall result in loss of qualifying farm status and loss of eligibility to participate in a voluntary agricultural district.

ARTICLE X PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Purpose. To implement N.C.G.S. §106-740, which provides that no state or local public agency or governmental unit may formally initiate any action to condemn any interest in qualifying farmland within a district until such agency or unit has requested the Advisory Board to hold a public hearing on the proposed condemnation.
- B. Procedure.
1. Within thirty days of receipt of a request to hold a public hearing on a proposed condemnation, the Advisory Board shall hold a public hearing and submit its findings and recommendations to the condemning agency.
 2. The Advisory Board shall meet to review:
 - a. Whether the need for the project has been satisfactorily established by the agency or unit of government involved, including a review of any fiscal impact analysis conducted by the agency involved; and
 - b. Whether there are alternatives to the proposed action that have less impact and are less disruptive to the agricultural activities of the district within which the proposed action is to take place.
 3. The Advisory Board may consult with the Rockingham County Farm Bureau, the County Agricultural Extension Agent, the Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist, and any other individuals, agencies, or organizations deemed by the Advisory Board to be necessary for its review of the proposed action.
 4. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §106-740, the condemning agency may not formally initiate a condemnation action during the period of time, not to exceed thirty days, while the proposed condemnation is properly before the Advisory Board.

ARTICLE XI NOTIFICATION

- A. Public Notice. Upon approval of a district, appropriate maps shall be updated within a reasonable time so that a person wishing to ascertain the proximity of a particular tract to a district may do so.
- B. Signs. The Advisory Board may cause signs to be placed along public roadways to notify the public of the presence or proximity of a district.
- C. Limit of Liability. In no event shall the County or any of its officers, employees, or agents be held liable in damages for any misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance occurring in good faith in connection with the duties or obligations imposed by this ordinance.
- D. No Cause of Action. In no event shall any cause of action arise out of the failure of a person researching the title of a particular tract to report to any person the proximity of the tract to a qualifying farm or voluntary agricultural district as defined in this ordinance.

ARTICLE XII DESIGNATION OF DISTRICTS ON DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Developers of major subdivisions or planned unit developments shall designate on preliminary and final development plans and plats, the existence of farmland preservation districts within one aerial mile of the boundaries of the proposed development.

ARTICLE XIII WAIVER OF WATER AND SEWER ASSESSMENTS

- A. No Assessment. A landowner belonging to the District shall not be assessed for or be required to connect to Rockingham County water and/or sewer systems.
- B. Abeyance. Water and sewer assessments shall be held in abeyance, without interest, for farms inside a district, until improvements on such property are connected to the water or sewer system for which the assessment was made.
- C. Termination of Abeyance. When the period of abeyance ends, the assessment is payable in accordance with the terms set out in the assessment resolution.
- D. Suspension of Statute of Limitations. Statutes of limitations are suspended during the time that any assessment is held in abeyance without interest.
- E. Other Statutory Abeyance Procedures. Nothing in this section is intended to diminish the authority of the County to hold assessments in abeyance under N.C.G.S. §153A-201, or other applicable law.
- F. Conflict with Water and/or Sewer System Construction and Improvements Grants. To the extent that this section conflicts with the terms of federal, state, or other grants under which county water and/or sewer systems are constructed this section shall not apply.

ARTICLE XIV CONSULTATION AUTHORITY

The Advisory Board may consult with the Rockingham County Farm Bureau, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service office, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and with any other individual, agency, or organization the Advisory Board deems necessary to properly conduct its business.

ARTICLE XV NC AGENCY NOTIFICATION AND ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of this ordinance shall be sent to the Office of the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services after adoption. At least annually, the Advisory Board shall submit a written report to the Board of Commissioners for forwarding to the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture on the county's agricultural district program, including the following information: number of landowners enrolled; number of acres enrolled; number of acres certified during the reporting period; number of acres denied during the reporting period; number of acres for which applications are pending; copies of any amendments to the ordinance; and any other information the Advisory Board deems useful.

Application for Participation In The Rockingham County Voluntary Agricultural District



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application on Page 2 is to be completed and mailed to: **Rockingham Soil & Water Conservation District, 525 NC 65, Suite 100, Reidsville, NC 27320-8861.** For questions, call 336-342-0460, Extension 3.

After your application is approved by the Voluntary Agricultural Advisory Board and the County Commissioners, you will be notified when you need to sign the Conservation Agreement and the Notice of Participation. Samples of these two documents are included with this application on Page 1.

After the documents are signed by the landowner(s), the new Agricultural District farm will be identified on a county map and the Notice of Participation will be posted with the Rockingham County Register of Deeds.

Why Have Agricultural Districts?

The State of North Carolina passed the Farmland Preservation Enabling Act in 1985, authorizing counties to establish farmland preservation programs, including agricultural districts. In 2004, Rockingham County adopted a Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Ordinance, creating the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) and procedures for establishing Voluntary Agricultural Districts. The purpose of the ordinance is to promote the preservation of farmland in Rockingham County so that development and growth will be accompanied by protection of farms from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms, recognizing the importance of agriculture to the economic and cultural life of the county.

What is the Agricultural Advisory Board?

The Agricultural Advisory Board is composed of a number of County residents, which includes farmers representing newly formed Agricultural Districts. AAB members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The AAB reviews and approves applications to the Agricultural Districts program. They also advise the Board of County Commissioners on projects, programs, or issues affecting the agricultural economy or way of life within the county.

About the Agricultural Advisory Board.

The Agricultural Advisory Board supports voluntary measures and incentives that will lead to the continued and future viability of farming, as well as farmland preservation in Rockingham County. The goals of rural preservation, which encompass the conservation of prime farmland, the scenic vistas of the agricultural landscape, the family farm tradition, and the economic viability of agriculture in Rockingham County, would be served by keeping farming a viable enterprise.

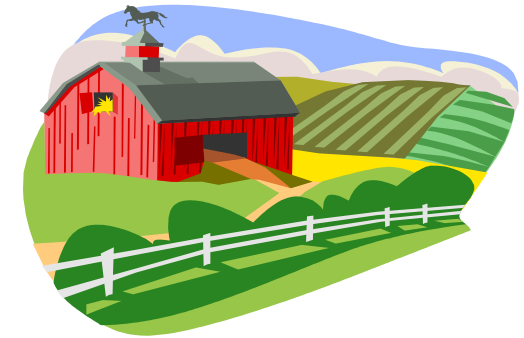
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Rockingham Soil & Water Conservation District
525 NC 65, Suite 100
Reidsville, NC 27320-8861
Tel: (336) 342-0460 Ext. 3

NC Cooperative Extension Service
525 NC 65, Suite 200
Reidsville, NC 27320-8861
Tel: (336) 342-8230

Rockingham County Planning Department
371 NC 65, Suite 100
Reidsville, NC 27320
Tel.: (336) 342-8134

Voluntary Agricultural Districts



Rockingham County, North Carolina



Your Agricultural Land is a Valuable Asset to the Citizens of Rockingham County

Citizens of Rockingham County derive many benefits from your farmland: clean water and air, plant and animal habitat, fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products, horticultural products, and scenic rural vistas. Now you can enroll in a program that demonstrates your pride and commitment to agriculture, and celebrates your contribution to the exceptional quality of life in Rockingham County.

Voluntary Agricultural Districts Promote the Pride and Tradition of Rockingham County Agriculture

Rockingham County's Voluntary Agricultural Program enhances the identity of the agricultural community by encouraging the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development.

How Your Farm Can Benefit From Becoming a Voluntary Agricultural District

Recognition.

Signs (as shown below) are available in two sizes to landowners for placement on their farm identifying it as a part of the Rockingham County Voluntary Agricultural District. These signs will tell passersby that you, the farm owner, are committed to the preservation of the agricultural way of life in Rockingham County.



Increased Protection from Nuisance Suits.

Persons buying land in rural areas will do so with the knowledge that a bona fide agricultural operation exists. Agricultural Districts will be identified on County maps, which shall be displayed for public view in County offices including offices of the Planning Department and the Register of Deeds.

Waiver of Water and Sewer Assessments.

Landowners within Agricultural Districts will not be required to connect to water or sewer systems owned and/or operated by Rockingham County, nor will they be assessed water and sewer charges until their property is connected to such service.

Eligibility for Preservation Funds. Agricultural Districts may be eligible for farmland preservation grants, should funding become available from local, state, or federal sources.

How Your Farm Can Become a Voluntary Agricultural District.

To become an Agricultural District, a farm must first be certified as Qualifying Farmland. To secure certification, a farm must:

- ◆ Be participating in the farm Present Use Value Taxation program or is otherwise determined by the Rockingham County Tax Department to meet all the qualifications of this program set forth in G.S. 105-277.3.
- ◆ Be certified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as being a farm on which:

-at least two-thirds of the land is composed of soils that are best suited for agricultural purposes; or

-at least two-thirds of the land has been actively used in agricultural, horticultural, or forestry operations during each of the last five years.

- ◆ Be managed, if highly erodible land exists on the farm, in accordance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service defined erosion control practices that are addressed to highly erodible land.
- ◆ Be the subject of an agreement between the county and the owner of the land.

An Agricultural district, when initially established, shall contain the minimum amount of land required for taxation based on farm use evaluation: 5 acres for horticulture use, 10 acres for agriculture use, or 20 acres for forestry use. When considering acreage, leased and/or rented land for the purpose of agriculture will be taken into account.

Contact one of the agencies listed in this brochure for more information on qualifying as a Voluntary Agricultural District.

Agricultural District Membership Requires a Voluntary, Non-Binding Agreement

A Voluntary Agricultural District member will be subject to a **non-binding** agreement between the County and the landowner that prohibits non-farm use or development of such land for a period of at least 10 years, except for the creation of not more than three lots that meet applicable county zoning and subdivision regulations.

Member may revoke membership at any Time

Should you decide to sell your land you may revoke the agreement at any time through a written notice to the County.

CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

Having been certified by the Agricultural Advisory Board and approved by the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners, I/we agree to sustain, promote and encourage agriculture in this voluntary agricultural district, support protection against nuisance suits, undesired non-farm development and other negative impacts on participating farms.

I/we agree to voluntarily preserve and protect the conservation values of my/our property more completely described on the attachments hereto by prohibiting non-farm use of the property for a period of 10 years from the date of signing of this Agreement, except for the creation of not more than three (3) lots that meet applicable zoning and or subdivision regulations.

This Agreement may be revoked by written notice to the Agricultural Advisory Board, or the Board of Commissioners may revoke the Agreement based on non-compliance by the Landowner.

This _____ day of _____, 2005.

(Landowners)

(Landowners)

(Landowners)

SAMPLE

NORTH CAROLINA

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF PARTICIPATION IN
VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, following proper application by the undersigned Owners, the property described on Attachment A (Application) and Attachment B (Conservation Agreement) owned by the undersigned has been approved as part of a Voluntary Agricultural District by the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners by action duly taken in public meeting on the _____ day of _____, 20____, as provided in N.C. Gen. Stat. 106-735-743 and Chapter 7 of the Rockingham County Unified Development Ordinance. The Conservation Agreement is subject to revocation as set out in these application laws.

Application for Participation In The Rockingham County Voluntary Agricultural District

(Chapter 7 of the Rockingham County Unified
Development Ordinance and N.C.G.S. 106-735-743)

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name (s): _____

Full Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

B. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Owner (s): _____

Horticulture: _____ Acres Agriculture: _____ Acres Forestry: _____ Acres

STREET ADDRESS <i>(Ex: 7000-7500 Main St.)</i>	TAX MAP / PARCEL # <i>(Ex: 01-2345-6 / 001)</i>	ACRES <i>(Ex: 100)</i>	USDA FARM # / TRACT # <i>(Ex: 1234 / T-1234)</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

(For additional tracts, use back of this form)

Signature of Owners/Applicants: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Mail to: **Rockingham Soil & Water Conservation District**
 Attention: Voluntary Agricultural Districts
 525 NC 65, Suite 100
 Reidsville, NC 27320-8861

Please list additional tracts:

STREET ADDRESS <i>(Ex: 7000-7500 Main St.)</i>	TAX MAP / PARCEL # <i>(Ex: 01-2345-6 / 001)</i>	ACRES <i>(Ex: 100)</i>	USDA FARM # / TRACT # <i>(Ex: 1234 / T-1234)</i>
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**NORTH CAROLINA
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY**

**NOTICE OF PARTICIPATION IN
VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, following proper application by the undersigned Owners, the property described on Attachment A (Application) and Attachment B (Conservation Agreement) owner by the undersigned has been approved as part of a Voluntary Agricultural District by the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners by action duly taken in public meeting on the **4th day of April, 2005**, as provided in N.C. Gen. Stat. 106-735-743 and Chapter 7 of the Rockingham County Unified Development Ordinance. The Conservation Agreement is subject to revocation as set out in these applicable laws.

This the _____ day of _____, 20____.

(Landowners)

(Landowners)

(Landowners)

Rockingham County

I, _____, a Notary Public of said County and State, do hereby certify that _____ personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the _____ day of _____, 2005.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____



Applicant Name _____
Address _____

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS' ADVISORY BOARD

Staff Checklist

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Date: _____
Reviewed by: _____

- A.** At least 2/3 of the land in the submitted farm is composed of soils that:
1. Are best suited for food, fiber, forage, timber & oil seed crops.
_____ Yes _____ No
 2. Have good soil qualities: _____ Yes _____ No
 3. Favorable for all major crops grown in County: _____ Yes _____ No
 4. Have a favorable growing season: _____ Yes _____ No
 5. Receive the available moisture needed to produce high yields, (8 out of 10 years):
_____ Yes _____ No
- B.** **Or** at least 2/3 of the land has been actively used in agricultural, horticultural, or forestry operations during each of the past 5 years according to G.S. 105-277.2 (1, 2, and 3):
_____ Yes _____ No
- C.** 1. Highly Erodible Land (HEL) exists on the farm: _____ Yes _____ No
2. Is managed (if HEL) in accordance with NRCS erosion control practices:
_____ Yes _____ No

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY TAX DEPARTMENT

Date: _____
Reviewed by: _____

- A.** Is participating in the Farm Present-Use Value taxation program established by G.S. 105-277.2 through G.S. 105-277.7. _____ Yes _____ No
- B.** **Or** is otherwise determined by the county to meet all the qualifications of this program as set forth in G.S. 105-277.3. _____ Yes _____ No
- C.** Tract contains at least five (5) acres _____ Yes _____ No

Approval: _____
Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Board Chairman

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Application completed and sent to Rockingham Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
2. Checklist attached and NRCS reviews
3. Send to Rockingham County Tax Department
4. Tax Department reviews and sends to SWCD District
5. SWCD District sends Application to Agricultural Districts Advisory Board (AAB)
6. AAB approves and sends to the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners for approval
7. Board of Commissioners approves Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD)
8. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners signs the Conservation Agreement and sends it back to the SWCD District
9. The Ag Advisory Board sends the letter to the new VAD applicant
10. VAD applicant comes to the SWCD Office; signs the Conservation Agreement and the Notice of Participation and picks up mailbox sign
11. The SWCD sends the Notice of Participation and location to the County Planning Department
12. The Planning Department will produce and distribute maps of VAD
13. The SWCD maintains all original documents for the AD Board