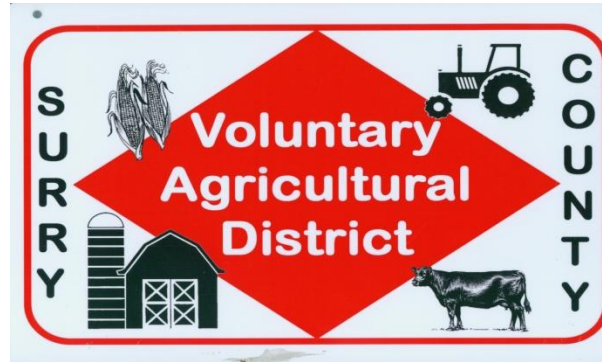


Voluntary Agriculture District Program



The State of North Carolina passed the Farmland Preservation Enabling Act in 1985, authorizing counties to establish farmland preservation programs, including agricultural districts. Surry County adopted the **VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE** establishing procedures for creating Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD) in 2005. The purpose of the ordinance is 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

Voluntary Agricultural Districts also enhances the identity of the agricultural community. Doing so encourages the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development, and notifies potential landowners that the area is subject to farm traffic and the noise and smells associated with farming.

The Surry Soil and Water Conservation District administers the VAD program. The VAD Board, which consists of five members, is the first to review and accept applications, passing them to the SWCD supervisors for final approval. Upon final approval, landowners receive a sign to place on their property to identify the area as a Voluntary Agriculture District participant.

For more information, or to submit an application, please contact the Surry Soil and Water Conservation Office.