

# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

JULY-DECEMBER 2025

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## Our Mission

The mission of the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the wise use and management of the natural resources within its boundaries by providing dedicated leadership, technical excellence and educational information to the citizens of Beaufort County. Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to providing equal services to all clients without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

## Recent/Upcoming Events

- NCASWCD Annual Meeting - Jan 4-6, 2026
- Poster/Essay Contest - Entries Due Feb 18, 2026
- Spring Meeting - Feb 19, 2026
- Area 5 Envirothon Training Day - Thursday March 5, 2026
- Coastal Envirothon - Tuesday March 17, 2026
- Stewardship Week April 26-May 3, 2026

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## Supervisor and Staff Update

### 2025 NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Area 5 Fall Meeting

The Area 5 Fall Meeting was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at Camp Cale. A presentation about Using AI to document farm knowledge was offered by Greg Conuit. Standing Committee Reports and Partnership Reports were given and guest speakers included Keith Larick from NC Farm Bureau and Fenton Eure from Albemarle RC&D.

Attending were Supervisors, Wayne Black and Tracy Warren; Office Manager Ann Williams; District Resource Conservation Technician Nathaniel Woolard; and Education Coordinator Melanie Simmons.

### BSWCD Supervisor/Board Chairman James Allen Retires with 30 years of Service



At the September 15, 2025, BSWCD Board meeting, Chairman James Allen announced he would be stepping down from the District's Board of Supervisors due to relocating his primary residence. Mr. Allen was recognized at the December Board Meeting with a plaque as well as words of thanks and appreciation for serving over 30 years as a supervisor for Beaufort County and over 20 years as Chairman of the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District.

# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

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## Supervisor and Staff Update

### Tracy Warren Elected as BSWCD Board Chairman

Tracy Warren, BSWCD Supervisor, was voted into the position of Chairman on September 15, 2025. Mr. Warren has been a supervisor for over 21 years and looks forward to his tenure as Chairman.



### Forrest Howell nominated to fill BSWCD Supervisor position

Forrest Howell was nominated to fill the unexpired term of James Allen and was administered his Oath of Office by Sherry Gravely at the December 15, 2025 BSWCD meeting.



# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

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## Program News

### FUNDS ANTICIPATED FOR AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM (ACSP)



For Program Year 2026, the District was allocated a total of \$50,856 from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission for the Agriculture Cost Share Program.

The District opened a batching period in September 2025 to rank and fund Cover Crop applications only. Leading up to the September 2025 batching period, a total of nine Cover Crop applications were received. Nine Cover Crop applications and contracts were approved during the September 17, 2025 Board Meeting.

The District received 10 additional Program Year 2026 ACSP applications for practices including Land Smoothing, Water Control Structures, Erosion Control, Residue and Tillage Management, and Precision Agrichemical Application. These applications will be reviewed and ranked by the District's Supervisors during their January 2026 board meeting.

### Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

For Program Year 2026 the District was allocated \$9,500 by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for AgWRAP practice installation. The District received 12 applications for Irrigation Wells. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the District's Supervisors during their January 2026 board meeting.



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## Program News

### Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP)

Phase I of the StRAP (2024) program began in October of 2025. Phase I was completed in November of 2025. A total of 39,600 linear feet of streams and creeks in Beaufort County were cleared during Phase I of the StRAP (2024) program.

Phase II of the StRAP (2024) program is scheduled to begin in September of 2026.



**StRAP**  
Streamflow Rehabilitation  
Assistance Program

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## Program News

### USDA-NRCS NEWS

*On-going Program – The Natural Resources Conservation Service and District Staff helped many individuals, land users, and units of government during our last fiscal year. Some of those required more than one visit to get a practice installed or to resolve resource problems. Among the services provided, the Beaufort County Soil Survey and aerial photography from the past were furnished to many individuals, contractors, environmental consultants, foresters, realtors, and others to assist them in making planning decisions.*



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

*This program is available to help producers and landowners install conservation practices that improve soil and water quality; practices such as cover crop, conservation tillage, nutrient management, and water control structures just to name a few. As with all our programs, an approved contract must be in place before any practices can be installed. For a complete list of practices go to <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives>. Applications can be taken all year long, but our normal deadline for upcoming year funding is around October or November. This changes annually. For more information feel free to contact the office and set up an appointment with Anthony Hester ([anthony.hester@usda.gov](mailto:anthony.hester@usda.gov)).*

# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

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## Program News

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

This program is available to help producers and landowners enhance their current operation (Cropland, Pastureland or Forestland). CSP contracts are for 5 years, and the contract payment limitation is \$300,000. The current minimum payment is \$4,000 a year. Like with all our programs, an approved contract must be in place before any practices can be installed. For more information feel free to contact the office and set up an appointment with Anthony Hester (anthony.hester@usda.gov). Applications can be taken all year long, but our normal deadline for funding is later in the year around October or November. This changes annually. More information is located at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program>



# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

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## Education News

### Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)

#### **Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was proudly represented by 4 students from Beaufort County Schools.**

Emerson Asby is a Junior at Northside High School and is the son of Josh and Alexa Asby. Chloe Black is a Senior at Northside High School and is the daughter of Wayne and Reatta Black .Ayla Dixon is a Sophomore at Washington Montessori Public Charter School is the daughter of John and Anna Dixon. Djilanny Bacha is a Junior at Washington Montessori Public Charter School and is the son of Chansie Lieval.



The Resource Conservation Workshop is a weeklong intensive study and hands on conservation workshop requiring student application and participation in a wide range of conservation topics. The workshop is intended to engage students to learn about natural resources and their management in today's environment. Students participate in field study, tours, hands-on sessions as well as evening activities that focus on college-decision making and career decisions. Awards and scholarships are won and presented to the students under several awards programs.

Emerson Asby placed 4th on the RCW Examination and received a \$75 prize. He also received one of two S Grady Lane Scholarships. Emerson, Chloe and Ayla attended the September 15, 2025 Board Meeting and made a Power Point presentation and spoke of their RCW experiences and accomplishments. Each student was appreciative of having the opportunity to attend and thanked the supervisors for their support.

# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

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## Education News

### Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)

Please share this with any rising sophomore, junior or senior that may benefit from this awesome opportunity.



**RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION  
WORKSHOP**

High school students across North Carolina are invited to attend this weeklong camp exploring careers in **natural resource conservation and agriculture!**

*Accepting rising 10-12 graders; 2026 graduates ineligible*

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY  
RALEIGH,  
NORTH CAROLINA**

**JUNE 14-19, 2026**

**HOW TO APPLY:**  
Visit your local Soil and Water Conservation District's website, or reach out directly for your district's application. Districts select students to attend and award scholarships to cover the cost (\$650 per student)!

Submit your application by **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**.



Scan QR code to find your district contact



Imagine yourself immersed in a soil pit, exploring muddy water, tracking wildlife, observing forest ecology, evaluating livestock pastures, and bringing it all together by crafting a conservation plan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [GO.NCSU.EDU/RCW](https://go.ncsu.edu/rcw)



NC STATE EXTENSION

# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

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## Education News

### Dan Windley Environmental Field Days

Over 500 fifth grade students, teachers, and chaperones, from Beaufort County attended the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's 17th Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days. The educational event was held at Goose Creek State Park November 3-5, 2025.

On each school's day, students were divided into groups to rotate throughout six stations: Aquatics, Soils, Wetlands, Forestry, Conservation, and Wildlife. Presenters were from Goose Creek State Park, NC Estuarium, Beaufort County Cooperative Extension, Domtar, USDA-Wildlife and Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as retired volunteers who specialize in their fields and other Area 5 volunteers from other districts. The District appreciates the assistance of all those involved in the learning stations and thanks Goose Creek State Park for co-sponsoring the event.

Environmental Field Days was started 38 years ago by Mr. Dan Windley from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Windley passed away in September 2006. To honor his family for their continued dedication to this yearly event, the name of the event was changed to the Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days in 2008.



# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

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## Education News

### Dan Windley Environmental Field Days



# BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

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*Board Meetings are open to the public and are held  
the 3rd Monday of each month, except  
July and August, at 5:30 p.m. in the office of the:*

*Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District  
Beaufort County Agricultural Center  
155 Airport Road  
Washington, NC 27889*

## **Board of Supervisors**



**James Allen**

Retired



**Tracy Warren**

Board Chairman



**Sid Cayton**

Supervisor



**Archie Griffin**

Supervisor



**Wayne Black**

Supervisor

***Not Pictured (Forrest Howell-Supervisor)***

## **District Staff**

***Ann Williams  
Office Manager***

***Nathaniel Woolard  
District Resource Conservation Technician***

***Melanie Simmons  
Education Coordinator***

## **USDA-NRCS**

***Anthony Hester  
Team 14  
Supervisory Soil Conservationist***

*Soil and Water...Yours for Life*