



N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Farmland Preservation Division

N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Trust Fund *REPI Challenge and Sentinel Landscape Partnership Fact Sheet*



Tuesday, May 2, 2017

What is today's announcement?

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has secured \$9.2 million in federal funding to protect land from development and maintain agricultural, forestry and military uses. The funding was awarded through a biennial competition known as the REPI Challenge, which is operated by the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program.

Who are the partners involved in the project?

Secured matching funds for the REPI Challenge are from the Marine Corps, Air Force, USDA NRCS, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and NCDA&CS. Contributing partners and supporters for this project include US Senator Richard Burr, US Senator Thom Tillis, Congressman David Rouzer, President Pro Tempore Senator Phil Berger, Senator Harry Brown, Speaker Tim Moore, NC Department of Military Veteran Affairs, NC Department of Environmental Quality, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Clean Water Management Trust Fund, NCSU College of Natural Resources, NCSU College of Agricultural and Life Science, NCSU Cooperative Extension Service, University of Mount Olive, Town of Spring Lake, City of Havelock, City of Jacksonville, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership, Audubon North Carolina, NC Coastal Land Trust, NC East Alliance, The Conservation Fund, NC Farm Bureau Federation, NC State Grange, NC Forestry Association, The Nature Conservancy, NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation, and South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

What is the ADFP Trust Fund?

In March 2005, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler delivered his "Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Strategy" to the North Carolina General Assembly. During the 2005 legislative session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 607, and the ADFP Trust Fund and was signed into law, N.C.G.S. 106-744. The ADFP Trust Fund encourages the preservation of agricultural, horticultural and forest lands (working lands) to foster the growth, development and sustainability of family farms.

What is the Department of Defense REPI program?

Via the Department of Defense, the REPI program is "a key tool for combating encroachment that can limit or restrict military training, testing, and operations. The REPI Program protects these military missions by helping remove or avoid land-use conflicts near installations and addressing regulatory restrictions that inhibit military activities. The REPI Program is administered by the Office of the Secretary of Defense."

What is the REPI Challenge?

Via the Department of Defense, the REPI Challenge is a competitive grant that seeks "to cultivate projects that conserve land at a greater scale, test promising ways to finance land protection, and harness the creativity of the private sector and market-based approaches."

What is the Sentinel Landscapes program?

Via the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, "Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation's defense mission – places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes."

For more information:

N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – N.C. ADFP Trust Fund
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What is the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Partnership?

In 2016, the federal government designated 33 North Carolina counties as a Sentinel Landscape. The Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Partnership is one of six landscapes designated by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and the Interior. The partnership aims to strengthen farms, ranches and forests while conserving habitat and natural resources and protecting vital training grounds for military installations. North Carolina is the only state to have multiple military branches, military installations and counties named as part of the designation.

Why does the ADFP Trust Fund work with the military?

The ADFP Trust Fund’s mission is to encourage the preservation of agricultural, horticultural and forest lands (working lands) to foster the growth, development and sustainability of family farms. Working lands are compatible with the interests of the armed services because they preserve viable airspace training routes and provide buffers against the encroachment of development near military bases and training areas. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ partnership with the military will protect and enhance the top two economic sectors in North Carolina: agriculture and the military.

What is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement is a written agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or public agency (grantee) in which the landowner promises to keep the land for agricultural purposes and the grantee is granted the right to enforce the covenants of the agreement and to monitor the property.

What are the other benefits of a conservation easement?

The preservation of agricultural lands ensures available working farmland for future generations, provides scenic landscapes for the state’s tourism industry and helps protect the environment.

