

Section 901. Appointments and Membership

The Agricultural Advisory Board shall consist of 7 members appointed by the Ashe County Board of Commissioners.

(1) Requirements

(a) Each board member shall be a county resident and registered to vote in Ashe County.

(b) Five of the 7 members shall be actively engaged in farming.

(c) The 5 members actively engaged in farming shall meet the eligibility criteria for the Preservation Program and be selected for appointment by the Board of Commissioners from the names of individuals submitted to the Board of Commissioners by the Ashe Soil and Water Conservation District, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency Committee and the Ashe County Farm Bureau, with an effort to have the broadest geographical representation possible. The 2 members shall have special interest, experience, or education in agriculture and/or rural land preservation.

(2) Tenure. The members are to serve for terms of three years, except that the initial board is to consist of two appointee(s) for a term of one year, two appointees for terms of two years, and three appointees for a term of three years.

Thereafter, all appointments are to be for terms of three years, with reappointments permitted but shall not exceed two consecutive three year terms. The term for the initial board members will be determined by lottery.

(3) Vacancies. Any vacancy on the Agricultural Advisory Board is to be filled by the Board of Commissioners for the remainder of the unexpired term following the same procedure as for the initial appointment.

(4) Removal for Cause. Any member of the Agricultural Advisory Board may be removed for cause by the Board of Commissioners upon written charges and after a public hearing. A Board member shall forfeit membership if three consecutive unexcused board meetings are missed.

(5) Funding

(a) *Compensation.* The per meeting compensation of the members of the Board shall be fixed by the Board of Commissioners.

(b) *Appropriations for performance of duties.* Funds shall be appropriated by the Board of Commissioners to the Agricultural Advisory Board to perform its duties. The Board shall request a budget to be presented to the County Commissioners annually.

Section 903. Duties

The Agricultural Advisory Board shall:

- (1) Review and approve applications for qualified farmland and voluntary agricultural districts.
- (2) Hold public hearings pursuant to Article X of this program.
- (3) Advise the Board of Commissioners on projects, programs, or issues affecting the agricultural economy or activities within the county and that will affect agricultural districts.
- (4) Perform other related tasks or duties assigned by the Board of Commissioners.