File #: 26-0429, **Version:** 1

Item:
Adopt the 2026 Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Plan

Date of BOCC Meeting: September 14, 2026

Request for Board Action:
The Board is requested to adopt the 2026 Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Plan from the Farmland Protection Advisory Board. This revised plan establishes the framework to enhance, promote, and preserve agriculture in Durham. Agriculture contributes significantly to Durham's green spaces and rural character while serving as a foundation for natural resource conservation and food security.

With ongoing loss of farmland to development and increasing public interest in local foods, the updated plan is both timely and essential. Originally adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on December 14, 2009, the Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Plan has guided substantial progress over the past decade. The 2026 revision recognizes these accomplishments and provides clear, forward-looking recommendations to support the future of agriculture in Durham County.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Aligns with Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment and High Performing Organization

Resource Persons: Dwane Brinson, Assistant County Manager; Nicole Connelly, Farmland Protection Advisory Board Chair; Mark Waller, Farmland Protection Advisory Board Vice-Chair; Gerry Cohn, Contractor that assisted with the Plan; Sherry Scully, Durham Soil and Water Ag Development Coordinator.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board adopt the 2026 Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Plan from the Farmland Protection Advisory Board.

County Manager: _____

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