

Ranking Sheet Guidance

County	2007 Ag Census Average Size Farm Acres	2002-2007 Ag Census Decrease in Farm Land %	2000-2010 Population growth %	2010 US Census Population Density/sq.mi	2000 US Census Population	2010 US Census Population	2007 Ag Census Median Size Farm Acres
North Carolina	160	-7%	18.5	196.1	8,049,313	9,535,483	60
Alamance	117	-10%	15.5	356.5	130,800	151,131	57
Alexander	88	-6%	10.7	143.1	33,603	37,198	40
Alleghany	148	6%	4.5	47.5	10,677	11,155	50
Anson	186	-10%	6.6	50.7	25,275	26,948	84
Ashe	96	0%	11.9	64.0	24,384	27,281	48
Avery	58	-9%	3.7	72.0	17,167	17,797	33
Beaufort	435	-6%	6.2	57.7	44,958	47,759	85
Bertie	528	3%	7.6	30.4	19,773	21,282	150
Bladen	254	-13%	9.0	40.2	32,278	35,190	70
Brunswick	167	7%	46.9	126.8	73,143	107,431	30
Buncombe	67	-24%	15.5	362.9	206,330	238,318	27
Burke	60	-9%	2.0	179.3	89,148	90,912	28
Cabarrus	109	-9%	35.8	492.1	131,063	178,011	47
Caldwell	71	-7%	7.3	176.1	77,415	83,029	30
Camden	726	**	45.0	41.5	6,885	9,980	94
Carteret	348	-7%	11.9	131.3	59,383	66,469	14
Caswell	182	-12%	0.9	55.8	23,501	23,719	100
Catawba	98	-8%	8.9	387.1	141,685	154,358	46
Chatham	96	-12%	28.7	93.1	49,329	63,505	52
Cherokee	71	-8%	12.9	60.3	24,298	27,444	35
Chowan	393	25%	1.8	85.8	14,526	14,793	149
Clay	71	-28%	20.6	49.3	8,775	10,587	30
Cleveland	97	-1%	1.9	196.1	96,287	98,078	56
Columbus	196	-5%	6.1	62.0	54,749	58,098	72
Craven	248	-10%	13.2	146.0	91,436	103,505	59
Cumberland	177	-2%	5.4	489.7	302,963	319,431	65
Currituck	345	-21%	29.5	89.9	18,190	23,547	54
Dare	703	**	13.2	88.5	29,967	33,920	10
Davidson	85	-13%	10.6	294.7	147,246	162,878	44
Davie	111	-8%	18.4	156.2	34,835	41,240	56
Duplin	214	6%	19.2	71.7	49,063	58,505	71
Durham	108	0%	19.8	935.7	223,314	267,587	37
Edgecombe	466	-15%	1.7	111.9	55,606	56,552	95
Forsyth	64	-16%	14.6	859.2	306,067	350,670	31
Franklin	190	-12%	28.3	123.3	47,260	60,619	68

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Gaston	73	-10%	8.3	578.8	190,365	206,086	35
Gates	419	19%	16.0	35.8	10,516	12,197	76
Graham	57	-11%	10.9	30.3	7,993	8,861	32
Granville	191	-12%	23.5	112.7	48,498	59,916	80
Greene	316	-6%	12.6	80.3	18,974	21,362	77
Guilford	100	-13%	16.0	756.4	421,048	488,406	42
Halifax	541	2%	-4.7	75.5	57,370	54,691	140
Harnett	154	-2%	26.0	192.7	91,025	114,678	48
Haywood	80	-13%	9.3	106.6	54,033	59,036	30
Henderson	68	-22%	19.7	286.1	89,173	106,740	30
Hertford	482	-1%	9.2	69.9	22,601	24,669	104
Hoke	242	-5%	39.5	120.2	33,646	46,952	54
Hyde	470	-20%	-0.3	9.5	5,826	5,810	88
Iredell	115	-6%	30.0	277.8	122,660	159,437	50
Jackson	58	-12%	21.6	82.1	33,121	40,271	30
Johnston	156	0%	38.5	213.4	121,965	168,878	48
Jones	434	-9%	-2.2	21.6	10,381	10,153	93
Lee	133	-21%	18.0	227.0	49,040	57,866	48
Lenoir	287	13%	-0.3	148.5	59,648	59,495	75
Lincoln	93	3%	22.7	262.7	63,780	78,265	42
McDowell	60	-6%	6.7	102.1	42,151	44,996	29
Macon	61	-6%	13.8	65.8	29,811	33,922	31
Madison	83	-21%	5.7	46.2	19,635	20,764	46
Martin	330	-5%	-4.3	53.1	25,593	24,505	137
Mecklenburg	81	-25%	32.2	1,755.5	695,454	919,628	33
Mitchell	73	-13%	-0.7	70.4	15,687	15,579	39
Montgomery	147	2%	3.6	56.5	26,822	27,798	69
Moore	100	-21%	18.0	126.5	74,769	88,247	43
Nash	315	-4%	9.6	177.3	87,420	95,840	69
New Hanover	60	**	26.4	1,058.1	160,307	202,667	12
Northampton	458	3%	0.1	41.2	22,086	22,099	119
Onslow	138	-13%	18.2	233.1	150,355	177,772	49
Orange	99	-15%	13.2	336.2	118,227	133,801	50
Pamlico	543	-12%	1.6	39.1	12,934	13,144	42
Pasquotank	594	-14%	16.5	179.2	34,897	40,661	85
Pender	172	-2%	27.1	60.0	41,082	52,217	48
Perquimans	400	-28%	18.3	54.4	11,368	13,453	191
Person	244	4%	10.8	100.6	35,623	39,464	76

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Pitt	394	-8%	25.7	257.9	133,798	168,148	82
Polk	68	-23%	11.9	86.3	18,324	20,510	40
Randolph	98	-6%	8.7	181.1	130,454	141,752	50
Richmond	147	-17%	0.2	98.4	46,564	46,639	67
Robeson	264	-7%	8.8	141.3	123,339	134,168	57
Rockingham	136	-14%	1.9	165.6	91,928	93,643	63
Rowan	118	1%	6.2	270.7	130,340	138,428	44
Rutherford	93	-3%	7.8	120.2	62,899	67,810	50
Sampson	267	8%	5.4	67.1	60,161	63,431	80
Scotland	346	13%	0.4	113.4	35,998	36,157	52
Stanly	147	-3%	4.3	153.3	58,100	60,585	51
Stokes	95	-15%	6.0	105.6	44,711	47,401	53
Surry	91	-11%	3.4	138.4	71,219	73,673	47
Swain	66	-22%	7.8	26.5	12,968	13,981	45
Transylvania	58	-12%	12.8	87.4	29,334	33,090	21
Tyrrell	792	-27%	6.2	11.3	4,149	4,407	99
Union	161	-7%	62.8	318.7	123,677	201,292	41
Vance	224	-27%	5.7	179.2	42,954	45,422	90
Wake	103	-8%	43.5	1,078.8	627,846	900,993	38
Warren	247	-4%	5.0	48.9	19,972	20,972	106
Washington	518	-15%	-3.6	38.0	13,723	13,228	92
Watauga	78	-12%	19.6	163.4	42,695	51,079	41
Wayne	242	2%	8.2	221.7	113,329	122,623	65
Wilkes	100	-11%	5.6	91.9	65,632	69,340	48
Wilson	344	-9%	10.1	220.6	73,814	81,234	80
Yadkin	106	-10%	5.7	114.7	36,348	38,406	46
Yancey	75	-14%	0.2	57.0	17,774	17,818	40

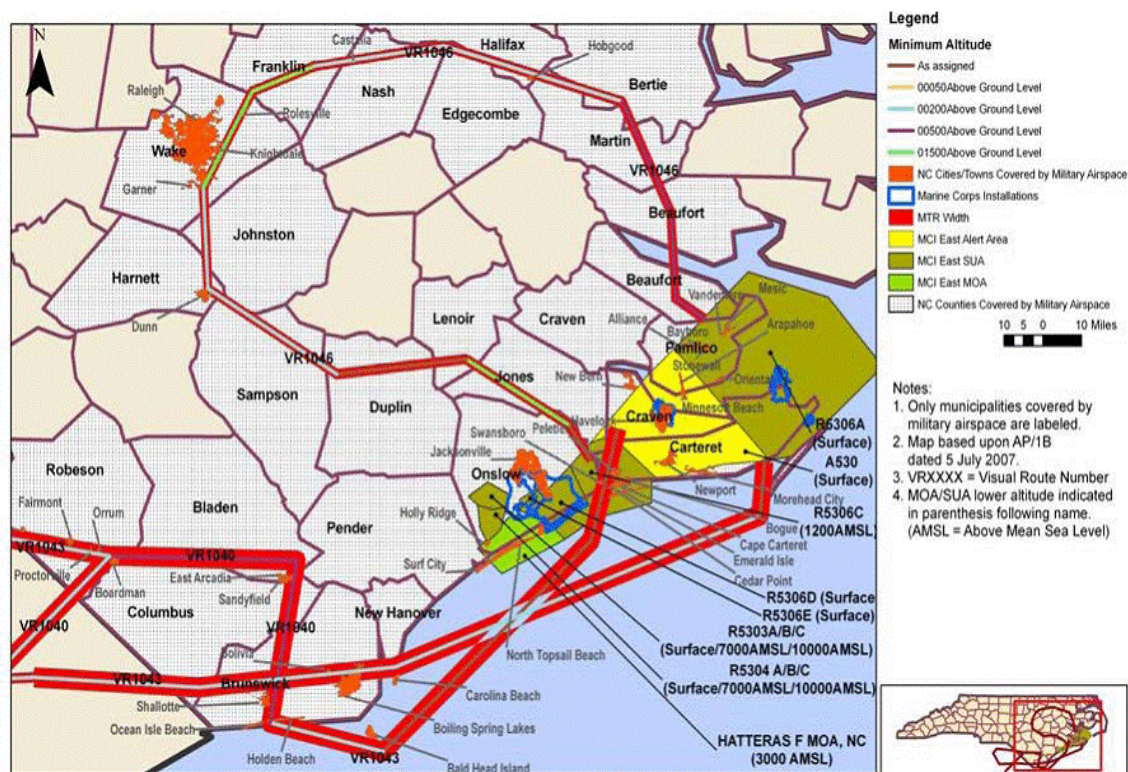
** Data not available.

Camden , Dare and New Hanover Counties Only: Based on the average of the surrounding counties with data for decrease in farmland Dare is estimated to have approximately -20% in farmland; Camden is estimated to have approximately -21% in farmland; and New Hanover is estimated to have approximately +2% in farmland. Therefore, Dare, Camden, and New Hanover would not receive points for the Nationally Mandated Factor: **Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm land in the county** in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture. If documentation can be provided to document a different decrease in the percentage of farmland for these counties, contact the Assistant State Conservationist for Easements.

Special Ag Districts - VAD or EVAD must be approved by the local county government and operational. Provide documentation that the county for which the parcel is located has a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD). **Provide evidence that the applicant is a member of such VAD or EVAD.** If the county does not have an EVAD or a VAD, claim the appropriate points.

Capital Investment in Farm Operation - If a landowner has made a substantial investment recently in the farming operation, it may indicate the person's commitment to continue farming for the next several years, thus helping to meet the objectives of the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). Substantial investment is \$20,000 or an average investment of at least \$400 per offered acre, whichever is less. Information is obtained through visual observations and discussions with landowner. Payment records or bills are not required, however, if points claimed are questionable when site visit is made, acceptable proof may be required. (Example: 6 years ago a \$5500 barn was built on ½ acre of land. That land, along with 10 additional acres is offered for enrollment. Average investment is \$5500/10 ½ acres = \$524 per acre.

Military Air Space Training Route – This map provides information regarding the USMC Training Route. Other branches of the military are not considered in the 2013 FRPP ranking process.



Farm Business Plan or Farm Transition Plan – A plan that generally describes the management and the transfer of resources pertaining to income derived from, and ownership of the farm land currently and after retirement of the current operator and/or death of the farm owners. Such a plan should provide a narrative description of how the farm land will remain in production after the retirement or exit of the current operator. The plan should describe how a combination of estate planning documents (wills, trusts, powers of attorney, etc.), business agreements or organizations (partnerships, limited liability company, etc.), and/or written leases and other tools will ensure the land will be available and used in production of crops, timber, horticulture or other related agricultural products in the future.

Income/Business Plan: Narration should recognize where farm has been, where the farm is, and where the farm is going with regard to its ability to produce income.

Points to consider:

- Description of past history of farm production
- Description of current farm production (listing of challenges, etc.)
- Description of new business opportunities
 - New business idea or plan
 - Steps taken at management improvement in current business plan
 - Examples of whether applicant has availed themselves of production training, grant opportunities (e.g. value-added cost share, marketing/production education meetings and conferences)
 - Will conservation easement sale proceeds be invested in the business?
 - Will conservation easement sale proceeds be used to pay down debt of the business?

Current management of the land: Narration should describe the (applicant) farm owner's relationship to the farm business. Namely, are they farming the land they own, are they renting the land to a neighboring farmer.

Points to consider:

- Is their rental relationship with the tenant in writing?
- What is the term and nature of the relationship with the tenant? (e.g. cash rent or share lease? How many years?)
- Is the land currently in a management entity such as a Limited Partnership or Limited Liability Company? Describe how decisions are reached on management, and how the entity deals with risks such as disagreement between owners, death, divorce, or disability of current and future owners (if in same entity)
- Will conservation easement sale proceeds be used to buy more land?

Estate Plan: A narrative description of what documents are in place **currently** for distribution of the farm assets (i.e. land) when the owners die.

Points to consider:

- If the current owner has no will, expect sale of land if held by next generation.
- If current owner has no plan for distribution of farm assets other than to spouse and then to children in equal shares, this will likely result in sale of land.
- Owner should be awarded points for a demonstrated recognition that estate plan must be modified, if this is needed, (or that other agreements should be put into place), so that land can be effectively managed if under equal share ownership (i.e. tenants in common) in the next generation.
- Will conservation easement sale proceeds be used to "equalize estate", provide cash to off-farm heirs? (if applicable)