

Commissioners,

First I would like to say thank you for your continued support and interest in Farmland Preservation and the efforts that have been made to establish a program thus far.

I have had the opportunity to talk with and be involved with many in the agricultural community as well as some of the task force members surrounding the plans going forward. I was in attendance as a member of the public during the last meeting for the first hour that the meeting was taking place. It is my understanding that there are 25 counties in the State of North Carolina that currently have Farmland Preservation programs in place, 23 of these counties have their programs with their respective County's Soil and Water Conservation Department. We, as a county, are way behind on Farmland Preservation and the push needs to continue. It is my feeling that the Farmland Preservation Program would be most successful housed within an organization that is unbiased, experienced with the county's land resources, and has a good relationship with the farmers and landowners of the county.

Based on the fact that 92 percent of the counties in our state that have a Farmland Preservation program have their programs with Soil and Water, I would make an educated guess that they have solid reasoning behind their decisions on the management and stewardship of their respective programs.

Time being of the essence, it is imperative that discussions lead to action. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Adam Pressley

Pressley Farms

June 3, 2024

Henderson County Commissioners,

I am in total disagreement in awarding AGHC the proposed \$173,500 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I am in full support of the Farmland Preservation and feel that this money can be better used to support the efforts of that committee or other things that are beneficial to the farming community and property owners in our county.

I also am in favor of the Soil & Water organization housing the Farmland Preservation program.

I, as a farmer, would like to thank you in advance for your consideration to this recommendation and your support to the extreme need of preserving our farmland.

Sincerely,

Hunter Newman



Newman Farms