
The DAILY COURIER

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Our Opinion: Preserving Farmland is Critical

Former Gov. Jim Hunt set an ambitious goal in 2009 when he challenged the people of North Carolina to preserve a million acres of open space by the year 2010.

A report out this week shows that despite strong efforts by a variety of groups, that goal has not been met.

The preservation effort did get more than 600,000 acres under protection. That is nothing to scoff at.

There is also no reason to quit trying to put more of our undeveloped land under protection.

The fact that in the same time period, more than a million acres of land went under development in North Carolina just underscores the need to continue preservation efforts.

Among the things that make North Carolina unique are its farmlands, its pastures, its wetlands and its wild areas.

These are valuable assets that need to be preserved.