

SWCD 2016 Awards Banquet

Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District held their annual awards banquet on Monday, February 29, in the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center.

"We All Live in a Watershed" was the theme of this year's student contests. Following dinner, Stanly SWCD Education Coordinator, Rita Little, awarded plaques for three competition areas.

Poster contest winners were fifth graders: first place-Cole Stinnett, Badin; second place-Mary Grace Caudle, Badin; third place-Sophie Waller, Millingport.

Essay winner was Albemarle Middle School sixth grader, Riley Smith. She began her composition by defining a watershed as a land area that drains to a common body of water.

Smith cautioned, "Pollution is caused by human activity, and our own actions will come back to hurt us later because bad water...can upset a whole ecosystem. Every drop counts, so do your best to conserve water and support environmental legislation so we can have a cleaner, safer, and healthier world."

Computer Designed Slide Show (PowerPoint) winner was Robbie Dales, a home school sixth grader at Academy of Wisdom, Character, and Knowledge.

Little stressed, "There is a lot of good information in his PowerPoint. He had just the right amount of text and pictures."

Terry Blalock, SWCD Chairman, praising the winning posters, agreed. "It amazes me. Every year it (the entries) gets better."

District Conservation Technician, Clint Brooks, presented the Ag Cost Share Update. There are three cost share programs. Ag Cost Share focuses on non point source pollution issues to help implement best management practices. The other two programs, Ag WRAP and CCAP, deal with water quality concerns and quantity issues.

"All three totaled over \$103,000." Brooks shared.

Rodney Huneycutt of Huneycutt Pig Farm accepted the 2015 Conservation Farm Family award. Terry Blalock, Chairman of Stanly SWCD, awarded Kevin

Baucom of River Hill Farms with the 2015 No-Till Corn Yield Winner. Baucom averaged 269.39 bushels per acre. Both winners received engraved plaques.

Floral table centerpieces, courtesy of Edwards Flowers and Gifts of Norwood, were given as door prizes at the conclusion of the banquet.