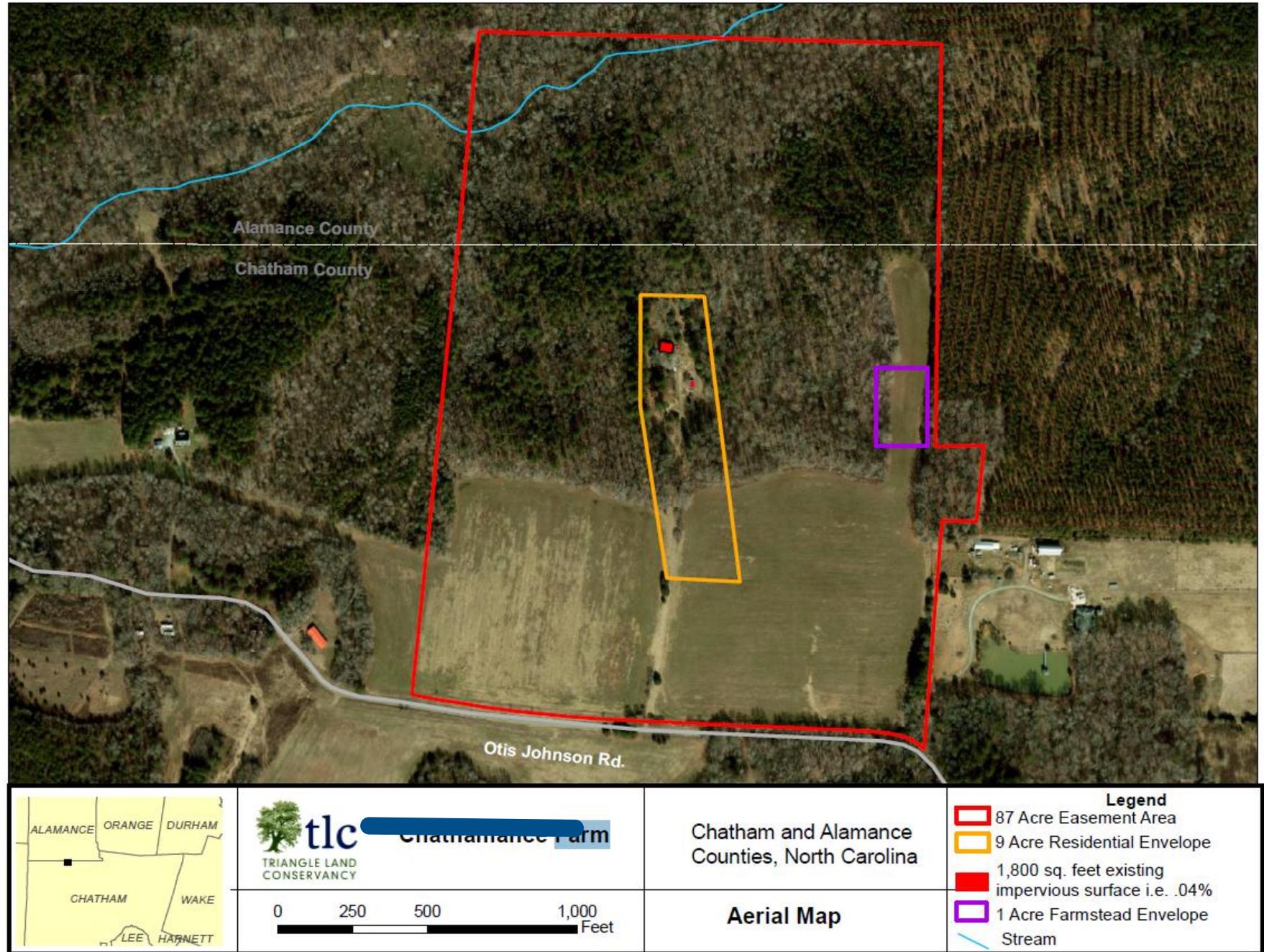


# Chatham Farmland Preservation Program Update

Andrew Waters, Farmland Preservation Coordinator  
Savannah Thomson, GIS Specialist



# Farm A Funding Request



# Farm A Funding Request

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We have applied to N.C. Department of Agriculture Twice!

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Landowner has agreed to proceed with Chatham funding.

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Chatham County's first "acquired" conservation easement.

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Asking for an additional \$25,000 to help cover TLC transaction expenses. Recommended by SWCD & Agricultural Advisory Boards

# Farm A: Funding Request

Line Item	TLC Match	Projected Landowner Donation	Projected County Match	Projected Other Match	Total Project Value
Appraisal					\$ -
Attorney Fees	\$ 5,100.00				\$ 5,100.00
Baseline Documentation Report	\$ 3,500.00				\$ 3,500.00
Closing Costs (Recording Fee, Title Insurance)	\$ 1,500.00				\$ 1,500.00
Easement Purchase	\$ -	\$ 475,320.00	\$ 225,000.00		\$ 700,320.00
Environmental Assessment / Audit	\$ 2,000.00				\$ 2,000.00
Personnel / Administrative					\$ -
Legal Endowment	\$ 5,000.00				
Stewardship Endowment	\$ 12,000.00		\$ 12,000.00		\$ 24,000.00
Survey	\$ 11,000.00				\$ 11,000.00
Travel					\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 40,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 475,320.00</b>	<b>\$ 237,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 752,420.00</b>
<b>Easement Size (Acres)</b>	87.540	91.917	83.163		
<b>Notes:</b>	North Central Region				

**Total Estimated Easement value \$ 700,320.00**  
(at \$8,000/acre)



Chatham County, North Carolina  
Farmland Preservation Program

## FARMLAND PROTECTION BLUEPRINT (2025-2028)

### 2025-2028 Blueprint Priorities (cont.)

#### 3. Strengthen the Chatham County Farmland Preservation Program through policy development.

##### Action Steps

- Update 2019 Chatham County Voluntary Agriculture District Ordinance to include other Farmland Preservation Program initiatives.
- Strengthen the Voluntary Agricultural District Program with current NC General Statute language. Identify other needed ordinance updates.
- Adopt the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program to expand farmland preservation options for landowners.
- Update the IT functionality of the VAD and Farmland Preservation Program to compile and display information about farmland protection activities in a more concise and visually appealing manner.

#### 4. Develop a strategic farmland preservation map.

##### Action Steps

- Work with Chatham County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff to develop a publicly available strategic farmland preservation map, combining relevant data sources into one map viewer.
- Using GIS technology, develop a scoring criterion for evaluating farmland protection priorities within Chatham County utilizing a strategic farmland preservation map for the CAPD evaluation processes.

#### 5. Emphasize equity and inclusion in farmland preservation initiatives.

##### Action Steps

- Develop outreach programs focused on the needs of underserved, small, and limited-resource farmers.
- Partner with organizations and institutions that are working with underserved, small, and limited-resource farmers.
- Work with USDA to develop an outreach plan to improve awareness of USDA socially disadvantaged audiences, beginning farmers, and veterans' programs.



# Chatham County Farmland Prioritization Mapping Project

Chatham County Soil and Water  
Conservation District, Chatham  
County GIS Department, and  
Triangle Land Conservancy



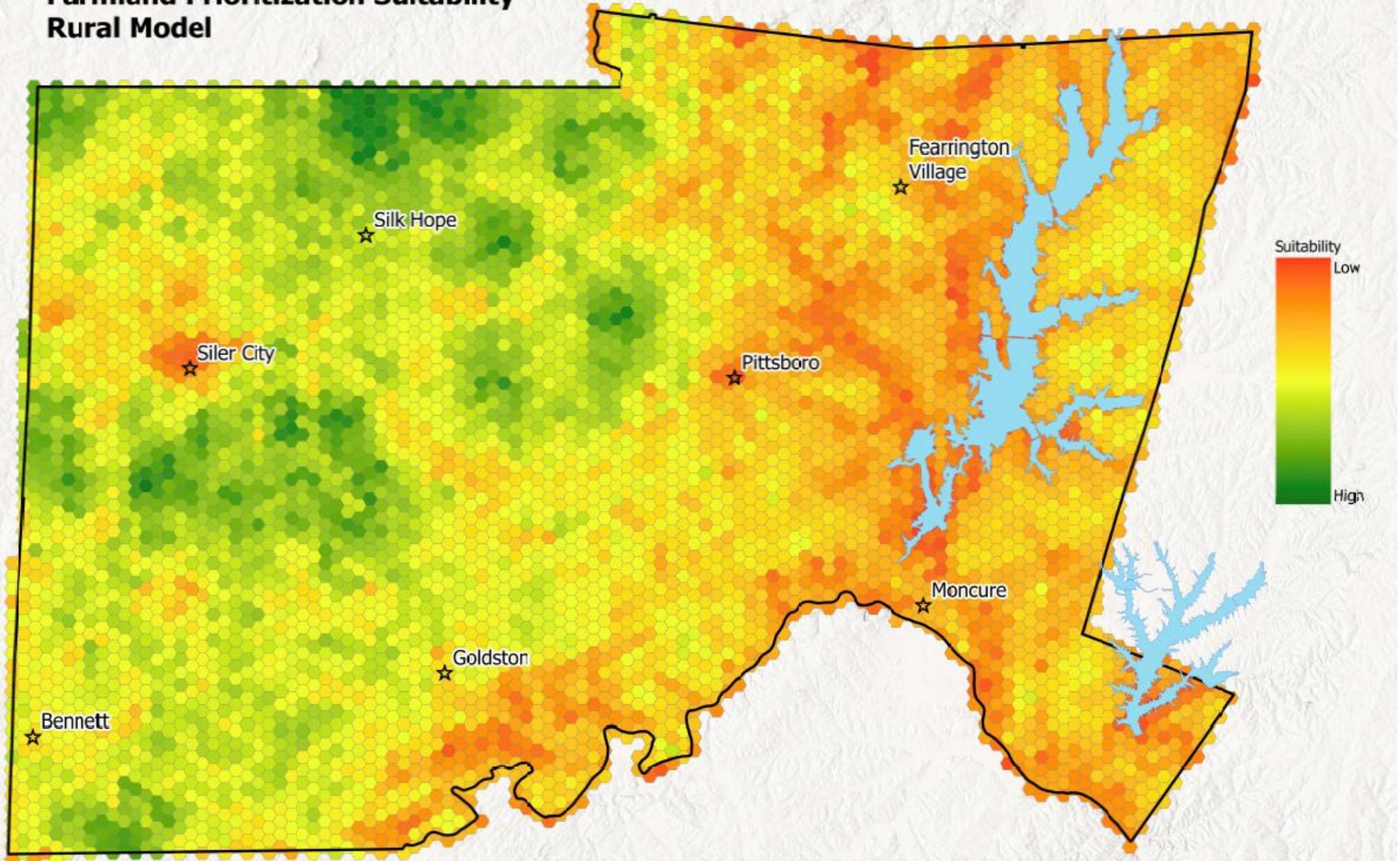
## Suitability Modeler

Criteria	Rural	Urban
Ag Land	18	10
Ag Soil	25	25
Distance from Municipalities	2	10
Proximity to VADs	10	NA
Proximity to Conservation Easements	25	25
PUV	10	10
Future Ag Land	2	NA
Proximity to Degraded Water	2	NA
Intake Zones	2	NA
Approved Development	2	10
Access to Feed Stores	2	10
Total	100	100

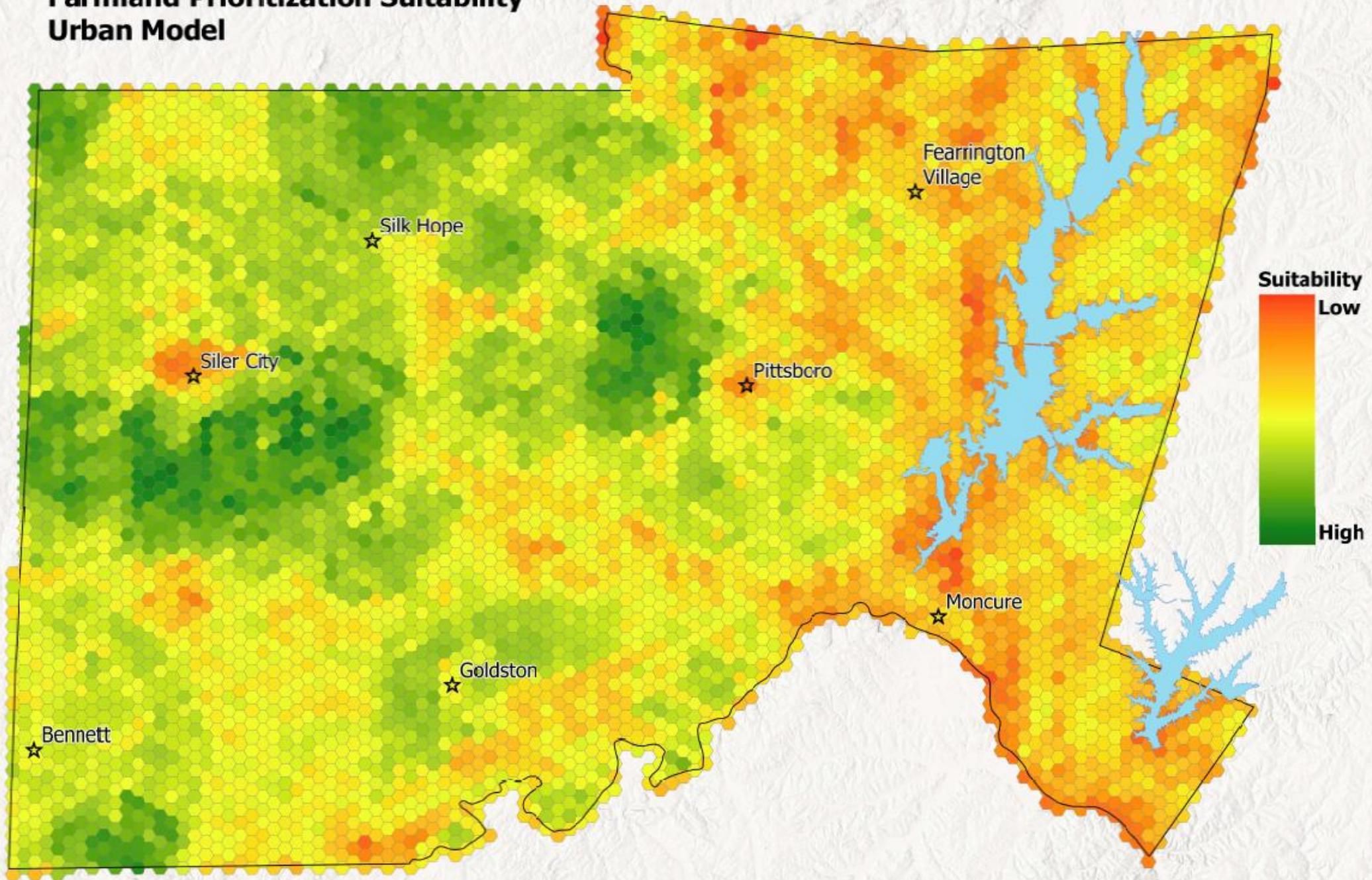
- Weights were determined through stakeholder meetings based on perceived importance for agriculture viability and conservation strategy
- The total weight for each model equals 100
- Eighth acre tessellations are used to emphasize areas for farmland preservation prioritization rather than individual landowner parcels.

**The rural model emphasizes soil quality and conservation clustering while the urban model emphasizes proximity to development and infrastructure.**

# Farmland Prioritization Suitability Rural Model



# Farmland Prioritization Suitability Urban Model





# Recent & Upcoming Events

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- Chatham Farms Forever Day 1/15/26 (65 people)
- Lee County Farmland Preservation Day 1/29/26
- Chatham Cattleman's Association 2/19/26
- Chatham Ag Impact Summit 2/24/26
- UNC School of Government Advisory Board Workshop 3/6/26
- North Carolina VAD Conference July 22-23

Questions?

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