

Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Enhanced Agricultural Districts

	Qualifications	Benefits	Requirements
Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD)	<p>Farmland, forestland and horticultural land must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farms must be 50 acres in size ; or when combined with other participating farms within a mile of each other total a minimum of 50 acres Farm must be in or qualify for the Present-use-value Taxation Program with the Lincoln County Tax Office. Farms must be properly managed according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's defined erosion control practices if highly erodible land exists on the farm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce potential nuisance suits by providing advance notice to surrounding landowners of the presence of VAD Encourage voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. Pre-existing agricultural districts that exist before a new sewer district is established will be exempt from sewer assessment. Public hearings for proposed condemnation of enrolled land. Signage that can be displayed to publicize the lands enrollment in an agricultural district. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farms must have 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 10 years except for the creation of not more than three lots. The agreement can be revoked by the landowner at any time by sending written notice to the Agricultural District Advisory Board.
Enhanced Agricultural Districts (EAD)	<p>Same eligibility requirements as the VAD.</p>	<p>Same benefits as the VAD, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowners are eligible to receive a higher percentage of cost share funds under the NC Agricultural Cost Share Program. 	<p>Same requirements as VAD except</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agreement cannot be revoked during the 10 year term of the agreement. At the end of its initial term of 10 years, the EAD conservation agreement automatically renews for 3 more years, unless notice of termination is given in a timely manner by either party.

Agricultural District Advisory Board

The Agricultural District Advisory Board consists of seven (7) Lincoln County residents. Each district shall be assigned to a member of the Board who will monitor and represent that district in all business conducted by the Board. Individual members will represent those districts closest to them geographically.

At least five (5) of the seven (7) members shall be actively engaged in farming. The Board of County Commissioners shall select members for appointment. The names and telephone numbers of the Board members are listed below.

For more information or to enroll your land in an agricultural district, please contact the Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District.

For More Information Contact:

Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District
115 West Main Street
James Warren Citizens Center
Lincolnton, NC 28092
704-736-8501 Fax: 704-736-8504

N.C. Cooperative Extension Service
115 West Main Street
James Warren Citizens Center
Lincolnton, NC 28092
704-736-8452

Lincoln County Tax Office
100 East Main Street
PO Box 938
Lincolnton, NC 28092
704-736-8542

VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT & ENHANCED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

Agricultural District Advisory Board

Members

John Beam	704-435-2653
G.K. Davis	704-735-6893
Gary Davis	704-276-2728
Rex Lynch	828-428-4611
Gary MacGibbon	704-735-2233
Wayne Mitchem	704-276-1556
Stephen Secrest	704-732-4579



LINCOLN COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA