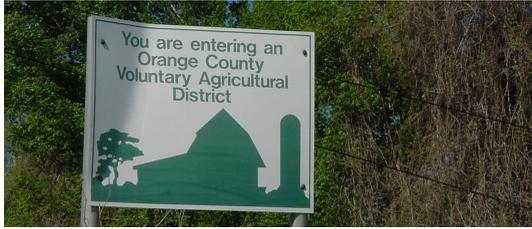


USEFUL PROGRAMS & INFORMATION



Farmland Preservation Programs

Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation

www.co.orange.nc.us/deapr/nat_cul_resources.asp

(919) 245-2510

Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD)

Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts (EVAD)

Agricultural Conservation Easements

(Lands Legacy Program)

Farm Business Information

Orange County Economic Development

Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator

www.co.orange.nc.us/ecodev/index.asp / (919) 245-2330

Carolina Farm Credit

www.carolinafarmcredit.com/ / (919) 732-2168

Farm Energy Efficiency Program (FEEP)

www.ncfarmenergy.org/ / (919) 782-1705 x8209 or 909-4508

Farm Bureau

www.ncfb.org/ / (919) 732-7430

Farm Incubator/Educational Programs

PLANT at Breeze Farm (919) 245-2050

People Learning Agriculture Now for Tomorrow

www.orangecountyfarms.org/PLANTatBreeze.asp

Sustainable Agriculture Program

(Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro)

www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/sustainableagriculture/

(919) 545-8031

Agricultural Infrastructure

Piedmont Food & Agricultural Processing Center

www.orangecountyfarms.org/pfap/ / (919) 245-2336

The Orange County Farms website also has information on sources for **Meat/Chicken Processing**

& Farm Supply/Farm Equipment Repair

LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

Carrboro

www.carrborofarmersmarket.com

Chapel Hill

www.thechapelhillfarmersmarket.com

Hillsborough

www.hillsboroughfarmersmarket.org/default.aspx

Efland

www.localharvest.org/efland-farmers-market-M42519

Eno River at the Public Market House

(downtown Hillsborough)

www.enoriverfarmersmarket.com

Southern Village Farmers' Market (Chapel Hill)

www.southernvillage.com/farmers-market

Durham County

www.durhamfarmersmarket.com

Person County

www.personcountyfarmersmarket.com



AT-A-GLANCE INFORMATIONAL GUIDE FOR ORANGE COUNTY FARMERS



Orange County recognizes that agriculture is a vital part of its economy. This brochure is designed as a quick "at a glance" guide to help local farmers get the information they need to start a new operation or expand an existing one. For more in-depth information, call the contact number or check the website links listed under each heading.

Be sure to check the Orange County Farms website regularly at: www.orangecountyfarms.org and our new regional branding label, Piedmont Grown at: www.piedmontgrown.org

Piedmont Grown... Your Farm to Fork Connection!



Look for the logo when you shop or eat out...
and find food that's fresh and local.



Look for the logo when you shop or eat out...
and find food that's fresh and local.

COUNTY OFFICES FOR FARMERS

Tax Administrator

The Assessment Division of the Tax Administrator's office administers the Present-Use Value Property Tax program. Working farm, forest, and horticultural lands by state statute are afforded a property tax assessment based on their agricultural working value, as opposed to their industrial or residential development value. "Qualifying" farmland is defined based on certain criteria such as acreage, soil type and use. Agricultural land requires ten acres of cropland and average gross sales of \$1,000 per year for the preceding three years; certain horticultural products require five acres; forestry use requires twenty acres and a plan on file with the Natural Resources Conservation Service or North Carolina Forest Service. New landowners, who have purchased qualifying farmland must apply within a certain timeframe or must wait until they are able to meet the income criteria as a new farm.

Contact: Assessment Division
228 S Churton Street, Suite 200
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 245-2108
www.co.orange.nc.us/assessor/index.asp

Planning & Inspections

Bona fide farms are exempt from county zoning, but many farm-related activities are not. Before starting a new operation, farmers should check with Current Planning to determine if a permit is required. Farm structures are likewise exempt from some building permits requirements but not all. When in doubt it is always good to check with appropriate county staff.

Contact: Current Planning Division
131 W. Margaret Lane,
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 245-2575
Contact: Building Inspections Division
131 W. Margaret Lane,
(919) 245-2600 or 245-2601
www.co.orange.nc.us/planning/index.asp

STATE OFFICES FOR FARMERS

North Carolina Cooperative Extension

The Orange County Office of the NC Cooperative Extension Service provides agriculture and social service programs for local residents of all ages. Cooperative Extension is a good place to visit to get a sense of available information and training for traditional farming—row crops, livestock and dairy. The office retains specialized agricultural agents in dairy, agribusiness, livestock and forage and horticulture. The Orange Cooperative Extension Office also manages activities the Breeze Farm including the PLANT program, and works in collaboration with the County's Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator.

Extension also assists with local Commodity Groups:

- Orange and Durham Cattlemen's Association
- North Carolina State Beekeepers Association
- Orange County Landscapers Association

Contact: 306-E Revere Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 245-2050
<http://orange.ces.ncsu.edu/>

NC Division of Forest Resources

The Forest Service helps landowners develop, protect and manage forestlands through stewardship. The County Ranger works with USDA and S&W staff to develop forest management plans for enrollment in the present use value taxation program and for developing harvesting plans for eligibility in land conservation programs. The agency is involved in the genetic improvement of forest trees, seedling production at state nurseries, long range forestry planning and technical development, water quality controls, urban forestry assistance, training and support to volunteer fire departments and forestry education. The County Ranger also approves burn permits.

Contact: County Ranger
NC Forest Service
110 Boone Square, Suite 12
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 732-8152
www.dfr.state.nc.us

FEDERAL OFFICES FOR FARMERS

USDA Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers federal farm programs that support the production agriculture community and protect food and natural resources. FSA provides farmers access and opportunity to participate in farm commodity, credit, conservation, environmental, and emergency assistance programs. Staff determines if landowners are eligible for a farm number based on the production of commodity crops, horticultural crops or livestock. Farmers must have a farm number to qualify for state or federal cost share assistance programs. FSA also offers farmers a number of specialized insurance programs, and has recently started offering some programs for small acreage producers.

Contact: 306-B Revere Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 732-4301 Ext. 2
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services Orange Soil and Water Conservation District

Located in the same office, these agencies assist landowners with State and Federal cost share programs if they qualify for a resource concern (such as a water quality problem or a soil erosion problem) on their property, and have a farm number. Staff will develop a conservation farm plan, conduct on-site investigations of resource concerns, make recommendations to correct problems, and provide education information about natural resources. NRCS and S&W work closely with FSA and monitor the technical component of some FSA applications.

Contact: 306-D Revere Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 245-2750
www.co.orange.nc.us/soilwater/index.asp

USDA Rural Development

The Rural Development agency provides loan assistance for some agricultural operations. The Orange County office is open one day a week. (919) 732-4301 Ext. 4