

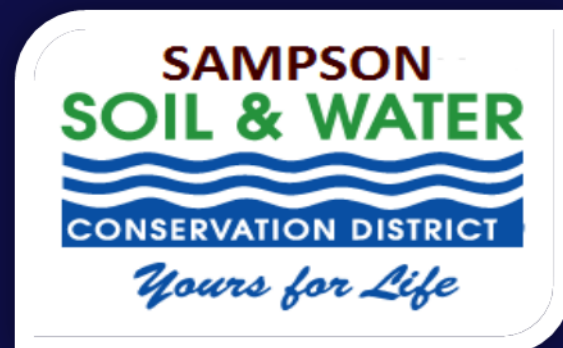
Sampson County Soil & Water Conservation District




RIGHT TO
A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT

Sampson SWCD
80 County Complex Rd, Suite 110
Clinton, NC 28328
910 592-7963 ext 3

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 County Soil & Water Conservation District



THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
From Theodore Roosevelt's Seventh Annual Message to Congress
Dec. 3, 1907

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

...The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life. . . .As a nation we not only enjoy a wonderful measure of present prosperity but if this prosperity is used aright it is an earnest of future success such as no other nation will have. The reward of foresight for this nation is great and easily foretold. But there must be the look ahead, there must be a realization of the fact that to waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

2015 Annual Report
July 1, 2014 –June 30, 2015

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



The Sampson County 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 team members assigned to carry out the District's mission include one soil conservationist, two district technicians and an administrative assistant. A District Conservationist and a Soil Conservationist is provided by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). An Accelerated Technical Assistance for Conservation (ATAC) position is funded by the USDA-NRCS through the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The Sampson SWCD's mission is also supported by several state and federal cost share programs that assist landowners in Sampson County with the cost of installing the Best Management Practices (BMPs). For the 2015 program year, these programs brought almost 1.1 million dollars into Sampson County in the form of direct payments and incentives to farmers and landowners for installation of on-farm conservation practices to solve natural resource concerns.

Program Breakdowns

North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program: The Sampson County office finished out Fiscal year 2015 of the NCACSP with a bang. The NCACSP is a state funded program that provides technical and financial assistance to address nonpoint source pollution. For 2015, the district was allocated \$86,344 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. These funds were encumbered through 12 contracts ranging in best management practices (BMPs) of Cropland Conversion, Cover Crop, and Waste Irrigation.

District Supervisors

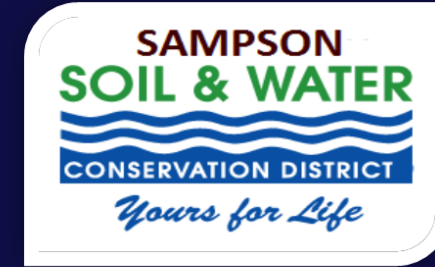
- Craig Thornton, Chairman
- James Lamb, Vice Chairman
- Curtis Barwick, Secretary/Treasurer
- Tommy Hobbs, Member
- Henry E. Moore III, Member

District Staff

- Melanie Harris
Director, Soil Conservationist
- Henry Faison
Soil Conservation Technician
- Dwayne Faircloth
Soil Conservation Technician
- Tenna Autry
Administrative Assistant

NRCS Staff

- Gavin Thompson
District Conservationist
- Paige Seago
Soil Conservationist
- Gretta Steffens
Accelerated Technical Assistance for Conservation



Community Outreach

FY2015 Outreach Events Continued...

NCASWCD Area 7 Spring Meeting

Sampson SWCD and NRCS staff attended Area 7 Spring Meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Bladen County SWCD in Elizabethtown.

June 2014

District Issues

Sampson SWCD and NRCS staff attended the Area 7 District Issues meeting held at the Bladen County Library

The Board of Supervisors and the Staff of the Sampson SWCD sincerely appreciates and thanks all landowners, farmers, agencies and groups who partner with us to help the District carry out its conservation efforts. 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).



Community Outreach

FY2015 Outreach Events Continued...

January 2015

NCASWCD Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was attended by Melanie Harris, Tenna Autry, Dwayne Faircloth, Henry Faison, Gavin Thompson and Curtis Barwick, Sampson SWCD District Board Secretary/Treasurer.

March 2015

NC Ag Awareness Day

Sampson SWCD and NRCS staff attended the NC Ag Awareness Day at the State Capital in Raleigh to promote NC's \$100 billion industry.

Envirothon

Tenna Autry, Melanie Harris, Paige Seago, Dwayne Faircloth and Henry Faison volunteered to help with the 2015 Area VII Envirothon held at Raven Rock in Lillington.

Rally for Agriculture

Gavin Thompson, Melanie Harris, Dwayne Faircloth and Henry Faison attended the 14th annual "Rally for Agriculture" sponsored by the Sampson County Friends of Agriculture.



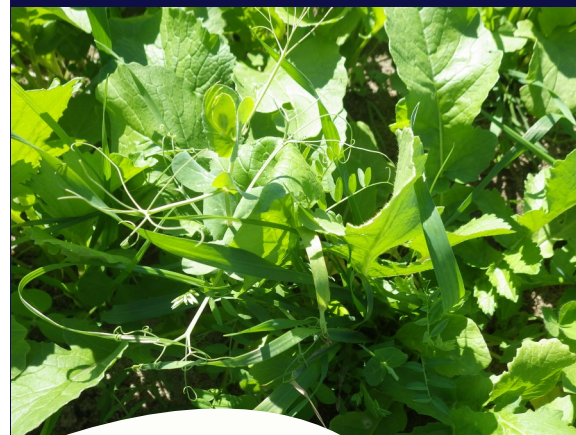
Take a course in good water and air; and in the eternal youth of Nature you may renew your own. Go quietly, alone; no harm will befall you.

~ John Muir ~

Completed Pond



Cover Crop Radishes provide erosion control, loosen compaction and add nutrients to the soil through no tillage.



North Carolina Agriculture Water Resource Assistance

Program: Sampson County has a diverse cropping rotation throughout the county, each with extreme needs for water and water efficiency. Through NCAgWRAP we are able to help farmers with water resource concerns on agriculture lands establish wells, constructed ponds, and assist in sediment removal of existing ponds. Fiscal year 2015, our district was a leader in allocating funds for projects, receiving \$84,912 from NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. These projects consisted of 4 newly constructed irrigation ponds and 1 irrigation well.

Soil Health Cover Crop Initiative Grant : Over the past few years, the District has had the opportunity to work closely with the NC Foundation for Soil and Water and Cotton Inc. on a Soil Health Initiative Project. This year we worked with a local cotton producer to help establish a mixed species cover crop. With extensive research we selected 5 species to plant following cotton as a test plot to promote the benefits of planting a cover crop behind a low residue producing crop. The program requirements consisted of planting cover crop in a timely manner, allowed to grow and accumulate biomass and nitrogen, and the following crop must have been no tilled into standing residue. We held a workshop in December for local farmers and other interested parties to display our results and show benefits of cover crops. We plan to continue this project and look forward to serving you with detailed cover crop information in the future.



Seasonal High Tunnel

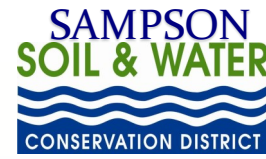


Waste Storage Facility/Litter Shed



Forest Management

Summary of Federal Programs for FY2015

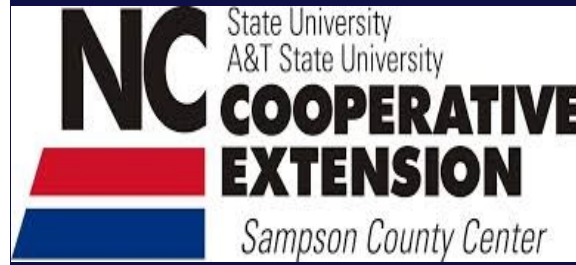


The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continues to be a growing success in Sampson County. During the 2015 Fiscal Year, a total of \$877,354 was obligated to contracts to install conservation practices such as Waste Storage Facilities, Animal Mortality Facilities, Agriculture Energy Management Plans, Building Envelope Improvement, Tobacco Barn Damper Controls, Forest Management Plans and Longleaf Pine Establishment and Management. A total of 18 contracts were awarded from a pool of 106 applications. There are currently 49 applications that were received this year that will be rolled over to FY 2016 to compete for funding again.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is also active in Sampson County. This year, two contracts were obligated for a total of \$49,546. The CSP rewards producers for practicing good resource conservation on their farms and provides incentives to further increase natural resource management. These two contracts provide for the protection of resources on 1,465 acres for the next 5 years.

Market Based Conservation Initiative

Since 2012, the Sampson SWCD has partnered with the NC Foundation for Soil and Water, the US Department of Defense, the Navy, Marine Corps and several NC agribusiness and conservation partners to promote the Market Based Conservation Initiative (MBCI) Pilot Program in Sampson County. The MBCI Program's purpose was to test alternative methods to protect rural land from development under an existing military flight path thru 18 eastern NC counties. Contracts have been awarded and a public signing ceremony will take place in August 2015.



Community Outreach

FY2015 Outreach Events Continued...

November 2014

Operator in Charge Training (OIC)

Henry Faison, Soil Conservation Technician, and Gavin Thompson, District Conservationist, gave a presentation at the Operator in Charge training with the Sampson County Cooperative Extension Service. Their presentation consisted of our purpose, program availability, eligibility and conservation compliance.

Long Leaf Pine Landowner Workshop

Gavin Thompson, NRCS District Conservationist, participated in the LLP landowner workshop in Bladen County. Landowners were able to learn more about NRCS and District programs and how to apply.

NCASWCD Area 7 Fall Meeting

Sampson SWCD and NRCS staff attended the Area 7 Fall Meeting in November 2014. The meeting was held at the Allen Brothers Hunting Preserve in Bladenboro.

December 2015

Meeting with The Nature Conservancy

NRCS meet with The Nature Conservancy to develop a strategy to get new landowners involved in District and Federal programs.

TEAMWORK

Soilabration at the
Center for Environmental Farming



North Carolina State Fair



Community Outreach

FY2015 Outreach Events Continued...

CEFS SOILbration

Sampson SWCD and NRCS staff attended the SOILbration event at the CEFS farm, a 200 acre research farm in Goldsboro, NC. The staff enjoyed many soil-related educational activities such as the rainfall simulator, cover crop demos and field tours.

NC State Fair

Sampson SWCD and NRCS staff volunteered to work at the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Booth in October 2014. Approximately 100 high school students and 50 adult visited the booth.

Meeting with Coharie Tribe

Gavin Thompson, District Conservationist and Paige Seago, Soil Conservationist meet with members of the Coharie Tribe to the state and federal programs that are available and how we could partner with the Coharie Tribe to enhance both our efforts. The tribe is developing a strategy to clean out the Great Coharie Creek.

Every ending has a new beginning....
Happy Retirement Tenna !!!
Tenna Autry pictured below with her husband Ricky. Thanks for 32 years!



Tenna was Sampson SWCD's point of contact in the Area 7 Envirothon .

Congratulations to Mintz Christian Academy on their success at the Envirothon.



Pelman Hudson and Dawson McLamb 2015 recipients of the Resource Conservation Workshop scholarships.



Where We've Been....

This year saw a lot of changes at the Sampson County Soil & Water Conservation District. The least not being the retirement of Mrs. Tenna Autry. Tenna had been the face of the Sampson SWCD for 32 years. She was the first person to greet clients in the office when they came in. The first voice on the telephone when they called. She kept her finger on the pulse of the Sampson County, its Farmers and the Soil and Water District. Her work and dedication to Sampson County will always be remembered and appreciated.

Tenna organized Sampson SWCD's participation in several Outreach Events such as the annual Area 7 Envirothon and the Resource Conservation Workshop. The Envirothon was held at Raven Rock State Park in Lillington, NC. Two Middle School Teams from Mintz Christian Academy participated. They were led by their teacher and advisor, Erica Autry to a second place victory. The Envirothon challenges students to learn beyond their normal classroom lessons. It combines in class study with outdoor training for a full hands on learning experience. It is geared to helping students learn more about their environment, soil and water conservation, land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife habitat and current environmental issues.

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 Soil Science Department and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter. The Workshop is a week long event that emphasizes conservation through hands on participation, demonstrations and study. The Workshop is open to High School Students from each District and the selected students are housed in NC State University dormitories on the campus, giving them an early taste of college life. It is an opportunity to win scholarships and other awards. This year's participants (pictured left) were Dawson McLamb from Midway High School and Pelman Hudson from Hobbton High School.

Thank you Tenna, we hope you enjoy your retirement!!

The Sampson SWCD also said goodbye to Paige Seago this year. Paige originally came to us as a summer intern from Sylva, NC. She attended Warren Wilson College in Asheville and came to work at our office through NRCS as a Soil Conservationist. Paige has moved to Wisconsin and still works with NRCS. She still stays in touch but is greatly missed. Good Luck Paige !!



Renée Leech our NRCS District Conservationist received a promotion to Area Resource Conservationist moving her to the Goldsboro Area Office. She is still involved in Sampson County as it is within her new area, we do miss her around the office though. Congrats Renée!!

The New NRCS District Conservationist

Gavin Thompson comes back to his native Sampson County as NRCS District Conservationist. He transferred over from Bladen County; where he was working as the District Conservationist, when the position in Sampson became available. This is truly a homecoming in more ways than one. Before joining NRCS, Gavin worked with the Sampson Soil and Water Conservation District Office here in Clinton. The Sampson SWCD staff and District Supervisors are glad to have him back.

Welcome home Gavin!!



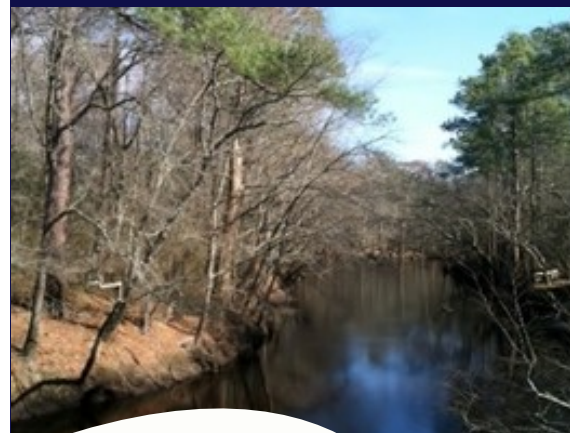
Longleaf Pine Initiative



Murphy Brown Meeting



Great Coharie Local Advisory Team



Community Outreach

September 2014

Local Work Group Meeting

Staff led a Local Work Group Meeting. A wide range of agencies and groups were represented at the meeting, Sampson SWCD, NRCS, FSA, Wildlife, US Forest Service, etc.

Longleaf Pine Workshop

Sampson NRCS helped host a Longleaf Pine Workshop at Jones Lake State Park in Bladen County. NRCS staff Gavin Thompson and Paige Seago along with District staff Melanie Harris, Henry Faison and Dwayne Faircloth attended the workshop.

October 2014

Murphy Brown Meeting

Gavin Thompson, District Conservationist, met with Murphy Brown agronomist, Rachael Carr, to discuss District and Federal programs that could benefit producers that grow grain.

Great Coharie Local Advisory Team

Gavin Thompson, District Conservationist, and Melanie Harris, District Director, participated in the Great Coharie Local Advisory Team meeting to promote the importance of water quality and habitat.