

**AGENDA  
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013  
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2013 REGULAR SESSION

1. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS
  - A. Steve Ipock
  - B. Chris Elks
  - C. Ray Griffin
2. BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION: Dr. Lane Mills, Superintendent
3. CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET PRESENTATION: Dr. Catherine Chew, President
4. CRAVEN AGING PLANNING BOARD/HCCBG BUDGET AMENDMENT: Tonya Cedars, Area Agency on Aging and Alfreda Stout, Department of Social Services

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

5. DSS: BUDGET AMENDMENT: Alfreda Stout, Assistant DSS Director
6. TAX RELEASES AND REFUNDS: Ronnie Antry, Tax Administrator
7. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROPOSED FARMLAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Mike Carroll, Extension Agent, Agriculture
8. PLANNING: Don Baumgardner, Planning Director
  - A. Tall Structures Ordinance
  - B. Subdivisions for Approval
9. FINANCE BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Rick Hemphill, Assistant County Manager for Finance/Administration

10. APPOINTMENTS
  - A. Pending
  - B. Current
  - C. Upcoming
11. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Jim Hicks
12. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Jack Veit
13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
14. CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenters: Steve Ipock, Chris Elks, Ray Griffin

Agenda Item No. 1

Board Action Required: No

## PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

A. STEVE IPOCK

Mr. Ipock wishes to address the Board concerning the Ten Commandments.

B. CHRIS ELKS

Mr. Elks will speak about the Ten Commandments.

C. RAY GRIFFIN

Mr. Griffin would like to speak on prayer.

**Board Action: Receive Information**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Dr. Lane Mills

Agenda Item No. 2

Board Action Required: No

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lane Mills, will present the proposed Board of Education budget for FY 2013-2014 and the schools' funding request to the County.

**Board Action: Receive request**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Dr. Catherine Chew

Agenda Item No. 3

Board Action Required: No

### **CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Craven Community College President, Dr. Catherine Chew, will present the proposed FY 2013-2014 budget and the funding request for the college to the County.

**Board Action: Receive request**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Tonya Cedars, Alfreda Stout

Agenda Item No. 4

Board Action Required: Yes

## **CRAVEN AGING PLANNING BOARD/HCCBG BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Ms. Cedars and Ms. Stout will update the Board on the impact of sequestration on the Home and Community Care Block Grant. Attachment #4 provides details concerning budget adjustments that are being proposed for approval by the Board.

**Board Action: A roll call vote is needed to approve budget amendments.**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Alfreda Stout

Agenda Item No. 5

Board Action Required: Yes

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: DSS BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Ms. Stout will be requesting a budget amendment to adjust the budget for Regular Subsidy Day Care funding. (See Attachment #5)

**Board Action: A roll call vote is needed to approve budget amendment.**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Ronnie Antry

Agenda Item No. 6

Board Action Required: Yes

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: TAX RELEASES AND REFUNDS**

Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, will present the routine requests for tax releases and refunds contained in Attachment #6 for the Board's approval.

**Board Action: A roll call vote is needed to approve tax releases and refunds.**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Mike Carroll

Agenda Item No. 7

Board Action Required: Yes

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROPOSED  
FARMLAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Mike Carroll, Extension Agent, will discuss a proposed Farmland Development Plan, which has been provided to the Board under separate cover. The following resources along with members of the Agricultural Advisory Board will be present to provide additional details for the Board's discussion:

- Dr. Sandra Maddox, Director  
Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center  
Mount Olive College
- Ms. Grace Lawrence  
Program Director  
Farm and Forest Protection Program  
Mount Olive College Agribusiness Center

**Board Action: Consider the proposed plan for approval.**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Don Baumgardner

Agenda Item No. 8

Board Action Required: Yes

## DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: PLANNING

### A. TALL STRUCTURES ORDINANCE

On April 24, 2013, Craven County Management and Planning Staff along with Commissioner Tom Mark attended the NC Broadband Seminar hosted by the Carolinas Wireless Association and the NC League of Municipalities. The seminar was very informative and helped planning staff better understand the requirements set forth in the Federal Communications Act of 1996. The information presented will help the planning staff with the permitting process once the ordinance is adopted. At the seminar, a NC League of Municipalities endorsed draft sample telecommunications ordinance was handed out for review and after review by planning staff; the ordinance seems to be more restrictive than the current draft of the Craven County Tall Structures Ordinance. After attending the meeting we are of the opinion no changes are necessary to the current proposed Tall Structure Ordinance. No further changes have been made to the ordinance since the last public hearing. Attachment #8.A. contains a copy of the Craven County Tall Structure Ordinance to consider for adoption.

**Board Action: Consider adoption of the Tall Structures Ordinance.**

### B. SUBDIVISIONS FOR APPROVAL

The Planning Board has recommended the following subdivisions for approval.

#### King Creek at Cherry Branch Ph. 1- Final

- Property is owned by Coastal Piedmont Developers, LLC and surveyed by Herbert J. Nobles, Jr. PLS
- Property is located within Twp 5 off of Cherry Branch Dr. (SR 1847)
- Parcel ID 5-006-001-A
- Subdivision contains 17 lots 10.14 Acres
- Lots proposed to be served by County Water and individual septic systems

Sharon Lewis Subdivision – Final

- Property is owned by Harold Hargett Jr. and Tonya Hargett and surveyed by Willard R. Hall, PLS
- Property is located within Twp 1 off of River Rd (SR 1400)
- Parcel ID 1-073-016
- Subdivision contains 1 lot 1.51 Acres
- Lot proposed to be served by County Water and individual septic system

**Board Action: A vote to approve the subdivisions is needed.**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Rick Hemphill

Agenda Item No. 9

Board Action Required: Yes

## **FINANCE BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Assistant County Manager for Finance/Administration, Rick Hemphill, will present the following budget amendment and ordinance update for the Board's approval.

**Amendments:** Cooperative Extension/EFNEP– The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) budgeted \$6,000 for fiscal year 2013. This was done in error. The \$ 6,000 grant from CarolinaEast Foundation was a one-time grant received in fiscal year 2012. Need to reduce the revenue and corresponding expenditure line by \$6,000. The unspent balance of \$5,513 from fiscal year 2012 was approved to be carried forward at the August 6, 2012 board meeting.

Finance –Need to budget the \$33,950,000 Limited Obligation Refunding Bond Series 2013. This is to record the refunding of the Certificate of Participation Series 2007.

General/Pass through – Need to reallocate DJJDP funding among the Juvenile Crime Prevention Programs. The program revisions call for a \$13,012 reduction for JCPC administration, with a \$10,761 increase for area day reporting and a \$2,251 increase for teen court.

**Board Action: A roll call vote is needed to approve budget amendments.**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 10

Board Action Required: Yes

## APPOINTMENTS

- A. PENDING
- B. CURRENT
- C. UPCOMING

**Board Action: If the intent is to make appointments effective immediately, a motion to waive the one meeting waiting requirement would be in order.**

**A. PENDING APPOINTMENT(S):**

**Adult Care Home Advisory Committee**

Four vacancies remaining, no applications on file.

**Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

Juvenile Defense Attorney to replace Mike Barnhill; no applications on file

**New Bern Board of Adjustment, Extraterritorial Representative**

Vacancy to replace Starlin Beatty. Although the County has exceeded the 90 days allowed to make this appointment, the City of New Bern has still deferred to the county and submitted the name of a nominee from the Rocky Run community, **Mr. John Murrell**, whose application appears as **Attachment #10.A.**

**Down East RPO**

At the last meeting Mayor Chad Braxton of Vanceboro was appointed. The appointment of an alternate was deferred. Elected members from remaining municipalities not participating in the New Bern MPO are eligible to serve as alternate. (Cove City, Dover or Havelock)

**PENDING APPOINTMENTS, CONT'D.**

**FIRE TAX COMMISSIONERS**

AUTHORIZATION: N.C.G.S. 69-25.5

MISSION/FUNCTION: To serve in an advisory capacity as representatives of the County Commissioners relative to determining the amount of fire protection needed in their respective districts, assuring that district residents are afforded fire protection commensurate with the amount of fire tax paid, and furnishing said protection.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:	TYPE:
<u>30</u>	<u>3 per District</u>
_____	_____

QUALIFICATIONS (Special Skills, Professional Classifications, Affiliations, Limitations, etc.):

Must be a qualified voter of the district represented.

LENGTH OF TERMS: 2 Years

**Term(s) ending:** Harvey Hurst - #6 (Initial Appointment 2011 to Edwards Unexpired Term)  
William Mathews - #3 (Initial Appointment 1998)  
Clarence Simpson –Rhems (Initial Appointment 1998)  
Joseph Wetherington – Swift Creek (Initial Appointment 2008)

**Applications on File:** Johnny Norris to replace Clarence Simpson and John Carroll Hawkins to replace William Mathews (**Attachment # 10.A.1.**)

**Mr. Wetherington does not wish to be reappointed. An application will be forthcoming from the department.**

**FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

AUTHORIZATION: NCGS 58-84-30

MISSION/FUNCTION: To safeguard firefighters in active service and dependent members of their families from financial loss resulting from sickness, injury or loss of life suffered while in performance of his or her duties as a firefighter.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

5 per department

TYPE:

2 appointed by Board of Commissioners; 2 appointed by the department; 1 appointed by Commissioner of Insurance

QUALIFICATIONS (Special Skills, Professional Classifications, Affiliations, Limitations, etc.):

LENGTH OF TERMS: 2 Years

MEETING SCHEDULE: As necessary

COMPENSATION: No  Yes  Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Term(s) ending:**

W.O. Gaskins, Jr.- LSC (Initial Appointment 1999)  
Ralph Roeland - #6 (Initial Appointment 1999)  
Duward White – Dover (Initial Appointment 2003)  
Douglas Whitford – LSC (Initial Appointment 1999)

**No applications on file**

**B. CURRENT APPOINTMENTS**

**NURSING HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

AUTHORIZATION: N.C.G.S.131E-115

MISSION/FUNCTION: Work to maintain the intent of the Nursing Home Patients Bill of Rights within the licensed homes in the County; to promote community involvement and cooperation with domiciliary homes to ensure quality care for the elderly.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:  
7-12

TYPE:  
Dictacted by the number of homes in the county; homes have right to recommend 25% of appointees

QUALIFICATIONS (Special Skills, Professional Classifications, Affiliations, Limitations, etc.):  
Cannot be employed by or have a relative in an adult care home.

LENGTH OF TERMS: 3 Years

MEETING SCHEDULE: Quarterly, beginning in March, third Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

COMPENSATION: No  Yes

**Term(s) Ending:** Bob Dorsey (Initial appointment 2010)  
Rachelle Martin (Initial appointment 2010)  
Theron McCabe (Initial appointment 2010; appointed at Chairman's suggestion that a Commissioner serve)

**No application(s) on file.**

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

AUTHORIZATION: General Statute 153-345

MISSION/FUNCTION: To hear and decide appeals from and review any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official charged with the enforcement of the applicable ordinance; may permit special exceptions to zoning regulations if provided for in the ordinance.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

7

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TYPE:

Representatives of each airport zoned area

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

QUALIFICATIONS (Special Skills, Professional Classifications, Affiliations, Limitations, etc.):

LENGTH OF TERMS: 3 Years

MEETING SCHEDULE: Not Specified (as needed)

**Term(s) ending:** Cynthia Riley

**No applications on file**  
(Planning is checking on her interest in continuing)

**CRAVEN AGING PLANNING BOARD**

AUTHORIZATION: Bylaws

MISSION/FUNCTION: To provide a comprehensive assessment of the needs and opportunities associated with older adults; an achievable vision of successful aging. Craven County based programs for the support of and investment in older adults and their families, including a system of care for high-risk older adults; and policy strategies for maximizing the functional independence and quality of life of older adults and their families consonant with their wishes and desires.

Serves as the sole policy formulation board concerning aging programs on behalf of the Craven County Board of Commissioners.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TYPE:

Agency - 10  
Local Government - 3  
Client/Caregiver - 2  
Senior Representative - 3

QUALIFICATIONS (Special Skills, Professional Classifications, Affiliations, Limitations, etc.):

Representative of senior population (60+ years of age), client representative (caretaker of an older adult, employed by or volunteering for senior service provider) or representative of one of the following agencies or government entities: Craven County DSS, Craven County Health, Carolina East Medical Center, CARTS, Employment Security Commission, Neuse Center, Coastal Community Action, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Senior Tarheel Legislature, Craven County Commissioners, Craven County Manager, Council of Governments.

LENGTH OF TERMS: 2 Years

MEETING SCHEDULE: Fourth Thursday of every second month, beginning in January, at 1:30 p.m. in the Craven County Administration Building

COMPENSATION: No X    Yes     Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Term(s) expiring:**    Angela Shelters (Initial appointment 2011)

**Application on file:**    Angela Shelters (Attachment #10.B.)

**C. UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS**

**June**

<u>Craven Community College</u>	Earl Wright (Initial Appointment 1997)
<u>Eastern Carolina Council</u>	James Walker (Initial Appointment 2011)
<u>Social Services Board</u>	Rex Bennett (Initial Appointment 2007) George Sawyer (Initial Appointment 2007)
<u>Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board</u>	Jeff French (Initial Appointment 2011) Ronald Knight (Initial Appointment 2007; Org. Labor)
<u>Regional Aging Advisory Committee</u>	Bob Dorsey (Initial Appointment 2012) Mary Zeeman (Initial Appointment 2010)
<u>Recreation Advisory Board</u>	Dickie Fairburn (Initial Appointment 2009) Demetrius Harkley (Initial Appointment 2007) Robert Sabdo (Initial Appointment 2006) Bill Taylor (Initial Appointment 2010)
<u>Airport Authority</u>	Harold Blott (Initial Appointment 2008) Bill Nauman (Initial Appointment 2005)

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Jim Hicks

Agenda Item No. 11

Board Action Required: Yes

## COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

### **Offer to Purchase Real Property – 613 Ruth Avenue (#8-015-119).**

The County and City of New Bern have received an offer from Carmen Burgos in the amount of \$2,000.00 for this property, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$3,882.21. The current tax value is \$10,800 (the property is unimproved). Also attached are a copy of the offer to purchase, deed, and GIS information. The City has accepted the offer.

Should the Board desire to accept this offer, then the property will then be advertised for upset bids in accordance with General Statutes. Once no further upset bids are timely received, the City and County may accept or reject the final offer.

**Board Action: Consider offer to purchase**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: Jack Veit

Agenda Item No. 12

## COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 13

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2013

Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 14

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board will be requested to go into closed session under the authority of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss potential litigation.

TO: Craven County Commissioners  
 FROM: Alfreda Stout, Lead Agency Ex Officio  
 DATE: April 22, 2013  
 RE: Sequestration of Home and Community Care Block Grant Funds

Notification was received from the Area Agency on Aging Director, Mrs. Tonya Cedars, dated Wednesday, April 3, 2013, listing the reduction of the Fiscal Year 2012- 2013 Home and Community Care Block Grant, HCCBG, funding. Craven County's total reduction in HCCBG funding is \$9,039. (This is only HCCBG- not matching 10% reduction)

A copy of email and supporting spreadsheets are attached.

- Attachment 1-copy of email.
- Attachment 2-Spreadsheet SYF 12-13 County Funding Revised March, 2013 for Sequester Reduction Federal Title III only .

The programmatic reductions were prescriptive; therefore reductions were taken according to the percentage of funding originally received in each service.

**I) Reduction for Senior Companion, Transportation, Care Management, Senior Center Operations, In Home Services or Title IIIB is \$3,685. (41% of Sequestered Funds)**

Agency	Current HCCBG Funds	Percentage of IIIB Services	Amount of Reduction	Adjusted HCCBG ( only) IIIB Services
1) Coastal Community *Senior Companion	\$36,171	11%	\$405	\$35,766
2) CARTS *Transportation to Congregate sites	\$71,801	21%	\$774	\$71,027
1) DSS-Total DSS will take reduction in 2 of 3 eligible categories as In Home Services is such a vital service.	\$227,386	68%	\$2,506	see below
*Senior Ct Operations	\$ 4,275		\$ 840	\$ 3,435
*Care Management	\$ 88,828		\$1,666	\$ 87,162
* In Home Services (Level II and III totals combined)	\$134,283		0	\$134,283

Attachment #4.

**II) Reduction to Congregate referred to on IIC1 Funds is \$4,016 (44% of Sequestered Funds)**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Current HCCBG Funds</b>	<b>Percent of Congregate</b>	<b>Amount of Reduction</b>	<b>Adjusted HCCBG (only) Congregate/ IIC1</b>
1) DSS	\$89,445	77%	\$3,092	\$86,352
2) Havelock	\$27,086	23%	\$ 924	\$26,162

**III) Reduction to Home Delivered Meals(HDM) or IIC2 funds is \$1,338 (15% of Sequestered Funds)**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Current HCCBG Funds</b>	<b>Percentage of HDM</b>	<b>Amount of Reduction</b>	<b>Adjusted HCCBG (only) HDM/IIC2</b>
2) DSS Senior Center	\$146,095	100%	\$1,338	\$144,757

**\*\*Copy of revised DOA 731 County Summary Home and Community Block Grant Funding Plan is attached. This form will show the new HCCBG amounts and well as the adjusted match funding and total funding available.\*\***

- Attachment 3- DOA 731 County Funding plan (copy)







NAME AND ADDRESS  
 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDER  
 CARTS  
 2822 Neuse Blvd.  
 New Bern, NC 28562

Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults

County Funding Plan

Provider Services Summary

DOA-732 (Rev. 2/12)

County Craven

July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

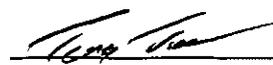
REVISION # 2 , DATE : April 22, 2013

Services	Ser. Delivery		A				B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	(Check One)		Block Grant Funding				Required	Net*	NSIP	Total	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
	Direct	Purch.	Access	In-Home	Other	Total	Local Match	Serv Cost	Subsidy	Funding	HCCBG Units	Reimburse Rate	HCCBG Clients	Total Units
Transportation	x		71027			//////////	7892	78919		78919	10885	7.25	55	10885
						//////////	0	0		0				
						//////////	0	0		0				
						//////////	0	0		0				
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						//////////	0	0		0				
Total	////////	////////	71027	0	0	71027	7892	78919	0	78919	10885	//////////	55	10885

\*Adult Day Care & Adult Day Health Care Net Service Cost

	ADC	ADHC
Daily Care	_____	_____
Transportation	_____	_____
Administrative	_____	_____
Net Ser. Cost Total	_____	_____

Certification of required minimum local match availability.  
 Required local match will be expended simultaneously  
 with Block Grant Funding.

  
 Authorized Signature, Title  
 Community Service Provider  
 4/22/13  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature, County Finance Officer Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature, Chairman, Board of Commissioners Date

NAME AND ADDRESS  
 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDER  
 Coastal Community Action, Inc.  
 PO Box 729  
 Newport NC 28570

Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults

County Funding Plan

DOA-732 (Rev. 2/07)

County \_\_\_\_\_ Craven

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Provider Services Summary

Revision Date: April 22, 2013

Services	A						B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Ser. Delivery		Block Grant Funding				Required Local Match	Net* Serv Cost	USDA Subsidy	Total Funding	Projected HCCBG Units	Projected Reimburse Rate	Projected HCCBG Clients	Projected Total Units
	(Check One) Direct	Purch.	Access	In-Home	Other	Total								
Senior Companion				35766			3974	39740		39740	8257	4.81	15	8257
							0	0		0				
							0	0		0				
							0	0		0				
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							0	0		0				
							0	0		0				
Total			0	35766	0	35766	3974	39740	0	39740	8257		15	8257

\*Adult Day Care & Adult Day Health Care Net Service Cost

	ADC	ADHC
Daily Care	_____	_____
Transportation	_____	_____
Administrative	_____	_____
Net Ser. Cost Total	_____	_____

Certification of required minimum local match availability.  
 Required local match will be expended simultaneously  
 with Block Grant Funding.

*Paula Dickson E.P.* 4/27/2013  
 Authorized Signature, Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 Community Service Provider

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature, County Finance Officer Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature, Chairman, Board of Commissioners Date

"Match is currently in kind"

RECEIVED  
APR 23 2013  
CRAVEN CO. DSS

NAME AND ADDRESS Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults  
 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDER DOA-732 (Rev. 2/12)  
 Havelock Senior Center County Craven  
 103 Trader Avenue July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013  
 Havelock, NC 28532 County Funding Plan  
Provider Services Summary REVISION # 1 , DATE : April 8, 2013

Services	A					B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
	Ser. Delivery (Check One)		Block Grant Funding			Required	Net*	NSIP	Total	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	
	Direct	Purch.	Access	In-Home	Other	Total	Local Match	Serv Cost	Subsidy	Funding	HCCBG Units	Reimburse Rate	HCCBG Clients	Total Units
Congregate		x			26162	////////////////	2907	29069	3300	32369	5500	5.89	30	5500
						////////////////	0	0		0				
						////////////////	0	0		0				
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						////////////////	0	0		0				
Total	////	////	0	0	26162	26162	2907	29069	3300	32369	5500	////	30	5500

\*Adult Day Care & Adult Day Health Care Net Service Cost

	ADC	ADHC
Daily Care	_____	_____
Transportation	_____	_____
Administrative	_____	_____
Net Ser. Cost Total	_____	_____

Certification of required minimum local match availability.  
 Required local match will be expended simultaneously  
 with Block Grant Funding.

*David O. Smith* 4-8-2013  
 Authorized Signature, Title Date  
 Community Service Provider

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature, County Finance Officer Date Signature, Chairman, Board of Commissioners Date

RECEIVED  
APR 9 2013  
CRAVEN CO. DSS





## CREDIT MEMOS SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL ON 05/06/2013

TAXPAYER NAME	ACCT#/TICKET#	AMOUNT
CLARK FUNERAL DIRECTORS LLC NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2011	0070869 2011-0090378	10.07
CLARK FUNERAL DIRECTORS LLC NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2012	0070869 2012-0090533	9.18
COX, CLIFTON ONEAL DOUBLE BILLED-SEE ACCT 91521	1526610 2012-0012504	85.12
MOZIBS TOBACCO EXPRESS INC BUSINESS LOCATED IN PITT COUNTY	0089512 2012-0090953	53.90
NOLAN, MELINDA FORECLOSURE - LIEN EXTINGUISHED	0041261 2008-0042010	11.20
NOLAN, MELINDA FORECLOSURE - LIEN EXTINGUISHED	0041261 2009-0042257	10.24
NOLAN, MELINDA FORECLOSURE - LIEN EXTINGUISHED	0041261 2010-0093676	16.24
NOLAN, MELINDA FORECLOSURE - LIEN EXTINGUISHED	0041261 2011-0042918	14.19
NOLAN, MELINDA FORECLOSURE - LIEN EXTINGUISHED	0041261 2012-0042824	13.05
ROWE, MILTON H JR INCORRECT SITUS-NOT CITY LIMITS	6281549 2012-0049640	37.28
SCHANER, RICHARD & BONNIE E NEVER OWNED MOBILE HOME	0061834 2012-0090100	147.24
TOBACCO OUTLET DOUBLE BILLED-SEE ACCT 94070	0089530 2012-0091248	80.84
	12 -CREDIT MEMO(S)	488.55

## REFUNDS SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL ON 05/06/2013

TAXPAYER NAME	ACCT#/TICKET#	AMOUNT
ALGER, TERESA ENSLEY DID NOT OWN 1/1/2012	0051347 2012-0000598	228.32
COX, CLIFTON ONEAL DID NOT OWN 1/1/2009	1526610 2009-0012475	122.92
COX, CLIFTON ONEAL DID NOT OWN 1/1/2010	1526610 2010-0011417	98.30
COX, CLIFTON ONEAL DID NOT OWN 1/1/2011	1526610 2011-0012628	87.88
MOZIBS TOBACCO EXPRESS INC BUSINESS SITUS IN PITT COUNTY	0089512 2011-0090855	52.01
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# Craven County Agricultural Development Plan

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**Grace Lawrence**

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# Acknowledgements

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The 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 for a three-county region. NCER's mission is to identify barriers and generate regional strategies for economic growth. NCER supports the agricultural industry in eastern North Carolina and is committed to the identification of economic development opportunities for agricultural producers and agribusinesses.

The Craven County Agricultural Development Plan was researched and written by Grace Lawrence. A native of Lee County, Ms. Lawrence has a master's degree in education from Minnesota State University Mankato. She has worked in environmental education and with N.C. State University Cooperative Extension for more than 15 years.

Dr. Sandy Maddox served as principle editor for the plan. 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.

A county team of local agencies, boards and citizens reviewed the Craven County Agricultural Development Plan and provided comments. Members of the team were:

Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board

North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Craven County

New Bern Area Farmers' Market

North Carolina Forestry Service, Craven County

Craven County Soil & Water Conservation District



MOUNT OLIVE  
COLLEGE

LOIS G. BRITT  
AGRIBUSINESS CENTER





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

# Executive Summary

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Craven County is a rural county in the coastal plain of North Carolina. Its economy is influenced by two of the top economic engines in the state: agriculture and the military. Agriculture is the number-one industry in North Carolina, and Craven County's agriculture and forestry contribute a significant amount to the state total. The military is the second-largest industry in North Carolina, and the Marines have operated in Craven County since World War II. Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point was authorized in 1941 and established in Craven County because of the rural and coastal nature of the county. Tourism also is recognized as the third-largest industry of economic impact in North Carolina behind agriculture and the military<sup>1</sup>. In 2011, domestic travelers spent \$18.4 billion across the state, an 8 percent increase from 2010, and a record-high visitor spending figure. Historic landmarks such as Tryon Palace and New Bern bring visitors to the area each year. The 160,000-acre Croatan National Forest is also located in Craven County and is a much visited natural resource for bikers, hunters, campers and other visitors<sup>2</sup>.

The military views agriculture as an important part of its readiness since agriculture is a compatible use for its operations. An example of the military's commitment to working lands and compatible land use is exemplified by the recently initiated and funded Market-based Conservation Initiative in North Carolina. This initiative offers payments from Department of Defense funding to owners of working lands under specific military flight paths. The goal is to encourage landowners to limit development of working lands and forests into less compatible uses through long-term reverse auction lease payments. The military's influence is extremely important to the county's economy and to the future of agriculture. In a presentation to the Craven County Commissioners in December 2010, the Craven County Economic Development Commission stated that defense industries dominate Craven County's top 10 employers including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing, the Fleet Readiness Center East, the Marine Corp Air Station and the Naval Health Clinic. To ensure that these industries remain in Craven County, compatible land use must be considered. Agriculture and forestry are essential to this planning.

The county's location has also made it a popular destination for vacationers and those who wish to live by the water or in a rural area. As a result of this influx, development has grown along the county's rivers and creeks, and agricultural lands have been lost to this growth. The 2009 Craven County N.C. Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Core Land Use Plan Executive Summary reported a 30.4 percent growth in population from 1980 to 2007 and an expected additional increase of 12.4 percent from 2007 to 2030. Additionally, since 1980, Craven County has been the 12<sup>th</sup>-fastest growing CAMA county. From 1980 to 2000, the county's year-round dwelling units increased by 48.9 percent, and seasonal housing units increased by 100 percent. While agricultural lands still remain the most prominent land use in the county, planned development is essential to a balanced economy<sup>3</sup>.

Only three of the top 25 ranking employers listed by the N.C. Department of Commerce's AccessNC for Craven County are denoted as agribusinesses. This ranking however does not recognize the effect of individually owned and operated family farms. These agricultural operations greatly impact the economies of allied businesses including food service industries, governmental agencies (schools), retail sales, service entities and others. Additionally, when evaluating the economic impact of agriculture to Craven County, the production of agricultural commodities by these farming operations has a significant influence on the state of the county's economy. The impact of agriculture and forestry are noted:

- Craven County ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the state for corn production in 2010.
- Craven County was 20<sup>th</sup> in the state for hogs and pigs in 2010.
- Craven County ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the state for soybean production in 2010.
- Craven County ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the state for timber harvested and delivered to mills in 2010.
- The forest industry served as one of the county's top employers in 2010.
- The most current agricultural economic data available (2008) reported that total county income from agriculture and agribusinesses in Craven County was \$312,760,854.

Agriculture and forestry in Craven County face numerous challenges. An aging farmer population, loss of agricultural land, the increased costs of production and other issues are changing the agricultural landscape in the county. However, opportunities do exist to educate, enhance and support agriculture and forestry. Some of the challenges and opportunities noted by resources used for the plan are:

- Craven County experienced a population increase of 13.2 percent from 2000 to 2010.
- The number of acres of land in agricultural production decreased 15.4 percent from 1997 to 2007.
- The average age of farmers in the county increased from 54.8 years old in 1997 to 58.3 in 2007.
- More than 41 percent of the farmers surveyed for this plan reported that less than 24 percent of their income came from agriculture.
- 100 percent of the producers and agribusinesses surveyed felt that agricultural education should be taught in the schools.

- 100 percent of the producers and agribusinesses surveyed felt that consumer education on buying “local” and the importance of agriculture and forestry to the economy of Craven County was needed.
- Almost 60 percent of the non-farm public surveyed for this plan felt that agriculture provided steady to growing economic opportunities and may have potential for future growth.
- More than 90 percent of the non-farm public surveyed supported farm and forest preservation efforts in the county.

Changing demographics create opportunities for county leaders to seek a balance between the attractive rural nature of the county and planned development that can benefit all. The Craven County Agricultural Development Plan can provide guidance for a progressive county that is ready to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Agriculture and forestry are important components of planning as Craven County seeks this balance.

The intent of this plan is to help family farms and forests remain viable. Recommendations are made based on the data and research collected from national, state and local databases as well as from surveys and interviews conducted with three target audiences in Craven County. These recommendations are not regulatory. Rather, these guidelines assist those who work with family farms and forests. The recommendations also provide a framework in which to work to meet the challenges and opportunities that exist in Craven County. The recommendations are:

***Maintain agriculture’s economic viability.***

- Endorse the Craven County Agricultural Development Plan.
- Promote the Voluntary Agricultural District and the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Programs and the Agricultural Advisory Board.
- Support agriculture and forestry as an industry in Craven County.
- Support NCSU Cooperative Extension in Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, and other farm and forest support agencies.
- Encourage and promote agriculture and forestry as career opportunities in Craven County.
- Conduct estate and farm transition educational programs.
- Establish a county forestry association.
- Conduct educational opportunities utilizing available resources and information for producers, landowners and the general public.

- Support funding of a Cost of Services Study for Craven County.

***Increase public awareness and provide access to agriculture and forestry to increase understanding and appreciation of the importance of these industries to the county.***

- Conduct business development training.
- Develop and implement a Craven County Agriculture marketing campaign.
- Develop a feasibility study for an agricultural arena/farmers' market to serve agriculture in Craven County.

***Encourage young farmer-agribusiness development.***

- Encourage landowner enrollment in Craven County's Present Use Value Program.
- Develop educational programs and create career opportunities for young people in agriculture, forestry and agribusiness.
- Utilize the Agricultural Advisory Board to ensure agriculture is represented in local governmental decisions impacting agriculture into the future.

This Agricultural Development Plan is a guide for Craven County to maintain its strong agricultural and forestry heritage. The plan is not to remain static but to be revisited and revised periodically by the Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board. Changes and updates are to be made in order to maintain the plan's feasibility in its support of family farms and forests in Craven County.

# A Need for Action

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In recent years, Craven County has experienced population growth at a double-digit rate. The attractiveness of open space and shoreline areas within the county has made Craven County attractive to development. The county's population grew 13.2 percent from 91,426 in 2000 to 103,505 in 2010 according to the U.S. Census and is on track with the 18.5 percent growth rate experienced statewide over the last decade<sup>4</sup>. This growth has presented agriculture producer many challenges, including loss of farmland, loss of land rental opportunities and a general loss of non-farming citizens' appreciation and understanding of agriculture and its importance to the county.

Another challenge facing agriculture includes the increasing cost of production versus cash income. Input costs for farming have continued to surpass farm income over the past 10 years. Farm expenses per farm exceeded farm income per farm by 122 percent, according to the 2007 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture.

Craven County's aging farming population tends to be a universal issue for agriculture in North Carolina. The average age of a farmer in the county has steadily increased from 54.3 years old in 1997 to 58.2 in 2007<sup>5</sup>. The age of farmers and landowners in the county present challenges that will likely have repercussions for family owned farms and forests. This increase in the average age of farmers implies that fewer young people are pursuing agricultural production as a career.

While challenges abound, opportunities were also identified. Responses received from surveys and interviews that Mount Olive College conducted in the county noted a growing appreciation for the scenic value farms and forests bring to the county. The surveys and interviews also acknowledged the potential for agricultural growth and diversification through the emergent local foods movement. Employment opportunities for farm workers, agribusinesses, researchers and those with agricultural and forestry skills are ever present. In surveys and interviews, producers, landowners and agribusinesses lamented the need for qualified people to provide the necessary research, support and materials to sustain their enterprises.

Awareness of agriculture and forestry in the county must be cultivated and continued, especially among the non-farm residents. Craven County has a significant urban population around New Bern, and only 0.6 percent of the county population lives on a farm<sup>6</sup>. Only 3 percent of the non-farm citizens who completed the survey for this plan were able to correctly identify the economic impact of agriculture in Craven County. The small percentage of the population that lives on a farm and/or owns forested acres face a lack of understanding and appreciation among non-farm residents for what farms and forests bring to the county.

These challenges and opportunities have not gone unnoticed. In 2011, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (NCDA&CS) Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund awarded a grant to the N.C.'s Eastern Region to develop agricultural development plans for three counties: Craven, Nash and Pamlico Counties. Mount Olive College's Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center partnered with N.C.'s Eastern Region and directed the creation of these plans.

Agriculture in the Craven County Agricultural Development Plan is defined in the broadest sense to include all aspects of agriculture including horticulture, row crops, aquaculture, livestock and other farming and forestry production systems. The plan follows the definition of agriculture that is set by the N.C. General Assembly General Statute: G.S. 105-277.2 through 105-277.7:

***Minimum acreage of production land:***

- Five acres for horticulture use
- 10 acres for agricultural 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.

The data used in this plan were from the most recently published resources available. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture will be updated in 2012 so many of the facts used in this document are from the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture. In order to augment what the reported facts and figures were in Craven County and provide on-the-ground viewpoints, surveys and interviews of three target audiences – farmers, agribusinesses and non-farm residents – were conducted. The results of these surveys and interviews further illustrate the challenges and opportunities to farms and forests as well as the current state of agriculture in the county.

The surveys were distributed in paper format and electronically at [www.SurveyMonkey.com](http://www.SurveyMonkey.com). Links to the on-line survey were featured on websites, and the team distributed paper surveys to the populations they served. Interviews were conducted face-to-face and by telephone with people from all three target audiences. These interviews also contributed to the overall picture of agriculture in the county. All responses are confidential and anonymous as required by Mount Olive College's Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative. The data collected serves as a snapshot of the overall state of agriculture in Craven County and the opportunities and challenges that exist.

# Overview of Craven County

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Craven County is located in eastern North Carolina where the Trent and the Neuse Rivers drain into the Pamlico Sound. The county is part of the Neuse, the Tar-Pamlico and the White Oak River Basins. Craven County is comprised of 754 square miles or 464,000 acres in the coastal plain of North Carolina. The Croatan National Forest encompasses 160,000 acres <sup>7</sup>, and the Cherry Point Marine Air Station covers more than 29,000 acres in the county<sup>8</sup>.

Craven County is relatively flat and has significant wooded acreage. The county has several pocosins, or Carolina Bays, which are unique hydrological features in the southeastern part of the state. Water, which makes up 8.49 percent of the county's total area (Figure 1)<sup>9</sup> is a major component of the county.

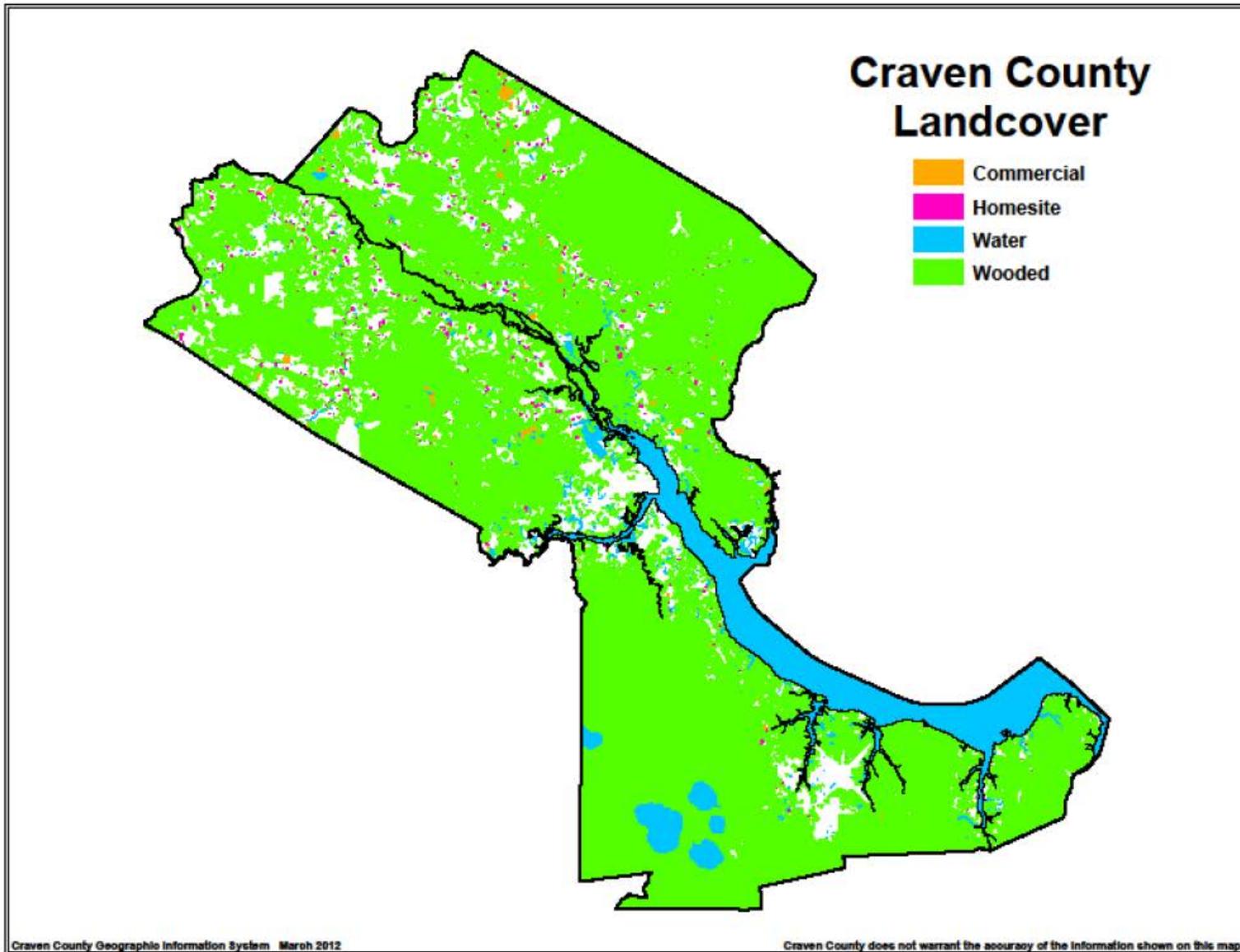


Figure 1 Landcover Craven County Source: Craven County GIS/Mapping 2012

Craven County has a moderate climate that is typical of the region. The average daily temperature was 62.1 Fahrenheit in 2010. The maximum average air temperature was 73.4 Fahrenheit, and the minimum average temperature was 51.4 Fahrenheit. Just over 34 inches of precipitation fell in 2010 in the county, far below the 54-inch annual average rainfall reported for the county <sup>6</sup>.

As a coastal county, Craven County is part of the 20 coastal counties that must follow the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) regulations administered by the N.C. Department of Coastal Management. The state created CAMA to help coastal counties maintain the environmental qualities that make the coastal plains so attractive while allowing for continued planning and economic development<sup>10</sup>.

Craven County is bisected by U.S. Highway 70, which connects the county to the west, and U.S. Highway 17, which runs north and south (Figure 2). These highways help serve the Morehead City and Wilmington ports and give the county excellent access to markets to the north, south, east and west.

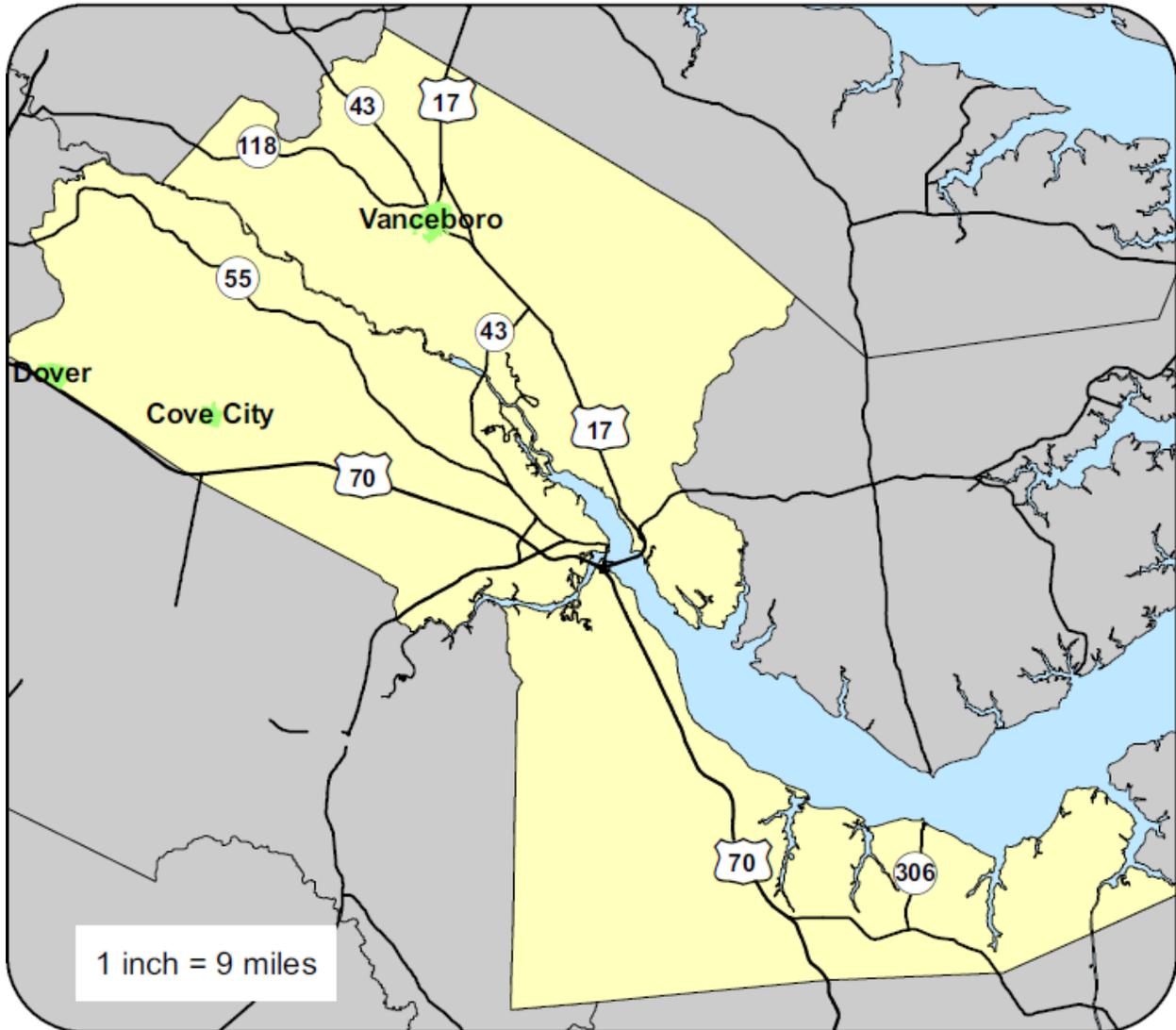


Figure 2 Major Roads Craven County Source: Craven County CAMA Land Use Plan 2009

There are eight municipalities in the county: Bridgeton, Cove City, Dover, Havelock, New Bern, River Bend, Trent Woods and Vanceboro (Figure 3). Craven County was established in 1712, and New Bern is the county seat<sup>11</sup>. According to the U.S. Census, the population of Craven County in 2010 was 103,505. This represents a 13.2 percent increase from 2000<sup>12</sup>. The N.C. Department of Commerce projects the county's population to increase to 104,911 by 2015<sup>13</sup>. This continued increase in population will have significant impacts on county resources and agriculture.

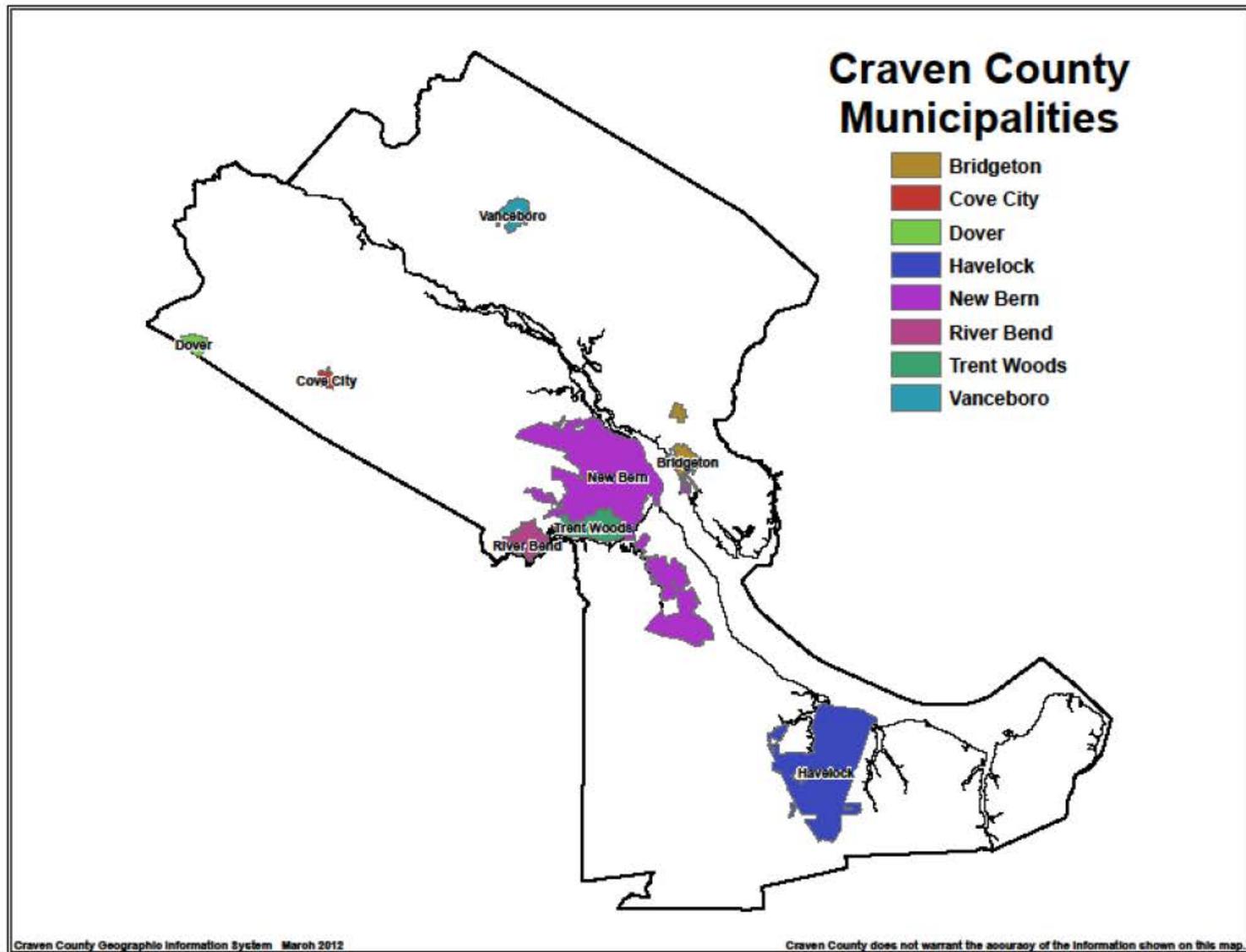


Figure 3 Municipalities in Craven County Source: Craven County GIS/Mapping 2012

Craven County's population density of 146 people per square mile in 2010 qualified the county as rural.<sup>14</sup> However, more than 57 percent of the population in Craven County lived in municipalities in 2010 according to the N.C. Office of State Budget and Management. Forty-two percent were considered non-municipal population<sup>15</sup>. The N.C. Department of Commerce reported that 0.6 percent of the population in Craven County lived on farms in 2000<sup>16</sup>. Craven County's abundant natural resources have brought steady growth and development over the years. The county also has a long history of farming and forestry, which rely on these natural resources. This situation creates challenges for farmers and foresters as they manage these resources and urban citizens who rapidly lose connection to agriculture.

The N.C. Department of Commerce annually assigns tier designations for each of the 100 counties based on the economic status of the counties. In 2012, Craven County was designated a Tier 2 county. The rankings are based on an assessment of each county's unemployment rate, median household income, popu

lation growth and assessed property value per capita. Those counties that are most distressed are assigned a Tier 1 status, and those that are least distressed are given a Tier 3 ranking.<sup>17</sup>. Craven County's Tier status indicated a change in economic well-being from 2011 to 2012 as the Tier status move from a Tier 3 status in 2011 to a more distressed Tier status of 2 in 2012.

Retail trade represented the greatest number of businesses (18.3 percent) in the county in 2009 according to the U.S. Census. Construction was 11.3 percent, and health care and social assistance were 11.2 percent in 2009. Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing made up 0.8 percent of the total businesses in Craven County in 2009. However, agriculture and forests support retail trades and services through the purchase of equipment, supplies and services. The unemployment rate in Craven County was 10.8 percent in January 2012, which was 0.3 percent more than the state unemployment rate, but a 0.7 percent increase from January 2011.

Additionally, the defense industries are located in Craven County for many of the same reasons that attract the general population to the county. Access to the waterways, the rural open space of the county and the nearby port of Morehead City allow the armed forces to train and deploy with relative ease. The Department of Defense, the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point and other defense industries are among the top 10 employers in Craven County<sup>18</sup>.

# Overview of Agriculture in Craven County

## Land Use

In 2009, more than 70 percent of the land use in Craven County was in agriculture. Government and institutional use, the second-largest land use, was 19.4 percent as seen in Figure 4.

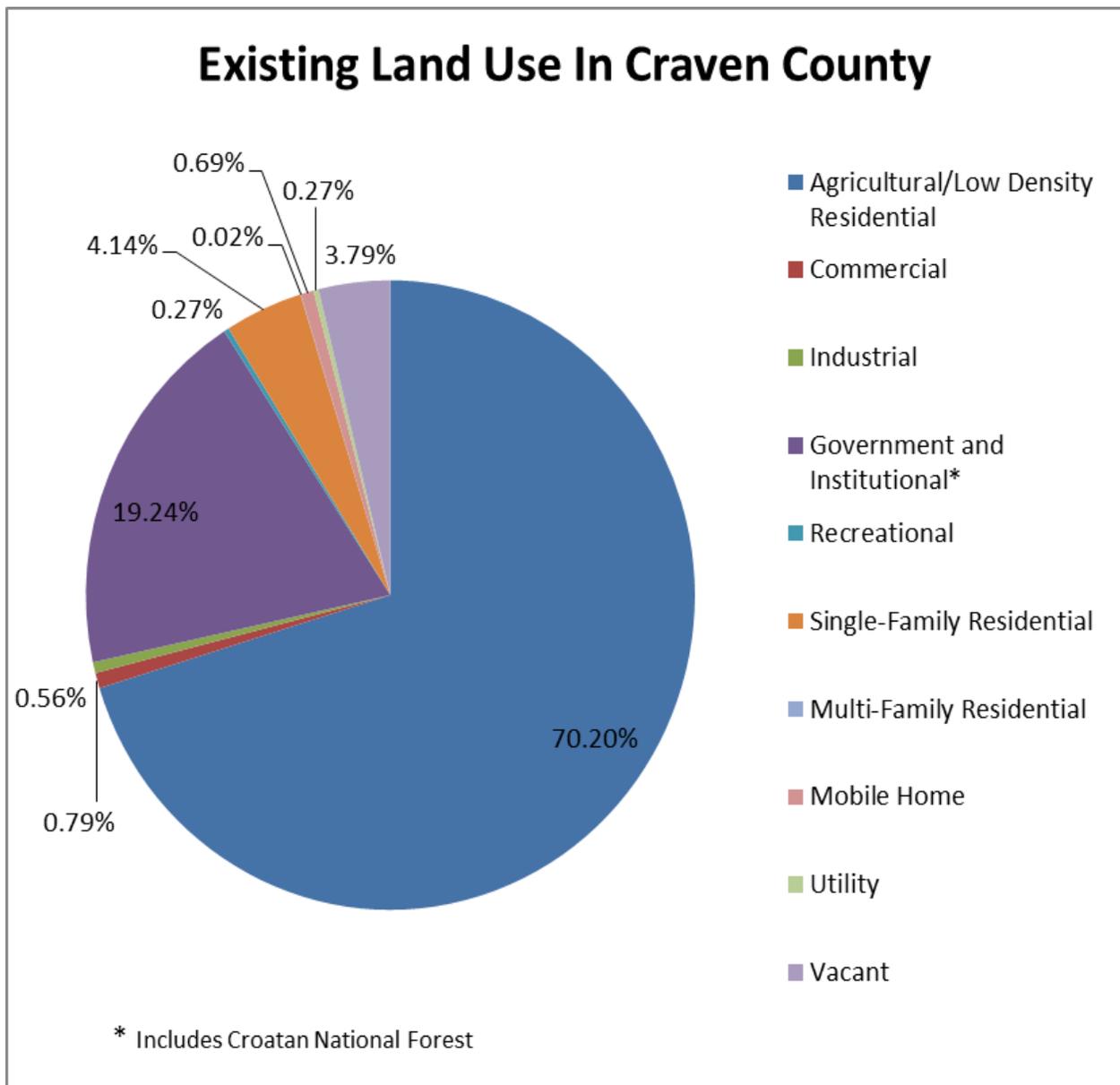


Figure 4 Existing Land Use Source: Craven County CAMA Core Land Use Plan 2009

The Present Use Value (PUV) tax program is one way to measure the number of parcels that are in agricultural, horticultural or forest use. Figure 5 shows the number of parcels in Craven County that participated in the program as of March 2012. Figure 5 also illustrates that agriculture is widespread throughout the county, but the majority is found in the northwestern portion. The southern portion is equally suited for agriculture based upon soil types and increased rainfall. However, municipalities, urban development and military lands greatly limit the feasibility of agricultural production within this area.

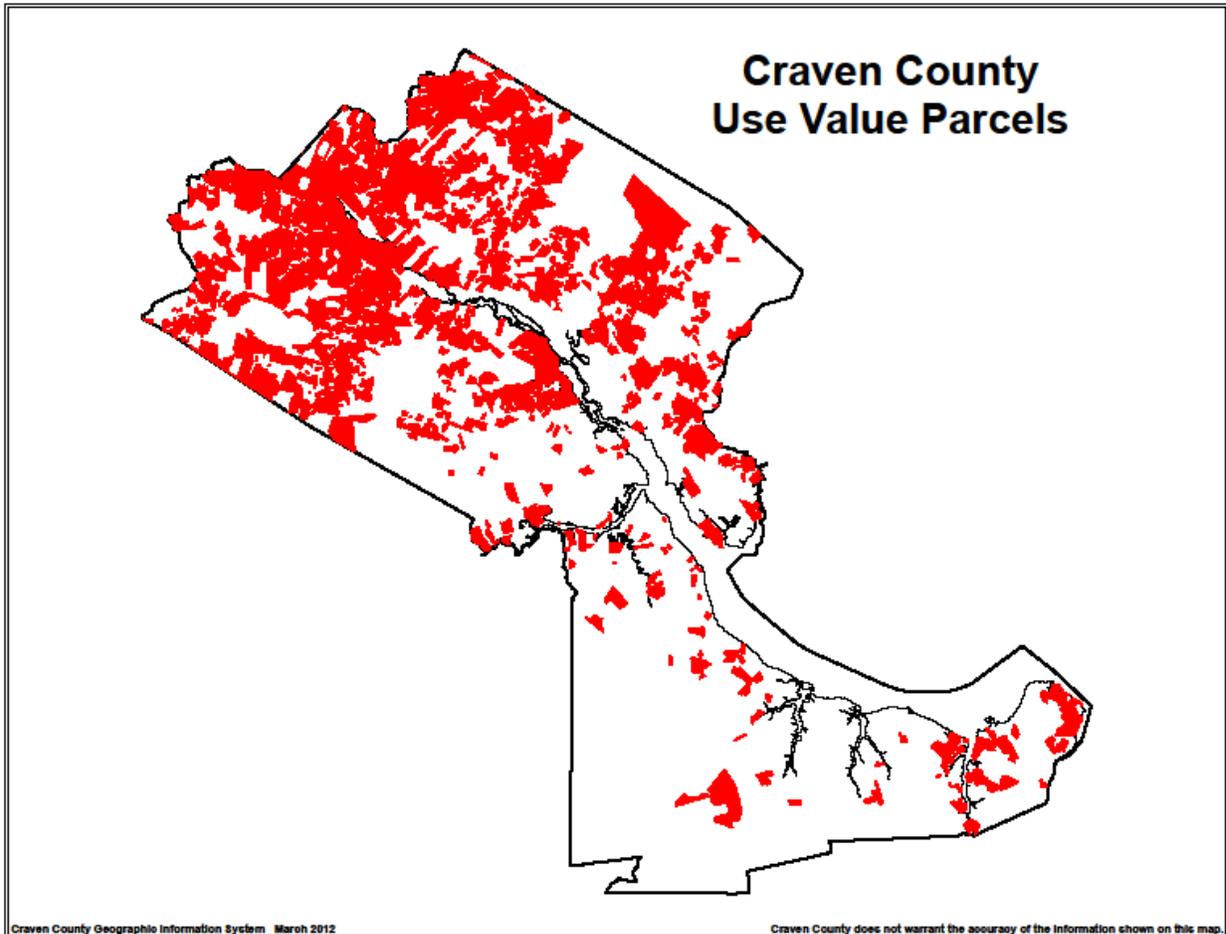


Figure 5 Land in Present Use Value Tax Program Source: Craven County GIS/Mapping 2012

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture, there were 70,886 acres in farms in Craven County in 2007. This is a 15.4 percent reduction from the number of acres in farms in 1997. The average size of a farm also decreased from 303 acres in 1997 to 248 acres in 2007, representing an 8.1 percent decrease. However, the number of farms increased by 9.6 percent during that same time period. This could indicate that more farmers are moving to smaller operations.

The majority of farm use in Craven County (70 percent) was in cropland in 2007. Woodland made up more than 20 percent of the land in farms (Figure 6).

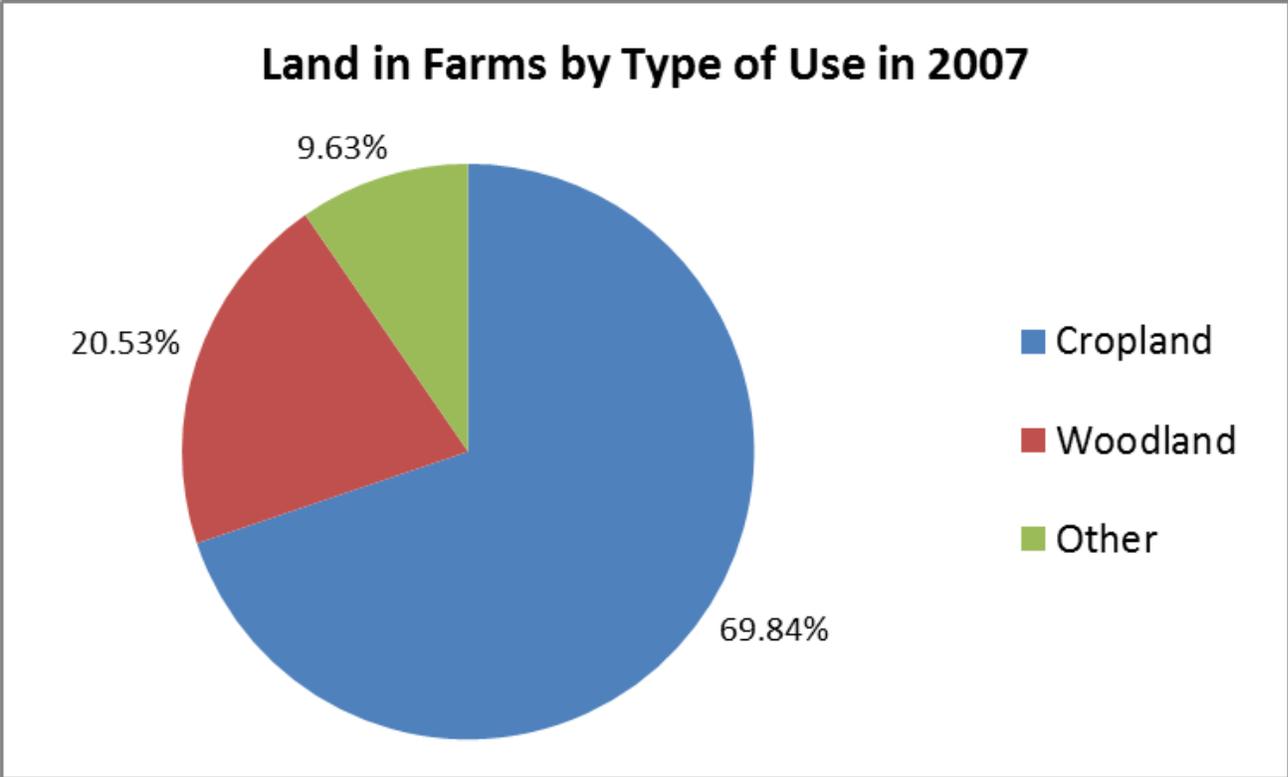


Figure 6 Land in Farms by Use of Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 2007

Figure 7, which shows where residential development has taken place in the county, indicates that residential development is sparse in the northwestern part of the county and concentrated along the waterways. Neither residential developments nor agricultural production are located in the southeastern portion of the county where the Croatan National Forest is located.

The southern/southeastern part of the county has good agricultural soils, and there has been agricultural production there in the past. However, many of the same soil qualities that make land attractive for agricultural use are also qualities appropriate for development. It is easier and often cheaper to develop cleared farmland compared to woodland. Thus, development of municipalities and Cherry Point is concentrated in this area.

The soils in the northern/northwestern part of the county tend to be poorly drained. Thus development is limited to soils that will support a septic system. Recently, access to sewer/septic disposal to Kinston has been granted to the southwestern part of the county between Cove City and Dover. This can present potential conflicts for agriculture as urban encroachment and sprawl create pressure on agriculture by inflated land values, restricted or reduced travel of equipment, safety concerns and limited scope of production.

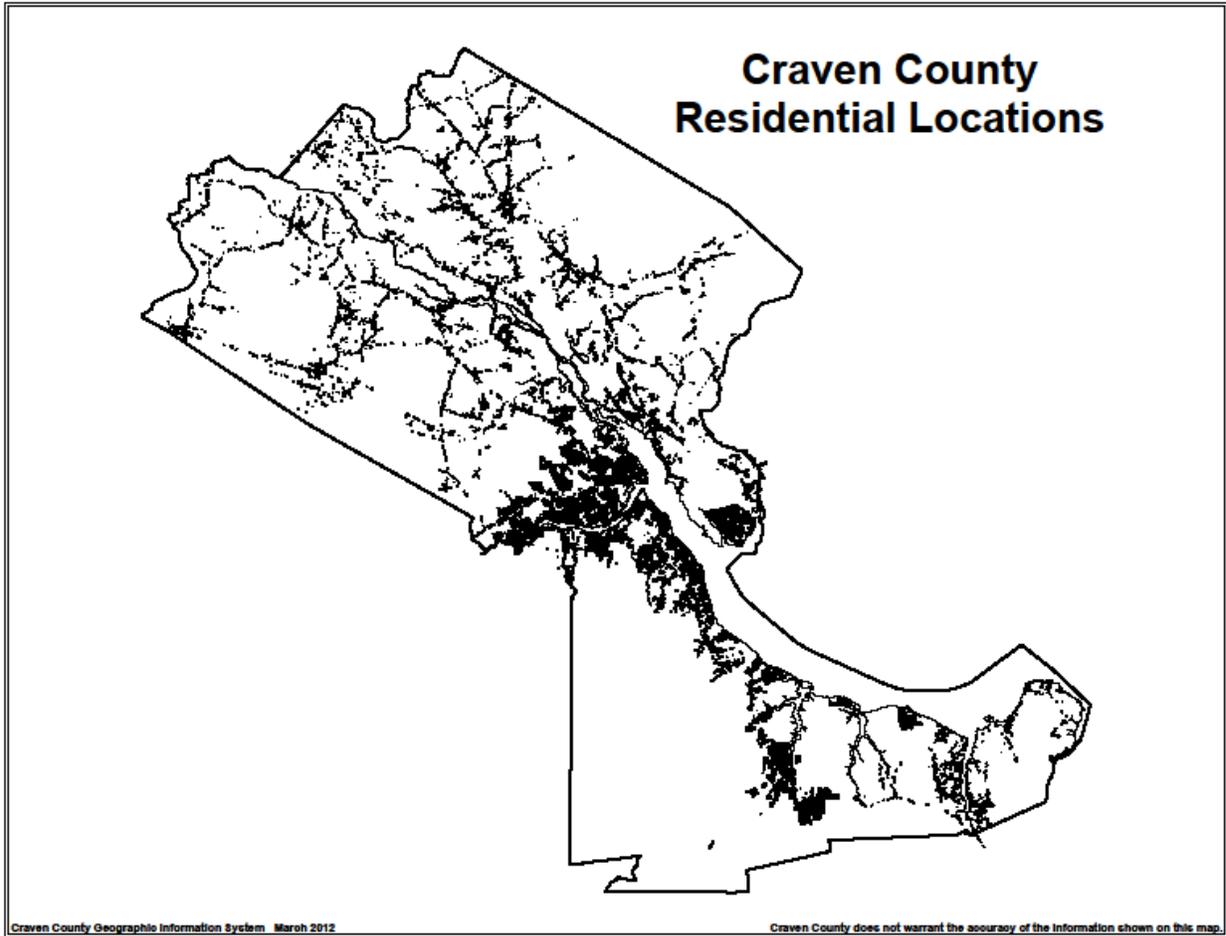


Figure 7 Residential Locations in Craven County Source: Craven County GIS/Mapping 2012

### ***Soils***

Agriculture and forestry depend on good soil quality to produce maximum yields, and farmers must practice good stewardship of the soil to maintain operations. The diversity of soil types affords differing soil qualities allowing for a diversity of products to be grown. Figure 8 and Table 1 identify the major soil types and the locations of those soils in Craven County.

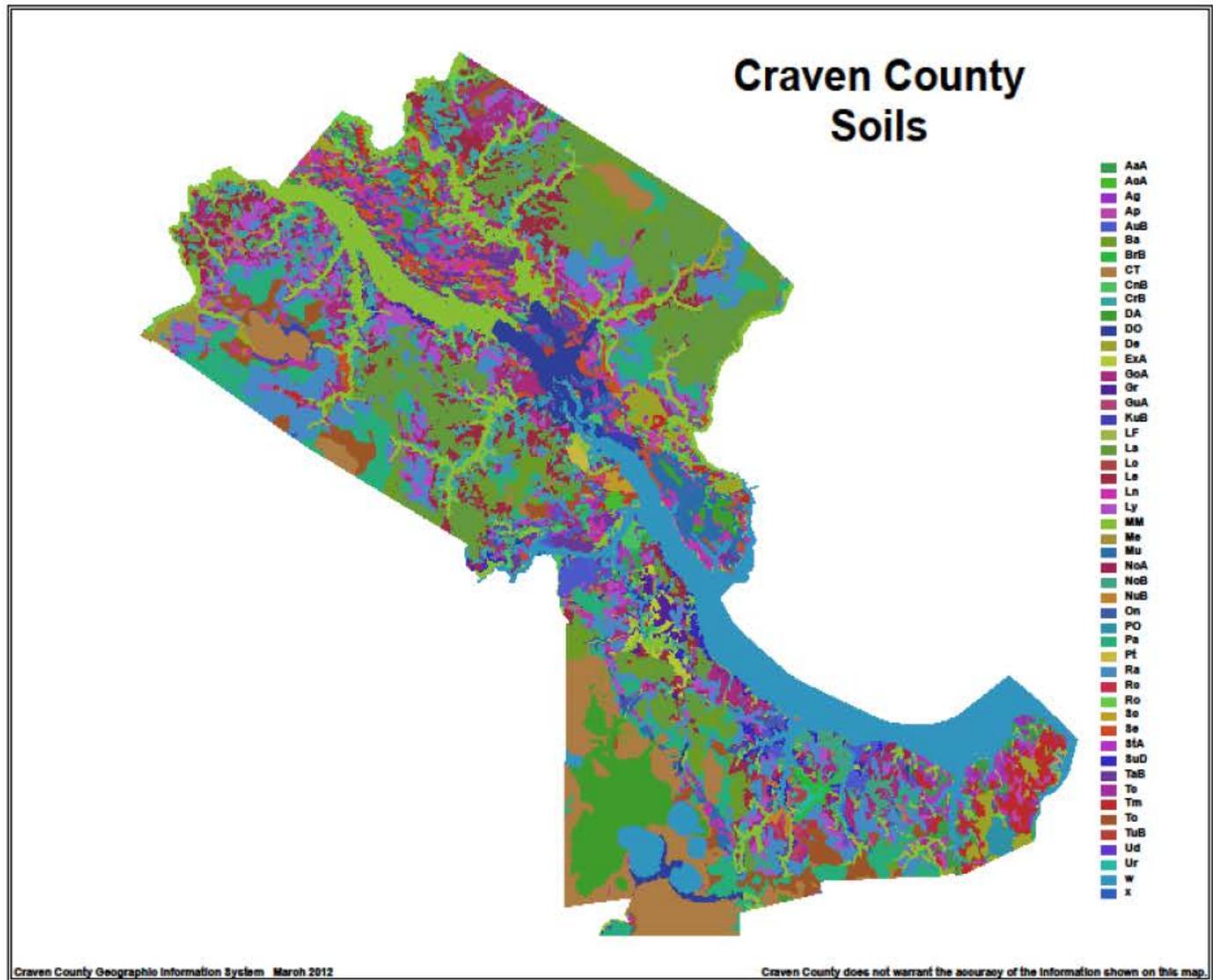


Figure 8 Soils in Craven County Source: Craven County GIS/Mapping 2012

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percentage Of AOI
<b>AaA</b>	<i>Altavista fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes</i>	9,117	1.9
<b>AcA</b>	<i>Altavista-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes</i>	456	*
<b>Ag</b>	<i>Augusta fine sandy loam</i>	5,871	1.2
<b>Ap</b>	<i>Arapahoe fine sandy loam</i>	11,733	2.4
<b>AuB</b>	<i>Autoryville loamy sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes</i>	5,626	1.2
<b>Ba</b>	<i>Bayboro mucky loam</i>	13,908	2.9
<b>BrB</b>	<i>Bragg soils, 0 to 8 percent slopes</i>	1,121	0.2
<b>CnB</b>	<i>Conetoe loamy sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes</i>	6,943	1.4
<b>CrB</b>	<i>Craven silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes</i>	18,265	3.7
<b>CT</b>	<i>Croatan muck</i>	24,740	5.1
<b>DA</b>	<i>Dare muck</i>	19,611	4.0
<b>De</b>	<i>Deloss fine sandy loam</i>	11,796	2.4
<b>DO</b>	<i>Dorovan muck</i>	8,069	1.7
<b>ExA</b>	<i>Exum silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes</i>	2,311	0.5
<b>GoA</b>	<i>Goldsboro loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes</i>	24,714	5.1
<b>Gr</b>	<i>Grantham silt loam</i>	2,281	0.5
<b>GuA</b>	<i>Goldsboro-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes</i>	991	0.2
<b>KuB</b>	<i>Kureb sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes</i>	916	0.2
<b>La</b>	<i>Leaf silt loam</i>	41,604	8.5
<b>Lc</b>	<i>Lynchburg-Urban land complex</i>	316	*
<b>Le</b>	<i>Lenoir silt loam</i>	21,599	4.4
<b>LF</b>	<i>Longshoal muck, very frequently flooded</i>	2,609	0.5
<b>Ln</b>	<i>Leon sand</i>	5,964	1.2
<b>Ly</b>	<i>Lynchburg fine sandy loam</i>	18,973	3.9
<b>Me</b>	<i>Meggett sandy loam</i>	2,509	0.5
<b>MM</b>	<i>Masontown mucky fine sandy loam and Muckalee sandy loam, frequently flooded</i>	27,874	5.7
<b>Mu</b>	<i>Murville mucky loamy sand</i>	8,739	1.8
<b>NoA</b>	<i>Norfolk loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes</i>	2,724	0.6
<b>NoB</b>	<i>Norfolk loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes</i>	7,031	1.4
<b>NuB</b>	<i>Norfolk-Urban land complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes</i>	1,073	0.2
<b>On</b>	<i>Onslow loamy sand</i>	3,046	0.6
<b>Pa</b>	<i>Pantego fine sandy loam</i>	29,750	6.1
<b>PO</b>	<i>Ponzer muck</i>	5,672	1.2
<b>Pt</b>	<i>Pits</i>	576	0.1

<b>Ra</b>	<i>Rains fine sandy loam</i>	37,341	7.7
<b>Rc</b>	<i>Rains-Urban land complex</i>	768	0.2
<b>Ro</b>	<i>Roanoke fine sandy loam</i>	1,608	0.3
<b>Sc</b>	<i>Seabrook-Urban land complex</i>	712	0.1
<b>Se</b>	<i>Seabrook loamy sand</i>	11,409	2.3
<b>StA</b>	<i>State loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes</i>	3,492	0.7
<b>SuD</b>	<i>Suffolk loamy sand, 10 to 30 percent slopes</i>	4,080	0.8
<b>TaB</b>	<i>Tarboro sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes</i>	10,165	2.1
<b>Tc</b>	<i>Torhunta-Urban land complex</i>	325	*
<b>Tm</b>	<i>Tomotley fine sandy loam</i>	11,765	2.4
<b>To</b>	<i>Torhunta fine sandy loam</i>	11,564	2.4
<b>TuB</b>	<i>Tarboro-Urban land complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes</i>	943	0.2
<b>Ud</b>	<i>Udorthents, loamy</i>	680	0.1
<b>Ur</b>	<i>Urban land</i>	1,450	0.3
<b>W</b>	<i>Water</i>	42,383	8.7
<b>Total</b>		487,213	100.0

**Table 1 Soil Types and Proportions** Source: Craven County NRCS

\* Less than 0.1 percent

Because Craven County is part of the Neuse River and the Tar Pamlico River basins, all agriculture and forestry operations must follow *The Neuse Agricultural Rules* and the *Tar Pam Riparian Buffer Rules and Nutrient Strategies* established by N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. These strategies and best management practices were implemented to reduce the average load of nitrogen that goes into rivers and streams in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River basins. Multiple county agencies have been tasked to assist farmers and landowners in creating plans to meet these goals. Nutrient management plans, riparian buffers and vegetated strips are some of the options available to producers and landowners to meet these nitrogen reduction goals, filter run off, cope with flood control and other environmental impacts<sup>19</sup>. As in the case of production, soil qualities and soil types play an important role in the management of nutrients and their off-site movement into receiving waters.

### ***Farm Ownership and Acreage***

In Craven County, there has been a shift in agriculture over the years. Since 1997, there has been a steady decrease in land in farms (Figure 9) – a drop of almost 13,000 acres, approximately 20 square miles, from 1997 to 2007. This in itself has presented challenges to agriculture in the county.

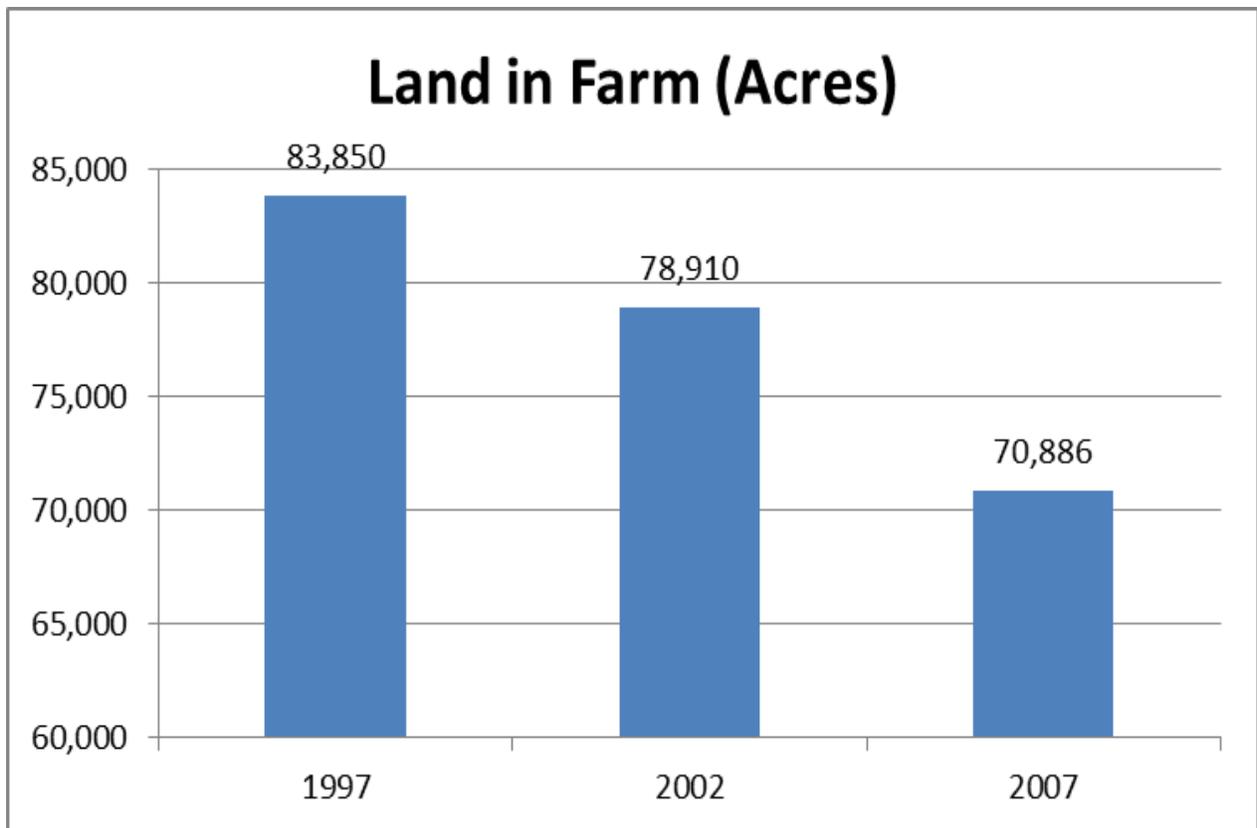


Figure 9 Land in Farms (Acres) Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997, 2002, 2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines a farm as "...any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year."<sup>20</sup> USDA categorizes farms based on full-time/part-time/retired operators and gross sales. Small family farms are those that earn less than \$250,000 in gross sales. Small family farm operators are identified as limited-resource farmers, operators who have a farm as residential/lifestyle choice, those who are retired or those who report farming as their main occupation but still report under \$250,000 in gross sales. Large family farms have gross sales between \$250,000 and \$499,999, and the operators report that they are full-time farmers. Very large family farms have gross sales of over \$500,000<sup>21</sup>.

In Craven County, 45 farms were considered large and very large family farms with sales from \$250,000 to more than \$500,000 according to the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture. These farms operated on more than 37,000 acres. There were 229 farms in Craven County that had \$250,000 or less in gross sales in this same census. These farms operated on 31,734 acres<sup>22</sup>. The majority of farms in the county are thus classified as small family farms. However, when evaluating overall agricultural sales, large or very large family farms contributed the most to the county's economy. This is most assuredly related to the increased cost of operation and the efficiencies of scale as a shift to large-scale farming occurs.

Changes in agriculture are reflected in the number of farms, the tenure of operators' acres farmed and the average size of farms in Craven County. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, the number of acres in farms decreased by 12,964 acres in 10 years – from 83,850 acres in 1997 to 70,886 acres in 2007. Of those acres farmed, 58.5 percent were tended by part owners (farmers who operate land they own and also land they rent from others) in 1997 which dropped to 54.3 percent in 2007. Acres farmed by tenants (farmers who operate only land they rent from others or work on shares for others) went from 17.4 percent in 1997 to 15.7 percent in 2007. These decreases can be tied to the decrease in acreage farmed. The acres tended by full owners (farmers who operate only land they own) remained steady from 1997 to 2007 (Figure 10)<sup>23</sup>. The average size farm in the county decreased by 18.1 percent during the same time period (Figure 11)<sup>24</sup>.

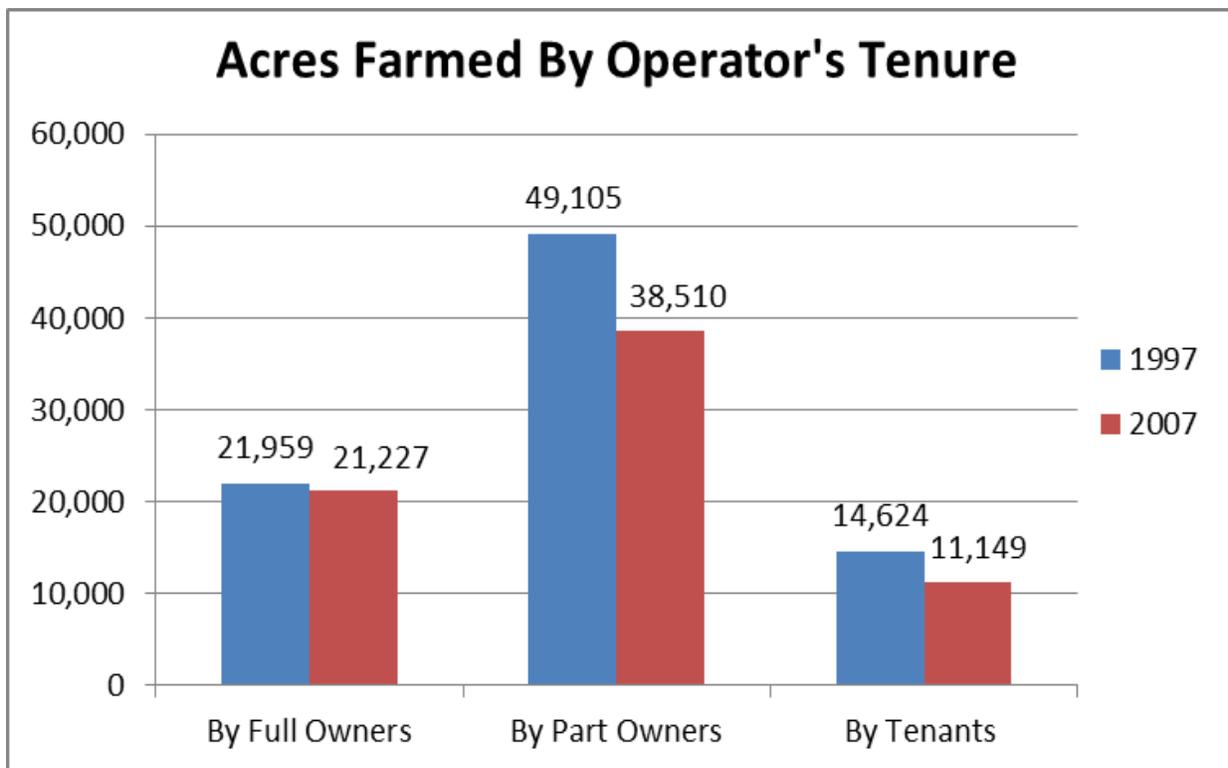
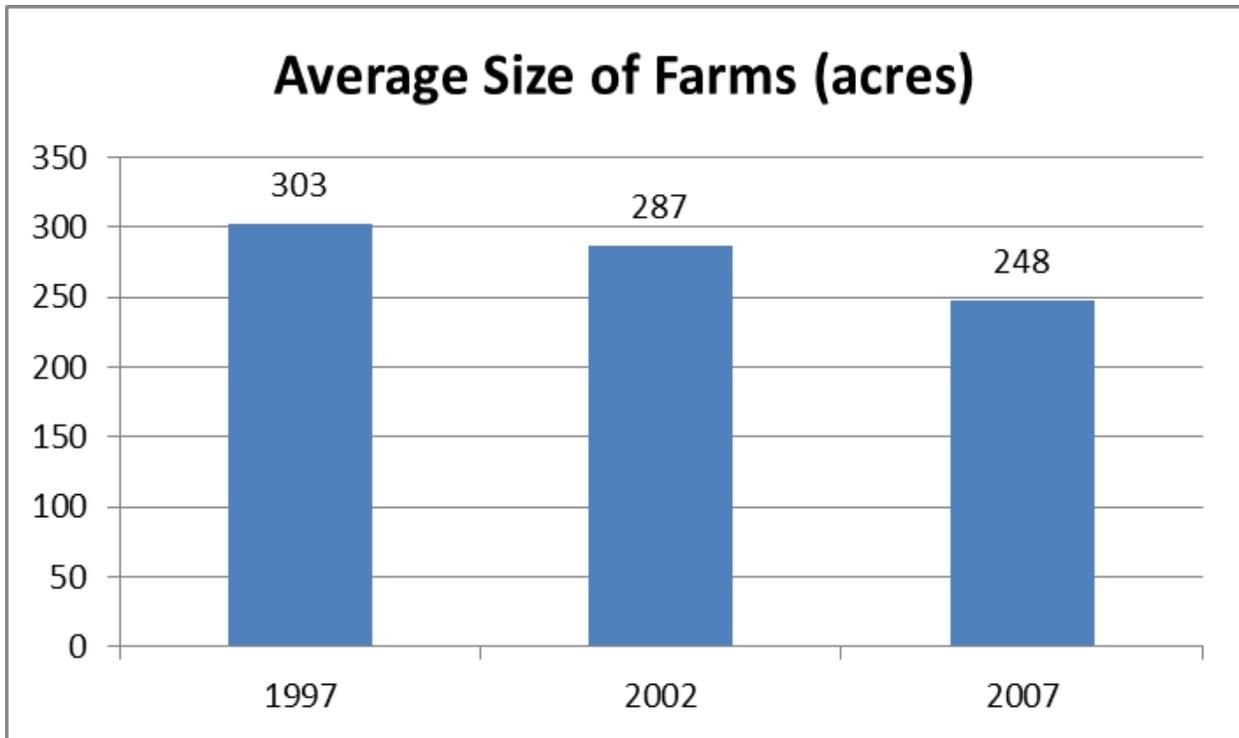


Figure 10 Acres Farmed by Full, Part Time and Tenant Operators Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997 and 2007



**Figure 11 Average Farm Size** Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997-2007

The demographics of producers and landowners have changed over the years as well. Table 2, Demographics of Craven County Farmers, illustrates some of the changes that have occurred. The average age of a farmer in Craven County steadily increased from 1997 to 2007 by 3.9 years. There was a 7.7 increase in female principal operators from 1997 to 2007. At the same time, the number of male principal operators went down 17.3 percent. The majority of farm operators were white, and this number has increased in the last decade. However, farms operated by black/African American farmers decreased by 66.6 percent from 1997 to 2007.

	1997	2002	2007
<b>Average operator age</b>	54.3	53.9	58.2
<b>Number of farms operated by principal operators according to sex:</b>			
<i>Male</i>	299	250	247
<i>Female</i>	22	25	39
<b>Number of farms operated by all operators according to race</b>			
<i>American Indian or Alaska Native</i>	0	2	2
<i>Asian</i>	0	0	0
<i>Black or African American</i>	27	14	9
<i>White</i>	250	263	277
<i>More than one race</i>	0	0	2
<i>All operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin</i>	0	1	3

Table 2 Demographics of Craven County Farmers Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997, 2002, 2007

### ***Agriculture and Forestry***

In Craven County, agriculture and forestry contributed cash receipts of \$33,611,000 for crops and \$20,581,000 for livestock in 2010<sup>25</sup>. N.C. State University ranked Craven County sixth in the state for income of timber harvested and delivered to mills in 2010<sup>26</sup>. This is income from stumpage (price paid to landowner for standing timber) and the price paid to timber buyers upon delivery of timber to the mills.

World production and demand has contributed to increased commodity prices. There is hope that this pricing structure will remain at these levels to help offset the ever-increasing cost of production inputs.

### ***Crops***

As income from crop sales declined from 1997 to 2007, the production of crops still accounted for the majority of income from agricultural sales in Craven County (Figure 12).

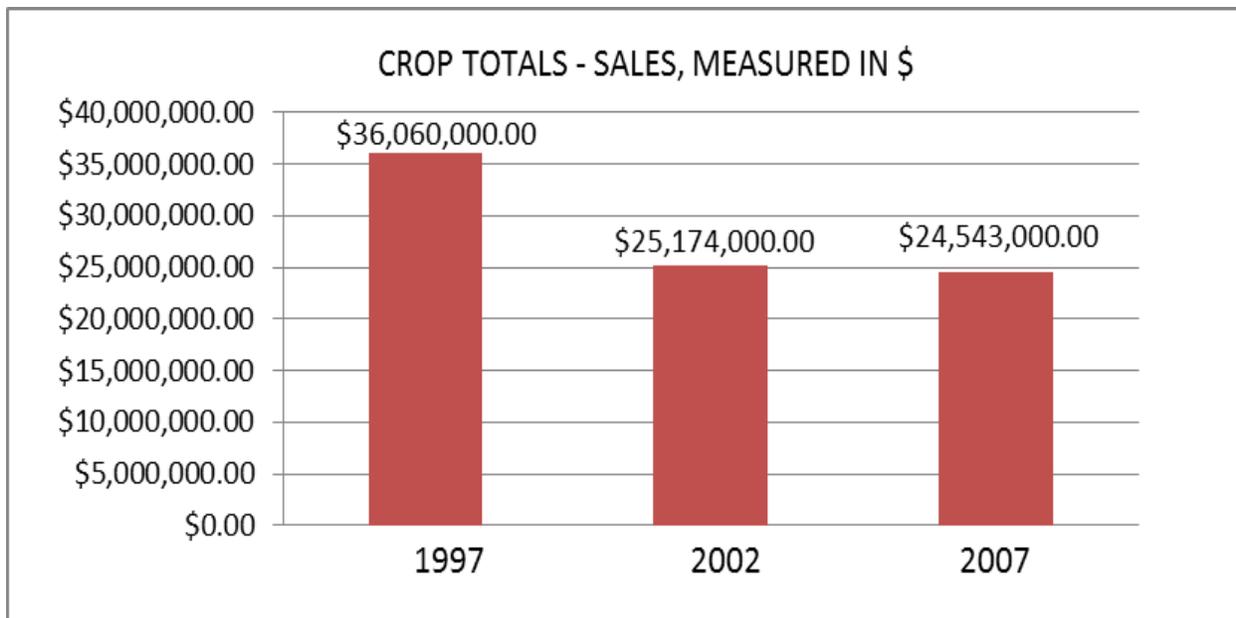


Figure 12 Crop Sales Total Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997, 2002, 2007

The impacts of commodity price shifts and the tobacco buyout have resulted in a drop in tobacco production and a production increase in grain, soybeans and horticultural. Between 1997 and 2007, tobacco sales dropped 69.3 percent. This was most probably due to the tobacco buyout program, which occurred in 2004. With the decline in tobacco production, producers sought other crops to grow such as grain, soybeans and horticultural products.<sup>27</sup> Other factors that influenced crop production were market demands, pricing and changes in crop support programs.

USDA Census of Agriculture tracks selected crops over several decades. Such data can indicate production shifts and movement toward diversification of farming operations. The USDA Census of Agriculture's Selected Crops for Craven County profile shows fluctuation in acres grown (Figure 13). Over the years, crops grown in Craven County have changed due to market demands, pricing and changes in crop support programs. Some of this fluctuation was also related to increases in oil prices that affected fertilizer and fuel costs. All of these factors made some crops more profitable and feasible to grow than others. As an example, corn production increased 59.3 percent from 1997 to 2007. In 2010, the county ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the state for corn production<sup>28</sup>. Part of this increase is likely due to the increase in demand and price resulting from ethanol production. However, new biotechnological traits and varietal improvements have also increased corn yields according to N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County.

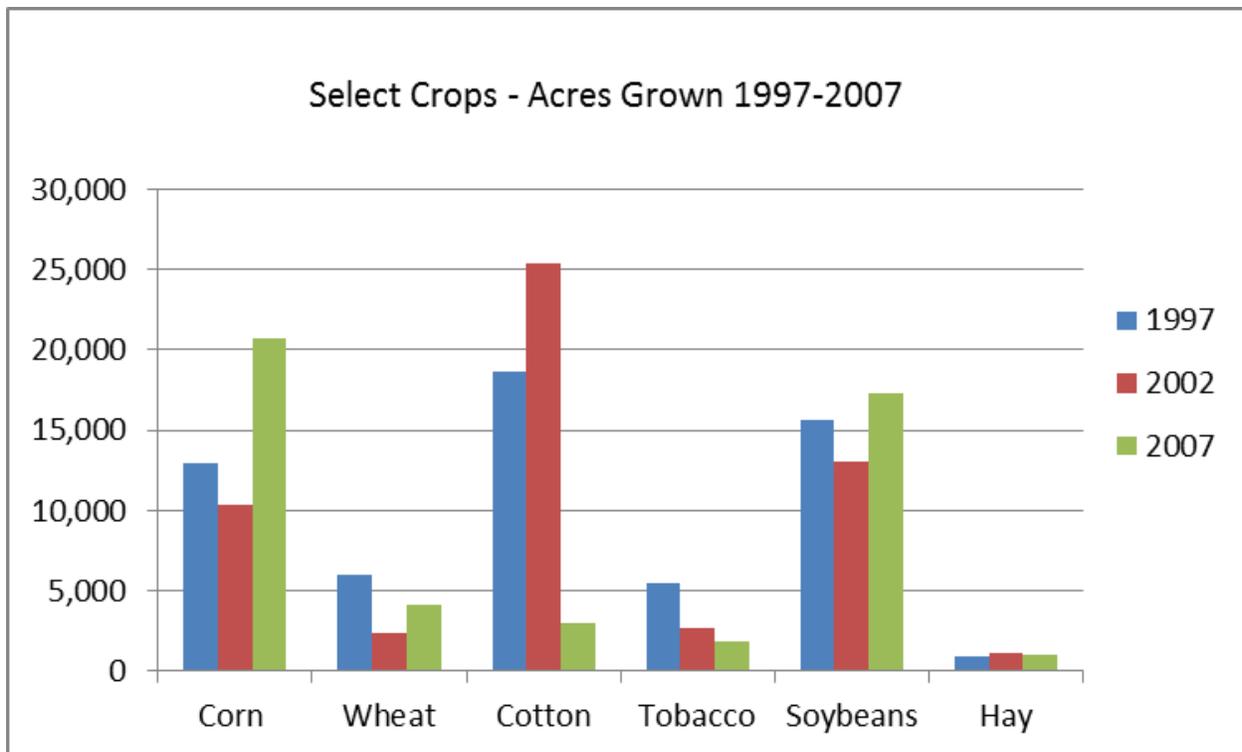


Figure 13 Selected Crops Acres Grown Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997 2002 2007

Soybean production had a slight increase of 10.4 percent in acres grown from 1997 to 2007 and in 2010 ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the state<sup>29</sup>. In contrast, cotton production during the same time period increased by 36.2 percent. However, in 2007, there was a dramatic drop of 22,410 acres grown (88.3 percent) in cotton<sup>30</sup> due to a rapid decline in price. World cotton price remained between \$0.55 and \$0.623 per pound from 2007 to 2009. Cotton production increased by 3,435 acres to 6,400 acres in 2010. This sharp increase was in response to the dramatic drop in supply and corresponding dramatic increase of prices (high of \$1.95 per pound) resultant from severe drought and flood in other cotton producing countries.<sup>31</sup>

Tobacco has continued to decline in production from 11,999,433 pounds harvested on 5,452 acres in 1997 to 4,255,023 pounds harvested on 1,854 acres in 2007. This decline is attributed to the tobacco buyout program that moved farmers from the quota program to a free market program. Some farmers opted to cease tobacco production completely while others contracted direct sales with tobacco companies resulting in larger tobacco production systems. Others left tobacco to diversify operations in the absence of tobacco.

In 2009, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) did not report wheat production numbers in Craven County. However, in 2010, the department reported 1,400 acres, which brought the county to a rank of 63<sup>rd</sup> in production statewide. The importance of wheat is increasing for most growers in the county, but timing of critical wheat management operations conflicts with other high-value crops such as tobacco, peanuts and

cotton. Rising commodity prices have resulted in increased wheat acreage as well as demand from livestock producers for locally produced wheat.

Hay production gradually increased in the county between 1997 and 2007. In 1997, there were 932 acres in production. This increased to 1,029 in 2007<sup>32</sup>. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services stated that in 2010, Craven County harvested 1,500 acres of hay and ranked 76<sup>th</sup> in the state<sup>33</sup>.

According to NCDA&CS, Craven County horticulture production operations ranked 38<sup>th</sup> in the state in 2010. Sales of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture products and Christmas trees generated more than \$4.1 million dollars in 2010<sup>34</sup>. This represents an increase of \$2,894,000 from 1997 when the county reported \$1,252,000 in nursery and greenhouse sales<sup>35</sup>.

While vegetable production exists in Craven County, it is limited. Vegetable production has included asparagus, snap beans, cabbage, cantaloupe, cucumbers, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, greens and watermelons. In 1997, there were 23 acres of vegetable production. In 2007, 59 acres were reported to be in vegetable production, a modest increase<sup>36</sup>.

Farmers have remained innovative and willing to adapt to new markets. In 2007, five farms in the county produced and sold value-added commodities according to the USDA Census of Agriculture<sup>37</sup>. There was one farm that sold its products through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and two farms that reported they had USDA organic pastureland<sup>38</sup>.

### ***Livestock***

Livestock production in Craven County is a major contributor to cash receipts. Sales have fluctuated with an overall decline of 17.7 percent in sales of animals and products from 1997 to 2007(Figure 14). Livestock tends to perform better in inflationary times when prices stay ahead of costs<sup>39</sup>.

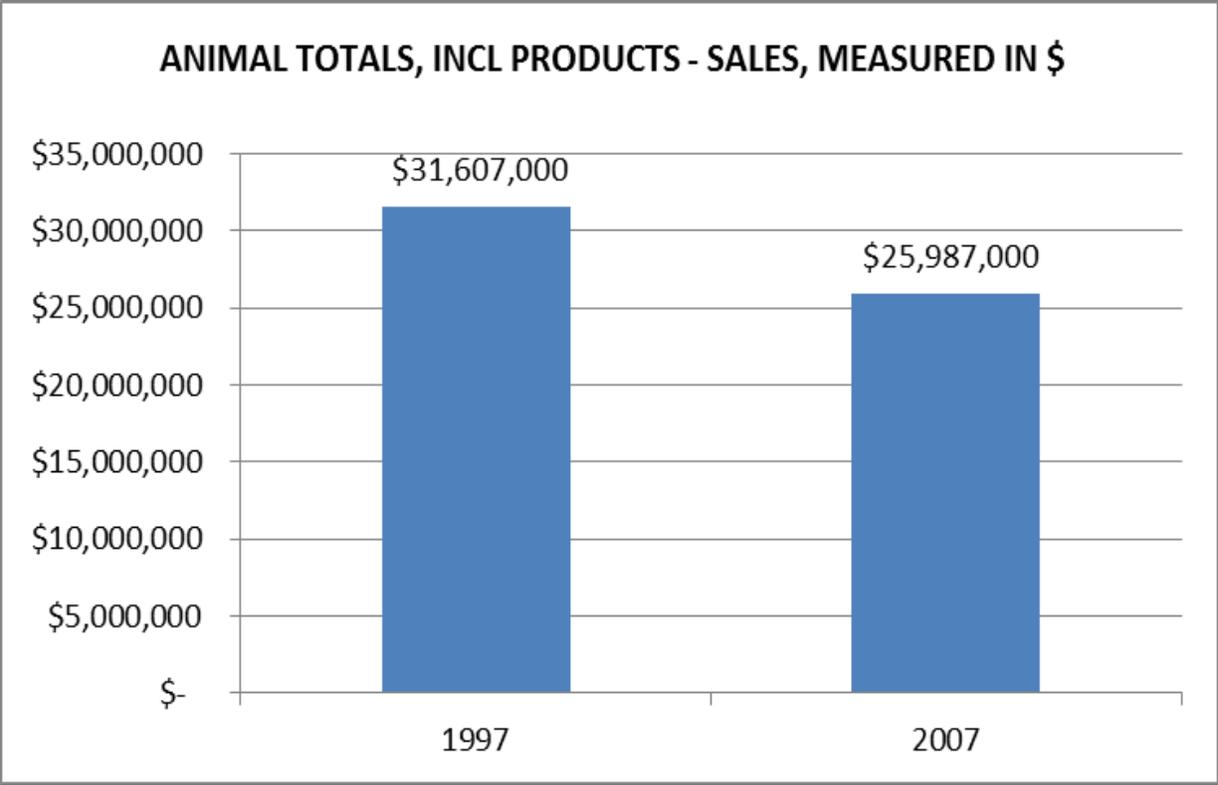


Figure 14 Animal Sales Total Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997, 2002, 2007

The majority of livestock operations located in Craven County were swine operations with an inventory of 1,000 hogs<sup>40</sup>. In 2002, there were 20 swine farm operations with production contracts for a total of 446,791 animals. In 2007, there were 19 farms under production contracts that had a total of 531,543 animals – an 18.9 percent increase in animals from 2002<sup>41</sup>. No data for production contracts were gathered in 1997 by the USDA Census of Agriculture. However, swine sales in 2007 were below the 1997 level, but there was an increase of 8.6 percent from 2002 to 2007(Figure 15)<sup>42</sup>.

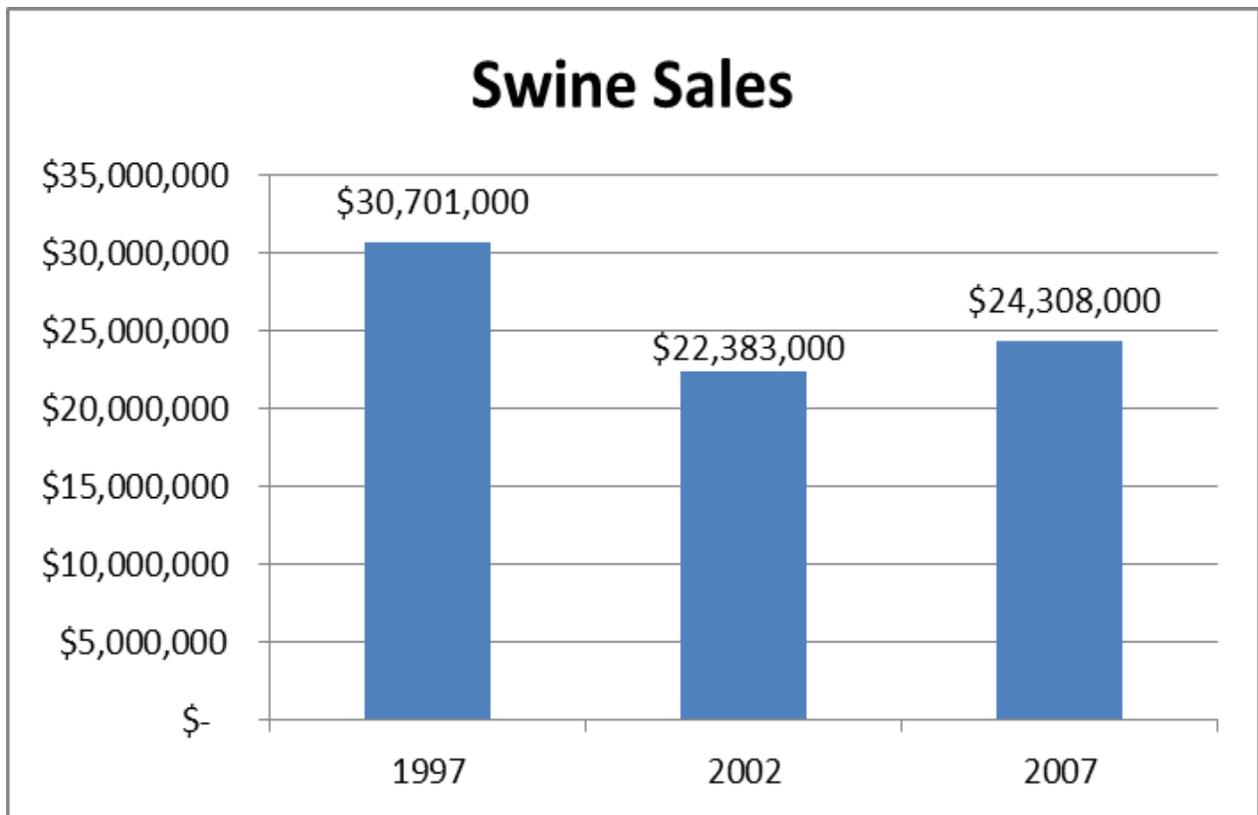


Figure 105 Swine Sales Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997, 2002, 2007

A steady increase in the number of farms with horses indicates a growing equine industry in Craven County. In 1997, there were 30 farms with 123 horses while in 2007, there were 40 farms with 278 horses according to the USDA Census of Agriculture<sup>43</sup>. Many of the horses were kept for pleasure, but large numbers were kept for breeding or for work. As with other livestock, prices of fuel, feed and other costs affect production and numbers.<sup>44</sup>

Goat production has increased in Craven County. This is tied to the growth in the immigrant population, which uses goat milk and meat. In 1997, there were three farms with a total of 110 milk goats<sup>45</sup>. By 2007, there were 34 farms with a total of 423 goats<sup>46</sup>, two of those farms were milk goat production<sup>47</sup>, and 28 farms were for goat meat production<sup>48</sup>.

### ***Aquaculture***

Catfish operations represented the largest component of aquaculture in the county. There were seven operations that sold catfish with \$1,282,000 in sales in 2007. These sales represented 1,321,000 pounds of catfish sold. There were seven operations that were classified as “other food fish” operations (tilapia, perch, striped bass, etc.) and one operation that dealt with prawn, but the sales data for these categories were suppressed<sup>49</sup>. In 2003, there were 22 licensed aquaculture operations in the county, but in 2012, the number of operations was down to 16. It is estimated that currently there are eight catfish, five hybrid striped bass, one freshwater

prawn and one fee fishing and/or fish bait operations<sup>50</sup>. There were some shellfish leasing operations, such as oysters and clams, in Craven County. However, according to N.C. Sea Grant, those operations were so small they could not be counted<sup>51</sup>.

This decline in operations can follow the decline in demand for domestic use and increases of imported aquaculture products. The decline is also tied to an increase in the price of feed and fuel in the United States<sup>52</sup>.

Currently, Craven County aquaculture production has somewhat stabilized. Innovation, marketing and an emphasis on domestic product have been key elements to reach and educate consumers. Demand, a change in stance toward imports in the United States and input costs are still factors to contend with in this field.

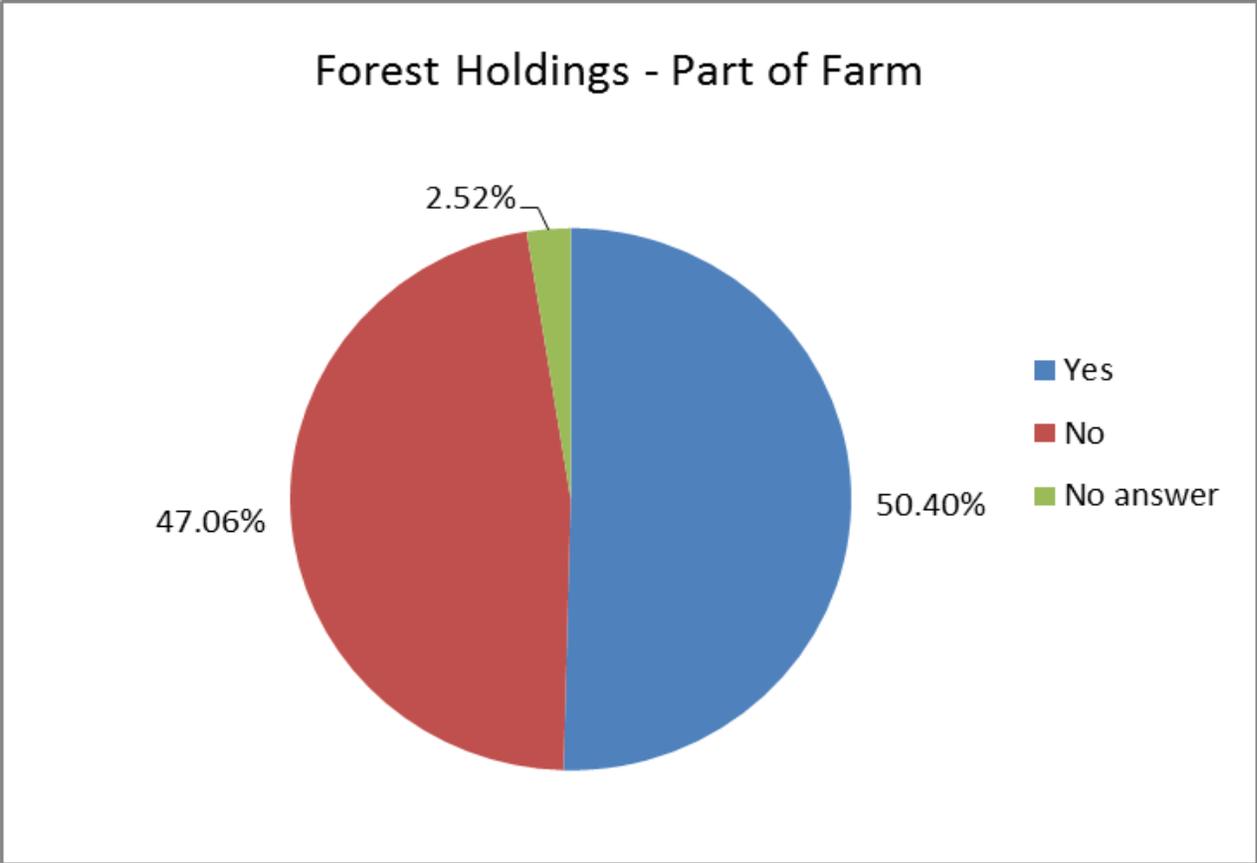
## ***Forestry***

Nearly 65 percent of Craven County is forestlands. Of the 275,100 acres of forestland ownership reported by the N.C. Forest Service in the county, 87,900 acres are privately owned, 117,300 acres are owned by the forest industry, 2,600 are owned by county and municipal governments, and 67,200 acres make up Croatan National Forest and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and are owned by the federal government<sup>53</sup>. As such, forestry is a major component of the county's economic infrastructure.

In 2010, Craven County ranked sixth in the state for harvested timber income. In 2010, the stumpage value, the price paid to the landowner for standing timber, was \$13,142,537, and the delivered value, the price paid to timber buyer upon delivery to mill, was \$22,322,947<sup>54</sup>.

Weyerhaeuser operates a pulp mill near New Bern and owns timberland that the company manages for harvest. Weyerhaeuser was ranked as the 11<sup>th</sup> largest employer in the county in the first quarter of 2011<sup>55</sup>. More important, the Craven County tax office reported that Weyerhaeuser was the largest principal taxpayer from fiscal year 2009 to the present. In the New Bern metropolitan area, forestry and logging were among the top ten industries ranked on greatest growth in employment between 2010 and 2011<sup>56</sup>.

In North Carolina, more than 50 percent of the private forests owned by individuals were part of a family farm in 2006 (Figure 16). The majority of these farmers own the land to pass on to their heirs<sup>57</sup>. Forests offer diversification for the farmer and landowner. With proper management, income can be generated through thinning for the general health of the tract and a final harvest. Hunting leases and pine straw harvesting are other income streams that landowners could capitalize on. All can contribute to the economy of the county.



**Figure 16 Forest Holdings Part of Farm** Source: USDA Forest Service Woodland Owners Survey 2006

The economic downturn and global economic turmoil that started in 2007 affected the forestry industry and forest landowners by decreasing the demand for forest products related to new construction. Those products and prices have not returned to their pre-2007 peak. In 2006, stumpage was \$27.91 million in Craven County. By 2008, this had dropped to \$21.09 million. In 2011, stumpage had dropped to \$11.45 million in the county – a decline of 58.9 percent<sup>58</sup>. North Carolina lost more than \$100 million between 2007 and 2008 that the forest industry contributed to the state gross product<sup>59</sup>.

Woody biomass represents a potential market for forest by-products. The Craven County Wood Energy (CCWE) facility is a biomass-fired power plant. The plant's main source of fuel is wood waste provided through area manufacturing processes and managed forest initiatives. CCWE is an integral part of the community with millions of dollars invested annually through fuel procurement, equipment purchases, taxes and salaries<sup>60</sup>.

## ***Economy***

### **Economic Impacts**

Agricultural production adds significant value to Craven County. According to a North Carolina State University report completed in 2008, total agricultural income in Craven County was \$312,760,854. The value added to the Craven County economy during that year was \$4,277,979,122 and accounted for 10.4 percent of the employment. Despite the economic downturn that occurred during that period, agriculture, forestry, natural fibers and the industries associated with it continued to add to the county's economy in a significant manner<sup>61</sup>.

### **Land Rent**

To maintain viability, many farmers in the county have to rent additional land to support expansion efforts and profit. According to the NCDA&CS, the state average rent per acre was \$48 in 2009. High agricultural productive land averaged \$66.90 per acre in the state; medium agricultural productive land averaged \$45.60; and low agricultural productive land averaged \$31.50 per acre in 2009.

Craven County is in District 80, a designation from the NCDA & CS that organizes counties by similar agriculture and geography. Other counties in this district include Beaufort, Carteret, Greene, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Pamlico, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson. In 2009, the average rent in the district was \$78.70 for highly productive land, \$55.70 for medium productive land and \$41.40 for low productive land.

Craven County land rental prices have remained lower than the average district prices, and these prices changed from 2006 to 2009 (Figure 17). Highly productive land in Craven County received the most cash rent over this time period, but dropped from a high in of \$64 per acre 2008 to \$60.60 per acre 2009. Medium productive land rents rose by 24.4 percent during these four years. Low productive land rents were relatively steady in this same time period but experienced a slight increase in 2009<sup>62</sup>. These prices have an impact on agriculture since they contribute to production costs. USDA cash rent reported from 2008 to 2012 remained fairly stable, ranging during this time from \$57 dollars to \$53 dollars on non-irrigated cropland. This information does not take into account land productivity rating but tends to agree with the prices reflected for medium to highly productive land<sup>63</sup>.

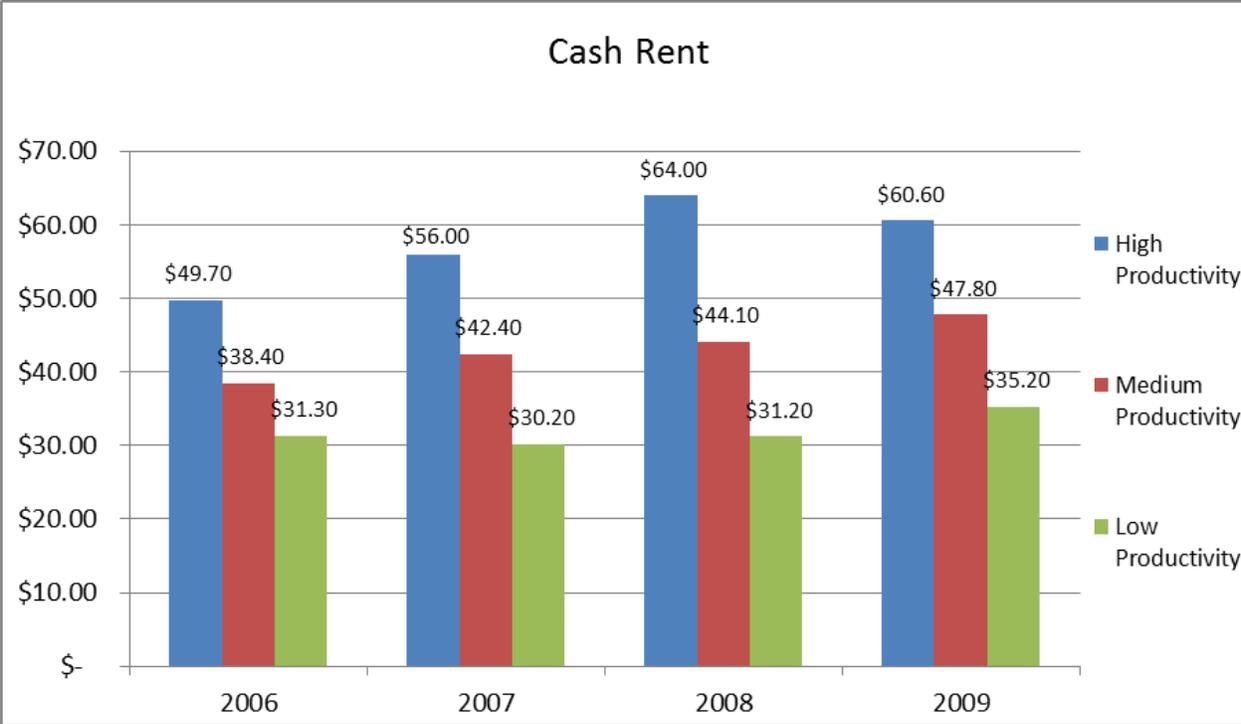


Figure 17 Average Cash Rent Source: NCDA&CS Agricultural Statistics 2006-2009

**Production Costs**

In Craven County, profit margins for producers have narrowed. Net cash return in the Census of Agriculture is calculated by subtracting total farm expenses from total sales, government payments and other farm income. Production expenses included feed, livestock purchased, seed, bulbs, plants and trees, fertilizers, chemicals, fuel, labor and other related expenses. Historically, farm expenses outweighed net cash income over 100 percent from 1997 to 2007. In 2007, expenses were 122 percent more than income (Figure 18). Tax incentives, cost-share programs, government subsidies and support programs have allowed farmers to remain in operation during times of low commodity prices. This has allowed the general public to continue to afford a safe and consistent food supply. As these support programs are re-evaluated and discontinued, farmers must find ways to manage risk to continue to stay in business. Without affordable risk management tools available to farmers, citizens and government alike will face uncertainty in food prices and supplies.

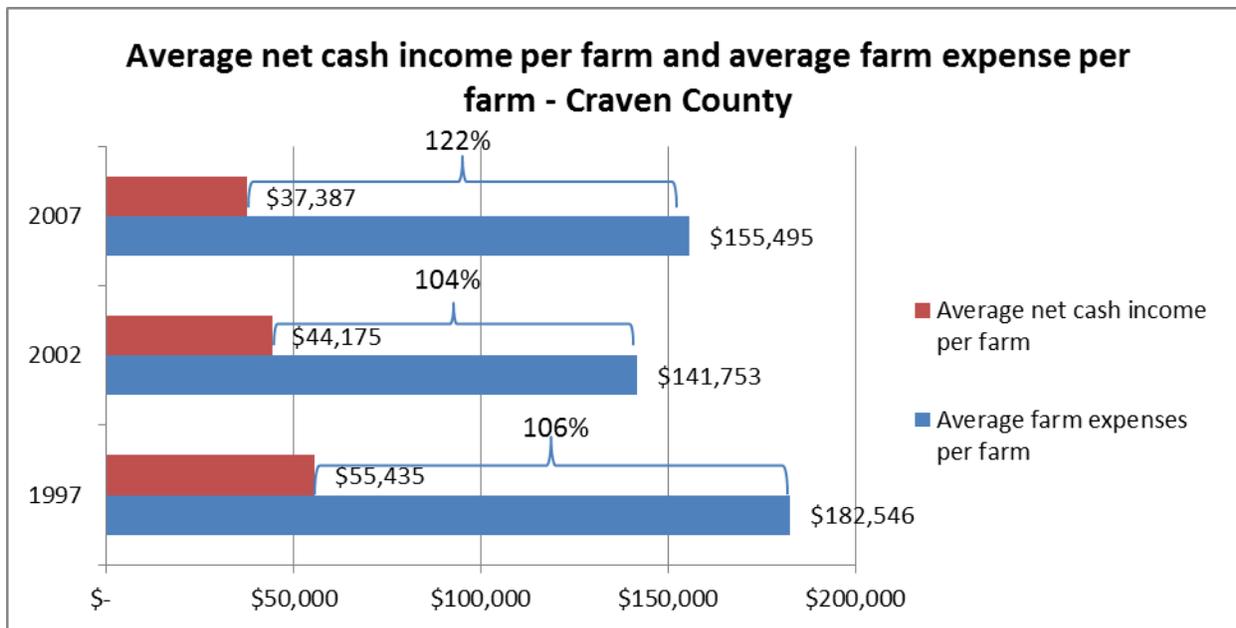


Figure 18 Average Net Cash Return/Income Per Farm and Average Farm Expenses Per Farm Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997, 2002, 2007

Figure 19 illustrates major agricultural production expenses between 1997 and 2007. Two expenses have been constant between 1997 and 2007: livestock and poultry purchased and feed. Farm labor was the third-highest expense in 1997 and 2002. However, in 2007, fertilizer was the third-highest expense due to a rapid increase in oil prices and associated costs of fertilizer production and transportation. Fuel costs rose 117.7 percent between 2002 and 2007 (Figure 19)<sup>64</sup>.

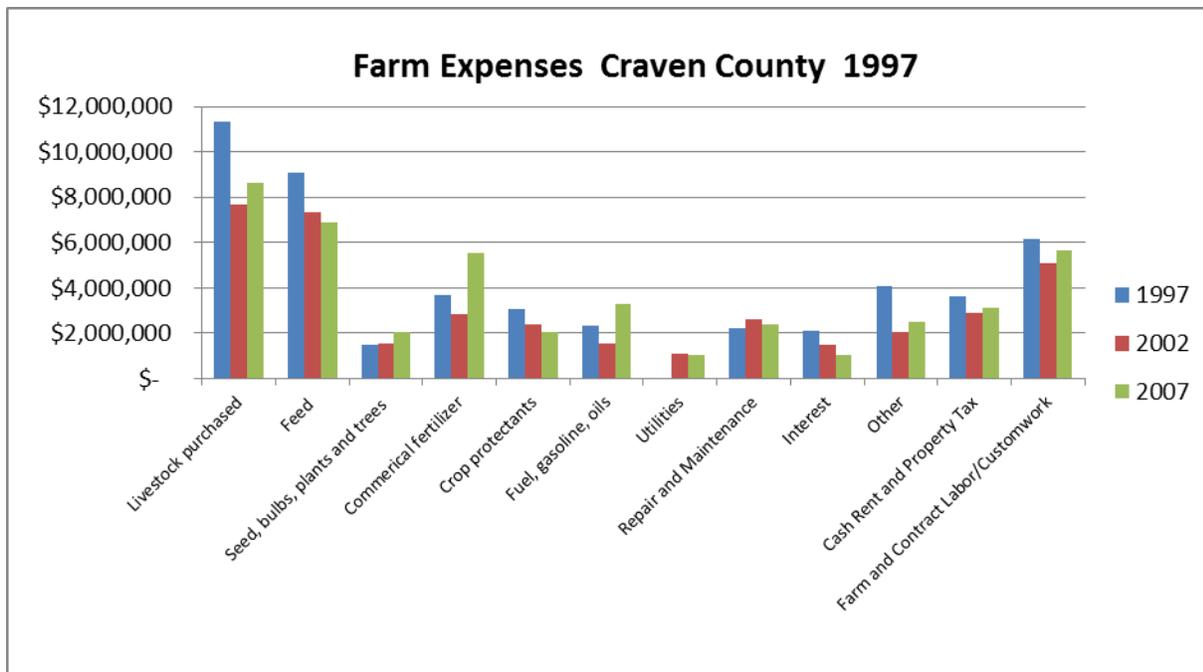


Figure 19 Farm Expenses Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 1997, 2002, 2007

### Taxation and Present Use Value Tax Deferred Program

Across the state, counties employ a present land use taxation program to enable agricultural, forestry and horticultural land to be taxed at its present-use value instead of its market value. Bona fide agricultural and forested lands are allowed to defer to a lower tax rate, which offers protection for continued present use.

Citizens of every county pay taxes to provide services to the county as a whole. Property taxes provide a bulk of the revenue for sheriff services, emergency medical services, schools and other county-related services. But there is a disparity that exists for the cost of services that are received by farms and those received by residential developments. In studies done across the state, residential developments require more services than their revenue streams are able to pay. Conversely, commercial land use and farm and forestland uses require fewer services and generate excess revenue through property taxes.

Table 3 shows the results from counties studied. This table represents a wide range of counties in the state in terms of population and size, but the trend is similar and can be extrapolated for other counties in Eastern North Carolina. Mount Olive College has completed a cost-of-community-services study for Wayne County to reinforce the importance of planned development and farm and forest preservation in counties in the eastern part of the state.

County	Residential	Commercial/Industrial	Farm/Forestland	Source
Chatham	\$1.11	\$ .47	\$ .92	Renkow, 1998
Wake	\$1.54	\$ .18	\$ .47	Renkow, 2001
Union	\$1.30	\$ .41	\$ .24	Dorfman, 2004
Orange	\$1.31	\$ .24	\$ .72	Renkow, 2006
Alamance	\$1.47	\$ .23	\$ .59	Renkow, 2006
Wayne	\$1.24	\$ .34	\$ .47	MOC Agribusiness Center 2012
National Average	\$1.15	\$ .29	\$ .37	AFT, 2006

**Table 3 Cost of Services** Source: NCDA&CS ADFP Trust Fund 2008 Annual Report and Mount Olive College Agribusiness Center Wayne County Cost of Community Services Study 2012

Counties require income to provide services to county residents. Counties often increase property tax rates instead of sales tax to generate additional revenue for services. Craven County retained its 2010-2011 property tax rate of \$0.4728 per \$100 value for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. This rate is lower than the tax rate of \$0.6100 per \$100 value from 2006 to 2010 when property re-evaluation occurred<sup>65</sup>. In 2007, farm owners realized a 65.6 percent increase in property tax payments from 1997 (Figure 21)<sup>66</sup>. The economic base of the county depends heavily on property taxes. Agriculture, because it requires fewer community services generates an excess in revenue through property taxes and other taxes paid much like commercial and industrial land uses.

# Challenges and Opportunities for Agriculture in Craven County

In order to better understand existing and emerging trends, opportunities and challenges in Craven County agriculture, surveys and interviews were conducted. Target audiences were agriculture producers and forest landowners, agribusiness and the general public. These target audiences provided insight into the current state of agriculture in Craven County.

## ***Farm Operators and Land Owners Agricultural Survey***

### **Respondent Profile**

The average age of Craven County producers and landowners responding to the survey was 53 years, 5.3 years younger than the average county resident according to the USDA Census of Agriculture in 2007. Three-fourths of the survey respondents stated that their farms had been in operation for more than 20 years. More than 63 percent of the respondents stated that farming was their primary occupation, but only 33.3 percent received 75 to 100 percent of their income from farming (Figure 20). This was mirrored in interviews conducted in the county, and many expressed the belief that farming was becoming more part time.

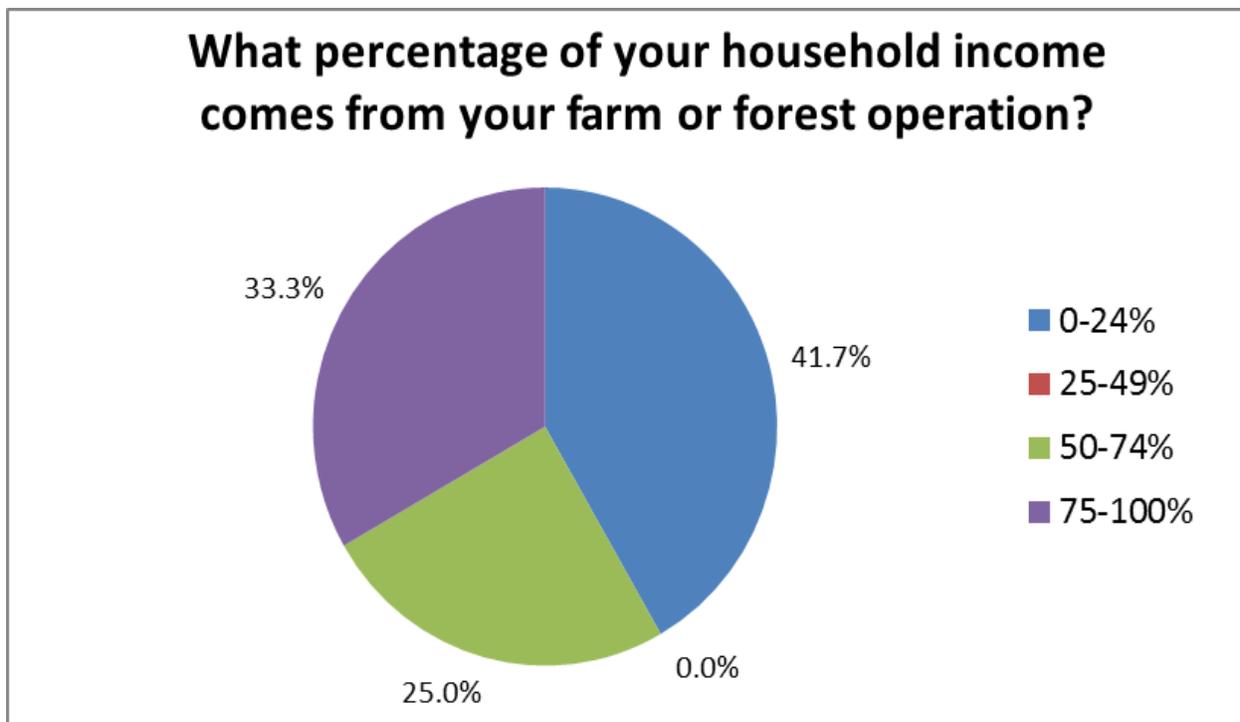


Figure 20 Source: Craven County Producer/Landowner Survey 2012

Of the farmers who responded to the survey within the county, the average production size was 664 acres. Agricultural producers reported that 552.8 acres of this production was rented (83 percent). Thus, on average, producers own 111.2 acres (16.8 percent) of their farming operation. This differs from the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture, which reported that just below 30 percent of total farm acres were rented. Fifty-three percent of survey respondents described their operations as farm production only, and one-third described it as farm production with some timber production.

The average total acreage of timber owned by those surveyed was 46.9 acres. Of this, an average of 35 acres (75 percent) were managed for timber production. Of those that had forestland, 72.7 percent did not have a forest management plan. This plan is required to enroll forested acres in the county PUV program and can outline steps to maintain a healthy forest for future income and enjoyment.

Of the producers surveyed, only 58.3 percent stated that their farm or forest was enrolled in the PUV program. In interviews conducted, enrolled landowners in the county felt the PUV program was very beneficial and imperative to their continued viability. There was concern expressed by those interviewed that numerous landowners were not aware of the PUV program.

Expansion of existing agricultural operations is limited partly by available land. Over 91 percent of the survey respondents stated they did not own enough land to expand or diversify. Additionally, 43 percent responded that the main reason for not expanding was a lack of available land to rent. Other reasons that prohibited expansion of existing operations included: age of owner, risk, satisfaction with current size and personal reasons. This has created competition for available land for producers and those who seek other uses for land.

This may create long-term conflict since producers surveyed and interviewed for this plan anticipated farming for several more years. Fifty percent of those surveyed stated they would farm for another 20 plus years. While 83 percent stated that they had shared their thoughts on farm transition with family, 53.8 percent of those surveyed did not have a farm transition plan in place. Additionally, seventy-five percent of those interviewed felt that estate taxes were an unreasonable burden. A complete document and clear communication with family is needed to navigate farm transition to ensure families are prepared.

One hundred percent of the producers surveyed for this plan felt that it was important to promote agriculture and forestry as career opportunities. In producer interviews this was reiterated with the need to promote the services and industries that support agriculture. A majority of the producers felt that agriculture, horticulture and forestry should be taught at the high school and community college levels. The FFA program at West Craven High School was often mentioned as an outstanding program to promote agriculture to young people. At these educational levels, the different aspects of agriculture, animal science and forestry could be

taught to emphasize GPS technology, agronomics, silviculture, plant and animal research, and other components of the agricultural field.

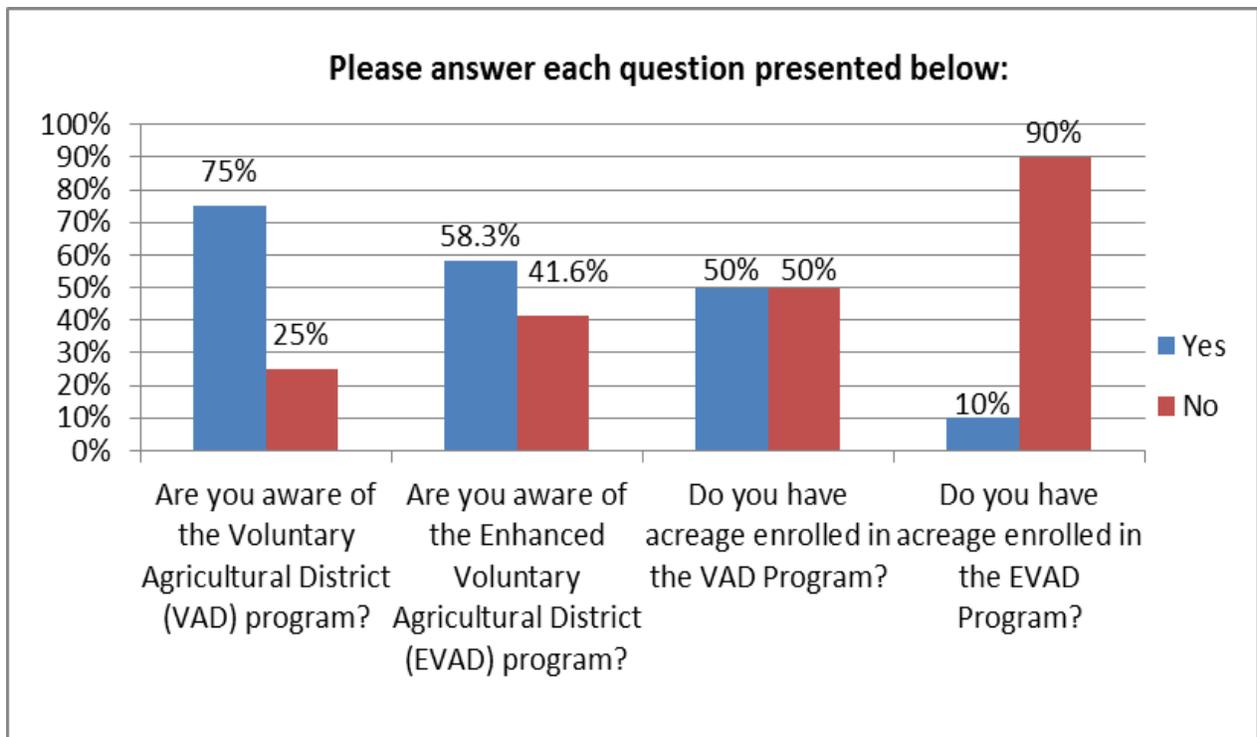
## **Community Support**

As Craven County's population has grown, development has impacted agriculture. Farmland sold for development often brings citizens face to face with unexpected farming activities including noise, odors and slow moving traffic. Producers interviewed felt there was a disconnection between the consumers and agriculture, and that many citizens in the county were not aware of agriculture and its economic, scenic and environmental importance. One producer interviewed said, "People see agriculture as a slow tractor that gets in the way of going to the beach."

However, farm and forest landowner respondents did indicate that some awareness issues were changing. The farmers' market in New Bern was often cited in interviews as a powerful and valuable resource to raise awareness of agriculture in the county. As more consumers come into contact with the producers of their food, they become more cognizant of the value that agriculture brings to the community<sup>67</sup>.

Other interactions with the non-farm public were noted by producers surveyed. Over 66 percent reported no problems with neighbors over agricultural practices. The third that did report problems listed boundary and trespass issues as the main source of conflict. Trespass and dumping issues were experienced by farmers where individuals would use their farm or forest land to dispose of unwanted trash and would access the land without permission. These issues can cause friction and conflict that often require costly resolutions such as clean-up costs or court costs for prosecution.

While most non-farm residents lack awareness of the importance of agriculture in Craven County, the data from the surveys and interviews revealed that producers and forest landowners also lack knowledge and participation in beneficial programs available to them. While there is awareness of the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) and the Enhanced VAD (EVAD) programs in Craven County, the surveyed group was divided on participation in the programs. Only half of those surveyed had land enrolled in the VAD, and only 10 percent had land enrolled in the EVAD (Figure 21).



**Figure 21** Source: Craven County Producer Survey 2012

Surveyed producers felt that educational efforts and awareness of agricultural programs and conservation of natural resources needed improvement. All of the survey participants felt that non-farm citizens need to be educated on the economic and social impacts of agriculture in Craven County. The respondents felt that this heightened awareness would improve operation conditions. A Craven County farmer who was interviewed felt there was a perceived lack of respect for farming even at the county government level.

Diversification is one way to deal with agricultural production volatility and is a point of growing interest among farmers in Craven County. Part of this diversification is developing new markets. The military presents an underserved potential market since it has a strong presence in Eastern North Carolina.

Furthermore, agricultural interviews show that farmers desire to provide produce and goods to the military bases in the area. Over 90 percent felt there was opportunity for market-based compatible use incentives to be arranged between the military and farm and forest landowners to support continued agricultural land use or to develop options for producers and landowners. As an example, N.C. State University College of Natural Resources is working with the N.C. Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation (FSWC) and the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement the Market Based Conservation Initiative, a “market-based” economic incentives program associated with the Sentinel Landscapes Project. This focuses on preserving mission-critical military flight paths extending over 16 counties in Eastern North Carolina. Through this effort the department of defense is offering yearly

payments to landowners under specific flight paths to encourage the enrollment of these lands in 10-, 20- or 30-year contracts to remain as working farms and forests.<sup>68</sup>

While diversification is embraced as a way to ultimately reduce risk, producers understand the need to engage market development and assess costs prior to expansion. Producers interviewed were exploring or had expanded into production systems such as sweet potatoes, peanuts, edamame and greenhouse production. These producers showed that market access and the determination of input costs were essential to their decision to diversify. More than 54 percent of the farmers surveyed felt that outlets such as farmers markets, food festivals, agricultural fairs and other similar venues are local market options to explore for expansion efforts. Currently, there are as many as 84 vendors who offer products at the New Bern Farmers Market.

Agritourism is often noted as a potential market diversification prospect. Agritourism brings visitors to the farm or forest to participate in agricultural activities such as hay rides, pick-your-own operations, hunting, roadside stands and other similar activities. Of those producers surveyed in Craven County, more than 54 percent did not see agritourism as a diversification opportunity (Figure 22). Only 22.2 percent of the landowners surveyed leased their land for hunting. Agritourism, hunting leases and wildlife management are opportunities for landowners and producers to consider.

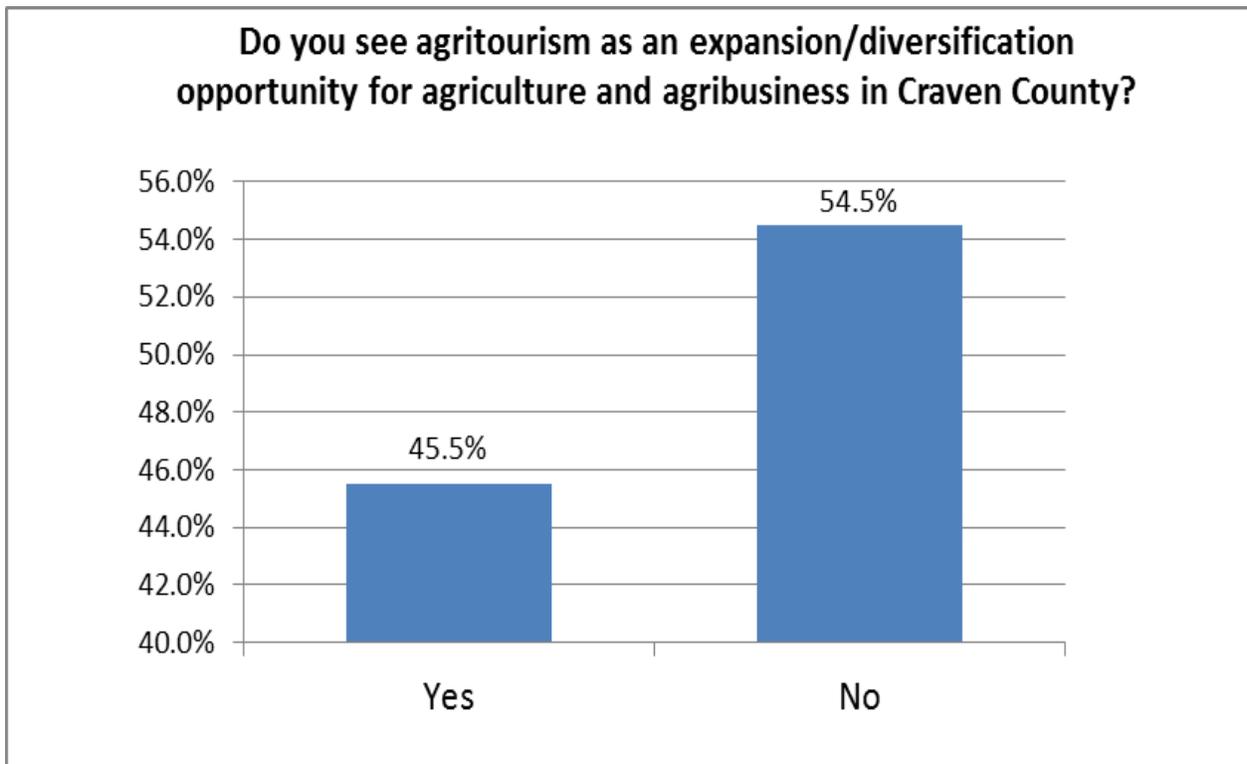


Figure 22 Diversification Opportunity Source Craven County Producer Survey 2012

## Training Challenges

Interviews conducted in the county revealed concern for increasing and changing regulations affecting farming operations. Regulations were viewed as necessary but burdensome. Regulations require money, time and paperwork that increase the workload and ultimately impact the profitability of the individual producer. Often producers are limited in their abilities to spread these costs among the products sold.

Another challenge stated from these interviews regarding regulatory actions was a fear of excessive regulation and infringement on landowner rights. Producers noted an increase in regulatory permits from government agencies for certain practices on the farm. However, those individuals also reported better water quality due to these permits and Best Management Practices (BMPs) incorporated in agricultural and forestry productions. Many of those interviewed felt that farmers who followed regulations and BMPs did a good job, but the small minority that did not follow regulations and BMPs caused problems for all. County agencies such as N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County and Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District were often cited as reliable sources of information and training on regulations.

An additional challenge noted by producers was labor. Fifty percent of the producers and landowners surveyed felt that affordable labor would affect their expansion in the next five years. Housing, securing legal labor and training good workers are all components of this issue. Farmers who were interviewed noted that it was hard to find knowledgeable labor able to operate complicated and expensive equipment. Many participated in the federal H2A guest worker program. It was noted as expensive but worthwhile to guarantee legal labor.

In order to meet these numerous challenges, these agencies and others have opportunities to educate and train producers in Craven County. As an example, more than 66 percent of producers surveyed said that they would attend training on production of biofuel feedstock or woody biomass. Over 58 percent stated that they would attend training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification for produce and processing, and over 72 percent would attend training on GAP certification to ensure BMPs are followed in the production of tobacco and grains. More than 83 percent said they would attend training on farm transition planning, which is significant since many of those surveyed do not have such a plan.

Agricultural producers and forest landowners in Craven County realistically recognize the opportunities and challenges that exist for their operations to remain viable in a changing global economy. They are aware of the impact of growth and development in the county on the future of their operations and have noted the potential prospects and pitfalls. They also know they must manage risk through education and training (Figure 23). These producers and landowners recognize the need to be an integral part of improving awareness of agriculture's impact on the local economy to ultimately preserve their agricultural heritage.



Figure 23 Business planning topics Source: Craven County Producer Survey 2012

In summary, the producer survey revealed:

- Almost 98 percent of the farmers do not own enough land to expand or diversify their operations.
- Almost 60 percent of the producers do not have a farm transition plan/estate plan.
- A third of the producers are not sure if their property is enrolled in the county's PUV program.
- Career opportunities in agriculture and forestry and all aspects associated with those industries should be promoted.
- 100 percent of the farmers felt that education and outreach to non-farm citizens concerning the economic and social contributions of farming and forestry would increase community support for agriculture and improve agricultural operating conditions.
- Producers want training on a variety of topics such as business planning, forestry management and farm transition/estate planning to maintain their farm and forest viability.

### ***Agribusiness Survey***

Agribusinesses are an integral part of the future of agriculture in Craven County. These businesses have to adapt to production diversification shifts, changing regulations, advances in technology, an unskilled workforce and a changing customer base to best serve their clients. Fifty percent of the agribusinesses surveyed in the county noted what they interpreted as a shift toward more sophisticated farming operations. Fifty percent of these businesses also noted a shift to fewer small farming operations and an increase in the number of large farms. Half of those surveyed said they would adapt their businesses to these changes. However, from 1997 to

2007, the U.S. Census of Agriculture noted a decrease in farm size in Craven County. As the new census has not yet been published, the agribusinesses surveyed could be reporting more recent trends.

Agricultural technology continues to change and force the agricultural field and agribusinesses to remain knowledgeable in order to service their clients. Agribusinesses that were interviewed noted that farmers in Craven County are using technology more and rely on agribusiness advisors to help them make decisions on technology and biotechnology. To meet these advancing needs, agribusinesses are developing staff through technology training. An agribusiness that was interviewed for this plan noted that the company's staff had participated in technology training seven times in two years in an effort to keep up with technological changes.

Many agribusinesses noted that development is another challenge facing agriculture. As farmland is being sold for commercial or residential development, the amount of available farmland decreases and the potential customer base also shifts. Fifty percent of survey respondents indicated that they would add new product lines or services for non-farmers in the next five years.

Agribusinesses also said that debt load is a factor in the sale of farmland for development as well as heirs who are no longer interested or involved in agricultural production. Such development and encroachment has caused farmers to seek lands to farm in other counties. Additionally, this limits current farming operations and prohibits further expansion to future generations.

All of the agribusinesses interviewed reported that it was very difficult in the current business climate for a young person to engage in a new agricultural enterprise due to high capital investment requirements. Both young farmers wishing to pursue careers in agricultural production as well as heirs who want to continue farming find it difficult to enter the agricultural profession as land and equipment costs continue to rise. This same challenge was noted by agribusiness owners as 75 percent acknowledged transition planning as an issue facing agribusinesses in Craven County, and 100 percent indicated that agribusiness owners needed assistance with transition planning.

Crop production changes in Craven County have resulted in changes in agribusinesses. As commodity prices shift, farmers diversify to new crop production systems to manage risk. Agribusinesses interviewed pointed to a sizable shift from tobacco to peanut and sorghum production. These shifts result in the purchase of new equipment or adaptation of existing equipment to effectively manage these less traditional crops. These changes extend to the products needed as well as treatment and management of these new crops such as seed sources, fertilizers, pesticides and other products. Agribusinesses have to adapt to these changes to effectively meet the needs of producers.

N.C. Cooperative Extension and N.C. State University were often cited as resources for agribusiness and producers. The agricultural research and technological support from these entities provides information for all involved in agriculture.

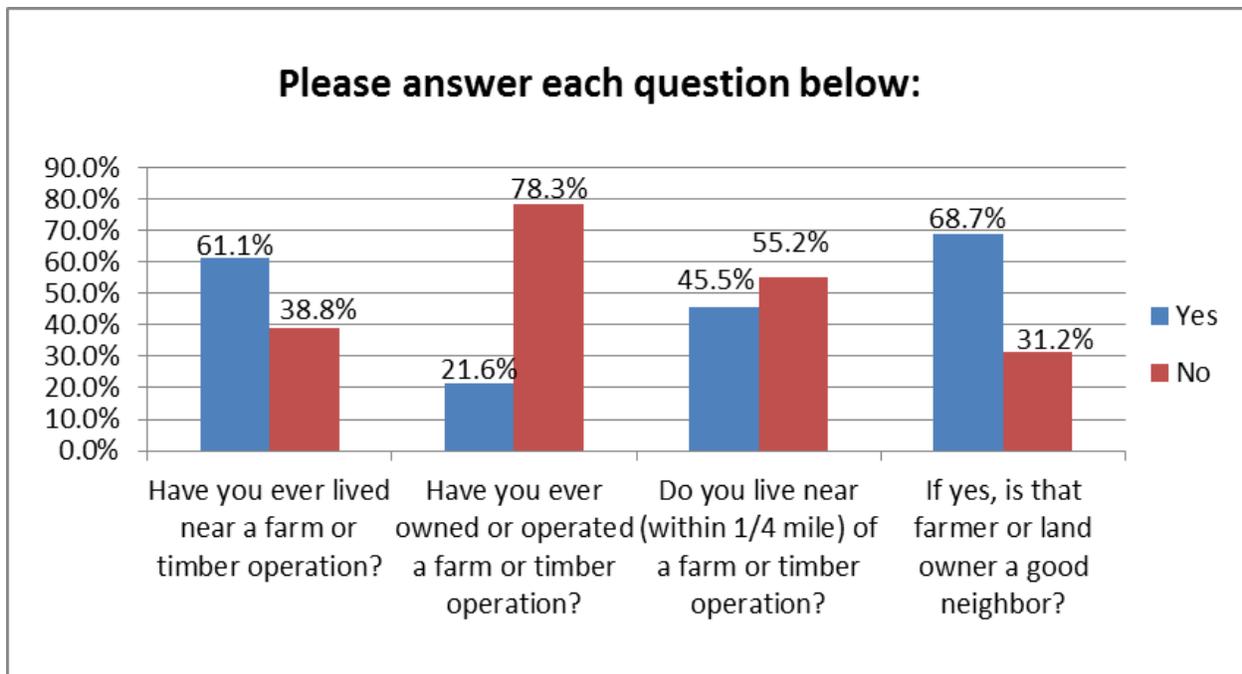
Agribusinesses that were interviewed felt that the agribusiness field presented multiple opportunities for career development and expansion. Expansion opportunities were directly tied to the availability of qualified people to train and hire. One agribusiness owner interviewed pointed out that it takes time to groom someone for the business and even more time to train someone to take over the business. One hundred percent of the agribusinesses surveyed felt that youth agriculture education should be conducted in Craven County. This will also expose more young people to the possibilities in agriculture and agribusinesses.

Craven County agribusinesses noted a number of challenges and opportunities:

- Development is one of the major pressures on agriculture in Craven County.
- Agricultural technology (GPS soil sampling, variable rate application, utilization of yield monitors/mapping, biotechnological traits) is an expanding field that requires constant updates and training for agribusinesses and producers.
- A shift from tobacco to other crop production systems has resulted in new equipment or adaptation of equipment as well as treatment and management of these new crops that agribusinesses have to provide and service.
- Career opportunities are available in the agribusiness fields and need to be developed and promoted.
- Youth agricultural education should be promoted throughout Craven County.

### ***Non-Farm Residents Survey***

The non-farm public that participated in the surveys did recognize the presence of agriculture in Craven County. Nearly one third of those who completed the survey felt that agriculture was holding its own as an industry and had potential for future growth. While the majority of those that responded had not owned or operated a farm or timber operation, 61.1 percent lived near such an operation. Almost half lived near a farm and nearly 69 percent of the respondents felt that the farmer or landowner was a good neighbor (Figure 24). Almost 50 percent of these Craven County non-farm residents had visited a farm or forest operation within the last year.



**Figure 24** Source: Craven County Non-Farm Survey 2012

However, the majority (96.8 percent) of those surveyed were not able to correctly identify the size of Craven County’s agriculture industry. In 2008, the total income generated by agriculture within Craven County was \$312,760,854 according to Mike Walden at N.C. State University. While residents who were surveyed saw agriculture as a big part of the county’s economic engine, only a very small percentage (3.2 percent) were able to estimate the economic impact of agriculture in Craven County.

There is strong support for agriculture nevertheless. Over 84 percent of the non-farm survey participants felt that Craven County should take steps to preserve farms and forests and 91.5 percent would support farmland preservation efforts. Nearly 84 percent would support the use of county funds for farm and forest development.

Many of those surveyed supported agriculture through their buying power. Nearly 82 percent bought local produce through the farmers’ market or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and over 75 percent bought from local nurseries and greenhouses (Figure 25). Most were able to verify that the products purchased were produced locally since face-to-face purchases create relationships between the consumer and the producer/vendor.

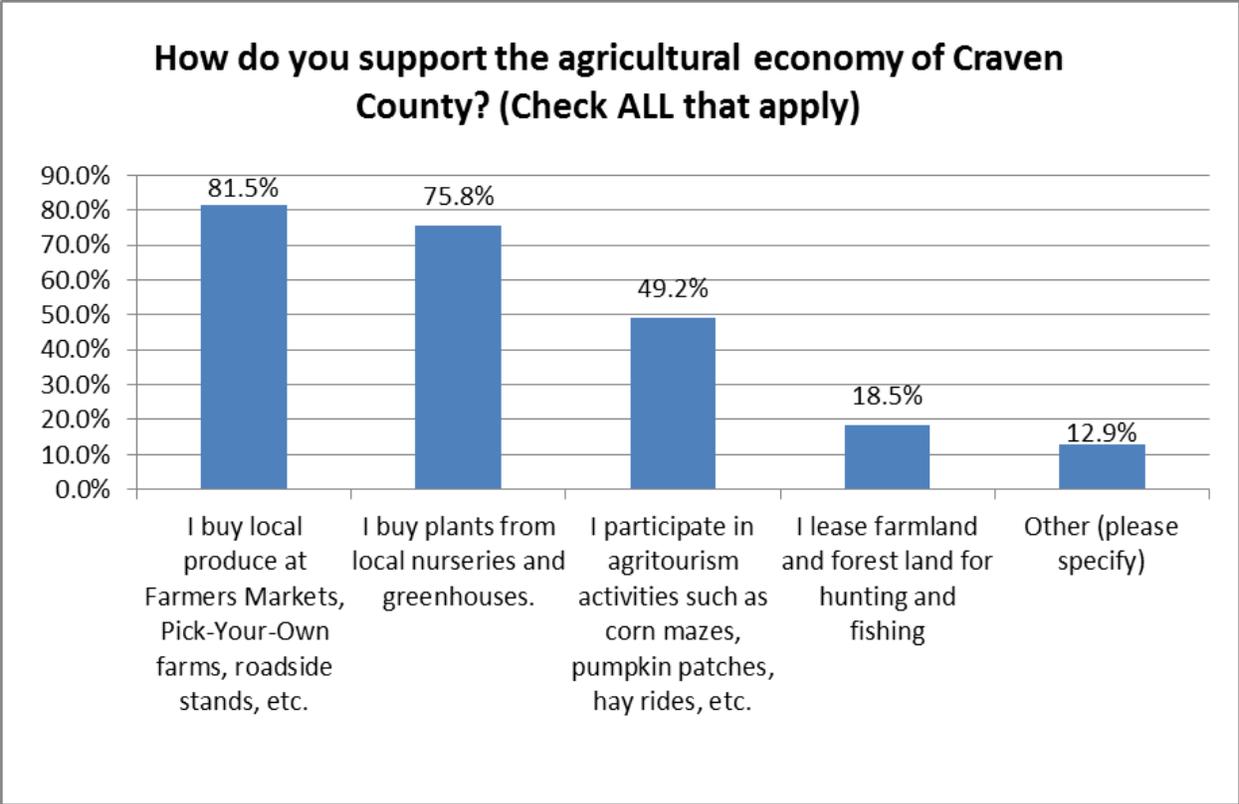


Figure 25 Source: Craven County Non-Farm Survey 2012

Other interactions with farmers and landowners were seen in a positive light among the non-farmers who were surveyed. Nearly 70 percent reported no problems with a neighboring farm or forest operation. The smaller percentage that reported problems indicated that slow moving equipment was the primary issue. Of those that did report a problem with a farmer or landowner, sixty-nine percent did nothing about the issue. When the issue was dealt with, 44.8 percent gained a better understanding about those activities. However, 31.3 percent felt that they still did not understand why the activity was necessary. This indicates a strong need to educate the public about farm and forest activities and why certain agricultural activities are necessary.

More than 86 percent of the surveyed non-farm residents agreed that agriculture and forest land contributed to the scenic beauty and open space of Craven County. This was substantiated in that 76.3 percent felt that farming was positive for the environment. Almost 80 percent felt that local farmers delivered high quality products. Sixty-one percent, though, did not see agriculture and farming as high tech industries. Only 52.7 percent of those surveyed felt that farming presented a good career opportunity. However, 67.8 percent disagreed with the statement that Craven County wasn't a farm area anymore and that encouraging farm and forest operations was pointless. Non-farm citizens who were interviewed for this plan pointed out that agriculture needs to do more to increase awareness about its impacts on the county both fiscally and environmentally.

When asked to list challenges facing agriculture in Craven County, residential development topped the list. Non-farm citizens who were surveyed were very aware of the impact that development has on perpetuating the trend of losing farms and forests. The survey participants realized the rising costs of agricultural production and noted population growth, municipality expansion, fuel prices, over taxation among several issues facing agriculture in the county. Survey respondents noted a need to develop jobs in the agricultural industry as an opportunity to be explored as well as expansion of the local food market and contracts with the military.

- Non-farm residents surveyed would support farmland preservation efforts in Craven County.
- Development is recognized by non-farm survey respondents as a constant pressure on agriculture.
- Agricultural career opportunities should be promoted.
- Local food markets and development of potential markets with governmental agencies should be supported to encourage growth of the agricultural industry in Craven County.

# Emerging Issues in Agriculture in Craven County

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As Craven County's population and urban industries have grown, so have pressures on agriculture from population growth and encroachment, increasing land values, natural disasters, lack of trained workforce, infrastructure improvements and other factors. These pressures have caused producers and landowners to be creative and adapt. These challenges present opportunities and it is up to those who follow this plan to make sure each is explored and considered.

## ***Impact of Natural Disasters***

The success of those involved in agricultural production is determined by their ability to effectively manage risk. One of the greatest risks that producers face is the weather. Preparation and readiness allow some control over the impact of natural disasters and weather events on crops and livestock. In order to survive crop damage that comes from hurricanes, droughts and other weather events, producers and landowners need adequate risk management skills and knowledge to deal with these seemingly perennial events. Farmers have recognized the need for and benefit of crop insurance as these events continue to limit profitability. Additionally, producers are implementing diversification strategies as methods of risk management to alleviate the potential for losses from natural disasters.

Since 2002, Craven County has been affected by 10 tropical storms and hurricanes. Four of those storms had winds over 80 miles per hour. From January 1, 2008 to December 25, 2012, Craven County had 16 periods of extreme drought conditions. One period of extreme drought lasted more than 49 days. There were seven periods of severe drought conditions and 80 periods of moderate drought conditions. Repercussions from Hurricane Irene and the drought of 2011 are still being felt in the county in 2013.

Since the early 2000s, producers have had to deal with imported Asian pests – specifically the kudzu bug and marmorated stink bug. These pests, which affect soybeans, cotton and corn, are so new to the area that there are no definite management options available at this time. All of these have impacts on agriculture and these impacts affect producers in time, money and resources to cope with them.

## ***Water***

Water is a major resource in Craven County. While water is abundant in surface water sources, groundwater reserve concerns resulted in citizens being required to follow local water-use restrictions, monitor water components for leaks and minimize non-essential use of water. Additionally, due to the severity of the drought of 2007-2008, NCDA & CS was charged by the

legislature to conduct a water-use survey among farmers in North Carolina in order to better manage this valuable resource. The survey was to target operations that used more than 10,000 gallons per day (GDP). The surveys found most of the water used in agriculture was for irrigation. The surveys found that agriculture used only 1 percent of the 15 billion gallons of water used daily statewide<sup>69</sup>.

There are nine operations within Craven County that qualified for the survey. These operations had an annual daily average water use of 119,335 gallons from groundwater. The county had a daily withdrawal capacity of 5,434,646 gallons from ground and surface water<sup>70</sup>. As noted above, most of the agricultural water use was for irrigation during the peak summer months. With the increasing population and growth within Craven County, the increasing demand for water requires better use of this valuable resource.

Watersheds and wetlands are also important in Craven County. These natural areas are important for wildlife and can help mitigate excess water flow from storm events. Farms and forests also help prevent massive flooding by allowing water to seep into the ground. Development, with its impervious surfaces such as roads and roofs, increases runoff that can exacerbate flooding. The role agriculture plays in wetlands protection needs to be considered as the county grows. Best management practices utilized by farmers and foresters include buffers, water control structures, cover crops, and conservation tillage. These practices result in low erosion rates and nutrient inputs (nitrogen and phosphorus) generally below recommended levels – an important component in the protection of surface waters in the Neuse River Basin<sup>71</sup>.

### ***Change in Demographics and Encroachment***

In 2007, the USDA Census of Agriculture reported that the median age group for farmers in Craven County was 60 to 64 year<sup>72</sup>. When compared with the overall median age of 37 years for residents in Craven County, the disparity in ages between the farming population and the general population is stark. This data supports the trend that few young people pursue agriculture as a viable occupation. Almost universally, producers and landowners in interviews stated that a young person cannot have the financial resources or knowledge to go into agriculture unless they are part of a farming family. This issue can create pressure on landowners and producers who may not have heirs willing and able to maintain the family farm or forest.

The rural/urban/suburban interface inherently creates an environment that can encourage conflict between farmers and new homeowners. Complaints such as dust and slow moving equipment as well as smoke from prescribed burns in forests, which are essential to best management practices, are among the practices that can instigate these conflicts. In interviews and surveys, agribusinesses and producers said that a priority is to make the public more aware of agricultural methods and practices. This awareness can increase support for agriculture and forestry especially as the county continues to grow.

Craven County grew 13.1 percent from 2000 to 2010 and is projected to grow another 6.6 percent from 2010 to 2016. In 2000, more than 67 percent of Craven County residents lived in urban clusters. With the increase in development since then, the number of people living in urban clusters is higher<sup>73</sup>. In order to meet this population growth, land must be developed for houses, schools, roads, shopping centers and all other services needed. Agricultural land is attractive for development because the land is cleared.

The demand for land for development competes directly with land available to farm. Often land that could be rented for farming is sold for development. Sometimes selling farmland for development is the best option for the family. It allows the family to clear debt, pay for college and save for retirement. This conflict between competing demands is a challenge that both farmers and non-farm citizens recognize. When asked what challenges existed for agriculture in the county, farmer and non-farmer survey participants both noted development.

One tool used to protect farm and forest lands in Craven County is a Voluntary Agriculture District ordinance. Craven County Planning Department has placed all VAD parcels on subdivision maps as required by the VAD ordinance, and the office also lists the parcels on the county GIS maps. This can visually raise the recognition of agriculture and increase the appreciation for the pastoral setting agriculture brings to Craven County.

However, the county does not have countywide zoning. Zoning could protect agriculture as well as reduce the potential conflict between residential and business development and agriculture. However, zoning, which can deter development, can conflict with a family's wish to develop their land. This topic needs careful consideration with involvement of all parties to make sure the best decision can be made for all in the county.

### ***Jobs in Agriculture and Agribusiness***

Agriculture is more than a farmer on a tractor in the field. Crop consultants, pesticide dealers and seed scientists, soil scientists, crop researchers, equipment maintenance, forestry consultants, extension agents, regional agronomists and others have roles in the success of a farmer or forest landowner. The various aspects of agriculture need to be promoted as career opportunities in order to grow and sustain the industry.

By recognizing the diversity of jobs that agriculture and forestry can offer, avenues such as an Economic Development Commission or a Workforce Development entity could work with existing resources and structures to make sure those jobs are created and filled by qualified workers. When producers and agribusinesses who were interviewed were asked if they were involved with a Commission or the Chamber of Commerce, all said no. This is another opportunity that needs to be developed.

In surveys and interviews, producers and agribusinesses said that job opportunities in agriculture could be publicized more. Across the board, the farmers and agribusinesses who were surveyed and interviewed thought that agriculture should be taught in the schools. Most

felt that this should be done at all grade levels but particularly at the high school, community college and college levels.

Producers and landowners also recognized the need to encourage younger people to go into agriculture. In the surveys, 63.3 percent of the producers said they would consider working with an intern or young farmer in order to support the next generation of farmers. Land, equipment and other costs make it difficult for someone to start in agriculture, so this support and mentoring is important.

A little more than half of the non-farm public who were surveyed felt that the agricultural industry presented career opportunities. Agribusinesses in the county were bullish on growth and felt new job opportunities and qualified people to fill these positions would be needed to meet future demand for support of the agricultural economy. These business owners also wanted to train people to take over the business so that the services they offer can continue. There is a great need to show that agriculture can and should be supported as viable career opportunities.

## ***Infrastructure***

Infrastructure is needed to create a viable climate for agriculture and agribusiness to operate. Some of the major points of sufficient infrastructure are access to markets, adequate roads for transportation and for moving equipment and commodities, venues to process and sell produce, and space for training and meetings. All of these are important to agriculture and forestry.

## **Ports and Rail**

Craven County is less than 40 miles from the Port of Morehead City and less than 100 miles from the Port of Wilmington. The Port of Wilmington is one of the few ports along the east coast with adequate storage area for containers and cargo. Access to this port from Craven is primarily by road. The Port of Morehead City is one of the deepest ports on the East Coast and has warehouse and other open storage capacities. The port is a leading exporter of phosphate<sup>74</sup>.

The North Carolina Railroad Company, which is fully owned by the state of North Carolina, has a line that serves the Port of Morehead. The line is operated by Norfolk Southern and goes through both Havelock and New Bern to Raleigh and Greensboro<sup>75</sup>. Norfolk Southern Corporation's Agriculture, Fertilizer and Consumer Products Division currently serves shippers and receivers of corn, wheat, soybeans, miscellaneous grains, animal and poultry feed, and miscellaneous other products<sup>76</sup>.

## **Roads**

In Craven County, U.S. Highway 70 is a growth corridor for businesses as well as a major artery for beach travel and the way to the state port in Morehead City. The highway is also utilized by

the military from Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune. This busy east-west route is important to movement of commercial, military, agricultural and general public traffic.

U.S. Highway 17 crosses the county in a north-south direction and is another major highway that serves Craven County. The N.C. Department of Transportation has allocated money to develop and improve traffic along this road for mobility, hurricane evacuations and connectivity. Highway 17 leads north to Virginia and south to South Carolina and is a link to the state port in Wilmington.

These two major highways are conduits to markets for agriculture and forestry. Growth along these roads has created stress for transportation. Agriculture has had to make changes in the way it moves on these highways. There are specific areas that agricultural equipment is allowed on the highways, and there are specific access points along the roads that producers and forest workers must use.

These impediments can slow transportation of goods to market. As the county and state plan for future road construction, agriculture must be considered. Many of those who travel on these roads see farm trucks and logging trucks as hindrances to their drive to the beach. Awareness and improvement in roads must be considered for the benefit of all users.

## **Facilities**

Just as roads are needed to move commodities, diverse market channels are needed to ensure commodities reach consumers. Craven County is fortunate to have a thriving farmers' market that is located in downtown New Bern that encourages and accommodates direct market opportunities for producers. This farmers' market was often cited as a valuable resource to raise awareness of agriculture in the county. The market has a lease with the city of New Bern. Many of those interviewed felt that a new location for the market should be sought. It would allow for better parking, more space for products to be sold, create a sorting and packing facility and possibly use the site for shipping agricultural goods.

The Craven County fairground is owned by the Craven County Jaycees and is a designated spot for a large and small animal shelter during disasters such as hurricanes. During Hurricane Irene, there was difficulty fulfilling this agreement between the County of Craven and the Jaycees. A separate facility could fulfill this important requirement and responsibility of the county.

Livestock also requires a good location for shows, market and training. Interest was expressed in a livestock arena in Craven County for this purpose. There has not been a livestock show in the county since 2010. These shows offer opportunity for producers to meet, learn about breeds, show animals and gain new information that can benefit their production. Livestock sales could also return to a facility such as this.

Training classes are held at the N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County Office, but due to the extreme demand for meeting space this facility can no longer meet the needs of county agencies, Extension volunteer groups, and regional and multi-county meetings. A facility that could accommodate the training needs of agriculture as well as provide a venue for livestock and the farmers' market would be an opportunity to explore. Craven County is often seen as a regional hub for agricultural and cultural events. Many producers from other counties sell their products at the farmers' market and attend training classes and workshops in Craven County. A multi-use facility could serve the needs within the agricultural community as well as for the county as a whole. A feasibility study could be conducted to determine if a new farmers' market/livestock arena would be appropriate for the county.

Craven County has two industrial parks, one located in Havelock and one five miles west of New Bern. In Craven County's CAMA Core Land Use Plan Executive Summary adopted by the Craven County Board of Commissioners in August of 2009 the importance of industrial development to the county was recognized. This report stated that:

*Craven County supports the recruitment and siting of environmentally compatible light industrial establishments within its borders in areas that are already similarly developed or in public or private industrial parks to minimize the sacrifice of prime agricultural lands for such development. Craven County does not encourage the conversion of prime farmland to industrial use.*

### ***Local Awareness of Agriculture***

While most of the non-farm public was aware of agriculture in Craven County, particularly through the farmers' market, there was still a lack of knowledge of the resources available to them through agriculture. Many of those surveyed asked the vendor about the source of the produce or had built a relationship with the producer to ensure that the produce was local. However, less than half looked for the NCDA&CS' "Got to be NC" label or used the NCDA&CS' "NC Farm Fresh" website to find local produce, agritourism and local agricultural events

The non-farm public that was surveyed was hard pressed to name the financial impact of agriculture and forestry in the county as were those who were interviewed. Only 3 percent correctly recognized the monetary impact of agriculture (\$312,760,854) to Craven County's economy. Interviews in the county also revealed a lack of familiarity with forestry. Weyerhaeuser was viewed as forestry and not the local landowners who provide the product for Weyerhaeuser.

Producers and agribusinesses interviewed felt that most people in the county were not aware of agriculture and forestry. Many felt there was disconnection between local and state officials. Miscommunication and confusion about the Present Use Value program in the county was also cited as a problem. N.C. Farm Bureau has worked to make this situation better, and there was improvement noted.

Consumers are increasingly interested in knowing the origin of their food. The farmers' market is popular and can be a venue to raise this awareness. The Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board can also be used to encourage awareness, especially among elected officials. The board's role is to be the liaison between the agricultural community and the Board of Commissioners. Periodic updates should be made to the Board of Commissioners by the Agricultural Advisory Board to ensure agriculture is considered and understood as decisions are made.

# Existing Farmland Preservation Tools

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## ***Working Land Protection Programs and Tools***

**(Compiled by John Bonham, 2009)**

There are programs and tools that can enhance farmland sustainability. Some of these programs are state programs. Other options are for the local leadership to consider.

### ***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. The difference between 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
- 5 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 follow a forest management plan.

### **Benefits**

- Protection from:
  - Increasing land values that are based on development potential
  - The potential increase in property taxes

More information can be found at:

<http://www.dor.state.nc.us/publications/property.html>

## ***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 purpose of the districts is to increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and to increase protection from nuisance suits and other negative impacts on properly managed farms. Craven County adopted VAD in January 2009 and can be found at: <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/wq/lpn/PDFOrdinances/CravenSearchable.pdf>.

The program is currently enrolling acreage. As of November 2012, there are 1,821 acres under review for inclusion in or enrolled in the Voluntary Agricultural District program.

### **Requirements**

- Acreage is engaged in agriculture as that word is defined in G.S. 106-581.1.
- Acreage is managed in accordance with the Natural Resource Conservation Service's defined erosion control practices that are addressed to highly erodable land.
- Acreage is the subject of a conservation agreement, as defined in G.S. 121-35, between the county and the owner of such land that prohibits nonfarm use or development of such land for a period of at least 10 years, except for the creation of not more than three lots that meet applicable county and municipal zoning and subdivision regulations.

### **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 or 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 (EVAD) 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. Craven County passed the EVAD in January 2009, and there are currently 2,512 acres enrolled.

## ***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 can also 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.

### ***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. Numerous colleges and universities provide educational resources to professionals and landowners on this matter.

### ***Right -to-Farm Law***

North Carolina has a 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. The General Assembly has appropriated money every year since 2005.

# Recommendations and Timelines

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The recommendations that follow are just that—recommendations. These do not infringe on any landowner’s right to do what he or she may wish to do with his or her land. The recommendations provide a framework for county agencies that work with agriculture to assist producers and landowners in meeting the challenges and pursuing the opportunities recognized for agriculture in Craven County. In order for the recommendations to be effective and relevant, they must be reviewed periodically—at least annually—to ensure that the latest information is presented to the populations targeted.

## ***Maintain Agriculture’s Economic Viability in Craven County.***

For farms and forests to remain in production, they must remain profitable. With increasing production costs and tighter margins for profit, farming and forestry face great obstacles. Action must be taken to maintain existing farmlands and forestland in Craven County and to pursue opportunities to ensure the stability and growth potential of agriculture in the county.

### ***1. Endorse Craven County Agricultural Development Plan.***

The Craven County Agricultural Development Plan reveals the trends, opportunities and challenges for agriculture and forestry. Endorsement of this plan by the Craven County Board of Commissioner (BOC) and certification by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will allow the county to receive priority status for potential funds with the NCDA&CS’s Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFP). The county’s match for this fund will be reduced from 30 percent to 15 percent with an endorsed and certified plan. Many recommendations listed in this plan can be supported by funds from ADFP, which will help ensure the future of agriculture in Craven County.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Present Craven County Agricultural Development Plan to County Board of Commissioners for endorsement.
- Submit endorsed Craven County Agricultural Development Plan to NCDA&CS for certification.

#### **Potential Partners:**

Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board

#### **Timeline:**

This plan should be presented to the Craven County BOC by Second Quarter 2013 for endorsement. Once endorsed, the plan can be sent to NCDA&CS for certification. Once certified, the Agricultural Advisory Board can commence grant applications for the recommendations listed that require funding.

## ***2. Promote and expand the Voluntary Agricultural District and the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Programs and the Agricultural Advisory Board.***

The Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) ordinance was passed in January 2009 and can be found at: <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/wq/lpn/PDFOrdinances/CravenSearchable.pdf>. The VAD is an effective tool for farms and forests to build recognition of the presence of agriculture in the county and provide some measure of protection to landowners against nuisance lawsuits. Participation in the VAD will also allow landowners to defer water and sewer assessments.

The Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) ordinance was passed in January 2009. Landowners enrolled in the EVAD program are eligible to receive a higher percentage of cost-share funds under the Agricultural Cost Share Program – as high as 90 percent. Additionally, the farm may receive up to 25 percent of gross sales from the sale of non-farm products and still maintain its status as a bona fide farm. These benefits are available to participating landowners to help expand the opportunities to keep the farm in operation.

### **Action Steps:**

Utilize funded stipend (\$500) upon certification of the Agricultural Development Plan to develop a landowner awareness campaign on the VAD and EVAD programs or other initiatives within the recommendations of this document. Campaigns would review the benefits of the programs and encourage enrollment of landowners into these programs.

- Create flyers, brochures, agency newsletter articles, public service announcements and other tools to promote the VAD and EVAD programs.

### **Potential Partners:**

Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, N.C. Forest Service Craven County and other related groups.

### **Timeline:**

Promotion of the VAD and EVAD programs should continue and information/workshops should be scheduled to coincide with upcoming festivals, meetings and training programs planned for the Fourth Quarter of 2013 and throughout 2014. Development of a brochure, flyers and other promotional tools would begin during the Fourth Quarter 2014 and be distributed by First Quarter 2015. This recommendation is to be reviewed yearly or as often as the Agricultural Advisory Board deems necessary.

## ***3. Promote agriculture and forestry as an industry in Craven County***

Promotion of agriculture and forestry as industries that contribute to the economic well-being of the county is important. All aspects of these two industries need to be supported and

encouraged. Educational activities should stress the economic and environmental impacts that agriculture has on Craven County and encourage marketing with new and existing tools.

**Action Steps:**

- Continue to review all economic data on agriculture, forestry and agribusinesses that impact Craven County annually and present to the BOC and other interested groups.
- Maintain an inventory of opportunity sites for agricultural business development. Craven County ranks number one of all North Carolina counties in available space in industrial buildings<sup>77</sup>. This inventory should be expanded to include farms, forest tracts and buildings suitable for research, production and manufacturing.
- Expand or create agricultural marketing campaigns to raise awareness of agriculture and agribusinesses in the county. These efforts have proven successful in other eastern counties in increasing public awareness of agriculture.
- Continue to provide GAP certification trainings and other pertinent training that affords producers the opportunity to evaluate and integrate into new marketing opportunities.

**Potential Partners:**

Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board and other related groups.

**Timeline:**

The Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board should meet by the Fourth Quarter of 2014 to determine the course of action. A strategy for cooperatively working to evaluate and pursue agricultural opportunities for Craven County should be created and presented to the Board of Commissioners for their endorsement by Fourth Quarter 2015.

**4. *Support N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, and other farm and forest support agencies***

Repeatedly in interviews and in the surveys, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District and the N.C. Forest Service Craven County were all cited as valuable resources for the agricultural community. With budgets being strained, it is important to keep local government officials informed of the services these agencies provide and their impact on the local agricultural economy.

Support should come in the form of:

- Filling vacant positions in a timely manner.
- Providing support for professional development and subject matter training to ensure producers are receiving the most up-to-date information to assist them in meeting regulation requirements or making management decision.

- Consideration of requests for infrastructure improvements that will improve educational services to clientele countywide.
- Supporting agency efforts to promote programs through the acquisition of grants, cost share efforts or local funding sources.

In an effort to educate local leadership about the needs and accomplishments of agricultural agencies in the county, the Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board, appointed by the Board of Commissioners, should request on an annual basis an opportunity to report to the BOC about these and other pertinent issues.

**Potential Partners:**

Agricultural Advisory Board

**Timeline:**

The Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board will work with these agencies to provide updates to continue to keep the board informed on activities of the agencies and expressed agency needs. This information can also be provided by each agency through their respective annual reports to the board. Specific needs should be expressed by both the appropriate agency and the Agriculture Advisory Board to ensure consideration by the Board of Commissioners to meet the expressed needs in a timely manner. Annual reports provided to the BOC by the Agricultural Advisory Board and at annual agency reviews should continue to be provided on an annual basis.

**5. *Develop and promote agriculture and forestry as career opportunities in Craven County.***

Agriculture and agribusinesses in the county repeatedly expressed the need for qualified workers. Career opportunities ranged from those requiring technical skills to mechanical skills to scientific skills. The demand for a trained workforce is clear. However, the interest of individuals to enter agricultural fields of work fails to match the apparent need.

**Action Steps:**

- Conduct and/or participate in career day events within the public schools to highlight opportunities to study agriculture at colleges and universities. Use these events to encourage awareness of careers available in agriculture, agribusinesses and forestry.
- Utilize existing programs and expand the use of such programs as Farm Bureau’s “Ag in Classroom” and others to encourage youth to better understand the agriculture.
- Partner with Craven County Community College (CCC) to develop agricultural and forestry programs to address work force training needs. Encourage local agribusinesses to work with CCC and other community partners to promote agribusinesses, provide internships and create new jobs.

- Develop an apprenticeship program linking FFA, CCC students or others interested in careers in agriculture and/or forestry with producers and landowners who are willing to participate in such a program.
- Develop partnerships with economic and workforce development entities such as N.C. Eastern Region's Workforce Development to investigate opportunities for civilians and veterans to pursue jobs in agriculture, agribusiness and forestry.
- Evaluate the interest and feasibility of the military to provide data on market opportunities and after-service interest of its retiring personnel in pursuing careers in agriculture or related fields. These technically trained individuals could provide skills needed in this industry.

**Potential Partners:**

Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Eastern Region, Craven County School System, Craven County Community College, North Carolina State University, Mount Olive College, N.C. Forest Service and other related groups.

**Timeline:**

Discussions with Craven County School System about expansion of FFA programs and the STEM education efforts at the county schools will commence by Fourth Quarter 2015. Contacts with N.C. Eastern Region's Workforce Development will be established by first quarter 2016 to explore further development of agriculture workforce development opportunities. By the of 2016, a presentation for schools' career days will be developed. Discussions with Craven County Community College on efforts to incorporate more agricultural programs in its curriculum will start by Second Quarter 2016. Other groups such as N.C. State University, Mount Olive College and others will be called in as needed to ensure that the training and skill development is comprehensive and available.

**6. *Conduct estate and farm transition planning programs.***

As the age of farmers and landowners increases, the future of their farms and forests is uncertain. Many heirs do not live in the county and are away from the family farm. Agribusinesses surveyed for this report think that farm transition is one of the top issues for farmers in the county. Numerous farmers who were surveyed stated that they do not have a farm transition plan in place and many of those interviewed felt that wills would cover that issue. With estate laws constantly changing, this is not the case. It is imperative that farmers and producers become engaged and educated in estate and transition planning, which will ultimately affect their farm operations and land holdings. Heirs also need to be aware of the complexities of farm and forest operations in order to make informed decisions about future land uses. There is a wealth of information available, but it needs to be consolidated for producers and their families to gain an understanding of and begin developing transition plans.

**Action Steps:**

- Conduct farm transition workshops annually to provide producers and agribusinesses information needed for successful farm/business transitions.
- Evaluate and educate producers about estate and tax law and disseminate information through workshops, newsletters, etc. about changes in estate and tax laws that impact farm transition.
- Develop contacts with the N.C. Cooperative Extension, SWCD, NCFS, area colleges and universities and other groups that can provide additional support and resources for workshops.
- Develop a network of beginning farmers and transitioning farmers through the workshops and work with individual farmers to determine their interest in pursuing innovative entry and exit strategies.

**Potential Partners:**

Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, Craven County Tax Office and other related groups

**Timeline:**

The Agricultural Advisory Board should plan for the first workshop on farm transition within the Fourth Quarter of 2017. Extension, NCFS and SWCD will support this through resources and contacts available to them at state and local levels. The Craven County Tax office should be available to answer questions specific to the county. Other resources such as CPAs, lawyers and similar professionals should be involved. Additional workshops should be considered to deliver details required for a farm transition plan and to work with beginning and transitioning farmers to pursue innovative and fiscally responsible strategies to enter and exit agriculture production operations and businesses. These can occur as needed and as determined by the Agricultural Advisory Board.

**7. *Establish a county forestry association.***

Because many farmers own timberland, a local forestry association would be beneficial for educational opportunities and to build relationships among landowners, consulting foresters, the N.C. Forest Service and other groups involved in forestry. An increase in knowledge and resources would help landowners and producers manage their properties better, help families gain additional income from properly managed and harvested timber, and increase the influence of forestry in local policies.

- Develop a leadership team to investigate the creation of a forestry association to include but not be limited to N.C. Forest Service, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, N.C. State University, N.C. Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters, N.C. Tree

Farm Program, N.C. Wildlife Commission, Farm Bureau, forestland owners, forest product companies and other agencies that can provide input and support for such an organization.

- Seek funding for the establishment of the association.
- Develop a list of objectives for the association to achieve.

**Potential Partners:**

Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, Craven County Tax Office and other related groups.

**Timeline:**

By First Quarter 2014, the Agricultural Advisory Board and the other agencies listed should establish a committee to discuss the formation of a Craven County Forestry Association. This committee should address issues including but not limited to:

- Association structure
- Association mission
- Landowner outreach
- Association membership
- Topics/ educational needs

Landowners with forestry interests would be identified through the tax department by Third Quarter 2014. The first association meeting should occur by Fourth Quarter 2014 and should be held regularly as determined by the leadership.

**8. *Support funding of a cost-of-community-services study for Craven County.***

A cost of community services study can present a clearer picture of the impact agriculture has in the county. In a study conducted by Mount Olive College’s Agribusiness Center, agriculture and forestry repeatedly demanded fewer community services such as EMS, sheriff and schools. This topic should be discussed, evaluated and implemented if appropriate by the Agricultural Advisory Board. Funding can be sought from multiple agencies and organizations that have funded such studies in the past.

**Action Steps:**

- Review other N.C. counties’ cost of community services studies to determine utility of information.
- Seek support for the study from the Board of Commissioners and approval/ authorization for all county departments to fully provide needed information for the completion of the study.

- Seek funding for the study from various agencies including but not limited to the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, Golden Leaf Foundation and other funding agencies and organizations.
- Present results of the study to the Board of Commissioners, County Department heads, developers, and other interested groups and residents.

**Potential Partners:**

Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, Mount Olive College and other related groups

**Timeline:**

The Agricultural Advisory Board should begin discussion and investigation of a cost-of-services study in Fourth Quarter 2013. By Third Quarter 2014, the Board of Commissioners should approve access to county departments and budget information and give their approval for seeking study funding by Third Quarter 2014 with grant applications completed early Fourth Quarter 2014. If funding is secured, the study should start as soon as funds are available with a report to the Agricultural Advisory Board and the Board of Commissioners by Fourth Quarter 2015.

**Marketing and Business Assistance**

*1. Conduct business development training.*

Producers and landowners indicated a continuing need for current information to remain viable in business. Producers and landowners surveyed expressed interest in business development training on topics such as Good Agricultural Practices certification, development of a forestry management plan, and marketing and sales promotion. Also, they indicated a need to remain abreast of changing state and federal programs and opportunities for cost share.

**Action Steps:**

- Ensure delivery of educational materials to producers and landowners about county, state and federal agricultural programs such as PUV, cost share, crop insurance and other topics.
- Evaluate the need for an agricultural awareness website for producers through a cooperative effort between existing agricultural agencies and/or by update of existing sites. Develop a partnership with local colleges and/or universities to manage and update such websites.
- Encourage producers to participate in existing marketing programs such as “Got to Be N.C.,” “Goodness Grows in N.C.,” “N.C. Farm Fresh” and other programs.

- Partner with colleges and universities to develop internship programs for business and agriculture students to assist producers who are interested in developing websites, social media outlets or materials to develop direct market opportunities.

**Potential Partners:**

Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, Mount Olive College and other related groups

**Timeline:**

The Agricultural Advisory Board should determine topics and dates to offer workshops by Second Quarter 2013. Workshops should commence by Fourth Quarter 2013. Evaluations will determine when to offer additional workshops in the coming years.

**2. *Develop and implement a Craven County Agriculture marketing campaign.***

In order to increase awareness of agriculture in Craven County, a marketing campaign should be initiated to focus on the importance of agriculture to Craven County. This can be modeled after the Wayne County marketing campaign, “Wayne County Agriculture: We Dig It” and its use of billboards, buttons, tags, websites, social media outlets and other marketing materials. This can be tied into a “Buy Local” campaign that can highlight agronomic and livestock products produced in the county.

**Action Steps:**

- Research various marketing campaigns that have been developed in other counties in N.C. and report to the Agricultural Advisory Board.
- Investigate county support for the development of a countywide marketing strategy for agriculture and agricultural products.
- Create a marketing team comprised of members designated by the Agricultural Advisory Board.
- Develop a marketing strategy and present to the Agricultural Advisory Board.
- Seek local and state funding support for an agriculture awareness campaign for Craven County.

**Potential Partners:**

Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, Craven County Economic Development Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, N.C. Department of Agriculture and other related groups.

**Timeline:**

The Agricultural Advisory Board should start research on agricultural marketing campaigns by Fourth Quarter 2017. The Chamber of Commerce should also be involved from the start. As funding becomes available, the campaign should start.

**3. *Develop a feasibility study for an agricultural arena to serve the residents of Craven County.***

Producers who were interviewed expressed great interest in an agricultural arena/farmers' market that would help expand programming, sales, marketing and shipping for agricultural products and livestock. The current farmers' market has a lease with the city of New Bern that will expire soon. A new farmers' market/livestock arena will allow for better parking and better access to roads for ingress and egress. The arena could also support the livestock industry in the county by providing space for shows and programming. Additional space in the facility could be used for training by county and state agencies that work with agriculture.

**Action Steps:**

- Examine other counties' agricultural arenas/farmers' markets to determine the best fit for Craven County.
- Seek approval from the Board of Commissioners to seek funding for a feasibility study for proposed structure.
- Commission and conduct a feasibility study for agricultural arena/farmers' market in Craven County.
- Present findings to BOC and other related groups.

**Potential Partners:**

Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, Craven Economic Development Commission and other related parties

**Timeline:**

The Agricultural Advisory Board, with assistance from Extension and Soil and Water, continue to explore funding opportunities to conduct a feasibility study by Third Quarter 2014. The study should begin upon receipt of funding and upon acceptance of selected requests for proposal begin. A presentation to the Advisory Board, the Economic Development Commission and the Board of Commissioners should be completed within 18 months of funding receipt.

## **Encourage Young Farmer-Agribusiness Development**

### ***1. Encourage Landowner Enrollment in Craven County's Present Use Value Program.***

Enrollment in the county's Present Use Value (PUV) is an important program that allows landowners to be taxed at present-use rather than best-use taxation rates which allows landowners to defer taxes until the property is no longer farmed or forested. In interviews conducted, it was felt that many producers and landowners did not take advantage of the program because they were not aware of it. A cost-of-services study is a fiscal analysis to provide a baseline of information to help local officials and citizens make informed land-use decisions. These studies reveal the importance of the PUV program to farm and forest landowners who receive minimal community services for the revenue dollars provided through property tax revenues paid.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Conduct periodic workshops on PUV – this can be incorporated into other workshops listed in the recommendations.
- Include in informational materials reminders for enrollment and criteria as landowner situational changes are on-going.
- Review PUV acreages in the county annually and compare to VAD and EVAD enrollment and changes to use as indicators for trends in land use.

#### **Potential Partners:**

Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, Craven County Tax Office, N.C. Farm Bureau and other related groups

#### **Timeline:**

The Agricultural Advisory Board will offer workshops to landowners and producers to learn more about PUV and how to enroll by Fourth Quarter 2013. N.C. Farm Bureau and the Craven County Tax Office will be partners. This can be an annual event if determined by the Advisory Board.

### ***2. Develop educational programs and create career opportunities for young people in agriculture, forestry and agribusiness.***

In interviews and surveys, it was strongly felt that agriculture needed to be taught at all levels of school. This is the best way to generate and maintain interest in agriculture and forestry and thus cultivate farmers, soil scientists, forestry consultants, GPS technicians, mechanics and others to work in agriculture in Craven County. Working with the Craven County School District, Craven County Community College and area colleges and universities, programs and skills can be developed to help those who are interested in these avenues. Presentations to

school groups by professionals, tours of farms and agribusinesses, and participation in science fairs and FFA activities will also raise awareness of career opportunities in agriculture and forestry.

**Action Steps:**

- Continue support of FFA programs at West Craven, New Bern and Havelock High Schools and encourage establishment of FFA programs in other county schools.
- Support the Craven County School System’s effort to incorporate agriculture and forestry in its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education by continuing to offer existing and new youth programs through 4-H, Envirothon and other programs that meet these educational criteria.
- Conduct farm, forest and agribusiness tours for identified youth interested in agriculture to raise awareness of opportunities that exist in agriculture.

**Potential Partners:**

Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board, N.C. Cooperative Extension Craven County, Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District, N.C. Forest Service Craven County, Craven County School District, Craven County FFA, Mount Olive College, NCSU, Craven County Community College and other related groups

**Timeline:**

The Agricultural Advisory Board will work with appropriate agencies to develop plans for additional youth oriented awareness opportunities and designate a planning committee in Second Quarter 2013. Planning committee will meet with appropriate schools and organizations about support and marketing opportunities for youth and report back to the Agricultural Advisory Board by Fourth Quarter 2014. Presentations, tours and activities will be organized by Second Quarter 2015. Efforts should be made to keep these as annual events.

***3. Utilize the Agricultural Advisory Board to ensure that agriculture is represented in local governmental decisions impacting agriculture into the future.***

The role of the Agriculture Advisory Board is to serve as a liaison and appointed representative of the Board of Commissioners to advise on issues related to agriculture and forestry. This role allows for a voice in local government and direct representation of the industry. The utility of this advisory board should be maximized to ensure agricultural opportunities remain for future farmers and landowners.

- Develop formal procedures for county agencies and departments to provide information to the Agriculture Advisory Board regarding hearings and discussions relevant to agriculture.
- Utilize this Board to communicate issues of interest to VAD, EVAD and PUV participants.

- Continue to report to the Board of Commissioners through existing avenues to maximize awareness of the challenges and opportunities existing in Craven County for landowners and agriculture producers and agribusinesses.
- The Board of Commissioners should conduct an assessment of other individuals interested in agriculture in the county willing to serve on countywide boards and implement a strategy to increase the number of agriculturists on planning boards, advisory boards and elected appointed positions.

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# Appendices

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## **APPENDIX H**

### **Tall Structures Ordinance**

#### **1.1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Ordinance shall be to preserve the County's scenic beauty, to protect sensitive environmental areas, and to safeguard the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Craven County. Additionally, this Ordinance will serve to mitigate conflicts stemming from the development of Tall Structures in relation to military, civilian and commercial aircraft operations.

#### **1.2. Authority**

This Ordinance establishing comprehensive regulations for Tall Structures, as defined under Section 1.17, in Craven County, North Carolina, and providing for the administration, enforcement, and amendment thereof, is adopted pursuant to the authority of North Carolina General Statutes 153A-121.

#### **1.3. Applicability**

This Ordinance shall apply to all of the land located within the unincorporated portions of Craven County, North Carolina, which are not located in an established municipal extraterritorial jurisdiction, as well as within the corporate boundaries and extraterritorial jurisdiction of any municipality that requests this Ordinance be effective therein, and the County so agrees. The effective date of this Ordinance is **(Insert Date)**. This Ordinance governs the development and use of all land and structures for Tall Structures. No Tall Structure, or land shall be used, occupied or altered therefore, and no Tall Structure, or part thereof shall be erected, constructed, reconstructed, moved, enlarged, or structurally altered, unless in conformity with all the provisions of this regulation and all other applicable regulations, except as otherwise provided by this Ordinance. This Ordinance is intended to comply with and be consistent with the United States Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Federal Communications Act, 47 U.S.C., paragraph 332, as amended.

#### **1.4. Location**

The proposed Tall Structure and accessory structures and equipment shall be placed in a location and in a manner that will minimize the visual impact on the surrounding area. To ensure the safety of the public and other existing buildings, the Tall Structure shall be a minimum of five hundred (500) feet from an existing residential structure of a Non-Participating Landowner. If located less than 500 feet from an existing residential structure of a Non-Participating Landowner, a continuous screen of evergreen vegetation intended to be at least six feet high and three feet thick at maturity shall be planted around the Tall Structure(s) and all

accessory structures and/or security fencing prior to receiving a Certificate of Occupancy. Additionally, all proposed Tall Structure projects are subject to review and comment by representatives of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

**1.5. Approval by Craven County Board of Commissioners Required**

Approval by the Craven County Board of Commissioners of any proposed Tall Structure, and related accessory structures and equipment, must be based upon review and recommendation of the Craven County Planning Board for compliance with this Ordinance, and be based on compliance with the standards and provisions set forth in this Ordinance, as well as any comments received from representatives of MCAS Cherry Point, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and/or the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

**1.6. Co-Location of Communication Towers**

Approval for a proposed Communication Tower within a radius of ten thousand (10,000) feet from an Existing Communication Tower or other similar structure shall not be issued unless the applicant certifies that the Existing Communication Tower does not meet applicant’s structural specifications or technical design requirements, or that a co-location agreement could not be obtained at a reasonable market rate and in a timely manner.

**1.7. Height, Setbacks, and Minimum Lot Size**

<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Minimum Lot Size</u>	<u>Minimum Setback Requirements</u> <sup>1</sup>		<u>Maximum Height from Grade</u>
		<u>Setback factor regarding property</u> <sup>2</sup> <u>lines</u>	<u>Setback factor regarding public</u> <u>right-of-way</u> <sup>2</sup>	
<u>Wind Energy Generator (Accessory)</u>	Dictated by the Tall Structure setback requirements	1.0	1.0	100 Ft.
<u>Wind Energy Facility</u>	Dictated by the Tall Structure setback requirements	1.0	1.5	500 Ft.
<u>Communication Tower</u>	Dictated by the Tall Structure setback requirements	1.0	1.0	350 Ft.

<sup>1</sup> Measured from the center of the wind turbine base or Communication Tower to the property line.

<sup>2</sup> Calculated by multiplying the required setback distance by the proposed structure height. (example: a Wind Energy Facility of 200 feet in height must be located at least 300 feet from a public right-of-way [200 feet in height \* 1.5 = 300 feet]).

### **1.8. Wind Energy Facility Requirements**

The following Wind Energy Facility noise, shadow flicker, ground clearance and electromagnetic interference standards apply to potential impacts associated with Wind Generators. These standards shall not apply to the installation of a Wind Energy Generator installed as an accessory use.

- (1) Audible sound from a Wind Turbine shall not exceed fifty-five (55) dBA, as measured at the exterior foundation of any building of a Non-Participating Landowner that is occupied at the time the application is filed.
- (2) Shadow flicker at any occupied building on a Non-Participating Landowner's property caused by a Wind Energy Facility located within 2,500 feet of the occupied building shall not exceed thirty (30) hours per year.
- (3) Rotor blades on wind turbines must maintain at least twenty-four feet (24') of clearance between their lowest point and the ground.
- (4) Wind Turbines may not interfere with normal aviation radar, radio and television reception in the vicinity. The applicant shall mitigate any interference with electromagnetic communications, such as aviation radar, radio, telephone or television signals caused by any Wind Energy Facility.

### **1.9. Replacement of Tall Structures**

Tall Structures that are in operation prior to **(Insert Adoption Date)**, can be replaced at no greater than their current height as follows:

- (1) Conforming Tall Structures may be replaced or repaired, but only if the applicant presents engineering data to the Craven County Board of Commissioners that the replacement poses no threat to the surrounding property owners or that tower replacement does not have an adverse impact on aircraft operations. Replacement of a Tall Structure exceeding the maximum height listed under Section 1.7 will require full project review as outlined under Section 1.11.
- (2) Non-conforming Tall Structures may be repaired if damaged by no more than fifty percent (50%) of the Tall Structure's fair market value, but only if the applicant presents engineering data to the Craven County Board of Commissioners that the replacement poses no threat to the surrounding property owners or that tower replacement does not have an adverse impact on

aircraft operations. Repair of a Tall Structure exceeding the maximum height listed under Section 1.7 will require full project review as outlined under Section 1.11.

#### **1.10. Abandoned Facilities**

Any Tall Structure that is not utilized for its permitted purpose for more than one hundred and eighty (180) days shall be considered abandoned; and once considered abandoned shall be removed by the owner within ninety (90) days.

#### **1.11. Permit Review and Approval Process**

All applications for Tall Structures subject to this Ordinance shall be subject to the following review and approval process:

- (1) Applications shall be submitted to Craven County Planning Staff. Applications must comply with any applicable federal, state or local statutes, ordinances, rules or regulations.
- (2) Site plan required as specified under Section 1.15.
- (3) The application will be forwarded to the Craven County Planning Board for review and approval. Prior to review by the Craven County Planning Board, the application will be forwarded to MCAS Cherry Point and Seymour Johnson for review to determine if any potential adverse impacts may be associated with the proposed project.
- (4) Once review comments have been received from the representatives of MCAS Cherry Point and Seymour Johnson, they will be forwarded to the applicant. The applicant will have an opportunity to address any identified adverse impacts and take necessary action to mitigate issues identified through the military review process. Following receipt of the revised application, the application and all supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the Planning Board for review.
- (5) The final application will be reviewed by the Craven County Planning Board. The Planning Board will provide a recommendation for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. This recommendation shall be based on the requirements of this Ordinance, as well as comments received through the Base review process.

- (6) In the event that the County believes it needs to retain engineering services to review issues related to adverse impacts and/or mitigation of the same, the applicant will be required to reimburse the County for the cost thereof.
- (7) If an application is denied by the Craven County Board of Commissioners, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Superior Court of Craven County.
- (8) Approval of a Tall Structure shall be valid for a period of twenty-four (24) months from such approval. In the event that the Tall Structure is not substantially constructed for its intended purpose within such time, said approval shall be deemed automatically revoked, and of no further force or effect, without any action required by Craven County. Upon a showing of good cause, the Craven County Board of Commissioners may grant an extension hereunder, upon such terms and conditions it deems advisable, and upon payment of any additional fees that may be associated with the same.

#### **1.12. Installation and Design**

The installation and design of all Tall Structures shall conform to the following standards:

- (1) The installation and design of the facility shall conform to applicable industry standards, including those imposed by the NC General Statutes, North Carolina Administrative Code and/or the NC Utilities Commission.
- (2) All electrical, mechanical, and building components of the facility shall be in conformance with the International Building Code with North Carolina Amendments.
- (3) Any on-site collection and distribution lines shall, to the maximum extent possible, be installed underground.
- (4) The facility shall be constructed of a corrosion resistant material that will not fade, show rust spots or otherwise change the appearance as a result of exposure to the elements, and be a non-obtrusive color such as white, off-white or gray.
- (5) The facility shall not be artificially lit, except to the extent required by the Federal Aviation Administration or other applicable authority that regulates air safety or recommended by military.
- (6) Designed to mitigate any identified adverse impacts on aircraft operations.

### **1.13. Maintenance**

Any Tall Structure that is not functional as permitted shall be repaired or removed by the owner within 6 months of non-functionality. In the event that the County becomes aware of any Tall Structure that is not operated for a continuous period of 6 months, the County will notify the owner by certified mail and provide 30 days for a written response; provided however, in the event the owner cannot be located, then the County shall post such notice at a conspicuous place at the Tall Structure property. In its response, the owner shall set forth reasons for the operational difficulty and provide a reasonable timetable for corrective action. If the County deems the timetable for corrective action as unreasonable, the County shall notify the landowner that the Tall Structure has been deemed abandoned, and such landowner shall remove the facility with 180 days of receipt of said notice. Any disturbed earth shall be graded and re-seeded, unless the landowner requests in writing that the access roads or other land surface areas not be restored.

### **1.14. Decommissioning and Removal of Incomplete/Abandoned Tall Structures**

When required, the following decommissioning requirements shall apply:

- (1) The applicant must remove the tall structure facility if, after the completion of the construction, the facility fails to begin operation, or becomes inoperable for a continuous period of six months.
- (2) The six month period may be extended upon a showing of good cause to the Craven County Board of Commissioners.
- (3) Any person, firm, or corporation receiving approval for an application to construct a Tall Structure Facility, excluding Communication Towers, must provide to the County a form of surety equal to 125% of the entire cost, as estimated by a licensed engineer under seal, and approved by the County Attorney, either through a surety performance bond, irrevocable letter of credit or other instrument readily convertible into cash at face value, either with the County or in escrow with a financial institution designated as an official depository of the County. This surety shall be retained by the County to cover the cost of removal in the event the applicant is unable to perform any required removal hereunder. Following initial submittal of the surety, the cost calculation shall be reviewed annually every 12 months, and adjusted accordingly based upon an updated estimate of a licensed engineer under seal, of the estimated removal costs. The adjustment must be approved by the Director of the Craven County Planning Department. Failure to comply with any requirement of this

paragraph shall result in the immediate termination and revocation of all prior approval and permits; further, Craven County shall be entitled to make immediate demand upon, and/or retain any proceeds of, the surety, which shall be used for decommissioning and/or removal of the Tall Structure, even if still operational.

### **1.15. Tall Structures Facility Plans**

No Tall Structure shall be constructed or permitted without a set of facility plans bearing an engineer's seal that has been filed with the Craven County Planning Staff and Building Inspector and approved through the review process outlined under Section 1.11.

Tall Structure facility plans shall contain the following:

- (1) Fee. A fee determined by the County's Fee Schedule.
- (2) Narrative. A written narrative of the development plan.
- (3) Co-Location on Existing Towers (communications towers only). Documentation that co-location on existing towers or structures within a radius of ten thousand (10,000) feet was attempted by the applicant, but found unfeasible with reasons noted.
- (4) Co-Location on Proposed Tower (telecommunications towers only). A notarized affidavit that states the applicant's willingness to allow location on the proposed tower, at a fair market price and in a timely manner, of any other service provided licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- (5) Other Permits. Copies of all county, state, and federal permits with the application building permit where prior local approval is not required.
- (6) Elevation Drawings. Elevation drawings of all towers, antennas, and accessory structures and equipment, indicating height, design, and colors.
- (7) NEPA Compliance. A copy of approved National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) compliance report for all towers, antennas, accessory structures, or equipment proposed for the site.
- (8) Structural Requirements. Documentation signed and sealed by a North Carolina registered engineer that indicates any proposed tower meets the structural

requirements of the Standard Building Code and the co-location requirements of this article.

- (9) Other Approvals, Certifications, or Recommendations. Appropriate approvals, certifications, or recommendations required to allow review of approval criteria such as sight line analysis, aerial photographs, or other such tests as determined by the Craven County Planning Staff.
- (10) Type of Facility (wind energy facilities only). Provide the representative type and height of the wind turbine in the form of horizontal and vertical (elevation) to-scale drawings, including its generating capacity, dimensions and respective manufacturer, and a description of ancillary facilities.
- (11) Utility Commission Certification (wind energy facilities only). An applicant for a commercial wind generation facility shall state in the application whether a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the system is required from the North Carolina Utilities Commission and, if so, the anticipated schedule for obtaining the certificate. The County may ask the Utilities Commission to determine whether a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is required for a particular wind power project for which the County has received an application. The County shall not approve a project requiring a certificate unless and until such certificate is issued by the Utilities Commission. If a certificate is not required from the Utilities Commission, the permit shall include with the application a discussion of what the applicant intends to do with the power that is generated.
- (12) Any preliminary approvals of the proposed Tall Structure received prior to the application submittal from any State or Federal agency may be submitted for County consideration with the application.

#### **1.16 Penalties**

Any violation of this Ordinance shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 1 of the Craven County Code of Ordinances.

#### **1.17. Definitions**

##### **Accessory Use**

A use incidental to and customarily associated with the operation/maintenance of a tall structure and located on the same lot or parcel as the tall structure.

**Adverse Impact**

A negative consequence impacting the physical, social, or economic environment resulting from an action or project.

**Alternative Energy Facility**

A facility that uses a variety of sources and/or products for the production of power for sale as a primary use. Types of energy facilities may include, but are not limited to: petroleum; methane; ethanol; thermal; wind; solar; hydro-electric; and other energy generation facilities.

**Antenna**

A conductor, usually located at the top of a wireless communication tower, by which electromagnetic waves are transmitted and/or received.

**Communication Tower**

Any tower or structure, natural or man-made, existing or erected, for the purpose of supporting; including, but not limited to, one or more antennas designed to transmit and/or receive television, AM/FM radio, digital, microwave, cellular, analog.

**Existing Communication Tower**

Any communication tower existing or permitted in Craven County, which was placed, built, erected or permitted prior to (insert adoption date).

**Height**

The distance measured from grade elevation above mean sea level at the time of application, to the highest point of the proposed facility while in operation.

**Non-Participating Landowner**

An owner of land, not the applicant or owner of the Tall Structure.

**North Carolina Utilities Commission**

The North Carolina Utilities Commission, or any successor state agency or department.

**Setback**

The required distance between the facility and the property line or right-of-way line.

**Shadow Flicker**

The visible flicker effect when rotating turbine blades cast shadows on the ground and nearby structures causing the repeating pattern of light and shadow.

**Tall Structures**

All structures over 100 feet in height above ground level used for communication towers, wind energy facilities, and other similar structures used for wind energy generation, wind power, wind turbines, wireless communication facilities, or alternative energy facilities. Specifically excluded from this definition are buildings and accessory structures used primarily for residential, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes other than those contained in the preceding sentence, as well as any appurtenances related thereto.

**Wind Energy Facility**

An electricity-generating facility whose main purpose is to supply electricity to the electrical grid, consisting of one or more wind turbines and other accessory structures and buildings including substations, meteorological towers, electrical infrastructure, transmission lines, and other appurtenant structures and facilities, which has a rated capacity of greater than 100 kW.

**Wind Energy Generator (Accessory)**

A single system consisting of a single wind turbine, a tower, and associated control or conversion electronics designed to supplement other electricity sources as an accessory use to existing buildings or facilities, which has a rated capacity of not more than 100 kW.

**Wind Power**

Power that is generated in the form of electricity by converting the rotation of wind turbine blades into electrical current by means of an electrical generator.

**Wind Turbine**

A wind energy conversion system that converts wind energy into electricity through the use of a wind turbine generator, and may include a nacelle, rotor, tower, and pad transformer.

**Wireless Communication Facility**

Any unstaffed facility for the transmission and/or reception of wireless telecommunications services, usually consisting of an antenna array, connection cables, an equipment facility, and a support structure to achieve the necessary elevation.

**Section 1.18. Effective Date** This Ordinance shall become effective on May 6, 2013.

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**Chairman, Board of Commissioners Date**

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**Attested: Clerk to the Board Date**

# Volunteer Board Information and Interest Sheet

## Craven County, North Carolina

Names of board, committee, authority, etc., in which you are interested. Please list in order of priority:

New Bern Board of Adjustment

Name:

John E. Murrell Jr

Home Phone:

252-638-1746

Home Address:

370 Rocky Run Rd  
New Bern NC 28562

City:

Zip Code:

Township:

Craven

City Limits:

Yes

No

Occupation:

Retired MASON

Business Phone:

252-259-5856

Place of Employment:

N/A

Fax Number:

E-Mail Address:

(Please indicate your preferred contact number.)

### Education

West St. Elementary

U To Barber High School Class of '65'

### Business and Civic Experience

Brick Mason - 35 yrs Exp.

### Areas of Expertise, Interest, Skills

Masonry \* Carpentry

### Why do you want to serve?

To do what I can for the community of New Bern.

Please List Other Local, Regional and Statewide Boards, Committees or Commissions on Which You Serve

(A resume may be attached to this form, but will not be accepted in lieu of the form.)

Date:

4-15-13

John E. Murrell Jr.

Signature

The Craven County Board of Commissioners sincerely appreciates the interest of all citizens in serving their county. For more information on the responsibilities of various boards, you may view the on-line board descriptions or contact the County Clerk's Office at (252) 636-6601. RETURN FORM TO: CRAVEN COUNTY CLERK, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NC 28560. The form may also be sent via e-mail ([gbryan@cravencountync.gov](mailto:gbryan@cravencountync.gov)) or fax: (252-637-0526).

This form will remain active until two years after date received.

# Volunteer Board Information and Interest Sheet

## Craven County, North Carolina

Names of board, committee, authority, etc., in which you are interested. Please list in order of priority:

Fire Tax Commissioner  
Firemens Relief Fund Trustee

Name: John W. Norris, Sr. Home Phone: (252) 670-0159  
 Home Address: 5660 Hwy 17 South

City: New Bern, N.C. 28562 Zip Code: 28562  
 Township: 8 City Limits:  Yes  No  
 Occupation: Retired - Welder Business Phone: —  
 Place of Employment: — Fax Number: —  
 E-Mail Address: —

(Please indicate your preferred contact number.)

### Education

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Business and Civic Experience

Served 3 years / Bd of Directors - Rhems Fire Dept.

### Areas of Expertise, Interest, Skills

Welder

### Why do you want to serve?

Think that it is my responsibility being a resident of the Rhems community to help and serve.

(A resume may be attached to this form, but will not be accepted in lieu of the form.)

Date: April 4, 2013

John W. Norris Sr.  
Signature

The Craven County Board of Commissioners sincerely appreciates the interest of all citizens in serving their county. For more information on the responsibilities of various boards, you may view the on-line board descriptions or contact the County Clerk's Office at (252) 636-6601. RETURN FORM TO: CRAVEN COUNTY CLERK, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NC 28560. The form may also be sent via e-mail ([gbryan@cravencountync.gov](mailto:gbryan@cravencountync.gov)) or fax: (252) 637-0526.

*This form will remain active until two years after date received.*

# Volunteer Board Information and Interest Sheet Craven County, North Carolina

Names of board, committee, authority, etc., in which you are interested. Please list in order of priority:

Township 3 Fire Commission

Name: John Hawkins

Home Phone: 252-637-7230

Home Address: PO Box 246

City: Cove City NC 28

Zip Code: 28523

Township: 3

City Limits:  Yes  No

Occupation: District Audit Manager

Business Phone: 252-830-8536

Place of Employment: NC Dept. of Revenue

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: John.hawkins@cravencountync.gov

(Please indicate your preferred contact number.)

### Education

BS BA UNC-Chapel Hill

### Business and Civic Experience

Cove City VFD since 1979

Board of Trustees - Epiphany School of Global Studies

Cove County Drainage District Commissioner

### Areas of Expertise, Interest, Skills

### Why do you want to serve?

Help Township 3 Fire Departments

(A resume may be attached to this form, but will not be accepted in lieu of the form.)

Date: 4/29/13

John Hawkins  
Signature

The Craven County Board of Commissioners sincerely appreciates the interest of all citizens in serving their county. For more information on the responsibilities of various boards, you may view the on-line board descriptions or contact the County Clerk's Office at (252) 636-6601. RETURN FORM TO: CRAVEN COUNTY CLERK, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NC 28560. The form may also be sent via e-mail ([gbryan@cravencountync.gov](mailto:gbryan@cravencountync.gov)) or fax: (252) 637-0526.

This form will remain active until two years after date received.

REC'D APR 30 2013

I recommend John Carroll Hawkins to be the fire tax commissioner for Cove City fire district. Mr. Hawkins has 28 years of fire experience and 25 years of experience with the budget request with the cove city fire and rescue. Mr. Hawkins was chairmen of the board for the cove city fire department for 20 years. With the experience he has with the fire service I think he will fit the position well.

Sincerely,

Carlye McCoy

President

## Volunteer Board Information and Interest Sheet Craven County, North Carolina

Names of board, committee, authority, etc., in which you are interested. Please list in order of priority:

Craven Aging Planning Board

Name: Angela Byrd Shelters Home Phone: 252-622-0785  
 Home Address: 1998 Hards Creek Drive  
 City: New Bern Zip Code: 28562  
 Township: (7) seven City Limits:  Yes  No  
 Occupation: Property Manager Business Phone: 252-635-2709  
 Place of Employment: Autumn Chase Apts. Fax Number: 252-635-2809  
 E-Mail Address: autumnchase@epmsites.com  
 (Please indicate your preferred contact number.)

### Education

High school graduate, top 5% of my class.

### Business and Civic Experience

I work as a property manager for the elderly. I am a current member of the Craven Aging Planning Board and serve on the budget committee as well. I also volunteer with the New Bern 3 sons enrolled Areas of Expertise, Interest, Skills Young Marines where I have  
I work with the elderly and do activities with them. Working with them and making their life have meaning and fulfillment Why do you want to serve? is my biggest interest  
I want to help make the community a better place as well as come up with ideas to help our senior citizens

Please List Other Local, Regional and Statewide Boards, Committees or Commissions on Which You Serve

Served on this board since May 2, 2011 and would love to continue. I serve on the Safety committee with Excel Property Management

(A resume may be attached to this form, but will not be accepted in lieu of the form.)

Date: 3/12/2013

Angela Byrd Shelters  
Signature

The Craven County Board of Commissioners sincerely appreciates the interest of all citizens in serving their county. For more information on the responsibilities of various boards, you may view the on-line board descriptions or contact the County Clerk's Office at (252) 636-6601. RETURN FORM TO: CRAVEN COUNTY CLERK, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NC 28560. The form may also be sent via e-mail ([gbryan@cravencountync.gov](mailto:gbryan@cravencountync.gov)) or fax: (252) 637-0526.

*This form will remain active until two years after date received.*

Work Flow No: 9999-00271639

Craven NC - Document Stamp  
Becky Thompson, Register of Deeds  
Date 10/27/2005 Time 13:17:23 1 of 2 Pgs  
No: 2005-00138976  
Book 2373 Page 213  
Fee Amt : 17.00  
Excise Tax: 8.00

Prepared by:  Zacchaeus Legal Services

Revenue Stamps: \$ 8.00

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CRAVEN

COMMISSIONER'S DEED  
(Title Jointly Held Between the County of Craven  
& The City of New Bern  
Pursuant to N.C.G.S. Section 105-376)

This deed, made this 4 day of Oct, 2005, by MARK D. BARDILL, Commissioner, to the County of Craven and the City of New Bern, North Carolina, as joint tenants pursuant to N.C.G.S. Section 105-376.

WITNESSETH:

That whereas the said MARK D. BARDILL was appointed Commissioner under an order of the District Court, in the tax foreclosure proceeding entitled Craven County versus Rossie Manning, Sr., et al, File No. 03-CVD-657; and said MARK D. BARDILL was directed by said Order as Commissioner to sell the land hereinafter described at public sale after due advertisement according to law; and

Whereas, the said MARK D. BARDILL, Commissioner, did on the 3rd day of June, 2005, offer the land hereinafter described at a public sale at the Craven County Courthouse door, in New Bern, North Carolina, and then and there the said County of Craven and the City of New Bern became the last and highest bidder for said land for the sum of \$3,882.21; and no upset or increased bid having been made within the time allowed by law, and said sale having been confirmed by said Court, and said MARK D. BARDILL, Commissioner, having been ordered to execute a deed to said purchaser upon payment of the purchase money;

Now, therefore, for and in consideration of the premises and the sum of \$3,882.21, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said MARK D. BARDILL, Commissioner, does by these presents, hereby bargain, sell, grant, and convey to the said County of Craven and the City of New Bern, its successors and assigns, that certain parcel or tract of land, situated in the City of New Bern, Craven County, North Carolina, and described as follows:

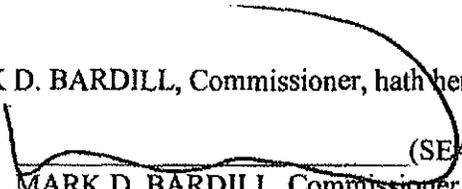
Date 10/27/2005 Time 13:17:23 2 of 2 Pgs  
No: 2005-00138976  
Book **2373** Page **214**

All those certain lots or parcels of land lying and being situate in Number Eight (8) Township, Craven County, North Carolina and being more particularly described as follows:  
Being all those certain tracts or parcels of land on the southeastern side of Ruth Avenue and being depicted as Lot No. 213 Ruth Avenue as shown and delineated on a map of Cleveland Park said map being recorded in Map Book 2, Page 93 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County, reference to said map being hereby made for a more perfect description of said Lot No. 213, Ruth Avenue.  
Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record.  
**Parcel Number: 8 015 116**

To have and to hold the aforesaid tract of land, to the said County of Craven and the City of New Bern, and its successors and assigns, forever, in as full and ample manner as said MARK D. BARDILL, Commissioner as aforesaid, is authorized and empowered to convey the same.

The title conveyed by this Commissioner's Deed is held pursuant to Section 105-376, with the County of Craven having disbursed \$759.23 and the City of New Bern having disbursed \$295.63 in reimbursable costs, that taxes, interest and penalties due the County of Craven which constitute a 1st and prior lien as of the date of sale total \$1,034.35, that taxes, interest and penalties due the City of New Bern which constitute a 1st and prior lien as of the date of sale total \$454.60, and that taxes, interest and penalties due the City of New Bern for demolition assessments which constitute an inferior lien as of the date of sale total \$1,363.40. Upon subsequent sale of the property, the proceeds will be distributed between the County of Craven and the City of New Bern pursuant to Section 105-376.

In witness whereof, the said MARK D. BARDILL, Commissioner, hath hereunto set his hand and seal.

  
(SEAL)  
MARK D. BARDILL, Commissioner

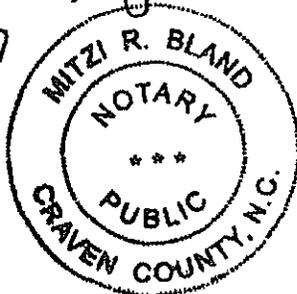
NORTH CAROLINA  
CRAVEN COUNTY

I, Mitzi R Bland of said County, do hereby certify that MARK D. BARDILL, Commissioner, Grantor, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing deed.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 4 day of October, 2005.

Mitzi R Bland  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 02/12/2007



Filed for registration at 3:14 P M o'clock  
This October 27 20 05  
Book 2373 Page 213  
Mitchell S. Bell - Reg.  
Register of Deeds Craven County  
Becky Thompson



CRAVEN COUNTY

Carmen G. Burgos, as Buyer, hereby offers to purchase and CRAVEN COUNTY and the CITY OF NEW BERN, collectively as Seller, upon acceptance of said offer, agrees to sell and convey, all of that plot, piece or parcel of land described below (hereafter referred to as the "Property"), upon the following terms and conditions:

1. REAL PROPERTY: Located in or near the City/Town of New Bern Craven County, North Carolina, being known as and more particularly described as:  
Street Address: 63 Ruth Ave  
Subdivision Name: Dorland Park  
Tax Parcel ID No.: 8-015-19  
Plat Reference: 0022317

Being all of that property more particularly described in Deed Book 2373 Page 0213 in the Craven County Registry.

2. PURCHASE PRICE: The purchase price is \$ 2,000 and shall be paid as follows:

- (a) \$ 100.00, EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT with this offer by  cash  bank check  certified check to be held by Seller until the sale is closed, at which time it will be credited to Buyer, or until this contract is otherwise properly terminated. In the event: (1) this offer is not accepted; or (2) any of the Seller's conditions hereto are not satisfied, then all earnest monies shall be refunded to Buyer. In the event of breach of this contract by Seller, all earnest monies shall be refunded to Buyer upon Buyer's request. In the event of breach of this contract by Buyer, then all earnest monies shall be forfeited to Seller upon Seller's request, but such forfeiture shall not affect any other remedies available to Seller for such breach.
- (b) \$ 1,900.00, BALANCE of the purchase price in cash or readily available funds at Closing.

3. CONDITIONS:

- (a) This contract is not subject to Buyer obtaining financing.
- (b) The Property must be in substantially the same or better condition at Closing as on the date of this offer, reasonable wear and tear excepted.
- (c) The Property is being sold subject to all liens and encumbrances of record, if any.
- (d) Other than as provided herein, the Property is being conveyed "as is".
- (e) This contract is subject to the provisions of G.S. §160A-269. Buyer acknowledges that this contract is subject to certain notice provisions and the rights in others to submit upset bids in accordance therewith.
- (f) Title shall be delivered at Closing by QUITCLAIM DEED

4. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS: Seller makes no warranty or representation as to any pending or confirmed governmental special assessments for sidewalk, paving, water, sewer, or other improvements on or adjoining the Property, or pending or confirmed owners' association special assessments. Buyer shall take title subject to all pending assessments, if any.

5. PRORATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS: Unless otherwise provided, the following items shall be prorated and either adjusted between the parties or paid at Closing: (a) Ad valorem taxes on real property shall be prorated on a calendar year basis through the date of Closing; (b) All late listing penalties, if any, shall be paid by Seller; and (c) Rents, if any, for the Property shall be prorated through the date of Closing.

6. EXPENSES: Buyer shall be responsible for all costs with respect to any title search, title insurance, recording of the deed, its legal fees, and for preparation and recording of all instruments required to secure the balance of the purchase price unpaid at Closing. Seller shall pay for preparation of a deed and all other documents necessary to perform Seller's obligations under this agreement, and for any excise tax (revenue stamps) required by law.

7. EVIDENCE OF TITLE: Not Applicable.

8. LABOR AND MATERIAL: Seller shall furnish at Closing an affidavit and indemnification agreement in form satisfactory to Buyer showing that all labor and materials, if any, furnished to the Property within 120 days prior to the date of Closing have been paid for and agreeing to indemnify Buyer against all loss from any cause or claim arising therefrom.

9. CLOSING: Closing shall be defined as the date and time of recording of the deed. All parties agree to execute any and all documents and papers necessary in connection with Closing and transfer of title on or before thirty (30) days after no subsequent upset bids are submitted in accordance with G.S. §160A-269. The deed is to be made to \_\_\_\_\_.

**CLOSING SHALL CONSTITUTE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPERTY IN ITS THEN EXISTING CONDITION.**

10. POSSESSION: Unless otherwise provided herein, possession shall be delivered at Closing.

Buyer Initials CMB \_\_\_\_\_ Seller Initials \_\_\_\_\_

**11. PROPERTY INSPECTION, APPRAISAL, INVESTIGATION:**

(a) This contract is not subject to inspection, appraisal or investigation, as the Property is being bought "as is". Seller makes no representation as to water, sewer, conditions, title, access, or fitness for any intended use.

(b) CLOSING SHALL CONSTITUTE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPERTY IN ITS THEN EXISTING CONDITION.

**12. RIGHT OF ENTRY, RESTORATION AND INDEMNITY:** Buyer and Buyer's agents and contractors shall not have the right to enter upon the Property for any purpose without advance written permission of the Seller. If such permission is given, Buyer will indemnify and hold Seller harmless from all loss, damage, claims, suits or costs, which shall arise out of any contract, agreement, or injury to any person or property as a result of any activities of Buyer and Buyer's agents and contractors relating to the Property. This indemnity shall survive this contract and any termination hereof.

**13. OTHER PROVISIONS AND CONDITIONS:** (ITEMIZE ALL ADDENDA TO THIS CONTRACT AND ATTACH HERETO.): None.

**14. RISK OF LOSS:** The risk of loss or damage by fire or other casualty prior to Closing shall be upon Seller.

**15. ASSIGNMENTS:** This contract may not be assigned without the written consent of all parties, but if assigned by agreement, then this contract shall be binding on the assignee and the assignee's heirs, successors or assigns (as the case may be).

**16. PARTIES:** This contract shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties, i.e., Buyer and Seller and their heirs, successors and assigns. As used herein, words in the singular include the plural and the masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders, as appropriate.

**17. SURVIVAL:** If any provision herein contained which by its nature and effect is required to be observed, kept or performed after the Closing, it shall survive the Closing and remain binding upon and for the benefit of the parties hereto until fully observed, kept or performed.

**18. ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** This contract contains the entire agreement of the parties and there are no representations, inducements or other provisions other than those expressed herein. All changes, additions or deletions hereto must be in writing and signed by all parties.

**19. NOTICE AND EXECUTION:** Any notice or communication to be given to a party herein may be given to the party or to such party's agent. This offer shall become a binding contract (the "Effective Date") when signed by both Buyer and Seller and such signing is communicated to the offering party. This contract is executed under seal in signed multiple originals, all of which together constitute one and the same instrument, with a signed original being retained by each party, and the parties adopt the word "SEAL" beside their signatures below.

BUYER:  
(If an individual)

SELLER  
CRAVEN COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Raymond B. B... (SEAL)  
Date: 4/9/13

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(If a business entity)  
By: \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF NEW BERN  
By: \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer Initials CB \_\_\_\_\_ Seller Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Bank of America Advantage

Carmen Gladys Almodovar  
Carmen J Rodriguez Burgos

1532

66-19/530 NC  
3100

4/9/13

Date

Pay  
to the order of

City of New Bern

\$ 100.-

One hundred

Dollars

Security  
Features  
Details on  
Back

Bank of America 

Memo

Self

