Town of Dobson

SURRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Dobson sits within ready view of the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains in the heart of Surry County. The town is the center of government, education and commerce for much of the Yadkin Valley region—its population of nearly 1,500 swells significantly during the business day. Dobson is easily accessible to I-77 and I-74, with metro areas such as Charlotte and Winston-Salem within an easy drive. The unofficial capital of North Carolina's wine industry, Dobson has much to offer arriving businesses and residents.

Industry, Agribusiness and Government: Facing the Future

Surrounded by fertile soils and productive farms, Dobson has a rich legacy as a regional agricultural crossroads. Generations of farmers around the community have applied the latest techniques in the cultivation of livestock, poultry, Burley tobacco and grain crops. More recently, leading consumer food names like Wayne Farms have become symbols of the community's value-added agribusiness sector. One of the nation's largest poultry processors, Wayne Farms employs nearly 1,000 workers at its large Dobson plant, many of whom commute from as far away as southern Virginia. Dobson is also a government town, its employment base firmed by public employees at the local and state levels. It is Surry County's judicial and legal center and houses the headquarters of several public service utilities.

Nearby, winemaking operations such as Shelton Vineyards apply cutting-edge expertise, spectacular facilities and impressive marketing savvy to their burgeoning businesses. Complementing the burgeoning status Yadkin Valley wineries play in alternative agribusiness is their key role as assets in Dobson's visitor economy. Attractive hotels, picturesque B&Bs and warmly lit restaurants help make Dobson a popular destination for weddings and romantic getaways. In addition, the town has recently created Dobson Square park, a 2 acre family friendly park with a splash pad and amphitheater where multiple family fun events take place during the year. Those seeking outdoor adventures easily find them nearby with many trails, rivers and parks to discover. Dobson is convenient to several state parks, including Stone Mountain and Pilot Mountain. The town sits in the shadows of the renowned, well-traveled Blue Ridge Parkway, a national tourism treasure whose development began in 1935.

As a resident of Dobson, I enjoy a community of friendly, family-oriented people who take pride in offering the best of southern hospitality. As a businessman, I enjoy terrific support from the community's leaders and fellow businesses.

Paul Nordin, Complex Manager Wayne Farms, LLC

Photo: Robert Merritt

Excellence by Degrees: A Tradition of Educational Innovation

Dobson serves as a center of learning for Surry and surrounding counties. Surry Community College's 150-acre main campus provides 18,000 students with 36 associate degree, diploma and certificate programs—from accounting to welding. All academic offerings are guided by the mantra "Learn it. Do it." In recent years, the college has become a busy center for training and applied research in viticulture (grape cultivation) and enology (winemaking) technology.

Younger learners in Dobson enjoy top-notch education through the Surry County School System. About 90 percent of graduating seniors at Surry Central High School, for instance, plan to pursue post-secondary education at either two-year or four-year institutions. Dobson is also home to Surry Early College High School of Design, an innovative learning site where students earn high school diplomas and an associate's degrees in four to five years.

Culture and Recreation

Dobson residents enjoy unique outdoor recreational amenities. Mitchell River Game Land, a 1,716-acre game land located nearby, stretches across parts of Little Mountain and over nine miles of Mitchell River tributaries, making it an appealing site for hunting and fishing. The community is alive with both high school and college athletic events year round. Live music is heard outdoors from May through September at Shelton Vineyards at Sunset concert series. The vineyard also hosts a popular Harvest Festival each October.

2019 Demographics

Surry County

Population: 71,783
Median Age: 43
Median Family Income: $41,068
Median Home Value:* $121,000

Dobson

Population 1,539
Median Age: 39
Median Family Income: $33,913
Median Home Value:* $123,300

**Owner Occupied*
Source: US Census, 2019

Major Employers

Wayne Farms
Piedmont Medical
Carolina Carports

Airports

Piedmont Triad International

Six Major Carriers
16 Non-stop destinations
70 Minutes from Dobson

Charlotte Douglas International

10 Major Carriers
130 Non-stop destinations
90 Minutes from Dobson

Major Roads

I-77, I-74
US Hwy 52, US Hwy 21, US Hwy 601
NC 67, NC 89, NC 268

Distance To Regional Cities

Charlotte, NC—85 miles
Greensboro, NC—70 miles
Roanoke, VA—105 miles
Winston-Salem, NC—45 miles

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