

New Kent County Agricultural and Forestal District Program

New Kent County is currently accepting applications for the Agricultural and Forestal Districts (AFD) Program. AFD's provide landowners with certain tax benefits and restrictions on government actions to protect the agricultural use of their land. Typically, landowners agree not to subdivide their land to a more intensive non-agricultural use during the term of the district (which is usually 4 to 10 years). In return, the government agrees to provide various protections from non-agricultural interference and development pressure.

An application to create a new AFD district includes a description and map of the district, total acreage, tax parcel I.D. numbers, acreage and signature of each landowner, proposed conditions (if any other than those spelled out in the County ordinance). The application must be accompanied by a fee of \$300, and must be submitted on or before March 1. The application is first reviewed by the Agricultural and Forestal District Advisory Committee (11 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors), the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the public (through a public hearing process). The review process can take up to 180 days to completion.

A district must have a core of contiguous properties consisting of at least 200 acres. Outlying parcels can be added to districts as long as they are within one mile of the boundary of the 200-acre core or contiguous to district land that is within one mile of the core. There is no minimum number of landowners, and no maximum acreage for the districts. Landowners who own more than one tax parcel are not required to place all of their parcels into the district, and must identify all parcels which are to be placed in the district.

Applications are available at on the County website www.co.new-kent.va.us or at the New Kent County Community Development or by calling (804) 966-9690, and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2006. Completed applications may be mailed to Comm. Dev. Dept., PO Box 50, New Kent, VA 23124, hand delivered to 12007 Courthouse Circle, or emailed to planning@co.newkent.state.va.us.