

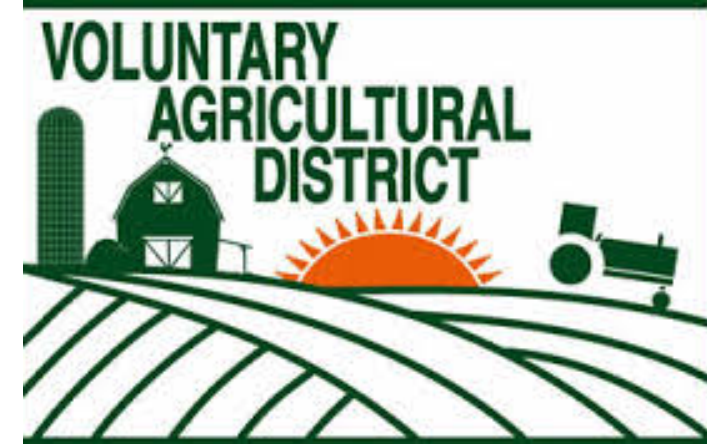
## Can I relinquish participation in this program at any time?

- For enrollment in the VAD program, yes. A single, written notice to the Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Board notifying them of your decision is all that is necessary.
- For the EVAD program, enrollment is binding until the terms of the agreement expire. Afterward, a written request will remove the land from the program.

NOTE: Land enrolled in these programs and Conservation Agreements will not be revoked due to death, sale, or gift. Some additional recording fees may apply to remove these terms from the deed.

## Is there an enrollment cost?

There is a non-refundable application fee (\$50) to join this program. This fee covers administration costs of the program. This fee is reviewed by the Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Board and approved by the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

N.C. Cooperative Extension  
Pamlico County Center  
13724 NC Hwy. 55  
Alliance, NC 28509  
Phone: 252-745-4121

Pamlico Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
13724 NC Hwy 55  
Alliance, NC 28509  
Phone: 252-745-4303

Pamlico County Website:  
[www.pamlicocounty.org](http://www.pamlicocounty.org)

# Pamlico County

## Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program

NORTH CAROLINA

## What is the Voluntary Agricultural District Program?

In August 2009, the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners adopted a Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance. The goals of this ordinance are to recognize the importance of agriculture to the economic and cultural life of the county and to encourage the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland. The action was taken with authority granted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina provided in Chapter 106, Article 61, of the North Carolina General Statutes authorizing counties to undertake a series of programs to encourage the preservation of farmland.

The Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Board governs the Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District program. This board is composed of one member from each township. Additional members may be appointed to the board in an ex officio capacity from N.C. Cooperative Extension-Pamlico County Center and/or Pamlico Soil & Water Conservation District office. Members serving in an ex officio capacity shall neither vote nor count toward quorum requirements. The Agricultural Board will be responsible for approving applications for membership in agricultural districts and managing the provisions of the ordinance.

## Requirements for enrollment:

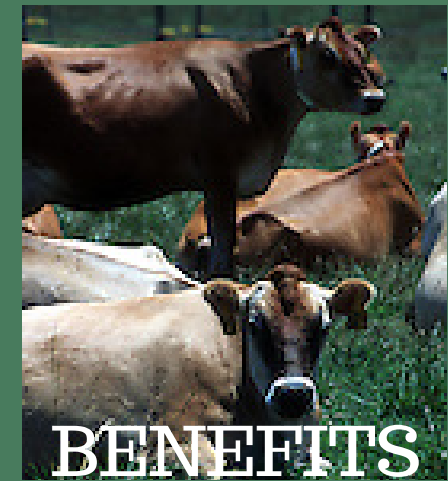
To qualify as farmland eligible for this program, the land shall contain a minimum of 10 contiguous acres and be located within one mile of other existing farmlands. Additionally, the following conditions must be met:

- Qualify for the farm present-use-value taxation program.
- Be managed in acceptable soil conservation and farming practices.
- Be located in an unincorporated area of Pamlico County.
- Be involved in direct agricultural production in accordance with NC General Statutes.
- Be subject to a Conservation Agreement between the County and the property owner(s).

## Enrollment Options:

There are two programs available. Both offer similar benefits, but with slightly different terms.

- Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) enrollment identifies and protects farmlands. Lands will remain enrolled until a written request is made by the land owner(s) to remove the farmland from this program.
- Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts (EVAD) identify land as farmland and restrict development for a minimum of ten years. After the initial ten-year period, lands are automatically renewed into this program for an additional three-year term until a written notice is received by the land owner(s).



- This program will foster rural and urban growth while preserving agricultural heritage, quality of life, and open space.
- Members will have increased protection from nuisance lawsuits and other negative impacts affecting participating farms.
- Certain abeyance for water may apply.
- Certain Federal and State conservation programs may entitle farmlands enrolled in this program priority for consideration and reduced cost-share contributions for conservation improvements.

