



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Clinton, NC 28328

910-592-7963 ext. 3

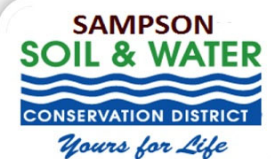


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SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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:

Cameron Knudsen, Soil & Water District Technician

Melanie Harris, Senior Soil Conservationist-Department Head

Candice Adams, Program Support Specialist, Education Coordinator

Henry Faison, Soil Conservationist

Gretta Steffens was our Administrative-Environmental Education Coordinator from August 2015 to December of 2021. Gretta was instrumental in getting our conservation education program off the ground and was a great asset to the office. We wish Gretta the best in her new position with Cumberland Soil and Water.



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.

SAMPSON NRCS STAFF



<<<Dwayne Faircloth-Soil Conservationist



Liana Guy – Soil Conservationist >>>

NRCS Mission : We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

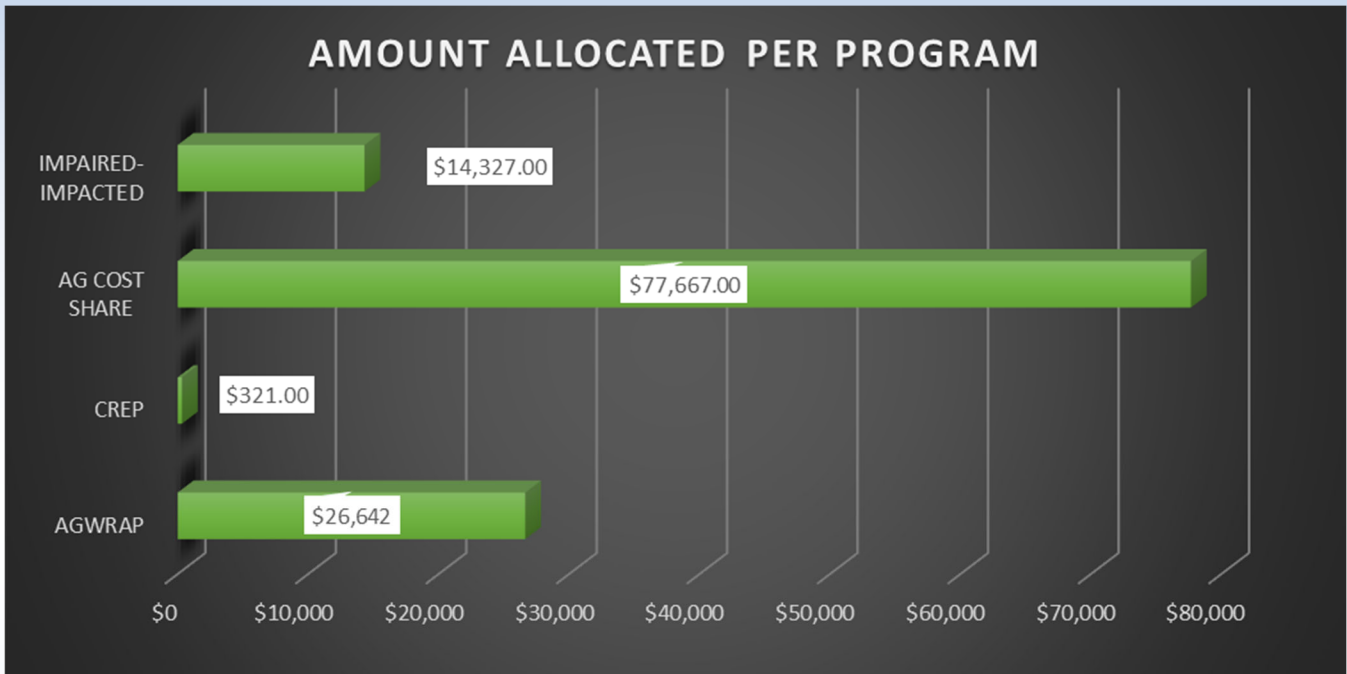


**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

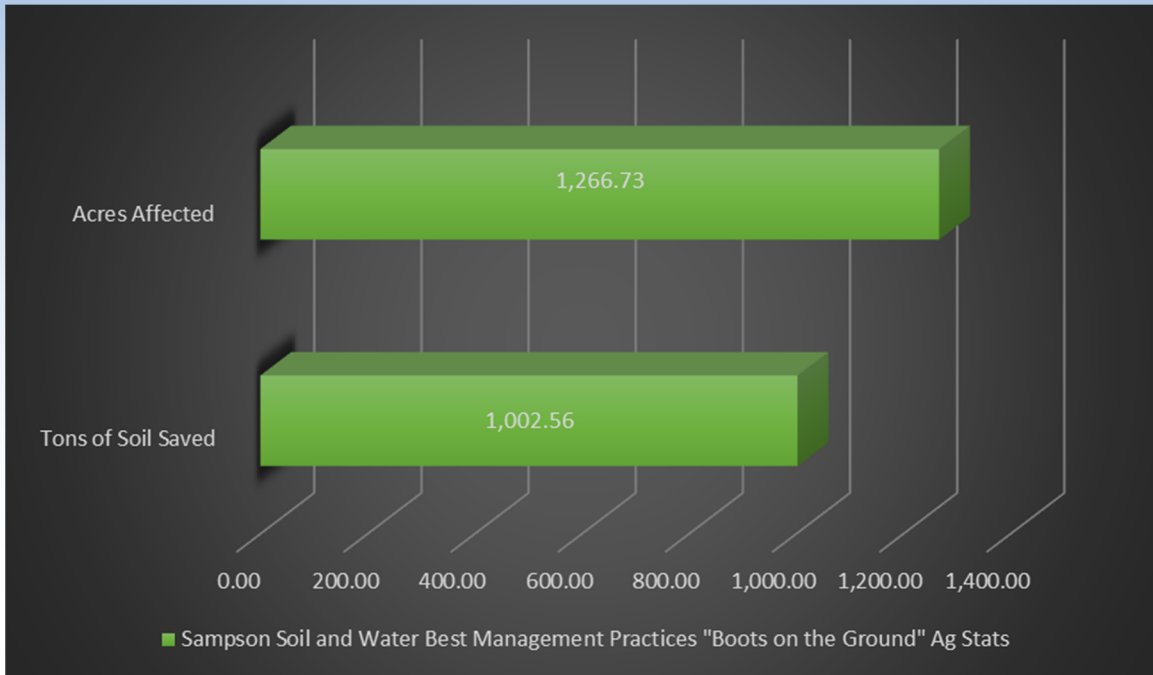
Sampson SWCD & NRCS Staff continue to work for the landowners of Sampson County. Together, they provided over \$3.5 million dollars in conservation incentives to landowners.

\$118,957.00 in funds to Best Management practices that included:



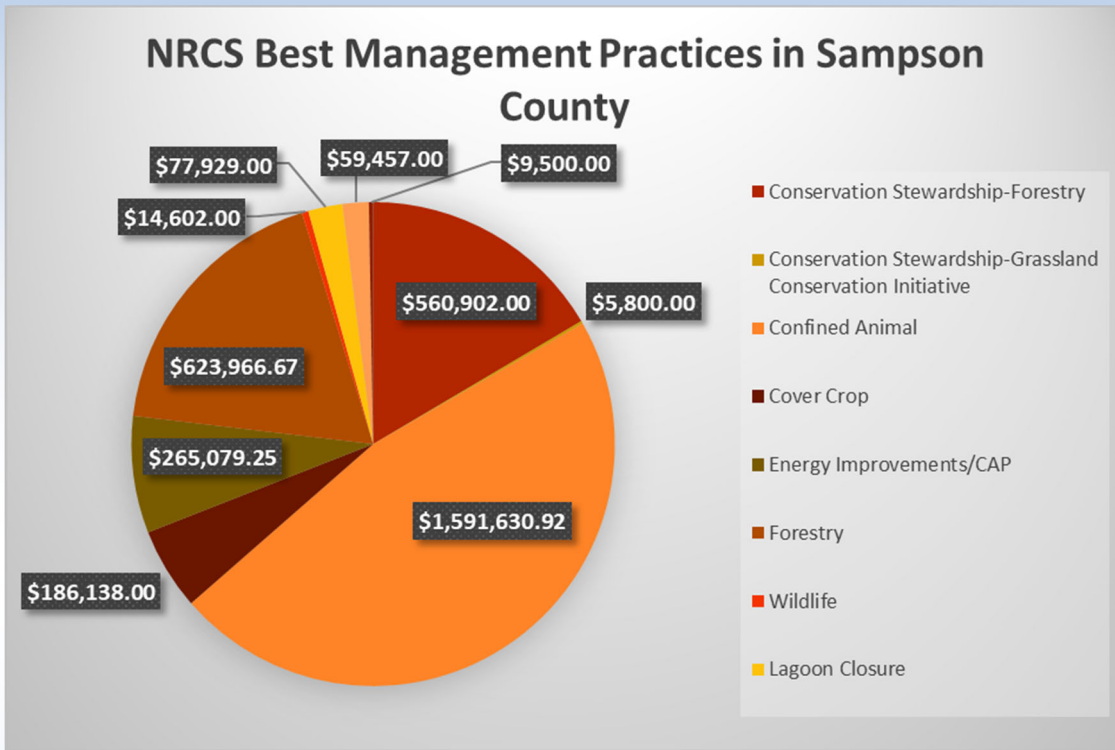
AGWRAP	CREP	AG COST SHARE	Impaired/Impacted
1 New Pond Construction	3.20 acres of Cropland Conversion to trees	122.59 acres of Cropland Conversion to grass	382.05 acres of Cover Crop
		1,077.28 acres of Cover Crop	

With over 1,000 acres in Sampson County enrolled in the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program and AgWRAP alone, Sampson SWCD saved 16,971 pounds of Nitrogen, almost 70 pounds of Phosphorus and increased water by over 25,000 gallons. In addition, over 1,000 tons of soil were saved from erosion.



In the NC Ag Cost Share program, grasses, legumes, small grains or brassicas are planted as cover crops to cover the soil rather than for the purpose of being harvested. Cover crops manage soil erosion, minimize soil compaction, suppress weed pressures and pest cycles and also improve infiltration of water.

NRCS Partnership: Sampson SWCD partnered with NRCS to carry out our mission with **\$3,395,004** paid out to landowners and farmers for best management practices administered under federal Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Programs (CSP). Sampson SWCD helped provide technical assistance on these contracts. The 45 contracts from NRCS placed conservation on over 6,600 additional acres. This gave Sampson SWCD and NRCS a combined total of almost 8,000 acres in Sampson County.



A BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SUCH AS CROPLAND CONVERSION IS USED TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVATION COVER OF GRASSES, TREES OR WILDLIFE PLANTINGS ON FIELDS PREVIOUSLY USED IN CROP PRODUCTION.



BENEFITS INCLUDE REDUCED SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION.



FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND CONFINED ANIMAL PRACTICES ARE A LARGE PART OF THE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INSTALLED IN SAMPSON COUNTY. FROM TREE STAND IMPROVEMENT TO WASTE STORAGE FACILITIES AND MORTALITY COMPOSTERS, SAMPSON SWCD IS READY TO ASSIST NRCS STAFF AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NRCS AND LANDOWNERS.



<Before



After>

FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT IS USED TO IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH, REDUCE WILDFIRE HAZARD AND TO REMOVE UNWANTED TREES TO IMPROVE FOREST STAND COMPOSITION.



INSTALLED CONFINED ANIMAL BMPs: WASTE STORAGE FACILITY (left) and COMPOSTING FACILITY (right).



Sampson SWCD continues to work the Coharie Tribe and the Friends of Sampson County Waterways to keep our rivers and streams navigable and flowing freely. Since 2017, work has been done to remove fallen trees, beaver dams and other debris. More than \$240,000 has been spent in stream debris removal and river cleanout this past year.



In October 2022, Sampson SWCD staff worked the Soil and Water Conservation booth at the NC State Fair. Pictured with Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler are staff members Gretta Steffens, Henry Faison and Melanie Harris.



EDUCATION REPORT



Soil and Water staff Gretta, Henry, Melanie and NRCS staff ,Liana, worked at Sampson County's Ag Day on October 30, 2021. If you have never been, it's a great day to come out and see what Sampson County Ag is all about!



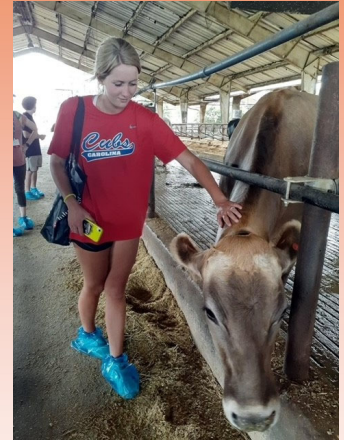
EDUCATION REPORT



In March 2022, The Area 7 Regional Envirothon was held at Jones Lake State Park and Sampson County had two teams competing. Our very own Midway High School FFA team 1-Seniors placed high enough to attend the state NC Envirothon competition. We commend both teams for taking on the extra time it takes to study for such an event. Gretta Steffens worked with advisors and the two Sampson teams to make sure they were well prepared for competition.



EDUCATION REPORT



In June 2022, Candice Adams our new Program Support Specialist, attended the Resources Conservation Workshop (RCW) in Raleigh. The Resource Conservation Workshop is sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, NC State University Crop and Soil Science Department, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter.

Sampson SWCD sponsored three local high school students: Piper Moore, Elias Faison and Michael Williams. The week long workshop was held at North Carolina State University.



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

Thank you.



The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).