

# Beaufort Conservation News

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

July-December  
2019

## Board of Supervisors

James E. Allen, Chairman  
Pantego, NC

Joseph E. Rogers, Vice-Chairman  
Washington, NC

Tracy B. Warren, Sec.-Treas.  
Chocowinity, NC

Sid M. Cayton, Supervisor  
Aurora, NC

Archie Griffin, Supervisor  
Washington, NC

## District Staff

Ann Williams  
Office Manager

Debbie Boyd  
Education Coordinator

Nathaniel Woolard  
District Resource Specialist

## USDA-NRCS

Amy Halker  
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Anthony Hester  
Soil Conservation Technician



## Supervisors and Staff Update

*In addition to holding their regular meetings, the Supervisors also attend other meetings and training to keep informed of the priorities and upcoming issues in the field of soil and water conservation.*

### Area 5 Fall Meeting

The Area 5 Fall Meeting was held on November 14, 2019 at the Currituck Extension Center in Barco, NC. Chairman Manly West called the meeting to order and Bob White, Currituck County Commissioner Chairman, welcomed everyone to the area. A business session followed. Guest speakers included Vernon Cox, Division Director, David Williams, Division Deputy Director, Myles Payne, President of NC Association of SWCD, Bryan Evans, NC Association of SWCD Executive Director, Franklin Williams, NACD Representative, and Tim Beard, NRCS State Conservationist. Ashley Hatchell of the US Army Corp of Engineers presented a program on "Water Management."

After dinner, catered by Southland Restaurant, Length of Service Awards were presented. Attending from Beaufort County were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Joe Rogers, Office Manager, Ann Williams, District Resource Specialist, Nathaniel Woolard, and Education Coordinator, Debbie Boyd.



**Thank you for your dedication to Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District!**



**BSWCD Supervisor Tracy Warren receives a 15 year length of service award from Miles Payne and Bryan Evans.**

Thank you for your dedication to Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District!



*BSWCD Supervisor, James Allen, received his 25 year length of service award at the NC Soil and Water Conservation Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC.*

**Welcome!**



*The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that Nathaniel C. Woolard has joined us as the District Resource Specialist. Nathaniel comes to us after running his own lawn care & landscaping business for 10 years. He brings necessary experiences and knowledge to the position, having grown up living and working on his family's farm here in Beaufort County. Nathaniel is a graduate of East Carolina University and The College of the Albemarle. Nathaniel lives in the Old Ford community with his wife, Lisa. They have one child, a little boy named Asher.*

# Program News



## GETTING CONSERVATION ON THE LAND

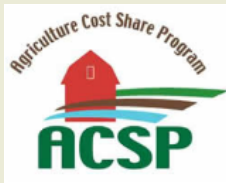
### Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

For Program Year 2020 the District was allocated \$8,721 by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for AgWRAP practice installation. The District received 4 applications for Irrigation Wells. These applications were reviewed and ranked by the District's Supervisors during their January 2020 board meeting. One Irrigation Well application was approved.

In November, the District's Supervisors approved one Regional Application for an Irrigation Pond. The application was submitted on November 22, 2019. Division Staff will contact the District by September 20, 2020 to provide the next steps in the process.



Irrigation Well  
Pump and  
House



### Funds Anticipated For Agriculture Cost Share Programs (ACSP)

For Program Year 2020, the District was allocated \$50,773 from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for Agriculture Cost Share Program. An additional \$4,580 was returned to the District, for a total of \$55,383 available for 2020 programs. The District opened a batching period in September to rank and fund Cover Crop applications only. Leading up to the September batching period, a total of 7 Cover Crop applications were received. Six Cover Crop applications and contracts were approved during the Fall of 2019.

The District received 7 additional Program Year 2020 ACSP applications for practices including Land Smoothing, Water Control Structures, Erosion Control and Precision Agrichemical Application. These applications were reviewed and ranked by the District's Supervisors during their January 2020 board meeting. All 7 applications were approved for cost share assistance.

*If you would like more information or would like to apply for funds, call the District's Office at 946-4989 (Ext. 3) or come by our office at 155 Airport Road, Washington, NC. District staff members will be available to assist you and can visit your farm to discuss solutions for protecting creeks, streams, lakes, and rivers in the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse River Basins.*



Corn Supreme cover crop in Terra Ceia



Wheat cover crop in Washington

# Program News

## 2016 Disaster Recovery Program

Phase III of the 2016 Disaster Recovery Program resumed in October 2019. The District's Board of Supervisors selected Rodriguez Debris Removal Construction as the contractor for the third phase of work. RDC began working on October 14, 2019. The contract for 80,100 linear feet of storm debris removal was completed December 28, 2019.

Drainage District	Stream	Location	Length (ft.)
	Chocowinity Creek Branch	Chocowinity	9,000
	Bear Creek	Chocowinity	6,500
	Lower Bear Creek	Chocowinity	6,000
	Maple Creek	Washington	2,800
Beaver Dam	Lower Broad Creek	Washington	14,000
	Banjo Creek	Belhaven	3,000
	Un-named Creek to the Pungo River	Belhaven	5,500
Pungo Creek	Walla Watta	Pinetown	15,000
Pungo Creek	Upper Fork Swamp	Pinetown	1,800
Albemarle	Canal No. 1	Pantego	9,500
Albemarle	Canal No. 2	Pantego	7,000

## *Pungo Creek Drainage District*

***Before***



***During/After***



Before



After



*Banjo Creek, Belhaven, NC*



*Maple Creek, Washington*



# USDA-NRCS NEWS

## **Conservation Stewardship Program - (CSP)**

USDA's largest working lands conservation program with more than 80 million acres enrolled has switched its evaluation tool from the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) to the Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool (CAET). This has significantly "raised the bar" on meeting resource concern targets necessary for an application to be accepted into the program. Once your application has been filed the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with you to evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land using the Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool. Eligible lands will be identified and the number of resource concerns that are currently meeting and not meeting stewardship thresholds will be determined. Each applicant must be meeting stewardship threshold for resource concerns on each land use at the time of application. The applicant must also agree to address one additional resource concern for each land use by the end of the contract to be eligible.



The NRCS conservation planner will present a variety of CSP conservation activities for you to consider implementing on your land, based on the resource stewardship thresholds you would like to meet or exceed. The variety of CSP conservation activities that are offered give you many options for selecting enhancements or practices that help you improve your current management system, increase your profits, and meet your stewardship goals. These improvements work naturally with your land to bring out your land's best potential.

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



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land. Currently, twenty four applications are under consideration for funding here in the Beaufort SWCD. Eighteen of these are on cropland and the six remaining applications are on woodland. These applications are in the process of being ranked and having cost estimates developed.

*EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis. EQIP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and submitted applications may be considered or evaluated in multiple funding pool opportunities. If you have a resource concern on your farm, please contact Doug Wassum or Anthony Hester.*



## ***Farm Service Agency (FSA) Update***

### **USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment for 2019 and 2020**

Agricultural producers now can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs – two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety net programs – for the 2019 and 2020 crop year. Producers have an opportunity to make a new election, Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage, on the FSA base acres for each farm. The new election is for 2019 and 2020. After crop year 2020, producers will make the program election yearly.

Signup for the 2019 crop year closes March 15, 2020 and for the 2020 crop year closes June 30, 2020. Please notify our office

### **USDA Announces Buy-Up Coverage Availability and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage Policies (NAP)**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that higher levels of coverage will be offered through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a popular safety net program, beginning April 8, 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill also increased service fees and made other changes to the program, including service fee waivers for qualified military veterans interested in obtaining NAP coverage. Please contact the local FSA Office for upcoming Application for Coverage closing deadlines.

### **USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for North Carolina Farmers Hurt by 2018, 2019 Disasters**

Agricultural producers affected by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019, including Hurricane Dorian, can apply through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+). Sign-up for this U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program began Sept. 11. The local County Office is currently processing these applications. We will call when your application is ready for review and signature. Please let us know if you have any questions.

*USDA is an equal opportunity lender, provider and employer.*

# 2019 Education 2019

## BEAUFORT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S ANNUAL DAN WINDLEY ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD DAYS



Over 600 Beaufort County fifth graders, teachers, and chaperones attended the District's 12th Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days event October 22-24, 2019. Attendees rotated through six stations including Aquatics, Soils, Vermiculture, Wetlands, Forestry, and Conservation. The District appreciates the assistance of all those involved in the learning stations and thanks Goose Creek State Park for co-sponsoring the event.

Photos courtesy of Matt Debnam,  
Washington Daily News



# Education



*2019 Northeast Regional  
Ag Expo  
Senator Bob Martin  
Eastern Agricultural Center  
November 6, 2019*



Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was represented at the 2019 Ag Expo by Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator, Board of Supervisor's Chairman, James Allen, and Nathaniel Woolard, District Resource Specialist.



NRC&S was represented by Anthony Hester, Soil Conservation Technician, Mike Boyd, AT&C, and Amy Halker, Supervisory Soil Conservationist. (not pictured)



## Beaufort SWCD seeks student to attend Conservation Workshop



The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for a Beaufort County rising sophomore, junior, or senior (present seniors not eligible) with a strong interest in natural resource conservation to attend the 2020 Resource Conservation Workshop in Raleigh, N.C. This year's workshop will be held **June 21-26, 2020** on the campus of North Carolina State University. The primary objective of the workshop is learning about natural resources and their management in today's global environment. Not only is the workshop a valuable tool in preparing students to become environmentally conscious citizens, it also provides the potential for earning scholarship monies.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html>

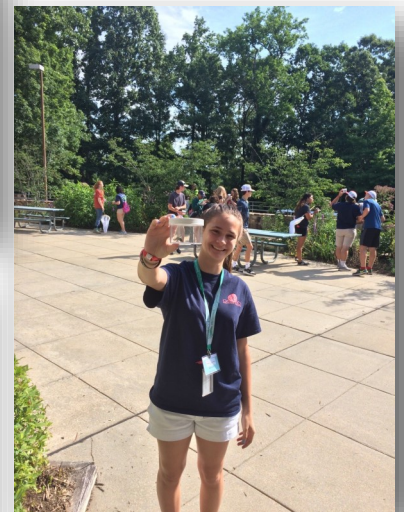
To fill out an online application, go to:

<http://ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/documents/APPLICATIONFORM.pdf>

*The deadline for applications is April 2, 2020 by 4:30.*

*Interviews will take place April 8, 2020 from 3:00-5:00 at the Beaufort SWCD Conservation Office located in the Agricultural Center, 155C Airport Road, Washington, NC.*

Contact Debbie Boyd or Ann Williams at the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's office by calling 946-4989, Extension 3 for more information.





Board meetings are open to the public and are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, except July and August, at 6:00 p.m. in the office of the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District at the Agricultural Center, 155C Airport Rd., Washington, N.C. 27889



*Board of Supervisors*

*(L to R) Archie Griffin, James Allen, Chairman, Joe Rogers, Vice-Chairman, Tracy Warren Sec./Treasurer, Sid Cayton*

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***If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more ...***



***Mission Statement:***

*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.*

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