

NC Farm Act of 2018: Asset Appraisal Deviation

Chelsie Cornelius Property Tax Valuation Specialist Local Government Division

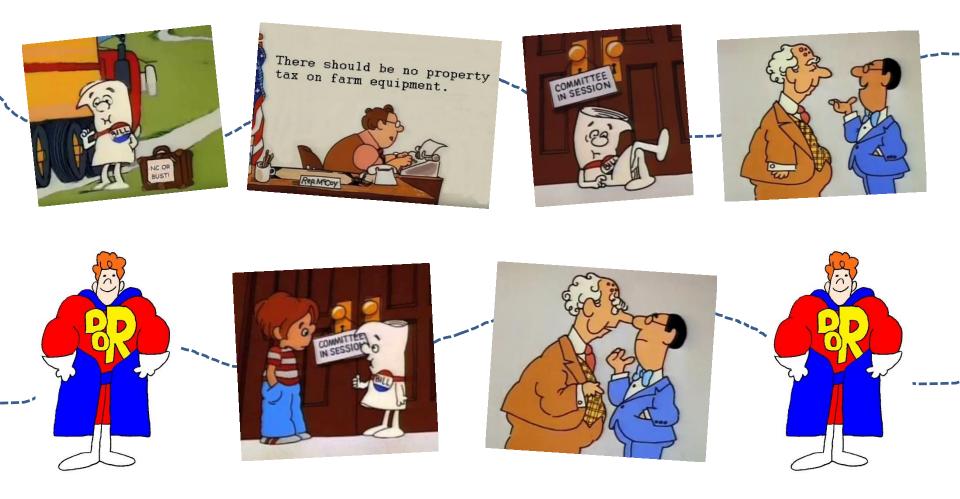


Before we begin....

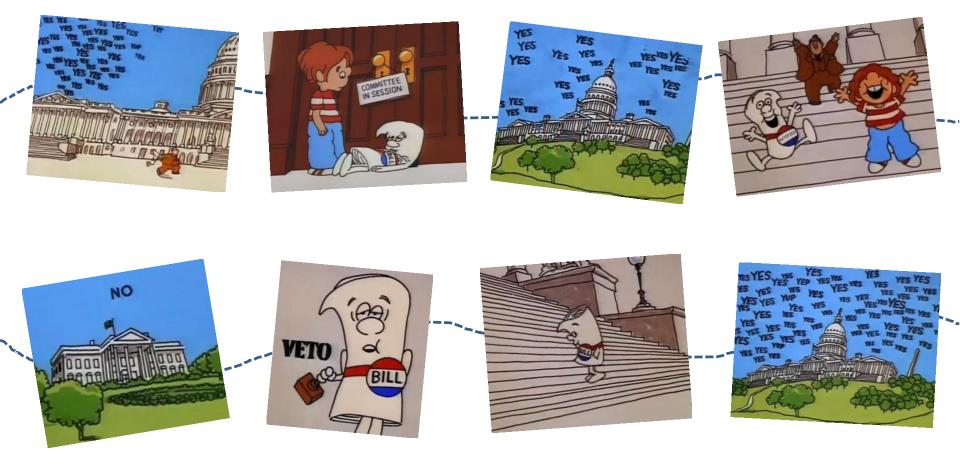
Let's go back to the Schoolhouse!



I'm just a bill...



I'm still just a bill...



I'm just a law!





Now....

What is your role in the process?

Grants Ag Commission Authority:

• To request <u>any</u> information necessary from any county tax office and NCDOR to study taxation of aging farm equipment

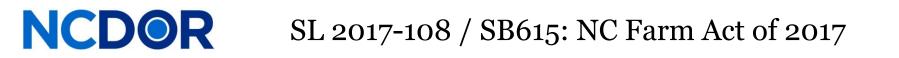
Remember!

• The Commission uses <u>data</u> to make decisions on pending legislation

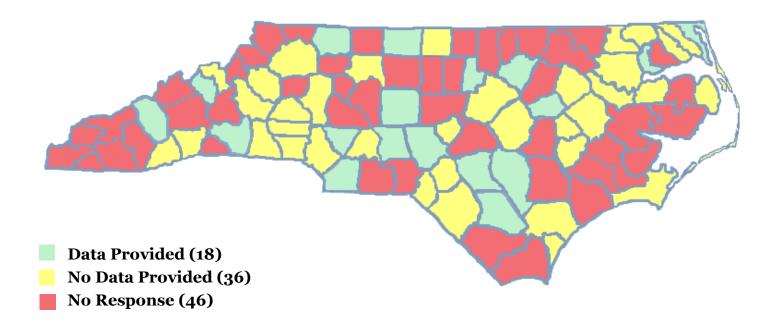


Ag Commission Directed to Study:

- Property tax abatement for aging farm machinery, possibly 10 years or older
- If excluded, whether an 80% property tax exclusion is appropriate
- Fiscal impact on local governments if excluded from taxation



County Tractor Survey Results



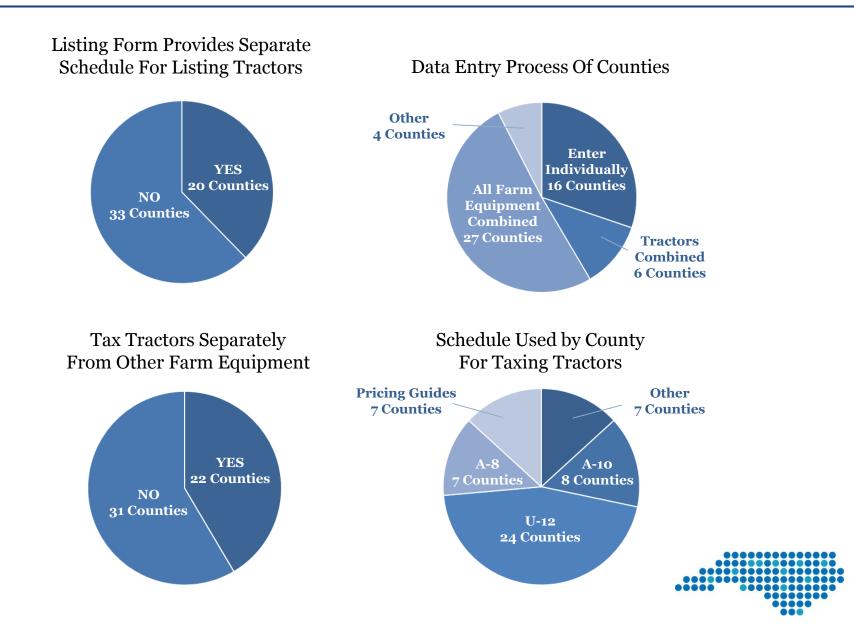


Estimated Statewide Revenue Impact

TRACTOR TYPE				
TRACTOR AGE	0-39 HP	40-99 HP	100+ HP	TOTAL
LT 5 YEARS OLD				
TRACTOR COST	\$38,936,607	\$267,855,280	\$760,217,160	\$1,067,009,047
TAX VALUE	\$30,175,870	\$207,587,842	\$589,168,299	\$826,932,011
TAX	(\$202,691)	(\$1,394,368)	(\$3,957,443)	(\$5,554,502)
80% EXCLUSION	(\$162,153)	(\$1,115,494)	(\$3,165,955)	(\$4,443,602)
GE 5 YEARS OLD				
TRACTOR COST	\$327,684,996	\$1,360,455,810	\$2,122,406,412	\$3,810,547,218
TAX VALUE	\$154,011,948	\$639,414,231	\$997,531,014	\$1,790,957,192
TAX	(\$1,034,498)	(\$4,294,945)	(\$6,700,416)	(\$12,029,859)
80% EXCLUSION	(\$827,599)	(\$3,435,956)	(\$5,360,333)	(\$9,623,888)

Note: Cost estimates based on USDA Census of Agriculture tractor inventory statistics from 2002-2012, and industry pricing guide averages. Values based on trend averages. Tax calculated based on average of all 2017-18 published county rates (0.6717).





Administrative Challenges:

Counties

- Separation of equipment
- System doesn't support individual asset entries
- Listing forms designed for mass appraisal
- Unable to determine actual age of equipment
- Taxpayer listings lack sufficient detail

Taxpayers

- Depreciation methods are different for income tax
- Don't list specific pieces of equipment
- Accounting records will need to be more detailed
- Accountants will have to prepare additional records (IRS & County)

NCDOR SL 2017-108 / SB615: Property Tax Abatement Study

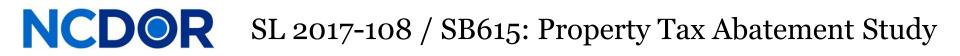
Study Challenges:

- Incorrect application of Cost Index and Depreciation Schedules
- Lack of Response
 - 54% of counties replied
- Limited Data
 - 18% of counties provided data

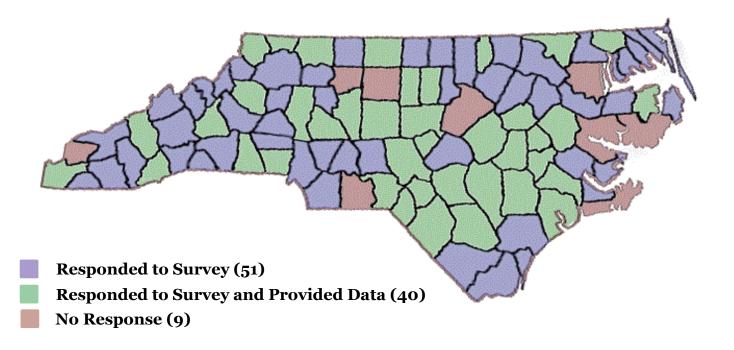
NCDOR SL 2017-108 / SB615: Property Tax Abatement Study

Commission's Additional Research Request:

- Expansion of research to all farm equipment
- Increased participation from counties
- Fiscal impact on local governments for potential farm equipment taxation changes

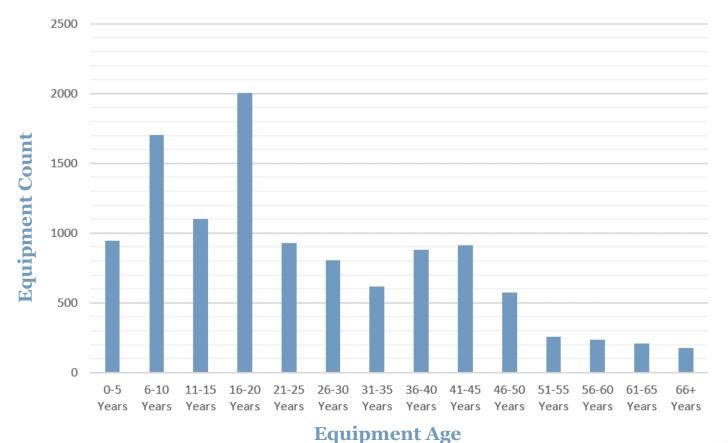


County Farm Equipment Survey Results





Farm Equipment Age Distribution



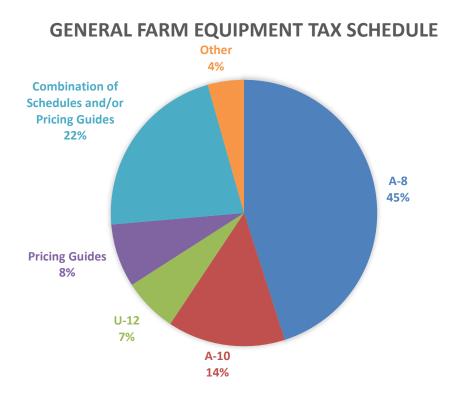
Respondent Revenue Data (40 Counties Reporting)

Year Range	Cost	Tax Value	Тах
2012-2016	\$1,050,503,516	\$719,220,556	\$5,278,713
2007-2011	\$766,495,578	\$243,199,574	\$1,714,901
2002-2006	\$481,385,159	\$133,875,737	\$919,282
1997-2001	\$286,688,339	\$79,359,143	\$558,778
1992-1996	\$154,628,577	\$44,148,006	\$317,965
1987-1991	\$78,731,087	\$22,591,929	\$164,793
1986-Older	\$80,726,796	\$23,136,723	\$157,179
Grand Total	\$2,899,159,052	\$1,265,531,668	\$9,111,611
Older Equipment Total	\$1,082,159,958	\$303,111,538	\$2,117,997

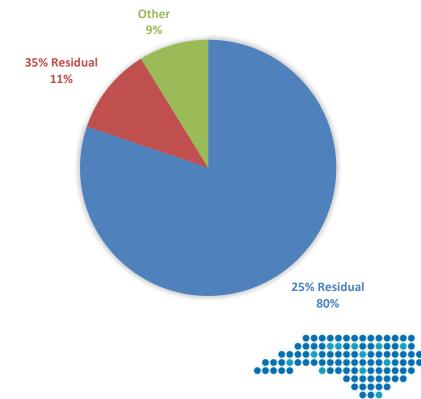
Note: Tax estimates based on published 2017-18 county tax rates. Figures represent base county tax only. Figures <u>do not</u> include additional taxes for municipalities, fire districts, special taxing districts, fees, etc.

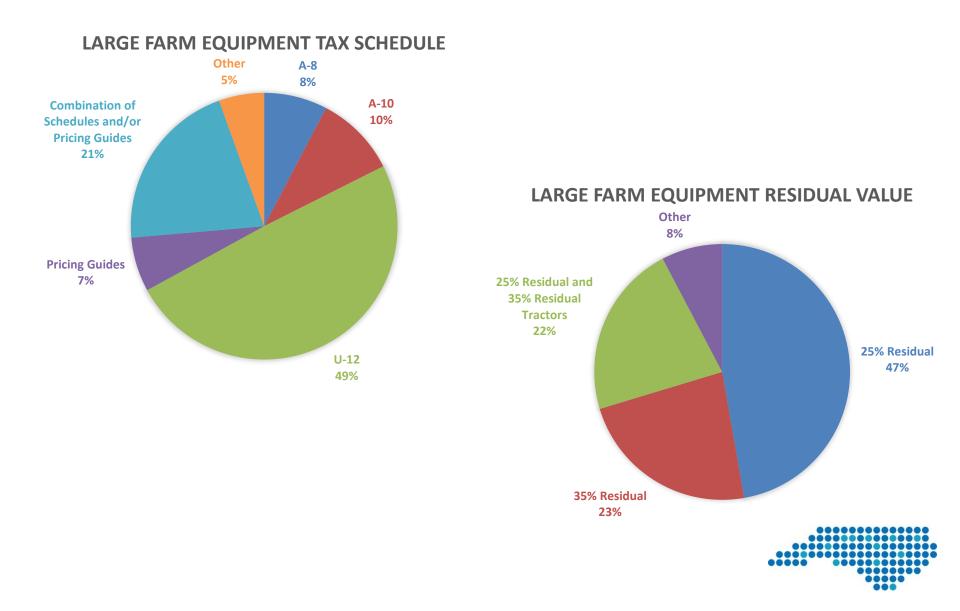






GENERAL FARM EQUIPMENT RESIDUAL VALUE

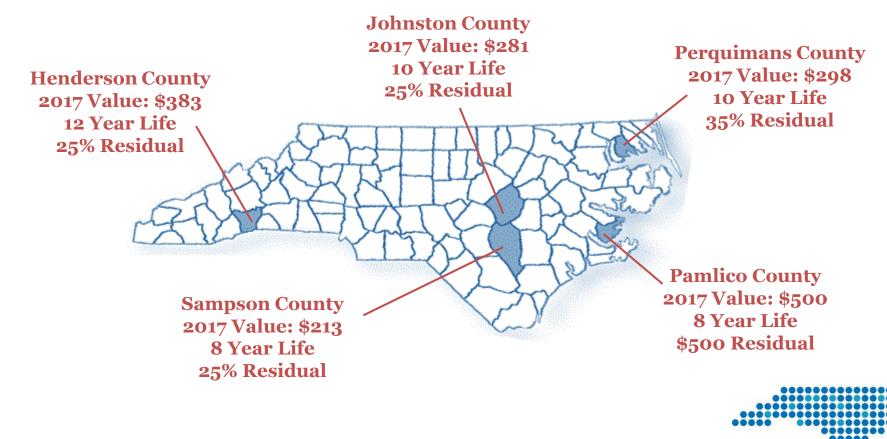


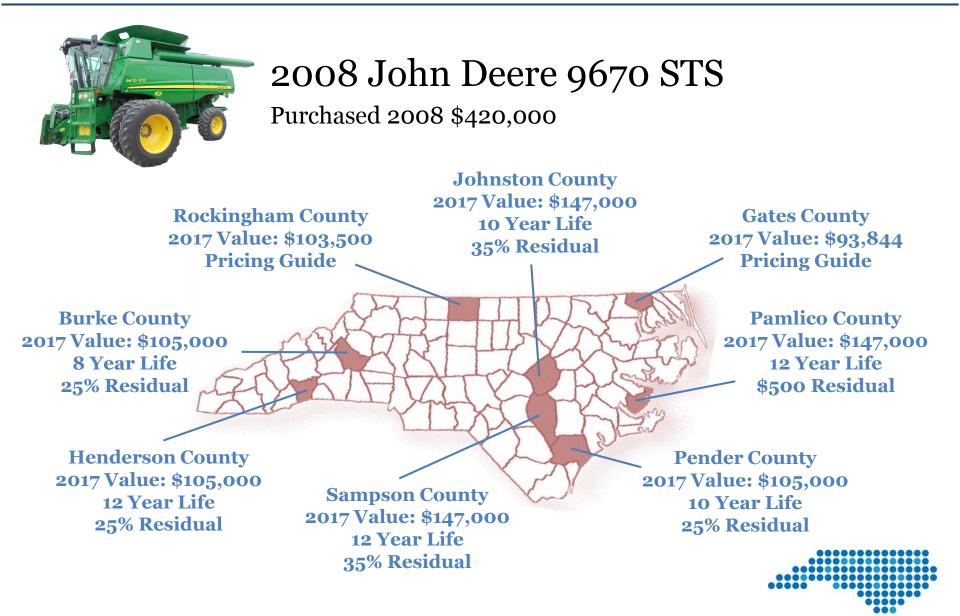




2010 Frontier BB2060

Purchased 2010 \$850

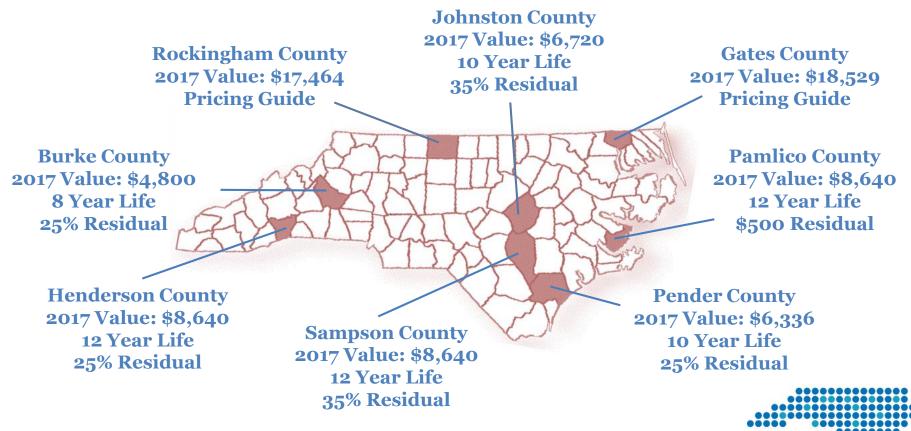






2010 John Deere 5055E

Purchased 2010 \$19,200



NCDOR SL 2017-108 / SB615: Property Tax Abatement Study

Commission's Findings:

- Lack of consistency across state
- Need for uniformity in depreciating farm equipment



Simplify the Process

- Single Schedule (A-10)
- 10 Year Life
- 25% Residual
- Apply to <u>all</u> farm and ranch equipment

Administrative Advantages:

Counties

- No need to separate equipment
- Listing forms allow for mass appraisal
- Simplified data entry
- Uniformity

Taxpayers

- Simplifies listing for taxpayer and accountants
- No need to keep separate records for IRS & County
- Uniformity

Section 14 - Amends N.C.G.S. §105-317.1

(b1) Farm Equipment. – In determining the true value of taxable farm equipment, the person making the appraisal may use any of the appraisal methods listed in subsection (a) of this section and must consider relevant taxpayer information as required under subsection (b) of this section. The Department must publish a depreciation schedule for farm equipment to assist counties that use the cost approach to appraise this equipment. The Department must make the schedule available electronically on its Web site. A county that uses a cost approach method to appraise this equipment must use the depreciation schedule published pursuant to this subsection.

N.C.G.S. §105-317.1(b1)

- Must consider all appraisal elements
- Must consider taxpayer's accounting records
- NCDOR must publish a depreciation schedule for farm equipment and place on website
- Counties that use cost approach <u>must</u> use NCDOR's schedule
- Effective for tax year beginning July 1, 2019





SL 2018-113 / SB711: NC Farm Act of 2018

Additional Statutory Changes

Section 9 - Amends N.C.G.S. §106-741

- Land records <u>**must</u>** include notice of tracts located within certain distance of qualifying farms</u>
- Failure of real estate brokers/appraisers to report does not create right to sue
- Effective June 27, 2018

Section 15 - Amends N.C.G.S. §105-278.2(a)

- No application, survey or plat required to exempt family cemeteries
- Statutory clarification law already in effect



Moving forward...

What have we learned?



Some takeaways from the Farm Act:

- Greater consistency is needed
- Increased response is needed
- Increased communication
- Proactive approach to legislation







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