



NC State Grange Grant News

NC State Grange is excited to be partnering with our North Carolina landowners in providing grants to assist them in protecting their farm and forest lands. North Carolina currently has the unfortunate title as ranking second in the nation, behind Texas, for threat of conversion to development, as noted in the American Farmland Trust's study, [Farms Under Threat: The State of the States](#) even though it is only 30th in total agricultural acreage. If development follows recent trends, the U.S. will convert 18.4 million additional acres of agricultural land to more developed uses between 2016 and 2040.

NC State Grange is committed in partnering with our state's counties and non-profit organizations by providing conservation grants for Voluntary Agricultural District signage for enrolled landowners and agricultural conservation easement establishment expenditures on privately owned farms and ranches. Local county VAD administrators may apply on behalf of their county VAD members for \$4,500 that may be used to purchase signage recognizing a land parcel's VAD designation. Land Trusts and county Soil & Water Districts or county preservation departments may also apply for \$3,000 on each private landowner project they represent that is currently under the process of establishing an agricultural conservation easement.

Eligibility for VAD Grants:

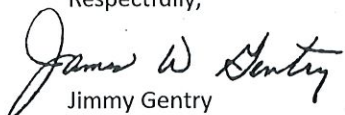
- Grant applicants must be a County Government agency with an active VAD program.
- The VAD landowner receiving signage using NC State Grange funding must be or become a NC State Grange Member.
- The VAD program must be meet the NCGS 106-737 requirements.

Eligibility for Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants:

- 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 NCDA&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.

For more information and to download an application, please visit www.ncgrange.com/grants. Please send a signed and completed application to धारdee@ncgrange.com. PDF documents preferred. Application must be received by March 31, 2022.

Respectfully,


Jimmy Gentry
NC State Grange President