

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2023**

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**HOUSE BILL 890**

Short Title: Ag Cost-Share Funds/French Broad. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Ager, Rudow, and Prather (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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April 26, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO SUPPORT LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER BASIN.  
2 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

3 **SECTION 1.(a)** Findings and Purpose. – The General Assembly finds that farmer  
4 requests for funding from the Agriculture Cost Share Program managed by local Soil and Water  
5 Conservation Districts significantly exceeded appropriations in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and  
6 that further protective actions are necessary in the Upper French Broad River basin to address  
7 bacterial contamination and sedimentation issues that contributed to the designation of 19 miles  
8 of that waterbody as impaired by the Department of Environmental Quality in 2022. The purpose  
9 of this act is to create a pilot program to assist farmers in reducing impacts from grazing livestock  
10 and mitigating the resulting bacteriological and sedimentation impacts on the Upper French  
11 Broad River.  
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13 **SECTION 1.(b)** Grant Program Established. – The sum of two million dollars  
14 (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is appropriated from the  
15 General Fund to the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control  
16 established in Article 72 of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes. These funds will be used to  
17 provide cost share assistance to farmers engaged in farming in the watershed of the Upper French  
18 Broad River in Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe, and Madison Counties for the installation  
19 of fences, alternative livestock watering systems, pasture management, and other measures  
20 deemed appropriate by the local Soil and Water Conservation District to keep livestock out of  
21 existing streams and watercourses that constitute or drain into the Upper French Broad River.

22 **SECTION 1.(c)** Requirements and Limitations. – Grants from the funds appropriated  
23 by this act are subject to the following requirements and limitations:

- 24 (1) All requirements and limitations set forth in G.S. 106-850(b), except the  
25 description of eligible measures in G.S. 106-850(b)(5).  
26 (2) In addition, applicants must demonstrate that the measures for which they seek  
27 cost share assistance would mitigate or prevent stream impacts from livestock  
28 in or adjacent to surface waters in the Upper French Broad River basin.

29 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.

