



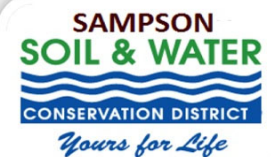
# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

## SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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## SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**Pictured from left to right: Vice Chairman James Lamb, Curtis Barwick, Chairman Henry Moore III, Tommy Hobbs and Craig Thornton.**

The Sampson SWCD Board of Supervisors is made up of five board members, three of which are elected and two who are appointed by the NC Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water. The Supervisory Board seats are non-partisan and unpaid; therefore, the Supervisors receive no financial gain from serving on the Board. They volunteer their time and experience to the benefit the landowners in Sampson County.

The Sampson SWCD Board of Supervisors come from various agriculture backgrounds that encompass many different aspects and perspectives of farming and land use. All are dedicated to conservation stewardship and preservation for future generations.

The people of Sampson County are very fortunate to have these gentlemen willing to serve as the Sampson SWCD Supervisory Board. Each one of them contributes greatly to the success of conservation efforts in Sampson County.



## SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF



Pictured from left to right: **Melanie Harris**, Senior Soil Conservationist-Department Head  
**Henry Faison**, Soil Conservationist  
**Gretta Steffens**, Administrative-Environmental Education Coordinator

**Sampson SWCD Mission Statement:** To take available technical, financial and educational resources and administer programs designed to encourage individual responsibility to conserve, improve and sustain our soil and water resources for future generations.





Pictured left to right: Gavin Thompson, Resource Conservationist, Team 17 Lead  
Dwayne Faircloth, Soil Conservation Technician  
Lance Parker, Soil Conservationist  
Kellyam Valle Cancel, Soil Conservationist

NRCS started the 2020-2021 year strong with 4 employees, but as the year ended only Dwayne Faircloth remained. Gavin Thompson, Kellyam Valle Cancel and Lance Parker will be missed, but we wish them the best with their new positions and transfers within NRCS.



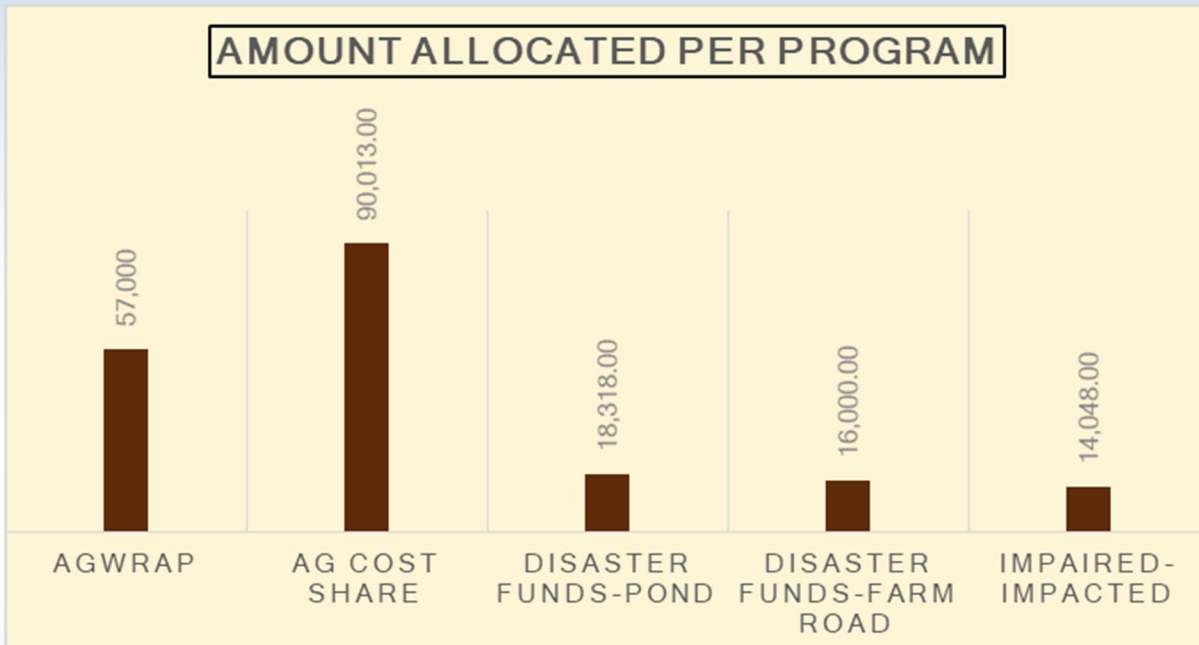
<<< Gavin Thompson, Kellyam Valle Cancel and Lance Parker work on surveying.

Dwayne Faircloth >>>



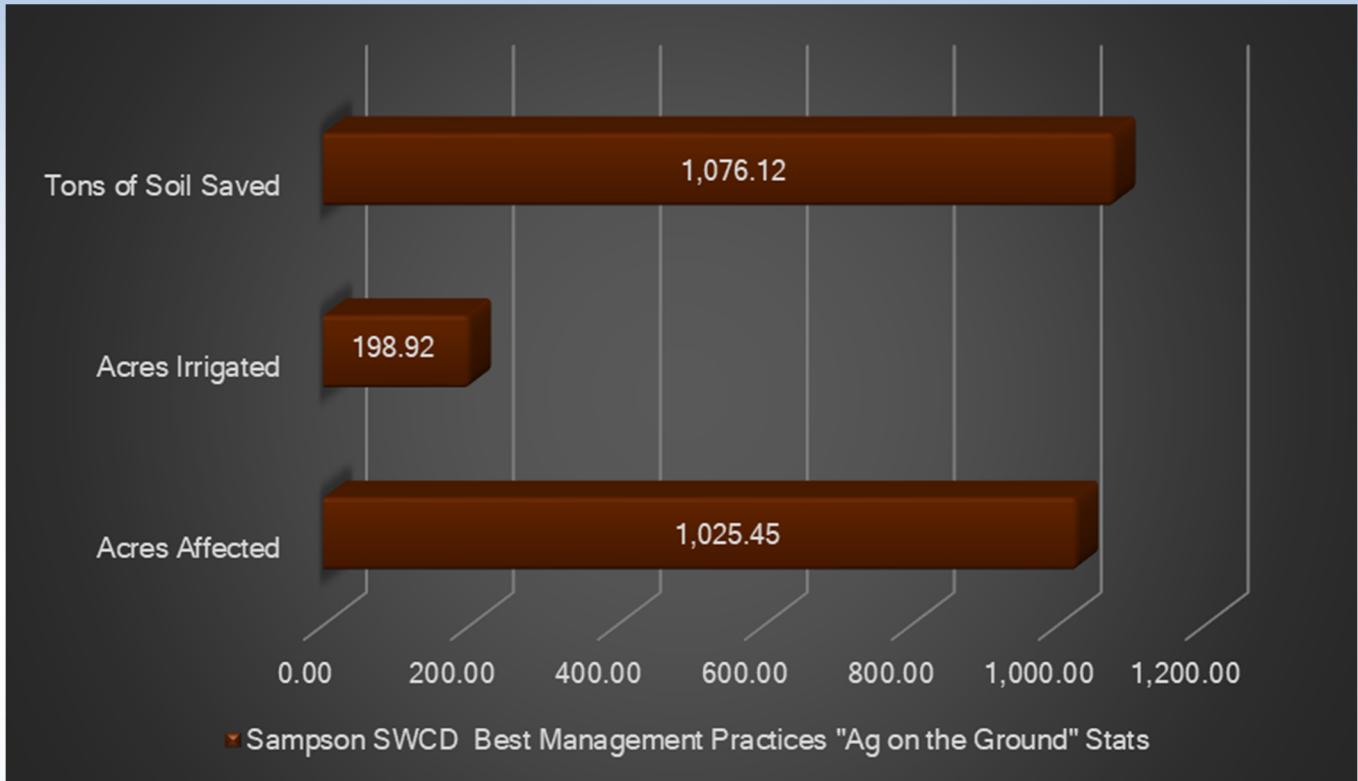
Despite the pandemic hitting America in early 2020, Sampson SWCD & NRCs Staff adapted and continued to work for the landowners of Sampson County. Together, they provided over \$3.3 million dollars in Conservation incentives to landowners.

For the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District allocated \$197,379.00 in funds to Best Management practices that included:



Ag Wrap	Ag Cost Share	Disaster Relief Hurricane Florence	Disaster Relief Hurricane Florence Farm Field Road Repair	Impaired/ Impacted
1 New pond Construction	325 acres of Cropland Conversion	1 Pond Repair	3 Road Repairs	351 acres of Cover Crop
1 Pond Supplement	375 acres of Cover Crop			
1 Pond Sediment Removal				
6 Wells				

With over 1, 000 acres in Sampson County affected just through Agriculture Cost Share Programs and Ag Wrap alone, Sampson SWCD saved 17,912.57 pounds of Nitrogen, almost 70 pounds of Phosphorus and increased water by over 8 million gallons. In addition, over 1, 000 tons of soil were saved from erosion.





**NRCS Partnership:** Sampson SWCD partnered with NRCS to carry out our mission with **\$3,118,239.09** paid out to landowners and farmers for best management practices administered under federal Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and Conservation Stewardship Programs (CSP). Sampson SWCD helped provide technical assistance on these contracts. The 33 contracts from NRCS placed conservation on approximately 4,000 additional acres. This gave Sampson SWCD and NRCS a combined total of almost 5,000 acres in Sampson County.

### \$3,118,239.09 of NRCS Best Management Practices in Sampson County



- Confined Animal
- Loblolly Pine
- Cover Crop
- Energy Audit
- High Tunnel
- Conservation Stewardship Program-Forestry
- Conservation Stewardship Program-Grassland Conservation Initiative

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SUCH AS COVER CROPS AND CONSERVATION TILLAGE HELPS PREVENT SOIL EROSION AND INCREASES NUTRIENTS IN THE SOIL.



↑ Cover Crops

▼ Prescribed Grazing   Conservation Tillage ▼





FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ARE A LARGE PART OF THE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN THE SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT. FROM PRESCRIBED BURNS TO TREE STAND IMPROVEMENTS AND REPLANTING, SAMPSON SWCD IS READY TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NRCS AND LANDOWNERS.



← PRESCRIBED BURNS RID FORESTS OF DEAD MATERIALS, REDUCING FOREST FIRES. IT ALSO HELPS CONTROL INVASIVE PLANTS AND INSECTS AS WELL AS HELPING FOREST REGROWTH.



LOBLOLLY REPLANTING →







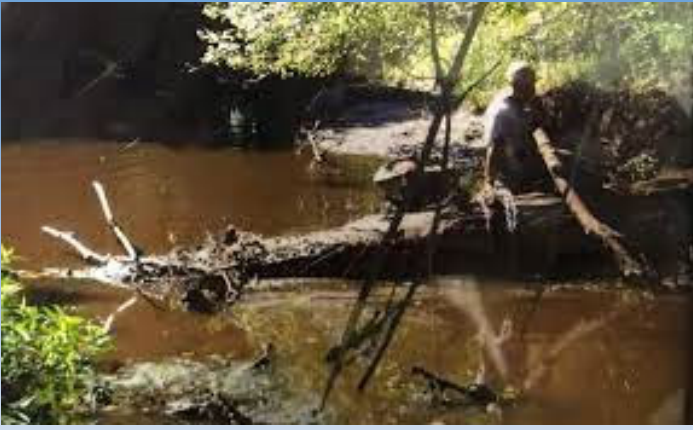
Sampson SWCD has partnered with the Coharie Tribe of Sampson County for several years. After hurricanes left local rivers strewn and blocked with debris, Sampson SWCD let the Coharie Tribe and the Friends of Sampson County Waterways know of special stream debris removal funds that would assist with the cost of clearing the waterways of Sampson County.

The Coharie Tribe and the Friends of Sampson County waterways have worked together to clear 20.5 miles of stream debris in Sampson County. They have spent \$234,326.00 so far in doing so. They still continue to work for cleaner rivers and streams.



<<< Henry Faison, Sampson SWCD, has been crucial in offering technical assistance, guidance, monitoring and support for the clearing of stream debris in Sampson County.



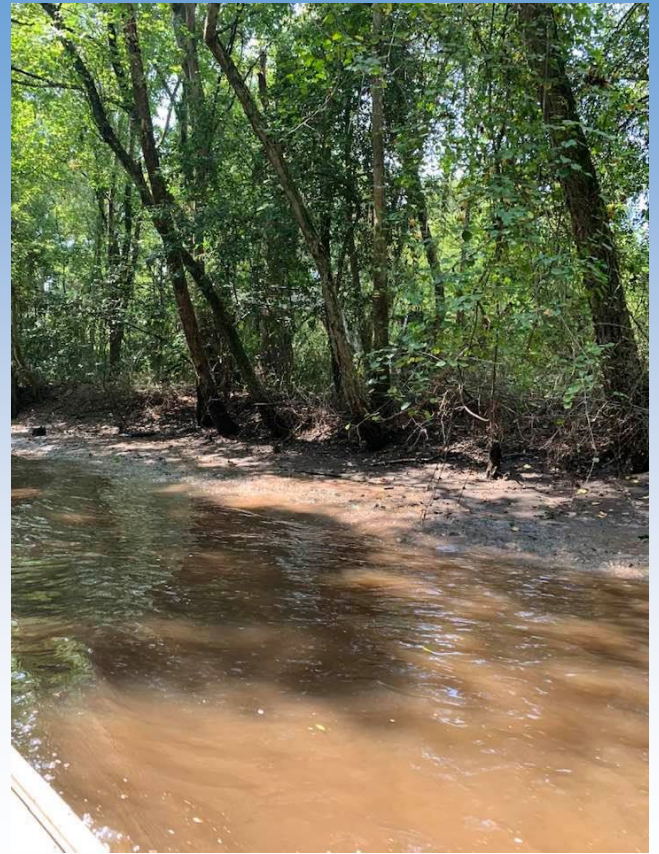


**Both the Coharie Tribe and the Friends of Sampson County Water ways have made huge strides in organizing and volunteering time and resources to keep rivers and streams navigable and flowing freely.**

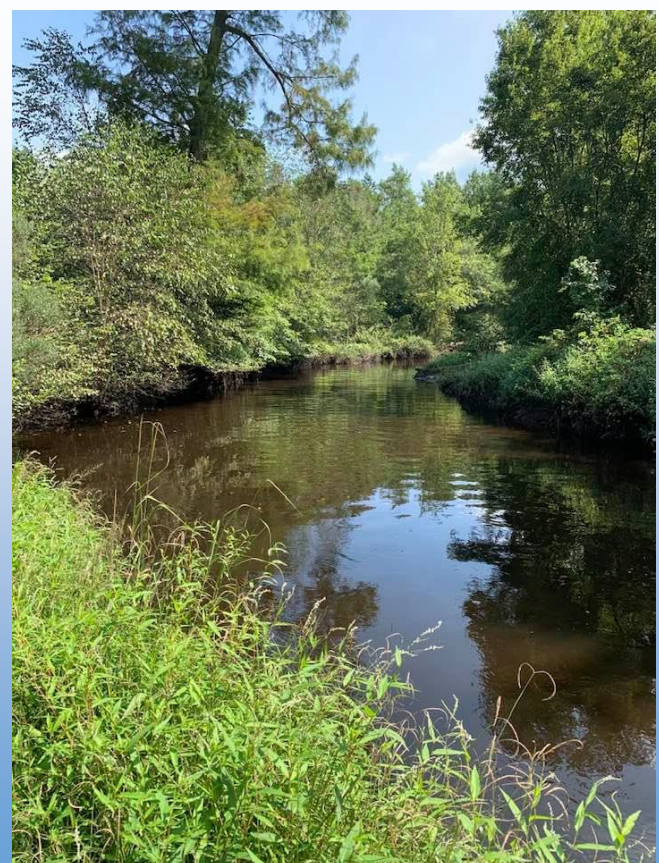


**Almost \$1 million dollars has been spent in stream debris removal and river clean up over the past few years since Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.**





**Clean, free flowing rivers and streams improve water quality, stream bank erosion, pollution, wildlife habitats, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, among other recreational and environmental benefits.**







## EDUCATION REPORT

The Area 7 Regional Envirothon was held as a virtual event on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Sampson SWCD sponsored 3 teams this year. Participation was down due to COVID safety protocols in schools. This presented a great difficulty in being able to get teams and advisors to commit and get together for coaching and studying. Gretta Steffens worked with advisors and teams virtually to help prepare them for the event.

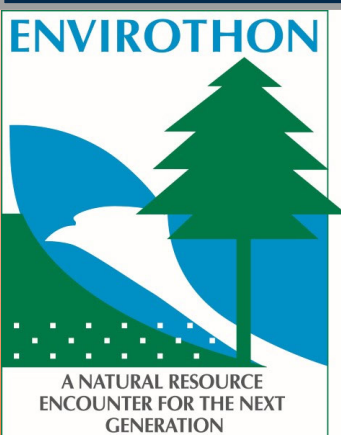
Of the nine counties in Area 7, only Sampson and Cumberland managed to get teams to participate in the virtual event. Sampson teams placed first in both the High School and the Middle School competition. Midway HS won the high school competition with Mintz Academy coming in second. Mintz Academy's middle school team won first place in the middle school competition. All three teams went on to compete in the state competition.



The NC Envirothon was held virtually on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Out of 43 high school teams Sampson's Midway HS placed 25<sup>th</sup> and the Mintz Academy HS team placed 35<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the high school teams were put behind on the oral presentation due to the scenario problem being emailed to them during the middle of their spring break. This made it almost impossible to submit for scoring on time.

Mintz Academy's Middle School team placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the NC Envirothon! They received a \$50 cash prize and a plaque from the NC Envirothon. They worked really hard and we are so proud of them.

*"This year it was incredibly difficult to keep the events going, especially since they were cancelled last year We had to figured out how to come up with a viable virtual competition for both regionals and state. I'm very proud of the work my teams, my advisors, the Area 7 Envirothon committee and all of my fellow State Envirothon committee members have done the past two years." ~ Gretta Steffens*



Gretta Steffens worked with the state ad-hoc committee to help train the winning NC Envirothon high school team from Davidson County for the upcoming National Conservation Foundation Envirothon. She helped the team train for the wildlife section of the competition and for the oral presentation. Gretta stated that she received a "Thank You" letter from the team advisor and team from Davidson County. The Davidson team went on to place 2nd in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon. Which is an international competition with teams from the USA, Canada, Mexico and China.



The Board of Supervisors and the Staff of the Sampson SWCD sincerely appreciate all landowners, farmers, agencies and groups who partner with us to help the District carry out its conservation mission.

Thank you.



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