



2019 Durham County Farmland Protection Advisory Board Report

April 1, 2019 / Will Wilson Chair

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

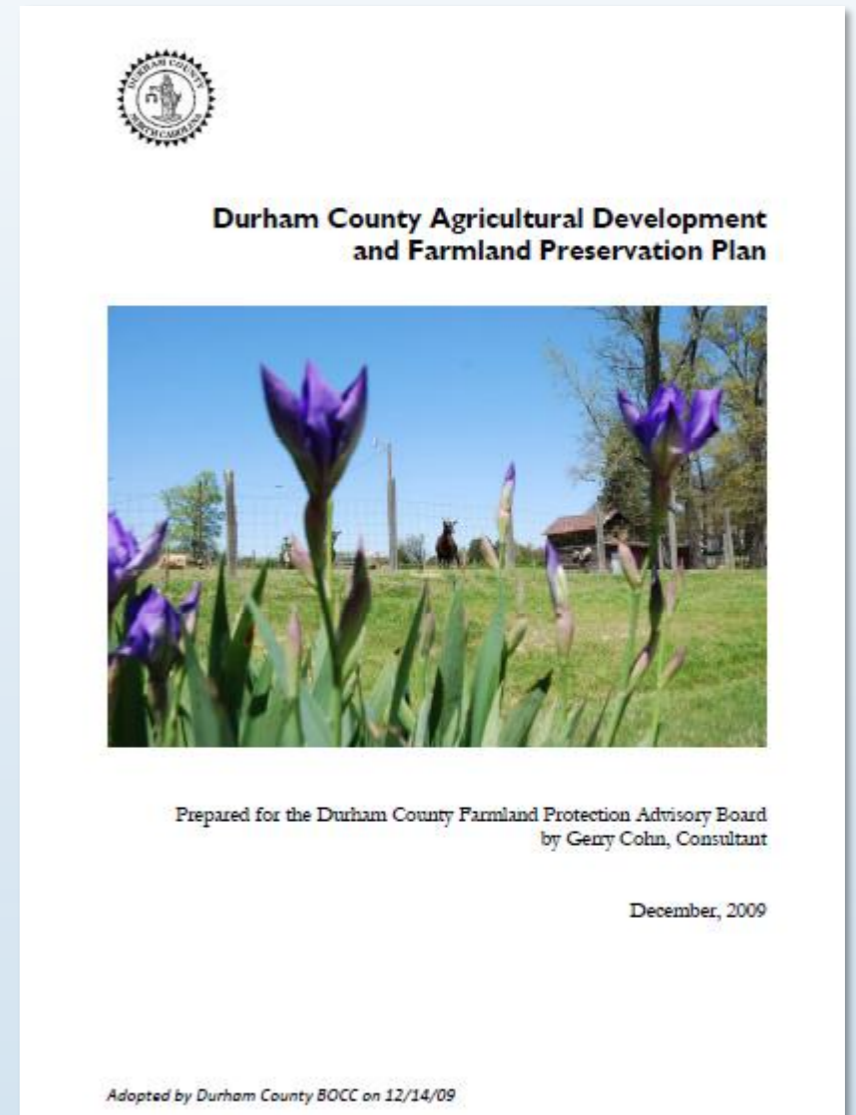
Mission:

“[work] with farmers, the community, government entities and agencies and other resources to identify and implement strategies for the preservation and enhancement of our farming community while protecting the land and soils for future generations.”

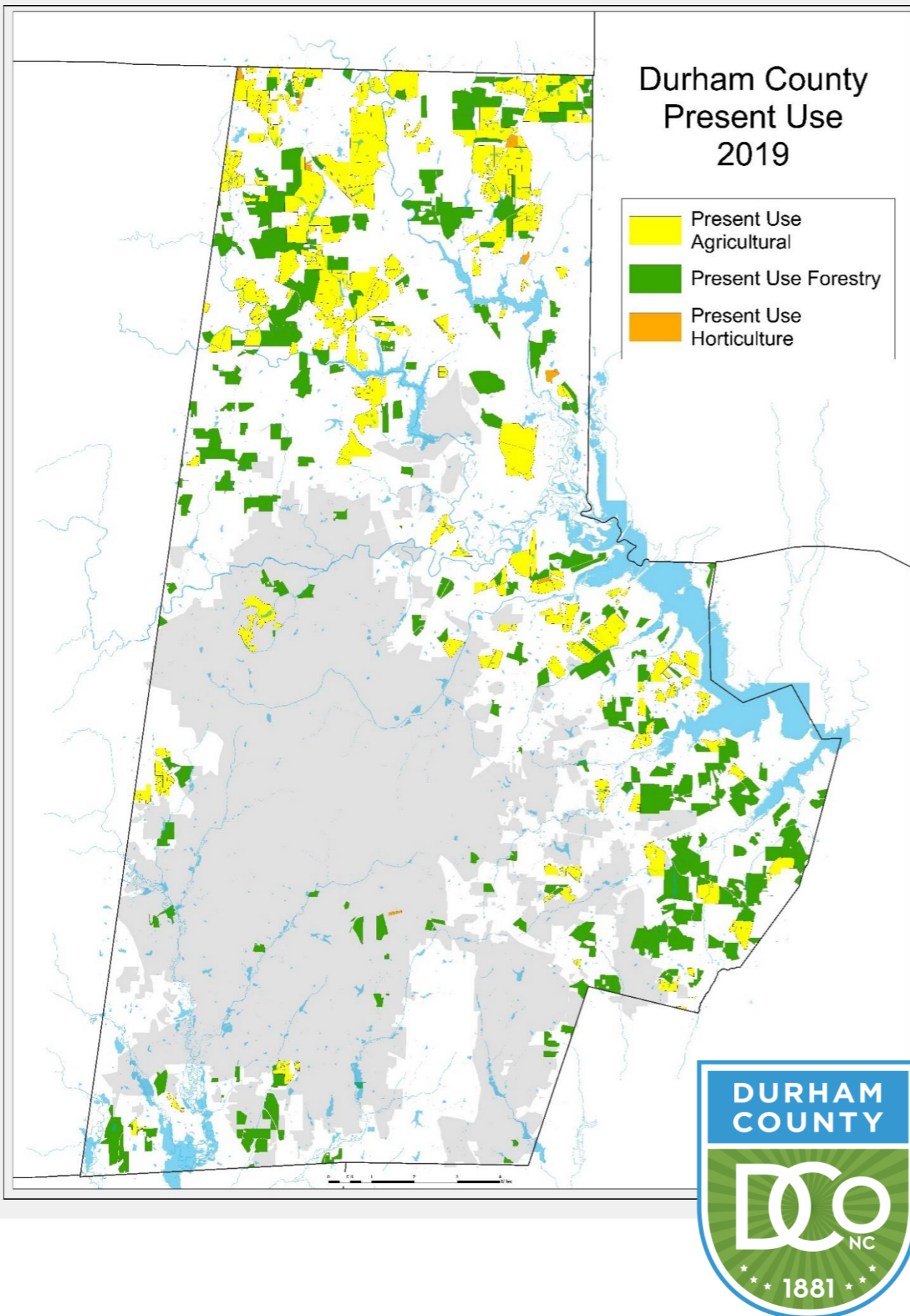


Farmland Plan

- NCDA Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation Grant in 2009, \$30,000, for Plan Development
- BOCC adopted plan in December 2009
 - Agricultural Economic Development
 - Connecting People to Durham Agricultural
 - Protecting Farmland



PUV Land

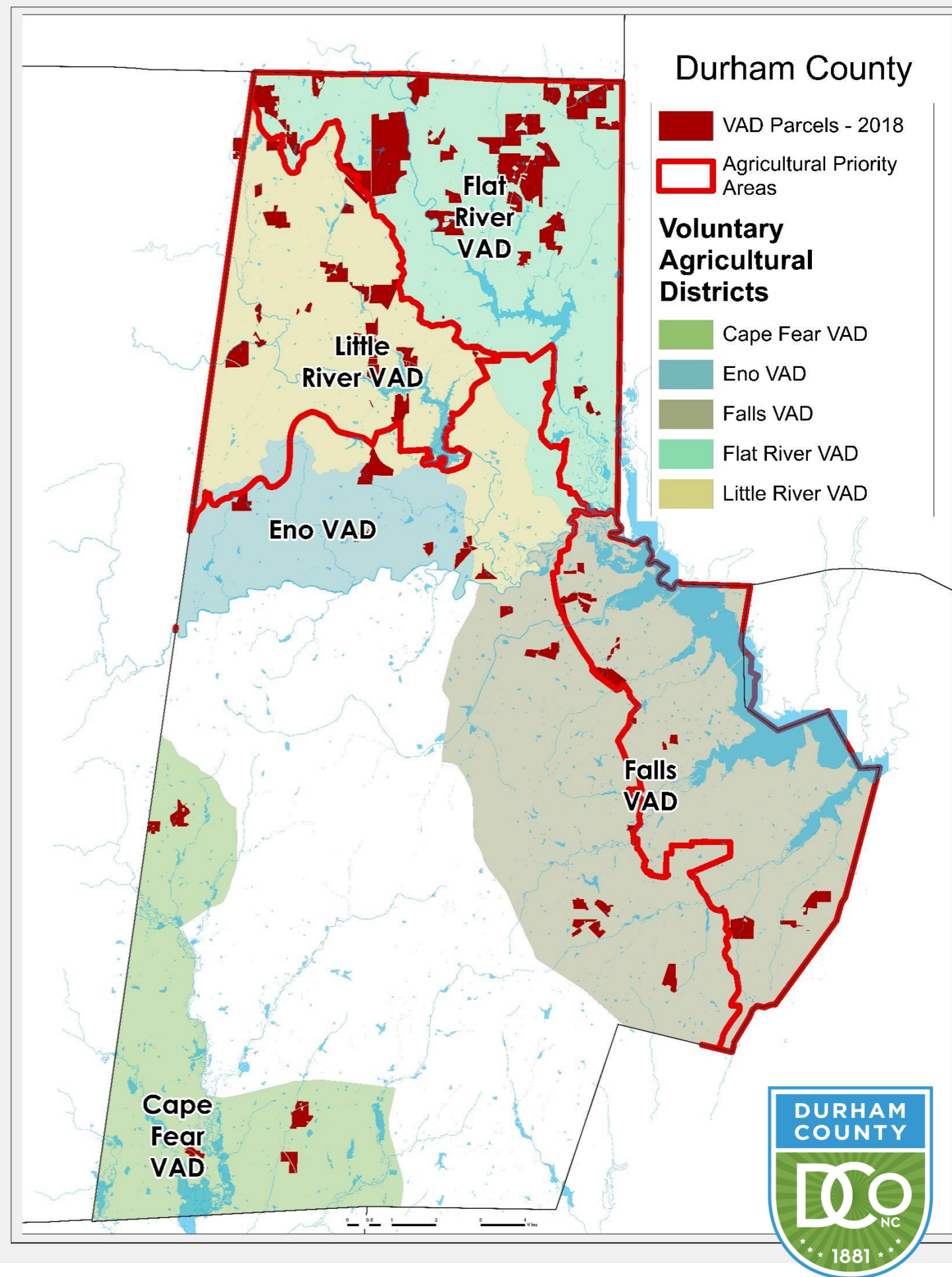


	# Parcels	Acres
Agriculture	358	13,482
Forestry	426	14,252
Horticulture	12	188
<i>Total</i>	796	27,922

Almost 28,000 acres in Durham county are listed under PUV, accounting for close to 800 parcels of land. PUV land illustrates just how active agriculture, forestry, and horticulture operations are in Durham County.

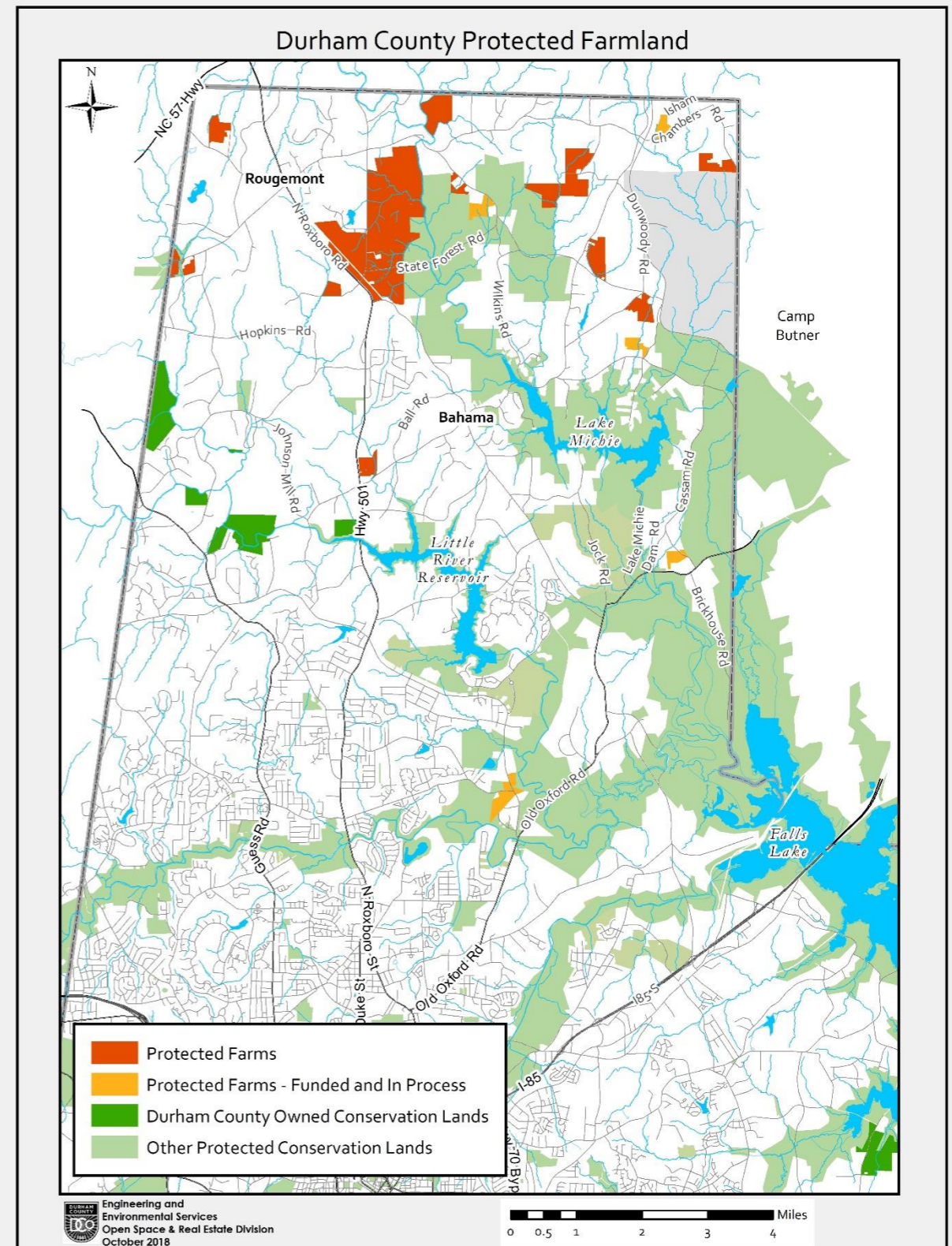
Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Participation

Number of Farms	97
Land Parcels	206
Acreage	7,050



Farmland Protection

- 15 Farm easements completed (14 in northern Durham)
- 2,131 total acres
- 5 more fully funded and underway
- Several more in various discussion stages



FPAB Budget Highlights

- Supported Community Networking Breakfasts and Workshops
- Supported Farmer's Market Development and Marketing
- Supporting DPS High School Agricultural Programming



Farmland Easement Funding

- County funding (annual allocations)
- Funding is leveraged by state and federal grant programs: - -
 - Federal Agriculture Lands Easement Grants
(10 years totaling \$6.67 million)
 - State Trust Fund (\$537,500)
 - Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grants
- The County brings in \$4 for every \$1 the County spends.



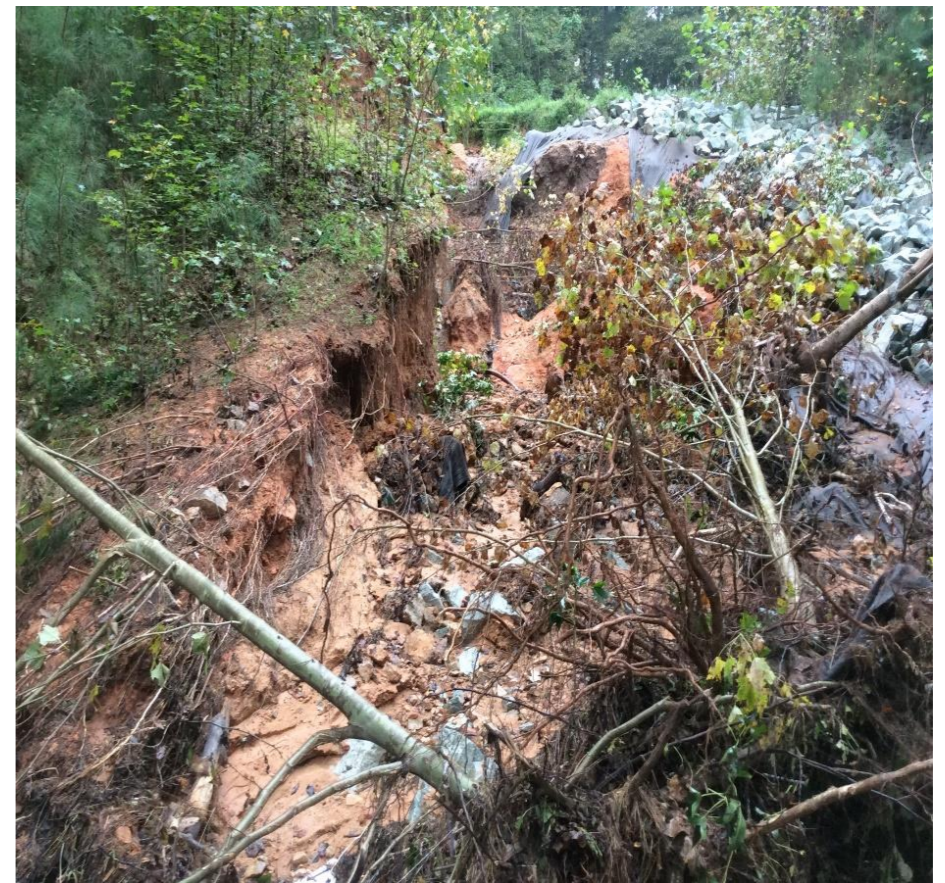
Hurricane and Disaster Relief

Crop Losses from Hurricane Florence and Michael

- 75% of Corn
- 50% of Soybean
- 30% of Tobacco
- 100% of Hemp
- Hay losses



Damage from December 8 Snow Storm- 3 high tunnels



Agriculture Economic Development Grant

In FY18, \$25,000 was allocated for the pilot program. A total of 13 applicants requested \$53,957.64.

In FY19, \$50,000 was allocated, and a total of 17 applicants requested \$62,325.00. The grant program funded:

1. Two new and beginning farmers
2. Four socially disadvantaged farmers
3. Two Farmers' Markets
4. Two traditional farms
5. One Community Garden

1. W.G. Pearson Elementary
2. Jordan High Ag Ed
3. Northern High Ag Ed
4. The DPS Hub Farm



Schools funded in FY 2019



Northern High School



WG Pearson Elementary



Jordan High School



Farmers funded in FY 2019



Owens Farm



Carolina Farmhouse



Tierra Negra Farm



Teasley

Proposed Changes to Program

- Increase allowable project implementation from one year to two years (mimic Open Space & Trails Grant Program)
- Grant Committee is considering administrative changes to make it more effective for farmers (e.g. 3 year maintenance clause, 6 month interim reporting)
- Request \$50,000 funding for next year





2018 BETC Summer Youthworks Team





2018 BETC Summer Youthworks Team



2020 Program Goals

- Continue support for Farmland Preservation, Agricultural Education, and Farmers' Markets
- Continue Ag Dev Grant at \$50,000, consider future expansion due to the program's success



2020 Program Goals

- Continue to Explore Opportunities for a Durham-based Farm Campus
- Continue to support the Institutional Purchasing Program with Farmer Foodshare (local food in schools and detention facilities)



Local Sourcing Project Update

- **Still no GAP certified produce farmers in Durham:** Winter storms, a wet spring, and difficulty scheduling GAP audits have delayed the pool of Durham County farmers from receiving their certification.
 - **Allow subsidy funds to be spent with buyers who don't require GAP short-term,** like the youth home, pre-k centers, and/or food pantries so that farmers can start selling while they work towards their GAP audits
- **DPS is purchasing from a Durham County dairy AND willing to adjust menus to accommodate seasonal produce:** Schools have rigid menu cycles and schedules that don't align well with the growing season, yet DPS is willing to provide flexible menu planning to feature local items from Durham farmers once they are GAP certified.
 - **Continue to support local sourcing funding in FY 19-20 to enable more Durham farmers to have guaranteed outlets** with local organizations and institutions.



Chicken and dumplings featuring local buttermilk were offered at all schools to over 32,000 students.

Some Current Issues

- Importance of Present Use Program for Property Tax relief – *How can the County provide similar tax benefits for smaller agricultural operations, e.g. 2 – 10 acres or smaller?*
- Changes in Durham County's Land Use with increased population growth – *Recognize the broader ecosystem services that rural and farmland provides (water quality and quantity, viewsheds, air quality).*



Some Current Issues

- Farmland Protection Board seeks involvement with 2019 Comprehensive Plan and broader legislative efforts
- Supporting workforce development and sustainable food systems, yet farmers need retail prices; institutions need wholesale prices.
- The current property tax on farm equipment does not support farming efforts in Durham County. Can this tax be terminated?



Any Questions?



Will Wilson Chair/ At Large (<i>Farmland</i>)	Nicole Connelly Vice Chair/Little River VAD
Mark Waller 2nd Vice Chair/Farm Bureau Representative	Heidi Carter County Commissioner
Neil Frank At large (<i>Farmland Board appointed</i>)	Talmage Layton Falls VAD
Samantha Gasson At Large (<i>Farmland Board appointment</i>)	S. Douglas Daye Flat River VAD
Kathryn Spann SWCD Board Rep.	Ken Browning Eno VAD
John Monroe At Large (<i>Farmland Board appointed</i>)	David Heeks At Large (<i>Farmland Board appointed</i>)
Neal Curran Business Representative	Keith Bryant Open Space & Trails Rep