Guidelines for Establishing State of North Carolina Agrarian Growth Zones

1. Intent

As authorized in GS 143B-437.10, the purpose of the State Agrarian Growth Zones is to provide economic incentives to stimulate new investment and job creation in economically distressed areas. A State Agrarian Growth Zone is an area comprised of one or more contiguous census tracts, census block groups, or both, in the most recent federal decennial census that meets all conditions listed in section 2 of this document.

2. Qualifying an Area for Designation

The basis for identifying and qualifying an area for a State Agrarian Growth Zone is contiguous census tracts and census block groups as defined by the most recent decennial United States Bureau of Census. A County government may request the designation of one or more Agrarian Growth Zones. Each Zone must meet the minimum criteria specified in the General Statutes and described below.

An Agrarian Growth Zone is an area that meets all of the following conditions:

1. It is comprised of one or more contiguous census tracts, census block groups, or both, in the most recent federal decennial census.
2. All of the area is located in whole within a county that has no municipality with a population in excess of 10,000 based on current population estimate from NC State Demographer's Office.
3. Every census tract and census block group that comprises the area either has more than twenty percent (20%) of its population below the poverty level or is adjacent to another census tract or census block group in the zone that has more than twenty percent (20%) of its population below the poverty level according to the most recent federal decennial census.
4. The zone as a whole has more than twenty percent (20%) of its population below the poverty level according to the most recent federal decennial census.

The area of a county that is included in one or more agrarian growth shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total area of the county.

The application shall include all of the following requirements in order to be considered for designation:

1. A map showing the census tracts and block groups that would comprise the zone.
2. A detailed description of the boundaries of the area that would comprise the zone.
3. A map illustrating the size of the proposed zone.
4. Detailed census information on the county and proposed zone.
5. A resolution of the board of county commissioners requesting the designation of the area as an agrarian growth zone.
6. Any other materials required by the Secretary of Commerce.

3. Assistance with Preparation of an Application for Zone Designation.

Assistance with preparation of the application for Agrarian Growth Zone Designation is available at the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance. Regional Offices may provide assistance with these guidelines. Contacts at these offices are provided on Attachment C.

While the Division of Community Assistance may assist a County in the preparation of tan application, the accuracy of all information contained in the application remains the sole responsibility of the local

government submitting it. Local officials should carefully check the accuracy of all information in ant application prior to submission.

Additional information related North Carolina demographics can be found at the State Demographers website http://demog.state.nc.us/

4. Submittal Information and Approval Process Information.

1. Who may apply? Each County that meets the qualifications in the GS 143B-437.10 is allowed to designate one or more Agrarian Growth Zones. A resolution is required by the board of county commissioners requesting the designation of the area as an agrarian growth zone.

2. Submit the completed application form to: J. Keith Crisco, Secretary
NC Department of Commerce
UPZ & AGZ Applications
Division of Community Planning
4313 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699 -4313

3. The Secretary of Commerce will designate areas that meet statutory criteria. A determination is effective until December 31 of the following year in which the determination is made.

4. For information concerning the status of an application, applicants may call Will Best at (919) 571-4900 or email at WBest@nccommerce.com.

5. If an application is unsigned, incomplete or inaccurate, it will be returned to the applicant at the address on the application.

6. An applicant will be notified by mail as to whether the application is approved or disapproved.

5. Detailed instructions to complete the Application for Zone Designation.

1. Accuracy of the information submitted in an application, and a clear understanding on the part of a local government on the territory contained within a zone, is essential. Improperly designating zones, or incorrect advice given by local officials to businesses inquiring about zones, may result in local businesses claiming zone tax credits to which they are not entitled and may subject them to audit and assessment the N.C. Department of Revenue.

2. County: This is the County in which the proposed Agrarian Growth Zone is located.

3. County Area: This is the total County land area. This information can be found at http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

4. Applicant Information: Applicants are limited to County governments. Be sure to designate a contact person to respond to any questions about the application.

5. Census Tract Data: Each census tract and/ or block group must be entirely or partially within the current County limits, as those limits exist on the date of the application for Agrarian Growth Zone Designation. ***Applications will be returned if the Division of Community Assistance discovers that the wrong census data has been used. Be certain to follow these instructions exactly.***

Census Tract and/or Block Group Number: This number is determined by locating census tracts and/or block groups on census tract/block group maps. Many Counties have census maps for their jurisdiction or GIS Departments that can assist in mapping the potential Agrarian Growth Zones. Other census data centers are listed on Attachments A and B. Information about Census Tracts and Block Groups can also be located at the Census Bureau website www.census.gov

Total Population: Locate data on the 2000 Census of Population and Housing **Summary File 3 (http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)**, at the enclosed listing of Census Data Centers. When analyzing total population from the data CD, locate the total population statistic in the Census Tract\Block Numbering Area (Totals) or Block Group (Totals), depending on what geographic identifier you are utilizing (i.e. tract or block group). Determine the population by the 100-Percent Count of Persons. *Applicant must not have a municipal population greater than 10,000 within the county.*

Percent below Poverty: This statistic is also located on Tape File 3A, or can be obtained by visiting www.census.gov . Select the General Profiles and scroll down to Income and Poverty; you will locate the Percent below Poverty under this heading. *(Hint: This number should not include the hundredths decimal. If a census tract or block group has less than 20.00% below poverty it does not qualify.*

Total Population Below Poverty: *This function shall be performed manually*. **(File 3 P87 POVERTY STATUS)** For each census tract or block group, perform this calculation. Divide the Income in 1999 below poverty level of the census tract and/or block group by the Total Population. This will calculate the percent below poverty of the census tract and/ or block group. Round to the nearest whole person.

6. Proposed Agrarian Growth Zone Summary Census Information:

Total Population is the sum of Total Population figures for all the census tracts and/or block groups listed in the table in # 4.

Total Population below Poverty is the sum of the Total Population below Poverty figures for all the census tracts and block groups listed in the table in # 4.

Percent below Poverty: This figure is equal to the (Total Population below Poverty for all census tracts and/or block groups in the proposed Zone (from the table in # 5.)) divided by the (Total Population for all census tracts and/or block groups in the proposed Zone (from the table in #5.)) ***For a Zone to qualify, each Census Tract and/ or Block Group must exceed 20.0% Percent below Poverty.***

7. Signature:

County government applicants: The Chief County Elected Official shall sign the application form. The signature certifies official action to apply for zone designation by the governing body.

Attachment A

Department of Commerce - Business/Industry Regional Offices

Western Regional Department of Commerce Office (Lenoir)
P.O. Box 429
602 Morganton Blvd. S.W.
Lenoir, North Carolina 28645
828/757-5651 FAX: 828/754-8856

Western Regional Department of Commerce Office (Fletcher)
3 General Aviation Drive
Fletcher, North Carolina 28732
828/654-9852 FAX 828/654-9859

Carolinas Regional Department of Commerce Office (Charlotte)
8210 Univ. Exec. Park Dr. Suite 260
Charlotte, North Carolina 28262
704/547-5750 FAX: 704/547-5747

Global Transpark Regional Department of Commerce (Greenville)
601-H Country Club Drive
Greenville, North Carolina 27834
252/355-9048 FAX: 252/355-9051

Southeastern Regional Department of Commerce Office (Fayetteville)
Wachovia Building, Suite 802
Fayetteville, North Carolina, 28301
910/486-1549 FAX: 910/486-1826

Western Regional Department of Commerce Office (Bryson City)
Economic Agrarian Growth Rep.
P.O. Box 1940
50 Main Street, Room 228
Bryson City, North Carolina 28713
828/488-0300 FAX: 828/488-3950

Piedmont Triad Regional Dept. of Commerce Office (Greensboro)
7025 Albert Pick Rd, Suite 303
Greensboro, North Carolina 27409
336/668-0474 FAX: 336/668-2164

Research Triangle Regional Department of Commerce Office (Raleigh)
301 N. Wilmington Street, P.O. Box29571
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0571
919/733-5148 FAX: 919/733-9299

Northeastern Regional Department of Commerce Office (Edenton)
P.O. Box 405
119 W. Water Street
Edenton, North Carolina 27932
252/482-2444 FAX: 252/482-7444

Attachment B
Census Data Locations - Public Libraries

Mecklenburg
Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County
310 North Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 336-2980
Have data for 13 counties

Cumberland County Public Library
300 Maiden Lane
Fayetteville, NC
(910) 483-3745

UNC - Asheville
D. Hiden Ramsey Library
1 University Heights
Asheville, NC 28804-8504
(821) 251-6336
Have data for Buncombe Co.

UNC - Wilmington
Randell Library
601 S. College Rd
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 962-3272

State of North Carolina
State Library of North Carolina
109 E. Jones St.
Raleigh, NC 27601-2807
(919) 733-3270

Appalachian University
Belk Library
Boone, NC
(828) 262-2186

Western Carolina University
Hunter Library
Cullowhee, NC
(828) 227-7316
Have data for limited area

East Carolina University
Joyner Library
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 328-6601

Duke University
Perkins Library
Flowers Dr.
Durham, NC 27706
(919) 660-5880
Have data for a limited area

Forsyth County Library
660 W. Fifth
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(336) 727-2208
Have data for a limited area

Attachment C

Division of Community Assistance Regional Office Information

Asheville Regional Office
31 College Place
Building B
Asheville, NC 28801
TEL. (828) 251-6914
FAX (828) 251- 6918

Raleigh Regional Office
4313 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699 - 4313
TEL. (919) 571-4900
FAX (919) 571-4951

Fayetteville Regional Office
225 Green Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
TEL. (910) 829-6384
FAX (910) 437-2535

Washington Regional Office
PO Box 850
102 E. 2nd Street
Washington, NC 27889-0850
TEL. (252) 974-1308
FAX (252) 974-2900

Winston Salem Regional Office
8025 North Point Blvd. Suite 256
Winston Salem, NC 27106
TEL. (336) 896-7050
FAX (336) 896-7052