



The Durham County Farmland Protection Program



The Carrington Family Farm

The Carrington Farm consists of 68.2 acres in northeastern Durham County. The Carrington's are seven siblings from a tight knit family of 15 children. The Carrington's grew up in northern Durham County, the children of sharecroppers who lived in several tenant homes in the vicinity, including a home on Isham Chambers Road, across the street from this farm they now own. The farm was one of their parent's favorite spots, and while their parents could not afford to own a farm, Bessie and Alco instilled in their children a love for the land, and encouraged them to buy the farm they looked at from across the road if it came up for sale. In 1989, seven of their adult children did just this when the property became available, buying the farm in honor of their parents.

The farm is adjacent to Camp Butner (see map on back page), and shares over one-half mile of boundary with this state owned National Guard training area. The protection of this farm as permanent farmland will help to reduce future land use conflicts with Camp Butner. Durham and Granville counties have helped prepare the *Camp Butner Land Use Plan* which seeks to address reductions in future land use conflicts around this military training base. The plan recommends the purchase of conservation easements surrounding the camp borders to prevent future conflicts with new residential development.

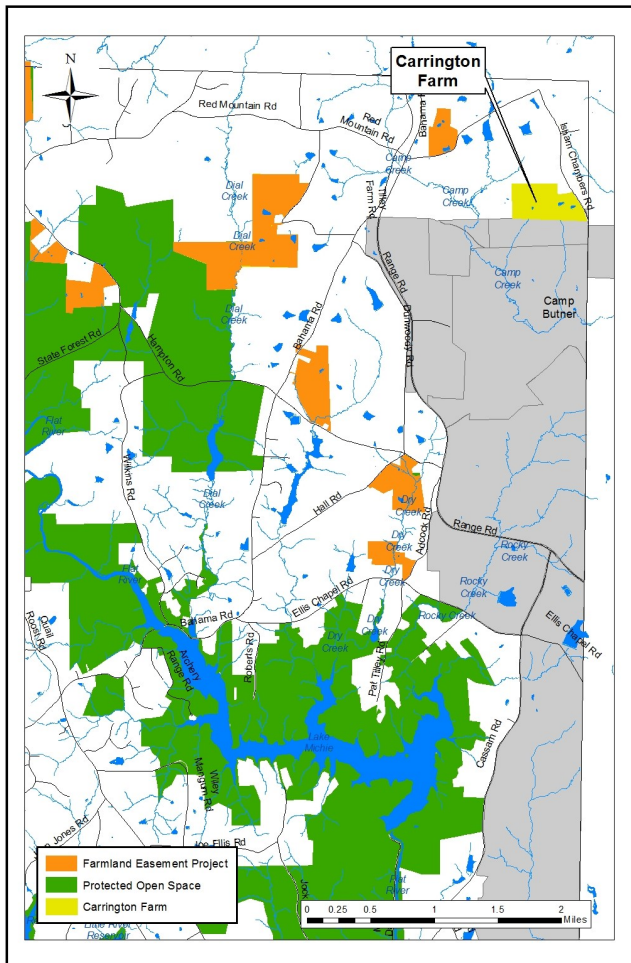


The Carrington siblings have worked hard to preserve their family farm in memory of their parents.

The Carrington's originally purchased a total of 89 acres. During their initial years of farm ownership, the siblings created homesites and built homes as their finances permitted. The homesites have been intentionally clustered in the northeastern corner to leave as much of the working farmland intact as possible. The fields are presently leased to active local farmers in order to keep the land in agricultural use. These seven siblings have now placed a permanent farmland conservation easement on 68.2 acres of the property so that they can ensure their vision and love for this farm will be protected forever.

Conservation Benefits

The easement will require that impervious surfaces be restricted to two percent, a very low amount. Furthermore, the farm must be managed with current best management practices, and maintain a current Conservation Plan with the local Soil and Water District. Approximately 44 acres of the farm are woodland, and the farm includes three small headwater ponds. The property includes multiple headwater streams totaling over 2/3 of a mile that flow to Lake Butner, a drinking water supply for Granville county residents, which then flows into the Falls Lake Reservoir, a drinking water supply for the City of Raleigh.



Wanda Carrington, the youngest of the siblings, notes: "Our parents really loved this farm and always hoped their children would find a way to buy it and keep it a farm. We bought this property to honor their wishes, and the easement with Durham County will ensure it stays a farm forever."

Financial

In 2010 the federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program awarded grant funds sufficient to pay for 50% of the anticipated cost of the conservation easement for the farm. With Durham County's support for the remaining amount, the Carrington's have ensured that land they love will remain a farm forever.

For further information on this conservation easement project or other Durham County open space projects, please contact Jane Korest, Division Head, Durham County Open Space and Real Estate at 919-560-7955, or jkorest@co.durham.nc.us

Note: The Carrington farm remains a private working farm. Please enjoy the views from the road while respecting the landowner's privacy.

