The Stanly County Soil and Water Conservation District proudly presents our 2020 Annual Report. Partnering with local, state and federal governments, we offer cost sharing opportunities and economic incentives to Stanly County landowners, with an emphasis on educating the public about conservation practices.

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 was a trying year full of much uncertainty. A pandemic unlike anything we have ever seen brought a sense of hopelessness and peril to many people. But, we persevere. That’s what we do. We continue to strive toward our goals with faith intact and family beside us. We are confident that the upcoming year will prove to be one of our best, despite the hardships and setbacks many have experienced.

Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District

The Stanly SWCD Board of Supervisors hold regular monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Agri-Civic Center 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.
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.”

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.
In Loving Memory

Terry Lee Blalock
Aug 22, 1947 - Dec 11, 2019

District Supervisors

Curtis Furr
Chairman

Aaron Burleson
Vice-Chairman

Jody Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

Chester Lowder
Supervisor

Gerald McSwain
Supervisor

District Staff

Amanda Kirby
Cost Share Technician

Rebecca Brickner
Interim Cost Share Technician

Rita Little
Administrative/ Education Coordinator

NRCS Staff

Grayson Sarif
Soil Conservationist

Lin Taylor
Civil Engineering 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)
  - Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)
  - Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)
  - 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. Also available for sale is straw and excelsior erosion matting. Newsletter ads are sold to help defray the cost of printing our quarterly newsletter.

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

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 are printed in every newsletter which is also posted on our District website www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water. Newsletters are received by email.

Local Newspaper - Much of the District’s success is dependent upon local newspaper coverage and communications. The District is very appreciative of the excellent coverage that the Stanly News and Press (SNAP) gives us. Special events are always promptly published in the SNAP. 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 & Consumer Services
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Area VIII Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Thank you to our Newsletter Sponsors

B.B. Oil, Inc.
Crop Production Services
Culp Lumber Company
Farm Bureau-Stanly
First Bank
Mauney Feed Mill
Newport Landowner Services
Uwharrie Investment Advisors
NC Agriculture Cost Share Program Year 2020

The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District was allocated $57,733 for the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACPS), and $15,000 for the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), and $6,000 for Impaired and Impacted Watersheds. All in all, the District received $78,733 from the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water in 2019-2020.

**Program Year 2020 $78,733 allocated**

- **Agriculture Cost Share (ACSP) - 10 contracts written**
  - 1 Stream Restoration $40,013
  - 1 Waste Management $10,576
  - 6 Cropland Conversion $8,387
  - 2 Stream Protection $4,757

- **Agricultural Water Resource Assistance Program (AgWRAP) - 3 contracts written**
  - 3 Water Supply Well $15,000

**Ag Cost Share Spot Checks**

The District performed spot checks on 5% of existing North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share contracts. All were found to be in compliance and performing as expected. One AgWRAP contract was checked and found to be compliant.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Annual Contract Report for Stanly County work unit**

Stanly County CSP obligations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Contracts</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ag Lands</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3608</td>
<td>$231,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>$140,824</td>
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<tr>
<td>EQIP</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2435</td>
<td>$220,928</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$9,498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total obligated in Stanly County** $602,910

**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).
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.
NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation Celebrates Anniversary

On Wednesday, September 18, 2019 the NCFSWC celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Farmstead, a family-owned working farm in Mount Pleasant, N.C. Chartered in 1999, NCFSWC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote, protect and improve North Carolina soil and water resources. NCFSWC works closely with the state's conservation partnership and its 96 soil and water conservation districts.

The anniversary celebration began with a rainfall simulator demonstration, which is part of NCFSWC's Mobile Soils Classroom initiative to promote soil health education, in partnership with the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Matt Lohr and North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler provided keynote addresses highlighting the achievements of NCFSWC over the past two decades. NACD Southeast Region Chair Frank Williams represented the national association at the event.

Additionally, NCFSWC presented several awards, recognizing the North Carolina Farm Bureau for providing seed funding 20 years ago to begin the organization; Dr. Bill Davis for leading NCFSWC as the first chairperson, and for his early fundraising efforts; and Cecil Settle who served as the organization's first executive director.

At the end of the gathering, Timothy Beard, NRCS State Conservationist for North Carolina surprised NCFSWC Executive Director Michelle Lovejoy with an award honoring the accomplishments of the organization under her leadership.

Educational Contests

It is the responsibility of each individual citizen to be good stewards of our natural resources. The main focus of all SWCD’s is to educate people of all ages about conservation practices that will ensure these resources will be available for generations to come. The District sponsored a poster contest for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade, and an essay contest for 6th grade. The theme this year for the contest was “Wetlands are Wonderful”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd Grade Posters</th>
<th>4th Grade Posters</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Lilly Boone</td>
<td>1st Leah Wigdor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Caroline Barbee</td>
<td>2nd Mallie Hart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Liam Efird</td>
<td>3rd Adrianna Perez</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bloomington Academy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hart Homeschool Academy</td>
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<td>ACE Homeschool</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Grade Posters</td>
<td>6th Grade Posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Emery Atkinson</td>
<td>1st John Tucker</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Noah Waits</td>
<td>West Stanly Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Alena Bennett</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oakboro STEM</td>
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<td>Oakboro STEM</td>
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<td>Oakboro STEM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6th Grade Essay

| 1st Kaitlyn Wigdor    | Koinonia Academy Homeschool |
| 2nd Colton Burleson   | West Stanly Middle          |
| 3rd Emily Huneycutt   | West Stanly Middle          |
Area VIII Fall Meeting

The 2019 Area VIII Fall Meeting was hosted by Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District on October 19th. Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties make up Area VIII.

The meeting was held at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center. Following a light breakfast the business meeting was called to order by Curtis Furr, Area VIII Chairman. Chester Lowder, Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor, welcomed everyone to Stanly County. The consent agenda, including the 2019 minutes of the spring meeting, the treasurer’s report and the 2019 budget reports were approved.

Other items of business were reports from the nominating committee, resolutions, Envirothon updates, and introductions of new employees and supervisors.

One resolution was presented as a motion, seconded and passed. Additional information about the resolutions is available at the District office.

The following agencies presented their reports: NC Association of SWCD, NC Division of SWCD, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, NC Foundation for SWCD and the NC Conservation District Employees Association.

Service awards were presented by Vernon Cox and Myles Payne. A special award was given to Cokie Jones, Davie SWCD Supervisor for 50 years service. Correll Farms of Rowan County was recognized as the NC Outstanding Conservation Farm Family of the Year.

The afternoon session concluded with a tour of Rolling Hills Cotton Gin in New London, NC.

Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District in Anson County will host the Area VIII Spring and Fall meetings in 2020.
Area VIII Spring Meeting

The 2020 Area VIII Spring Meeting was hosted by Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District in Anson County on March 4, 2020. Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties make up Area VIII.

The meeting was held at the Welika Fish House in Lilesville. Following a light breakfast the business meeting was called to order. The minutes of the 2019 fall area meeting and the treasurer’s report were approved.

The following agencies presented their reports: NC Association of SWCD, NC Division of SWCD, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, NC Foundation for SWCD and the NC Conservation District Employees Association.

The afternoon session concluded with a tour of Anson High School agriculture program. The students are learning hands-on about hydroponics and other unique, unconventional growing practices.
District Welcomes New Technician

In July, the District welcomed Rebecca Brickner as our new Cost Share Technician. She is filling in for Amanda Kirby who is on active duty with the Army Reserves. Rebecca has begun working with residents and landowners in Stanly County. She is from Concord and attended UNC Chapel Hill, majoring in Environmental Studies with a concentration in sustainability. In her free time, Rebecca enjoys reading, cooking, and hiking. She is excited to be back in the area and working to help protect our valuable soil and water resources in Stanly County!

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 Burleson, 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.

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 2019-2020, the drill was used 15 times on a total of 100.6 acres. The drill was purchased through a grant from the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation. Total income from the drill was $1,314.15. For more information contact our office at 704-986-3059.
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). USDA IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt