

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 20, 2008

### **Local Farmer Protects Land with Conservancy**

Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) is pleased to announce the permanent protection of 58 acres of the Kidd Farm in Surry County - its first farmland project in the Fisher River watershed. PLC purchased a conservation easement on the farm in a bargain sale (Hal Kidd donated a portion of the easement). Funding for the purchase was provided by the US Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program and conservancy funds dedicated to protecting the Yadkin River Basin. This permanent easement protects the agricultural capacity of the farm while also protecting the water quality of the Fisher River.

For Hal Kidd the decision to place his farmland in a permanent conservation easement was simple. "This land has been farmland for over 100 years and the property has my family's cemetery on it. I want to know that even after I'm gone it will still be farmland and never be cut up or developed."

The conservation easement assures the land will always be available for farm activities and not be developed for residential, industrial or commercial use. The easement also protects almost a mile of stream banks along the Fisher River.

Tabatha Ortegren, PLC's Land Protection Specialist for Surry County, is pleased to see additional farmland protected in Surry County. "We hope Mr. Kidd's project will increase awareness of the importance of local farmland preservation," says Ortegren. "The importance of local food and local farms is becoming increasingly evident in today's rapidly developing state."

Piedmont Land Conservancy is a grassroots land trust dedicated to permanently protecting important lands to conserve our region's rivers and streams, natural and scenic areas, wildlife habitat, and farm land that make the Piedmont a healthy and vibrant place to live, work and visit for present and future generations. To date, PLC has protected over 15,773 acres in 138 projects across its nine county region of Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin counties. To learn more about the Conservancy, and how you can support its efforts to protect farms, rivers, forests, wildlife habitat and urban greenways and parks, visit [www.piedmontland.org](http://www.piedmontland.org) or call (336) 691-0088.

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**Contact:** *Kevin Redding – Executive Director, Piedmont Land Conservancy*  
336-691-0088 or [kredding@piedmontland.org](mailto:kredding@piedmontland.org)