



2013 Annual Report

July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013

District Supervisors

Craig Thornton,
Chairman

James Lamb,
Vice Chairman

Curtis Barwick,
Secretary/Treasurer

Tommy Hobbs,
member

Henry E. Moore III,
member

District Staff

Tenna Autry,
Administrative
Assistant

Melanie Harris,
Director & Soil
Conservationist

Henry Faison,
Soil Conservation
Technician

Dwayne Faircloth,
Soil Conservation
Technician

NRCS Staff

Renée Leech,
District
Conservationist

Who Are We?

Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is comprised of a board of supervisors, of which three are elected in the general election and two are appointed by the NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission. The District supervisors are charged with the protection of the county's soil, water and related resources and establishing conservation programs in the county. The staff assigned to carry out the District's mission include one soil conservationist, two district technicians and an administrative assistant. A District Conservationist is provided by USDA-NRCS. The Sampson SWCD mission is also supported by several state and federal cost share programs that assist landowners in Sampson County with the cost of installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). For the 2013 program year, these programs brought in over \$600,000 into Sampson County in the form of direct payments and incentives to farmers and landowners to install on-farm conservation practices to solve natural resource concerns.



Mission Statement



The mission of Sampson Soil and Water Conservation District is 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.

Summary of 2013

Agriculture Cost Share Program & Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program

The NC Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) is a state funded program that provides technical and financial assistance to address nonpoint source pollution. For the 2013 program year, the Sampson County Soil and Water Conservation District was allocated \$62,290 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. This money was

New

agricultural pond construction made possible through AgWRAP funds.



used to cost share general conservation practices such as cropland conversion, crop residue management, field borders, grassed waterways, long term no-till, erosion control and fencing. The District received an allocation of \$63,000 for the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP). Funds will be used to increase water availability and storage thru the construction of 4 agricultural ponds. A total of 23 contracts were obligated through the NCACSP and AgWRAP.

Market Based Conservation Initiative

Sampson SWCD partnered with the NC Foundation for Soil and Water to promote the Market Based Conservation Initiative (MBCI) Pilot Program in Sampson County.



The MBCI Program's purpose is to test alternative methods to protect rural land from development under an existing military flight path. The District and NRCS staff assisted in the submission of 130 applications from interested landowners in the county and at least one more bid round will occur.

Summary of Federal Programs FY 2012-2013

The funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program year 2013 was approximately \$550,000 and was used to cost share practices such as an Animal Mortality Facilities, Waste

Storage Facilities (Litter Sheds), Conservation Crop Rotation, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Prescribed Burning, Firebreaks, Forest Stand Improvement, Nutrient Management, Micro-irrigation, Irrigation Water Management Conservation Activity Plan, Farmstead Energy Improvement and Agricultural Energy Management Conservation Activity Plan. A total of 23 EQIP contracts were obligated. NRCS and the Sampson

District staff continue to assist the Farm Service Agency (FSA) by writing conservation plans for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Payments for all active federal contracts in this fiscal year totaled over \$1 million.

Grain sorghum is substituted for herbicide-tolerant cotton or soybeans. Diversification of crop rotations and herbicides (mode of action) is recognized by NRCS, NCDA and NCSU as the foundation



of resistant weed spread prevention technology.

Duplin/Sampson Outreach Meeting

In September 2012, Melanie Harris, SWCD Director and Renée Leech, NRCS District Conservationist participated in a Duplin/Sampson Outreach meeting hosted by James Hartsfield, Farm Management Agent with NC Cooperative Extension. Staff provided participants with resources and information on federal and state cost share programs. There were approximately 20 in attendance.

NC State Fair

In October 2012, Tenna Autry, District Administrative Assistant, Melanie Harris, District Director, Gavin Thompson, former District Soil Conservationist and Henry Faison, District Soil Conservation Technician, volunteered to work at the Soil and Water Conservation Booth.



NCASWCD Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting for the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop policy and elect leadership was attended by Renée Leech and the District Board of Supervisors in January 2013.

NCASWCD Area 7 Spring Meeting

The Sampson SWCD hosted the Area 7 Spring meeting in February 2013. Craig Thornton, SWCD Board Chairman is the Area 7 Chair. Tenna Autry, coordinates the meetings, poster and speech contests, area activities and is also the Area 7 Planning Coordinator for 2013.

Planning for the Future of Your Farm

Melanie Harris and Renée Leech hosted an information table at “Planning for the Future of Your Farm,” a conference on farm transition and estate planning. The conference was held in March 2013 at the Mt. Olive College Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center.

Envirothon



Envirothon is a natural resources competition for middle and high school students. Tenna Autry, Melanie Harris, Gavin Thompson, Henry Faison and James Lamb, SWCD board supervisor, volunteered to help with the 2013 Area VII Envirothon held on the campus of Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, NC. 32 teams participated in the event.

Murphy-Brown Vendor Expo

Gavin Thompson and Renée Leech participated in the 2013 Murphy-Brown Vendor Expo held during March 2013 at the Sampson County Exposition Center. Approximately 40 participants attended the informative session on conservation planning on confined animal operations.

Resource Conservation Workshop



Johnathon Coble, a rising senior from Lakewood High School, was sponsored by the Sampson Soil and Water Conservation District and received the Anna S. Sumner Award to attend the 2013 Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW). The workshop was held on the North Carolina State University campus in Raleigh the week of June 23-28, 2013. Johnathon spent a week studying the environment. The RCW gives students from across

NC an opportunity to meet natural resources professionals and a chance to learn about career opportunities in conservation.

NRCS Student Intern

Paige Seago, a student at Warren Wilson College, was employed in the Clinton Field office during the summer of 2013 as a NRCS Student Intern. She is a senior majoring in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Sustainable Agriculture and Conservation Biology. She plans to graduate in December 2013.



**Sampson Soil
&
Water Conservation District**

84 County Complex Road
Clinton, NC 28328

Phone: 910-592-7963 Ext. 3
Fax: 910-590-3092



The U.S. 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).