

County governments and nonprofit groups may now apply for funding assistance from the N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund for farmland preservation projects. Applicants have until Dec. 19 to apply.

"The latest study from the American Farmland Trust projects North Carolina losing more than a million acres of agricultural land over the next 20 years," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "These Farmland Preservation grants provide options for families and are critical in saving family farms across our state."

Grants are available for agricultural conservation easements on working lands used for agricultural production; to support public-private enterprise programs that promote profitable and sustainable agricultural, horticultural and forestland activities; and for the development of agricultural plans.

Landowners interested in preserving their farms through conservation easements must work with county governments or land trusts to apply for grant funds. If awarded a grant in which the application requests funds for the conservation easement purchase value, landowners will be compensated for the purchase of the development rights.

Grant applications and guidelines are available online at: [www.ncadfp.org/Cycle16.htm](http://www.ncadfp.org/Cycle16.htm).

For more information, call the Farmland Preservation office at 919-707-3074.

### Better Business Bureau Recommends 6 Steps to Stop Porch Pirates This Holiday Season

The rise of online marketplaces and expedited delivery services is a convenient service for many consumers across the nation, allowing holiday purchasers to search out the perfect gift for friends and family. Unfortunately, purchasing and having the item delivered to the proper address does not guarantee you will receive it. According to market research firm C+R Research, package theft continues to be an issue for many Americans, with approximately one-quarter (23%) of consumers experiencing package theft in 2021.

Package thieves, also known as "porch pirates," often take advantage of an opportunity and may frequent a neighborhood or community multiple times before moving on to another. They will often target houses that provide a quick in-and-out route, especially if the porch or area where packages are delivered is within 25 feet of the street and are easily visible. Over the past five years, internet searches using the keywords "package stolen" nearly doubled during December, demonstrating the impact of this crime on households across the nation.

As a crime of opportunity, preventing or discouraging package theft can be accomplished in several ways, depending on the location of your residence, type and community. For instance, preventing package theft at an apartment complex in the middle of the city differs from a suburban residential community. However, consumers can use specific strategies to discourage the act no matter where they live.

#### BBB provides the following tips to prevent package thieves from affecting your holiday plans (and the rest of the year):

- Check with neighbors. Sometimes, your package may not be stolen at all, just simply at the wrong address. Before filing a report or contacting the sender, check with your neighbors and see if the delivery service may have dropped off your package at the wrong address. Many delivery companies will take pictures of your package in the designated location – be sure to check for the photo and verify it is at the right spot.
- Don't leave unattended packages. When possible, do not leave delivered packages unattended for long periods. If you are expecting a package, attempt to schedule its delivery when you know you will be home. Ask your neighbors if they would mind holding on to packages delivered if you plan to be gone for an extended time during the holidays.
- Ship to store. If purchasing an item from a retailer that has a physical location near your home, consider shipping it there instead. Retailers will require proof of purchase or identification before releasing packages they have received, and this is a sure way to avoid porch pirates.
- Use a security camera. Installing a home security system with cameras or simply a camera-enabled doorbell is a great way to deter package theft, especially when highly visible. Consider including a sign that specifically states that the residence is under surveillance. Even if a package is stolen from your porch, the video evidence will help law enforcement track down the thieves (but be wary of the risk of internet-connected devices and research before you purchase).
- Require a signature. Many delivery companies include the option to require a signature before leaving a package, letting you take physical possession of the item as soon as it is delivered. While this option works well for those who are often at home, especially for expensive items, it may create difficulties in receiving packages if your schedule and the delivery service are different. Be sure to check with the delivery company on their policy for packages that are not signed for; they may return it to the sender after a certain number of attempts.
- Consider a package receiving service. Some major retailers, such as Amazon, offer secure package receiving locations away from your home that you can access with a key or code. Some independent businesses also specialize in this service, allowing you to designate a different delivery location for your packages and the ability to pick them up on your way home.

If you fear that your package has been stolen, file a report with your local police department and the delivery company. Depending on which delivery service you use, they may offer insurance or other policies to reimburse you for your losses.

Fun, games and prizes, oh my! The Partnership for Children is ready for Barn Blast 2023. The 17th annual Barn Blast will be hosted on Friday, January 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Community members may get tickets through our website at [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org) or feel free to call 704-694-4036 to get tickets over the phone.

Since its founding in 1996, more than 6,500 children across Anson County have received Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books in the mail every month to add to their library. Approximately 50,000 educational resources from the Early Childhood Resource Center have been used by childcare providers, caregivers and community members.

Because of Barn Blast supporters, the Partnership is now able to offer children a larger space for parents and caregivers to be supported.

Now, the Anson County Partnership for Children is ready to be back in person, offering trainings for parents, families and childcare professionals.

"The success of Barn Blast and the Partnership as a whole is a testament to the determination and love of Anson County," said Caroline Goins.

Poisson, Poisson, & Bower, LLC and Uwharrie Bank will launch the night as presenting sponsors.

All proceeds benefiting the Partnership's early childhood education programming.

Check out the Partnership's Facebook page for updates about Barn Blast. For more information on being a 2023 Barn Blast sponsor or getting tickets call 704-694-4036 or visit the Partnership's website at [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org).

The Anson County Partnership for Children is a nonprofit organization formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child."

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**HARVEST MINISTRIES OUTREACH CENTER**

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

**INDOOR EVENT...SUNDAY, DEC 18**

**10:30am at HMOCC (Behind Pizza Hut in Wadesboro)**

**WE WILL BE GIVING AWAY HUNDREDS OF TOYS, PRIZES, BICYCLES...AND MUCH MORE!**

Sponsored in part by Poisson Poisson Bower

### All are invited to Barn Blast 2023

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## Anson County Tax Collector PROPERTY TAX REMINDER



**ANSON COUNTY TAXES  
ARE DUE NOW!**

Please see that all of your Anson County Property Taxes are paid in full prior to January 6, 2023.

**FEES AND INTEREST BEGIN JANUARY 6, 2023.**

Also, if you wish to use property taxes as an income tax deduction, payments should be made by December 31, 2022.

*Please pay your taxes immediately. Mail your payment to:*

**Anson County Tax Collector**  
101 South Greene Street  
Wadesboro, NC 28170  
Telephone 704-994-3220

Or visit the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
We accept cash, check or credit / debit card.

An after hours drop box is available too. Thank you.

**You may call 704-994-3220 for total taxes owed.**

### NCWorks Online Youth Services

The North Carolina NCWorks Youth Services website ([ncworks.gov/vosnet/youth.aspx](http://ncworks.gov/vosnet/youth.aspx)) contains links to information of interest to Youth looking for jobs, or are interested in continuing education beyond high school. Information on this page contains a variety of websites that have job postings and helpful information specifically geared to young people.

This page also contains information about career exploration, military service, financial aid for education, and other opportunities.