



## The Durham County Farmland Protection Program



### Prodigal Farm

Prodigal Farm is a 96 acre farm, owned by David Krabbe and Kathryn Spann in the Bahama area, at 4720 Bahama Road. The farm operates a goat dairy and cheese making facility and directly sells their cheese, cheesecakes, bread and goat meat at several restaurants and three local farmers markets including the South Durham Farmer's Market and the Durham Roots Farmers Market at Northgate Mall. The farm also ships their cheeses nationwide to specialty restaurants and has won several national awards at cheese competitions for their handcrafted cheeses. The owners worked with Durham County to permanently protect the farm with a farmland conservation easement on 91 acres which was completed in 2014.



*David Krabbe receiving some goat love!*



*Former County Commissioner Becky Heron feeds a baby goat held by Kathryn Spann during a Commissioner tour of the farm*

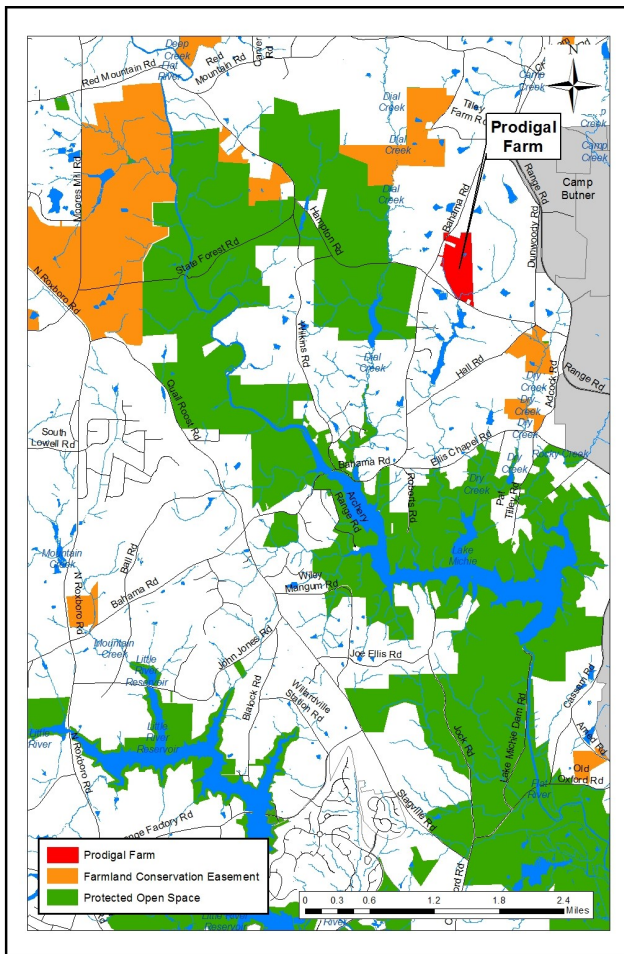
The farm's website explains their rotational grazing and animal rearing philosophies (<http://prodigalfarm.com/>) and describes the different types of cheeses made on-site. Prodigal Farm has been Animal Welfare Certified since 2010. The farm holds several public events per year when the public is welcome to meet and feed the baby goats. The farm also maintains an active Facebook page.





The owners are lovingly restoring the "Hampton Umstead Farmhouse" located on the property. This historic farmhouse was built in approximately 1890 and is listed on the Durham County Historic Architecture Inventory.

In Kathryn's words, "We see every day how precious and alive this land is. My family started farming in this part of the County 300 years ago. We envision this land still farming and vibrant in another 300 years."



## Financial Aspects

Prodigal Farm was the twelfth farmland conservation easement completed by Durham County. The County received two major grants to assist with the conservation easement on Prodigal Farm. The Federal Farm and Ranchland Program provided \$170,000 towards the acquisition cost, and the State of N.C's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund grant (ADFPTF) provided another \$139,500. With these two grants, Durham County only provided \$334 per acre towards the protection of this important farm!

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.

*Note: Prodigal Farm is still privately owned as a working farm. Please enjoy the view from the road but respect the landowner's privacy.*