



# TOWN OF DOBSON

## 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 have applied the latest techniques in the cultivation of livestock, poultry, Burley tobacco, and grain crops.

More recently, lead consumer food names like Wayne Farms have become symbols of the community's value-added agribusiness sector. Wayne Farms employs nearly 1,000 workers at its Dobson plant, many of whom commute from as far away as Southern Virginia.

Dobson is also a government town. It is an 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 for several public service utilities.

Nearby, winemaking operations such as Shelton Vineyards apply cutting-edge expertise, spectacular facilities, and impressive marketing savvy to their burgeoning business.

Complementing the burgeoning status local wineries play in alternative business 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 the Dobson Splash 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 can easily access nearby trails, rivers, and parks. With convenient access to both Stone Mountain and Pilot mountain. Dobson sits in the shadows of the renowned, well-traveled Blue Ridge Parkway, a national tourism treasure whose development began in 1935.

## OVERVIEW

- Dobson sits at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains at the heart of Surry county.
- It is the center of government, education, and commerce for much of the Yadkin Valley Region.
- It is easily accessible from I-77 and I-74, with metro areas of Charlotte and Winston-Salem within an easy drive.
- It's the unofficial capital of NC's wine industry.





## 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 degrees, diplomas, 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 ecology (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 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 associates degree in four to five years.

## CULTURE AND RECREATION

Dobson residents enjoy unique outdoor recreational amenities. Mitchell River Game Land, a 1716-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 young. 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.

## 2020 DEMOGRAPHICS

### SURRY COUNTY

Population: 71,359  
Median Age: 44  
Median Family Income: \$43,597  
Median Home Value: \$126,900

### DOBSON

Population: 1,646  
Median Age: 39  
Median Family Income: \$35,956  
Median Home Value: \$133,200

### MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Wayne Farms  
Piedmont Medical  
Carolina Carports

### AIRPORTS

**Piedmont Triad International**  
Six major carriers  
16-nonstop destinations  
70 minutes from Dobson

### Charlotte Douglass International

10 major carriers  
130 non-stop destinations  
90 minutes from Dobson

### MAJOR ROADS

1-77, 1-74  
US Hwy 52, US Hwy 21, US Hwy 601  
NC 67, NC 89, NC 268

### DISTANCE TO REGIONAL CITIES

Charlotte, NC- 100 miles  
Greensboro, NC- 50 miles  
Roanoke, VA- 100 miles  
Winston-Salem- 25 miles

*Dobson is a wonderful place to Live, Work, and Grow. Wayne Farms takes a great deal of pride in being partners with the communities we operate in. Dobson is rich in agriculture and small-town values and we are very proud to be a part of this community*

Matthew Wooten, Complex Manager Wayne farms, LLC



Check out our website at [surryedp.com](http://surryedp.com)  
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