



Conservation Information

2015 Conservation Farm Family of the Year



Pictured L to R - Donald Burris, Todd Huneycutt, Marie Huneycutt, Robbie Huneycutt, Rodney Huneycutt; and Terry Blalock, Chairman of the SWCD Board of Supervisors

The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District has selected Huneycutt Pig Farm as Conservation Farm Family for 2015.

Huneycutt Pig Farm is a highly diversified operation that specializes in commodity crop production, beef cattle, hogs, turkeys and forestry.

Representing the Stanly District, they competed in the Area VIII Conservation Farm Family competition with 12 other counties, in which Huneycutt Pig Farm came in second. This was a great honor and the farm was recognized for this accomplishment by the NC Division of Soil and Water. Rodney Huneycutt is a frequent visitor to the Soil and Water office and is always looking for ways to conserve our natural resources. At a recent Board meeting, Mr. Huneycutt spoke for the family in saying how much they appreciated the award and the help and cooperation the District has shown his family over the years.

Congratulations!!

Huneycutt Pig Farm

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

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District Board Members

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Terry Blalock | Chairman |
| John Pickler | Vice-Chairman |
| Jody Smith | Secretary/ Treasurer |
| Curtis Furr | Supervisor |
| June Mabry | Supervisor |
| W. Chester Lowder | Advisor |

District and NRCS Staff

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Grayson Sarif | Cost Share Technician |
| Rita Little | Admin/Education Coordinator |
| Nathan Lowder | District Conservationist |
| Lin Taylor | Civil Engineer Technician |

Southeastern Soil Health Field Day 2015

Overcast skies and cool temperatures didn't hamper the Southeastern Soil Health Field Day held at Fork L Farm in Norwood on April 29.



By, Sandy Hatley

Approximately 100 attendees from Virginia, North and South Carolina rotated between three different twenty minute break-out sessions as they gleaned information from soil experts.

Jay Fuhrer, a Soil Health Specialist of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Bismarck, North Dakota, lead the session on cover crops biology and diversity. "Big guys eat the little guys," he stated as he explained mineralization, the process of breaking down crop residues to useable organic material that can be used by other plants. The soil specialist also described the carbon cycle and how it goes from the atmosphere to plants and then to the soil, then respire back into the atmosphere. Fuhrer said, "Soil gets dark when you accumulate carbon."



Dr. Matthew Poore, an Extension Livestock Commodity Coordinator Professor and Extension Ruminant Nutrition Specialist, conducted the session on rotational grazing mixed species. "Interest in grazing management is increasing rapidly. Amazing things happen when you realize the importance of pasture to livestock production," the NCSU instructor relayed.



The Amazing Grazing Program is dedicated to providing NC livestock producers with timely information about pasture systems for beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, horses, swine, and poultry. Appropriate pasture management leads to lower fuel, fertilizer and equipment costs, calmer, cleaner, healthier animals and improved soil and water conservation. For more information, please visit <http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/whatwedo/researchunits/amazing-grazing.html>.

Nathan Lowder, NRCS District Conservationist, held the session on plot trials and equipment comparisons. In his field demonstration he discussed the three types of planter configurations that are used to plant no-till crops in heavy cover crop residue. Two rows used row cleaners each in a different configuration and one row was standard no-till. Discussion was to point out ways to manage residue to allow successful planting of annual crops.

"We want to enable the successful placement of seed while keeping all this residue in place to conserve moisture, provide weed suppression, and prevent erosion." Lowder



The afternoon concluded with a question and answer session and door prizes. Door prizes were donated by Cody Strawberry Farm, Muddy Boots Farms, Uwharrie Bank, Stanly County Farm Bureau, and George's Plant Farm. Sponsors included Stanly County Farm Bureau, Uwharrie Bank, and King's AgriSeeds.

Stanly County Farm Service Agency

Seeks Nominations

Stanly County FSA is dedicated to ensuring fair representation on the county committee, including socially disadvantaged, minority, female, and beginning farmers and ranchers. Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level by providing input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs, and payment eligibility, etc., within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

Stanly County is divided into three local administrative areas (LAA), each with a representative on the committee, to ensure diversity across the county. Each committee member serves a three year term, with a three term limit. This year the local administrative area holding an election is LAA II, which in general is the Almond, Endy and Furr townships. This area has been served for the past nine years, a term limit, by Mr. Curtis Furr. Stanly County farmers, ranchers, and landowners, along with the FSA staff, are extremely appreciative of Mr. Furr's service.

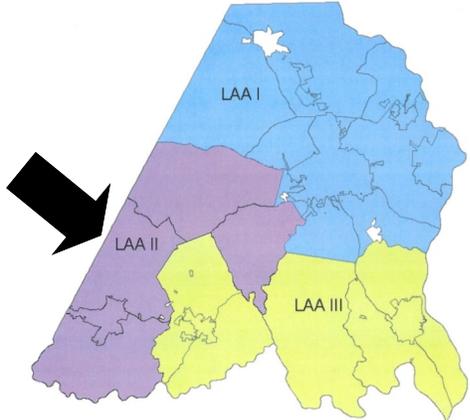
Nominations are being accepted through August 3, 2015, for this LAA and can be submitted at the FSA office using form FSA-699A, which is available in the office and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. Once nominations are received and verified eligible, they will be placed on a ballot which will be mailed to all eligible voters in the local administrative area. Voters will have until December 7, 2015, to return voted ballots to the FSA office. The newly elected member will take office January 1, 2016, and serve along with members from the other two local administrative areas; John Pickler from LAA I (Ridenhour, Harris, North and South Albemarle townships), Gerald McSwain from LAA III (Big Lick, Tyson and Center townships), and Christopher Carrothers and Betty McSwain, the current appointed minority advisors. **Please consider submitting a nomination.**



Stanly County Farm Service Agency
26032A Newt Road
Albemarle NC 28001

Phone: 704-982-5114, extension 2
Fax: 844-325-6908 (toll free)
E-mail: jennifer.almond@nc.usda.gov

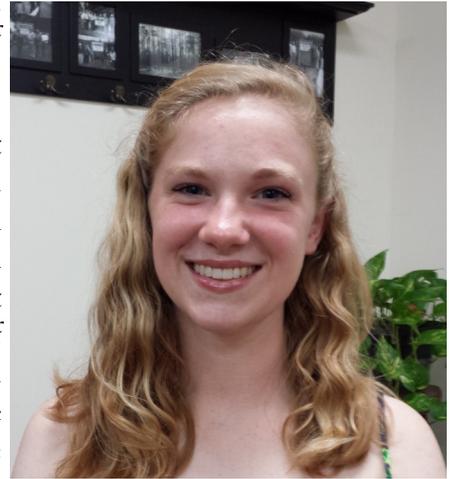
Local Administrative Area II
Almond, Endy, and Furr Townships



Jennie Wagner Awarded Careers-In-Conservation Scholarship

Running the family farm was not what Jennie Wagner had envisioned for her life. But after watching a documentary examining corporate and conventional farming techniques in the United States, she began to rethink her career path. Although once considering a degree in either History or Animal Science, Jennie became increasingly aware of the benefits of sustainable agriculture practices.

The Gray Stone High School graduate is beginning her second year at N.C. State University (NCSU) where she is majoring in Plant and Soil Science with a concentration in Sustainable Agriculture. The North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation awarded her a merit-based Careers-In-Conservation (CIC) scholarship in the amount of \$1000 for attendance at NCSU this upcoming year. The purpose of the scholarship is to increase the number of college graduates from a NC institution who are qualified for careers in natural resource conservation and other closely related fields that aligns with the mission of Soil and Water Districts.



When asked “Why agriculture?”, Jennie replied, “It’s always been a part of my life.” That’s because she has grown up on her family’s farm on Esther Road in the Millingport community. Carlea Farms, owned by her parents Carl and Leah Wagner, utilizes organic practices to raise seasonal produce, and also maintains pastured pigs, laying chickens, and turkeys for meat. Jennie’s plan is to eventually take over the day to day running of the family farm.



“I see sustainable agriculture as the future to farming. In addition to preserving the land, allowing animals to exhibit natural behaviors, and producing healthier food, sustainable agriculture connects consumers, farmers, and food, thereby fostering local consumption and supporting the local economy.” Jennie Wagner



Additional scholarships awarded her include the Lydia F & Michael M. Woody Scholarship, the A. Tab Williams Jr. Endowed Scholarship, and the Isaac Daniel & Lucy Gentry Long Agricultural Scholarship.

The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District compliments Jennie on her awareness and dedication to natural resource conservation and congratulates her on earning the CIC scholarship.

Jennie, who is a marathon runner, also enjoys reading, hiking and kayaking.



North Stanly Students Attend Resource Conservation Workshop

Approximately 100 rising high school juniors and seniors from across the state converged on NC State University June 21-26 to embark on a week of intense instruction. That instruction, both classroom and field work, was to learn about natural resources and their management in today's global environment. The Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) is a unique opportunity for accelerated 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. Students are housed in NC State University campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. Two local businesses most graciously donated funds for sponsorship of the two students selected to attend. The cost of registration, meals and travel is \$600 per student. We applaud **First Bank** and **Uwharrie Bank** for making this workshop possible for Kristofer Blankenship and Jonathan Page.



Kristofer Blankenship

Jonathan Page

Kristofer Blankenship, son of Tommy and Kristi Blankenship, is a rising senior at North Stanly High School. He is a member of Future Farmers of America and is a volunteer fireman. Taking classes provided by the NC Forestry Service piqued his interest in forestry. He has participated in a prescribed burn and appreciates the importance of how this supplies nutrients to the soil and also prevents the spread of wildfire.

“Conservation is extremely important to maintaining, restoring and preserving the earth, and it is very important to me as well.” Kristofer Blankenship

Jonathan Page, son of Mark and Inga Page, is a rising junior at North Stanly High School and also a member of the NSHS FFA. Jon's passion lies with soils, specifically retaining and maintaining minerals in the soil to ensure good soil health. He believes this workshop to be beneficial to helping him attain his goal of becoming a commercial farmer.

“It's very important that people know how to conserve minerals and soil to keep good farming lands for growing crops.” Jon Page

FIRST BANK



**Uwharrie
BANK**

Additional SWCD Service Coming Soon...

In the near future the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District will be selling erosion control matting and cover crop seed. Erosion control matting is an essential tool needed to fix and eliminate washes that have developed in fields. Matting will be sold by the roll in both straw and excelsior material. Also, rolls will be available in sizes of 8'x 100' and 4'x 180'.

The District will keep a limited number of pre-mixed cover crop blends in stock for the public to purchase. Once a year, the district will take pre-orders from local producers and distribute orders at a centralized location. More information will become available shortly. If you have any questions please contact Grayson Sarif at gsarif@stanlycountync.gov or at 704-986-3059.

No-Till Drill Available For Rent

In days of old, the practice of turning the soil before planting a new crop led to soil erosion and farmland degradation. No-till planting reduces erosion and promotes soil health. Stanly SWCD's Truax 88 No-Till Drill is designed with three seed boxes that allow for planting regular grass seed, fluffy seeds and clovers. It's perfect for seeding and reseeding fields and pastures.



The District rents the drill for \$10 per acre in Stanly County and \$12 per acre for out of county use. There is a \$50 minimum charge in county. Any citizen in Stanly and surrounding counties is eligible to use the No-Till Drill. Call the SWCD office at 704-986-3059 for more information.

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).

Agriculture Cost Share Program Year 2015

The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District was allocated \$73,786 for the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACPS), \$32,500 for the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), and \$3,589 for the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). All in all, the District received \$109,875 from the Division of Soil and Water Conservation in 2015.



Program Year 2015 \$109,875 allocated

Agriculture Cost Share (ACSP) - 7 contracts written

| | | |
|---|----------------------|----------|
| 1 | Litter Spreader | \$10,500 |
| 2 | Cropland Conversion | \$15,109 |
| 2 | Livestock Exclusion | \$35,198 |
| 1 | Sod-Based Rotation | \$ 704 |
| 1 | Pasture Renovation | \$12,255 |
| | Returned to Division | \$ 20 |



Agricultural Water Resource Assistance Program (AgWRAP) - 2 contracts written

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------|
| 1 | Water Supply Pond | \$27,500 |
| 1 | Pond Sediment Removal | \$ 5,000 |



Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) - 1 contract written

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Cistern | \$ 3,588 |
| | Returned to the Division | \$ 1 |

News from...



Miranda McDaniel Makes the Move to FSA

After three years working as an ATAC Administrative Support Assistant for NRCS, Miranda has taken a job with the Farm Service Agency at the Agri Civic Center. While the two agencies work closely together, we still see a lot of

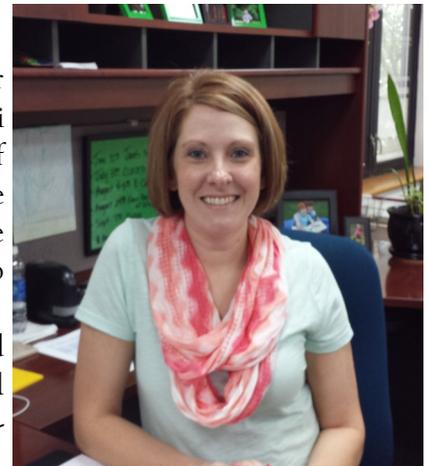


Miranda on a daily basis, but she will definitely be missed in the Soil & Water office. She brought a smile to work with her very day and added a little bit of joy to all those around her.

Aside from her duties with NRCS, Miranda assisted Education Coordinator, Rita Little, with educational presentations at daycare centers as well as other functions throughout the year.

“I have enjoyed working with NRCS for the last 3 years. During this time I have made wonderful friends and coworkers. Luckily, I haven’t moved far.....Just across the way to Farm Service Agency. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve our community.”

Miranda and her husband, Chad, reside in the Millingport community. They have two sons, Jacob and Sawyer.





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

www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water

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|  <p>Office: 704-982-8496 Fax: 704-982-8500 Cell: 704-791-3589</p> <p>Billy R. Lowder Facility Manager www.cpsagu.com</p> <p>32467 Millingport Rd Albemarle, NC 28001</p> |  <p>Main Office: 155 W. South St., Ph. 982-9184 West Stanly: Hwy. 27, Locust, Ph. 888-4431</p> |  <p>ENTERPRISE RENDERING COMPANY DEAD FARM ANIMALS REMOVED HORSES, PONIES, MULES, HOGS USED RESTAURANT COOKING OIL PHONE 485-3018 28821 BETHLEHEM CHURCH RD. OAKBORO, NC 28129 Phone 704-463-1331</p> | | | | | | |
|  <p>Mark A. Smith Facility Manager</p> <p>Office: 704-474-3400 Fax: 704-474-5754</p> |  <p>20506 N.C. 73 HWY, Albemarle, NC 28001 (704) 982-2226 or 2228</p> <p>Steve Edwards Manager</p> <p>Dennis Phifer Field Associate</p> |  <p>Mauney Feed Mill, Inc. 40255 US Hwy. 52 North New London, NC 28127 KELLY VICK</p> | | | | | | |
|  <p>STANLY COUNTY FARM BUREAU 704-982-0113</p> | <p>B.B. Oil, Inc. Diesel - Home Heating Oil - Kerosene Tires - Batteries - Auto Accessories Home A/C, Furnace & Heat Pump Service Auto/Motorcycle Inspections Hydraulic Hoses Propane Tank Filling</p> <p>128 Hwy 49 N PO Box 185 Richfield, NC</p> <p>704-463-7543</p> |  <p>Newport Landowner Services Inc. Complete Reforestation Management Site Preparation - Tree Planting - Herbicide Application Agricultural Services - Land and Estate Management Dale Newport 44558 N.C. Hwy. 8 New London, NC 28127</p> <p>Home (704) 463-1226 Mobile (704) 985-5437 FAX (704) 463-7589</p> | | | | | | |
|  <p>YOUR COMMUNITY BANK</p> <p>MEMBER FDIC</p> |  <p>H.W. CULP LUMBER COMPANY</p> <p>P.O. Box 235 New London, NC 28127 Phone: 704-463-7311</p> <p>Purchasers of Standing Timber</p>  |  <p>Building Efficiency and Sustainability A Service Logic Company</p> <p>Nick Sarif President</p> <p>Office: 704-568-4121 Cell: 704-634-3457 Fax: 704-568-4129 Toll Free: 855-632-7189</p> <p>PO Box 690878 Charlotte, NC 28227-7015 www.facilitech-inc.com</p> <p>nsarif@facilitech-inc.com</p> | | | | | | |
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