Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda for September 15, 2026, at 11:00 am

Buncombe County Ag and Land Resources Office

49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28806 Conference room B

Call to order	Chase Hubbard, Chair
Approval of September 15, 2026, meeting agenda	Board
Approval of August 18, 2026, meeting minutes	Board
Public Comment	Public
Applications for VAD/EVAD	Martha Ross
Announcements and Discussion	Board

To enter closed session: G.S.143-318.11(a)(2)(5)

Meeting Minutes
Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board - Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28787
August 18, 2026, at 11:00 am

Ag Advisory Board Members Present: Wayne Welch (Vice-Chair), Terri Wells, Suzy Rankin, Anne Grier & Mark Diaz

Others Present: Rick & Cynthia Rhinehart (landowners), Dave & Kathy Rymer (landowners), Ariel Zijp, Martha Ross, Samantha Kirk (BC Staff) & Marika Lapham.

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m.

Approval of the August 18, 2026, Meeting Agenda

- **Anne Grier made a motion to approve the August 18, 2026, meeting agenda with an amendment to move public comment to the end of the meeting, seconded by Mark Diaz and the motion passed on the vote.**

Approval of the July 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- **Mark Diaz made a motion to approve the July 21, 2026, meeting minutes, seconded by Suzy Rankin, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Public Comment: None.

VAD and EVAD Applications: Provided by Ms. Martha Ross. Two new VAD applications and five VAD renewals.

- **Suzy Rankin made a motion to approve the VAD renewal application, seconded by Terri Wells and the motion passed on the vote.**

August, 2026

	Primary	Application Type	Acres	Township	Street Address	Phone Number (Cell)
1	Angelo Cammarata	VAD NEW	37.97	Leicester	99999 Lynn Cove Road	828-231-2139
2	Angelo Cammarata	VAD NEW	51.27	Leicester	70 Lynn Cove Road	828-231-2149
3	Joseph Allawos	VAD RENEWAL	80.18	Leicester	518 Sugar Creek Rd, Leicester, NC 28748	828-273-9141
4	Ronald Wheeler	VAD RENEWAL	100	Black Mountain	1679 NC Hwy 9, Black Mountain, NC 28711	828-273-2618
5	Ronald Wheeler	VAD RENEWAL	40	Black Mountain	99999 NC Hwy 9, Black Mountain, NC 28711	828-273-2618
6	Ronald Wheeler	VAD RENEWAL	11.1	Black Mountain	99999 Crooked Creek Rd, Black Mountain, NC 28711	828-273-2618
7	Ronald Wheeler	VAD RENEWAL	16.6	Black Mountain	99999 NC Hwy 9, Black Mountain, NC 28711	828-273-2618

	VAD Totals		EVAD Totals		VAD/EVAD Combined Totals
Totals as of June 2026	Number of Farms	312	Number of Farms	24	336
	Total Acreage	16189	Total Acreage	2395	18583.85
New totals for July 2026 if proposed applications are approved	Number of Farms	314	Number of Farms	24	338
	Total Acreage	16278	Total Acreage	2395	18673

Farmland Preservation Report: Presented by Ms. Ariel Zijp.

Project Name	Acres	Community	Funding Source	Status and Tasks
Roger's Family Farm: Roger's Farm Trust Tract	156.36	Turkey Creek	State	Landowners back to talking with beneficiaries
Okoboji Farm	44.77	Fairview	Bond	HOA and neighbor resolving court mediation
Cedar Hill Farm	63	Alexander	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting NCDA review of survey, title work, EA, and appraisal
Slocumb Farm	122	Turkey Creek	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting NCDA review of survey, title work, EA,
Morgan Branch Farm A - Dairy Barn	109	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	EA phase 1 discovered oil tank which will require a phase 2. Awaiting grant review and final appraisal
Morgan Branch Farm B - Other Place	77	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting final appraisal
Morgan Branch C - Dave's Place	144	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting final appraisal
Wilson Farm	20	Fairview	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Contracts paused because title issues are being resolved. In progress to sign corrective deed
Saddlebrook Farm	23	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting NCDA review of survey, title work, EA, and appraisal
Brown Legacy Farm	25.09	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting NCDA review of survey, title work, EA, and appraisal
SAHC Jenkins Branch	99	Alexander	Donation	survey in the works
Dador Farms Phase 2	31.5	Fairview	Donation	survey in the works, title work complete
Dador Farms Phase 3	70	Fairview	Donation	survey in the works, title work complete
Cole sisters Farm	18	Newfound	Donation	On Hold due to family dispute
Rymer - Davis Dairy	51.4	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Farm visit with board complete and landowners attending August AAB Meeting
Rymer - Davis Forest	60.7	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Farm visit with board complete and landowners attending August AAB Meeting
Rymer - Davis Home Tract	17.37	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Farm visit with board complete and landowners attending August AAB Meeting
Sluder Branch	59.3	Leicester	Bond	Farm visit with board complete and landowners attending August AAB Meeting
Ruby Brown Farm	41.67	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Farm visit with board complete and landowners attending August AAB Meeting
23	1655.3			

New Easement Project Presentations with Landowners

1. Rymer-Davis Farm
    - Tract A: Dairy | Newfound, 60.7 acres, working farm
    - Tract B: Forested | Newfound, 51.4 acres, entirely forested
    - Tract C: Home | Newfound, 17.8 acres, working farm
    - Dave Rymer has a creek conservation on his personal property and is familiar with the easement process
    - Jeremy Rymer could not make the meeting today. However, he was present during the farm tour and Terri Wells and Mark Diaz enjoyed hearing about his future farming plans.
    - Century Farm with property that has it all: beautiful rolling hills, forested growth, and flatland.
2. Ruby Brown Farm
    - Leicester/Sandy Mush, 40.5 acres, working cattle farm, 90% prime soils
    - The family was awarded the State Farm family at the Mountain State Fair in 2025
    - Ruby Brown is the grandmother of Cynthia Rhinehart and worked very hard to make that farm what it is today and it's important to the family to conserve and keep the land from ever being developed.

- **Suzy Ranking made a motion to enter closed session. Terri Wells seconded and the motion passed on the vote.**
    - The Board entered closed session at 11:42 a.m. in accordance with G.S.143-318.11(a)(2)(5) to discuss protected information.

    - The Board exited closed session at 12:07 p.m. in accordance with G.S.143-318.11(a)(2)(5) to discuss protected information.
- **Anne Grier made a motion to approve the Rymer-Davis Farm (Tract A,B & C) and the Ruby Brown Farm easement projects. Mark Diaz seconded and the motion passed on the vote.**

Announcements & Discussions

- Steve Duckett has stepped down from his position on the Ag Advisory board. There is now a vacant spot.
- The board remembers and thanks Steve Duckett for all his time, service, and dedication to supporting farmland in Buncombe County.

Terri Wells made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Anne Grier, and the motion passed on the vote.

With no further announcements or discussion, the meeting ended at 12:07 p.m.

September, 2026

VAD/EVAD Applications for Board Approval

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

	Primary	Application Type	Acres	Township	Street Address	Phone Number (Cell)
1	Travis Ingle	EVAD NEW	5	Weaverville	1998 New Stock Rd, Weaverville, NC 28787	828-779-0862
2	Travis Ingle	EVAD NEW	20.21	Weaverville	619 Jupiter Rd, Weaverville, NC 28787	828-779-0862
3	Travis Ingle	EVAD NEW	15.24	Weaverville	99999 Elkins Branch Rd, Weaverville, NC 28787	828-779-0862
4	Travis Ingle	EVAD NEW	15.69	Weaverville	99999 Elkins Branch Rd, Weaverville, NC 28787	828-779-0862

	VAD Totals		EVAD Totals		VAD/EVAD Combined Totals
Totals as of August 2026	Number of Farms	314	Number of Farms	24	338
	Total Acreage	16278	Total Acreage	2395	18673
New totals for Septemner 2026 if proposed applications are approved	Number of Farms	314	Number of Farms	28	342
	Total Acreage	16278	Total Acreage	2451.14	18729

Farmland Preservation Report

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Project Name	Acres	Community	Funding Source	Status and Tasks
Roger's Family Farm: Roger's Farm Trust Tract	156.36	Turkey Creek	State	Landowners back to talking with beneficiaries to try and get them to sign - they have until October.
Okoboji Farm	44.77	Fairview	Bond	HOA and neighbor resolving court mediation
Cedar Hill Farm	63	Alexander	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting NCDA review of survey, title work, EA, and appraisal
Slocumb Farm	133.13	Turkey Creek	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting NCDA review of survey, title work, EA,
Morgan Branch Farm A - Dairy Barn	109	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	EA phase 1 discovered oil tank which will require a phase 2. Awaiting grant review and final appraisal
Morgan Branch Farm B - Other Place	77	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting final appraisal, survey edits requested by NCDA
Morgan Branch C - Dave's Place	146.92	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting final appraisal, survey edits requested by NCDA
Wilson Farm	20	Fairview	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Project and contracts paused while Wilsons are sorting out title issues are being resolved.
Saddlebrook Farm	23	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting NCDA review of survey, title work, EA, and appraisal
Brown Legacy Farm	25.2	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	awaiting NCDA review of survey, title work, EA, and appraisal
SAHC Jenkins Branch	99	Alexander	Donation	survey in the works
Dador Farms Phase 2	31.5	Fairview	Donation	survey in the works, title work complete, starting EA & BDR
Dador Farms Phase 3	65	Fairview	Donation	survey in the works, title work complete, starting EA & BDR
Cole sisters Farm	18	Newfound	Donation	On Hold due to family dispute
Rymer - Davis Dairy	51.4	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Project approved, and presenting to commissioners for funding approval on 9/15
Rymer - Davis Forest	60.7	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Project approved, and presenting to commissioners for funding approval on 9/15
Rymer - Davis Home Tract	17.37	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Project approved, and presenting to commissioners for funding approval on 9/15
Sluder Branch	59.3	Leicester	Bond	Project approved, and presenting to commissioners for funding approval on 9/15
Ruby Brown Farm	41.67	Newfound	Bond ADFP AGZ Grant	Project approved, and presenting to commissioners for funding approval on 9/15
23	1664.46			