**Application for Lee County**

**Voluntary and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Program (VAD and EVAD)**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Before completing this application, please review the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) program [eligibility requirements](https://lee.ces.ncsu.edu/leecovoluntaryagdistrict/)

Complete the form as completely as possible; sign and date the form, and return to:

 N.C. Cooperative Extension- Lee County Center

 2420 Tramway Road, Sanford N.C. 27332

**APPLICANT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Day): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PROPERTY INFORMATION:**

Property Location/Address(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parcel Identification Number (PIN): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parcel Identification Number (PIN): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Acres \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parcel Identification Number (PIN): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Acres \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parcel Identification Number (PIN): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Acres\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parcel Identification Number (PIN): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parcel Identification Number (PIN): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Number of Acres on all tracts of land**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Qualifications:**

Is the property currently in the Present Use Value (PUV) Assessment Program through the Lee County Tax Office?   **YES or NO**

If you answered NO to the prior question, is the property currently ELIGIBLE for enrollment in PUV? **YES or NO or NOT SURE (we can assist if you are unsure on your PUV eligibility status)**

Does this land have a plan on file with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service or the NC Forest Service? **YES or NO**

Have you reviewed the Lee County Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Ordinance prior to completing this application?   **YES or NO**

Do you understand and agree that acceptance into the VAD/ EVAD program does not qualify your real property as a bona fide farm under NC General Statute 160D-903 unless it otherwise meets the statutory requirements?   **YES or NO**

Do you understand and agree that acceptance into the EVAD/ VAD program does not qualify your real estate for Present Use Value (PUV) unless application is made to the Tax Department and otherwise meets the statutory requirements?  **YES or NO**

Are you willing to enter into a 10 year voluntary agreement with Lee County to prohibit non-farm uses inconsistent with horticulture, agriculture and/or forestry in accordance with Article 61 of Chapter 106 of the NC General Statutes and the Lee County Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Ordinance? **YES or NO**

If your property qualifies for bona fide farm status, please attach a copy of one of the following:  Farm sales tax exemption certificate issued by the NC Department of Revenue; Present Use Value Program Property tax listing for eligibility; Schedule F from your Federal Tax Return; or a certified Forestry Management Plan.

**CONSERVATION AGREEMENT DETAIL of VAD and EVAD:**

**Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD)** conservation agreements are for a period of ten years. The landowner may revoke the agreement through a written request to the Lee County Agricultural Advisory Board.A Conservation Agreement for land within a Voluntary Agricultural District shall be automatically renewed for an additional term of ten years unless either the Agricultural Preservation Board or the landowner(s) gives written notice to the contrary prior to the termination date of the Conservation Agreement. At the end of each ten-year term, the Conservation Agreement shall automatically renew for an additional ten-year term unless notice of termination is given.

**Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD)** conservation agreements are for a period of ten years, but **cannot be revoked** during the term of the agreement. EVAD enrollment, however, offers landowners additional benefits such as a higher percentage of cost-share funds under the Agricultural Cost Share Program.A Conservation Agreement for an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District shall be deemed automatically renewed for an additional term of three years unless either the Agricultural Preservation Board or the landowner(s) gives written notice to the contrary prior to the termination date of the Conservation Agreement. At the end of each three-year term the Conservation Agreement shall automatically renew for an additional three-year term unless notice of termination is given.

**I [We] have read the Conservation Agreement details above and I [we] understand the benefits of the VAD and/or EVAD program.**

**Please mark which designation you are requesting enrollment and sign below.**

\_\_\_\_\_I [WE] ARE SEEKING DESIGNATION AS A **VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_I [WE] ARE SEEKING DESIGNATION AS AN **ENHANCED VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**OWNER[S] CERTIFICATION:**

The applicant/owner certifies that to the best of my ability, this application is complete and accurate. If certified by the Lee County Agricultural Advisory Board, Owner agrees to sustain, promote and encourage agriculture in the district. Owner agrees to prohibit non-farm use of the land under this program for a period of ten (10) years from the date certified by the Agricultural Advisory Board and maintain the qualifications under the Lee County Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Ordinance and Article 61 of Chapter 106 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Owner acknowledges and agrees to abide by the terms of a VAD or EVAD Conservation Agreement if approved by the Lee County Agricultural Board.

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

**Please complete this section for general information about your farming operation**

1. How long have you owned your farm? years

2. How long have you lived on your farm? years

3. How many acres on your farm are under cultivation? acres (estimate)

4. What are the major crops you plant each year?

6. How many acres on your farm are used for pasture? \_\_\_\_\_ acres (estimate)

7. How many acres on your farm are used for woodland/forestry? \_\_\_\_ acres (estimate)

8. Would you be interested in learning more about preserving your farmland for future

 generations through the Conservation Easement program? YES or NO

9. If your family has owned and operated the farm over 100 years, would you be

 interested in the Century Farm Program? This is an Lee County and NC Dept. of

 Agriculture recognition program for family farms that have continued to farm for over

 100 years. YES or NO

**Volunteer Opportunity:**

The Lee County Agricultural Advisory Board is made up of volunteers, who are interested in the counties’ agricultural concerns: protection, preservation, economic sustainability, and the future of farming and agriculture in Lee County.

If you are interested in being a potential member of the Agricultural Advisory Board, please indicate and sign below.

\_\_\_ Yes, please inform me when a position on the Agricultural Advisory Board is available.

\_\_\_ No, thank you, not at this time.

**For application questions or more information about EVAD/VAD, please contact:**

919-775-5624

N.C. Cooperative Extension- Lee County Center

2420 Tramway Road, Sanford N.C. 27332

Once your application is submitted, the application will be reviewed for eligibility by staff. If a farm visit is needed, staff will contact you to request access.

After the eligibility review is completed by staff, the application will then be presented to the Lee County Agricultural Advisory Board, who will approve or deny the request.

If your application is approved by the Agricultural Advisory Board, you will be notified via letter to sign a Conservation Agreement and Notice of Participation.

**For more detailed information about Farmland Preservation and Protection and resources available in Lee County, please visit our webpage at:**

<https://lee.ces.ncsu.edu/farmland-preservation/>