Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE)
North Carolina Ranking Guidance

The following information will assist you in completing the ranking worksheet. It is recommended that you put together a ranking guide for reviewers in this order. Label appropriately

- All points awarded must be supported by documentation provided in the application material.
- The official ranking score will be determined by NRCS based on the materials provided with the application.

If there are any questions please contact Brian Loadholt, NC NRCS Easement Coordinator: brian.loadholt@usda.gov

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1. Percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the parcel to be protected.

- Web Soil Survey (WSS) can provide a soils map and list of prime, unique and important soils. Appendix A is a set of instructions on using WSS. The output can be used to calculate the proportion (%) of prime, unique and important soils on the parcel:

$$Prime, Unique, Important\ Soils\ (\%) = \frac{Sum\ of the\ acres\ of\ the\ soils\ types\ that\ are\ prime\ unique, important}{Sum\ of\ the\ acres\ of\ all\ soil\ types}$$

- An alternative to WSS is to consult with your local agricultural office for guidance.

2. Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected.

- GIS software can assist with this. Google Earth also has a feature that will allow you to delineate parcels that will help calculate percentages. If your entity does not have GIS software, or you need assistance, please contact your local NRCS office and request an appointment. Reference map number in your ranking guide.

*Questions 3 through 5 are based on the 2017 USDA-NASS Censuses of Agriculture, (*USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - Census of Agriculture; https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/)

Questions 6 and 7 are based the 2010 and 2020 censuses (Census.gov; https://www.census.gov/)

3. **Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture**

    - See Table 1, for average farm size)

$$Ratio = \frac{Easement\ parcel\ (acres)}{Average\ farm\ size\ (acres)}$$

4. **Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture.**

    - Use Table 2

5. **Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent pastureland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture.**

    - Use Table 3

6. **Percent population growth in the county between the 2010 and 2020 censuses**

    - Use Table 4

7. **Population density (population per square mile) based on 2020 census.**

    - Use Table 5

8. **Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations.**

    - Submit copy of plan and reference it in ranking guide.

9. **Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as compatible military installations; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values.**

    - Submit copy of map that demonstrates proximity of easement parcel to other protected land and reference map number or title in the ranking guide.

10. **Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure.**

    - Submit a copy of a map that demonstrates proximity of the easement parcel to other agriculture operations and infrastructure. Reference map number or title in the ranking guide.

11. **Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use**

    - Submit a copy of a map that demonstrates contiguous acres. When demonstrating proximal acres, show distance. Reference map number or title in the ranking guide.

12. **Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year**

    - Check with local FSA office and submit CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) paperwork associated with easement parcel and reference in ranking guide.

13. **The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement.**

    - Contact Brian Loadholt (Brian.loadholt@usda.gov) to arrange a grasslands specialist to visit the site prior to awarding points. If there isn't sufficient time for a site visit, submit a copy of the email requesting a site visit. The email must be dated by application reception deadline.

14. **If your county has a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) Program:**

    - Send a copy of the county policy and any paperwork associated with current parcel owner participation. Photographs of signage will not be accepted.

15. **Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 100 percent or more of its easements each year AND the entity has provided information on any change in ownership (e.g. deeds)**

    - Include a list of all existing NRCS easements entity holds and date that monitoring was completed each year. Note whether ownership notification was provided to NRCS if applicable by Y or N/A

16. **Are landowners a historically underserved group, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher?**

    - No documentation is needed for this question. Ask participant if they are registered with their local farm service agency (FSA). If they have not self-selected on FSA paperwork, this will need to be updated prior to final decisions on awards. NRCS will work with participants at the local field office if there are any questions.

17. **Parcel contains habitat for at-risk species that the landowner is currently managing or protecting**

    - This can be documented a variety of ways. Use whichever is most readily available. NRCS CPA- 52 form can be used to document existing species and management. Landowners may have a forestry plan or another plan developed by a state or professional biologist that they use.

18. **Contains a historical or archaeological resource on the Local, State or National Register, or formally eligible for the National Register.**

    - Provide a copy or photo of the certificate or historic or archeological marker.

19. **Capital Investment in Farm Operation – Substantial capital investment made within the years listed on the ranking worksheet (does not include dwellings on the parcel except for employee housing.)**

    - Describe capital investments in paragraph form. This will be reviewed during site visits.

20. **Are any funds used as matching funds towards the purchase of the conservation easement local?**

    - Please describe the source of any matching funding.

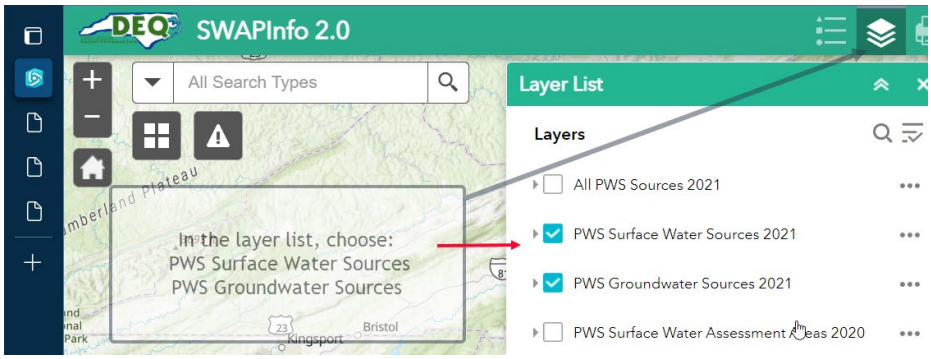
21. **Is the parcel within a 2.0-mile radius of a city/town annexation boundary?**

    - Provide a vicinity map using GIS. Or here are instructions for web-based mapping. If the parcel is within a 2-mile radius of an incorporated town/city, show city annexation boundary. Town/City boundaries are indicated in a light gray (as shown by Cary and Holly Springs), but Google Maps highlights the boundary simply by clicking on the town/city name (see below for screen shot of Apex, NC).

22. **Is the parcel either in whole or in part within a source water assessment area as defined by the NC Public Water Supply Section?**

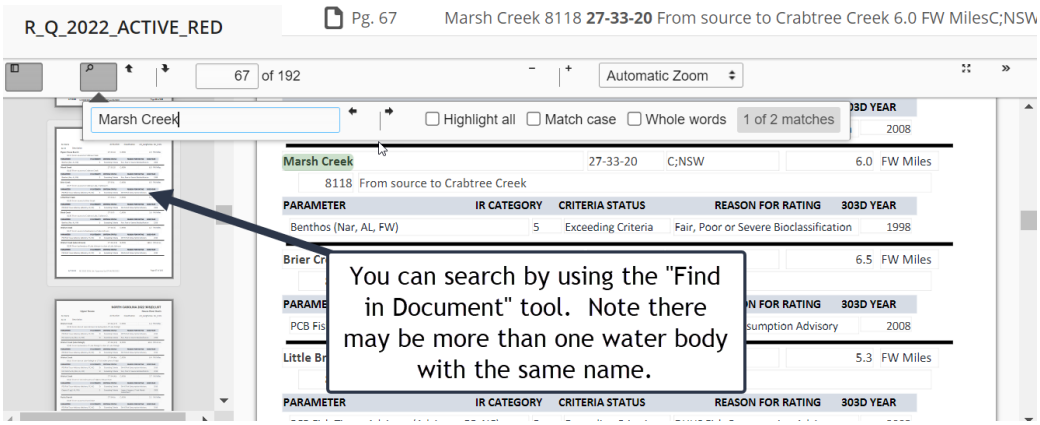
    - Current source water assessment areas can be viewed using the Public Water Supply Section "Source Water Assessment Mapping Tool" available at the following web link:

https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=26f4e2b3140f4e58825e48781ccebf5e

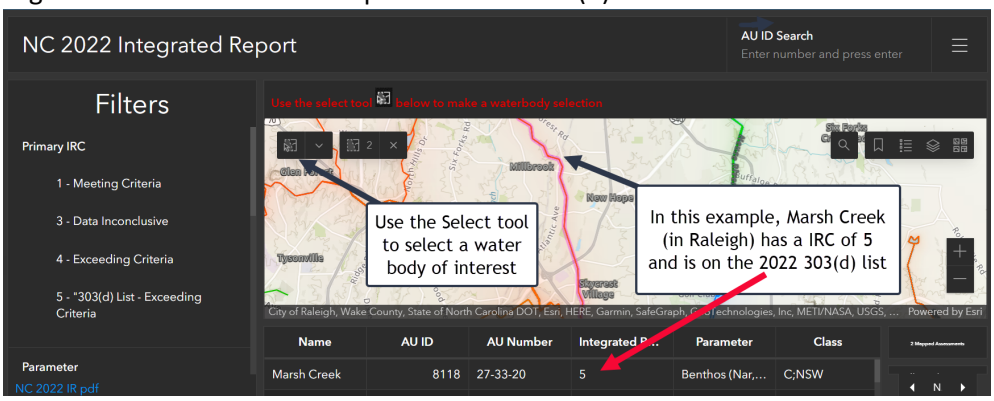


23. Parcel contains a 303(d) listed steam segment on the NC Division of Water Resources [2022 Final 303(d) list](#).?

- The 2022 303(d) list is available here: [Integrated Report Files | NC DEQ](#)
  You can search within this list if you know the name of the water body.



- A map that portrays water body segments with an Integrated Reporting Categories (IRC)is available here: [North Carolina 2022 Integrated Report Dashboard (arcgis.com)](#) (Note that segments with an IRC of 5 are placed on the 303(d) list.



Both the list and maps can be accessed through the links provided above or through the NC Division of Water Resources Integrated Report page: https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/modeling-assessment/water-quality-data-assessment/integrated-report-files ([Integrated Report Files | NC DEQ](#))

24. Parcel is within a National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) watershed (Maximum points = 10):

- Indian (HUCs: 030501020502 and 030501020501) Howards Cr. (HUC: 030501020402) (Catawba Basin)
- East Prong (HUC: 030401010405) and Middle Prong (HUC: 030401010404) of the Roaring River (Yadkin Basin)
- Headwaters Great Coharie Creek (30300060402) House Pond-Sevenmile Swamp (30300060401) Ward Swamp (30300060403) Marsh Swamp-Great Coharie Creek (30300060404) White Oak Swamp-Great Coharie Creek (30300060405)

Use the USGS "Science in you Watershed, Locate Your Stream Site by 12 Digit HUC" website for a map. [Science in Your Watershed: Locate Your Stream Site by 12-Digit HUC (usgs.gov)]

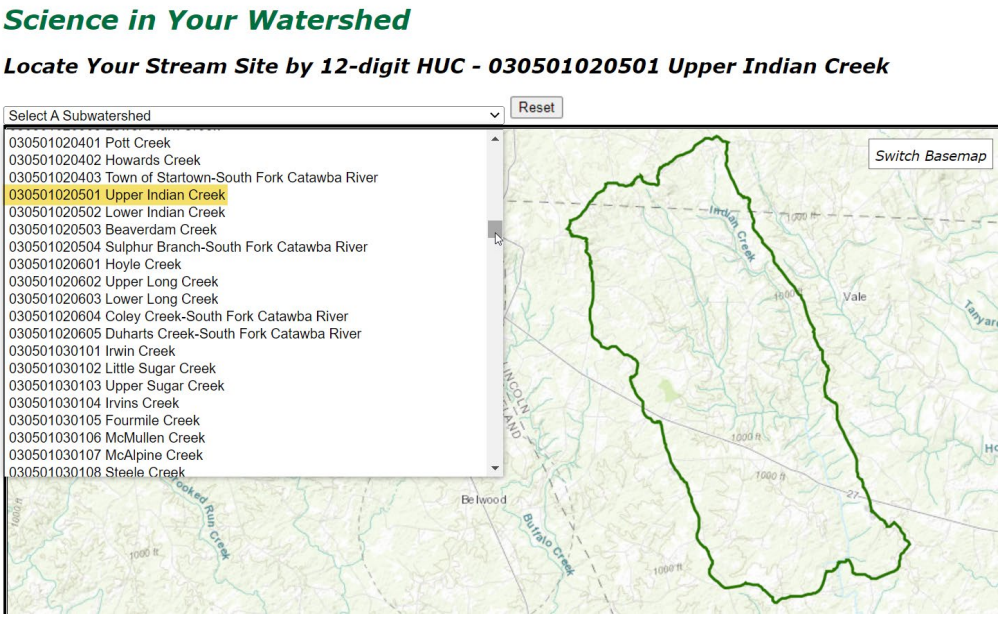


Table 1. Average size farm (acres) 2017 Census of Agriculture (Use to answer Question 3)

County	Average Size (acres)
Alamance	111
Alexander	100
Alleghany	158
Anson	207
Ashe	127
Avery	82
Beaufort	450
Bertie	459
Bladen	352
Brunswick	193
Buncombe	67
Burke	76
Cabarrus	101
Caldwell	92
Camden	731
Carteret	397
Caswell	213
Catawba	100
Chatham	95
Cherokee	95
Chowan	552
Clay	76
Cleveland	113
Columbus	274
Craven	332
Cumberland	196
Currituck	504
Dare	167
Davidson	92
Davie	130
Duplin	296
Durham	77
Edgecombe	598

County	Average Size (acres)
Forsyth	62
Franklin	201
Gaston	72
Gates	411
Graham	89
Granville	224
Greene	403
Guilford	89
Halifax	622
Harnett	165
Haywood	97
Henderson	90
Hertford	642
Hoke	284
Hyde	905
Iredell	126
Jackson	73
Johnston	172
Jones	371
Lee	141
Lenoir	295
Lincoln	88
Macon	58
Madison	89
Martin	425
McDowell	69
Mecklenburg	54
Mitchell	59
Montgomery	140
Moore	122
Nash	305
New Hanover	15
Northampton	626
Onslow	154
Orange	102

County	Average Size (acres)
Pamlico	433
Pasquotank	573
Pender	192
Perquimans	539
Person	209
Pitt	390
Polk	104
Randolph	108
Richmond	250
Robeson	365
Rockingham	148
Rowan	129
Rutherford	97
Sampson	314
Scotland	508
Stanly	143
Stokes	109
Surry	143
Swain	102
Transylvania	68
Tyrrell	779
Union	195
Vance	278
Wake	111
Warren	228
Washington	565
Watauga	95
Wayne	300
Wilkes	114
Wilson	445
Yadkin	107
Yancey	84

Table 2. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture. Use to answer Question 4.

County	Farm Operations 2012 (acres)	Farm Operations 2017 (acres)	Change (%)
Alamance	83,551	80,042	-4.20
Alexander	58,668	54,146	-7.70
Alleghany	90,926	70,593	-22.40
Anson	83,601	85,330	2.10
Ashe	112,462	109,790	-2.40
Avery	28,224	28,679	1.60
Beaufort	148,286	139,475	-5.90
Bertie	146,754	148,113	0.90
Bladen	117,323	180,340	53.70
Brunswick	45,442	44,693	-1.60
Buncombe	71,480	72,284	1.10
Burke	34,387	38,641	12.40
Cabarrus	66,241	63,667	-3.90
Caldwell	32,057	37,991	18.50
Camden	49,310	59,239	20.10
Carteret	62,836	62,764	-0.10
Caswell	97,060	104,882	8.10
Catawba	67,098	63,530	-5.30
Chatham	111,778	105,995	-5.20
Cherokee	21,453	26,236	22.30
Chowan	58,146	53,528	-7.90
Clay	11,752	12,525	6.60
Cleveland	116,651	113,341	-2.80
Columbus	159,227	141,080	-11.40
Craven	70,632	81,360	15.20
Cumberland	82,317	65,995	-19.80
Currituck	35,356	44,834	26.80
Dare	NA	5,342	NA
Davidson	87,310	92,359	5.80
Davie	59,618	76,933	29.00
Duplin	230,925	243,098	5.30
Durham	20,854	18,603	-10.80
Edgecombe	126,635	148,917	17.60
Forsyth	40,467	34,801	-14.00
Franklin	116,889	107,967	-7.60
Gaston	41,923	37,695	-10.10
Gates	63,291	57,985	-8.40
Graham	6,837	10,998	60.90
Granville	100,822	124,813	23.80
Greene	101,189	83,322	-17.70
Guilford	90,750	76,352	-15.90
Halifax	195,896	209,073	6.70
Harnett	119,775	106,262	-11.30
Haywood	48,975	52,244	6.70
Henderson	35,752	41,099	15.00
Hertford	83,042	80,902	-2.60
Hoke	58,588	53,647	-8.40
Hyde	107,559	124,874	16.10
Iredell	152,385	133,346	-12.50
Jackson	16,201	15,729	-2.90

County	Farm Operations 2012 (acres)	Farm Operations 2017 (acres)	Change (%)
Johnston	194,827	183,281	-5.90
Jones	59,367	65,649	10.60
Lee	39,081	35,170	-10.00
Lenoir	122,104	113,708	-6.90
Lincoln	55,570	54,080	-2.70
Macon	22,684	19,775	-12.80
Madison	56,282	56,761	0.90
Martin	127,187	140,980	10.80
McDowell	24,903	22,997	-7.70
Mecklenburg	15,439	11,674	-24.40
Mitchell	19,322	14,802	-23.40
Montgomery	35,047	33,521	-4.40
Moore	82,462	89,375	8.40
Nash	140,620	129,478	-7.90
New Hanover	2,881	879	-69.50
Northampton	162,758	170,170	4.60
Onslow	57,643	52,473	-9.00
Orange	56,666	69,908	23.40
Pamlico	46,785	43,262	-7.50
Pasquotank	72,270	72,174	-0.10
Pender	55,775	64,484	15.60
Perquimans	80,116	80,322	0.30
Person	95,299	82,194	-13.80
Pitt	171,821	186,412	8.50
Polk	24,101	29,102	20.80
Randolph	156,813	147,781	-5.80
Richmond	47,573	59,173	24.40

County	Farm Operations 2012 (acres)	Farm Operations 2017 (acres)	Change (%)
Robeson	265,546	263,740	-0.70
Rockingham	112,166	124,613	11.10
Rowan	121,145	118,914	-1.80
Rutherford	59,540	59,921	0.60
Sampson	291,635	301,248	3.30
Scotland	68,934	54,853	-20.40
Stanly	93,071	95,867	3.00
Stokes	91,547	92,904	1.50
Surry	126,897	152,452	20.10
Swain	NA	10,131	NA
Transylvania	17,929	14,684	-18.10
Tyrrell	64,590	52,946	-18.00
Union	201,655	186,626	-7.50
Vance	54,880	66,157	20.50
Wake	84,229	77,008	-8.60
Warren	65,699	60,778	-7.50
Washington	91,398	79,680	-12.80
Watauga	55,765	49,614	-11.00
Wayne	191,195	165,345	-13.50
Wilkes	111,118	106,710	-4.00
Wilson	111,395	122,946	10.40
Yadkin	100,483	87,522	-12.90
Yancey	31,002	30,824	-0.60

Table 3. Decrease in the percent of acreage of permanent pastureland, other than cropland and woodland pasture for each county between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture. Use to answer Question 5.

County	Pastureland 2012 (acres)	Pastureland 2017 (acres)	Change (%)
Alamance	22,350	20,617	-7.80
Alexander	24,194	16,441	-32.00
Alleghany	31,041	17,956	-42.20
Anson	13,205	10,247	-22.40
Ashe	33,977	31,872	-6.20
Avery	3,610	2,703	-25.10
Beaufort	1,476	1,058	-28.30
Bertie	1,338	1,108	-17.20
Bladen	5,264	3,288	-37.50
Brunswick	2,169	2,233	3.00
Buncombe	22,971	20,060	-12.70
Burke	6,571	7,820	19.00
Cabarrus	16,610	15,266	-8.10
Caldwell	6,946	7,057	1.60
Camden	(D)	403	NA
Carteret	686	1,566	128.30
Caswell	16,638	14,626	-12.10
Catawba	20,440	16,591	-18.80
Chatham	40,212	37,952	-5.60
Cherokee	5,003	8,184	63.60
Chowan	768	530	-31.00
Clay	3,179	2,924	-8.00
Cleveland	38,532	37,451	-2.80
Columbus	7,541	6,108	-19.00
Craven	1,745	1,431	-18.00
Cumberland	5,957	3,625	-39.10
Currituck	(D)	(D)	NA
Dare	(D)	(D)	NA
Davidson	16,256	12,685	-22.00
Davie	15,626	20,578	31.70
Duplin	15,883	15,822	-0.40
Durham	4,370	3,206	-26.60
Edgecombe	6,477	3,450	-46.70
Forsyth	7,561	5,456	-27.80
Franklin	15,199	15,458	1.70
Gaston	10,471	9,263	-11.50
Gates	1,328	618	-53.50
Graham	1,587	4,719	197.40
Granville	15,718	11,264	-28.30
Greene	1,728	1,338	-22.60
Guilford	18,536	13,600	-26.60
Halifax	8,988	4,886	-45.60
Harnett	10,080	7,730	-23.30
Haywood	19,653	19,123	-2.70
Henderson	6,333	3,425	-45.90
Hertford	(D)	(D)	NA
Hoke	2,317	2,177	-6.00
Hyde	146	317	117.10
Iredell	36,800	29,472	-19.90

County	Pastureland 2012 (acres)	Pastureland 2017 (acres)	Change (%)
Jackson	3,149	2,524	-19.80
Johnston	12,178	12,510	2.70
Jones	(D)	4,885	NA
Lee	8,886	4,700	-47.10
Lenoir	2,701	3,653	35.20
Lincoln	12,590	11,539	-8.30
Macon	6,548	5,520	-15.70
Madison	14,543	17,076	17.40
Martin	1,239	1,570	26.70
McDowell	5,478	5,768	5.30
Mecklenburg	3,238	2,424	-25.10
Mitchell	5,053	3,866	-23.50
Montgomery	7,383	7,927	7.40
Moore	14,184	15,377	8.40
Nash	10,043	7,698	-23.30
New Hanover	(D)	(D)	NA
Northampton	(D)	(D)	NA
Onslow	2,948	2,110	-28.40
Orange	11,878	14,325	20.60
Pamlico	244	804	229.50
Pasquotank	706	533	-24.50
Pender	4,201	4,250	1.20
Perquimans	1,741	622	-64.30
Person	9,278	12,266	32.20
Pitt	3,525	3,668	4.10
Polk	6,074	5,660	-6.80
Randolph	40,720	37,958	-6.80

County	Pastureland 2012 (acres)	Pastureland 2017 (acres)	Change (%)
Richmond	3,585	4,699	31.10
Robeson	9,216	5,829	-36.80
Rockingham	17,081	20,924	22.50
Rowan	23,172	23,604	1.90
Rutherford	16,632	19,237	15.70
Sampson	19,898	13,238	-33.50
Scotland	1,965	1,342	-31.70
Stanly	16,278	16,345	0.40
Stokes	19,720	14,063	-28.70
Surry	28,350	26,877	-5.20
Swain	1,403	937	-33.20
Transylvania	3,139	2,917	-7.10
Tyrrell	(D)	253	NA
Union	26,108	22,165	-15.10
Vance	4,296	3,797	-11.60
Wake	8,115	8,170	0.70
Warren	10,105	9,696	-4.00
Washington	817	855	4.70
Watauga	19,644	18,350	-6.6
Wayne	6,042	6,760	11.90
Wilkes	36,985	30,636	-17.20
Wilson	2,980	3,674	23.30
Yadkin	23,674	17,931	-24.30
Yancey	9,241	8,003	-13.40

Table 4. County population growth between the 2010 and 2020 censuses. (Use to answer question 6).

County	2010 Census	2020 Census	Population Change (%)	County Growth Rate / State	Score
Alamance	151,131	171,415	13.4%	1.42	7
Alexander	37,198	36,444	-2.0%	-0.21	0
Alleghany	11,155	10,888	-2.4%	-0.25	0
Anson	26,948	22,055	-18.2%	-1.92	0
Ashe	27,281	26,577	-2.6%	-0.27	0
Avery	17,797	17,806	0.1%	0.01	4
Beaufort	47,759	44,652	-6.5%	-0.69	0
Bertie	21,282	17,934	-15.7%	-1.66	0
Bladen	35,190	29,606	-15.9%	-1.67	0
Brunswick	107,431	136,693	27.2%	2.87	15
Buncombe	238,318	269,452	13.1%	1.38	7
Burke	90,912	87,570	-3.7%	-0.39	0
Cabarrus	178,011	225,804	26.8%	2.83	15
Caldwell	83,029	80,652	-2.9%	-0.30	0
Camden	9,980	10,355	3.8%	0.40	4
Carteret	66,469	67,686	1.8%	0.19	4
Caswell	23,719	22,736	-4.1%	-0.44	0
Catawba	154,358	160,610	4.1%	0.43	4
Chatham	63,505	76,285	20.1%	2.12	15
Cherokee	27,444	28,774	4.8%	0.51	4
Chowan	14,793	13,708	-7.3%	-0.77	0
Clay	10,587	11,089	4.7%	0.50	4
Cleveland	98,078	99,519	1.5%	0.15	4
Columbus	58,098	50,623	-12.9%	-1.36	0
Craven	103,505	100,720	-2.7%	-0.28	0
Cumberland	319,431	334,728	4.8%	0.51	4
Currituck	23,547	28,100	19.3%	2.04	15
Dare	33,920	36,915	8.8%	0.93	4
Davidson	162,878	168,930	3.7%	0.39	4
Davie	41,240	42,712	3.6%	0.38	4
Duplin	58,505	48,715	-16.7%	-1.77	0
Durham	269974	324,833	20.3%	2.14	15
Edgecombe	56,552	48,900	-13.5%	-1.43	0
Forsyth	350,670	382,590	9.1%	0.96	4
Franklin	60,619	68,573	13.1%	1.38	7
Gaston	206,086	227,943	10.6%	1.12	7
Gates	12,197	10,478	-14.1%	-1.49	0

County	2010 Census	2020 Census	Population Change (%)	County Growth Rate / State	Score
Graham	8,861	8,030	-9.4%	-0.99	0
Granville	57529	60,992	6.0%	0.64	4
Greene	21,362	20,451	-4.3%	-0.45	0
Guilford	488,406	541,299	10.8%	1.14	7
Halifax	54,691	48,622	-11.1%	-1.17	0
Harnett	114,678	133,568	16.5%	1.74	7
Haywood	59,036	62,089	5.2%	0.55	4
Henderson	106,740	116,281	8.9%	0.94	4
Hertford	24,669	21,552	-12.6%	-1.33	0
Hoke	46,952	52,082	10.9%	1.15	7
Hyde	5,810	4,589	-21.0%	-2.22	0
Iredell	159,437	186,693	17.1%	1.80	7
Jackson	40,271	43,109	7.0%	0.74	4
Johnston	168,878	215,999	27.9%	2.94	15
Jones	10,153	9,172	-9.7%	-1.02	0
Lee	57,866	63,285	9.4%	0.99	4
Lenoir	59,495	55,122	-7.4%	-0.78	0
Lincoln	78,265	86,810	10.9%	1.15	7
Macon	33,922	37,014	9.1%	0.96	4
Madison	20,764	21,193	2.1%	0.22	4
Martin	24,505	22,031	-10.1%	-1.07	0
McDowell	44,996	44,578	-0.9%	-0.10	0
Mecklenburg	919,628	1,115,482	21.3%	2.25	15
Mitchell	15,579	14,903	-4.3%	-0.46	0
Montgomery	27,798	25,751	-7.4%	-0.78	0
Moore	88,247	99,727	13.0%	1.37	7
Nash	95,840	94,970	-0.9%	-0.10	0
New Hanover	202,667	225,702	11.4%	1.20	7
Northampton	22,099	17,471	-20.9%	-2.21	0
Onslow	177,772	204,576	15.1%	1.59	7
Orange	133,801	148,696	11.1%	1.17	7
Pamlico	13,144	12,276	-6.6%	-0.70	0
Pasquotank	40,661	40,568	-0.2%	-0.02	0
Pender	52,217	60,203	15.3%	1.61	7
Perquimans	13,453	13,005	-3.3%	-0.35	0
Person	39,464	39,097	-0.9%	-0.10	0
Pitt	168,148	170,243	1.2%	0.13	4
Polk	20,510	19,328	-5.8%	-0.61	0
Randolph	141,752	144,171	1.7%	0.18	4

County	2010 Census	2020 Census	Population Change (%)	County Growth Rate / State	Score
Richmond	46,639	42,946	-7.9%	-0.84	0
Robeson	134,168	116,530	-13.1%	-1.39	0
Rockingham	93,643	91,096	-2.7%	-0.29	0
Rowan	138,428	146,875	6.1%	0.64	4
Rutherford	67,810	64,444	-5.0%	-0.52	0
Sampson	63,431	59,036	-6.9%	-0.73	0
Scotland	36,157	34,174	-5.5%	-0.58	0
Stanly	60,585	62,504	3.2%	0.33	4
Stokes	47,401	44,520	-6.1%	-0.64	0
Surry	73,673	71,359	-3.1%	-0.33	0
Swain	13,981	14,117	1.0%	0.10	4
Transylvania	33,090	32,986	-0.3%	-0.03	0
Tyrrell	4,407	3,245	-26.4%	-2.78	0
Union	201,292	238,267	18.4%	1.94	7
Vance	45,422	42,578	-6.3%	-0.66	0
Wake	900,993	1,129,410	25.4%	2.67	15
Warren	20,972	18,642	-11.1%	-1.17	0
Washington	13,228	11,003	-16.8%	-1.77	0
Watauga	51,079	54,086	5.9%	0.62	4
Wayne	122,623	117,333	-4.3%	-0.46	0
Wilkes	69,340	65,969	-4.9%	-0.51	0
Wilson	81,234	78,784	-3.0%	-0.32	0
Yadkin	38,406	37,214	-3.1%	-0.33	0
Yancey	17,818	18,470	3.7%	0.39	4
North Carolina	9,535,483	10,439,388	9.5%	1.00	

Table 5. Population density based on the 2020 census.
(Use to answer question 7.)

County	County Population Density	County/State Density	Score
Alamance	394.1	2.03	10
Alexander	138.6	0.71	5
Alleghany	46.1	0.24	0
Anson	41.1	0.21	0
Ashe	62.2	0.32	0
Avery	72.1	0.37	0
Beaufort	46.6	0.24	0
Bertie	24.2	0.12	0
Bladen	33.4	0.17	0
Brunswick	158.9	0.82	5
Buncombe	408.3	2.10	10
Burke	170.0	0.87	5
Cabarrus	618.6	3.18	15
Caldwell	170.2	0.87	5
Camden	33.8	0.17	0
Carteret	50.5	0.26	0
Caswell	53.1	0.27	0
Catawba	387.9	1.99	10
Chatham	107.6	0.55	5
Cherokee	57.9	0.30	0
Chowan	58.8	0.30	0
Clay	50.2	0.26	0
Cleveland	212.2	1.09	10
Columbus	53.1	0.27	0
Craven	130.1	0.67	5
Cumberland	508.7	2.62	10
Currituck	53.4	0.27	0
Dare	23.6	0.12	0
Davidson	297.9	1.53	10
Davie	160.0	0.82	5
Duplin	59.5	0.31	0
Durham	1090.0	5.60	15
Edgecombe	96.4	0.50	0
Forsyth	926.4	4.76	15
Franklin	138.5	0.71	5
Gaston	626.2	3.22	15
Gates	30.3	0.16	0
Graham	26.6	0.14	0
Granville	113.6	0.58	5
Greene	76.9	0.40	0
Guilford	822.6	4.23	15
Halifax	66.5	0.34	0
Harnett	222.2	1.14	10
Haywood	111.9	0.58	5
Henderson	310.1	1.59	10
Hertford	59.9	0.31	0
Hoke	132.9	0.68	5
Hyde	3.2	0.02	0
Iredell	312.7	1.61	10
Jackson	87.3	0.45	0
Johnston	271.4	1.39	10
Jones	19.4	0.10	0
Lee	244.3	1.26	10
Lenoir	137.1	0.70	5

County	County Population Density	County/State Density	Score
Lincoln	282.8	1.45	10
Macon	71.3	0.37	0
Madison	46.9	0.24	0
Martin	47.8	0.25	0
McDowell	100.0	0.51	0
Mecklenburg	2043.0	10.50	15
Mitchell	67.1	0.35	0
Montgomery	51.3	0.26	0
Moore	141.3	0.73	5
Nash	174.9	0.90	5
New Hanover	688.1	3.54	15
Northampton	31.7	0.16	0
Onslow	225.1	1.16	10
Orange	370.8	1.91	10
Pamlico	21.7	0.11	0
Pasquotank	140.4	0.72	5
Pender	64.5	0.33	0
Perquimans	39.5	0.20	0
Person	96.8	0.50	0
Pitt	259.9	1.34	10
Polk	80.9	0.42	0
Randolph	182.5	0.94	5
Richmond	89.5	0.46	0
Robeson	122.5	0.63	5

County	County Population Density	County/State Density	Score
Rockingham	159.3	0.82	5
Rowan	280.3	1.44	10
Rutherford	113.9	0.59	5
Sampson	62.3	0.32	0
Scotland	106.5	0.55	0
Stanly	154.7	0.80	5
Stokes	97.6	0.50	0
Surry	132.6	0.68	5
Swain	26.1	0.13	0
Transylvania	86.6	0.45	0
Tyrrell	5.4	0.03	0
Union	372.3	1.91	10
Vance	157.7	0.81	5
Wake	1317.9	6.77	15
Warren	42.0	0.22	0
Washington	26.0	0.13	0
Watauga	172.8	0.89	5
Wayne	210.7	1.08	10
Wilkes	86.8	0.45	0
Wilson	210.7	1.08	10
Yadkin	110.4	0.57	5
Yancey	59.0	0.30	0
North Carolina	**194.5**	**1.00**	

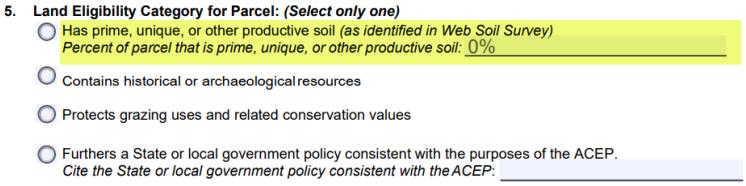
Appendix A-Using Web Soil Survey

Web Soil Survey - Home (usda.gov)

(https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm)

Web Soil Survey (WSS) is a tool that can be used to:

1. determine the proportion of prime and unique soils within an easement. This information will answer:
    a. Question 1 on the ALE ranking form asking for the percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the easement parcel.
    b. Section C-5 on the NRCS CA-41A "Parcel Sheet for Entity Application for an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Agreement" as one of the Land Eligibility Categories for the easement parcel.



5. Land Eligibility Category for Parcel: ***(Select only one)***

- ○ Has prime, unique, or other productive soil *(as identified in Web Soil Survey)*
  Percent of parcel that is prime, unique, or other productive soil: 0%
- ○ Contains historical or archaeological resources
- ○ Protects grazing uses and related conservation values
- ○ Furthers a State or local government policy consistent with the purposes of the ACEP.
  Cite the State or local government policy consistent with the ACEP: _____

2. Provide a soils map (Farmland Classification) that is required as part of the ALE easement application package.

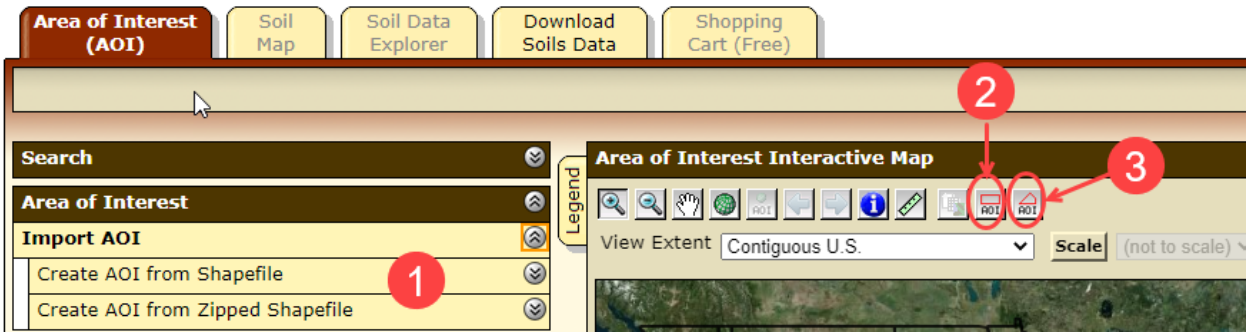
Below is a set of instructions on how to use Web Soil Survey.

1. Start Web Soil Survey by clicking on "Start WSS"

2. Select Area of Interest (AOI)

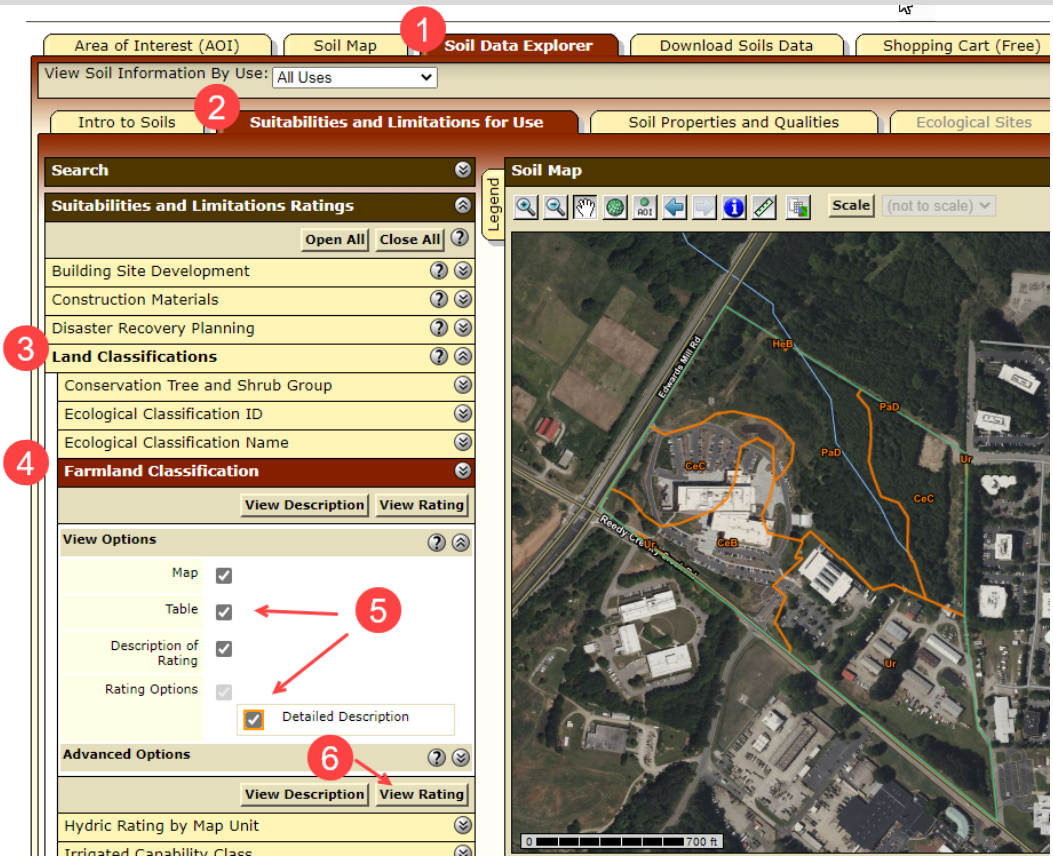
The Area of Interest must be the offered easement parcels

1. Import AOI from shape file (or zipped shapefile)
2. Use the rectangle drawing tool, or
3. use the polygon drawing tool.

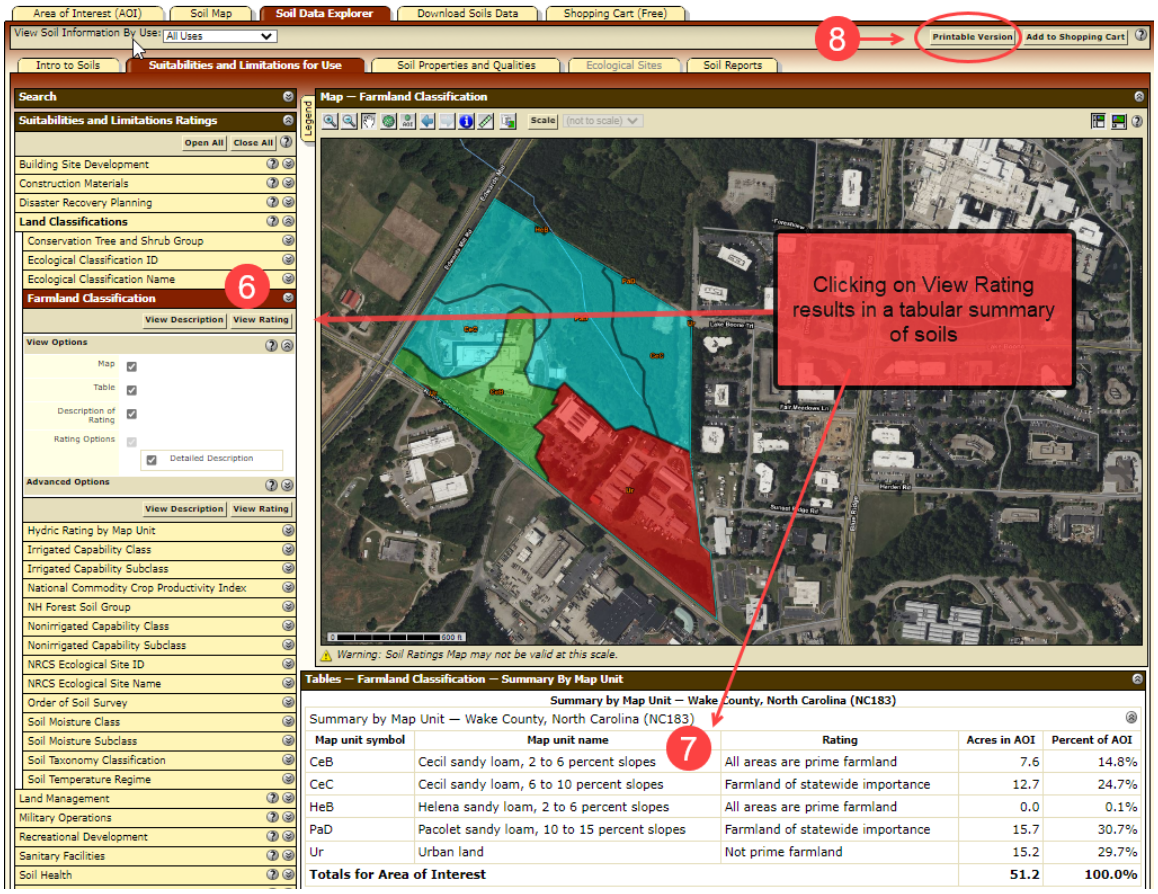


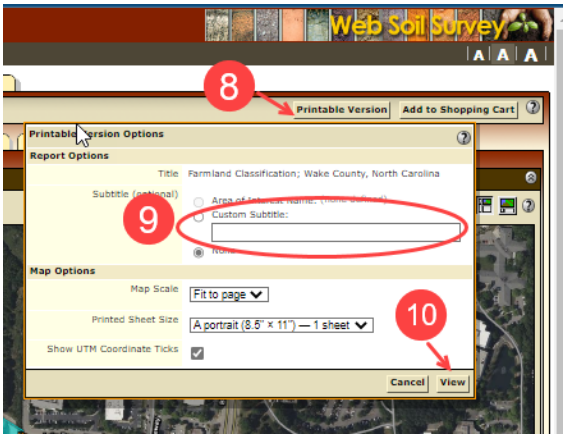
Using a shape file is preferred. The summary table from WSS will provide the area (acres) of the area of interest, and this value should match **as close as possible** the value (acres) on the Parcel Application Form (CPA-41A). Hand drawing using the polygon drawing tool may result in the resulting area (acres) not matching the acres entered on the CPA-41A form. However, practice using the polygon drawing tool if it is the only method of delineating an area of interest.

3. Determine "Farmland Classification"



Click on items 1 through 4, assure all check boxes are checked for item 5, and finally click on 6 "View Rating". Once item 6 is clicked, the soils map is updated, and a tabular summary of the rating is produced.





Click on item 8 (top right) to obtain a Printable Version of the Farmland Classification. Add a custom subtitle (item 9) if desired. Click on "View" (Item 10) to produce a report in pdf produced.