Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan

Edward F. Olive

July 2012

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements 4

Executive Summary 5

A Need for Action 8

Overview of Pamlico County 10

- Pamlico County Demographics 10
- Education 11
- Economy 11
- Cost of Services 12
- Infrastructure and Transportation 12
- Farmer Demographics 13
- Natural Attributes 13
- Soils 13
- Water 14
- Forestry 15
- Commercial Fisheries 15
- Hunting and Recreational Opportunities 15

Pamlico County: The State of Agriculture 17

- Crops 17
- Forestry 19
- Livestock and Poultry 20
- Aquaculture 20
- Agriculture 20

Farm and Forest Protection Programs 26

- Present-Use Value Tax Program 26
- Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD) 27
- Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts 27
- Conservation Easements 28
- Term Conservation Easements 29

Transfer of Development Rights 29
Farm Transition Planning 29
Right-to-Farm Law 29
N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund 29
Challenges, Opportunities and Trends: Survey and Interview Results 30
Agribusiness Survey and Interview Analysis 30
Non-Farm Resident Survey and Interview Analysis 33
Agricultural Producer Survey and Interview Analysis 37
Recommendations 51
Recommendation One 51
Recommendation Two 52
Recommendation Three 53
Recommendation Four 54
Recommendation Five 55
Recommendation Six 56
Recommendation Seven 57
References 58
Appendixes 64
Appendix A: Pamlico County VAD Ordinance
Appendix B: Agricultural Producer, Agribusiness and Non-Farm Surveys

Acknowledgements

North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER), with funding from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, contracted with Mount Olive College's Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center to create agricultural development plans in a three-county region. NCER's mission is to identify barriers and generate regional strategies for economic growth. NCER recognizes and supports the agricultural industry in eastern North Carolina and is committed to identifying economic development opportunities for agricultural producers and agribusinesses.

Edward Olive completed research and wrote the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan. Mr. Olive received a bachelor's degree in AgriScience Education from Mount Olive College. Editors for the plan were Grace Lawrence and Sandy Maddox. Ms. Lawrence has a master's degree in education and has worked in the environmental field for more than 15 years. Dr. Maddox has a doctorate degree in adult education, is the director of the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College and has more than 30 years of experience in agriculture.

The plan was created with support from the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan committee. The committee was made up of farmers, landowners, agribusinesses, federal and county agencies as well as the general public. The following agencies and individuals assisted with the development of this plan:

Bill Ellers, County Extension Director

Pamlico County Board of Commissioners

Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Board

The Citizens, Landowners, Farmers and Agribusinesses of Pamlico County

N.C. Forest Service, Pamlico County

Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District

USDA – Pamlico County Farm Service Agency

Pamlico County Farm Bureau

Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce

Pamlico County Government

N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission

This project received support from the N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

Executive Summary

Evaluation of the impacts and perceptions of agriculture in Pamlico County allows for a better understanding of the continuing need for agricultural development. The Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan utilized confidential surveys and interviews to obtain information from three target audiences about their knowledge and perceptions of agriculture. The target audiences were agribusiness operators, non-farm residents and agricultural producers. Each group is affected by agricultural development differently. The agriculture development plan evaluates the impact and benefit of agricultural and forest land use to the county and recognizes the challenges that face agricultural production and profitability.

Agriculture and agribusiness employed 20 percent of working Pamlico County residents and accounted for more than one-fourth of the county's value-added income in 2008[1]. Agriculture operates in a global economy, and Pamlico County is in an excellent position to increase agricultural production to reap the benefits of new, increased agricultural markets. In 2011 the N.C. Department of Commerce estimated 6,269, or 48 percent, of county residents were over the age of 50[2]. The average age of farmers in Pamlico County in 2007 was 56 years. In the near future, farmers will begin to retire and many have not taken steps to transition their operation to the next generation. These factors emphasize the need for actions to be taken to protect land currently in production. A multifaceted land-use plan for the county is imperative to realize the benefits of agriculture and forestry to the economic and environmental health of the county.

Agriculture brought $23 million to Pamlico County in 2007[3]. Most of the income was received from crops, but livestock production also added to this total. Pamlico County was ranked among the top 50 counties in the state in 2007 for the production of various agricultural commodities including wheat, soybeans, tobacco, corn and specialty horticultural crops[4]. Forestry is also a major component of Pamlico County agriculture with nearly half of the county's land currently in timberland.[5] In 2007, Pamlico County ranked:

- 15th in corn production for grain
- 17th in wheat production
- 19th in soybeans production
- 32nd for the production of vegetables, fruits, nuts and berries
- 45th in cash receipts for all crops
- 47th in flue-cured tobacco production
- 72nd in total cash receipts
- 87th in cash receipts for dairy, poultry and livestock
- 91st in sales of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and Christmas trees
- 98th in all cattle[6]
- 29th in timber production[7]

Pamlico County's location in eastern North Carolina offers residents the enjoyment of a coastal environment. The influx of residents that wish to enjoy the union of farm and forestland and the coastal shoreline find Pamlico County to be the perfect area to relocate. Pamlico County has become an ultimate destination for recreation, comfortable living, relaxation, tourism and more. However, before all of these opportunities existed, Pamlico County was known as an agricultural destination. Agriculture, including forestry, crops and livestock, has remained an important component of the economy of Pamlico County.

Many counties statewide are proactively taking steps to prevent the unnecessary loss of farmland. Pamlico County has chosen to join this list. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, through the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, provides funding for projects that encourage farmland preservation and promote agricultural development in North Carolina. North Carolina's Eastern Region works to promote economic growth and understands the impact of agriculture to eastern North Carolina. The ultimate goal for this agricultural development plan is to express the needs of the agricultural industry in Pamlico County as well as to convey challenges and opportunities that are cited by residents, farmers and the agribusinesses of the county to help improve the industry as a whole and maximize its potential in Pamlico County.

Pamlico County has seen some development but not nearly as much as other regions of North Carolina. Still, the county is not immune to developmental pressures in the future and should take steps now to protect the priceless commodity of land.

Agribusiness owners and operators were asked to identify trends relative to agriculture's future in Pamlico County for this plan. Agribusinesses provide supplies and services necessary for farming as well as for residential use. Pamlico County has a diverse set of agribusinesses that to meet the varied needs of agricultural producers and residents alike. Agribusinesses that were surveyed reported that there is a need to educate consumers and communities on the value of agriculture and the importance of supporting local producers. Surveyed agribusinesses have also taken note of recent changes in farming and implemented new methods and products to aid farmers in this changing environment. Agribusinesses now use technology and precision agriculture to provide services and supplies more cost effectively. Agribusinesses are essential to ensure the future sustainability of Pamlico County agriculture and proactively provide support to this industry.

The majority of non-farm residents surveyed for this plan have lived in Pamlico County for more than 20 years. Though many of those surveyed lived near agriculture, very few reported being involved in farming or timber operations. Overall, non-farm residents who participated in the survey believed that agriculture is a self-supporting industry that has some potential for growth. Ninety-two percent of those surveyed supported taking steps to preserve farmland. Eighty-three percent of non-farm residents surveyed reported that they had no issues with their farming neighbors.

Pamlico County has support for its agricultural industry from non-farm residents, agribusinesses and agricultural producers as evidenced in the survey data collected, which signifies potential for agriculture and agribusinesses to continue to grow and further expand. As a result of this plan, recommendations for action to address opportunities for Pamlico County agriculture are identified. The recommendations include:

- Support measures to protect forests and farmland in Pamlico County
- Develop a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Awareness Program
- Complete a cost of community services study for Pamlico County
- Develop programs to assist with farm transition planning for producers and landowners in the county
- Continue to provide more information and resources to forest landowners and revive the forestry association.
- Provide public awareness opportunities to gain support and understanding for agriculture.
- Increase awareness of the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan and the impacts on agriculture

Agriculture is alive and well in Pamlico County, but there is potential for it to be even more powerful. With support from the county, farmers in Pamlico County can continue to grow and thrive by taking advantage of new markets. As a result of this growth, the local economy would realize positive direct and indirect impacts through increased revenue. Farms will continue to provide revenue to the county and will provide additional jobs for residents who live and work in the county. Agricultural development is necessary in order to preserve the farming heritage and opportunities in the county. As rural North Carolina changes, it is imperative that steps be taken to preserve the agricultural opportunities present in Pamlico County. The necessity of a productive agriculture industry will continue to grow as the need for food and agricultural products continues to increase.

Taking steps to protect farms and forests in Pamlico County will be of great service to generations to come. Pamlico County and North Carolina each have great potential for diversification and agricultural development. There is a need for new markets to be developed and for producers to take part in creating these opportunities. The Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan can be the start of making Pamlico County an even stronger and more profitable agricultural county.

A Need for Action

Agriculture, consisting of food, fiber and forestry, is North Carolina's number-one industry. In a 2008 report by Mike Walden, professor and extension economist at North Carolina State University, more than 17 percent of the state's workforce was directly involved with agriculture, an industry that contributes $74.3 billion, or 18 percent, to the gross state product in North Carolina[8]. In Pamlico County, agriculture employed nearly 20 percent of the county's population and accounted for almost $60 million or 27 percent of the county's income in 2008[9]. As the state's population has increased, land has been removed from agricultural production to provide housing and services to the growing population. From 1997 to 2007, North Carolina lost more than 6,000 farms and nearly 1 million acres of farmland[10]. Similar trends during the same time period were exhibited by Pamlico County, which lost more than 4,000 acres—nearly 10 percent of the county's farmland[11].

Population growth in Pamlico County has been limited over the past 10 years. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Pamlico County grew less than 2 percent from 2000 to 2010[12]. Nonetheless, impacts of the state's urbanization have reached Pamlico County. With recent congressional redistricting, small rural counties such as Pamlico County have seen less representation in the North Carolina General Assembly as the representation has shifted to the more populated, urban areas of the state. The weakened voice of small rural counties that this representation shift causes puts the ability to continue and utilize programs for agricultural and economic development in these areas at risk.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce reported that in 2011, nearly one-third of Pamlico County's population was over the age of 60 and nearly half were older than 50[13]. Interviews conducted for this plan with agricultural producers concluded that young people move away for college and career opportunities and typically do not return to Pamlico County. When farms are passed down to younger generations who have little or no attachment to the farming operation, farms are at risk of being removed from agricultural production and sold for development or other non-agricultural uses. Agricultural development can provide additional careers and opportunities to help entice young people to remain in Pamlico County after college for jobs on and off the farm.

Agriculture operates in a global marketplace, and Pamlico County is positioned strategically, both economically and geographically, to take advantage of the global market. Pamlico County's proximity to the state's ports adds opportunities for international trade of agricultural products. Infrastructure within the county and further development potential adds domestic trade possibilities. The additional demand created within these markets produces a need for current farmers to diversify their operations. Educating farmers and landowners on available opportunities in agriculture is essential to taking advantage of these prospects.

In Pamlico County, the average age of a farmer was 56 years in 2007 according to the USDA Census of Agriculture[14]. The average age of agricultural producers that completed the survey in Pamlico County was 63 years. According to the survey, less than 40 percent of agricultural producers have a transition plan for their operation. Farm and forest transition plans help to shift the business from one generation to the next. Without farm transition plans, farms and forests in Pamlico County are at risk of being lost to other non-agricultural uses, which can negatively impact the economy of the county.

Confidential interviews and surveys both concluded that both farmers and residents overwhelmingly support agricultural development programs through government funding in Pamlico County. Many residents understand the impact that agriculture has on the county and want to see steps taken to preserve and protect agriculture for future generations. As the county continues to grow and attract additional residents, it is necessary to take proactive steps now to sustain a promising future for Pamlico County.

Challenges and opportunities that exist for Pamlico County:

- Educational opportunities and programs that support agricultural producers and agribusinesses in the county
- Promotion of agriculture and forestry as career opportunities for young people in the county
- Support of agricultural development policies that will help promote agricultural growth and improvement to meet the evolving demands and opportunities of agriculture

The Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan was created from interviews, survey responses and statistical information collected from citizens in Pamlico County as well as from the USDA Census of Agriculture, N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and various other sources. Surveys were completed online via Survey Monkey and in paper format by agricultural producers, agribusiness owners and non-farm residents of Pamlico County. Interviews were completed to obtain more details about needs and perceptions of agriculture in the county. All data and information received were kept confidential and used solely to develop the county's agricultural development plan. The plan was created at no cost to the county.

Overview of Pamlico County

With Pamlico County's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, the county is no stranger to hurricanes and other natural disasters, many of which have ruined agricultural crops. Pamlico County is still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Irene, a natural disaster that affected eastern North Carolina in August 2011. A February 19, 2012 story in the *News and Observer* reported that Hurricane Irene caused damage to 26,109 acres of Pamlico County's farmland, which is more than half of the county's farmland[15]. The North Carolina Forest Service prepared a timber damage summary and concluded that 41,674 acres, nearly 40 percent, of timberland were affected by Hurricane Irene. Estimates show the timber impacted was valued at $12,378,245 in total[16]. Recovery efforts are slow in some areas of coastal North Carolina as a result of Hurricane Irene, but in time, families and communities will recuperate.

Pamlico County Demographics

Pamlico County is located on the east coast of North Carolina in the lower coastal plain region[17]. The county was formed in 1872 from part of Craven County. Bayboro, a town of just over 1,200 citizens, serves as the county seat[18]. Other municipalities of Pamlico County include Alliance, Arapahoe, Grantsboro, Mesic, Minnesott Beach, Oriental, Stonewall and Vandemere, each with a population of less than 1,000[19] (Figure 1).

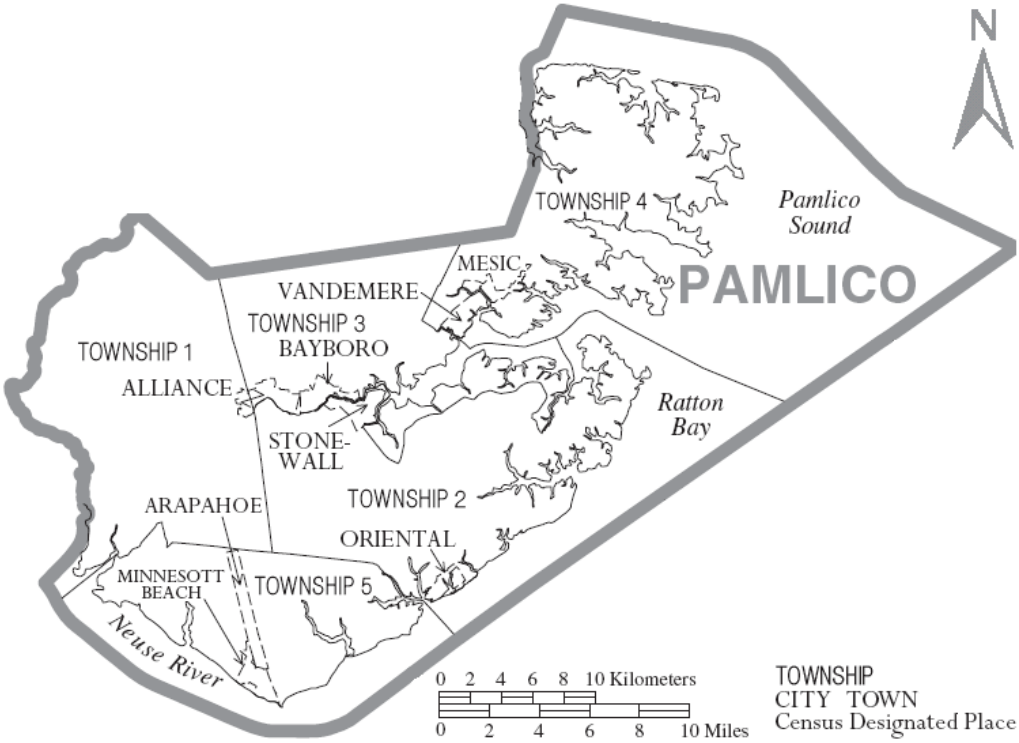

Figure 1: Map of Pamlico County, NC Source: US Census Bureau

Across the world, population-driven development is the largest competitor for agricultural land, and this case is no different for Pamlico County. In 1980, the county's population was 10,398. Nearly 3,000 people were added over 30 years as the population rose to 13,144 in 2010[20]. As the population in the county experienced growth, the county's agricultural land base decreased.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than three-quarters of Pamlico County residents are white while 20 percent are African-American[21]. The N.C. Department of Commerce reported nearly half of the population in Pamlico County is over the age of 50 while only 20 percent are younger than 19[22]. This is a likely result of young residents leaving the county after high school for college and career prospects. Just over half of working Pamlico County residents worked in the county. Others found work in other counties, and some were employed in other states[23].

Education

Pamlico County residents had relatively the same educational level as North Carolina as a whole. In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that 83 percent of county residents over the age of 25 graduated from high school compared to 84 percent for the state. Eighteen percent obtained a bachelor's degree, which was 8 percent less than the state's 26 percent[24].

Economy

The North Carolina Department of Commerce ranked each of the state's 100 counties into three tiers based on the economic well being of each county. Tier 1 is most distressed, and Tier 3 counties are least distressed. Pamlico County is designated as a Tier 2 county[25] and has remained in the Tier 2 economic status since 1999[26]. North Carolina uses these designations to encourage economic growth through incentives in distressed counties. Pamlico County's tier status provides opportunities for certain grants and other incentives aimed at stimulating the county's economy.

The median household income in Pamlico County was $40,561, slightly lower than the state's figure of $45,570. Eleven percent of Pamlico County residents were considered to be below poverty level, lower than the state's 16 percent[27].

Fifty percent or 2,473 of working Pamlico County residents worked within the county. Forty-eight percent (2,365) worked in another North Carolina county, while 2 percent or (89 residents) worked outside North Carolina. The unemployment rate improved to 9.6 percent during the first quarter of 2012 from the 10.3 percent annual unemployment rate for 2011[28]. Agriculture and agribusiness provided jobs for 20 percent of Pamlico County's working residents according to a study completed by Mike Walden in 2008[29].

Cost of Services

American Farmland Trust conducted 151 cost-of-community-services studies, including six in North Carolina, to determine the contributions made to the economy by land uses. The studies focus on three main land uses: commercial and industrial, working and open land, and residential. Agricultural and commercial land uses require fewer public services than residential land uses, saving money for the county. For each $1 of revenue received from each land use, the cost of community services study concluded that:

- Residential land cost $1.16 in public services.
- Working and open lands (including agriculture and forestry) require $0.35 for public services.
- Commercial and industrial lands cost $0.29 for public services[30].

In 2012, a cost of community services study was completed for Wayne County, the first study conducted on a county located in eastern North Carolina. This study reinforced the importance of planned development and farm and forest preservation in counties in the eastern part of the state. This study also revealed similar impacts of land uses on county revenue streams as they relate to costs for services provided. For each $1 of revenue received from each land use, the cost of community services study concluded that:

- Residential land cost $1.24 in public services.
- Working and open lands (including agriculture and forestry) require $0.47 for public services.
- Commercial and industrial lands cost $0.34 for public services[31].

While similar impacts would be expected in Pamlico County, a study of this nature can help local leaders and developers understand the impact and importance of planned land-use development on the county's economy.

Infrastructure and Transportation

Pamlico County is 130 miles from Raleigh, the capital of North Carolina. The state's two seaports are located in Wilmington and Morehead City. The county is just over 100 miles from Wilmington and 50 miles from Morehead City. Access to these seaports unlocks potential for increased agricultural exports to reach new markets. Infrastructure is a major factor in economic development as industries require infrastructure to market and transport their products.

Pamlico County is easily reached via N.C. Highway 55 and U.S. Highways 70 and 17[32]. N.C. Highway 306 provides access to the ferry to cross the Neuse River to Havelock. Many Pamlico County residents use the ferry system to commute to jobs with employers such as the Military base at Cherry Point. In early 2012, the N.C. legislature took action to tax ferry riders. According to *The Pamlico News*, N.C. Governor Bev Perdue rescinded the legislative order after the proposal was met with much disappointment by residents who used the ferry daily to commute

to work. Though the ferry tax was stopped earlier in 2012, the General Assembly could still return to the issue to provide additional funds for the N.C. Department of Transportation[33]. It is imperative that lawmakers understand the importance of the ferry to Pamlico County and coastal North Carolina and the impacts that ferry taxes could have on local and state economies.

The Pamlico County Water System supplied water to 5710 residential customers and 93 commercial customers providing 771,000 gallons per day on 300 miles of distribution lines in fiscal year 2011-2012[34]. The demand from the water supply is projected to be 1.6 million gallons per day in 2020, which is less than half the current supply capacity. According to the Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan, virtually all primary and secondary roads currently have access to the county water system[35]. The town of Oriental also supplies water for its residents[36].

The Bay River Metropolitan Sewer District serves Bayboro, Alliance, Stonewall, Mesic and Vandemere and Grantsboro municipalities. In 2004, the system served 2,300 customers, mostly residential. According to the 2004 CAMA Land Use Plan, one of the wastewater treatment facilities was operating at capacity, and other options were being explored to provide service to new customers and residential developments[37].

Farmer Demographics

According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, the average age of a Pamlico County farmer in 2007 was 56.7 years up from 52.6 years in 1997. Nearly 60 percent of farmers listed farming as their primary occupation. Most (70 percent) of farm operators were male. Many farms have more than one operator, and 97 percent of farm operators in Pamlico County are white[38].

Natural Attributes

In Pamlico County, as with all areas, natural resources are paramount in agricultural production. Pamlico County consists of 218,000 acres of land and 151,000 acres of water[39]. Both land and water are irreplaceable resources, and a combination of best management practices and wise conservation must be employed to keep the resources in good condition.

Soils

Soils are broken into different associations which help to determine a soil's suitability for different uses. These uses can include growing crops, planting trees, building a house and many others. Understanding the components of soil for particular agricultural production uses is necessary to the success of a farm or forest. Pamlico County has 10 soil associations which are:

1. Yonges-Altavista-Fork, which is a poorly to moderately drained soil with loamy subsoil. This association is relatively level and makes up 26 percent of the soil in Pamlico County along the coast.

2. Goldsboro-Lynchburg-Norfolk soil is gently sloping with somewhat poor to well drained soil. This association has loamy subsoil and is typically found in uplands.
3. Stockade-Arapahoe-Wasda is a very poorly drained soil that is mostly level. This soil consists of loamy subsoil and is found in marine and stream settings.
4. Paxville-Rains soil is a nearly level association that includes very poorly to poorly drained soils. This loamy subsoil can be found on uplands.
5. Argent-Brookman-Wahee soil is nearly level, poorly drained soils that include clayey or loamy subsoil. This soil can be found in low marine soils and near streams.
6. Leaf-Craven-Lenoir soils can be gently sloping and can have poorly to moderately-well drainage characteristics. This soil is typically found in uplands and includes clayey subsoil.
7. Belhaven-Dare is a mostly level, but very poorly drained association. As a result of the poor drainage, water can pond as this is found near marine settings.
8. Croatan-Dare soils are nearly level and very poorly drained. This soil association is found on uplands, but standing water is a result of the poor drainage.
9. Lafitte-Hobucken soils are found in marshes, flooded by salt water because of the very poorly drained soil and are nearly level.
10. Leon-Tomahawk-Rutledge soils may have little to no slope. Drainage can range from moderately well to very poor. This sandy or loamy subsoil is typically found in uplands[40]

Water

Water is another natural resource that is essential to the agricultural industry. Though Pamlico County contains many water resources, it is still necessary for farmers, residents and businesses to employ good conservation methods. Agriculture competes with developing industries, development and urbanization for limited water in other parts of North Carolina. Fortunately, Pamlico County has not had to limit water usage in the past, but water has been limited in other parts of the state and presents challenges to agricultural production. Agriculture accounts for less than one percent of the total water usage in North Carolina[41]. The sustainability and growth potential of the county's agricultural industry rests on the ability to continue to use water for irrigation and livestock operations.

Forestry

Pamlico County is home to 106,900 acres of forestland. Forestland in the county is owned by three separate groups: North Carolina state government, the forest industry and private landowners[42]. Though forestland is often managed to harvest timber, woodland has potential for many alternative uses as well. Nature preserves, hunting and pine straw production are possible uses for forestland in addition to timber production. Trees are a natural resource and forestland must be conserved to protect forestry and forest resources.

Part of this protection is against invasive plants, pests and animals. Pests such as the marmorated stink bug and kudzu bug have caused problems for forest and farm landowners. These pests are so new that successful management plans have not be developed. Non-native animals such as feral hogs and coyotes also cause problems.

A wildlife resource officer from Pamlico County was interviewed and noted the opportunities for forestland management and the ability to lease the land for hunting. The officer also stressed the importance of utilizing a management plan rather than relying solely on the market for timber production. The N.C. Wildlife Commission owns 8,000 acres in Pamlico County and manages the land for wildlife first and revenue second according to the wildlife resource officer.

Commercial Fisheries

Pamlico County is fortunate to be located along the Pamlico Sound where commercial and recreational fishermen can reap the bounty of the sound. In 2011, commercial seafood landings in the county brought in 3,539,844 pound which was worth $6,477,985. The county had seven dealer cities in 2011 that brought in over 3.5 million pounds in seafood landings. This was worth $6,477,985[43].

Hunting and Recreational Opportunities

Other opportunities provide close connections with the land. Hunting and fishing are major components of outdoor activity in Pamlico County. In the 2011-1012 hunting season, 22 black bear were harvested on lands other than game lands in the county. For that same hunting season, 920 deer (antlered bucks, buttoned bucks and does) were harvested. Twenty-three were hunted on game lands, and 897 were hunted on other lands[44].

Duck impoundments are also found in Pamlico County and are popular for hunting. The N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission manages more than 1,400 acres of water fowl impoundments in Beaufort and Pamlico counties. These impoundments are located on the Goose Creek Game Lands. Hunting occurs in fall and winter, and more than 2,000 hunt opportunities are available to duck hunters on Goose Creek Game Land. Hunters have averaged nearly a bag limit in good years[45].

In 2012, there were 1,597 coastal recreational fishing licenses sold in Pamlico County, and the county was ranked 39th in the state for the number of licenses sold[46].

Pamlico County: The State of Agriculture

Agriculture provided 20 percent of Pamlico County's employment in 2008. According to a report completed by Mike Walden in 2008, agriculture and food, natural fiber and forestry industries added nearly $60 million to Pamlico County, which is 27 percent of the county's value-added income of $219,771,093[47]. Agriculture has great impacts on Pamlico County, and agricultural development will continue to enhance the county economy.

Though 40 farms were added to Pamlico County from 1997 to 2007, nearly 10 percent of the county's farmland has been lost within the same time span according to the USDA Census of Agriculture. The Census of Agriculture reported that there were 85 farms comprising 46,125 acres in Pamlico County in 2007. Agriculture made up less than 25 percent of the county's total land area of 213,400 acres. The average farm size in Pamlico County decreased from 750 acres in 1997 to 543 acres in 2007[48].

Agriculture is an important element of Pamlico County's economy and also impacts the state's economy and agricultural production. In 2010, Pamlico County was among the top producers of some commodities in North Carolina, including:

- 15th in corn production for grain
- 17th in wheat production
- 19th in soybean production
- 32nd for vegetables, fruits, nuts and berries
- 45th in cash receipts for crops
- 47th in flue-cured tobacco production
- 72nd in total cash receipts
- 87th in cash receipts for dairy, poultry and livestock
- 91st in sales of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and Christmas trees
- 98th in all cattle[49]
- 29th in timber production[50]
- 4th in value of seafood landings (2011)[51]

Crops

Forty-eight farms harvested crops from 39,113 acres in 2007. Receipts from crop sales (including nursery and greenhouse) were down 3 percent to $20 million in 2007 as compared to $20.7 million in 1997. Sales of grains, oilseeds, dry beans and dry peas totaled more than $15 million or 76 percent of the county's crop income in 2007. From 1997 to 2007, cotton production has

steadily decreased. Soybeans, corn and wheat fluctuated some in 2002, but have stayed largely the same as prices have increased for grain and soybeans[52] (Figure 2).

Production of major crops for Pamlico County in 2007 included:

- 20,984 acres of soybeans
- 13,047 acres of corn for grain
- 10,663 acres of wheat for grain
- 1,717 acres of cotton[53]

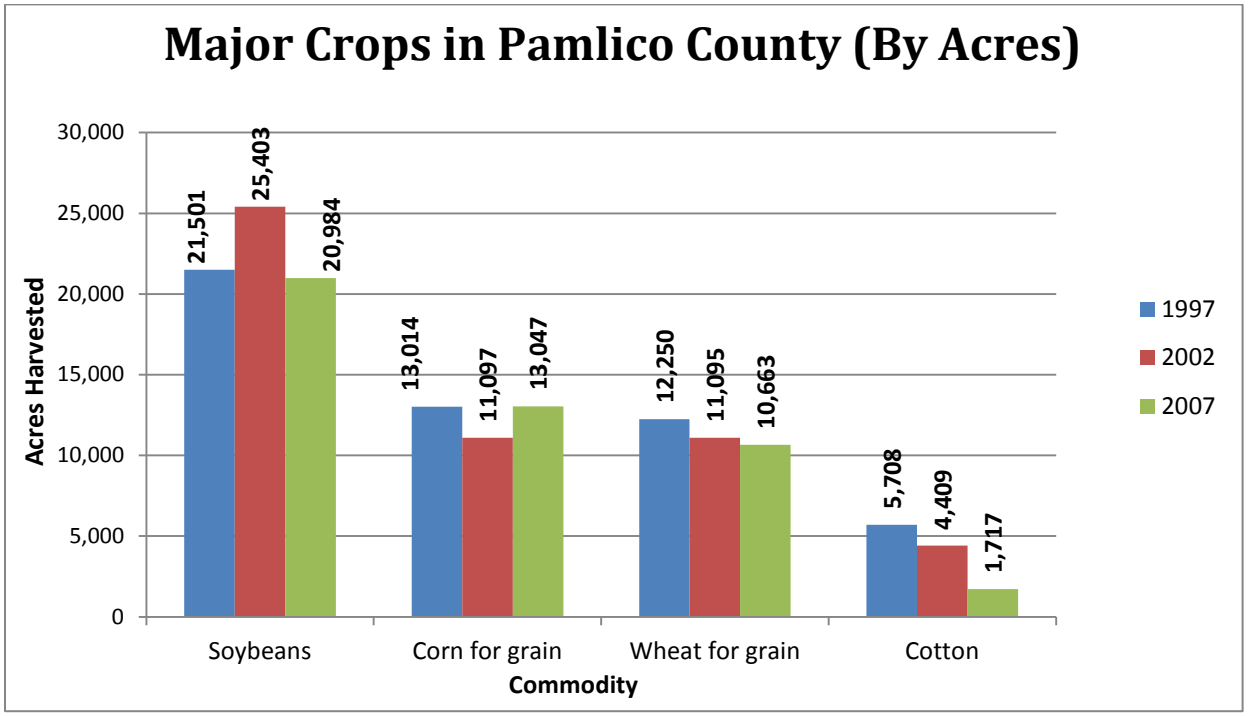

Figure 2: Major Crops in Pamlico County. Source USDA Census of Agriculture 1997-2007

The Tobacco Transition Payment Program (also referred to as the tobacco buy-out) payments began in 2005 and will expire in 2014. The federal government provides payments to tobacco quota holders and growers through assessments to manufacturers of tobacco products and importers. This payment is intended to give tobacco farmers opportunity to transition from the former quota system, which was derived during the Great Depression, to the free market[54]. In Pamlico County, there were 416 acres of tobacco on nine farms in 2002 prior to the buy-out. In 2007, 338 acres of tobacco were still grown on four farms[55] (Figure 3).

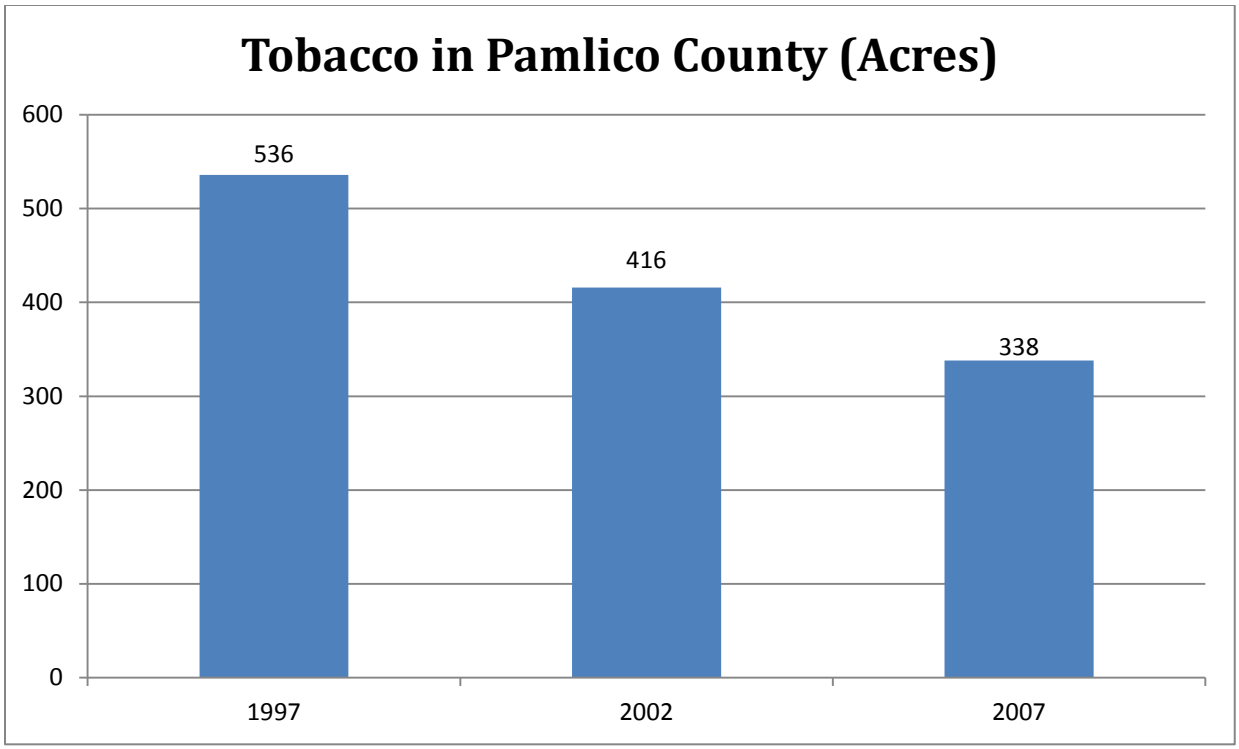

Figure 3: Tobacco Production. Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997-2007

Forestry

Trees and forests are another large part of agriculture in Pamlico County. Though timber can take many years to mature, tracts can be thinned and harvested in the interim to bring additional income to landowners. Nearly half of the county's total acreage is occupied by forestland. Pamlico County contains a total of 218,000 acres of land. Of those acres, 106,900 acres are in forest.

- 5,000 acres are state-owned.
- 14,900 acres are owned by the forest industry.
- 87,000 acres are privately-owned[56].

According to *Agriculture and Agribusiness in Pamlico County*, a 2008 report by Mike Walden, forestry industries in Pamlico County add nearly $18 million to Pamlico County's value-added income. Forestry industries in Pamlico County included in the report were farming, manufacturing and wholesale and/or retail sales[57]. Eighty-one percent of the forestland in Pamlico County is privately owned.

N.C. Cooperative Extension reported in the *2011 Income of North Carolina Timber Harvested and Delivered to Mills* that nearly half of Pamlico County's land area is occupied by forestland. In 2011, timber owners received $4,236,013 for timber sold, and the buyers who sold the timber to mills received $8,430,733. Pamlico County ranked 29th in timber production in North Carolina that same year[58].

Livestock and Poultry

Livestock and poultry receipts increased in Pamlico County by 45 percent from 1997 to 2007 for a total of $3,145,000. Major livestock production in Pamlico County included hogs and pigs, ducks and sheep, goats and their products in 2007[59].

Aquaculture

In 2007, Pamlico County ranked 12th in the state in aquaculture production according to the USDA Census of Agriculture[60]. Surrounding counties have shown increased aquaculture production, and growth potential has been noted by aquaculture specialists for the Pamlico County area. Pamlico County is currently home to four aquaculture operations including:

- Two hybrid striped bass operations
- One largemouth bass and koi operation
- One eel operation.

Agriculture

Just over half of the farmers in Pamlico County listed farming as their primary occupation in 2007. The number of part-time farmers has grown while the number of full-time farmers has remained steady (Figure 4). Part-time farmers typically do not put as much importance on profitability in their operation because they have additional income from their primary occupation[61].

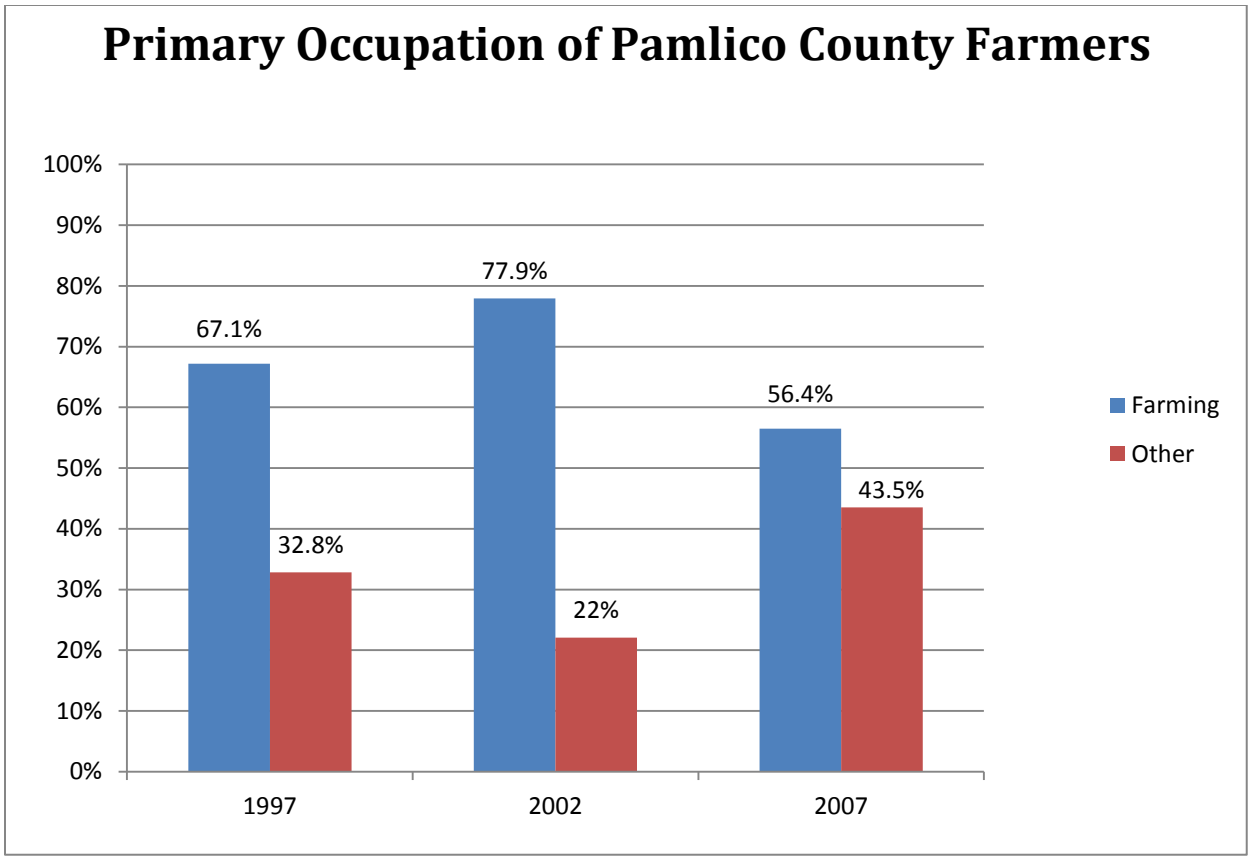

Figure 4: Primary Occupation of Pamlico County Farmers. Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997-2007

The Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan was developed by a committee appointed by Board of Commissioners. The committee was tasked with creating a plan to manage the growth and development of Pamlico County and its municipalities. The most recent Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan was written in November 2004. The plan reported that the economy of Pamlico County was impacted by the industries of farming, forestry and fishing. The land use plan worked to balance development with the traditional industries of the county, such as agriculture and forestry. The CAMA land use plan cited agriculture as an asset to Pamlico County and noted that it added scenic beauty to the area. Incorporating agriculture into the county's growth and development was listed as a challenge to be met in the CAMA plan[62].

Agricultural development in Pamlico County can provide job opportunities on the farm as well as a need for additional agribusinesses to provide services. The county continues to develop infrastructure to support the residents of the county through better access to water and sewer as well as highway improvements to support additional residents and businesses. Improving infrastructure can also enhance the potential to develop new markets for agricultural products and attract additional agribusinesses to the area. Agriculture is already a large part of the Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan and steps have been taken to protect and promote agriculture such as discouraging land uses that are incompatible with farming[63].

Pamlico County has developed programs to help agriculture. In August 2009, Pamlico County commissioners adopted the Voluntary Agricultural District and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance. The ordinance is designed to protect and encourage agricultural production. Currently, one producer has started the enrollment process.

Figure 5 illustrates the current land uses in Pamlico County according to the 2004 Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan. Land uses listed include farm or open land, commercial, public or institutional, residential, wooded area and estuarine waters. Figures 6 and 7 from the CAMA Land Use Plan show that much of the area marked as farm or open land and wooded areas on the existing land use map is to become land for rural services in the future. Steps need to be taken to keep farming and forestry as a land use of growth and encourage land uses that either promote agricultural development or are compatible with agricultural production operations.

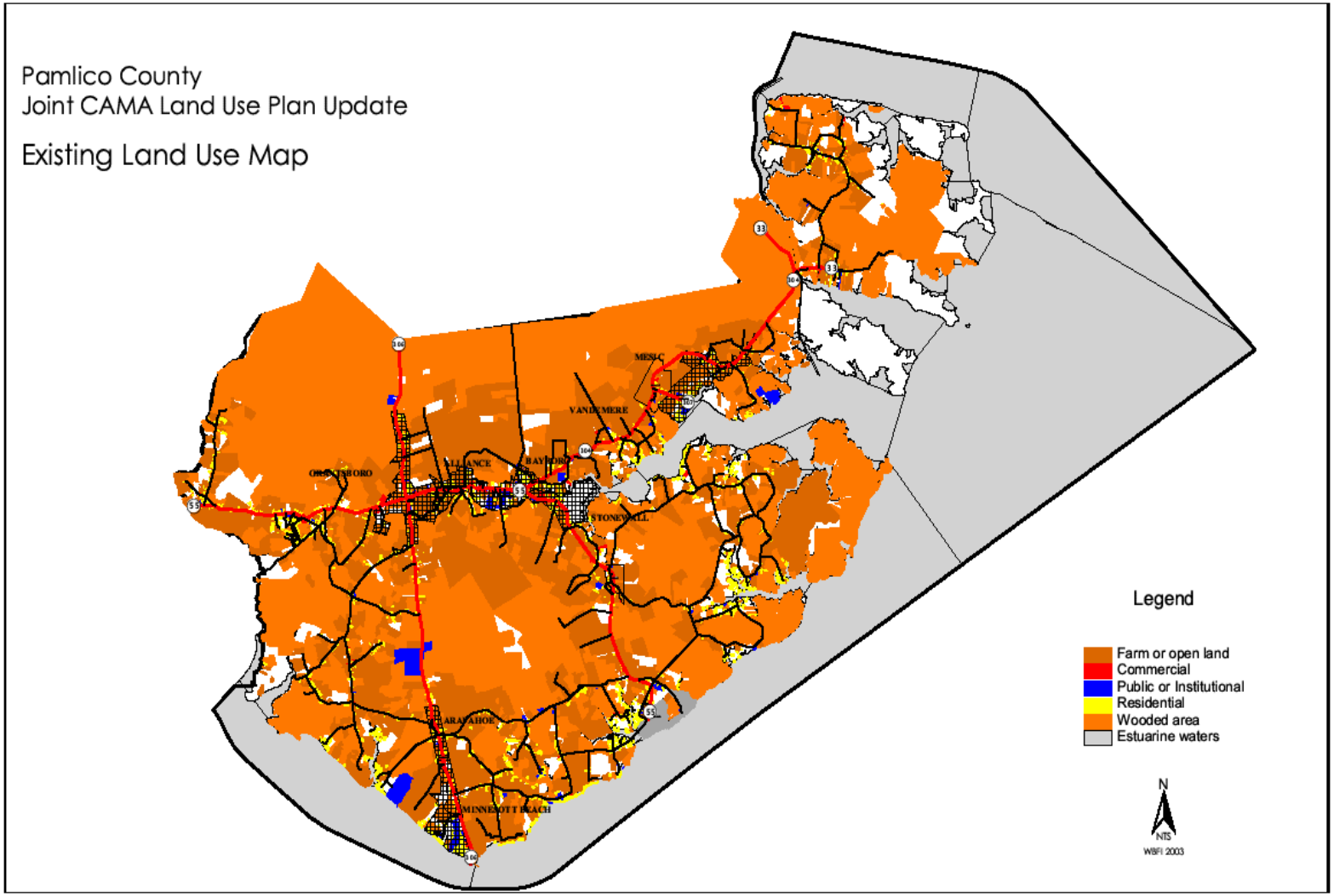

Figure 5: Pamlico County Joint CAMA Existing Land Use Map

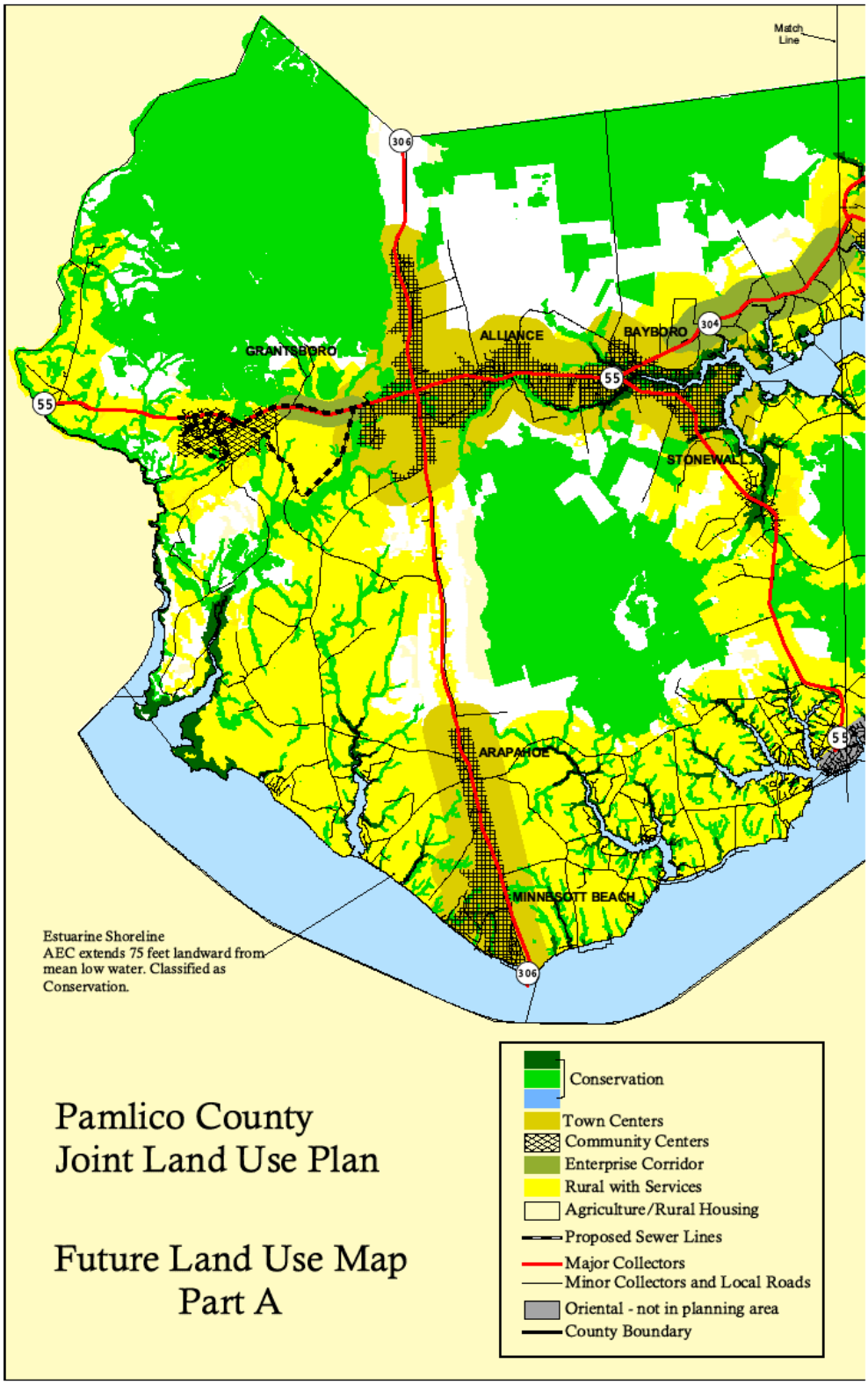

Figure 6: Pamlico County Joint CAMA Future Land Use Map A

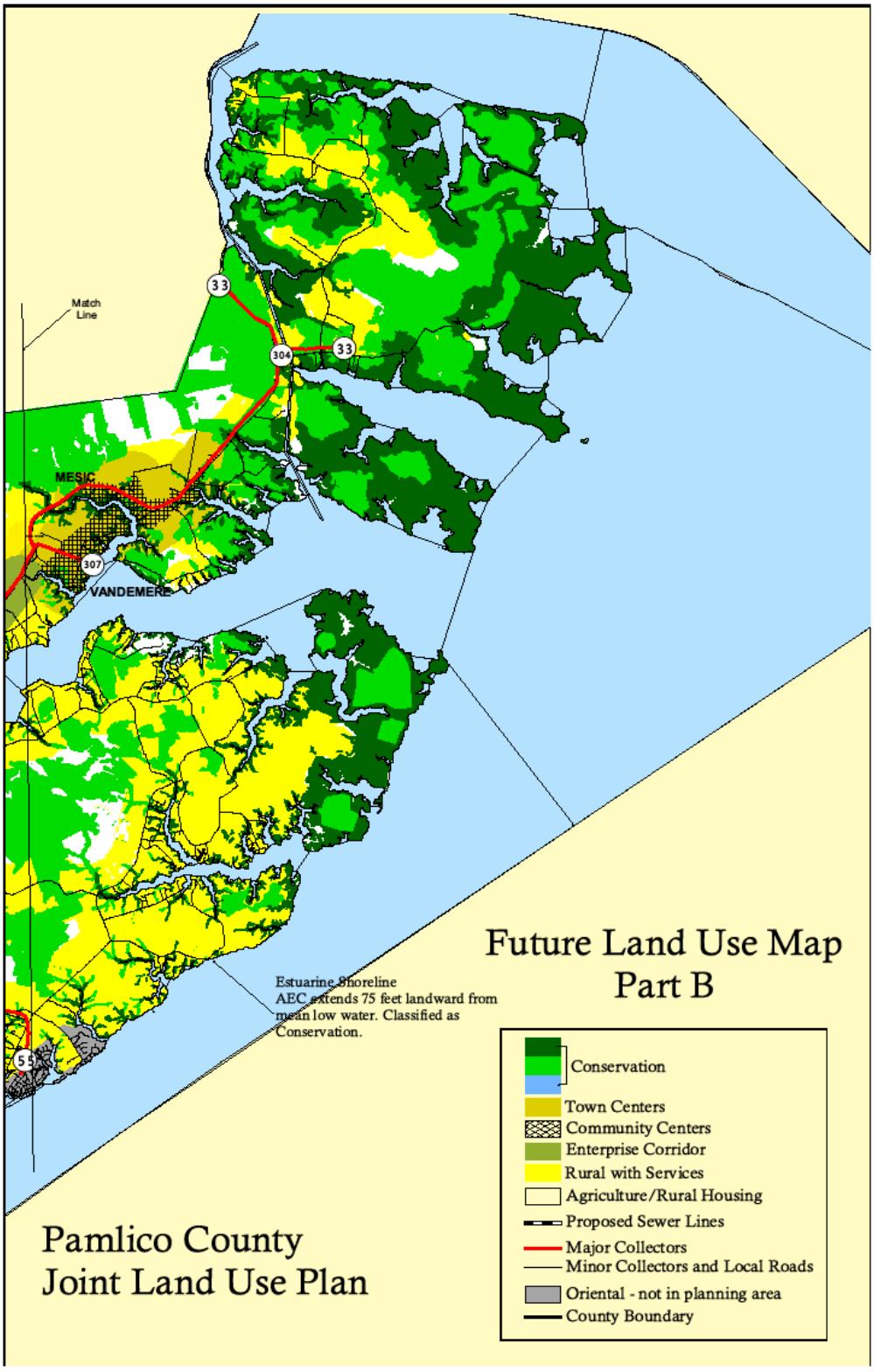

Figure 7: Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Map B

Farm and Forest Protection Programs

(Compiled by John Bonham, 2009)

Present-Use Value Tax Program

Present-Use Value, or PUV, is a program established by N.C.G.S. §§ 105-277.2 to .7 and administered by the county assessor through which qualifying property can be assessed, for property tax purposes, based on its use as agricultural, horticultural or forest land. The present-use value is the value of the land based solely on its ability to produce income. Qualifying property is assessed at its present-use value rather than its market value. The tax office also maintains a market value for the land, and the difference between the market value and the present-use value is maintained in the tax records as deferred taxes. When land becomes disqualified from the program, the deferred taxes for the current and three previous years, with interest, will usually become payable and due.

Basic Requirements

Minimum acreage of production land:

- 10 acres for agricultural use
- Five acres for horticulture use
- 20 acres for forest use

Production must follow a sound management plan.

Agricultural and horticultural land must have at least one qualifying tract that has produced an average gross income of at least $1,000 for the three years preceding the application year.

Forest land must be following a forest management plan.

Benefits

Protection from increasing land values that are based on development potential and the potential increase in property taxes

More information can be found at http://www.dor.state.nc.us/publications/property.html.

In the spring of 2011, the North Carolina Legislature passed House Bill 406 which was signed into law by Governor Purdue that amended the VAD and EVAD general statute. The bill removes the requirement that parcels must participate in the county's Present Use Value (PUV) taxation program to enroll in the VAD/EVAD program. It also removes the requirement that all VAD parcels must be listed with the county's Register of Deeds. EVAD parcels will continue to be listed with the Register of Deeds. With additional corrections/changes anticipated in HB 406 in the next legislative session (2012 -2013), counties may want to postpone amendment of existing ordinances until these changes are made.

Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD)

Established by N.C.G.S. §§ 106-737 to 743 and administered at the county level, Voluntary Agricultural Districts are designated areas where commercial agriculture will be encouraged and protected. The purposes of the districts are to increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and to increase protection from nuisance suits and other negative impacts on properly managed farms. Pamlico County has developed a Voluntary Agricultural District and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance. The ordinance was adopted on August 17, 2009 by the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners. Currently, no acres are enrolled in the VAD program. One farmer is in the process of enrollment. Additional education is needed to encourage landowners to take part in this program.

Requirements

Land must be enrolled in the Present-Use Value program or otherwise be determined to meet the qualifications of the program.

The landowner must enter into a revocable agreement to limit development for a 10-year period.

Benefits

- Notification to buyers of nearby property that they're moving into an agricultural area
- Abeyance of water and sewer assessments
- Public hearings on the condemnation of farmland
- Stronger protection from nuisance suits
- Representation by an appointed board regarding concerns on threats to the agricultural sector

Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts

Established by N.C.G.S §§ 106-743.1 to .5, an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District is a VAD formed of one or more farms that are subject to an IRREVOCABLE 10-year agreement to limit development. In return for the condition of irrevocability, the landowner receives the added benefits of being able to receive 25 percent of gross revenue from the sale of non-farm products and still qualify as a bona fide farm, and being eligible to receive up to 90 percent cost-share

assistance from the Agricultural Cost-Share Program. Pamlico County commissioners adopted the Voluntary Agricultural District and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance on August 17, 2009. There is currently no acreage enrolled in the EVAD program. Landowners need to be made aware of the benefits of taking part in the EVAD program and the risks associated with not taking advantage of the program.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a written agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or public agency under which the landowner agrees to keep the land available for agriculture and to restrict subdivision, non-farm development and other uses that are incompatible with commercial agriculture.

Basic Requirements

Permanently foregoing the right to subdivide or develop the land being conserved. There will be other limitations on activities to preserve the land's productivity, environmental values and rural character. Cash payments in the range of $20,000 to $40,000 are needed to cover the costs of the transaction. These costs are for legal services, a survey, an appraisal, long-term stewardship services provided by the conservation partner and other miscellaneous activities. In some cases, grant funds will cover these costs.

Other Information

A portion of the property can be left out of the easement, thereby providing an area for future homes and other non-farm activities.

Agricultural activities, including forestry, are allowed under the agreement.

Despite the term "easement," access to the public is not provided by the agreement.

The value of a conservation easement is determined by a licensed land appraiser and is typically between 25 percent and 75 percent of the land's market value.

A periodic inspection of the property is required to ensure that development does not occur. This provision will be included in the agreement.

The agreement is recorded on the county's land records and runs with the title. All future landowners must comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Financial Benefits

If the conservation easement is donated, then the landowner will likely qualify for a federal income tax deduction and a state income tax credit. The value of these benefits depends on the appraised value of the easement and the income tax situation of the landowner.

A conservation easement also can be sold by the landowner through a transaction commonly referred to as a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) or Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE). Funds to purchase a conservation easement can be raised from

private and government sources. North Carolina and the federal government have programs to purchase agricultural conservation easements. Funding through these programs is very competitive and will generally amount to a percentage of the easement's value. The tax benefits described above can be claimed for any of the easement's value above the purchase price.

Term Conservation Easements

Also called Agricultural Agreements, these agreements are similar to conservation easements but apply for a finite period of time agreed to by the landowner and conservation partner.

Transfer of Development Rights

A program set up by local units of government that utilizes conservation easements to preserve farmland by providing incentives to increase development density in a designated area. The program identifies the "sending area" where conservation is being encouraged and the "receiving area" where development is preferred. A landowner in the receiving area can purchase a conservation easement on a property in the sending area and receive additional density allowances. In North Carolina, counties must receive authorization from the General Assembly to develop and implement a TDR program.

Farm Transition Planning

Making careful plans for the transfer of ownership of farm property and assets from the current owner to the next can be enough to preserve a farm for decades. Many options are available when planning an estate or land transfer. Farm owners can increase the likelihood of a successful transition that maintains the viability of the farm by obtaining professional assistance early in the process.

Right-to-Farm Law

North Carolina has a state right-to-farm law (N.C.G.S. §§ 106-700 to 701(2006)) that protects farm and forestry operations from being declared a nuisance as long as they have been in operation for at least one year and are operated properly and without negligence.

N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

N.C.G.S. § 106-744(c) established a trust fund to be administered by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The purpose of the trust fund is to provide monies to purchase agricultural conservation easements and to fund programs that promote the development and sustainability of farming, and the transition of existing farms to new farm families. Counties and nonprofit conservation organizations can apply for grants for these purposes.

Challenges, Opportunities and Trends: Survey and Interview Results

Surveys and interviews were completed by agribusiness owners, non-farm residents and agricultural producers and landowners in Pamlico County. Surveys were submitted online and in paper format. Interviews were also conducted with county officials and other residents, landowners, farmers and employers. The surveys and interviews provided a better understanding of the perceptions and impacts of agriculture in Pamlico County. The surveys and interviews were completely confidential and were done as part of the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan. A need for education is a common theme that emerged from the surveys and interviews from all target audiences.

Agribusiness Survey and Interview Analysis

Agribusinesses provide essential resources and services vital to the success and profitability of agriculture production operations. Agribusinesses, just as any other business, provide jobs and employment, which stimulate the local economy. Eighty percent of agribusinesses surveyed in Pamlico County have been in operation for longer than 20 years (Figure 8). Agribusiness owners have good relationships with producers and understand agriculture. Agribusinesses are directly impacted by the successes and challenges agriculture faces in Pamlico County. Agribusiness owners interviewed understood the impact that competition for land has had on agricultural production and also mentioned the small number of young farmers as a challenge. Agribusinesses also noted a need for training and qualified staff in the interviews.

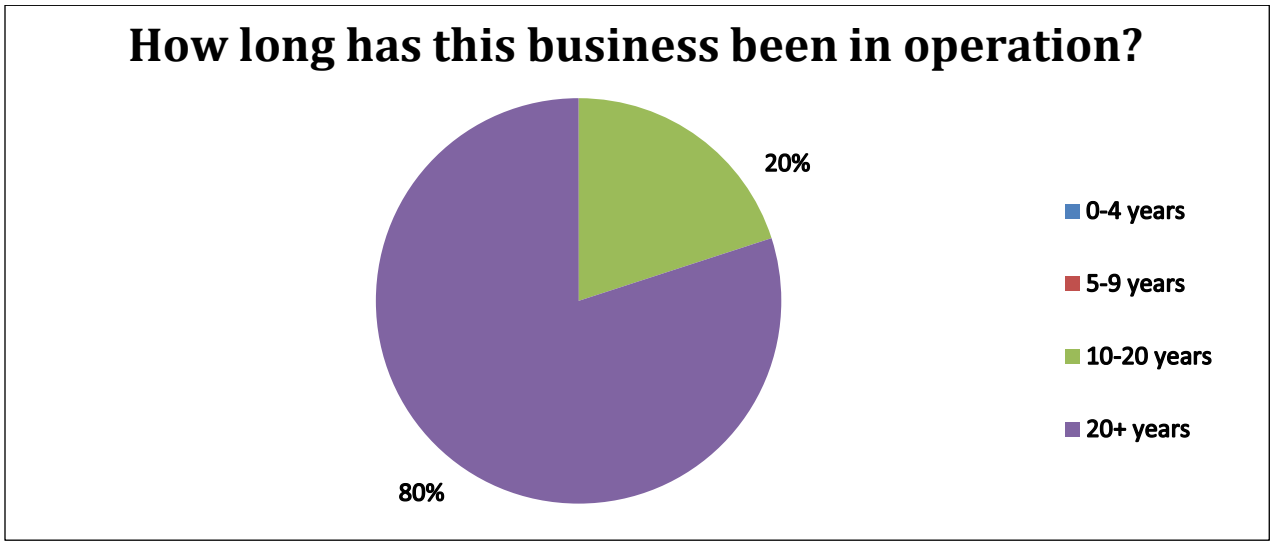

Figure 8: Pamlico County Agribusiness Survey

Agribusiness operations surveyed have a diverse customer base and therefore provide services to commercial and residential needs in addition to agriculture throughout the county. In fact, only 40 percent of those agribusinesses surveyed indicated that greater than 50 percent of their business is derived from agricultural production (Figure 9). Though these agribusinesses offer agricultural services, many also provide services and products that meet the needs of non-farm residents and industries. As non-farm populations continue to grow, agribusinesses will continue to seek ways to service non-farm residents, which will provide additional support for these agribusinesses.

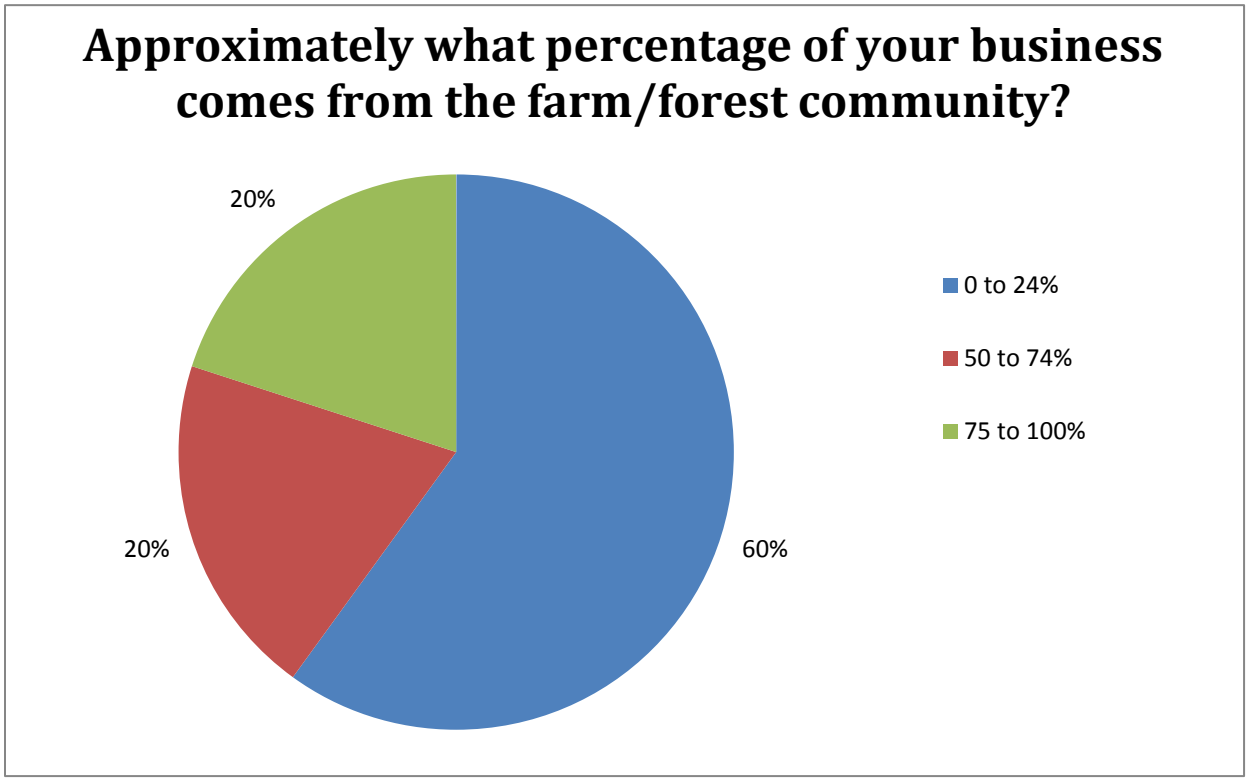

Figure 9: Pamlico County Agribusiness Survey

As stated earlier, agribusinesses and agriculture are closely tied. An agribusiness' ability to offer competitively priced items and services will make agriculture producers more profitable. Agribusinesses took advantage of various opportunities to diversify and grow in Pamlico County. Below are trends in marketing and income that surveyed agribusiness owners use to continue to offer more high-quality goods and services at competitive prices:

- Sixty percent of agribusinesses polled market their products and services with state or federal organizations, military, schools or hospitals.
- Eighty percent of agribusinesses have increased their operation within the past five years.

- Sixty percent have increased their service area to expand the market share of their agribusiness.
- Eighty percent have increased agricultural inventory throughout the past five years.

Surveyed agribusiness owners were also asked to respond to several questions regarding their perception of the agribusiness industry now and for the future. These percentages show that many agribusiness owners are prepared to meet the need of a growing agriculture sector in Pamlico County. Agricultural development and growth requires additional goods and services. The responses below show positive expectations of the future of agribusiness in the county:

- Forty percent expect to increase the size of their operation in the next five years.
- Forty percent also expect an increased need for new employees to satisfy their growth.
- Another forty percent expect added product lines for agricultural producers and non-farmers in their operation within the next five years.

Agribusinesses' perceptions of trends and opportunities within Pamlico County agriculture include more large farms, fewer small farms and changes in the technology and methods implemented on farms. This is contrary to USDA Census of Agriculture data which showed average farm sizes have decreased from 1997 to 2007. However, these agribusinesses may be observing more current trends. Additional trends noted are in technology and production methods:

- Eighty percent of businesses polled plan to adapt their business and methodology to match trends within the industry, which will bring in more business and help to meet the needs of the industry.
- Only 20 percent of those surveyed foresee biofuels as a potential economic engine in the county.
- One hundred percent believe that transition and estate planning is an issue facing Pamlico County agribusinesses, and 60 percent reported that their businesses need assistance in transition planning.
- One hundred percent support promotion of career opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness. This can help provide ways for young adults to return to or remain in Pamlico County. Businesses understand that in order to continue, there must be a transition to the next generation.
- One hundred percent of agribusinesses support youth agricultural education within Pamlico County schools. Youth education is a great way to get the entire community involved and educated about agriculture.
- Eighty percent see a need to educate the communities in Pamlico County on the importance of agriculture and agribusiness.
- Sixty percent feel that there is a need to educate Pamlico County residents on the importance of buying "local" and supporting the local economy.

- Twenty percent have concerns with labor. Labor issues included lack of qualified staff and lack of capital to hire adequate staff.
- Eighty percent of agribusinesses polled express a need for more information regarding adequate financing to grow and maintain businesses as well as training on new and developing technologies.
- One hundred percent of agribusiness owners support government funding of agricultural development. As a result of agricultural growth and development, agribusinesses will prosper as well.

Several threats to Pamlico County agriculture and agribusinesses were noted by agribusiness owners, but by far the largest is the number of people who have moved into Pamlico County. New residents could have an impact on available agricultural land in the future and pose conflicts as the non-farm population and farming population interface increases.

However, the agribusinesses surveyed and interviewed largely believed that agriculture has a promising future in the county. It is necessary for agribusinesses to continue to support agriculture development as agriculture and agribusinesses are complimentary industries.

Non-Farm Resident Survey and Interview Analysis

Pamlico County is home to people from diverse backgrounds. Some have lived in Pamlico County their whole life, others have chosen to retire in the rural county, and some have selected the county for a second home. Of those who participated in the survey, most have lived near a farm or timber operation (80 percent), but very few have owned or operated an agricultural enterprise (11 percent). Ninety-six percent of those landowners who currently live near an agricultural or forestry operation report that the farmer or landowner is a good neighbor. Nearly 70 percent of Pamlico County citizens polled visited a farm in the past 12 months. Residents who were surveyed appreciated the scenic beauty that agriculture provides and perceive the potential for future growth in agriculture in the county (Figure 10). It is beneficial to agriculture in Pamlico County to have the support and appreciation of the non-farm community.

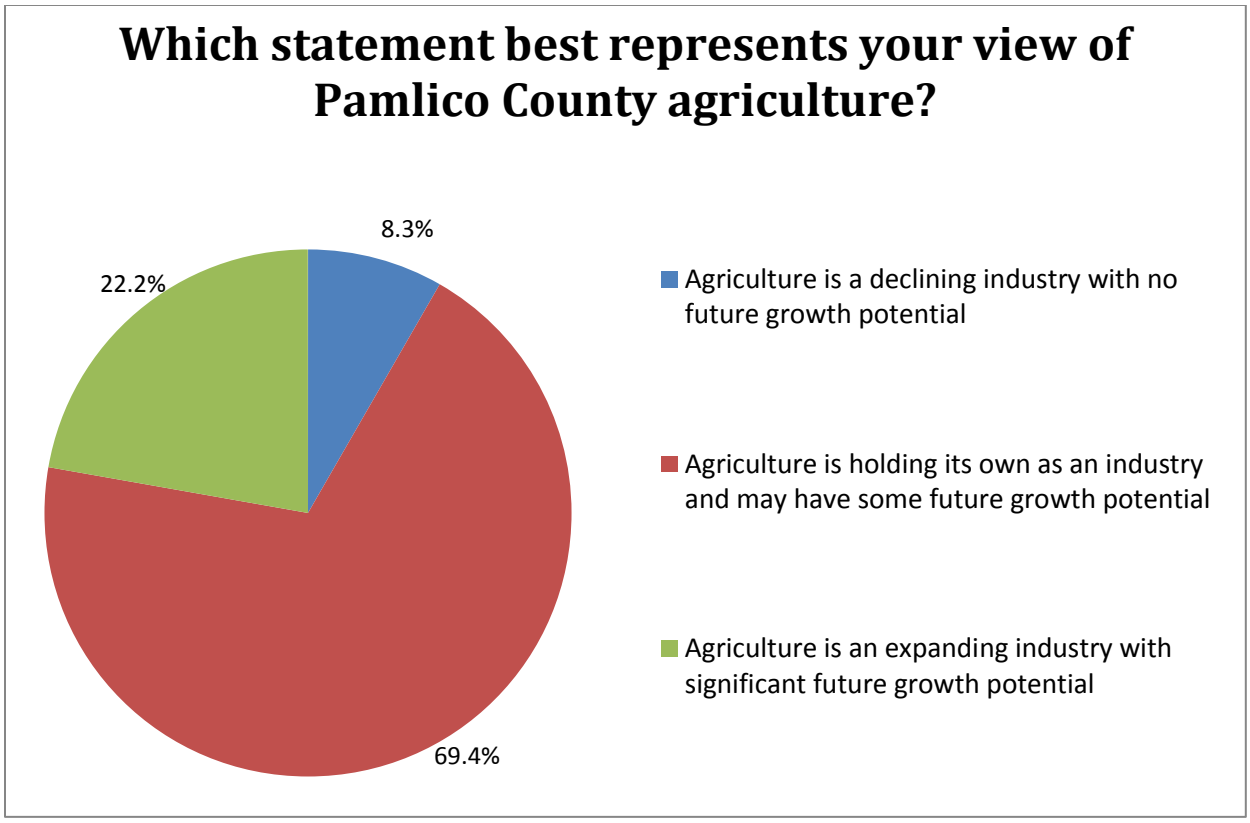

Figure 10: Pamlico County Non-Farm Resident Survey

The survey results revealed that most residents understood the economic impact of agriculture to the economy of Pamlico County. When asked, most residents (45 percent) estimated Pamlico County agriculture to be a $10 million to $99 million industry in the county. According to the Summary of Commodities by County published by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, agriculture added more than $26 million to Pamlico County's economy in 2010[64] .

There are countless options to show support for the county's agricultural industry. In Figure 11, nearly 95 percent of citizens surveyed in Pamlico County bought local produce at farmer's markets and stands around the county, and more than 80 percent purchased plants locally. More than half (53.8 percent) of those supporting local agriculture had a relationship with producers. Others rely on NCDA&CS programs to verify the origin of their products. Buying produce and agricultural products locally stimulates the local economy and builds relationships with farmers. Products are also fresher and oftentimes less expensive, which are benefits from less transportation.

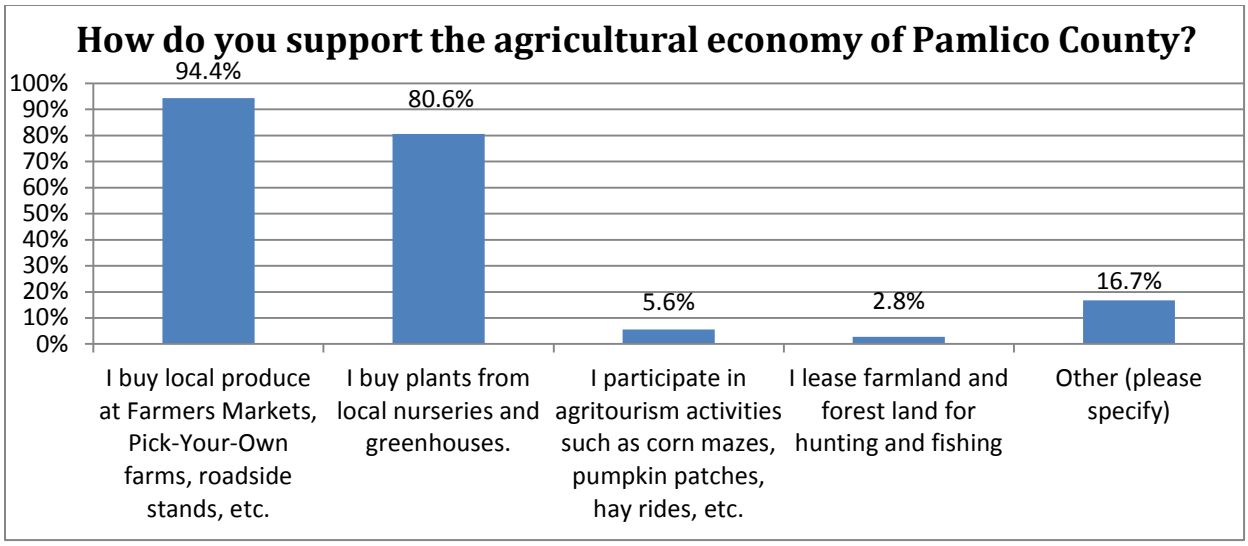

Figure 11: Pamlico County Non-Farm Resident Survey

Agricultural production requires much work, and neighbors living near farms are often bothered by some of the necessary aspects of the farming enterprise that may be considered as nuisances. Non-farm residents surveyed were asked to elaborate on these issues, and their responses are in Figure 12. Eighty-three percent of non-farm residents have no issues with their farming neighbors. The issues that are cited range from smoke and dust to trespass and drainage issues. When asked how the issues were resolved, respondents report that nothing was done to resolve the issue or that the issues were resolved after bringing it to the attention of the farmer.

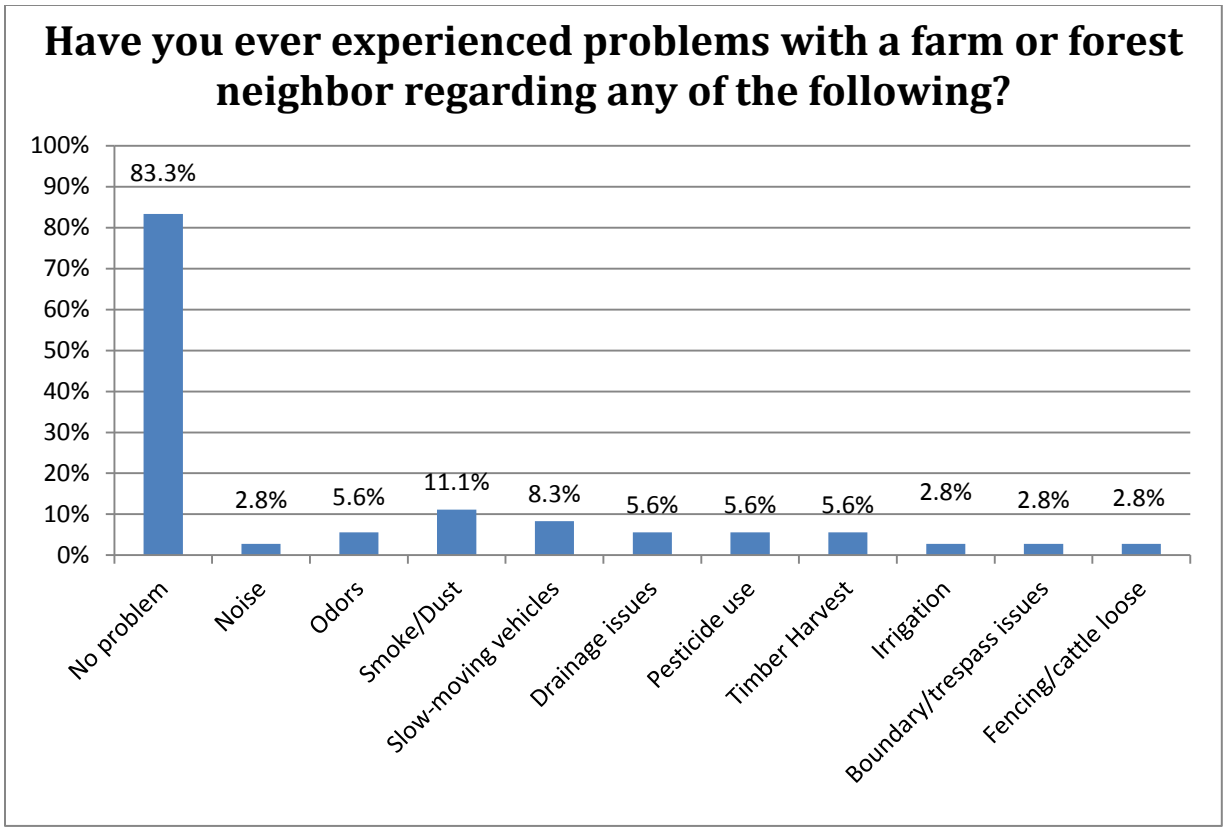

Figure 12: Pamlico Non-Farm Survey

Residents were asked to respond to a series of questions regarding the impact of farming on the environment and their quality of life. Respondents reported that agriculture is beneficial to the quality of life in Pamlico County, and the county is viewed as an agricultural area. More than 97 percent of non-farm residents in Pamlico County completing the survey also support farm and forest preservation efforts in the county. More than 70 percent support the use of county government funds for agricultural development efforts.

Non-farm residents surveyed also provided their insights on other challenges and opportunities that face agriculture in Pamlico County (Table 1). Public perception greatly impacts the support of agriculture. Fortunately, non-farm landowners have exhibited an understanding and support for agriculture and appreciated both the challenges and opportunities that exist for agriculture in Pamlico County.

Challenges	Opportunities
Rising Land Prices	Support Local, Family Farms in Pamlico County
Land Use Development Competition	Recreation and Agritourism
Aging Farmer Population	Preservation of Resources for Future Generations
Tobacco Transition	Available Land to be Farmed
Not Enough Emphasis on Career Opportunities In Agriculture	Pairing Farmers With Young People Interested in Farmers to Create Transition Potential
Farmland Used for Non-Agricultural Uses	Alternative Energy Production/Processing
Unnecessary Regulations	Agricultural Product Markets Outside of North Carolina
	Local Employment and Economic Stimulus
	Adequate Support and Resources for Agricultural Growth

Figure 13: Pamlico County Non-Farm Resident Survey

Education of non-farmers about agriculture has the potential to develop and strengthen relationships between farmers and consumers. These relationships can foster support and understanding between the two communities.

Almost 92 percent of non-farm residents surveyed would like to see Pamlico County take steps to preserve farms and forests. As shown through survey responses, Pamlico County residents support agriculture and farming in the county and will support opportunities to continue to do so.

Agricultural Producer Survey and Interview Analysis

Agriculture is the largest industry in North Carolina and is very important to the economy of Pamlico County. Producers have taken advantage of increased technology and other resources and have improved efficiency in the field. Farmers from across Pamlico County who participated in surveys and interviews represent a variety of farm production systems and farm sizes to provide a snapshot of agriculture in the county.

Farmers surveyed manage from 19 to 4,500 acres in Pamlico County, and nearly 70 percent of them rent land for production. While respondents' farm sizes are diverse, the fact that 70

percent of agricultural land is rented makes farm transition plans imperative for Pamlico County agriculture. As new generations obtain control of land, farming operations could be at risk. Though there are opportunities and programs to encourage farm families to remain in production, land is often lost to residential developments or other non-agricultural uses. If agricultural land continues to be removed from production agriculture, North Carolina's number-one industry will be in jeopardy. Losing agricultural land will cause the United States to rely on other countries for agricultural products as we currently do for petroleum.

As shown in Figure 14, more than half of the surveys collected were completed by farmers who are also involved in timber production. Trees are often used by farmers as windbreaks to help prevent soil erosion. Forest production also provides an additional income source for landowners through timber sales, by-product sales such as pine straw and recreational uses like hunting and fishing.

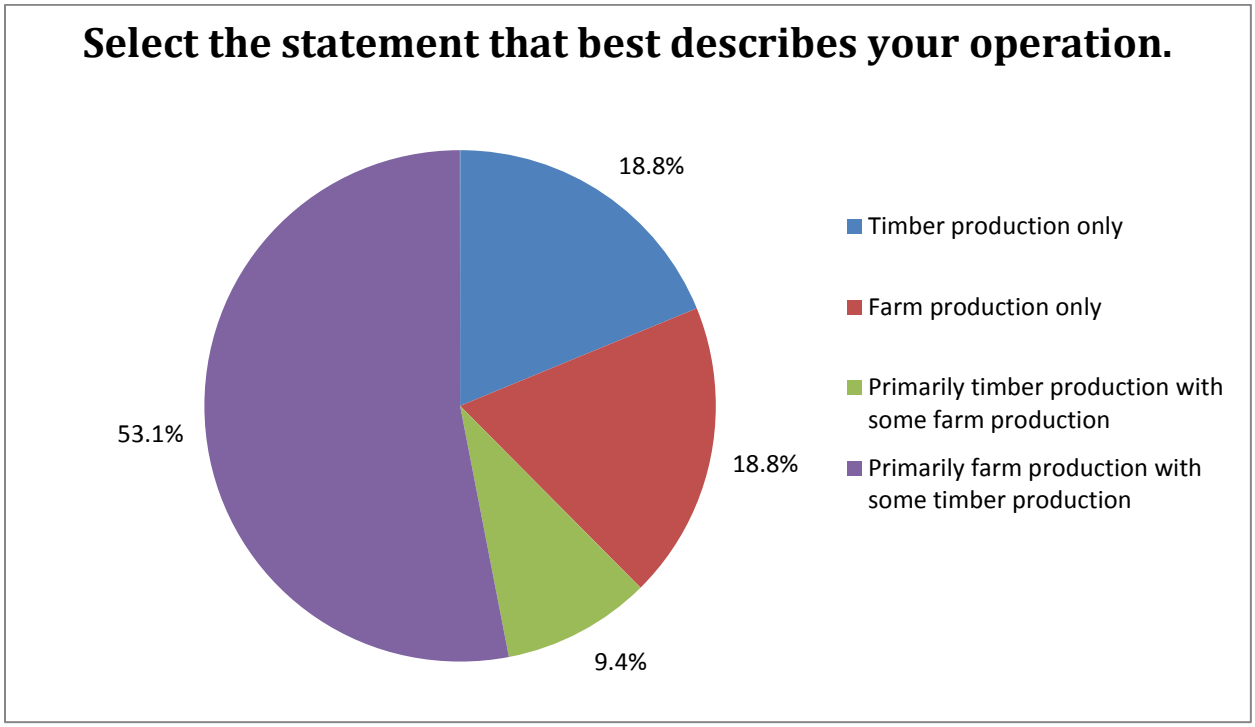

Figure 14: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

Three-quarters of farmers interviewed have operated their farm for more than 20 years (Figure 15). After retiring, more than 80 percent of the producers surveyed said that they plan to retain ownership of the farming or forest operation within their family. This will present opportunities for younger generations interested in operating the farm or at least perpetuating the land use in agriculture.

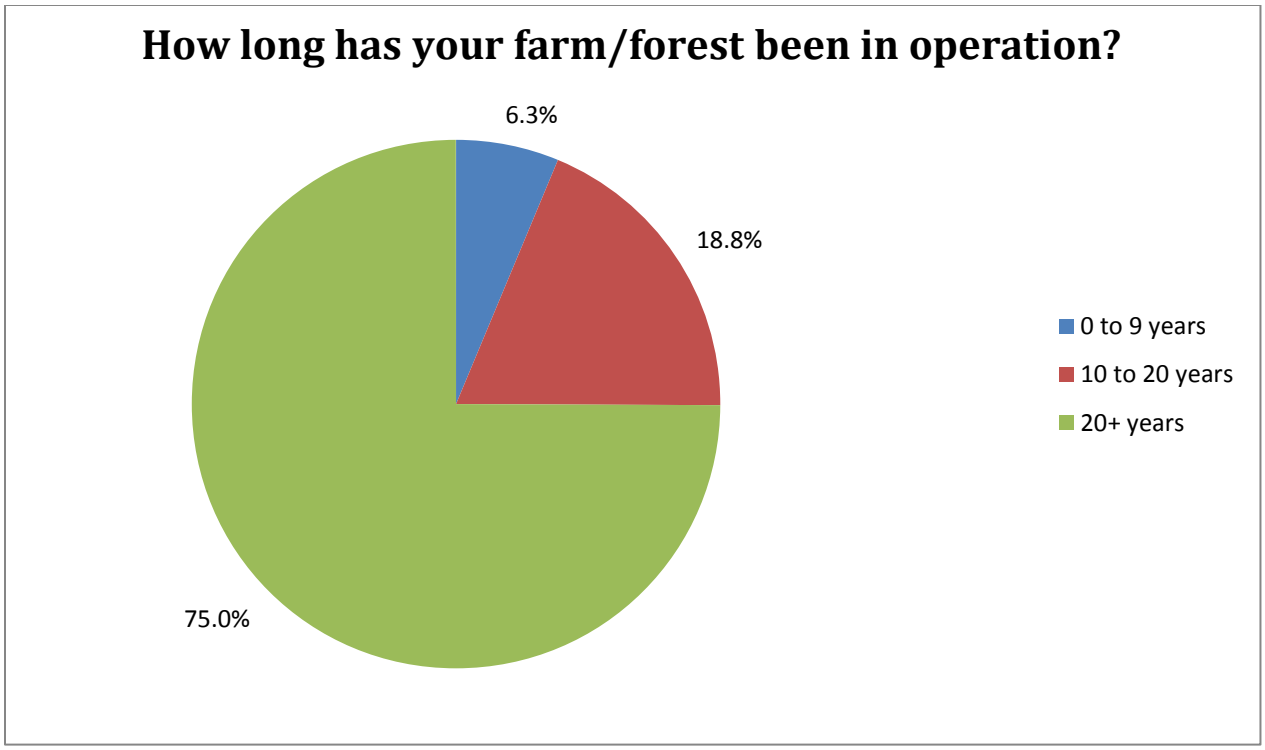

Figure 15: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

Farm transition plans can help landowners assure that their land assets are secure for the future and that the family is prepared for estate and other tax liabilities as these continue to change into the future. However, less than 40 percent of farmers surveyed had a farm transition plan. Nearly 80 percent have taken time to share their thoughts of farm transition with their family, but without written documentation this is a threat to Pamlico County agriculture. Without a transition plan in place, the land may be sold to pay estate taxes. A farm transition plan will help the operators better prepare and plan for the farm's transition and protect the farm from being lost for non-agricultural uses. These plans can provide a strategy to assure the financial security of the current generation of ownership while charting the path for subsequent generations.

The average age of a Pamlico County farmer was 56 years in 2007 according to the USDA Census of Agriculture. This reiterates the need for farm transition planning. Many producers interviewed reported that they did not have family members involved in their agricultural operation. Farm transition plans are an important way to protect agricultural land, especially in eastern North Carolina. Less than half of the producers who were surveyed state that farming is their primary occupation. Nearly 60 percent of those surveyed rely on off-farm income for most of their household revenue (Figure 16).

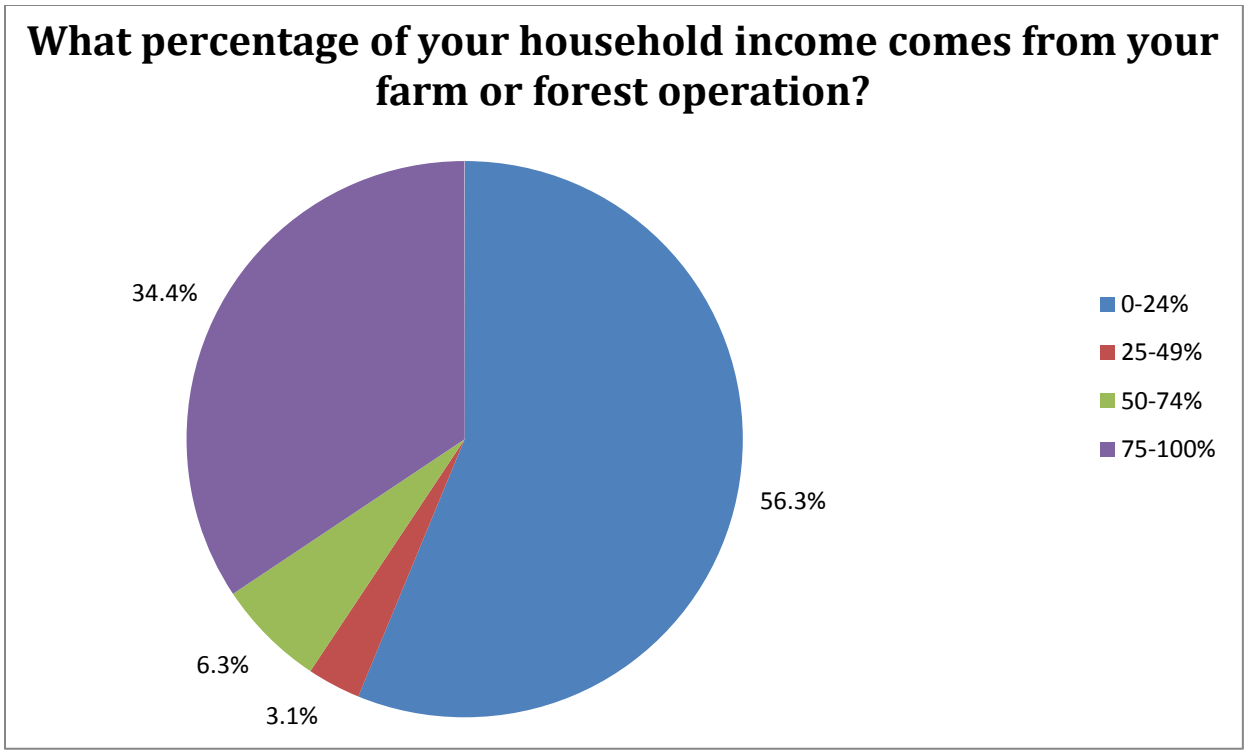

Figure 16: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

Less than one-third of Pamlico County farmers participating in the survey report an expansion of their farm or forest operation in the past five years. The most common reasons for not expanding were producer satisfaction with the current size of their operation, lack of available land to purchase or rent and age of the owner or operator (Figure 17). Furthermore, only 45 percent of producers who were surveyed said that they currently have enough property to expand and/or diversify their farm or forest operation. Clearly, land and other resources are large impediments to growth of agricultural enterprises in Pamlico County. There is a need for affordable land to be sold or rented for farming in the county in order for agriculture to grow.

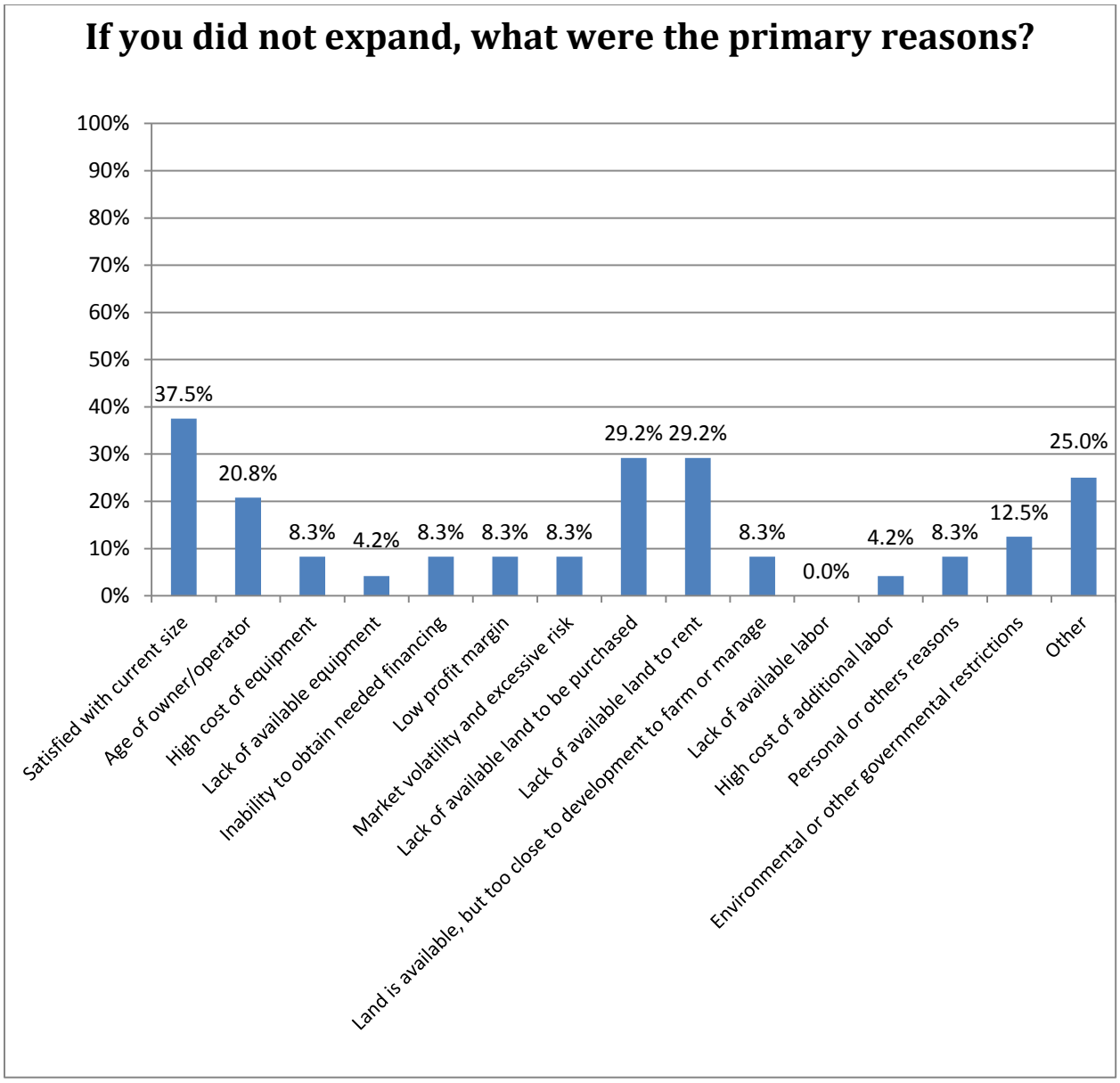

Figure 17: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

More than half (56 percent) of the producers surveyed planned to continue managing their operations for more than 20 years (Figure 18). The average age of producers completing the survey was 63.7 years of age. More than 90 percent of farmers surveyed planned to transfer their land to family for farming after retiring to remain in agriculture. It is necessary to utilize transition planning to complete necessary arrangements for when the farm is passed on to the next generation.

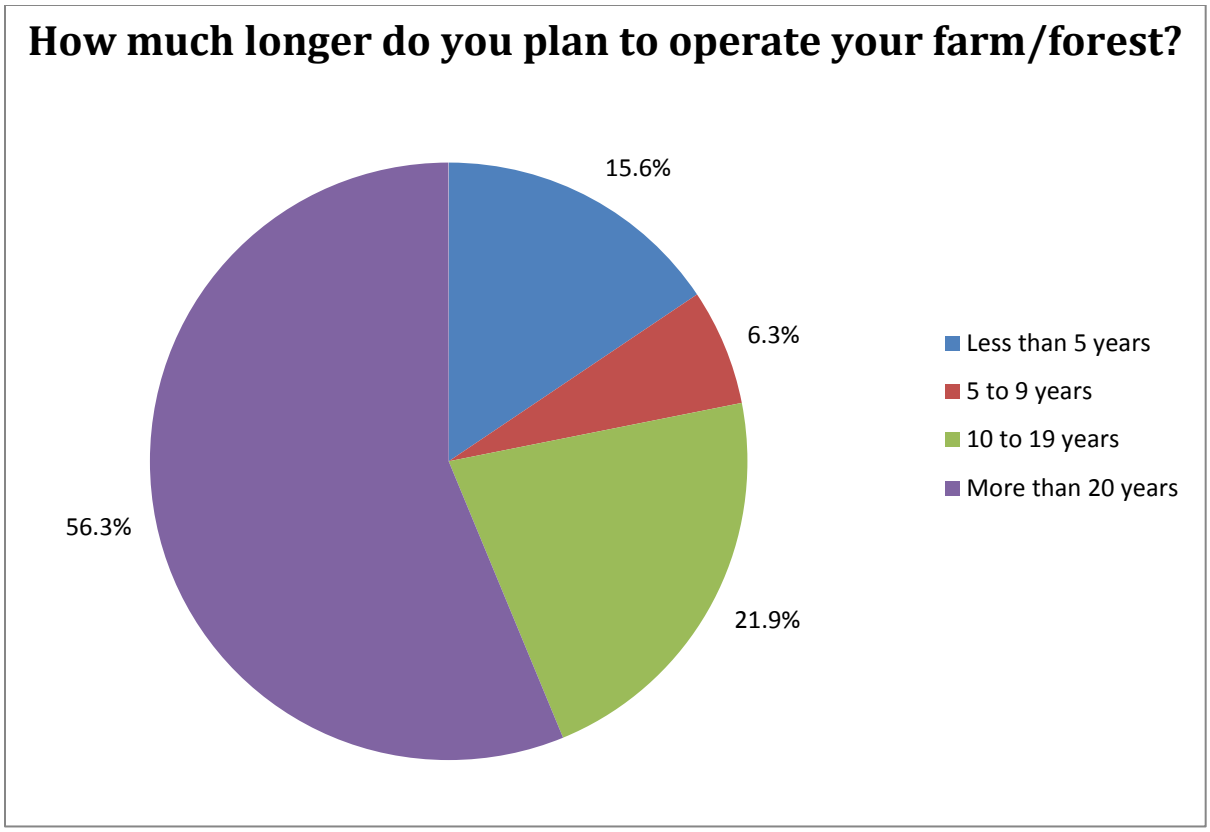

Figure 18: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

In order to be successful, farmers must be able to think proactively to meet challenges and overcome obstacles. Agricultural producers and forestland managers were asked to choose issues that they anticipate influencing their operation over the next five years. Among the highest ranked were production input costs, commodity prices, competition for available land and land rental rates (Figure 19). These issues have the potential to challenge producers and their abilities to continue or increase production. Taking protective measures to reduce land competition, development pressure and improve the local demand for products will ease the pressure producers currently face and promote agricultural development. Participating in the Voluntary Agricultural District program, enrolling in the present-use value tax program and supporting agricultural development efforts such as The Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan are key components to protecting farm and forestland.

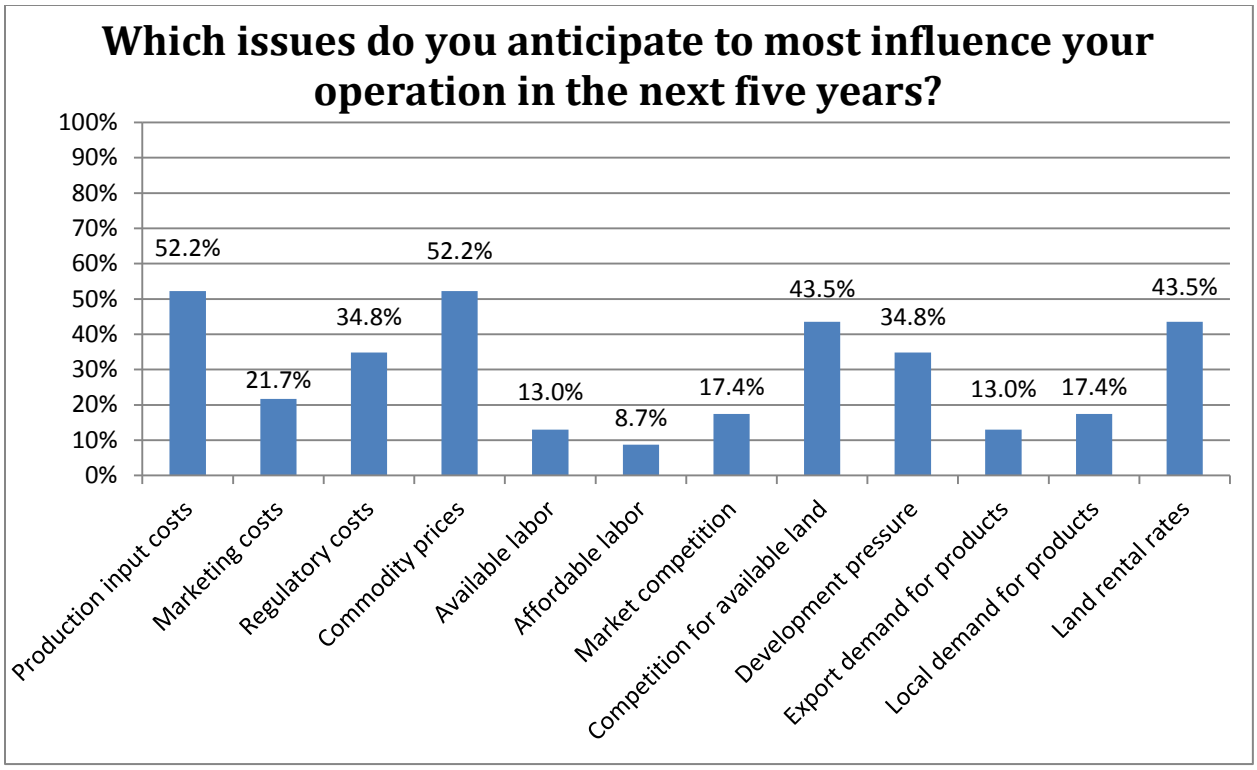

Figure 19: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

Present-use value tax programs allow farmers to have their land assessed at the value of its current use as opposed to the market value of the land. This helps to ease the tax burden on agricultural land. Nearly 55 percent of the surveyed producers' operations are enrolled in Pamlico County's deferred present use value (PUV) tax program. However, 29 percent are not aware of the program. Educational workshops for landowners to provide more information on programs such as PUV tax programs would benefit a number of Pamlico County farm and forest landowners and their heirs.

The first major step in agriculture production is producing the crop, but equally important is the farmer's ability to market and sell products. There are programs for farmers that can increase the marketability of their products. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has marketing campaigns such as "Got to Be N.C." that can provide assistance to open new markets for local products.

In the survey, producers were asked to provide more information on marketing strategies employed in their operation. Conclusions to a set of questions regarding these marketing opportunities are:

- Only 3 percent sell, market or contract agricultural or forestry products to state or federal organizations, military bases, hospitals or schools. This is a vast contrast from the 60 percent of surveyed agribusinesses who sold products or services to this market.

- Less than 18 percent of those surveyed grow and sell produce, and just under 25 percent of these produce farmers have obtained Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification to assure food safety on their farms.
- None of the farms processing food products have obtained GAP certification.
- Of the producers surveyed, 42 percent produce tobacco or grain crops, and of those more than 85 percent follow GAP requirements for Best Management Practices within their operations.

Agricultural producers, especially produce farmers, may be able to take advantage of markets such as military bases, schools and hospitals to sell their products. Taking part in such opportunities usually requires food safety certifications by a third party auditor. The United States Department of Agriculture offers Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification to both produce and tobacco farmers. Food products that are not sold fresh can be processed. Processed food products are also eligible to seek GAP certification. Assessments and certification do come at a cost to the farmer, but many institutions now require certification for fresh and processed produce to ensure safe, quality food.

Landowners are now presented with opportunities for additional income on their land in addition to agricultural production such as cell phone towers, hunting, fishing and mining. Farmers could easily lease their forestland, and even cropland, for hunting or fishing. As seen in Figure 20, few farmers and landowners who participated in the survey take advantage of these opportunities to increase profitability while keeping the land in agricultural and timber production.

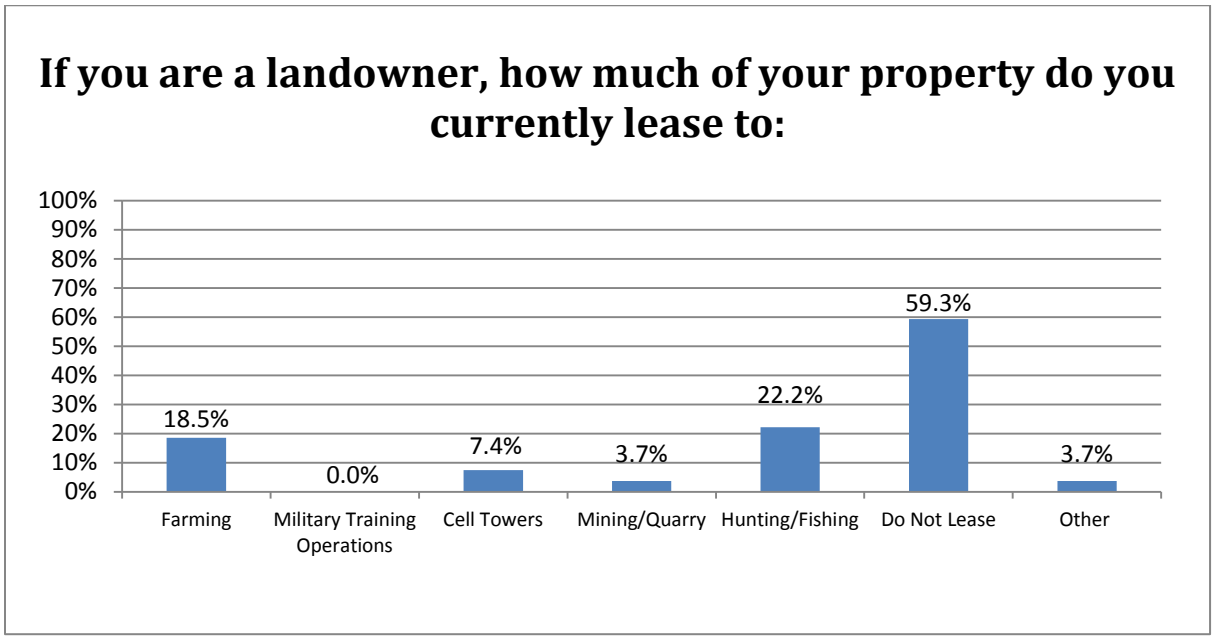

Figure 20: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

Nearly 20 percent of the surveyed agricultural producers report problems with their neighbors concerning farming or forestry operations. Most of these activities directly relate to necessary aspects of a farming operation (Figure 21). Pamlico County has a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) ordinance that helps prevent and protect farmers from nuisance complaints, but only one farmer has initiated the enrollment process.

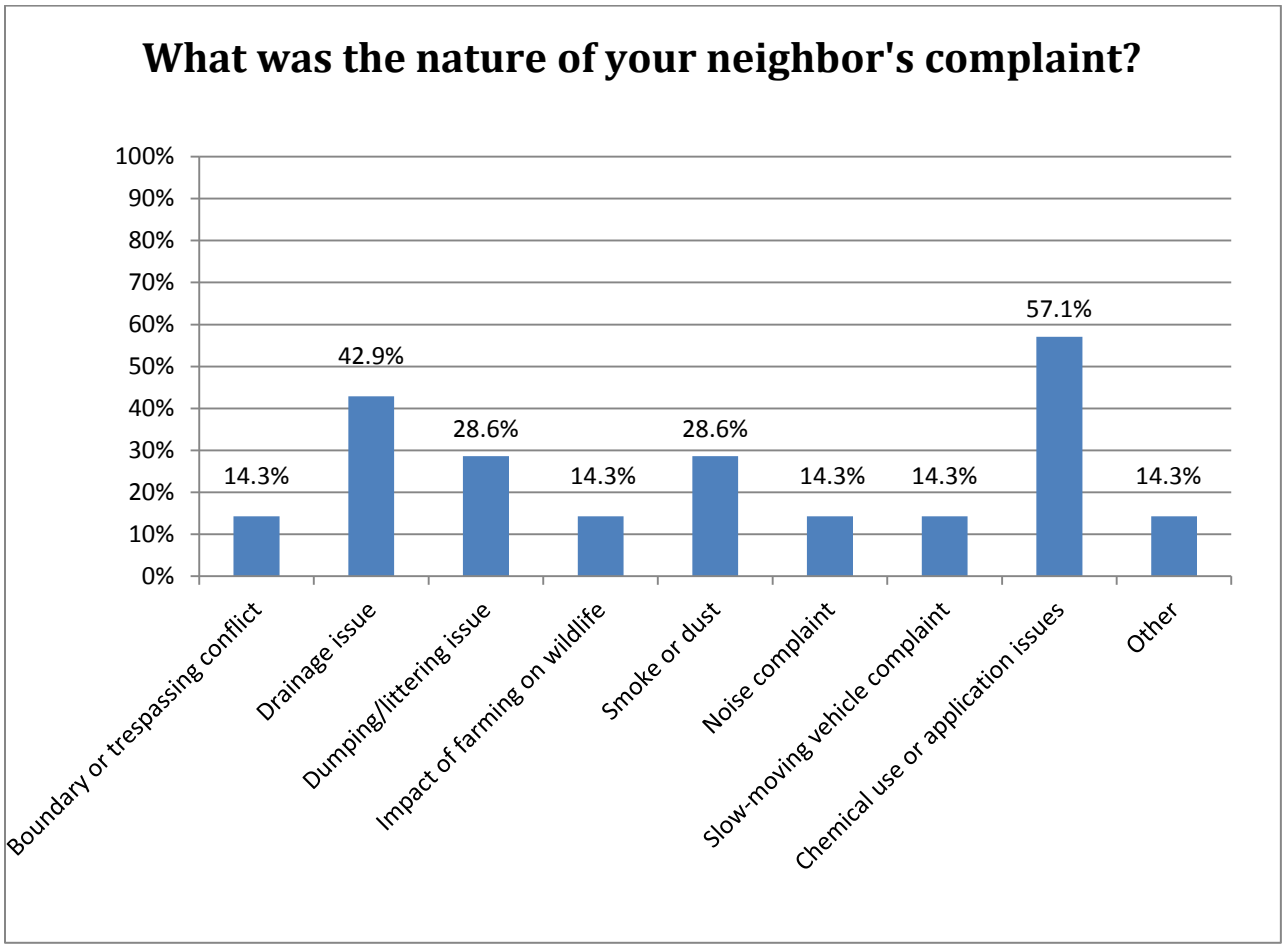

Figure 21: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

In August 2009, the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners adopted the Voluntary Agricultural District ordinance (VAD). This ordinance can serve as a way for neighbors and potential residents to understand the nature of agricultural enterprises. Farmers who join the VAD are given signs to display on their farm to inform other residents that the area is an agricultural district. The VAD program also works to notify new residents when they move into an established VAD.

In Figure 22, just over half of the farmers surveyed are aware of Pamlico County's VAD program. Less than 40 percent are aware of the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) program. Only one farmer surveyed has begun the enrollment process for the VAD.

Voluntary Agricultural Districts bring awareness to the proximity of properties to agricultural operations and provide a level of protection to agricultural operations existing within a district.

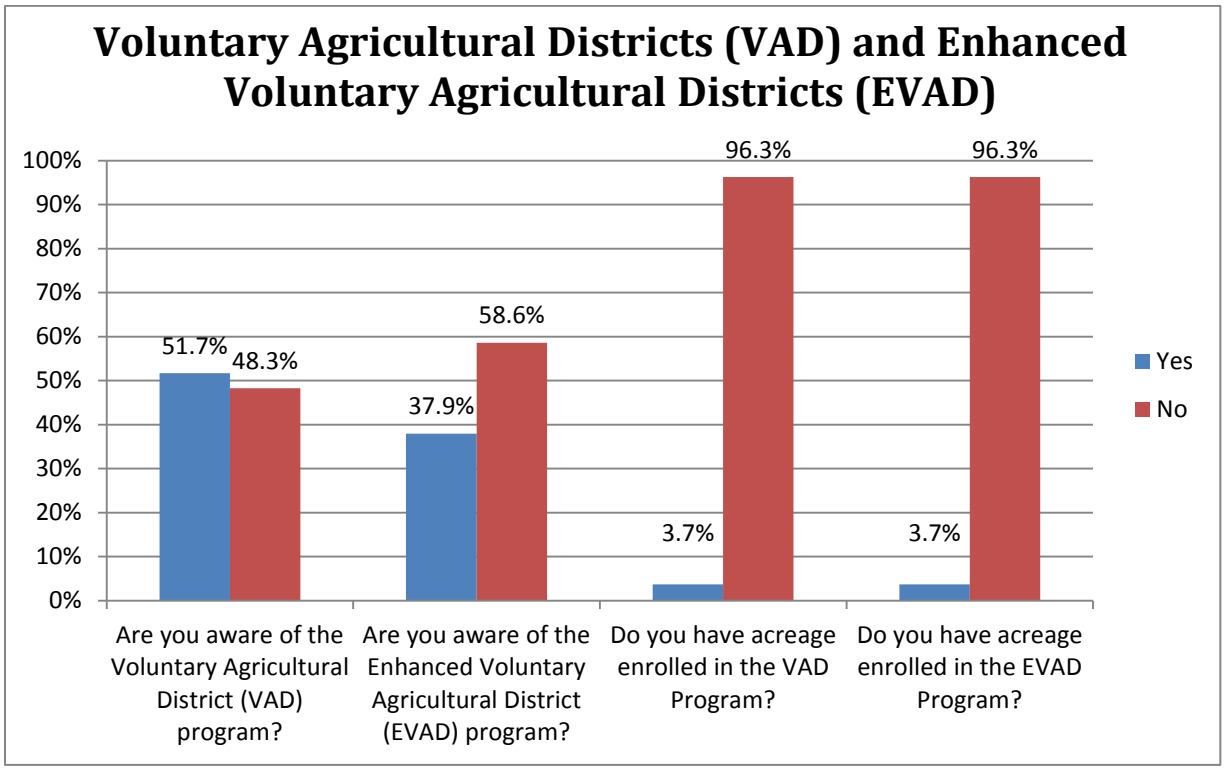

Figure 22: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

Through surveys and interviews, farmers provide information on opportunities for agriculture and forestry in Pamlico County. Giving Pamlico County residents a chance to support local agriculture will encourage citizens to become involved and participate in agricultural events that occur in the county.

Two-thirds of the producers that participated in the survey support local government funding for agricultural development in Pamlico County. Seventy-two percent also see an opportunity to partner with the military to receive market-based compatible use incentives to benefit both military as well as farm and forest landowners. Military and agriculture are very compatible and have great potential to work together in a way that is mutually beneficial. Military bases require open land, and farmland is noted as a compatible use around military bases.

More than 80 percent of farmers surveyed and several producers interviewed feel that education of non-farming citizens about farming and forestry's contributions to the county, both economically and socially, can benefit their agricultural operations. This educational effort would increase support of farming and improve operating conditions for farmers.

Farmers who were surveyed and interviewed continue to look forward for opportunities to improve their agricultural pursuits. Many opportunities, such as local farmers markets, farm

tours and agritourism, are available for the county to partner with agricultural producers to promote local agricultural products.

Agritourism could also be a good fit for Pamlico County. With the current tourism efforts in the area, farm tours, hay rides, pumpkin patches, berry picking and other agritourism activities could be promoted. Agritourism operations draw residents and visitors to farming operations to experience the farm first hand, support local agriculture and allow for the development of relationships between consumers and producers.

Some other opportunities identified in the surveys are:

- More than 86 percent believe that the Pamlico County Economic Development Commission should provide support for agriculture and agribusinesses in the county.
- Thirty-five percent of farmers indicate that they would market their products at farmer's markets, fairs, festivals or other local food initiatives if such opportunities were developed.
- Sixty percent of farmers see promise for agritourism expansion or diversification opportunities in Pamlico County.
- Eighty five percent of farmers view promoting career opportunities in agriculture and forestry as important.
- Pamlico County farmers support agricultural education in elementary school through college in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, forestry and agribusiness (Figure 23).

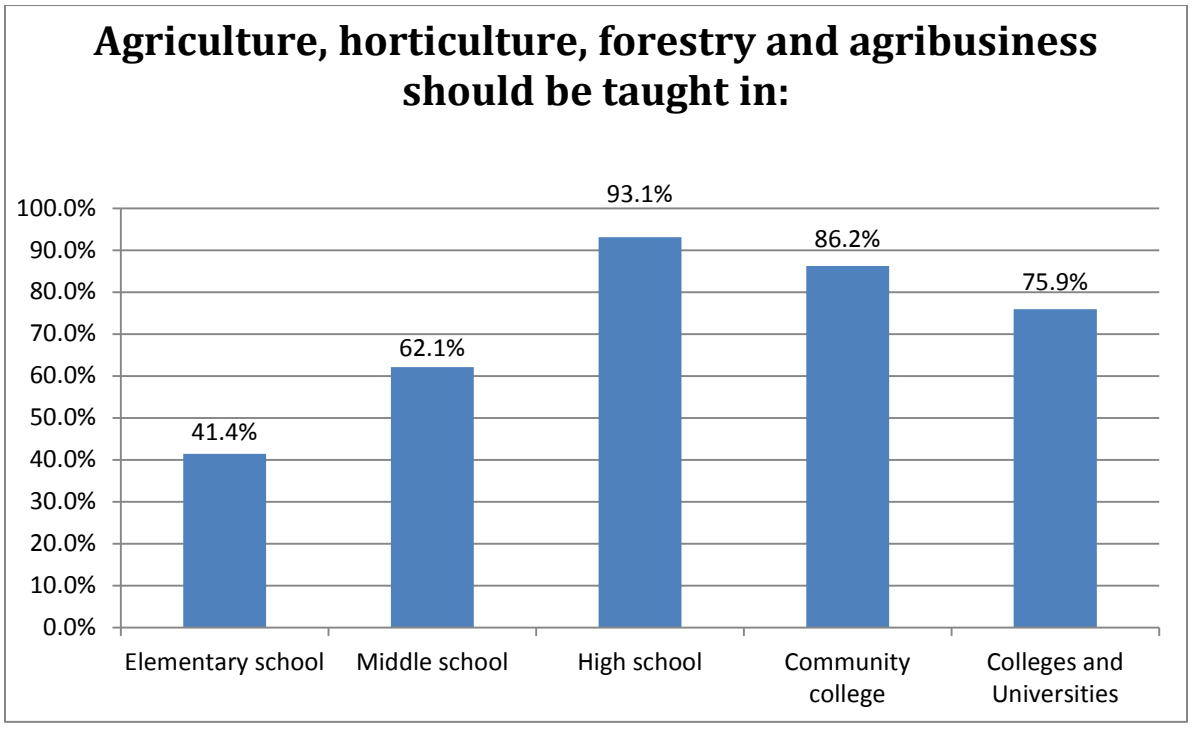

Figure 23: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

Most farmers understand the need to keep agricultural land in production to support the growing demand for agricultural products. However, the combination of an aging farmer population and the lack of interested family members to assume the responsibilities of the farming operation make it difficult to keep the farm in operation. Producers were asked if they would consider training a young farmer to help provide possible alternative solutions to this issue. More than 41 percent are willing to help train a young farmer through their farming operation, which could lead to transition opportunities for the farm. The ultimate goal of a farm or forest transition plan is to preserve the agricultural land to be passed down to the next generation of farmers. Almost 55 percent of farmers surveyed indicate an interest in attending training on planning for the transition of their farm or forest from one generation to the next.

Farmers who were surveyed are interested in additional educational opportunities that would improve their farming operations or techniques. Biofuel is a developing industry that could provide opportunities to produce new crops for developing renewable fuels. As previously stated, product marketing is as important for agricultural producers as the production itself. There are numerous methods of marketing products. Marketing can be done on the internet, through agritourism, through contracting with buyer and seller groups and other innovative marketing avenues. There is interest among producers to learn more about marketing opportunities for their operation. Good Agricultural Practices certification is another opportunity to improve agricultural operations and can help make the sale of products more profitable.

- Nearly 35 percent of farmers questioned are interested in attending training sessions to learn more about biofuel feedstock or woody biomass.
- Forty-four percent of farmers are interested in obtaining GAP certification for produce and processing.
- Fifty percent would attend training sessions for GAP certification for tobacco and grains.

In Pamlico County, 87,000 acres of timberland is privately owned[65]. More than 98 percent of the forestland reported in the surveys is managed for timber production. According to data compiled through surveys, only 42 percent follow a written forestry management plan. Forest management is another need as part of an agricultural development plan in Pamlico County. Proper management of timberland can provide a source of income intermittently until the stand of timber is mature and harvestable. While some producers surveyed have an interest in attending workshops about timber management, longleaf pine production, pine straw sales and selecting a consulting forester, more than 50 percent indicated they would not attend such trainings if offered (Figure 24). Since less than half the timber landowners that responded to the surveys have active forestry management plans and more than half of these same respondents have no interest in training on forestry management, the maximization of this asset for profitability is not likely to be achieved.

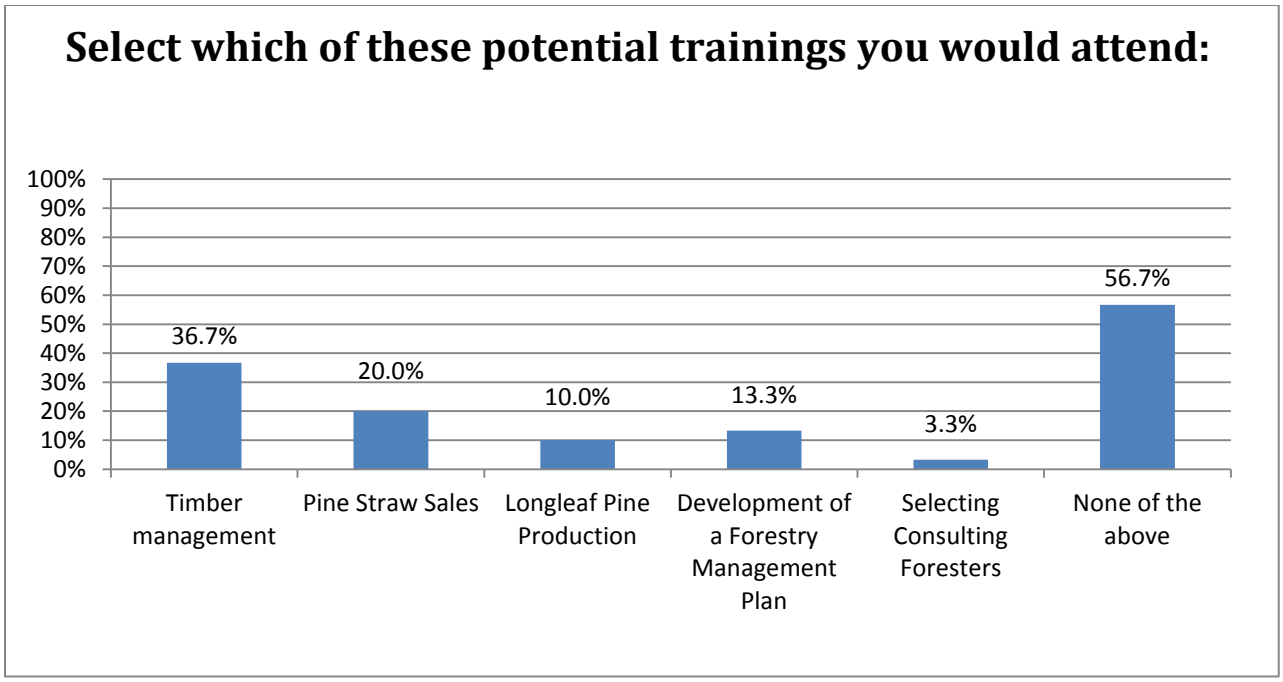

Figure 2: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

Agricultural producers and forest landowners were also asked to provide more information on threats and opportunities facing agriculture in Pamlico County. Producers offer several challenges that agriculture faces as well as opportunities to be explored (Figure 25).

Challenges	Opportunities
State and Federal Regulations	Agricultural Education in Schools
Urbanization	Agritourism Opportunities
Development Pressures	Public Education on the Importance of Farming and Forestry
Competition From Outside Land Investors	Need for More Agricultural Producers and Forest Managers
Rising Input Costs	Support for Local Agribusinesses
Aging Farmers	Young Farmers
Infrastructure	Proximity to Seaports

Figure 24: Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

The information accumulated from the each of the target audiences illustrates the potential for continued prosperity for agriculture in Pamlico County. This potential, however, is not likely achieved without a commitment from producers, local government and county residents to support agriculture as competing land uses and growth continue to put pressure on local economies and community services.

Recommendations

The main goal of the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan is to discover and implement methods to preserve and promote growth of the agricultural industry in Pamlico County. As is seen throughout this plan, Pamlico County has numerous opportunities to ensure agricultural prosperity and support a planned land use strategy for Pamlico County. The county's economy as well as the community as a whole would enjoy benefits from agricultural growth and development. Measures to support the continued growth of this industry will benefit all residents.

Recommendation One:

Support measures to protect forests and farmland in Pamlico County.

In order to preserve the opportunity and fulfill the need for farming by future generations, farm and forest protection measures are vital. The Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan offers a great deal of information and resources that can be instrumental in future support efforts within the county. Though residents largely support agriculture, added education and understanding is needed. County officials should be informed of agricultural information affecting Pamlico County.

Action Steps

- Present the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan to the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners for endorsement and then to NCDA for certification.
- Authorize the Agricultural Advisory Board to annually review the plan and ensure its utility for the benefit of agriculture in the county.
- Conduct agriculture impact tours and provide periodic updates for local governmental officials to increase awareness of the importance of agriculture to the county and address the actions necessary to ensure challenges to agriculture are met.
- Develop a strategy to ensure representation of the agricultural community on advisory boards, planning boards and in local government.

Timeline:

County commissioners should endorse the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan by May 2013. Efforts to increase agricultural awareness and representation should begin in mid-2013 and be fully implemented by early 2014.

Responsible Parties:

Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Council, Pamlico County Cooperative Extension, Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District, North Carolina Forest Service

Pamlico County, North Carolina's Eastern Region, Pamlico County Economic Development, Pamlico County Board of Commissioners

Recommendation Two:

Develop a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) Awareness Program.

Pamlico County has a Voluntary Agricultural District and EVAD ordinance, but as noted, the acreage of agricultural or forestland enrolled is minimal. VADs in other counties have helped lay a solid foundation for strong support and respect for agriculture in the region. Pamlico County farmers should be urged to join the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD). Awareness and promotion of Voluntary Agricultural Districts in Pamlico County are necessary to continue agricultural development in the county. This can be accomplished through workshops, meetings and other methods effective in promoting the program.

Since counties are currently not required to list VAD parcels with the Register of Deeds, identification of VAD parcels becomes more obscure. Counties should consider listing VAD and EVAD parcels in their GIS layers, which allows for faster and better identification of these parcels.

Action Steps:

- Develop a marketing campaign to inform the public and farmers of the VAD/EVAD programs. Utilize funding from the endorsement of the Agriculture Development Plan.
- Design signage to post on enrolled properties.
- Design informational pieces to distribute to county residents to explain the benefits and expectations of agricultural district designations.
- Acquire support from county officials to add all VAD and EVAD parcels into the county's GIS layer.
- Acquire local government funding or seek alternative funding for upgrades to existing GIS or the acquisition of new GIS programs to accommodate this and other needed data for the county.
- Add all VAD and EVAD parcels into the county's GIS layer and notify DOT and other agencies that seek to acquire land of its inclusion in the GIS system.
- Utilize this information to assist local leaders and citizens in visualizing the impact of land use and development to agriculture.
- Conduct a series of workshops in each district to inform landowners of requirements for land enrollment and the benefits of enrollment.
- Utilize this public awareness campaign to encourage landowners who currently are not renting land for agricultural land use to consider this as an option to allow for expansion of agricultural production opportunities in Pamlico County.

Timeline:

The appropriate agencies should develop a marketing strategy by June 2013. Development of informational materials and signage should be completed by December 2013, and implementation of workshops should begin in January 2014.

Responsible Parties:

Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Council, Pamlico County Cooperative Extension, Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District, North Carolina Forest Service Pamlico County, North Carolina Eastern Region, Pamlico County Board of Commissioners, Pamlico County Planning and Economic Development, Pamlico County Tax Office, Pamlico County Register of Deeds, USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pamlico County Farm Bureau Board and others.

Recommendation Three:

Conduct a Cost of Community Services Study for Pamlico County.

Cost of community services studies are conducted to determine the public service costs versus revenues based on current land uses. Categorical land uses for these studies are residential, commercial and agricultural uses. Similar studies have been completed in various counties in North Carolina to define the direct impact of agriculture to the revenue of the county as compared to other land uses. The Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan showed a need to illustrate the contributions agriculture adds to the county, which can be done through the cost of community services study.

Action Steps:

- Request through the Agricultural Advisory Board authorization from the Board of Commissioners to conduct a Cost of Community Services Study for Pamlico County.
- Acquire access through the BOC to information and interviews with all county departments for the purpose of acquiring land use, revenue and expenditure information.
- Seek funding for the Cost of Community Services Study
- Complete the Cost of Community Services Study
- Share the findings of the study with county leaders and county residents

Timeline:

Approval to conduct the study and for access to county government information should be acquired by February of 2013. Acquisition of funding for the study should be completed by May of 2013, and the cost of community services study should be completed by December 2013. Results and conclusions of the study should be shared with county leaders and residents as appropriate upon study completion.

Responsible Parties:

Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Council, Pamlico County Board of County Commissioners, Pamlico County Government, Cooperative Extension Pamlico County , Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District, North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina's Eastern Region.

Recommendation Four:

Develop and conduct programs to assist Pamlico County farm and forest landowners with farm transition planning and to link farmers with beginning farmers.

The average age of farmers documented five years ago (2007) was 56 years. Farmers surveyed for this plan (2012) were an average age of 63.7 years. At this age, producers should begin planning for their farm's transition—even if some plan to continue operating the farm for more than 20 years. Less than half of the farmers participating in the research for this plan have developed a farm transition plan to help manage their farm assets as retirement draws close. Many children leave the farm for other career opportunities, and most have little interest or time to manage the farm once they leave. It is important for retiring farmers to make their plans clear with others involved in the farming operation or land ownership. Farm transition plans provide clear goals and communication throughout farm transition periods. North Carolina Cooperative Extension, North Carolina State University, Mount Olive College, North Carolina Farm Bureau and other groups have staff with expertise in developing agricultural transition and estate plans and should be part of implementing this recommendation.

Action Steps:

- Plan and conduct a series of farm transition workshops that utilize specialists and agencies to provide information on farm transition planning.
- Develop an apprenticeship program in which young farmers work with experienced producers to learn more about agricultural production and gain more knowledge about transition opportunities.
- Identify farmers willing to investigate innovative strategies for farm transition with beginning farmers.
- Identify beginning farmers interested in pursuing agricultural production as a career

- Develop a network of specialists to bring parties together to develop innovative exit and entry strategies for transition.

Timeline:

Farm transition workshops should be planned and take place by December 2014. The apprenticeship program should begin in 2015. By March of 2015, farmers will be recruited to participate in the mentoring program and young farmers identified to participate as apprentices. A pilot mentoring program should begin by June 2015.

Responsible Parties:

Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Council, Pamlico County Cooperative Extension, Pamlico County Farm Bureau, North Carolina's Eastern Region, appropriate individuals and specialists from universities and agencies to assist with the development of transition strategies.

Recommendation Five:

Continue to provide more information and resources to forest landowners and revive the forestry association.

Forestry makes up almost half of the acreage in the county and private landowners are the majority owners of that property (81.3 percent). These landowners need to keep up with the changes in tax laws, agency programs such as the Pamlico County VAD program and other resources to manage land effectively.

Action Steps:

- Identify forest landowners in the county and gather contact information
- Contact past forestry association members to consider reviving the association
- Conduct workshops to highlight issues that affect forest landowners and provide resources.

Timeline:

Committee should be formed to develop the forestry association by December 2013 and potential topics should be selected by February 2014. Forestry landowners contacted by February 2014. The first association meeting should be held in late November/early December 2014 and a decision made by this group about meeting frequency.

Responsible Parties:

Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Council, Pamlico County Cooperative Extension, Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District, North Carolina Forest Service

Pamlico County, USDA Farm Service Agency Pamlico County and area universities and colleges, agencies and individuals to assist with the development of the forestry association.

Recommendation Six:

Provide public awareness opportunities to gain support and understanding for agriculture.

More than ever, people are removed from farming operations. Therefore, it is necessary to provide opportunities for the public to understand more about agriculture and the impacts that it has on local communities. Respondents surveyed and interviewed voiced concerns that agriculture was not adequately represented on the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners. Additionally, it was noted that county leadership and citizens would see great benefits from increased education about agriculture in Pamlico County. Both groups can be actively involved with agriculture and find new ways to support local farmers. Understanding agriculture will also provide stronger relationships between producers and consumers as well as additional opportunities to support local agriculture.

Action Steps:

- Develop a farm tour for the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners to meet farmers and learn more about agricultural operations in the county.
- Provide periodic updates on the economic and social impacts of agriculture on the county to the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners and other groups.
- Encourage farmers to develop agritourism activities and highlight agritourism opportunities for residents and visitors.
- Seek partners and sponsors to support public awareness efforts such as a marketing campaigns or community agricultural days to share information about the county's agriculture.
- Utilize local media outlets (newspaper, radio, television and billboards) to promote agriculture, agribusiness and agritourism opportunities in the county.
- Plan farmers market events, fairs or festivals promoting local agriculture to give residents a chance to participate in agricultural events as well as offer additional venues for producers to market products.
- Conduct an assessment of the potential local market economy.

Timeline:

These steps should be implemented over the next three to five years to engage Pamlico County residents with the county's agriculture. Begin planning for the farm tours and festival in September 2015 with the first such events to be held in October 2016.

Responsible Parties:

Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Council, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Pamlico County, Pamlico County Farm Bureau, Pamlico County Economic Development and other appropriate agencies and individuals.

Recommendation Seven:

Ensure the public, government agencies, various task forces, agribusinesses, producers and landowners as well as other interested parties are aware of the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan and the impacts on agriculture.

As the region grows, consideration must be made for the impacts on agriculture. This plan makes clear the importance of agriculture and forestry in Pamlico County and should be shared with as many agencies and groups to make sure this consideration is made. Likewise, producers and landowners need to be aware of potential impacts on their operations and need to be kept abreast of these developments such as the US Department of Navy's Market Based Conservation Initiative and residential and infrastructure development.

Action Steps:

- Provide periodic updates from county government on infrastructure and residential development applications to the agricultural community
- Provide the latest information from the military on the Market Based Conservation Initiative and other military programs that could impact agriculture and forestry

Timeline:

Updates should be provided during commodity meetings beginning in winter 2013 and continued periodically. As part of the function as liaison to the Board of Commissioners, the Agricultural Advisory Board can provide information and feedback to plans that have an impact on agriculture. This should begin in winter 2013. Other groups can participate in the feedback on plans as needed.

Responsible Parties:

Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Council, Pamlico County Cooperative Extension, Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District, North Carolina Forest Service Pamlico County, North Carolina Eastern Region, Pamlico County Board of Commissioners, Pamlico County Planning and Economic Development, USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pamlico County Farm Bureau Board, NC Soil and Water Conservation District Association and others.

References

[1] Walden, Mike, Agriculture and Agribusiness in Pamlico County, 2008, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/agecon/counties/pamlico.pdf, 2012.

[2] N.C. Department of Commerce, Pamlico County Profile, http://accessnc.commerce.state.nc.us/docs/countyProfile/NC/37137.pdf, 2012.

[3] USDA Census of Agriculture, 2007, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[4] Ibid.

[5] N.C. Forest Service, Pamlico County, http://ncforestservice.gov/contacts/Pamlico.htm, 2012.

[6] N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Agricultural Statistics, http://www.ncagr.gov/stats/2011AgStat/AgStat2011.pdf,2012.

[7] N.C. Cooperative Extension, 2011 Income of North Carolina Timber Harvested and Delivered to Mills, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/resources/documents/income11.pdf, 2012.

[8] Walden, Mike, Agriculture and Agribusiness, http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/faculty/walden/agribusiness-state2008.pdf, 2012.

[9] Walden, Mike, Agriculture and Agribusiness in Pamlico County, 2008, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/agecon/counties/pamlico.pdf, 2012.

[10] USDA Census of Agriculture, Pamlico County Profile, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/1997/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/nc/ncp069.pdf, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[11] USDA Census of Agriculture, Pamlico County Profile, 1997, 2002, 2007. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/1997/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/nc/ncp069.pdf, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[12] U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_00_SF1_P001&prodType=table, 2012.

[13] N.C. Department of Commerce, Pamlico County Profile, http://accessnc.commerce.state.nc.us/docs/countyProfile/NC/37137.pdf, 2012.

[14] USDA Census of Agriculture, Pamlico County Profile, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/1997/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/nc/ncp069.pdf, 2012.

[15] News & Observer, As aid runs out, hopes for full recovery ebb in storm-ravaged Pamlico, http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/02/19/1867005/hopes-for-full-recovery-ebb-in.html, 2012.

[16] N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Hurricane Irene Timber Damage Summary, http://ncforestservice.gov/managing_your_forest/pdf/NCFSHurricaneIreneTimberDamage%20Report.pdf, 2012.

[17]Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan, http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us/planning/Pamlico%20Co/Pamlico%20Land%20Use%20Plan.pdf, 2012.

[18] Pamlico County North Carolina, Economic Development, http://www.co.pamlico.nc.us/economic-development.aspx, 2012.

[19] Pamlico County North Carolina, Pamlico County Economic Development, http://www.co.pamlico.nc.us/economic-development.aspx, 2012.

[20] U.S. Census Bureau, Pamlico County, N.C., http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37137.html, 2012.

[21] U.S. Census Bureau, Pamlico County, N.C., http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37137.html, 2012.

[22] N.C. Department of Commerce, Pamlico County (N.C.), http://accessnc.commerce.state.nc.us/docs/countyProfile/NC/37137.pdf, 2012.

[23] Ibid.

[24] U.S. Census Bureau, Pamlico County, N.C., http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37137.html, 2012.

[25] N.C. Department of Commerce, 2011 County Tier Designations, http://www.nccommerce.com/research-publications/incentive-reports/2011-county-tier-designations, 2012.

[26] N.C. Department of Revenue, 1999 Tax Law Changes, http://www.dor.state.nc.us/practitioner/laws/vii.html, 2012.

[27] U.S. Census Bureau, Pamlico County, N.C., http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37137.html, 2012.

[28] N.C. Department of Commerce, Pamlico County (N.C.), http://accessnc.commerce.state.nc.us/docs/countyProfile/NC/37137.pdf, 2012.

[29] Walden, Mike, Agriculture and Agribusiness in Pamlico County, 2008, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/agecon/counties/pamlico.pdf, 2012.

[30] American Farmland Trust, Farmland Information Center Fact Sheet, http://www.farmland.org/documents/Cost-of-Community-Services-08-2010.pdf, 2012.

[31] Mount Olive College Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center, Wayne County, NC Cost of Community Services Study, http://www.mocagbiz.com/outreach/docs/Wayne%20County%20Cost%20of%20Community%20Services%20Study%20-%20Final%20MGTF%20(REV).pdf, 2012.

[32] Pamlico County North Carolina, Pamlico County Economic Development, http://www.co.pamlico.nc.us/economic-development.aspx, 2012.

[33] The Pamlico News, Ferry Toll Protest Strengthens Despite Moratorium, http://thepamliconews.com/ferry-toll-protest-strengthens-despite-moratorium-p907-73.htm, 2012.

[34] Pamlico County North Carolina, Water, http://www.co.pamlico.nc.us/water.aspx , 2012.

[35] Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan, http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us/planning/Pamlico%20Co/Pamlico%20Land%20Use%20Plan.pdf, 2012

[36] Oriental Civic Information, http://www.oriental-nc.com/civic.htm, 2012.

[37] Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan, http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us/planning/Pamlico%20Co/Pamlico%20Land%20Use%20Plan.pdf, 2012

[38] USDA Census of Agriculture, Pamlico County Profile, 1997, 2007. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/1997/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/nc/ncp069.pdf, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[39] The Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce; Geography, Geology and Environment; http://www.pamlicochamber.com/home/aboutpamlico/geography.html, 2012.

[40] USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Pamlico County, North Carolina, http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/NC137/0/pamlico.pdf, 2012.

[41] Protecting Agricultural Water Resources in North Carolina, Executive Summary, http://www.ncagwater.org/documents/NC_Agricultural_Water_Strategic_Plan_Exec_Summary.pdf, 2012.

[42] N.C. Forest Service, Pamlico County, http://ncforestservice.gov/contacts/Pamlico.htm, 2012.

[43] N.C. Marine Division of Marine Fisheries, Commercial Seafood Landings by County: http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=c81af038-849e-4c44-950b-c04d45d07289&groupId=38337 , 2013.

[44] N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission, North Carolina Big Game Harvest 2011-2012: http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Regs/Documents/Current/Big_Game_Harvest_Reports.pdf , 2012.

[45] North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, Tommy Hughes, personal correspondence, 2013.

[46] North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Coastal Recreational Fishing License Sales Update: http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=85f8c742-d07d-4445-a8a8-f0142e18607f&groupId=38337 , 2013.

[47] Walden, Mike, Agriculture and Agribusiness in Pamlico County, 2008, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/agecon/counties/pamlico.pdf, 2012.

[48] USDA Census of Agriculture, Pamlico County Profile, 1997, 2007. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/1997/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/nc/ncp069.pdf, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[49] N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Agricultural Statistics, http://www.ncagr.gov/stats/2011AgStat/AgStat2011.pdf, 2012.

[50] N.C. Cooperative Extension, 2010 Income of North Carolina Timber Harvested and Delivered to Mills, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/resources/documents/income10.pdf, 2012.

[51] North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Marine Fisheries, Commercial Seafood Landings by County 1962-2011: http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=c81af038-849e-4c44-950b-c04d45d07289&groupId=38337 , 2013.

[52] USDA Census of Agriculture, Pamlico County Profile, 1997, 2007. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/1997/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/nc/ncp069.pdf, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[53] USDA Census of Agriculture, 2007, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[54] USDA Farm Service Agency, Tobacco, http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=toba&topic=landing, 2012.

[55] USDA Census of Agriculture, Pamlico County Profile, 1997, 2007. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/1997/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/nc/ncp069.pdf, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[56] N.C. Forest Service, Pamlico County, http://ncforestservice.gov/contacts/Pamlico.htm, 2012.

[57] Walden, Mike, Agriculture and Agribusiness in Pamlico County, 2008, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/agecon/counties/pamlico.pdf, 2012.

[58] N.C Cooperative Extension, 2011 Income of North Carolina Timber Harvested and Delivered to Mills, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/resources/documents/income11.pdf, 2012.

[59] USDA Census of Agriculture, 2007, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[60] USDA Census of Agriculture, 2007, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[61] USDA Census of Agriculture, 2007, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/North_Carolina/cp37137.pdf, 2012.

[62] Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan, http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us/planning/Pamlico%20Co/Pamlico%20Land%20Use%20Plan.pdf, 2012.

[63] Pamlico County Joint CAMA Land Use Plan, http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us/planning/Pamlico%20Co/Pamlico%20Land%20Use%20Plan.pdf, 2012.

[64] N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Agricultural Statistics, http://www.ncagr.gov/stats/2011AgStat/AgStat2011.pdf, 2012.

[65] N.C. Forest Service, Pamlico County, http://ncforestservice.gov/contacts/Pamlico.htm, 2012

Appendixes

Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance

Surveys

PAMLICO COUNTY
VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT &
ENHANCED VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE

ARTICLE I
TITLE

This program, adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Pamlico County, North Carolina, shall be known as the **Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary District Ordinance.**

ARTICLE II
AUTHORITY

The articles and sections of this program ordinance are adopted pursuant to the authority conferred by N.C. General Statutes Sections 106-735 through 106-744 and Chapter 153A.

ARTICLE III
PURPOSE

The purpose of this program ordinance is to promote the general welfare of the county and more specifically, increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and its way of life; encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture, horticulture and forestry; create awareness of agricultural area within the county; inform non-farming neighbors and potential land purchasers of the presence of agricultural activities; provide the agricultural community an opportunity to provide input to the Pamlico County Commissioners in their decisions that may affect agriculture; and, increase protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms.

ARTICLE IV
DEFINITIONS

Advisory Board: The Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Board.

Board of Commissioners: The Board of Commissioners of Pamlico County, North Carolina.

Chairperson: Chairman of the Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Board

District: A Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary District established under the terms and conditions of this program by the Board of Commissioners.

Enhanced District: Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District as established by this ordinance.

ARTICLE V
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

A. Creation

The Board of Commissioners shall establish an Advisory Board to implement the provisions of this program.

B. Appointments and Memberships

The Advisory Board shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, with an effort to have the broadest geographic representation and commodity interest as possible and feasible.

C. Membership Requirements

1. Each board member shall be a Pamlico County resident or land owner.

2. Four of five members shall be actively engaged in farming.

3. The four members actively engaged in farming shall be selected for appointment by the Board of Commissioners from the names of individuals submitted to the Board of Commissioners by the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, The Farm Service Agency and the Pamlico County Farm Bureau with an effort to have the broadest geographical and commodity representation possible. The fifth member shall have special interest, experience, or education in agriculture and/or rural land preservation.

4. To the extent possible, members of the Advisory Board shall consist of one (1) member from each of the townships in Pamlico County. If an individual cannot be located from a specific township, one may be chosen at large.

5. In the event the Board of Commissioners increases the number of Districts, the Advisory Board may be augmented so there will be a representative for each District. If a particular District is eliminated, the term of its representative to the Advisory Board may be terminated by the Commissioners.

6. Additional members may be appointed to the Board in an *ex officio* capacity from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Pamlico Center and/or the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District. Members serving in an *ex officio* capacity shall neither vote nor count toward quorum requirements.

D. Tenure

The initial Advisory Board is to consist of one (1) appointee for a term of one (1) year, two (2) appointees for a term of two (2) years and two (2) appointees for a term of three (3) years. Initial terms will not begin until July 1 of the year appointed. Thereafter all appointees will serve for a term of three (3) years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment for subsequent terms not to exceed three consecutive terms. After three consecutive terms a member must remain off of the Advisory Board for at least one calendar year before being eligible for reappointment. The terms for the appointment of the initial Advisory Board will be determined by lottery.

E. Vacancies

Any vacancy on the Advisory Board is to be filled by the Board of Commissioners for the remainder of the unexpired term following the same procedure as for the initial appointment. Serving an unexpired term shall not count toward the three terms limit.

F. Removal for Cause

Any member of the Advisory Board may be removed by the Board of Commissioners with or without cause. The Advisory Board may request to the Board of Commissioners that a member be removed for inefficiency, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office. Members missing three (3) consecutive meetings may be considered for removal. Recommendation for removal and replacement shall be made to the Board of Commissioners only upon the majority vote of the Advisory Board. The member(s) being considered for removal cannot vote.

G. Funding

The Board of Commissioners may appropriate funds for the Agricultural Advisory Board to perform its duties. A budget request will be presented to the Board of Commissioners.

H. Advisory Board Procedure

1. Officers - The officers of the Agricultural Advisory Board shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary/Treasurer.

2. Election – The Advisory Board shall elect officers each year at its first meeting of the fiscal year following the appointment of new members or

reappointment of existing members. Officers shall be eligible for re-election for subsequent terms.

3. Terms – Terms of officers shall be one (1) year or until election of his/her successor.

4. Officer Vacancies – If any office is vacant the members of the Advisory Board shall elect a member to fill the office for the remainder of the term. This election may take place at any regular or special meeting.

5. Removal from office – Any officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting provided that at least thirty (30) days notice has been given that removal of an officer will be considered at such meeting.

6. Chair – Roles and Responsibilities
   a. Preside at all meetings and public hearings of the Advisory Board.
   b. Decide on all points of order and procedures unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the board in session at the time.
   c. Represent the Advisory Board in dealings with the Board of Commissioners or other organizations.
   d. Sign any documents related to the business of the Advisory Board.
   e. Create any committee necessary to investigate matters before the Advisory Board.
   f. Delegate to other members such tasks necessary to perform the duties of the Advisory Board.
   g. See that decisions/duties of the Advisory Board are implemented.
   h. Chair has the same right as other members to vote on matters or to speak for or against such matters.

7. Vice-Chair – Roles and Responsibilities
   a. Serve as acting Chair in the absence or disability of the Chair. While doing so, shall have same powers and duties as Chair.
   b. Assist Chair as requested.

8. Secretary/Treasurer – Roles and Responsibilities
   a. Serve as acting Chair in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair. While doing so, shall have same powers and duties as Chair.
   b. Be responsible for making a record of the proceedings of the Advisory Board.
   c. Serve as custodian of the Board's minutes and records.
   d. Prepare the agenda for meetings in consultation with the Chair.
   e. Provide notices of special meetings.
   f. Serve as representative for all financial matters of the Advisory Board.

g. Receive and inform the members of correspondence or directives concerning the business of the Advisory Board.

h. Attest to the signature of the Chair on documents as needed.

i. Maintain close communication with the Chair concerning business or issues of the Advisory Board.

9. Determination of Procedure

The Advisory Board may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with this Ordinance or with other provisions of State law.

10. Board Year

The Advisory Board shall use the County fiscal year, July 1st – June 30th, as its meeting year.

11. Meetings

a. Regular Meetings – shall be held at least quarterly. The exact date and time of the meeting will be determined by the Advisory Board and will be posted according to NC Open Meetings Laws.

b. Special Meetings – may be called at any time by the Chair or the Advisory Board. Notice shall be provided in accordance with NC Open Meeting Laws.

c. Cancellation of Meetings – The Chair may cancel any regular or special meeting by giving notice to the Advisory Board and the public in accordance with NC Open Meetings Laws.

d. Quorum – At least three (3) members, including at least one (1) officer, must be present in order to conduct business.

e. Conflict of Interest – Advisory Board members may not deliberately vote on any issue in which he/she, or a member of their immediate household, has a direct financial interest. These members shall, on motion and vote, be excused from discussing and voting on any such matter.

f. Voting – All members shall vote on each issue made in the form of a motion, unless they have been excused from that vote. All abstaining from voting and not previously excused from that vote will be counted in favor of the motion. All silent votes will be counted in favor of the motion. The vote of the majority of the members present shall be sufficient to decide matters. The

Chair shall be allowed to comment and vote on matters before the Advisory Board.

g. Administrative – The Advisory Board may contract with the N.C. Cooperative Extension office to serve the Advisory Board for record keeping, correspondence, application procedures under this Ordinance, and whatever services the Board needs to complete its duties.

I. Duties

Powers and duties of the Advisory Board shall be those authorized and required by NC General Statute Chapter 106, Article 61, the Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance and the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners. Duties shall include but are not limited to:

1. Review and approve or disapprove applications of landowners for enrollment of qualified farmland, horticultural land, or forestland in Voluntary Agricultural Districts or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts;

2. Make recommendations concerning the establishment and modification of agricultural districts;

3. Hold public hearings pursuant to Article XII of this Ordinance.

4. Advise the Board of Commissioners on projects, programs, or issues affecting the agricultural economy, horticultural or forestry activities within the county that will affect agricultural districts.

5. Review and make recommendations concerning proposed amendments to this ordinance.

6. Develop a draft countywide farmland protection plan as defined in N.C.G.S. 106-744 for presentation to the Board of Commissioners;

7. Study additional methods of protection for farming, horticulture, forestry and the attendant land base and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners;

8. Perform other agriculture, horticultural, and forestry–related tasks or duties assigned by the Board of Commissioners.

ARTICLE VI
CREATION OF VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS AND ENHANCED VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

A. Regions

Pamlico County is hereby divided into five (5) regions as defined below:

1. Township 1
2. Township 2
3. Township 3
4. Township 4
5. Township 5

B. Implementation

In order to implement the purposes stated in Article III, this program provides for the creation of a Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary District, which will meet the following standards:

1. The minimum acreage for enrollment in a District or an Enhanced District shall be the minimum acreage required by N.C.G.S. Section 105-277.3 for participation in the present-use value program.

2. The District or Enhanced District shall contain one (1) or more qualified farms within area designated by the Advisory Board.

All land enrolled in a region (township), defined in section A, above, shall be part of a single District. If a single farm has acreage in two or more regions, the farm shall participate in the District where the largest acreage is found. All land in a region as defined in section A, above, shall be treated as a single District.

C. Education

The Board of Commissioners may take such action as it deems appropriate through the Advisory Board or other entities or individuals to encourage the formation of the Districts and to further their purposes and objectives, including the implementation of a public information program to reasonably inform landowners of the farmland preservation program.

D. Addition and Withdrawal

1. Qualifying farmland in a region with an existing District shall be added to the District as herein provided.

2. In the event that one or more participants in the District or Enhanced District withdraw and the acreage in the District or Enhanced District becomes less than the minimum acreage required or results in the remaining land being noncontiguous, a Voluntary Agricultural District will continue to exist so long as there is one qualifying farm.

ARTICLE VII
CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION OF FARMLAND

A. Requirements

To secure county certification as qualifying farmland in either a Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District, a farm must:

1. Be participating in the farm present-use-value taxation program established by G.S. 105-277.2 through 105-277.7, or is otherwise determined by the county to meet all the qualification of this program set forth in G. S. 105-277.3;

2. Be managed, if highly erodible land exists on the farm, in accordance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service defined erosion control practices that are addressed to said highly erodible land;

3. Be the subject of a conservation agreement between the county and the owner of such land that prohibits non-farm use or development of such land for a period of at least ten years, except for the creation of not more than three lots that meet applicable county building and subdivision regulations; and,

4. Be located in the unincorporated area of Pamlico County.

ARTICLE VIII
APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND APPEAL PROCEDURE

A. Application Procedure

1. A landowner may apply to participate in either the Voluntary Agricultural District or the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program by making application to the chairperson of the Advisory Board or a

designated staff person and must designate the application as for either the Voluntary Agricultural District status or Enhanced District status. The application shall be on forms provided by the Advisory board. The process will begin with the certification of the farmland to insure eligibility. A nonrefundable application fee of $50.00 is due when the application is submitted.

2. A conservation agreement (required by N.C.G.S. 106-737 and defined in N.C.G.S. 121-35) suited to district type (VAD or Enhanced VAD) designated by the landowner to sustain, encourage, and promote agriculture must be executed by the landowner and recorded with the Advisory Board, which shall record an original of such with the Pamlico County Registrar of Deeds. Permitted uses include agriculture, horticulture, and forestry. Conservation Agreements for the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program may, at the election of the parties, include provision requiring that any disputes between the county and the landowner be resolved through arbitration or mediation and in the event of litigation, that the prevailing party be awarded costs, including reasonable attorney fees. The Conservation Agreement for the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District shall be binding upon all successors in interest to the landowner, except for successors in interest resulting from the exercise of rights under a security interest or lien that preceded the Conservation Agreement.

B. Approval Process

1. Upon submission of the application to the Advisory Board, the Advisory Board shall meet within sixty (60) days to approve or disapprove the application. The chairperson shall notify the applicant by first class mail of approval or disapproval of participation in the District.

2. Upon receipt of an application, the chairperson will forward copies immediately to the following offices which shall be asked to provide comments, if any, to the Advisory Board prior to the date set for the Advisory Board to vote on the application.

   a. The Pamlico County Tax Assessors Office
   b. The Pamlico County N.C. Cooperative Extension
   c. The Pamlico Soil & Water Conservation District
   d. The County Manager
   e. The County Planning Board

C. Appeal

If an application is denied by the Advisory Board, the landowner may, within thirty, (30) days of notification of disapproval of the application, request in

writing that the Advisory Board reconsider its decision. The request for reconsideration shall state the reason(s) therefore. Upon either an initial denial, if no request for reconsideration was made, or denial after reconsideration, the landowner shall have thirty (30) days from the date of notification to appeal the decision to the Board of Commissioners. That appeal shall be presented in writing. The decision of the Board of Commissioners is final.

ARTICLE IX
REVOCATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND RENEWAL OF CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

A. Revocation and Enforcement

1. District. By providing written notice to the Advisory Board, a landowner of qualifying farmland within a Voluntary Agricultural District may revoke the Conservation Agreement or the Advisory Board may revoke the same Conservation Agreement based on noncompliance by the landowner, subject to the same provisions as contained in Article VIII(C) for appeal of denials. Such revocation shall result in loss of qualifying farm status and loss of eligibility to participate in a district. Absent noncompliance by the landowner, neither the Advisory Board nor the Board of Commissioners shall revoke any Conservation Agreement prior to its expiration. If the Advisory Board shall revoke this Conservation Agreement for cause, the landowner shall have the appeal rights set forth in Article VIII(C). Transfers of land in a Voluntary Agricultural District due to death of the landowner, sale or gift shall not revoke the Conservation Agreement unless the land no longer qualifies for the present-use-value taxation program or, in the event that there are water or sewer assessments held in abeyance, the new owner fails to agree in writing to accept liability for those assessments in the event that the land is withdrawn either voluntarily or involuntarily from the district. Enforcement of the terms of a Conservation Agreement for land enrolled in a Voluntary Agricultural District shall be limited to revocation of the Conservation Agreement and the benefits derived therefrom.

2. Enhanced District. Conservation Agreements for land within Enhanced Districts are irrevocable for a period of 10 years. Enforcement of the terms of the Conservation Agreement may be through an action for injunctive relief and/or damages in a court of competent jurisdiction. The County may also terminate any benefits to the owner under this program either permanently or during the period of violation, as appropriate. If the Advisory Board shall revoke this Conservation Agreement for cause, the landowner shall have the appeal rights set forth in Article VIII(C). The right to terminate program benefits is in addition to any legal rights that the County may have under either this Ordinance or the terms of the applicable Conservation Agreement. The county may seek costs of the action including reasonable attorney fees if such a provision is incorporated into the Conservation Agreement.

B. Renewal

1. District. A Conservation Agreement for land within a Voluntary Agricultural District shall not, nor need to be renewed, as it continues in perpetuity until termination in accordance with this Ordinance.

2. Enhanced District. A Conservation Agreement for the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District shall be deemed automatically renewed for an additional term of 3 years, unless either the Advisory Board or the landowner gives written notice to the contrary prior to the termination date of the Conservation Agreement. At the end of each three (3) year term, the Conservation Agreement shall automatically renew for an additional three (3) year term unless notice of termination is given.

ARTICLE X
WAIVER OF WATER ASSESSMENTS

A. No Connection Required

1. A landowner belonging to the District shall not be assessed for or required to connect to the Pamlico County Water System.

2. A landowner belonging to an Enhanced District shall not be assessed or required to connect to the Pamlico County Water System.

B. Abeyance

1. If applicable, water assessments will be held in abeyance, without interest, for farms, whether inside or outside of a District, until improvements on such property are connected to the water system for which the assessment was made.

2. If applicable, water and other utility assessments shall be held in abeyance, without interest, for farms in an Enhanced District, until improvements on such property are connected to the utility system for which the assessment was made.

C. Termination of Abeyance

When the period of abeyance ends, the assessment is payable in accordance with the terms set out in the assessment resolution.

D. Suspension of Statute of Limitations

Statutes of limitations are suspended during the time that any assessment is held in abeyance without interest. The landowner may be required to sign an acknowledgement (that may be incorporated into the Conservation Agreement) of the abeyance of the statute of limitations upon collecting water and other utility assessments.

E. Other Statutory Abeyance Procedures

Nothing in this section is intended to diminish the authority of the County to hold assessments in abeyance under N.C.G.S. 153A-201 or other applicable law.

F. Conflict with Water and/or Sewer System Construction and Improvement Grants

To the extent that this section conflicts with the terms of federal, state, or other grants under which county utility systems are constructed this section shall not apply. This section shall not apply to utilities that are not owned by the County unless the County has entered into an agreement with the entity (ies) owning the utilities and that agreement provides that this Ordinance shall apply.

ARTICLE XI
ADDITIONAL ENHANCED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT BENEFITS

Land enrolled in the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program is to be entitled to all of the benefits available under the Voluntary Agricultural District program and to the following additional benefits:

A. Sale of Non-farm Products

Landowners participating in Enhanced Districts may receive up to twenty-five percent of gross sales from the sale of non-farm products and still qualify as a bona fide farm that is exempt from county zoning regulations under N.C.G.S 153A-340(b). A landowner seeking to benefit from this subsection shall have the burden of establishing that the property's sale of non-farm products did not exceed twenty-five percent of its gross sales. A county may adopt an ordinance pursuant to this section that sets forth the standards necessary for proof of compliance.

B. Agricultural Cost Share Program

Landowners participating in Enhanced District are eligible under N.C.G.S. 143-215.74(b) to receive higher percentage of cost-share funds for the benefit of that farmland under the Agriculture Cost Share Program established pursuant to Part 9 of Article 221 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes for funds to benefit that farmland.

C. Priority Consideration

State departments, institutions, or agencies that award grants to farmers are encouraged to give priority consideration to landowners participating in Enhanced Districts.

D. Utility Assessment Abeyance

As provided in Article X above, abeyance of all county utility assessments in, addition to the abeyance of water assessments, shall apply to all participants in Enhanced Districts.

ARTICLE XII
PUBLIC NOTICE

A. Purpose

N.C.G.S. Section 106-740 provides that a county ordinance that establishes a farmland preservation program may provide that no State or local public agency or governmental unit may formally initiate any action to condemn any interest in qualifying farmland within a voluntary agricultural district or an enhanced voluntary agricultural district until such agency has requested the local agricultural advisory board established under G.S. 106-739 to hold a public hearing on the proposed condemnation. This Article provides for such a hearing.

B. Procedure

1. Upon receiving a request, the Advisory Board shall publish notice describing the proposed action in the appropriate newspapers of Pamlico County within five (5) business day of the request, and will in the same notice notify the public of a public hearing on the proposed condemnation, to be held within no less than fifteen (15) and no more than twenty-five (25) days of receipt of the request.

2. The Advisory Board shall meet to review:

   a. if the need for the project has been satisfactorily established by the agency or unit of government involved, including a review of any fiscal impact analysis conducted by the agency involved; and
   b. alternatives to the proposed action that have less impact and are less disruptive to the agricultural activities of the District within which the proposed action is to take place.

3. The Advisory Board shall consult with the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District Conservationist, County Agricultural Extension Agent and may consult with any other individuals, agencies, or organizations deemed by the Advisory Board to be necessary for its review of the proposed action. Land value will not be a factor in the selection between properties under consideration for the proposed action.

4. Within no less than fifteen (15) days after the public hearings, the Advisory Board shall make a report containing its findings and recommendations regarding the proposed action. The report shall be made available to the public for comment prior to its being conveyed to the decision-making body of the agency proposing the acquisition.

5. There will be a period of ten (10) days allowed for public comment on the report of the Advisory Board.

6. After the ten (10) day period for public comment has expired, the Advisory Board shall submit a final report containing all of its findings and recommendations regarding the proposed action to the decision making body of the agency proposing the acquisition.

7. The total time period, from the day that request for a hearing has been received to the day that a final report is issued to the decision making body of the agency proposing the acquisition, shall not exceed sixty (60) days. If the agency agrees to an extension, the agency and the Advisory Board shall mutually agree upon a schedule to be set forth in writing and made available to the public.

8. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 106-740, the Board of Commissioners shall not permit any formal initiation of condemnation by local agencies while the proposed condemnation is properly before the Advisory Board.

ARTICLE XIII
NOTIFICATION

A. Record of Notice of Proximity to Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District.

1. Procedure for Notification

Upon certification of qualifying farmland and designation of real property as a District, the title to that qualifying farmland and real property, which is contained in the Pamlico County Land Records System shall be indexed to include a notice reasonably calculated to alert a person researching the title of a particular tract that such tract is located within one-half aerial mile of a Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary District. The purpose of such notification is to inform current and potential residents and property owners in and adjacent to a Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District, that farming and agricultural activities may take place in this District any time during the day or night. The activities may include, but are not limited to the following: pesticide spraying, manure spreading, machinery and truck operations, burning, livestock operations, logging, and other common farming and forestry activities.

2. The following notice shall be made available to everyone recording a deed or plat with the Register of Deeds:

NOTICE TO REAL ESTATE PURCHASERS IN PAMLICO COUNTY
PAMLICO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS
Pamlico County has established agricultural districts to protect and preserve agricultural lands and activities. These districts have been developed and mapped by the county to inform all purchasers of real property within one-half aerial mile of a Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District that certain agricultural activities, including but not limited to the following: pesticide spraying, manure spreading, machinery and truck operations, burning, livestock operations, logging and other common farming and forestry activities may take place in these districts any time during the day or night. Maps of the location of Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts can be obtained through the overlay system provided to all county offices and the general public through internet access by the Tax Assessor's Office.

3. Limit of Liability

In no event shall the County or any of its officers, employees, members of the Advisory Board, or agents be held liable in damages for any misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance occurring in good faith in connection with the duties or obligations imposed by this Ordinance.

4. No Cause of Action

In no event shall any cause of action arise out of the failure of a person researching the title of a particular tract to report to any person the proximity of the tract to qualifying farm or Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District as defined in this Ordinance.

B. Signage

Signs identifying approved agricultural districts may be placed along the rights-of-way of major roads that pass through or next to those districts or as deemed appropriate by the Advisory Board, or its administrative agent for the county's agricultural district program. Members of the Agricultural District may place signs on their individual farms denoting their Agricultural District membership. Placement of signage shall be coordinated with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Pamlico County, when applicable.

C. Maps

Maps identifying approved Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts can be obtained through the overlay system provided to all county offices and the general public through internet access by the Tax Assessor's Office.

ARTICLE XIV
SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE AND OTHER LAND USE ORDINANCES REVIEW

Developers of subdivisions, planned unit developments, condominiums or group housing projects shall designate on preliminary and final plats and maps, the existence of all Districts and Enhanced Districts within one-half aerial mile of the proposed development.

ARTICLE XV
BUILDING PERMIT REGISTRATION

Pamlico County shall require persons applying for a building permit within one-half aerial mile of a Voluntary Agricultural District or an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District, or persons registering a deed, to sign the following statement, which shall be maintained at the office of the Advisory Board: "I certify that I have reviewed the most current Pamlico County Agricultural Districting Map found in the Register of Deeds Office and I have noted the proximity of Agricultural District Boundaries to my property. I understand that agricultural activities include, but are not limited to the following: pesticide spraying, burning, logging, machinery operation and other common farming activities which may occur at any time in these areas.

ARTICLE XVI
CONSULTATION AUTHORITY

The Advisory Board may consult with the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District, the N.C. Cooperative Extension Office, The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and any other such agency, individual, or organization the Advisory Board deems necessary to properly conduct its business.

ARTICLE XVII
NORTH CAROLINA AGENCY NOTIFICATION

Annually Report to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

A copy of this shall be sent to the Office of the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Board of Commissioners, the County Office of North Carolina Cooperative Extension, and the Soil and Water Conservation District office after adoption. At least annually the county shall submit a written report to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services on the county's agricultural district program, including the following information:

1. Number of landowners enrolled;
2. Number of acres enrolled;
3. Number of acres certified during the reporting period;
4. Number of acres denied during the reporting period;
5. Number of acres for which applications are pending;
6. Copies of any amendments to this Ordinance; and
7. Any other information the Advisory Board deems useful.

ARTICLE XVIII
LEGAL PROVISIONS

A. Severability

If any article, section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional as determined by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

B. Conflict with other Ordinances and Statutes

Whenever the provisions of this Ordinance conflict with other ordinances of Pamlico County, this Ordinance shall govern. Whenever the provisions of any federal or state statute require more restrictive provisions that are required by this Ordinance, the provisions of such statute shall govern.

C. Amendments

After notification and in consultation with the Agricultural District Advisory Board this Ordinance may be amended from time to time by the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners, subject to a public hearing, notice given thirty (30) days prior.

ARTICLE XIX
ENACTMENT

The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts and enacts the preceding articles and sections of the Ordinance.

Adopted this the 17th day of August, 2009.

Motion for adoptions by Commissioner Ann Holton and seconded by Commissioner Roy Brinson.

Pamlico County Board of Commissioners

Paul J. Delamar
Chairperson

ATTEST:
Kathy P Clayton
Clerk to Board of Commissioners

Approved as to form:

County Attorney

Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

1. Introduction

Your input is needed to create an Agricultural Development Plan for Pamlico County. This plan will show the current state of agriculture and forestry, outline the challenges and opportunities for agriculture and forestry that exist, and develop recommendations to help maintain family farms and forests in Pamlico County. The general public, agribusinesses, producers and landowners are targeted audiences for this survey. If the comprehensive strategies are to be meaningful, they need to be shaped by the input of the farm and forest producers. Your responses will help us to understand the needs of agriculture.

The North Carolina's Eastern Region received a grant from NC Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to create agricultural development plans for Craven, Nash and Pamlico Counties. The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College is directing the project.

The Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Board, NC Cooperative Extension Pamlico County, Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District, NC Forest Service Pamlico County, Pamlico County Tax Office, Pamlico County Manager's Office and other stakeholders are also involved with the development of this plan for Pamlico County.

Many challenges face agriculture such as a heightened awareness of the relationships between farm uses and other land uses. Farms and forests, when located adjacent to industries, military installations and communities, are considered "compatible use partners" and provide numerous benefits to the county and its residents. A comprehensive strategy will assist with the county's agriculture and land use policies and programs as well as develop these compatible partnerships. The Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan will provide that strategy.

The intent of this plan is neither to limit nor restrict landowners' rights and uses. The plan will increase awareness of agricultural development opportunities and appreciation of agriculture and forestry. The preservation of agriculture is important to the well being of family farms as well as to county and its economy. However, the ultimate decision of agricultural development rests in the hands of the landowners of farms and forests.

Please note that all information will be strictly confidential. Responses to the surveys will remain anonymous and are not identifiable. Your participation in this study is strictly voluntary.

Thank you for your interest and participation. If you have additional concerns or questions please contact glawrence@moc.edu or 919-518-6463.

2. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER SURVEY

You should complete this survey ONLY IF you have income in excess of $1000 from the production of crops, livestock, or aquaculture OR if you own timberland OR if you receive income from renting farm acreage.

All information is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL as referenced on introduction page.

Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

3. CURRENT STATE OF AGRICULTURE

Please tell us the type and the size of your farm/forest enterprise(s) in the following categories.

1. Please answer each item as appropriate for your operation:

How many total acres of land do you farm within Pamlico County?

Of this total acreage farmed, how many acres do you rent?

If you are a landowner who rents your land to farmers, how many acres do you rent?

How many total acres of timberland do you own within Pamlico County?

Of this total, how many acres are managed for timber production?

How many acres of farm and/or forestland do you manage outside of Pamlico County?

2. Help us understand more about your operations. Please select the statement that best describes your operation:

- ◯ Timber production only
- ◯ Farm production only
- ◯ Primarily timber production with some farm production
- ◯ Primarily farm production with some timber production

3. How long has your farm/forest been in operation?

- ◯ 0 to 9 years
- ◯ 10 to 20 years
- ◯ 20+ years

4. What is your age?

5. Is farming/forestry your primary occupation?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

6. What percentage of your household income comes from your farm or forest operation?

- ◯ 0-24%
- ◯ 25-49%
- ◯ 50-74%
- ◯ 75-100%

7. Have you, in the past 5 years, expanded your farm or forest operations?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

8. If you did not expand, what were the primary reasons? (Check ALL that apply)

- ☐ Satisfied with current size
- ☐ Age of owner/operator
- ☐ High cost of equipment
- ☐ Lack of available equipment
- ☐ Inability to obtain needed financing
- ☐ Low profit margin
- ☐ Market volatility and excessive risk
- ☐ Lack of available land to be purchased
- ☐ Lack of available land to rent
- ☐ Land is available, but too close to development to farm or manage
- ☐ Lack of available labor
- ☐ High cost of additional labor
- ☐ Personal or others reasons
- ☐ Environmental or other governmental restrictions
- ☐ Other (please specify)

9. Do you currently own sufficient property to expand or diversify your farm/forest operation?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

10. How much longer do you plan to operate your farm/forest?

- ◯ Less than 5 years
- ◯ 5 to 9 years
- ◯ 10 to 19 years
- ◯ More than 20 years

11. Of the issues listed below, which do you anticipate to most influence your operation in the next five years: (Check ALL that apply)

- ☐ Production input costs
- ☐ Marketing costs
- ☐ Regulatory costs
- ☐ Commodity prices
- ☐ Available labor
- ☐ Affordable labor
- ☐ Market competition
- ☐ Competition for available land
- ☐ Development pressure
- ☐ Export demand for products
- ☐ Local demand for products
- ☐ Land rental rates

12. When you retire, what do you expect to do with your farm/forestland?

- ◯ Sell to other farmers
- ◯ Transfer to family for farming
- ◯ Sell to non-farmers
- ◯ Transfer to family for non-farm use

13. Do you currently have a farm transition plan/estate plan?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

14. Have you shared your thoughts of farm transition with your family members?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

15. If you have forestland, do you have a written forestry management plan to follow?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

16. Is your farm or forest enrolled in Pamlico County's deferred present use value tax program?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Don't know

17. Do you currently sell/market/contract your farm/forest products to state and federal organizations, the military, hospitals, schools, etc?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

18. If your operation is involved in the production of produce, have you obtained Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification for your farm to assure food safety?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Do not grow produce

19. If your farm is involved in processing food products, have you obtained Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification for your farm to assure food safety?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Do not process food products

20. If your farm is involved in the product of tobacco or grain crops, do you follow GAP requirements for Best Management Practices (recordkeeping, environmental protection, and worker safety regulations)?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Do not grow tobacco or grains requiring GAP practices

21. If you are a landowner, do you currently lease any of your property for: (Check ALL that apply)

- ☐ Farming
- ☐ Military Training Operations
- ☐ Cell Towers
- ☐ Mining/Quarry
- ☐ Hunting/Fishing
- ☐ Do Not Lease
- ☐ Other (please specify):

22. If you do lease land, how many acres do you lease?

23. If you have leased your land for any of the above activities, have you had any problems?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If yes, please specify

24. Have you had neighbor problems concerning your farming or forestry operation?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

25. If you answered yes to the previous question, what was the nature of the complaint? (Check ALL that apply)

- ☐ Manure application complaint
- ☐ Boundary or trespassing conflict
- ☐ Drainage issue
- ☐ Dumping/littering issue
- ☐ Impact of farming on wildlife
- ☐ Smoke or dust
- ☐ Noise complaint
- ☐ Slow-moving vehicle complaint
- ☐ Chemical use or application issues
- ☐ Adverse environmental impact of farming
- ☐ Other (please specify)

26. Please answer each question presented below:

	Yes	No
Are you aware of the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) program?	◯	◯
Are you aware of the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) program?	◯	◯
Do you have acreage enrolled in the VAD Program?	◯	◯
Do you have acreage enrolled in the EVAD Program?	◯	◯

Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

4. FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Please answer the following questions about the future of agriculture and opportunities for agriculture.

1. Do you think local government funding should support agricultural development?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

2. The military presence in eastern NC is important to the economy of the state as is agriculture. Do you feel there is opportunity for market-based compatible use incentives to be arranged between the military and farm and forest landowners?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

3. Do you think educating non-farming citizens about the economic and social contributions of farming/forestry will increase community support for farms/forests and improve your operating conditions?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

4. Of the taxes listed below, please select the top three that you feel impose an unreasonable burden to agriculture/agribusiness.

- ☐ Local property tax on land
- ☐ Local property tax on buildings and equipment
- ☐ Federal income tax
- ☐ State income tax
- ☐ Federal self employment tax
- ☐ Federal social security and Medicaid taxes for employees (payroll taxes)
- ☐ State unemployment tax
- ☐ Estate tax

5. Do you think the county economic development commission should provide support for agriculture and agribusinesses in Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

6. Would you market your products at farmers' markets, food festivals, agricultural fairs, or other local food initiatives if such outlets were developed?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

7. Do you see agritourism as an expansion/diversification opportunity for agriculture and agribusiness in Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

8. Is it important to promote agriculture and forestry as career opportunities?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

9. Agriculture, horticulture, forestry and agribusiness should be taught in: (Check ALL that apply.)

- ☐ Elementary school
- ☐ Middle school
- ☐ High school
- ☐ Community college
- ☐ Colleges and Universities

10. Would you consider training an intern/young farmer within your farming operation to encourage the next generation to enter production agriculture?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Only if monetary incentives were provided.

5. TRAINING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Please answer the following questions about training and business development opportunities to maintain the viability of your farm or forest.

1. Would you attend training on the production of biofuel feedstock or woody biomass?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

2. Would you attend training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification for produce and processing?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

3. Would you attend training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification to ensure Best Management Practices are followed in the production of tobacco and grains?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

4. Select which of these potential trainings you would attend: (Check ALL that apply)

- ☐ Timber management
- ☐ Pine Straw Sales
- ☐ Longleaf Pine Production
- ☐ Development of a Forestry Management Plan
- ☐ Selecting Consulting Foresters
- ☐ None of the above

Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

5. Would you attend training on business planning such as these: (Check ALL that apply)

- [ ] Direct to Consumer Marketing of Products
- [ ] Business Website Development
- [ ] Regional Product Branding
- [ ] Identifying and Managing Risk
- [ ] Diversifying through Agritourism
- [ ] Marketing and Sales Promotions
- [ ] Forward Pricing and Hedging
- [ ] Organizing Buyer/Seller Groups

Other (please specify)

6. Would you attend training on Estate Planning and Farm/Forest Transition?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

7. Would you attend training on how to apply for federal and state contracts for your products?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

8. Both opportunities and threats exist for agriculture and agribusiness in Pamlico County.

Please list two threats you perceive to agriculture/forestry/agribusiness in Pamlico County.

Please list two opportunities that exist for agriculture/forestry/agribusiness in Pamlico County.

9. Please add any additional comments you may have about agriculture and forestry in Pamlico County.

Pamlico County Agricultural Producer Survey

6. THANK YOU!

Your time and effort on this survey will help create an Agricultural Development Plan for Pamlico County. This plan will provide recommendations for both short and long-term strategies to support agriculture and forestry in Pamlico County. Once the plan is written, it will be presented to the county commissioners for endorsement. Once it is endorsed, it will be sent to NC Department of Agriculture for certification. When the plan is certified, the county will receive priority status for funding from NC Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

If you have any questions or would like more details, please contact Grace Lawrence at glawrence@moc.edu or at 919-518-6463.

Pamlico County Non-Farm Resident Survey

1. Introduction

Your help is needed to create an Agricultural Development Plan for Pamlico County. This plan will contain the current state of agriculture and forestry, outline the challenges and opportunities for agriculture and forestry that exist, and develop recommendations to help maintain family farms and forests in Pamlico County. The general public, agribusinesses, producers and landowners are targeted audiences for this survey. Non-farm resident participation is essential to ensure that views on open space, values placed on farms and forests, and impacts of development are part of the plan.

The word "agriculture" in this survey refers to farms (row crops, livestock, fruits/vegetables, flowers/plants, aquaculture) and forests.

The North Carolina's Eastern Region received a grant from NC Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to create agricultural development plans for Craven, Nash and Pamlico Counties. The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College is directing the project.

The Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Board, NC Cooperative Extension Pamlico County, Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District, NC Forest Service Pamlico County, Pamlico County Tax Office and Pamlico County Manager's Office are also involved with the development of this plan for Pamlico County.

Many challenges face agriculture such as a heightened awareness of the relationships between farm uses and other land uses. Farms and forests, when located adjacent to industries, military installations and communities, are considered "compatible use partners" and provide numerous benefits to the county and its residents. A comprehensive strategy will assist with the county's agriculture and land use policies and programs as well as develop these compatible partnerships. The Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan will provide that strategy.

The intent of this plan is neither to limit nor restrict landowners' rights and uses. The plan will increase awareness of agricultural development opportunities and appreciation of agriculture and forestry. The preservation of agriculture is important to the well being of family farms as well as to county and its economy. However, the ultimate decision of agricultural development rests in the hands of the landowners of farms and forests.

Please note that all information will be strictly confidential. Responses to the surveys will remain anonymous and are not identifiable. Your participation in this study is strictly voluntary.

Thank you for your interest and participation. If you have additional concerns or questions please contact glawrence@moc.edu or 919-518-6463.

Pamlico County Non-Farm Resident Survey

2. Non-Farm Resident Survey

Please DO NOT complete this survey if you are a farmer/timberland owner OR if you receive income from renting land for farming OR if you own a business primarily dependent on farm and timber customers. These individuals will be surveyed separately.

All information is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL as referenced in the introduction.

1. Please tell us, by town and/or community, where you live in Pamlico County:

2. How long have you lived in Pamlico County?

- ◯ <5 years
- ◯ 5 to 9 years
- ◯ 10 to 14 years
- ◯ 15 to 19 years
- ◯ 20+ years

3. Please answer each question below:

	Yes	No
Have you ever lived near a farm or timber operation?	◯	◯
Have you ever owned or operated a farm or timber operation?	◯	◯
Do you live near (within 1/4 mile) of a farm or timber operation?	◯	◯
If yes, is that farmer or land owner a good neighbor?	◯	◯

4. When was the last time that you visited a farm or timber operation?

- ◯ Within the last year
- ◯ Within last 2 to 9 years
- ◯ More than 10 years ago
- ◯ Never

5. Which statement best represents your view of Pamlico County agriculture?

- ◯ Agriculture is a declining industry with no future growth potential
- ◯ Agriculture is holding its own as an industry and may have some future growth potential
- ◯ Agriculture is an expanding industry with significant future growth potential

6. Can you estimate the size of Pamlico County's agricultural industry?

- ◯ Less than $10 million
- ◯ $10 million to $99 million
- ◯ $100 million to $300 million
- ◯ Over $300 million

7. Do you feel that Pamlico County should take steps to help preserve farms and forests?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Not sure

Pamlico County Non-Farm Resident Survey

8. How do you support the agricultural economy of Pamlico County? (Check ALL that apply)

- [ ] I buy local produce at Farmers Markets, Pick-Your-Own farms, roadside stands, etc.
- [ ] I buy plants from local nurseries and greenhouses.
- [ ] I participate in agritourism activities such as corn mazes, pumpkin patches, hay rides, etc.
- [ ] I lease farmland and forest land for hunting and fishing
- [ ] Other (please specify)

9. How do you verify that the produce you purchase comes from local farmers? (Check ALL that apply)

- [ ] I look for the "Got to Be NC" labels
- [ ] I search on line at the "NC Farm Fresh" website
- [ ] I ask the vendor
- [ ] I know my farmer/producer and see where the products come from
- [ ] I don't verify product origin

10. Have you ever experienced problems with a farm or forest neighbor regarding any of the following? (Check ALL that apply)

- [ ] No problem
- [ ] Noise
- [ ] Odors
- [ ] Smoke/Dust
- [ ] Manure application
- [ ] Slow-moving vehicles
- [ ] Drainage issues
- [ ] Pesticide use
- [ ] Timber Harvest
- [ ] Irrigation
- [ ] Boundary/trespass issues
- [ ] Fencing/cattle loose
- [ ] Other problems such as dogs, personal, etc. (please specify)

11. If you had problems with a farm or forest neighbor, how did you resolve them?

- [ ] Called authorities
- [ ] Contacted the producer/landowner
- [ ] Mediation
- [ ] Nothing

12. When you dealt with the above issues, how did you feel about the resolution?

- [ ] I gained a better understanding of why the landowner/producer did the activities that upset me initially.
- [ ] The issue was not resolved
- [ ] Litigation was pursued
- [ ] I still do not understand why that activity is necessary

13. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: (PLEASE SELECT A RESPONSE FOR EACH ITEM PRESENTED).

	Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
Farms and forests enhance the scenic beauty and open space of Pamlico County	◯	◯	◯
Farmers are good neighbors	◯	◯	◯
Local farmers deliver generally high-quality products	◯	◯	◯
Farming is positive for the environment	◯	◯	◯
Tax breaks for farmers are important	◯	◯	◯
Agriculture and farming are high-technology industries	◯	◯	◯
The price of most farm food commodities is relatively low	◯	◯	◯
Farming presents a good career for enterprising persons	◯	◯	◯
Farmers get too many tax breaks	◯	◯	◯
Farmers need to act like other businesses and compete	◯	◯	◯
Agriculture and forestry should be promoted as viable career opportunities	◯	◯	◯
This isn't a farm area anymore; encouraging farm and forest operations is pointless	◯	◯	◯

14. Would you support farm and forest preservation efforts in Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

15. Would you support the use of county government funds for farm and forest development?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

16. Both opportunities and threats exist for agriculture and agribusiness in Pamlico County.

What are two threats to agriculture/forestry/agribusiness that you see in Pamlico County?

What are two opportunities that exist for agriculture/forestry/agribusiness in Pamlico County?

Pamlico County Non-Farm Resident Survey

17. Please add any additional comments you may have on agriculture and forestry in Pamlico County.

Pamlico County Non-Farm Resident Survey

3. Thank you!

Your time and effort on this survey will help create an Agricultural Development Plan for Pamlico County. This plan will provide recommendations for both short and long-term strategies to support agriculture and forestry in Pamlico County. Once the plan is written, it will be presented to the county commissioners for endorsement. Once it is endorsed, it will be sent to NC Department of Agriculture for certification. When the plan is certified, the county will receive priority status for funding from NC Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

If you have any questions or would like more details, please contact Grace Lawrence at glawrence@moc.edu or at 919-518-6463.

Pamlico County Agricultural Business Survey

1. Introduction

Your input is needed to create an Agricultural Development Plan for Pamlico County. This plan will contain the current state of agriculture and forestry, outline the challenges and opportunities for agriculture and forestry that exist, and develop recommendations to help maintain family farms and forests in Pamlico County. The general public, agribusinesses, producers and landowners are targeted audiences for this survey. Many of Pamlico County's agribusinesses are individual, independent operations with unique interests, needs and concerns. If the Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan is to be meaningful, it needs to be shaped by the input of agribusiness owners.

The North Carolina's Eastern Region received a grant from NC Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to create agricultural development plans for Craven, Nash and Pamlico Counties. The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College is directing the project.

The Pamlico County Agricultural Advisory Board, NC Cooperative Extension Pamlico County, Pamlico County Soil and Water Conservation District, NC Forest Service Pamlico County, Pamlico County Tax Office, Pamlico County Manager's Office and other stakeholders are also involved with the development of this plan for Pamlico County.

Many challenges face agriculture such as a heightened awareness of the relationships between farm uses and other land uses. Farms and forests, when located adjacent to industries, military installations and communities, are considered "compatible use partners" and provide numerous benefits to the county and its residents. A comprehensive strategy will assist with the county's agriculture and land use policies and programs as well as develop these compatible partnerships. The Pamlico County Agricultural Development Plan will provide that strategy.

The intent of this plan is neither to limit nor restrict landowners' rights and uses. The plan will increase awareness of agricultural development opportunities and appreciation of agriculture and forestry. The preservation of agriculture is important to the well being of family farms as well as to county and its economy. However, the ultimate decision of agricultural development rests in the hands of the landowners of farms and forests.

Please note that all information will be strictly confidential. Responses to the surveys will remain anonymous and are not identifiable.

Your participation in this study is strictly voluntary. Thank you for your interest and participation. If you have additional concerns or questions please contact glawrence@moc.edu or 919-518-6463.

Pamlico County Agricultural Business Survey

2. AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SURVEY

Please complete this survey ONLY if you own a business that is tied to agriculture, aquaculture and/or forestry through services, trainings, products, manufacturing, processing, etc.

All information is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL as referenced on introduction page.

1. What type of agribusiness do you operate? (Check ALL that apply)

- [ ] Feed dealer
- [ ] Equipment dealer
- [ ] Equipment repair
- [ ] Ag consultant
- [ ] Farm supply store
- [ ] Seed/fertilizer/lime/agri-chemical
- [ ] Nursery/greenhouse
- [ ] Other (please specify)
- [ ] Processor/distributor
- [ ] Veterinarian
- [ ] Logger or forester
- [ ] Dairy or other ag processor
- [ ] Landscape/horticulture
- [ ] Financial/insurance

2. How many people do you employ in Pamlico County? (Please provide number of employees)

Full-time

Part-time

3. How long has this business been in operation?

- ◯ 0-4 years
- ◯ 5-9 years
- ◯ 10-20 years
- ◯ 20+ years

4. Approximately what percentage of your business comes from the farm/forest community?

- ◯ 0 to 24%
- ◯ 25 to 49%
- ◯ 50 to 74%
- ◯ 75 to 100%

Pamlico County Agricultural Business Survey

5. Do you currently sell, market, or contract your products or services to state and federal organizations, the military, hospitals, schools, etc?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Pamlico County Agricultural Business Survey

3. OVERVIEW OF LAST FIVE YEARS

Please help us understand what has occurred in your business in the LAST five years.

1. Have you increased your operation size in the last five years?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

2. Have you added service area to hold or expand your market share in the last five years?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

3. Have you increased agricultural inventories and sales in the last five years?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

4. If you have NOT expanded in the last 5 years what are the primary reasons? (Check ALL that apply)

- ☐ Satisfied with current size
- ☐ Loss of market share
- ☐ Lack of labor supply
- ☐ Age of owner
- ☐ Lack of financial capital
- ☐ Low profit margins
- ☐ Declining agricultural sales
- ☐ Lack of room to expand
- ☐ Regulatory obstacles
- ☐ Receivables collection problems
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Pamlico County Agricultural Business Survey

4. OVERVIEW OF NEXT FIVE YEARS

Please help us understand what you foresee for your business in the NEXT five years.

1. Do you expect to increase your operation size in the next five years?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

2. Do you expect to increase the number of employees at your place of business in the next five years?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

3. Do you expect to add new product lines or services for farm/forestry operators in the next five years?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

4. Do you expect to add new product lines or services for non farmers in the next five years?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Pamlico County Agricultural Business Survey

5. TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE

1. What agricultural trends have you observed in Pamlico County? (Check ALL that apply)

- [ ] A change to new types of farms
- [ ] More small farms
- [ ] Fewer small farms
- [ ] More large farms
- [ ] Fewer large farms
- [ ] A shift to more sophisticated farm operations
- [ ] More part-time farms
- [ ] More specialty and direct market operations
- [ ] More diversification
- [ ] No significant changes
- [ ] Other (please specify)

2. Based on what you have observed, will you modify your business to adapt to these trends?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

3. If yes, what modifications will you make?

Pamlico County Agricultural Business Survey

6. THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

1. Do you see biofuels as an economic engine for agribusinesses in Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

2. Is transition/estate planning an issue facing agribusinesses in Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

3. Do agribusiness owners need assistance with transition/estate planning?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

4. Is it important that agriculture and agribusinesses be promoted as career opportunities?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

5. Is it important to have neighbor and/or community education about the importance of agriculture and agribusiness in Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

6. Do you have labor issues at your business?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

7. If you answered yes to the above question, what issues do you face? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Lack of qualified staff
- ☐ Lack of training opportunities for staff
- ☐ Lack of capital to hire staff
- ☐ Unable to provide required benefits such as health insurance, employment taxes, etc.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

8. Is there a need for consumer education on the economic impact of buying "local" in Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

9. Is there a need for youth agriculture education to be taught in the schools of Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

10. Do you see agritourism as an expansion/diversification opportunity for agriculture/agribusiness in Pamlico County?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

11. For your business to succeed, what topics are most important to you? (Check ALL that apply)

- ☐ Ability to receive adequate financing to maintain/expand business
- ☐ Succession/transition of the business to interested parties
- ☐ Training and education on new technologies that are being developed for agriculture/forestry
- ☐ Other (please specify)

12. Would you support county government funding of agricultural development?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

13. Both opportunities and threats exist for agriculture and agribusiness in Pamlico County.

Please list two threats to agriculture/forestry/agribusiness.

Please list two opportunities that exist for agriculture/forestry/agribusiness.

14. Please add any additional comments you may have about agriculture and forestry in Pamlico County.

Pamlico County Agricultural Business Survey

7. THANK YOU!

Your time and effort on this survey will help create an Agricultural Development Plan for Pamlico County. This plan will provide recommendations for both short and long-term strategies to support agriculture and forestry in Pamlico County. Once the plan is written, it will be presented to the county commissioners for endorsement. Once it is endorsed, it will be sent to NC Department of Agriculture for certification. When the plan is certified, the county will receive priority status for funding from NC Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

If you have any questions or would like more details, please contact Grace Lawrence at glawrence@moc.edu or at 919-518-6463.