



NC State Grange Grant Program – 2023

Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants

Purpose:

Provide grant funding to NC Soil & Water Districts and NC Land Trusts for legal costs and required documentation in resolving land ownership issues, surveying requirements or other documents for compliance requirements to record an agricultural conservation easement. Priority consideration given to active NC State Grange members and Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) Farmers and Ranchers landowner agricultural conservation easement projects.

Application Eligibility Requirements:

- Grant applicants must be a registered North Carolina non-profit conservation organization or a County Government agency with the ability to hold an agricultural conservation easement. Grant applicant may have multiple applications.
- Landowner(s) seeking a conservation easement must be or become a NC State Grange Member.
- A formal agreement between the landowner and entity to hold the conservation easement (NC Soil & Water District and NC Land Trust) must be in place and a copy provided with application request.
- North Carolina non-profit conservation organization or a County Government agency must provide proof of application to NCD&CS ADFPTF or USDA NRCS ALE for conservation easement grant funding.
- Land parcel seeking an agricultural conservation easement must have proven documentation of food and / or fiber production (crops, nursery, poultry, livestock, aquaculture, forestry, etc.) as described in NCGS 106-581.1. Agriculture defined.

Grant Funding Information:

- Grant payments are made in 2 installments
 - ½ draw upon approval of the grant application by NC State Grange
 - ½ final payment upon documentation of a successful recorded agricultural conservation easement as identified in the application.
- Maximum NC State Grange Grant Amount per conservation easement project - \$3,000
- Deadline for 2023 applications is March 31, 2023.
- Grant awards subject to availability of funding

NC State Grange Application Review for Evaluation & Scoring:

Evaluation Item	Awarded Points
Number of active NC State Grange members or SDA Owners Associated with land parcel.	5 points per owner up to a maximum of 25 points
Land parcel is in active farming or forestry (i.e., of proof - documents such as PUV, forestry plan, conservation plan or written letter from local agricultural county service official providing witness)	25 points
Entity (NC Soil & Water District and NC Land Trust) and Landowner agreement to seek agricultural conservation easement in place	25 points
Landowner(s) recognition as a new member of NC State Grange (within the previous year) at the time of grant application. Documentation of ownership or production interest with subject land parcel must be provided.	5 points per member owner up to a maximum of 25 points

An SDA farmer or rancher is a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

NC State Grange Membership

Associate Memberships:

This is a basic membership that allows statewide members to have access and use of our membership benefits as well as receive a copy of our bimonthly newsletter. Associate memberships are available to anyone who is not a member of a local Grange and annual dues are \$20 per person ages 14 and older.

Local Grange Membership:

Local membership will tie you to a local chapter where you can connect with fellow Grangers, have rewarding interactions within your community, have representation at state events, access to all member benefits as well as receive our bimonthly newsletter. Local Granges do set their own dues amount and typically range between \$15-\$30 per member annually.

For more information on becoming a NC State Grange member, go to www.ncgrange.com/become-a-member.

NC State Grange Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants Application – 2023

Please send a signed and completed application to dhardee@ncgrange.com. PDF documents preferred. Application must be received by March 31, 2022. Please keep a copy of your application for your files and reference.

Applicant Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Mailing

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Grant Amount Requested: \$ _____ **(Max-\$3,000)**

Please provide a brief description of your plan of work to use the requested grant in the recording of an agricultural conservation easement including projected timetable to complete. Include your objectives / goals in your plan of work.

Description of the Conservation Easement Project:

What type of Agricultural Conservation Easement is to be recorded (Check appropriate classification)? (Please include proof of grant funding with application from NCDA&CS or USDA NRCS such as grant award letter for eligibility status approval)

_____ NCDA&CS ADFPTF conservation easement only

_____ USDA NRCS ALE only

_____ NCDA&CS ADFPTF with additional federal partners (military - USDA NRCS)

How many farm/forestry acres to be placed under a conservation easement? _____

Is the land currently in active farming or forestry? (Please include proof documents of active farming with application for eligibility status)

_____ yes

_____ no (not eligible)

Do you have a formal agreement with the landowner(s) to seek and place a conservation easement on the land parcel?

- _____ Yes (Must provide proof of the formal agreement with application)
- _____ No (Not eligible for grant until formal agreement is submitted)

Are the property owner(s) currently a member of NC State Grange?

- _____ Yes. (If “yes” please submit the name and address in your grant application submittal. Include documentation of ownership or production interest with subject land parcel. Used for verification NC State Grange members in the grant ranking and scoring of your application.)
- _____ No (Still eligible to submit application)

Are the property owner(s) an SDA farmer / producer?

- _____ Yes. (If “yes” please submit proof or documentation in your grant application submittal. Used for verification an SDA farmer / producer in the grant ranking and scoring of your application.)
- _____ No (Still eligible to submit application)

My signature is my witness that the information provided as being accurate and correct as of the time of application.

Signature of Application Contact: _____ Date: _____