Farmland Preservation

Farmland Preservation Boards administer Voluntary Agricultural Districts. These are set up by local governments in cooperation with landowners to limit non-agricultural development near working farmland.

Agricultural Advisory Boards

Agricultural Advisory Boards provide guidance to county government employees on issues pertaining to agriculture, conservation, and farmland. In some counties, these boards are also the local entity that administers their county Voluntary Agricultural Districts

Joining the Board

Members of these boards are appointed by the board of commissioners., meaning there is no official election process. However, if more than one individual expresses interests the commission votes by ballot.

Experiences on the Board

Will Wilson (Durham Farmland Preservation Board) played a major role in the development of the Durham Roots Farmers Market. By removing sale requirements, Roots is able to provide an opportunity for all sellers.

Collaboration & Community

Serving the community is an esssential aspect of the Framland Preservation Boards. The creation of the Roots Farmers Market and other projects helps connect the community to agriculture and food systems.

Relevance to the Local Food System

These boards provide a direct connection to the farming community. These boards have a direct policy impact on issues relating to conservation and agriculture so cooperation with food councils happen frequently

Terms of Service

Term limits last for three yars. Members can serve two terms consecutively but must wait an additional term if seeking a third appointment. However, there are no term limits

Will Wilson

"Small farmers can feel a bit isolated, so we tried to connect that farming community to policy makers and the community at large, and established the market as both a benefit to the small farming community and the Durham community at large."