

Conservation Information



The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence. Along with independence, comes responsibility. The land our forefathers fought to protect is ours to conserve.

“Take care of the land and the land will take care of you...”

Hugh Hammond Bennett

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

District Board Members

Curtis Furr	Chairman
Chester Lowder	Vice-Chair
Jody Smith	Treasurer
Gerald McSwain	Supervisor
Howard Moose	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

Rebecca Brickner
Interim Cost Share Tech.

Rita Little
Admin/Education Coordinator

Josh Pratt
Soil Conservationist

Lin Taylor
Civil Engineer Technician

Stanly Soil & Water Introduces New Supervisor

Howard Moose won his first election in November 2020. He is a career Charlotte fireman, but enjoys farming on the side. His family owned Moose Dairy in South Albemarle, so he has a legacy of innovative farming practices. He and wife Sonya have two sons and reside on Moose Farm Road in Albemarle.



Chester Lowder

Chester Lowder was re-appointed by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Mr Lowder is owner and operator of Fork L Farms in Norwood. A Supervisor since 1980, he currently serves as Chairman for the board. Chester and his wife Ann reside on Roberts Loop Road in Norwood.



Howard Moose

Water Conserving Tips for Summer Gardening

Temperatures are on the rise this summer, and it can be a challenge to keep your garden alive and growing without breaking the bank. To help conserve water and keep your plants thriving, try these helpful tips:

1. Use drip irrigation when possible, to minimize evaporation.
2. If you can, water in the morning while it's (relatively) cool outside, water has time to soak in before it evaporates on the surface. And if you do it in the morning, that helps the plant to take up the water during the day. Watering at dusk or early evening is okay, but you run the risk of fungus formation.
3. Plant drought-tolerant native plants when possible. You will have to water less with the water hose.
4. Mulch beds with organic matter to suppress weeds and help retain moisture.
5. Don't use a hose that's been coiled up, filled with water and sitting in the sun all day. That coiled hose can act like a water heater, and hot water stresses sensitive plants. Store your hose in the shade. If you can't, run the heated water out before giving your plants a drink.
6. It is better to give your garden larger amounts of water at longer intervals than to apply small amounts frequently. Shallow watering encourages shallow rooting.



Erosion Control Materials

For more information contact Stanly SWCD

704-986-3059

rbrickner@stanlycountync.gov



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.

Bundle of 25

.75 each

\$16.00 bundle



Sod Staples

6" 1000/box \$30.00 box

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



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.



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 Rebecca Brickner at rbrickner@stanlycountync.gov or call 704-986-

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What is Cost Share?

The Agricultural Cost Share Program was created to address nonpoint source pollution on agricultural land. This program provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to install practices that improve water quality. Landowners/producers have the opportunity to receive up to 75% cost reimbursement for implemented conservation practices. See below for common management practices.

Livestock Exclusion



Permanently exclude pasture grazing livestock from streams and critical areas. This will reduce erosion and improve water quality. Cost share components may include exclusion fencing, water supply well, pipeline, permitting costs, and livestock watering tanks.

Streambank Protection



Stabilize and protect the bank of streams through the use of vegetation. This practice reduces loss of land and improves water quality. Cost share components may include vegetation establishment, grading, and stream crossing.

Manure Composting Facility



A composting facility is used for the biological treatment, stabilization and environmentally safe storage of organic water material from poultry and livestock. This practice minimizes impacts on water quality and produces a material that can be used as fertilizer. Cost share components may include lumber, roofing and grading.

Cover Crop Incentive



Cover crops include grasses, legumes, or small grains which are grown seasonally in between cash crops and for less than one year. This practice reduces wind and water erosion, cycles nutrients, increases organic matter, improves infiltration, improves soil quality, and sequesters carbon. This is an incentive practices, so cost share is paid in equal annual payments for 3 years.

Cropland Conversion



Cropland Conversion is used to establish and maintain a conservation cover of grass, trees, or wildlife plantings on land that had previously been used for crop production. This practice reduces erosion and sedimentation. Cost share components may include seed, lime, fertilizer, and seedbed prep.

For a full list of Cost Share Practices and additional requirements, visit:
<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/ACSP/BMPs.html>

FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Continuous Signup](#).

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program's long-term goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

Applying for FSA Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans to producers who want to establish, maintain, or strengthen their farm or ranch. Direct loans are processed, approved and serviced by FSA loan officers.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for direct farm ownership loans is \$600,000 and the maximum loan amount for direct operating loans is \$400,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

Applying for FSA Guaranteed Loans

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,776,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

2021 County Committee ELECTIONS

Jun. 15
2021

Beginning of nomination period.
Forms available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Aug. 2
2021

Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA county office.

Nov. 1
2021

Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6
2021

Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA county office.

Jan. 1
2022

Newly elected county committee members take office.

FSA Counts on YOU!
Nominate and **VOTE!**



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

MAY 2021

USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change



USDA will open enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with higher payment rates, new incentives, and a more targeted focus on the program's role in climate change mitigation. Additionally, USDA is announcing investments in partnerships to increase climate-smart agriculture, including \$330 million in 85 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects and \$25 million for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials.

Conservation Reserve Program

USDA's goal is to enroll up to 4 million new acres in CRP by raising rental payment rates and expanding the number of incentivized environmental practices allowed under the program. CRP is one of the world's largest voluntary conservation programs with a long track record of preserving topsoil, sequestering carbon, and reducing nitrogen runoff, as well providing healthy habitat for wildlife.

CRP is a powerful tool when it comes to climate mitigation, and acres currently enrolled in the program mitigate more than 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). If USDA reaches its goal of enrolling an additional 4 million acres into the program, it will mitigate an additional 3 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent and prevent 90 million pounds of nitrogen and 33 million tons of sediment from running into our waterways each year.

New Climate-Smart Practice Incentive

To target the program on climate change mitigation, FSA is introducing a new **Climate-Smart Practice Incentive** for CRP general and continuous signups that aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-Smart CRP practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat, and wetland restoration. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice type.

Higher Rental Rates and New Incentives

In 2021, CRP is capped at 25 million acres, and currently 20.8 million acres are enrolled. Furthermore, the cap will gradually increase to 27 million acres by 2023. To help increase producer interest and enrollment, FSA is:

Adjusting soil rental rates. This enables additional flexibility for rate adjustments, including a possible increase in rates where appropriate.

Increasing payments for Practice Incentives from 20% to 50%. This incentive for continuous CRP practices is based on the cost of establishment and is in addition to cost share payments.

Increasing payments for water quality practices. Rates are increasing from 10% to 20% for certain water quality benefiting practices available through the CRP continuous signup, such as grassed waterways, riparian buffers, and filter strips.

Establishing a CRP Grassland minimum rental rate. This benefits more than 1,300 counties with rates currently below the minimum.

To learn more about updates to CRP, download our "What's New with CRP" [fact sheet](#).

Date to Remember...

The Agri-Civic Center will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

USDA Encourages Completion of Cash Rents and Leases Survey



You may have received a *Cash Rents and Leases* survey from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This survey provides the basis for estimates of the current year's cash rents paid for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and permanent pasture. Please complete your Cash Rents and Leases survey by June 21. This survey can be completed and returned by mail, over the phone, or at agcounts.usda.gov.

Information from this survey is used in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as an alternative soil rental rate prior to finalizing new rates each year. Survey responses from as many localities as possible help calculate more accurate rental rates. Completion of the survey ensures cash rental rates accurately represent your locality. Survey results will also give you a useful tool in negotiating your rental agreements, and financial planning for your agricultural operation.

In accordance with federal law, survey responses are kept confidential. Survey results will be available in aggregate form only to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified. NASS will publish the survey results on August 27 at quickstats.nass.usda.gov/.

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and under-served producers.

For more information, contact your Stanly County USDA Service Center at 704-982-5114 x2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

Land is not merely soil, it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals.

— Aldo Leopold —



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www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water

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Email newportlandser@yahoo.com

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.