

Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation

Information

SPRING EDITION
APRIL 2017

Enhanced Voluntary Ag District Now Available

An updated Voluntary Agriculture District (VAD) & Enhanced VAD (EVAD) ordinance was adopted by Stanly County Commissioners on April 4, 2016. The updated ordinance now includes options of enrolling in either an Enhanced Voluntary Ag District or a VAD. Like the VAD, the EVAD is a program that preserves and maintains agriculture, horticulture, forestry and open land areas within the county.

The major differences in the EVAD are: A 10 year irrevocable conservation agreement; landowners are eligible for a higher percentage of cost-share funds under the Agriculture Cost Share Program; State agencies, departments and institutions that award grants to farmers are encouraged to give priority consideration to landowners participating in EVAD; The farm may receive up to 25% of gross sales from the sale of non-farm products and still maintain its zoning exemption as a bona fide farm; Landowners experience fewer unsolicited requests from developers to sell land because of the 10 year agreement; and Landowners can stabilize the use of their land while considering longer-term options, such as term or permanent working land conservation agreements.

26032-C Newt Road
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-986-3059

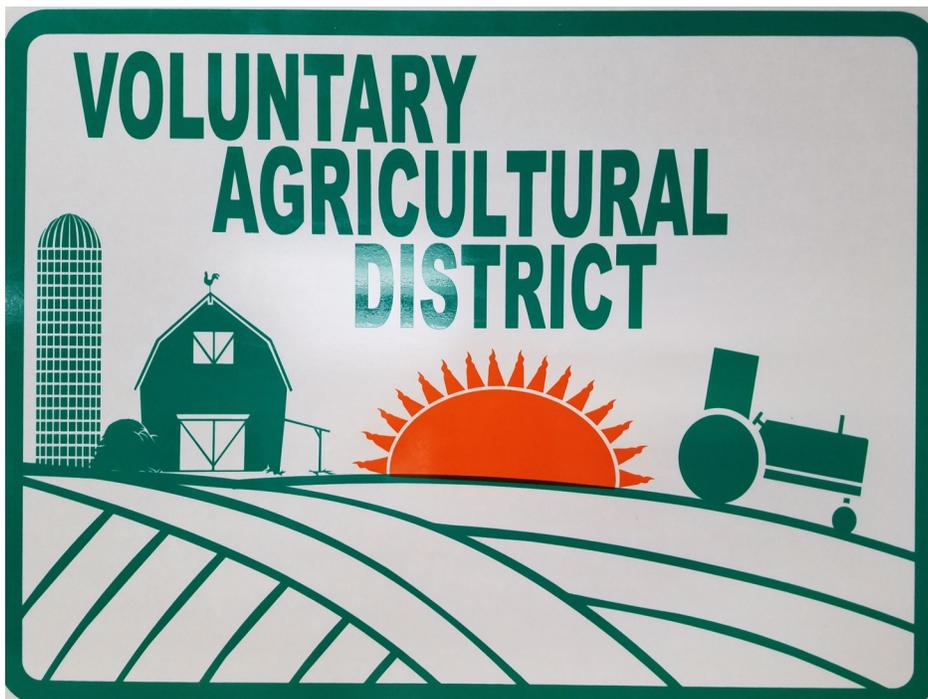
District Board Members

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Terry Blalock | Chairman |
| John Pickler | Vice-Chairman |
| Jody Smith | Treasurer |
| Curtis Furr | Supervisor |
| Aaron Burleson | Supervisor |
| Chester Lowder | Advisor |

District Board Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center. All meetings are open to the public.

District and NRCS Staff

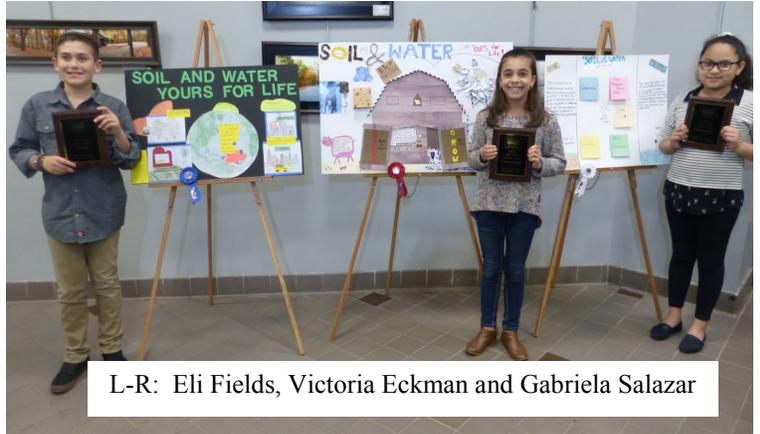
| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Clint Brooks | District Conservation Tech. |
| Rita Little | Admin/Education Coordinator |
| Shauntae Britt | District Conservationist |
| Chris Childers | Conservation Planner |
| Grayson Sarif | Soil Conservationist |
| Lin Taylor | Civil Engineer Technician |





Annual Awards Banquet Held February 27

Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District held their annual awards banquet on Monday, February 27 at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center. The student contest theme was "Soil and Water, Yours for Life". Following dinner, Stanly SWCD Education Coordinator, Rita Little awarded plaques in three competition areas. Poster contest winners were fifth graders: First place –Eli Fields, Badin Elementary Second place– Victoria Eckman, Badin Elem. Third place– Gabriela Salazar, Norwood Elem.



L-R: Eli Fields, Victoria Eckman and Gabriela Salazar

Essay winner Stephen Martin, son of Ward and Felicia Martin of Locust, read his award winning essay.



Ethan Wilkins, son of Glenda Wilkins, wowed the crowd with his very informative speech.

Stephen Martin (left) wrote "water is used for drinking, as a habitat for organisms and in photosynthesis while soil stores water and air, acts as a foundation and filters contaminants."

"Only .3 percent of the earth's water is drinkable," Ethan Wilkins (right) reported, explaining the remainder is either salt water, frozen in glaciers or polluted."



The Creation Explorers 4-H team took 3rd place in the NC State Envirothon Middle School competition that was held at Cedarock Park in Burlington. Members are (l-r) Amelia Martin, Stephen Martin, Ethan Wilkins, Hope Hyatt, and Cheyenne McGhee.



The Yellow Poplars HS team (l-r) Mallory Rogers, Amber Stiller, Lexie Burns, Erik Conrad, and Lydia Dales took 3rd place in the NC Envirothon High School competition. Congratulations to all!!

SWCD Awards Banquet (cont.)

District Conservation Technician, Clint Brooks, presented the Ag Cost Share Update. 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. Cost share recipients are chosen by the application and ranking process.

Terry Blalock, Chairman of Stanly SWCD, presented the agriculture awards for 2016-2017. Each year a farm family is selected to receive the Outstanding Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award. The program recognizes farmers/farm families who have achieved a high level of natural resource stewardship by applying and maintaining innovative and cost-effective conservation practices, are actively involved in conservation education, and have demonstrated strong community involvement. Smith Dairy Farm was the farm selected to receive the Outstanding Conservation Farm Family for 2017. Shelly Smith and his son Jarrett Smith are both owners and operators. They have implemented many best management practices that have contributed to the success of the dairy farm.



Shelly Smith, Jarrett Smith and son Grayson Smith accepted the engraved plaque on behalf of the family. Smith Dairy Farm is located in Norwood.

Floral table centerpieces, courtesy of Simply Chic Boutique in Norwood, were given as door prizes at the conclusion of the banquet.



Chairman Blalock presented Curtis Furr, of Big Bear Creek Farms, Inc. a plaque for winning the 2016 No-Till Corn Yield contest. Mr. Furr averaged an impressive 218.31 bushels per acre. Mr. Furr lives in the Ridgecrest community.

Erosion Control Materials

For more information contact Stanly SWCD
704-986-3059
rlittle@stanlycountync.gov



Straw Single Net
8 ft x 112.5 ft. \$25.00 each

Straw Double Net
8 ft x 112.5 ft. \$28.00 each



Excelsior Single Net
4 ft. x 180 ft. \$38.00 each



Straw Wattle
12 in. x 10 ft. \$25.00 each



Wood Stake
1.5 in. x 24 in. .75 each
Bundle of 25 \$16.00 bundle

STANLY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

26032-C Newt Road
Albemarle, NC 28001

Phone: 704-986-3059
Fax: 704-982-1835

E-mail: rlittle@stanlycountync.gov



Sod Staples
6" 1000/box \$30.00 box



Enhanced Voluntary Ag District Applications Available

Continued from front page...

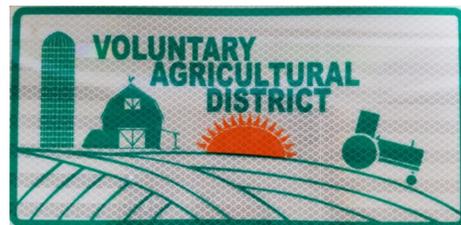
The updated ordinance was needed because of changes in NC General Statutes since the original adoption of Stanly County's ordinance in November 2002 as well as the VAD board's desire to include the Enhanced VAD as an option for farmers and landowners. Because of the changes, all farms will need to complete a new application as well as sign a conservation agreement. Applications prior to the 2016 ordinance adoption were approved by the VAD board. All new applications will be reviewed by the VAD board and may be recommended for Stanly County Commissioner approval. You will have until June 30, 2017 to complete a new application and sign a conservation agreement. Farms not completing these documents by June 30, 2017 will no longer be considered a part of the VAD. Our hope is that many of the current farms enrolled will either re-enroll in VAD or choose to enroll in EVAD.



We encourage you to visit <https://stanly.ces.ncsu.edu/> or <http://www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water/> to view the 2016 updated VAD/EVAD ordinance. If you have additional questions, please give us a call at 704-983-3987 – NC Cooperative Extension, Lori Ivey or 704-986-3059 – Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District, Rita Little. We look forward to hearing from you.

Signs Available for Purchase For Voluntary Agricultural Districts

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|------|
| 36 in. x 24 in. | “Notice” | \$75 |
| 24 in. x 18 in. | VAD | \$50 |
| 12 in. x 6 in. | VAD | \$10 |



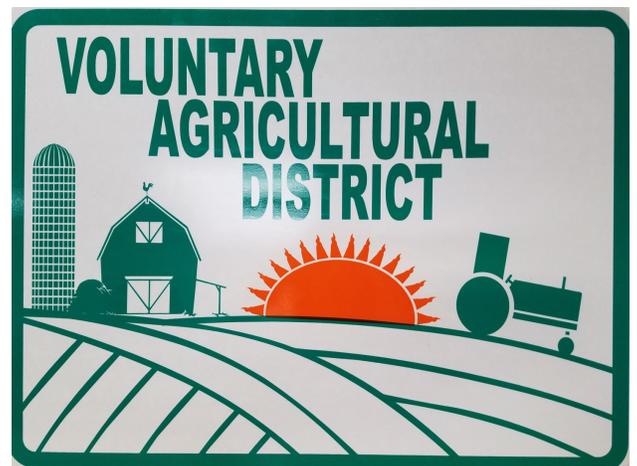
12 in. x 6 in. VAD sign \$10

NOTICE

This property is an agricultural district. At times dust, noises, spraying, insects, and odors occur due to normal farming activities. Anyone interested in locating near this property should take its current use into consideration.

Protections afforded by this sign are valid only if land is enrolled in an agricultural district.

36 in. x 24 in. “Notice” sign \$75



24 in. x 18 in. VAD sign \$50



Farm Service Agency News...

2017 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Stanly County:

May 15, 2017 beans (planted 3/25-5/8), cabbage (planted 2/2-4/20), potatoes

July 15, 2017 beans (planted 6/26-7/10), all other crops

Sept 15, 2017 beans (planted 7/15-9/5), cabbage (planted 7/15-9/5)

Nov 15, 2017 apiculture, perennial forage (grass for haying and grazing), clary sage

Jan 15, 2018 small grains, apples, blueberries, canola, grapes, peaches, rapeseed

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

USDA Announces Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2017

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit their local FSA office to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2017.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers on the farm must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

If a farm is not enrolled during the 2017 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2017 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in 2015 must still enroll during the 2017 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

More FSA News...

New Program Connects Farmers to More Resources That Benefit Their Operation

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has launched a new service that combines resources offered by national, state and local agricultural organizations to help farmers and ranchers start, improve or expand their operation.

Bridges to Opportunity is a partnership of USDA and non-USDA agricultural agencies, coming together to help provide the information farmers and ranchers need. The Bridges service is supported through a customized software application that houses information from partner organizations, making the information easily accessible to customers seeking agricultural resources while in FSA county offices.

Partnering with FSA's Bridges to Opportunity provides a central location for USDA and local, state and national agricultural organizations to offer support to farmers and ranchers and help with disaster assistance, grants, technical help, financial advice and educational courses.

Agricultural organizations that partner with FSA are providing access to programs, upcoming events, workshops and other resources with farmers and ranchers that come through the doors of FSA county offices.

Producers are Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs.

Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a *CCC-576*, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the *CCC-576* are still required to file a *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, within the required 15 calendar days.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), producers must file a *Notice of Loss* within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy *The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Stanly SWCD prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (Voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).*



26032-C Newt Road
 Agri-Civic Center
 Albemarle, NC 28001
 704-986-3059

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.

Uwharrie
 INVESTMENT ADVISORS
 uwharrie.com

| | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Not FDIC Insured | Not Bank Guaranteed | May Lose Value |
| Not Guaranteed by an Government Agency | | Not a Bank Deposit |

FIRST BANK
 Your Community Bank

ENTERPRISE RENDERING COMPANY
 DEAD FARM ANIMALS REMOVED
 USED RESTAURANT COOKING OIL
 PHONE 485-6018
 28821 Bethlehem Church Rd. Oakboro, NC 28129

Crop Production Services
 Billy R. Lowder
 Facility Manager
 www.cpsagu.com

Office: 704-982-8496
 Fax: 704-982-8500
 Cell: 704-791-3589

32467 Millingport Rd
 Albemarle, NC 28001

SOUTHERN STATES Agronomy Service

20560 N.C. 73 HWY, Albemarle, NC 28001
 (704) 982-2226 or 2228
 Steve Edwards, Manager

Mauney Feed Mill, Inc.
 40255 US Hwy. 52 North
 New London, NC 28127

Kelly Vick
 704-463-1331

FARM BUREAU
 NORTH CAROLINA

Stanly County Farm Bureau
 704-982-0113

B.B. Oil, Inc.
 Diesel - Home Heating Oil - Kerosene
 Home A/C, Furnace & Heat Pump Service
 Tires - Batteries - Auto Accessories
 Auto/Motorcycle Inspections
 Hydraulic Hoses
 Propane Tank Filling

128 Hwy 49 N
 PO Box 185
 Richfield, NC 28137

704-463-

Newport Landowner Services Inc.
 Complete Reforestation Management
 Site Preparation * Tree Planting * Herbicide Application
 Agricultural Services * Land and Estate Management

Dale Newport
 Mobile (704) 985-5437
 44558 N.C. Hwy 8

Home (704) 463-

To put your ad here...
riddle@stanlycountync.gov

H.W. CULP LUMBER COMPANY
 P.O. Box 235
 New London, NC 28127
 Phone: 704-463-7311
 Purchasers

of Standing Timber

To put your ad here...
riddle@stanlycountync.gov