Stanly Soil & Water

Conservation Information

ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Annual Meeting

The NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts' Annual Meeting took place in Durham on January 9-11, 2022. This meeting is held every year as a development opportunity for Board Supervisors and District Staff. This year, the main focus was on the approved State Budget and how it impacts conservation opportunities within North Carolina. The Soil & Water Commission received an approval for increased funding in Community Conservation and Stream Rehabilitation. Both of these items will be discussed in this newsletter. Funding has also been approved to assist Dairy and Swine operations impacted by COVID-19.

Our Soil & Water vice-chair, Chester Lowder, was recognized by the NC Foundation for Soil & Water and was presented with the 2021 President's Award. The Foundation is the non-profit associated with Soil & Water. They are able to acquire funding to implement many programs, such as experimental Management Practices within the state. Stanly County received these grant funds for cover crops from 2016-2019.

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 8:00am at the Stanly County Agri Civic Center. All meetings are open to the public

District Staff

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26032-C Newt Road
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Community Conservation Assistance Program

CONTACT AMANDA KIRBY AT (704) 986-3059 OR AKIRBY@STANLYCOUNTYNC.GOV

Stanly County continues to urbanize and is impacted by stormwater runoff, which reduces the quality of water in our streams. The County currently has 5 streams listed as impaired/impacted, and this number may rise with continued urbanization.

The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban, and rural lands not directly involved with agriculture. The focus of this program is to reduce impacts of rapid urbanization and assist with stormwater management/runoff.

The State budget approved $1.5 million for this program for funding year 22. There is roughly $700,000 still available for new projects. Each project has a cap of $50,000 and each county has a cap of $100,000 for all projects.

CCAP is open to homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, and publicly owned lands. All approved projects will be reimbursed up to 75% of the actual cost of implementation. The program offers the use of a state funded engineer, however, a private engineer can be used for design.

We are currently accepting applications for CCAP until March 8th to ensure prompt submission to the State.

CCAP
Community Conservation Assistance Program

BMPs

- Abandoned Well Closure
- Backyard Rain Garden
- Backyard Wetland
- Bioretention Area
- Cistern
- Critical Area Planting
- Diversion
- Grassed Swale
- Impervious Surface Conversion
- Marsh Sill
- Permeable Pavement
- Pet Waste Receptacle
- Riparian Buffer
- Stormwater Wetland
- Stream Restoration
- Streambank Protection
- Structural Stormwater Conveyance

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program

CONTACT AMANDA KIRBY AT (704) 986-3059 OR AKIRBY@STANLYCOUNTYNC.GOV

The North Carolina General Assembly allocated $38 million aimed to reduce flooding throughout the state. This money has been approved for use through the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance program (StRAP). StRAP focuses on projects that protect and restore the integrity of drainage infrastructure.

The establishment of StRAP has given the Soil and Water Conservation Commission the authority to supervise and administer this program. The Commission will work closely with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

StRAP is different than other Soil & Water programs as it does not require cost-share match. This program can be used in conjunction with projects that are already partially funded. **Stanly Soil & Water is actively requesting applications for this program. Any recommendations for stream rehabilitation would be greatly appreciated.**

Photo from Union County Stream project

"This is a monumental step to help us prevent flooding... StRAP now allows us to be proactive in clearing waterways so we can hopefully reduce flooding and protect people's property before the next big flood event happens"
- Steve Troxler, NC Agriculture Commissioner

Possible Projects

- Projects using Federal funds
- Vegetative debris removal
- Instream sediment removal (not wholesale dredging)
- Streambank stabilization
- Stream restoration
- Culvert replacement
- Beaver management

Natural Resources and Conservation Education

CONTACT REBECCA BRICKNER AT (704) 986-3059 OR RBRICKNER@STANLYCOUNTYNC.GOV

Stanly SWCD is pleased to offer a variety of educational materials to public, private, charter, and homeschool students in Stanly County. Conservation education programming can be adapted to all ages -- even adults! This can include instructional material and workshops, hands-on learning, soil health field days and more. Environmental education topics include: soils, the water cycle, wetlands, wildlife, forestry, natural resource conservation, recycling and waste management, and other current environmental issues!

Please contact our office to request more information.

Agricultural Cost Share Program

CONTACT AMANDA KIRBY AT (704) 986-3059 OR AKIRBY@STANLYCOUNTYNC.GOV

What is Ag 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, roof and grading.

Cover Crop

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.

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

USDA - Farm Service Agency

CONTACT JENNIFER ALMOND AT (704)982-5114 X 2 OR JENNIFER.ALMOND@USDA.GOV

2022 ARC/PLC Elections and Enrollment

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-CO or PLC, which are both crop-by-crop, or ARC-IC, which is for the entire farm. Although election changes for 2022 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2022, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2022, the election remains the same as the 2021 election for crops on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

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 and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

Web-Based Decision Tools

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:

- Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator, a tool available through the University of Illinois allows producers to estimate payments for farms and counties for ARC-CO and PLC.
- ARC and PLC Decision Tool, a tool available through Texas A&M tallows producers to estimate payments and yield updates and expected payments for 2022.

Crop Insurance Considerations

ARC and PLC are part of a broader safety net provided by USDA, which also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC, visit the ARC and PLC webpage or contact your local USDA Service Center.

2022 Stanly County 4-H Plant Sale

Our annual Fruit Plant Sale is back for 2022 and now accepting orders! Contact our office to place your order. Orders are due by February 25, and pickup will be March 3 at the Agri Civic Center. We appreciate your continued support of our 4-H program!

Link to Brochure and Order Form

Betty Watson Scholarship Application

Stanly County Extension & Community Association will offer the Betty Watson Scholarship in the amount of $1,000 to a Stanly County student. To qualify for this scholarship the applicant must be a resident of Stanly County. The deadline for the application should be received by April 1, 2022.

Scholarships will be given to students enrolled in Human Development & Family Studies, Child Development, Nutrition, Food Science, or Ag & Extension Education with a focus in Family & Consumer Sciences at an accredited college or university. Adults continuing their education in an accredited college program will also be considered. All applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age or disability or sexual orientation.

Ranking criteria for applicants will include:
Twenty-Five (25%) intent to major in Human Development & Family Studies, Child Development, Nutrition, Food Science, or Agriculture Extension Education;
Twenty-Five (25%) Scholastic Achievement (GPA/Class Rank);
Twenty-Five (25%) College Aptitude (grades-enrolled) or SAT/ACT Scores;
Twenty-Five (25%) Initiative, Character and/or Leadership Ability.

Drop off or Mail completed applications to NC Cooperative Extension Service, Stanly County Center, 26032-E Newt Road, Albemarle, NC 28001. If you have questions about the Betty Watson Scholarship, please contact Molly Alexi at 704-983-3987 or molly_alexi@ncsu.edu

Click here for application

Erosion Control Materials

Straw Double Net
8 ft. x 112.5 ft. — $30.00 each

Excelsior Single Net
4 ft. x 225 ft. — $60.00 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

Sod Staples
6" 1000/box — $50.00 box
.05 each

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NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Yours for Life

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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.