

2014

Stanly County Soil and Water Conservation District



Annual Report

The Stanly County Soil and Water Conservation District proudly presents our 2014 Annual Report. Partnering with local, state and federal governments, we offer cost sharing opportunities and economic incentives to Stanly County land-owners, with an emphasis on educating the public about conservation practices. We believe conservation education nurtures an attitude of good stewardship in the hearts and minds of children who will be future caretakers of our natural resources.

Fiscal Year 2013-2014 was a year of much progress towards preserving our precious soil and water resources. However, much work remains to be done. We are confident that the upcoming year will bring us even closer to our goal of making all citizens of Stanly County more aware of how important our resources are to our existence and of the programs and services available to them through our office.

Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District



The Stanly SWCD Board of Supervisors hold regular monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m. at Judy's Restaurant in Albemarle. The meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in conservation is encouraged to attend. Any change in meeting dates is posted at the SWCD office and on our website, www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water.

Mission Statement

The mission of Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide education, information and technical assistance to citizens of Stanly County for the conservation of our soil and water resources.

*Soil and Water
~ Yours for Life*

History of Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District



I, THAD EURE, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina, in compliance with Section 14 of Chapter 139 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, do hereby certify that an application for the creation of a soil conservation district has been filed by the duly appointed supervisors of the STANLY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT in the office of the Secretary of State, said district being one of five such districts formed out of the BROWN CREEK SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, the latter having been organized and having filed appropriate documents in this office on August 14, 1937; that the name STANLY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT does not conflict with and is not deceptively similar or identical to that of any other soil conservation district in this State; that there is attached to said application a statement by the Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee, all of which have been examined and are found to comply with the requirements set forth in the said Section 14 of Chapter 139 of the General Statutes providing for the dividing of large soil conservation districts into two or more districts; and that the organization of STANLY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT has been duly completed incident to its being constituted a governmental subdivision of this State and a body corporate and politic, all as provided in the Act herein before referred to.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal.

DONE IN OFFICE at Raleigh, this 16th day of October, 1961.



Secretary of State

“In the early 1930s, along with the greatest depression this nation ever experienced, came an equally unparalleled ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. Following a severe and sustained drought in the Great Plains, the region's soil began to erode and blow away, creating huge black dust storms that blotted out the sun and swallowed the countryside. Thousands of “dust refugees” left the black fog to seek better lives. But the storms stretched across the nation. They reached south to Texas and east to New York. Dust even sifted into the White House and onto the desk of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On Capitol Hill, while testifying about the erosion problem, soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Because nearly three-fourths of the continental United States is privately owned, Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private land. In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts. Brown Creek Soil

& Water Conservation District in North Carolina was the first district established. The movement caught on across the country with district-enabling legislation passed in every state. Today, the country is blanketed with nearly 3,000 conservation districts.” from <http://www.nacdnet.org>

The rest, as they say, is history. Our history. The Brown Creek District included Anson, Stanly, Union, Montgomery and Richmond Counties. “On June 28, 1961, the State Soil Conservation Committee approved the application to divide the Brown Creek District into five one-county districts. On the basis of the information contained in the petition, the State Committee has determined the operation of the Stanly Soil Conservation District to be administratively practicable and feasible.” David S. Weaver, Chairman of the North Carolina State Conservation Committee to J. T. Mabry of Norwood.

As can be seen in the document above, Thad Eure, Secretary of State, signed into being the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District on October 16, 1961

New Faces at Stanly SWCD

There are three new faces at the SWCD office...

Grayson Sarif is our new Ag Cost Share Technician. Grayson graduated from Clemson University in May of 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Natural Resources with a Concentration in Conservation Biology. He was previously employed as a Water Quality Technician in Montgomery County.



Rita Little began her new job as Administrative Education Coordinator in October of 2013. She was previously employed by Stanly Early College as Administrative Assistant and Student Information Data Manager.



Thomas Privott spent his summer as a soil conservation student intern for USDA NRCS. Thomas, a native of Nash County, is a rising senior at North Carolina State University pursuing a degree in Natural Resources with a soil and water systems concentration.

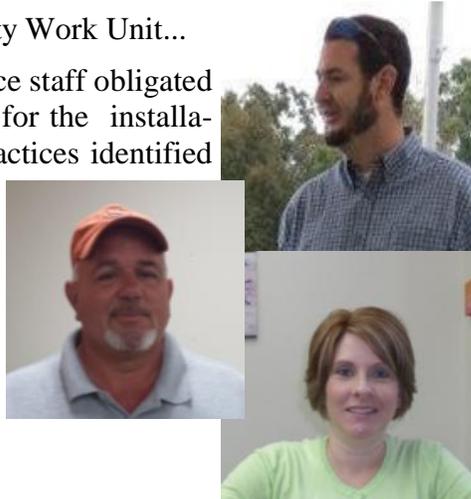


Natural Resources Conservation Service

Annual Contract Report for Stanly County Work Unit...

For 2013 fiscal year the local NRCS office staff obligated 21 contracts for a total of \$323,759.62 for the installation or adoption of best management practices identified in a Conservation Plan to address natural resource concerns on 2417 acres of working land within the Montgomery/Stanly work unit.

Note: Data is not released as officially recorded information.



No-Till Corn Yield Winner

Sunnybrook Farms

Jed Brooks and Butch Brooks were the winners of the no-till corn contest this year. Their yield was **261.22 bushels per acre**.

Sunnybrook Farms placed 2nd in the Southern Piedmont Dryland/Non-Irrigated Division. They also took 2nd place for the Tri-County Corn Yield Contest. Sunnybrook Farms was recognized as a 225 bushel club by the NC Corn Producers Association.



District Supervisors

Terry Blalock
Chairman

John Pickler
Vice-Chairman

Richard Clayton, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer

Curtis Furr
Supervisor

June Mabry
Supervisor

Board Advisor

W. Chester Lowder

District Staff

Grayson Sarif
Cost Share Technician

Rita Little
Administrative Education
Coordinator

NRCS Staff

Nathan Lowder
District Conservationist

Miranda McDaniel
ATAC Administrative
Support Assistant

Lin Taylor
Civil Engineer
Technician

District Funding

Local districts, such as Stanly SWCD, receive funding from federal, state and local governments and independent fund-raising efforts. Funding sources include:

Local: Stanly SWCD receives funding from the Stanly County government which includes appropriations for office space, personnel, equipment, training and supplies.

State: North Carolina provides technical and administrative assistance and some equipment through the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Financial assistance is also provided by the state and administered by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission with staff assistance from the division. Funding is available through:

- Matching funds to districts
- Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)
- Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Federal: The Natural Resource Conservation Service provides Stanly SWCD with personnel, technical assistance and equipment in support of district conservation programs. This assistance comes through federally initiated conservation programs implemented through the local districts.

Independent Fund-Raising: Stanly SWCD sells pine tree seedlings once a year and rents a no-till drill to help fund education and conservation materials. Newsletter ads are also sold to help defray the cost of printing our quarterly newsletter.

All funds received by a district are public monies. As a governmental body, Stanly SWCD properly administers and accounts for all funds.

Complimentary District Services

Each year the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District provides numerous services to local producers and the general public at no cost. These services include but are not limited to:

- Soil sample boxes and information
- Burning permits
- Writing waste utilization plans
- Creating and updating certified conservation plans
- Resource conservation consultations
- Field Days and Ag Awareness Day
- Educational presentations for school age children and civic organizations
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The SWCD also provides technical assistance to producers looking to update or retrofit best management practices on their farms.

Public Information Initiatives

Newsletter - The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District publishes a quarterly newsletter in January, April, July and October. Total circulation for each issue is approximately 400. The newsletter provides information about District activities as well as programs available through various agencies. Advertising opportunities are available for businesses and individuals by purchasing ad space. The ads print in every newsletter which is also posted on our District website www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water Newsletters may also be received by email. To sign up, contact us at rlittle@stanlycountync.gov.

Local Newspaper - Much of the District's success is dependent upon local newspaper coverage and communications. The District is very appreciative of the excellent cooperation from the Stanly News and Press and the Weekly Post. This is an excellent way to stay informed of Soil and Water programs and opportunities.

Partners in Conservation

The District is charged with the responsibility of educating citizens, promoting soil and water conservation, and establishing conservation programs in the county. This task would not be possible without the cooperation of other agencies and local units of government. We would like to thank the following agencies for their services and support:

- Stanly County Board of Commissioners
- Stanly County Manager and administrative personnel
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- NC Cooperative Extension Service
- NC Forest Service
- Stanly Agri Civic Center Staff
- Rural Economic and Community Development Service
- NC Division of Soil and Water
- NC Association of Soil and Water Districts
- NC Department of Agriculture
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Stanly County Schools
- Area VIII Soil and Water Conservation Districts



Thank you to our Newsletter Sponsors

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Culp Lumber Company
Uwharrie Bank
Enterprise Rendering
Mauney Feed Mill
Newport Landowner Services
Albemarle Printers
Strategic Investment Advisors

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program Year 2014

The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District was allocated \$51,994 for the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACPS), \$15,000 for the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), and \$1,763 for the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). All in all, the District received \$68,757 from the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water in 2014.

Program Year 2014 \$68,757 allocated

Agriculture Cost Share (ACSP) - 2 contracts written

1	Litter Shed	\$50,625	97% of allocation	100% complete
1	Gutters	\$1,349	3% of allocation	0% complete
		\$20	Returned to State	

Agricultural Water Resource Assistance Program (AgWRAP) - 1 contract written

1	Water Supply Pond	\$15,000	100% of allocation	0% complete
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Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) - 1 contract written

1	Cistern	\$1,700	96% of allocation	0% complete
		\$63	Returned to State	

Program Year 2013 \$60,460 allocated

\$11,146	Returned to State	18%
\$14,835	work completed	26%
\$34,010	work to be completed	56%

Program Year 2012 \$87,846 allocated

\$11,625	Returned to State	13%
\$76,220	work completed	87%

The District performed required spot checks on 5% of all active NCACSP contracts. Five farms were checked and found to be compliant .

Voluntary Agricultural District

The Stanly SWCD assists the Agricultural Advisory Board with the administration of the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD). During the 2014 fiscal year, three new farms were added to the VAD program. The new approved applications totaled 709.84 acres. Total acres, as of July 31, 2014 in the VAD in Stanly County is 14,501.54 with 70 farms participating.

Ag Cost Share Programs Available

Soil and Water Conservation Districts implement four cost share programs, all of which share a common goal of increasing water quality. These programs include the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The District accepts applications year round for each of these programs. Received applications are ranked based on various criteria and conservation concerns. The highest ranking application is provided assistance to install best management practices.

ACSP-The major cause of water quality problems in the area is non-point source pollution. Damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The Agriculture Cost Share Program helps address nonpoint source pollution by providing technical and financial resources to local producers to aid in the installation of various best management practices.

AgWRAP-Water quantity concerns are also a point of focus for the District. The Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was recently created in order to address these issues. Producer concerns include water to be used for cropland irrigation, and livestock watering. Multiple best management practices are available to assist producers increase their water use efficiency, availability and storage.

CCAP-Nonpoint source pollution stemming from non agricultural sources is also addressed through cost share programs. The Community Conservation Assistance Program is available to address water quality issues that are present in urban, suburban and rural areas. Assistance is available to implement best management practices which address and increase overall water quality.

CREP-Lastly, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is available to protect environmentally sensitive cropland and marginal pasture land long term. This is accomplished through 10, 15, and 30 year conservation easements.

Animal Waste Storage Structure



Cistern



Livestock Exclusion



Cattle Water Tank



Lagoon Closure - After



Lagoon Closure - Before

Education Programs and Initiatives

Agriculture Awareness Days

Stanly County is a rural community, yet many youth are unaware of the source of their food and fiber. Stanly SWCD participated in the 9th annual Ag-Awareness Days, hosted by the NC Cooperative Extension, to educate local students about the different aspects of agriculture and the environment of Stanly County. We partnered with various agencies and volunteers to provide eleven hands-on stations that correlated to the Essential Standards for 3rd graders to rotate through over the course of three days. Teachers completed surveys and reported improvements in their students' interest in science, animals, plants, crops, and the source of their food and clothing.



Educational Outreach

Investing in our future, our children...

It is the responsibility of each individual citizen to be good stewards of our natural resources. The main focus of the SWCD's is to educate people of all ages about conservation practices that will ensure these resources will be available for generations to come. This year, the targeted grade levels were third, fifth and sixth grade in the public, private, parochial and home schools of Stanly County. Soil composition and conservation presentations in third grades reached 331 students. There were 336 fifth graders and 343 sixth graders who saw presentations on soil health and conservation. A total of 1010 students now have a better understanding of how important soil is to our existence.

The District sponsored a poster contest for fifth grade, a computer-generated slideshow (PowerPoint[®]) contest and essay contest for sixth grade. The theme for the contest was "The Living Soil". Educational booklets, pencils, erasers, rulers and litterbags were distributed to classrooms participating in the contests.

<u>Poster Contest</u>	1 st Place	Hannah Lyle	Norwood Elementary
	2 nd Place	Emma Lemons	Norwood Elementary
	3 rd Place	Carmen Hernandez-Palestina	Central Elementary

Hannah's poster went on to win 2nd place in the Area VIII Competition. The prize was \$20.

<u>PowerPoint[®]</u>	1 st Place	Graham Eddy	West Stanly Middle
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Graham's PowerPoint[®] went on to win 2nd place in the Area VIII competition. The prize was \$20.

<u>Essay</u>	1 st Place	Marcie Harward	North Stanly Middle
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Marcie's essay went on to win 1st place in the Area VIII competition. The prize was \$30.

Annual Education Awards Banquet

The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual awards banquet February 24, 2014 at the Agri-Civic Center in Albemarle. The purpose of the banquet is to reward the winners of the educational contests sponsored by the District, as well as recognized the Conservation Farm Family and the No-Till Corn Yield winner. Those present at the banquet included contest winners, District and NRCS employees, SWCD Supervisors, Stanly County Commissioners, principals and teachers, and guests of participants. Other agencies represented at the banquet were Farm Service Agency, NC Forest Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Stanly News and Press.



Envirothon 2014

The Envirothon is a competition for teams of middle and high school students sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The curriculum is fun and hands-on, combining in-class studies with outdoor training in Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife and Current Environmental Issues. Learning styles emphasize higher order thinking skills such as analysis and interpretation. The Envirothon helps develop environmentally aware citizens who are able to assume future leadership roles.

The Creation Explorers, a five-member team of middle-school students from Stanly County placed fifth in the Southern Piedmont Envirothon, the Area VIII competition. Stanly County is one of 12 counties in Area VIII. A total of 19 teams from the area competed in the all-day event at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC. Sponsored by the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District, they advanced to the State Envirothon where they placed 12th out of 46.



The team was formed from the Stanly County Homeschool Co-op Science Study Group. Members are Lexie Burns, Rylee Carrick, Thomas Maness, Amelia Martin and Dayli Williams.



Conservation Farm Family 2014

Each year the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as all other districts in the state, selects an outstanding farm to be recognized as the Farm Family for the district. In order to be selected for the honor a farm must be actively implementing sound conservation practices as well as being actively involved in conservation education. Once districts throughout the state have selected a Farm Family each farm then goes through a series of judging to determine the state Conservation Farm Family of the Year.

This year the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District chose to nominate The Fork Farm and Stables as the 2014 Conservation Farm Family. The Fork Farm and Stables is a diverse farming operation with a focus towards conservation education. The farming activities taking place on the farm include corn and hay production, intense forest and wildlife management, equestrian activities as well as trap shooting competitions. All in all, The Fork Farm and Stables consists of 1400 acres in which the before mentioned activities take place.



The Fork Farm and Stables first competed in both the Area and Regional level of judging where the farm was able to win at both levels. Next the farm was judged for the chance to be named state Farm Family of the year. Unfortunately The Fork Farm and Stables fell just short at this level. All in all, The Fork Farm and Stables is an outstanding farm and represented Stanly County well.

Resource Conservation Workshop

The RCW is a unique opportunity for a week of intensive study and hands-on conservation activities. Students are required to submit an application and are chosen for participation by the Stanly SWCD Board of Supervisors. Rising high school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. Students are housed in NC State University campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. The primary objective of the workshop is to learn about natural resources and their management in today's environment. The District provides sponsorship which pays for registration, lodging, food and travel.



Nathan Moose was chosen to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop which was held July 22-27, 2014. Nathan is a rising senior at South Stanly High School. He is the son of Howard and Sonya Moose. His plan is to major in some field of agriculture. This was a perfect opportunity for him to explore possibilities in all areas of natural resource studies.



"We learned conservation practices and put them into use. I was also exposed to new friends, made connections that will help me in college and my future career." Nathan Moose

Southeastern Soil Health Field Day

Nathan Lowder, NC Division of Soil and Water District Conservationist, welcomed every one to his family's farm. Approximately 140 individuals from three states, including two exchange students from Argentina and Brazil, attended the Southeastern Soil Health Field Day on May 29th at the Fork L Farms in Norwood. Ray Archuleta, Conservation Agronomist with the NRCS East National Technology Center in Greensboro, spoke on implementing cover crops and no till planting. Dr. Alan Meijer, Extension Associate in the Soil Science Department at NCSU, addressed compaction, tillage and soil management. Other speakers who conducted breakout sessions included local farmer, Curtis Furr; Anson County Extension Agent, Jessica Morgan; Stanly SWCD Conservation Technician, Grayson Sarif; and Union/ Stanly County Extension Agent, Andrew Baucom. We were pleased to have the opportunity to serve such a large audience. Sponsors for the field day were Wells Fargo, Stanly County Farm Bureau, Uwharrie Bank, NC Cotton Producers Assoc., Cotton Inc., Southern States, NC Cooperative Extension, NC Foundation of Soil and Water, and Stanly SWCD.



Agri Civic Center Day

Agri-Civic Center Day is a celebration of Stanly County's rich agricultural heritage, featuring modern and antique farm equipment, agriculture and livestock exhibits, historic and cultural heritage exhibits, food vendors, live entertainment, art exhibits and more. Each of the offices displays information about their department. Stanly SWCD focused on the theme "Water - The Cycle of Life".



Tree Seedling Sales Support Conservation Education

The District sells tree seedlings to the public each year in January. Loblolly, white pine and persimmon were sold for windbreaks, erosion control, farm enhancement and home landscaping. Over 1500 seedlings were sold this year.

No Till Drill Rentals

Stanly SWCD owns a Truax 88 seed drill that enables landowners to plant seed without tilling the soil, thus improving soil health and decreasing erosion. During fiscal year 2014, the drill was used 29 times on a total of 248.8 acres. The drill was purchased through a grant from the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation in 2008. The maintenance expenses for the drill in 2014 were \$2067.47 with an income of \$2566.00. The \$498.53 profit helped fund the District's education programs.





**STANLY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

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[http://
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soil-and-water](http://stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water)

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**North Carolina Foundation for
Soil & Water Conservation, Inc.**



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER**



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**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service**



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The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt