

Beaufort Conservation News



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

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Nathaniel Woolard
District Resource Specialist

Debbie Boyd
Education Coordinator

USDA-NRCS

Bill Gardiner
Team 14
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Anthony Hester
Soil Conservation Technician



Annual Report

(July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020)

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the state. Annual and long-range programs of conservation and development within the District boundaries are developed and carried out with the assistance of local, state, and federal agencies. The District publishes an annual report in the fall of each year.

Supervisors and Staff Update

In addition to holding their regular meetings, the Supervisors also attend other meetings 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' Area 5 2019 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 Corps 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.



Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Tracy Warren (left) receives his 15 year length of service award at the Area 5 2019 Fall Meeting. Supervisor James Allen (right) receives his 25 year length of service award at the 2020 Annual Meeting.



**NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts'
2020 Annual Meeting**



The 76th Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held January 5-7, 2020 at the Hilton Charlotte University Place in Charlotte, NC. "Communication-Telling Your Story" was the theme this year. Myles Payne, 2019 NCASWCD President, presided over the meeting. Samuel Green, Jr. was sworn in as the NCASWCD 2020 President. Representing the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were James Allen and Tracy Warren, Supervisors, and Nathaniel Woolard, District Resource Specialist.

**NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Area 5
2020 Spring Meeting**

The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held on February 20, 2020 at the Cale Retreat and Conference Center in Hertford, NC. Chairman Manly West called the meeting to order. Susan Buzard, Interim Program Director for the Cale Retreat and Conference Center, welcomed everyone to the area. A business session followed.



Chairman West introduced morning guest speakers Stan Riggs, Coastal & Marine Geologist, who spoke on the topic of Control over the Lower Roanoke River Flooding, and Bryan Evans, NC Association Executive Director, who spoke on The Visioning Delivery System. Reports were given by Vernon Cox, Division Director, Blount Knowles, 1st Vice-President of the NC Association of SWCD, representing Samuel Green, NC Association of SWCD President, Franklin Williams, NACD Representative, and Tim Beard, NRCS State Conservationist. Lunch was catered by Southland Restaurant and Catering.

Attending from the District were Supervisors James Allen and Joe Rogers; Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator; and Rodney Woolard, NCDA & CS Farmland Preservation Field Specialist and NRCS ATAC.

"Soil and Water...Yours for Life"



Staff Changes



Nathaniel C. Woolard joined Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District in August 2019 as District Resource Specialist.



Bill Gardiner joined Team 14 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in May 2020 as the Supervisory Soil Conservationist.



Program News

Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)

The District has participated in the ACSP program since 1987. It has been, and continues to be, a superb means of helping farmers and owners of agricultural land apply conservation measures to assist in protecting our waterways and the environment. For Program Year 2020, the District was allocated a total of \$66,010 from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Cover Crop applications were taken until the September 23, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting where five Cover Crop applications and contracts were approved. Applications for all other practices were accepted until the January 29, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting. During the meeting, eight applications were approved for practices including cropland conversion, land smoothing, water control structures, precision agricultural application, and crop residue management. All eight contracts were approved at the February 24, 2020 District Board of Supervisors meeting.



Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

Mandated in 2011, AgWRAP was established to assist farmers and landowners in increasing water use efficiency and availability on agricultural land and to conserve and protect water resources using best management practices. For Program Year 2020, the District was allocated \$48,154 by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. On January 29, 2020, during a meeting of the District's Board of Supervisors, AgWRAP applications were ranked primarily by their impact on water use efficiency. Four irrigation well applications and one agricultural pond application were approved. All five contracts were approved at the April 20, 2020 District Board of Supervisors meeting.

2016 Disaster Recovery Program

With the addition of a new District Resource Specialist in August 2019, Phase III of this stream debris removal project was readdressed. Phase III was completed in December 2019. A Phase IV Scope of Work is being addressed.

2020 Watershed Restoration Project

In April of 2020, Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded \$334,554.00 for the clean out of storm debris from various waterways associated with Hurricanes Michael, Florence, and Dorian. Phase I of this debris clean up project is set to begin in October of 2020.

Beaufort County Beaver Bounty Program



Established in 2004, the county bounty program reimburses registered landowners \$10 per beaver tail for beavers trapped on their property. Five beaver tails were delivered to the District's office during Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Since the program's establishment, 76 land owners and 24 trappers have registered for participation in the program. A total of \$6,110 has been paid to land owners for 611 beavers.



USDA-NRCS NEWS



On-going Program – The Natural Resources Conservation Service and District Staff provided assistance to many individuals, land users, and units of government during Fiscal Year 2020. 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. A total of 6,163 acres were planned and 7,219 acres were benefited by the application of a conservation practice. The following conservation practices were reported during the fiscal year: cover crop – 930 acres, and 10 water control structures.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

We received 35 EQIP applications and 9 were approved for funding. The funded applications involved cover crop. Total funding amounted to \$318,570. In order to be considered for funding for FY 2021 funds, applicants must have an active conservation plan on file. If you are interested in pursuing funding for your project, contact NRCS to schedule a planning appointment.



Conservation Stewardship Program - (CSP)



The current fiscal year saw the funding of 4 applications. These applications involved the producer adopting a new practice such as cover crop. CSP contracts are for 5 years and the annual payment limitation is \$40,000. Payment rates are now based on payment schedules much like EQIP. Through a new computer application called the Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool (CAET), resource concerns and enhancements, which address those concerns, must be chosen. The enhancements do not have to be performed on all enrolled acres, but that does influence funding received to carry out those enhancements. Producers who no-till the majority of the acres that they tend rank well. Interested producers are encouraged to contact NRCS with their inquiries.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

By allowing the USDA to work in partnership with state and local interests to meet specific conservation objectives, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) expands the effectiveness of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CREP utilizes federal and state resources to achieve long-term voluntary protection of environmentally sensitive cropland and pastureland. Water quality and wildlife habitats are improved and protected through the implementation of forested riparian buffers, grass filter strips, and wetland restoration. Per programmatic requirements, signs have been placed along the boundaries of 30-year and permanent easements. A total of 2,039 acres are enrolled in the program in Beaufort County.



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

This program is basically the same as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), but contains an added practice of shallow water area for wildlife (duck ponds). There were 2 new applications in FY 2020.

2019

Education

2019

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's 2019 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.



2019 Ag Expo Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center



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.



NRCS was represented by Anthony Hester, Soil Conservation Technician, Mike Boyd, ATAC, and Amy Halker, Team 14 Supervisory Soil Conservationist. (not pictured)

2020 Education 2020

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's 2020 Poster/Essay Contests

Wetlands are Wonderful was the theme for the 2020 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 Beaufort County. The essay contest was for sixth graders only.

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing, Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator with Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation, presented ribbons and cash prizes to the poster winners outside during appointed times 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. Lilly Prince, a fourth grade student at Pungo Christian Academy, and Aubin Sadler, a fifth grade student at Unity Christian Academy, received first place and a cash prize in the area poster competition. Landon Brame, a sixth grade student at Unity Christian Academy, received first place in both the area and state essay competitions. Congratulations to all of our winners!

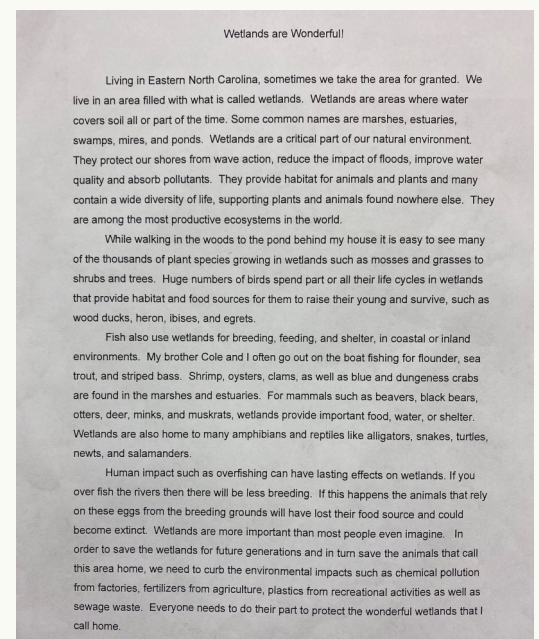
**4th Grade
District and Area
Winning Poster
by Lilly Prince**



**5th Grade
District and Area
Winning Poster
by Aubin Sadler**



**6th Grade
District, Area, and State
Winning Essay
By Landon Brame**





2020 Area 5 Envirothon Training Day Goose Creek State Park

An Area 5 Envirothon Training Day was held on March 5, 2020 at Goose Creek State Park. Eighty-two students from area Middle Schools and High Schools attended the event to prepare for regional and state Envirothon events. Middle School students and advisors attended from Oakwood Middle School in Pitt County, Central Middle School in Gates County, and Northeast Middle School in Beaufort County. High School students and advisors attended from Oakwood High School in Pitt County, Northside High School in Beaufort County, Beaufort County Early College, and Mattamuskeet Early College. A special thank you to our presenters, Russ Chesson, Carl Crozier, Amanda Nelson, Joe Hawley, Joe Martin, Joni Young-Torres, Carrie Ortel, and to Goose Creek State Park for hosting the event.

2020 Education Events Cancelled due to COVID-19 Virus

Coastal and State Envirothons
Resource Conservation Workshop



Board meetings are open to the public and are held the 3rd Monday of each month, except July and August, at 6:00 p.m. in the office of the:

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















Board of Supervisors

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

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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