

Instructions for Completing This Application Form

VOLUNTARY or ENHANCED: You must choose to register your property as either a VOLUNTARY or and ENHANCED Agricultural District. A landowner may withdraw a VOLUNTARY registration at any time in the future by submitting a written notice to the Swain County Agriculture advisory Board. An ENHANCED registration is irrevocable by the land owner and heirs for 10 years. It is renewable after the 10th year.

Tax Parcel ID Number: The property for which you wish to be included in an agricultural district must be identified by its twelve-digit Tax Parcel Identification Number. Your tax parcel identification number may be found on a recent tax notice (identified as PIN/PPID No.). You may also obtain your tax parcel ID number online by entering the landowner's name in the "G.I.S. Search" at the Swain County Tax Office website: <http://maps.roktech.net/Swain/#> or call the Swain County Tax Office (828) 488-9273.

USDA Farm and Tract Numbers: If you know or have these numbers, it will be helpful in correctly identifying your property.

Acreage: The total acreage of each parcel and also the acreage of each parcel that is dedicated each to agricultural, forestry and/or horticultural production should be written on this application. A land survey is not necessary, but a close estimate is sufficient.

Location: Some information identifying the actual location of the property, such as road name, etc. for each parcel is needed in order that we accurately locate your property on maps.

Qualifying Factors: In order to qualify for Agriculture District Status, your property must be eligible for a "deferred value" by Swain County Tax Assessor through the Present Use Value Taxation Program. Your property must contain either five acres or more of horticultural lands, ten acres or more of agricultural lands or twenty acres or more of forestry. Furthermore, any areas of soil already officially classified as "Highly Erodible" must be managed properly with regards to soil conservation.

Application Process: Your application will be administered by the Swain County Soil and Water Conservation District, on behalf of the Swain County Agricultural Advisory board. After you submit your application, the Agriculture Advisory board will determine final approval. You will be notified when your application is approved. At that time all owners of the property being registered will be asked to sign a Conservation Agreement with Swain County. Your Conservation Agreement will be filed for you at the Swain County Register of Deeds.

Public Notification: Once your Conservation Agreement is filed for you at the Swain County Register of Deeds, your property will be identified as an Agriculture District on Swain County maps that are posted for public viewing in several county departments. Your property will also be identified on the county's online G.I.S. mapping system. As yours and other Agricultural Districts become registered, signs will appear on public road rights-of-way, drawing attention to Swain County's agricultural communities.

