

Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District
wishes you a

Happy New Year!

Conservation Information

While we at the Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District know very well who we are, most citizens of Stanly County may not. Here is a little bit about us.

What is a Soil and Water Conservation District?

Under NC General Statute 139, soil and water conservation districts are organized as governmental subdivisions of the state, as well as independent political units. Districts work closely with county, state and federal governments and both public and private organizations in a non-regulatory capacity to carry out a comprehensive conservation program that protects and improves the county's natural resources while assisting private landowners in using conservation practices. This partnership has been the backbone of highly successful efforts over the past 75 years to address serious problems across the state including soil erosion, flood damage and water quality problems.

Historical Perspective

Soil and water conservation districts and their governing boards of supervisors were formed nationwide based on enabling legislation passed by congress that grew out of the devastating Dust Bowl and other critical conservation problems of the 1930s. This federal legislation encouraged states to pass legislation for the establishment of local soil and water conservation districts. Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a NC native from Anson County, was instrumental in raising awareness about soil erosion and can be credited for soil and water conservation programs around the nation today. When NC passed the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law, the citizens of Anson County organized the Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District, the very first district in the United States.

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/districts/index>

WINTER EDITION JANUARY 2020

District Board Members

Curtis Furr	Chairman
Aaron Burleson	Vice-Chair
Jody Smith	Treasurer
Chester Lowder	Supervisor

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.

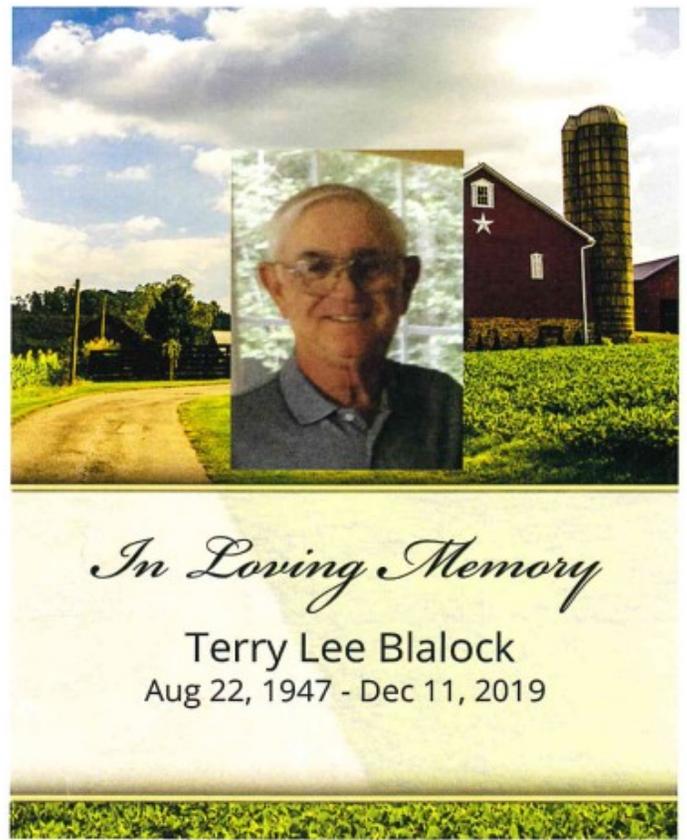
District and NRCS Staff

Amanda Kirby Cost Share Technician
Rita Little Admin/Education Coordinator
Josh Pratt Soil Conservationist
Lin Taylor Civil Engineer Technician

Close the Gate

For this farmer the worries are over, lie down
and rest your head
Your time has been, and struggles enough;
put the tractor in the shed.
Years were not easy, many downright hard,
but your faith in God transcended.
Put away your tools and sleep in peace.
The fences have all been mended.
You raised a fine family, worked the land well,
and always followed the Son.
Hang up your shovel inside the barn;
your work on earth is done.
A faith that few possess led your journey through life,
often a jagged and stony way.
Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin;
the stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your work boots in the puddle left by
the blessed rain one final time.
You always believed that the good Lord would provide
and he always did somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down,
no more sweat and worry for you now.
Your labor is done, your home now is heaven;
no more must you wait.
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land,
and we will close the gate.

Nancy Kraayenhof



Erosion Control Materials Available

Landowners and producers are encouraged to take advantage of another service provided by the Stanly SWCD. Erosion control materials are now in stock and available for purchase.

“Erosion control blankets are effective in controlling erosion on slopes and stabilizing soils long enough for re-vegetation seeding to establish on the site. They are designed to be used on gradual to steep slopes, with low to high velocity flow channels, and are available for both short term biodegradable applications, and long-term soil stabilization.”

protecherosionsupply.com

8' x 112.5' Double Net Straw Blanket \$28.00 each

4' x 180' Single Net Excelsior Blanket \$38.00 each

6" x 1" 11 gauge Sod Staples \$30.00 box of 1000



*“Our wattles are 100% Certified Weed Free Wheat Straw bound into a tight tubular roll. When wattles are placed on the face of slopes, they intercept storm water runoff, reduce its flow velocity, release the runoff as sheet flow, and provide removal of sediment from the runoff. By interrupting the length of a slope, the wattle can also reduce erosion. Wattles are designed to stop sediment and other debris from entering retention ponds, lakes and other water bodies.” *Protecherosionsupply.com**

12" x 10' Straw Wattle

\$25 each



24" Wood Stake 1.5" x 1.5"

\$16/bundle of 25

or 75¢ each



File a Notice of Loss for Failed Acres and Prevented Planting



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 and certain perishables 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.

The Stanly Farm Service Agency offices will be closed January 20, 2020 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

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).

The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself.

- Franklin d. Roosevelt

CRP Enrollment Options

General Signup

CRP general signup will be held annually. The competitive general signup will now include increased opportunities for enrollment of wildlife habitat through the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.



Continuous Signup

While some practices under SAFE will remain available through continuous signup, CRP continuous signup will focus primarily on water quality with the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative. The 2018 Farm Bill prioritizes water quality practices such as contour grass strips, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetlands and a new prairie strip.

USDA will also be working with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) partners to relaunch CREP continuous options in each state under new statutory provisions. CREP will continue to target high-priority local, state or regional conservation concerns.

Grasslands Signups

CRP Grasslands signup helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. A separate CRP Grasslands signup will be offered each year following general signup.

Pilot Programs

Later in 2020, (FSA will roll out pilot programs within CRP: CLEAR 30, which allows contracts expiring with CLEAR practices to be reenrolled in 30-year contracts and in the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) in the prairie pothole region. More information on these programs will be announced in the new year.

Land Transition

The CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) is an option for producers interested in transitioning land to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants may have a lease less than five years with an option to purchase, and they have two years before the end of the CRP contract to make conservation and land improvements.

Previously Expired Land

Land enrolled in CRP under a 15-year contract that expired in September 2017, 2018 or 2019, may be eligible for enrollment if there was no opportunity for re-enrollment and the practice under the expired contract has been maintained.

CRP Rates and Payments

FSA recently posted updated soil rental rates for CRP. County average rates are posted on the [CRP Statistics webpage](#). Soil rental rates are statutorily prorated at 90 percent for continuous signup and 85 percent for general signup. The rental rates will be assessed annually. Under continuous signup, producers also receive incentives, including a signup incentive payment and a practice incentive payment.

To enroll in CRP, contact your local FSA county office or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

Don't forget....Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8

Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before the project is approved.

For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, but are not limited to, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. There are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies. It is important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

Remember to contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely.

Applications cannot be approved contingent upon the completion of an environmental review. FSA must have copies of all permits and plans before an application can be approved.

Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a customer receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity. Electronic receipts for acreage reports began on Aug. 1, 2016.

A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

2019 Acreage Reporting Dates

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

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the applicable 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 applicable 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 applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or **harvesting of the crop begins**.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

WHIP+ Eligibility

WHIP+ will be available for eligible producers who have suffered eligible losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only). Disaster losses must have been a result of hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires that occurred in 2018 or 2019. Also, producers in counties that did not receive a disaster declaration or designation may still apply for WHIP+ but must provide supporting documentation to establish that the crops were directly affected by a qualifying disaster loss.



A list of counties that received qualifying disaster declarations and designations is available at farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus. Because grazing and livestock losses, other than milk losses, are covered by other disaster recovery programs offered through FSA, those losses are not eligible for WHIP+.

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. A list of crops covered by crop insurance is available through USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) Actuarial Information Browser at webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser.

The WHIP+ payment factor ranges from 75 percent to 95 percent, depending on the level of crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage that a producer obtained for the crop. Producers who did not insure their crops in 2018 or 2019 will receive 70 percent of the expected value of the crop. Insured crops (either crop insurance or NAP coverage) will receive between 75 percent and 95 percent of expected value; those who purchased the highest levels of coverage will receive 95-percent of the expected value.

At the time of sign-up, producers will be asked to provide verifiable and reliable production records. If a producer is unable to provide production records, WHIP+ payments will be determined based on the lower of either the actual loss certified by the producer and determined acceptable by FSA or the county expected yield and county disaster yield. The county disaster yield is the production that a producer would have been expected to make based on the eligible disaster conditions in the county.

WHIP+ payments for 2018 disasters will be eligible for 100 percent of their calculated value. WHIP+ payments for 2019 disasters will be limited to an initial 50 percent of their calculated value, with an opportunity to receive up to the remaining 50 percent after January 1, 2020, if sufficient funding remains.

Both insured and uninsured producers are eligible to apply for WHIP+. But all producers receiving WHIP+ payments will be required to purchase crop insurance or NAP, at the 60 percent coverage level or higher, for the next two available, consecutive crop years after the crop year for which WHIP+ payments were paid. Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two applicable, consecutive years will be required to pay back the WHIP+ payment.

Prevented Planting

Agricultural producers faced significant challenges planting crops in 2019 in many parts of the country. All producers with flooding or excess moisture-related prevented planting insurance claims in calendar year 2019 will receive a prevented planting supplemental disaster ("bonus") payment equal to 10 percent of their prevented planting indemnity, plus an additional 5 percent will be provided to those who purchased harvest price option coverage.

As under 2017 WHIP, WHIP+ will provide prevented planting assistance to uninsured producers, NAP producers and producers who may have been prevented from planting an insured crop in the 2018 crop year and those 2019 crops that had a final planting date prior to January 1, 2019.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local [USDA service center](https://www.usda.gov/service-centers) or visit farmers.gov/recover. For all available USDA disaster assistance programs, go to [USDA's disaster resources website](https://www.usda.gov/disaster-resources)

New Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation



A new online tool can help farmers and ranchers find information on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm loans that may best fit their operations. USDA has launched the new *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* as the newest feature on farmers.gov, the Department's self-service website for farmers.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help. Compared to this time last year, FSA has seen an 18 percent increase in the amount it has obligated for direct farm ownership loans, and through the 2018 Farm Bill, has [increased the limits](#) for several loan products.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will be provided information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the "Start" button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

About Farmers.gov

In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1 to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.

With feedback from customers and field employees who serve those customers, farmers.gov delivers farmer-focused features through an agile, iterative process to deliver the greatest immediate value to America's agricultural producers – helping farmers and ranchers do right, and feed everyone.

For more information or to locate your USDA Service Center, visit farmers.gov.

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), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The District accepts applications year round for each of these programs. Applications are ranked based on various criteria and conservation concerns. The highest ranking application is considered for 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 non-point source pollution.



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

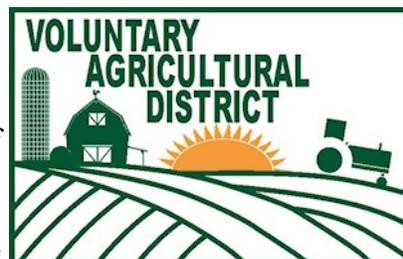


CREP-The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is available to protect environmentally sensitive cropland and marginal pasture land long term. This is accomplished through 10, 15, and 30 year conservation easements.

For more information on the services and how to apply come by our office, email Amanda Kirby at akirby@stanlycountync.gov or call 704-986-3059

Voluntary Agricultural District

The Stanly SWCD assists the Agricultural Advisory Board with the administration of the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD). As of July 2019, total acreage in the Voluntary Agricultural District was 6399.99 acres with 23 farms participating. Total acreage in the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) is 4425.18 acres with 20 farms participating.



Members of the Advisory Board are Chester Lowder (Chairman), David Underwood (Vice-Chairman), Ronnie Bureson, Curtis Furr, Frank Lee and David Talley.

Anyone wishing to make application for either the VAD or the EVAD program should contact the Stanly SWCD office or the Stanly County Cooperative Extension office.

The Agri-Civic Center will be closed on:

Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

Association Holds Annual Meeting

The 76th Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was held at the University Hilton in Charlotte, North Carolina. This year's theme was "Communication - Telling Your Story" Registration opened on Sunday, January 5th. The NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission met at 3:00 p.m.

There was a memorial service on Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. to remember those who passed away last year. A meeting of the nominating committee was held at 9:00 p.m.

The exhibit hall opened at 7:00 a.m. on Monday morning. This is always a well visited area at the Annual meetings. The Auxiliary graciously provided breakfast snacks and coffee from 7:00 until 9:00.

NCASWCD President, Myles Payne, presided over the opening session at 8:30 a.m. on Monday. Chaplain Marvin Cavanaugh delivered the invocation and Association veterans presented the colors. Melody Hager, Miss Statesville, sang the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Myles Payne.

A variety of breakout sessions offered something for everyone. Committee meetings filled the afternoon agenda. David Harris, Education Committee Chair presided over the Conservation Education awards banquet that closed out the day.

Tuesday morning began with the Past NCASWCD President's Breakfast and the opening of the Expo. The second general session was called to order at 8:30 a.m. presided over by Myles Payne. Length of Service awards were presented at the end of the session.

The afternoon session commenced with Samuel Green, Jr., 1st Vice President, presiding. Reports were heard from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the District Employees Association, the NCASWCD Auxiliary, the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation. The nominating committee and other committee chairs shared pertinent information.

At a banquet on Tuesday evening, the Mountain Region Outstanding Farm Family, Correll Farms in Rowan County, was recognized. The Piedmont Region and State winner, Whitaker Farms in Randolph County also was awarded a plaque for their successful victory in the Outstanding Farm Family competition.

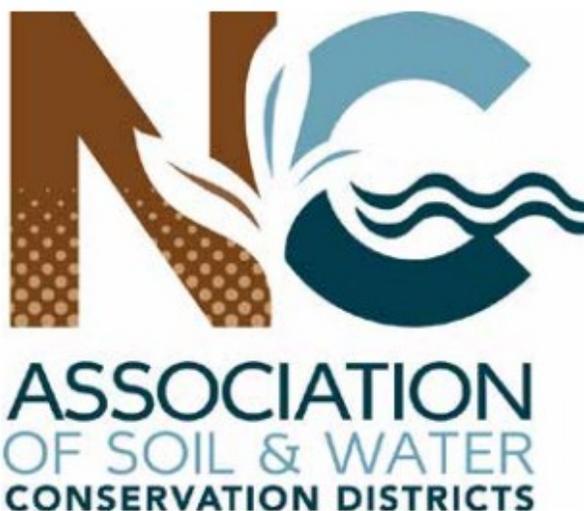
The festivities ended with 2019 President Myles Payne handing the gavel over to Samuel Green, Jr., incoming 2020 President.

Attendees enjoyed music jams every night. Music was provided by various District and Division employees as well as other guests.

The week ended with the Executive Committee breakfast meeting on Wednesday morning.

Next year, the 77th Annual Meeting will be held January 3-5, 2021.

Communication
-
Telling Your Story

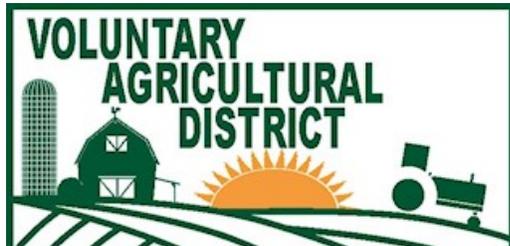


76th Annual Meeting
University Hilton
Charlotte, NC

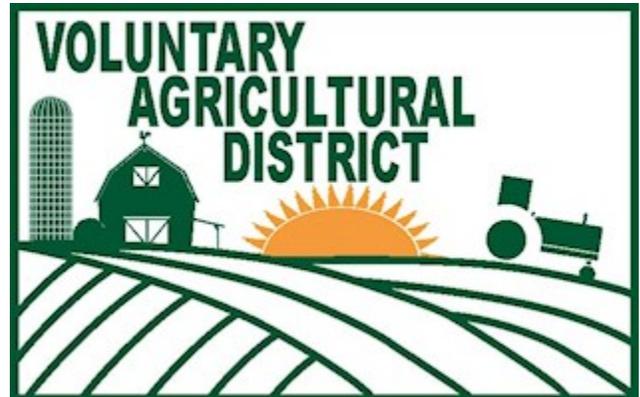
VAD/EVAD Signs Now on Sale

Available for Purchase at Stanly SWCD

**“Be proud to be
a VAD”**



12 in. x 6 in. Double-sided
Highly reflective VAD/EVAD sign
\$10



24 in. x 18 in. Double-sided
Highly reflective VAD/EVAD sign
\$50

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. Single-sided
Highly reflective “Notice” sign
\$75



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.

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 Email newportlandser@yahoo.com

To put your ad here...
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