

# Beaufort Conservation News

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

January, February, March  
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

Richard Peed  
District Resource Specialist

## USDA-NRCS

Amy Halker  
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Anthony Hester  
Soil Conservation Technician



## Supervisors and Staff Update

### Supervisor Spotlight Archie Griffin



Archie Griffin has been a member of the District's Board of Supervisors since 2018. Archie graduated from North Carolina State University in 2012 with a B.S. in Plant and Soil Sciences and in 2017 from East Carolina University with a Masters of Business Administration. Mr. Griffin actively participates in his family's farming operation, Griffin Farms Inc., where he serves as Vice-President of Operations. He is a 2016 graduate of North Carolina State's Agriculture Leadership Development program and a 2017 graduate of North Carolina State's Executive Farm Management program. In 2016 Mr. Griffin was appointed to and currently serves on the board for North Carolina Crop Improvement. He was selected as a 2018 Nuffield International Farming Scholar, giving him the opportunity to travel extensively internationally to research agriculture practices and agriculture. policy. Mr. Griffin is the son of Pam and Steve Griffin and currently resides on the outskirts of Washington in the Old Ford community.



Archie Griffin, newly elected board member, is sworn in by Marty Paramore, Clerk of Superior Court.

# 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.*

## ***NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' 2019 Annual Meeting***

The 75th Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held January 6-8, 2019 at the Sheraton Imperial at Research Triangle Park in Durham, NC. "Changing with the Future" was the theme this year. Dietrich Kilpatrick 2018 NCASWCD President, presided over the meeting. Myles Payne was sworn in as the NCASWCD 2019 President. Representing the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were James Allen and Tracy Warren, Supervisors, Ann Williams, Office Manager, and Ricky Peed, District Resource Specialist.

*"Soil and Water...Yours for Life"*



## ***NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Area 5 2019 Spring Meeting***

The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held on February 21, 2019 at the Currituck Extension Center in Barco, NC. Chairman Manly West called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the area. A business session followed. Chairman West introduced guest speakers Vernon Cox, Division Director, Miles Payne, President of NC Association of SWCD, Dru Harrison, DEA President, Bryan Evans, on behalf of Franklin Williams, NACD Representative, and Tim Beard, NRCS State Conservationist. Will Creef of the Currituck Soil and Water Conservation District spoke on **Service Districts**, and Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director of the NC Foundation of Soil and Water spoke on **Visioning the Future of Conservation Delivery**. Lunch was catered by Southland Restaurant & Catering. Attending from the District were Supervisors James Allen, Joe Rogers, Sid Cayton, and Tracy Warren; Amy Halker, Team 14 Supervisory Soil Conservationist; Ann Williams, Office Manager; and Richard Peed, District Resource Specialist.



# Program News

## GETTING CONSERVATION ON THE LAND

### Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)



For Program Year 2019, the District was allocated \$47,916 from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for ACSP practices. During October's Board meeting, six cover crop applications and contracts were approved by the District. The District received an additional seven ACSP applications for practices including cover crops, water control structures, land smoothing, and filter strips. During January, February, and March meetings, the District Board approved one application and contract for filter strips, one application and contract for land smoothing and water control structures, and one application and contract for a water control structure.

Additional ACSP activities performed during this period included annual spot checks of active contracts and addressing a maintenance issue on an agricultural pond repair contract.

### Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)



For Program Year 2019, the District was allocated \$7,500 by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for AgWRAP practices. During January and February meetings, the District's Board approved 1 application and contract for an irrigation well.

### 2019 Best Management Practices (BMP) Spot Check and Conservation Tour

The Program Year 2019 annual spot check and conservation tour of permanent practices still under maintenance for ACSP, AgWRAP, and the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) was carried out on January 28, 2019 and February 8, 2019. Six active contracts for ACSP, AgWrap, and CCAP were randomly selected for site visits to ensure that cost shared practices were being maintained as required by program regulations. In addition, attendees toured a new High Tunnel being constructed through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

### 2016 Disaster Recovery Program

Phase I and Phase II stream debris removal under this program has been completed. Additional work under Phase III has been approved but the scope of work continues to be revised to add additional areas for storm debris removal. The Division and the District continue to work toward finalizing the scope of work so that Phase III can be completed this year.



# USDA-NRCS NEWS



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

We have received three new applications for the CSP program for 2019. These applications are evaluated according to the number of national resource concerns that are currently being met or not being met as stewardship thresholds are determined. Each applicant must be meeting stewardship thresholds for at least two 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.

NRCS will present a variety of CSP conservation activities for the participant to consider implementing on the offered land, based on the resource stewardship thresholds they 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 profits, and meet your stewardship goals. These improvements work naturally with the land to bring out the land's best potential.

Once your operation has been evaluated, is found eligible for CSP, and you have chosen the conservation activities you will adopt, your application will be ranked to determine how well your current and future management system will address national, state, and local natural resource priorities. Your application will be rated against other eligible applications that have similar resource challenges in the same local ranking pool, with the highest scoring applications receiving contract offers first.



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

At this time, four applications from Beaufort County have been pre-approved. These participants are required to sign a contract and agree to implement the planned conservation practices to NRCS standards and specifications as scheduled. Starting a practice prior to written contract approval will result in the ineligibility of that practice for EQIP assistance. If you have resource concerns that need to be addressed on your land, please contact our office.



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

### **Text Messaging:**

Farmers and ranchers in North Carolina now can receive notifications from their FSA county office through text messages on their cell phone. Producers can text **NCBeaufort to FSANOW (372-669)** to subscribe to text message alerts from the Beaufort-Hyde County FSA Office. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

### **Update Your Records:**

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address or zip code or an incorrect name or business name on file, they need to be reported to our office. Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

### **Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications:**

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*. No program payment can be issued to an eligible producer, including landowners who share in the crop, without a valid CCC-941 on file in the county office.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year will not receive payments. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

# Education



Beaufort County middle school and high school students competed in the Areas 5 and 6 Coastal Envirothon held on March 19, 2019 at Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center in Craven County. Fourteen teams represented Beaufort County in the area competition. The top fourteen teams (seven high school and seven middle school) from each area advance to the State Envirothon May 3-4 at Cedarock Park in Alamance County. State winners will compete in the National Envirothon competition which will be held in North Carolina on the campus of NC State University July 28-August 2, 2019.

**Beaufort County teams qualifying for the state competition from Area 5 were the Tree O Dream and Name Unknown teams from Northside High School, Wissenschaft Kadar team from Beaufort County Early College, and Venustus team from Southside High School. The Enviroshakers, Milk Duds, and Winging It teams from Northeast Elementary will represent Beaufort County in the middle school competition.**



Other teams who competed in the Coastal Envirothon from Beaufort County were Northside High School (Marbled Salamanders), Beaufort County Early College (The Bulldogs and The Green Beans) and Pungo Christian Academy (Huskies, Southern Tides, and Baby Sharks). Beaufort County's Envirothon advisors are Daphne Cullom, Northside High; Melanie Simmons, Northeast Elementary; Crystal Crosby, Southside High; Tabitha Roberson, Beaufort County Early College; and Abby Anderson, Pungo Christian Academy.

Envirothon is the most widely recognized hands-on environmental education program in the nation. Middle and high school students immerse themselves in a year-long learning process that combines curriculum with hands-on field experiences facilitated by resource professionals such as soil scientists, foresters and wildlife specialists. This intense training culminates in a competition where teams are tested in five subject areas: soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues. Scores determine winning placements.

Locally, the Envirothon competition is coordinated by soil and water conservation districts in Areas 5 & 6 and sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. 2019 Coastal Envirothon sponsors include "Humpback Whale" - Smithfield Foods and Weyerhaeuser, "Southern Flying Squirrels" - American Skin LLC, and Nucor, and numerous local Farm Bureau offices.



*Coastal Envirothon photos are courtesy of Sabra Cahoon, Coastal Envirothon Committee Photographer.*

# Education

## Beaufort County's High School State Envirothon Qualifiers



**Tree O Dream Team-Northside High School**  
Samantha Warren, Jessica Foster, Ashley Cullom



**Name Unknown-Northside High School**  
Zachary Bond, Arie DeHoog, Madison Johnson,  
David Guy, Bryson Proctor, Justin Bell



2019



**Wissenschaft Kader-Beaufort County Early College**  
Jessica Mendoza, Ashleigh Cash, Erik Ramirez Ovando,  
Xander Mooney, and Nathan Jefferson



**Venustus-Southside High School**  
Preston Bauder, Hailey Hite, Keely Bennett,  
Darah Cole, Taven Locke

# Education

## Beaufort County's Middle School State Envirothon Qualifiers



Enviroskaters-Northeast Middle School



Milk Duds-Northeast Middle School



Winging It-Northeast Middle School

2019



2019

### 2019 Envirothon Team Training Day

The 2019 Envirothon Team Training Day at Goose Creek was held on March 7, 2019. Seventy two students from Area 5 rotated through five stations to help prepare them for the NC Coastal Envirothon competition, which was held on March 19, 2019 at Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center. Testing areas included Forestry, Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils, and Current Environmental Issues.

Schools attending were Northside High School, Southside High School, J A Holmes High School, Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience , Pungo Christian Academy, Northeast Middle School, and Chowan Middle School.

Area 5 would like to thank our presenters for the day, Soils—Matt Ricker and Stephanie Kulesza, Wildlife—Samaria Burnette and Ben Spaulding, Aquatics—Russ Chesson, Forestry—Goose Creek (Joe Martin and Joe Hawley) and Current Environmental Issues—Carrie Ortel. We would also like to thank Goose Creek State Park for hosting our event.

# Education

## Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Announces Contest Winners

“The Living Soil” was the theme for the 2019 poster and essay contests sponsored by the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. The poster contest was open to all students in third through fifth grades in the county. The essay contest was for sixth graders only.

Area schools submitting posters and/or essays were John Small, Chocowinity Middle, Northeast, Pungo Christian Academy, and Unity Christian Academy.

Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator with Beaufort Soil and Water, presented ribbons and cash prizes to the poster winners at a recent gathering held at the Agricultural Center in Washington. The teachers who submitted first place posters also received cash prizes. In addition to their awards, the first-place winners’ posters from Beaufort County competed with other districts in the Area 5 competition, which includes sixteen counties. Jake Kozemchak, a student at Unity Christian Academy, received third place and a cash prize in the area competition.

Next year’s contest theme will be *Wetlands are Wonderful*.

## 2019 Beaufort Soil and Water Contest Winners



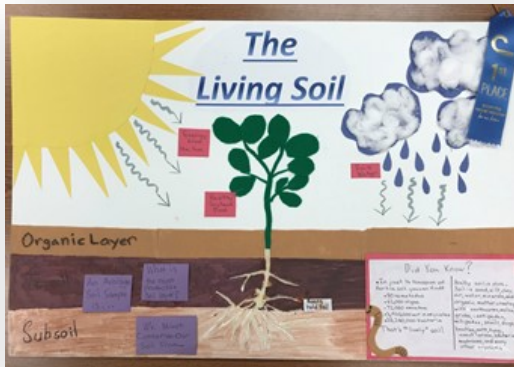
Pictured with their ribbon, prize money, and a copy of their poster are: (l to r) Kaitlin Mason (Unity), Alison Garcia (John Small), Allison White (John Small), Lisa Moore, Art Teacher (John Small), Jake Kozemchak (Unity), Marshall Ricks (Pungo), Landen Sparks (Pungo), and Susan Knox, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher (Pungo). Not pictured is Angie Kolibek, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher (Unity).

# Education

## 2019 Beaufort SWCD Poster Contest Results

### "The Living Soil"

#### 4th Grade Posters



**1st Place**

**Marshall Ricks**

Pungo Christian Academy

Teacher: Susan Knox



**2nd Place**

**Landen Sparks**

Pungo Christian Academy

Teacher: Susan Knox



**3rd Place**

**Allison White**

John Small

Art Teacher: Lisa Moore

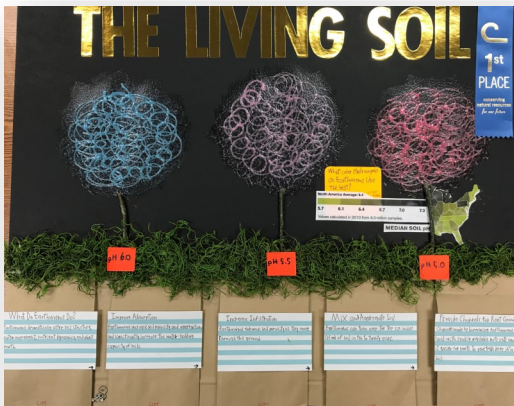


# Education

## 2019 Beaufort SWCD Poster Contest Results

### “The Living Soil”

#### 5th Grade Posters



#### 1st Place

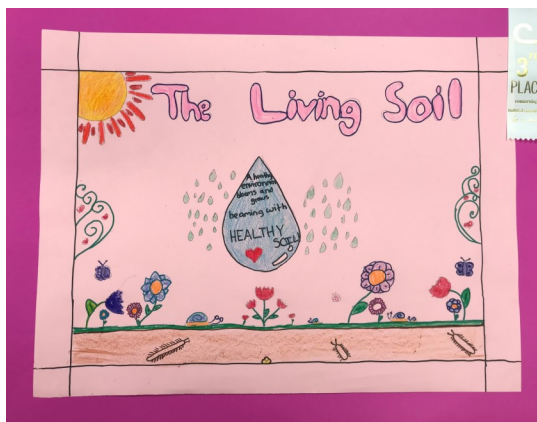
**Jake Kozemchak**  
Unity Christian Academy  
Teacher: Angie Kolibabek

Jake also received 3rd Place  
in the Area 5 (16 counties)  
judging.



#### 2nd Place

**Kaitlin Mason**  
Unity Christian Academy  
Teacher: Angie Kolibabek



#### 3rd Place

**Alison Garcia**  
John Small  
Art Teacher: Lisa Moore



## **2019 Beaufort SWCD Poster/Essay Contest Results**

### **“The Living Soil”**

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **Third Grade Poster**

**Northeast:** *Laney Brinn, Cameron Reiners*  
**(Art Teacher: Kathy Brinn)**

##### **Fourth Grade Poster**

**John Small:** *Amy Ruth Hodges, Alan Velez, Carly Ricklefs, Garrett Harding, Alison Groover*  
**(Art Teacher: Lisa Moore)**

**Pungo Christian:** *Rylan Bowie, Trent Armstrong, Cate Calloway Lee, Morgan Carowan, Emily Copes*  
**(Teacher: Susan Knox)**

**Northeast:** *Ella Smith, Ariadna Gonzalez Perez*  
**(Art Teacher: Kathy Brinn)**

##### **Fifth Grade Poster**

**John Small:** *Jaki Juarez, Rochelle Moore*  
**(Art Teacher: Lisa Moore)**

**Unity Christian:** *Yaheli Farladansky, Hailey Carawan*  
**(Teacher: Angie Kolibabek)**

**Chocowinity Middle:** *Jonathan Salas, Brandon Cuozzo*  
**(Art Teacher: Heather Summers)**

**Northeast:** *Peyton Shrom, Ty Reiners*  
**(Art Teacher: Kathy Brinn)**

##### **Sixth Grade Essay**

**Chocowinity Middle:** *Tanith Huggins, Brisa Pichardo*  
**(Teacher: Melanie Taylor)**

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## ***Board of Supervisors***

***James Allen, Chairman***

***Joe Rogers, Vice-Chairman***

***Tracy Warren Sec./Treasurer***

***Sid Cayton, Supervisor***

***Archie Griffin, Supervisor***

**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**



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## **Upcoming Education Events**

**July 28-August 2**

**North American Envirothon @ NC State**

**June 23-28**










**Resource Conservation Workshop @ NC State**



### ***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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