

# Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project

*Sustaining Farms and Rural Communities in the Mountains of Western North Carolina*

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## Application - 2003 ASAP Transition Program

**What:** This is the application packet for burley tobacco farmers interested in participating in the 2003 ASAP Transition Program. The ASAP 2003 Transition Program is supported by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

**Why:** Burley tobacco has long been the cornerstone commodity for WNC farmers, allowing many farms to operate profitably because of the stability in the tobacco market. The quota cuts over the past years have caused many farmers to lose the ability to make a living on their farms and each year there is considerable conversation related to a buy-out of tobacco quotas. Realizing the critical situation faced by area farmers, ASAP continues its commitment to helping farmers find other ways to make money on their farms.

**How:** The 2003 Transition Program will provide \$5,000 each to ten eligible burley tobacco farmers selected to participate. The selection of participants will be made by the ASAP Transition Program Working Group made up of ASAP staff and members representing the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**When:** Completed applications must be postmarked no later than January 16, 2003 to be considered. Notification letters will be sent out to selected participants on February 3, 2003. Letters will not be sent to applicants not selected to participate. Selected participants will meet on February 11 at A-B Technical Community College Madison County campus during the Madison Agricultural Seminar for an overview of the ASAP Transition Program and to receive the first installment payment of \$2,500.

**Who:** Farmers who have been and are currently involved with burley tobacco production, farm in Madison, Buncombe, Haywood or Yancy counties and are committed to diversifying their farming and marketing operations and to engage in sustainable production methods, are eligible to apply for participation.

**Where:** Mail your completed application to: ASAP  
564 Indigo Bunting Lane  
Marshall, North Carolina 28753-6430

**Qualifiers:** First installment funding of \$2,500 is secured. Second and third installment funding and project support is contingent on follow through of the financial commitment of the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

**Important:** The grants will be awarded to farmer projects that show innovation and can serve as examples for other farmers. These grants can **not** be used to pay off existing debt and can **not** be used for conventional tobacco production.

### Farmers participating in the ASAP Transition Program can expect to have:

1. Technical Assistance in production, organic certification (if necessary) and marketing (at no cost to the farmer). This includes farm visits and a phone hotline for questions.
2. Education and Training Opportunities through existing educational programs, field days, demonstration farms, and special workshops. These services will be provided at no cost to the farmer.
3. Direct Financial Assistance related to expenses associated with production and/or certification.
4. Links to sustainable agriculture information networks (with production and promotion support through these links).

### ASAP expects participating TP farmers to:

1. Keep accurate financial records and provide receipt documentation related to direct project expenses.
2. Develop, maintain and share enterprise records related to various crops and production systems.
3. Host farm tours and farm field days during the project period.
4. Provide guidance to other farmers seeking information and advice on similar enterprises.

# Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project

## Application -Transition Program 2003

Application postmark deadline: January 16, 2003

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County (where your farm is located or where your farming activity takes place) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Applicant Profile:

1. How did you start farming? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Briefly indicate your farming experience (number of years farming and type of farming activities, etc.)

3. What was the principle farm activity you were engaged in during 2002? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What crops, including burley tobacco, were produced on your farm during 2002? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please list crop acreages for **all** crops produced by you in 2002 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Have you received previous support from the ASAP Transition Program, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture 2002 Micro-Grants Program, the Madison County 2002 Alternative Agricultural Initiative Program or other programs supporting crop and/or marketing diversification? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, indicate the program, year of program, the project, amount of funds, and project outcomes. \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROPOSED 2003 ASAP TRANSITION PROGRAM PROJECT**

1. Please provide a description of your proposed farm project for which you are requesting funding. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Use an additional page if necessary and you may include additional appropriate information.)

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2. Indicate the background work and preparation that has prepared you to undertake the proposed project.

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3. Have you contacted other farmers engaged in activities similar to your proposed project or extension personnel familiar with your proposed project activities? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please indicate who you have contacted and the results. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Please describe the anticipated outcomes of your project. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How will this project increase your capability to continue farming, increase farm income and increase sustainability of your farming operations? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Can you complete your proposed project within one year? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, how do you expect to continue the project to completion? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What are your anticipated markets and/or marketing needs related to your proposed project?

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**BUDGET OF YOUR PROPOSED 2003 ASAP TRANSITION PROGRAM PROJECT**

Total amount requested from the 2003 ASAP Transition Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a budget and budget justification for your proposed project.  
Utilize and add additional line items as you see appropriate.

**Proposed Budget:**

**Production costs**

Item	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Travel**

Purpose (example: travel to a workshop)	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Publications**

Item	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Budget justification:** (please explain your proposed budget) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - 2003 ASAP TRANSITION PROGRAM APPLICATION**

1. What are your **current markets** (if you produce crops other than burley tobacco)?

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2. What are your current sources of agriculture **production** information?

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3. What are your current sources of agriculture **marketing** information?

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4. What type of records do you use to document your farm production? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What type of financial records do you keep for your farm operations? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What types of skills would you like to develop? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What type of resources would you like to have access to? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Do you have any past or current experience with marketing cooperatives? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please elaborate. \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Do you have an interest in marketing cooperatives? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please elaborate. \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What do you think are the three most significant farming resources in your community? (resources other than specific crops)
- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What are the three most critical issues regarding the future of successful farming in your community?
- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
12. How did you find out about the ASAP Sustainable Agriculture Transition Program? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Are you currently certified for organic production? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Do you have plans to become certified for organic production? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, when \_\_\_\_\_
15. Are you applying for financial assistance from 2003 programs for support for crop and market diversification? \_\_\_\_ If yes, indicate the program you are applying to, the project and the amount of your request.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions contact:

Aubrey Raper, Transition Program Coordinator  
 ASAP - Sustainable Agriculture Working Group and the Sustainable Agriculture Transition Program  
 828-689-4586 email: [aubrey@asapconnections.org](mailto:aubrey@asapconnections.org)

Gary F. Gumz, Director  
 Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project 564 Indigo Bunting Lane Marshall, North Carolina 28753-6430  
 828-649-9452 voice and fax email: [director@asapconnections.org](mailto:director@asapconnections.org)

**Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project: An Overview**

The Sustainable Agriculture Transition Program is part of the **Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project - ASAP**. The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project is concentrating on the following programs: farmland *preservation*, sustainable agriculture *production* systems, mountain farming *promotion* through marketing and education opportunities, and community-based sustainable agriculture *policy* development. The Sustainable Agriculture Transition Program is the major focus of the ASAP Production Working Group.

For more information visit [www.asapconnections.org](http://www.asapconnections.org)