



## Sampson SWCD 2016-2017 Annual Report

**Sampson County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)** is comprised of a five member Board of Supervisors and a staff of four team members. The District supervisors are charged with the protection of Sampson County’s soil, water and related resources and for establishing conservation programs in the county. The staff team members assigned to carry out the District’s mission include a Soil Conservationist-Department Head, a Soil Conservation, a Soil Conservation Technician and an Education Coordinator/Administrative Assistant.

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) provides a Resource Conservationist, a Soil Conservationist and a Soil Conservation Technician to assist with the Sampson SWCD mission.



Sampson SWCD along with NRCS manages several state and federal cost share programs that assist landowners in Sampson County with the cost of installing Best Management Practices (BMPs). For the 2017 program year, these programs brought approximately \$736,000.00 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. Sampson SWCD is also actively involved in outreach programs to spread environmental awareness and to teach Sampson County residents to be better stewards of the earth.

### 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

It is high time to realize that our responsibility to the coming millions is like that of parents to their children, and that in wasting our resources we are wronging our descendants.

*-Theodore Roosevelt*



#### SAMPSON SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

#### DISTRICT STAFF

- Melanie Harris
  - Department Head,
  - Soil Conservationist
- Henry Faison
  - Soil Conservationist
- Mitchell Miller
  - Soil Conservation Technician
- Gretta Steffens
  - Education Coordinator
  - Administrative Assistant

#### NRCS Staff

- Gavin Thompson
  - Resource Conservationist
- Dwayne Faircloth
  - Soil Conservation Technician
- Kellyam Valle Cancel
  - Soil Conservationist

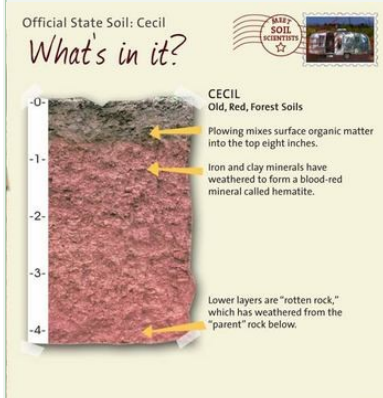
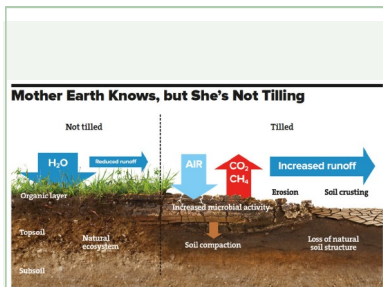
# SAMPSON SWCD COST SHARE PROGRAMS



**North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program:** The NC Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) is a state funded program that provides technical and financial assistance to address nonpoint source pollution. The purpose of the program is to improve water quality through Best Management Practices (BMPs) that properly manage nutrients, reduce sediment delivery to streams, manage pesticides and reduce soil erosion. .

Conservation Commission. These funds were encumbered through 11 contracts with Best Management Practices (BMPs) ranging from Incinerators, Cropland Conversion, Cover Crop to Conservation Tillage, and Irrigation practices. Contracts also include one application using impaired/impacted watershed initiative funds.

For the 2016-2017 program year, the Sampson district was allocated \$90,685.00 by the NC Soil and Water



**North Carolina Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP):** Sampson County has a diverse cropping rotation throughout the county, each with needs for water and water efficiency. Through the Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), we are able to help farmers with water resource concerns on agriculture lands by establishing wells, constructing ponds and assisting in pond sediment removal. For program year 2017, the Sampson Soil and Water Conservation District received \$40,014.00 from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. These funds are being used to help construct a well and agricultural water supply ponds and help with pond sediment removal within existing ponds.

**The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** is a part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the country's largest private-land conservation program. Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), CREP targets high-priority conservation concerns identified by a State, and federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to address those concerns. In exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and establishing permanent resource conserving plant species, farmers and ranchers are paid an annual rental rate along with other federal and state incentives as applicable per each CREP agreement. Participation is voluntary, and the contract period is typically 10–15 years. For the 2017 Program Year, Sampson SWCD was allocated \$3,138.00 for CREP contracts.

**The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a voluntary federal program through NRCS that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP continues to be a growing success in Sampson County. A total of 20 contracts were obligated in 2017 with over one thousand acres under contract. Cost share payments through Federal Programs in Sampson County totaled \$601,729.82 The top practices contracted were:

- Cover Crop
- Tree /Shrub Site Prep
- Critical Area Seeding
- Waste Storage Facility
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Prescribed Burning
- Seasonal High Tunnel
- Agriculture Energy
- Firebreaks
- Animal Mortality Facility
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt
- Lighting System Improvement

# Hurricane Matthew vs Sampson County

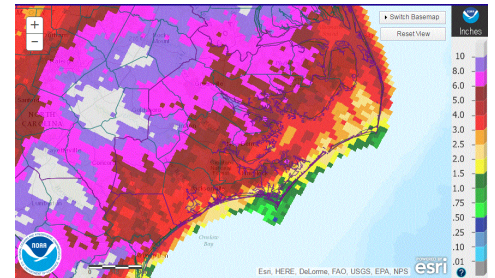
October 2016 ....

As Reported by the National Weather Service :

“Hurricane Matthew brought devastating flooding, strong winds and moderate storm surge to the coast of Eastern North Carolina during the afternoon and evening of October 8 through the early afternoon hours of October 9. The main legacy of Hurricane Matthew in eastern North Carolina will be the catastrophic flooding over the Coastal Plains of eastern North Carolina. River flood levels not seen since Hurricane Floyd in 1999 caused millions of dollars of damage and multiple deaths across the eastern third of North Carolina. Record storm surge levels were also recorded at Cape Hatteras with 5.8 feet MHHW (Mean Higher High Water). See below for summaries of peak wind data, rainfall and other data for Eastern North Carolina”

Sampson SWCD staff were called into action to help with disaster relief efforts both during and after Hurricane Matthew. Gretta Steffens having trained with the Red Cross in Shelter Fundamentals worked in an emergency shelter in the area for the two days of the hurricane. Melanie Harris, Henry Faison and Gavin Thompson worked with emergency management delivering supplies to first responders to be delivered to people in need. They later drove through Sampson County and helped assess damage caused by Hurricane Matthew after the storm came through.

The Sampson SWCD has also worked diligently to partner with the USDA-FSA in helping farmers and landowners in Sampson County repair damages to their farms, roads, ponds, etc. The staff is still working and advocating for landowners in Sampson County affected by the storm. The Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil and Water Conservation was able to obtain federal funds to help landowners with environmental concerns directly related to Hurricane Matthew.





Roseboro-Salemburg Middle School and Midway Middle School Sweep Area VII Regional Envirothon



Roseboro-Salemburg Middle School Teams and advisor Ms. Arleen Mason



Midway Middle School Teams with advisors Ms. Leasa Hodges & Ms. Tracy Wrench

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

### Envirothon

The Area VII Envirothon was held at Jones Lake State Park on March 23rd, 2017. Sampson SWCD Staff were there in full support. Melanie Harris, Mitchell Miller, Henry Faison, Dwayne Faircloth, Kellyam Valle Cancel and Gavin Thompson helped to set up and were runners for the event. This year Sampson SWCD also brought volunteers from the Clinton office of the USDA Farm Service Agency. Michelle Holland and Deana Cooke from the FSA office volunteered and were a great help with scoring tests. Sampson SWCD Environmental Education Coordinator, Gretta Steffens helped register teams as they arrived and was one of the test scorers. It was a fun filled, educational day.

Sampson SWCD would like to thank Ms. Arleen Mason, teacher at Roseboro-Salemburg Middle School, Ms. Leasa Hodges and Ms. Tracy Wrench teachers at Midway Middle School, Ms. Rosemary Simpson and Ms. Caroline Langston from Sampson County Schools for their time and effort in putting together Envirothon teams. Sampson SWCD was proud to sponsor five middle school teams from Roseboro-Salemburg Middle School and from Midway Middle School. The teams swept the middle school division, taking 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th place. To compete at the state level a team must place in the top seven. With all Sampson County Middle School teams placing in the top seven, all were eligible to compete in the NC State Envirothon at Cedarock Park near Burlington, NC.

The NC Envirothon is a two day event testing the knowledge and skills of these students in the areas of natural resource conservation and management. The NC Envirothon holds both a middle school and high school team competition, making it one of the largest events of its kind in the United States. Both middle and high school teams test their knowledge in 5 core subject areas; aquatics, forestry, soils/land use, wildlife and current environmental issues. High school teams have an additional scored component, an Oral Presentation. Gretta Steffens volunteers at the NC State Envirothon and serves as a judge for the oral presentation portion of the competition.

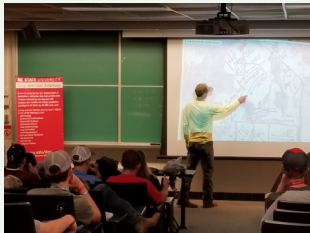
Scholarships &/or awards are given to the top 5 middle and high school teams, as well as the top high school FFA team. Teams are also recognized for highest scores in each testing area. The winning High School Team goes on to compete in the North American Envirothon which includes winning teams from all over the United States, Canada and in the past few years, China.



## RCW 2017

The Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) 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 COLLEGE OF Agriculture and life science, 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.

It involves a week of intensive study and hands-on activities requiring student application and participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Soil scientists, foresters, biologists, wildlife experts and engineers provided classroom instruction and outdoor study in the environmental sciences. Students also received information and insight into careers in natural resource management. 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.



## RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP AT NCSU



Join Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District in congratulating Hunter Culbreth and Tyler Hobbs who were chosen to represent Sampson County in the 2017 Resource Conservation Workshop that was recently held at N.C. State University in Raleigh June 25-June 30, 2017. Hunter is the son of Gary and Audra Culbreth of Roseboro, NC. Hunter is a rising senior at Lakewood High School and a member of FFA. Hunter is also a member of the Lakewood Leopards football and baseball teams. When not at school or working with his dad, Hunter also enjoys fishing and hunting.

Tyler is the son of Thomas and Tonya Hobbs of Clinton, NC. Tyler is also a rising senior at Lakewood High School where he is Vice President of the FFA, Captain of the Lakewood High School soccer team as well as a member of the Beta Club and the football team. When not busy with school or sports, Tyler works with his father on their family farm.

These two outstanding students were chosen by the Sampson Soil and Water Conservation District Board as the 2017 recipients of the Anna S. Sumner Resource Conservation Workshop Scholarship. They each submitted an essay regarding their interest in resource conservation and they came highly recommended. While attending the workshop they competed for additional scholarship opportunities.

Tyler Hobbs and Hunter Culbreth were honored at a dinner after completion of the Resources Conservation Workshop. During the dinner event they spoke to the Sampson SWCD staff and Board of Supervisors about their experiences with RCW.



## WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBER KELLYAM!!

We are pleased to welcome Kellyam Valle Cancel to the Sampson SWCD family. Kellyam began working in the Sampson SWCD offices in January 2017 as an NRCS staff member. She is working in our office as a Soil Conservationist. She is a great team member and fun to be around.

Here's a bit more in her own words....

“My name is Kellyam Valle Cancel, I grew up in Hormigueros, a small town in beautiful Puerto Rico. I have a Bachelor’s degree in Agronomy from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. When I started college, I got involved in student associations that brought soil health conferences and workshops to school, this caught my attention so I decided I wanted to learn more about soil health and resource conservation. Later on, a soil conservation course got me involved with NRCS and its work. I started my career with NRCS as a summer intern in New Hampshire, then I moved to North Carolina and started working as a full time employee.”



*“Happiness is... having great co-workers!!”*



## THE SUMMER WAS TOO SHORT!

This summer Sampson SWCD was pleased to have Reuben Wilson a student at NCSU as a summer intern through NRCS. He was a great addition to our conservation family.

Here is a short autobiography from Reuben:

“I grew up in Bakersville, NC on a 100-acre Christmas Tree and Cattle Farm; Bakersville is located in Mitchell County near the Tennessee state line, about an hour southwest of Boone, NC. I am currently attending NC State University and am pursuing a double major in Plant & Soil Science and Natural Resources. I plan on graduating in December 2018. I have always expressed some form of interest in conservation on the farm, but it didn't become a career goal until senior year in an Environmental Science class. This goal led me to NC State. I took a few courses in soil science and crop science at NC State, and decided I wanted to combine the two disciplines to better serve the farmers of North Carolina and across the nation in their resource conservation efforts. I decided the best avenue for me to pursue this interest was to join up with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); and I was fortunately placed in the heart of North Carolina agriculture, Sampson County. Previous work experience I have in conservation is two and a half years at the NC State Sedimentation and Erosion Control Research Station in Raleigh, NC. I look forward to working with the farmers of North Carolina and helping them in any way possible.”





The Sampson SWCD staff was very active this year.

Conservation Employee Training-Asheville

Area VII Fall Meeting

NC State Fair

Area VII Spring Mtg

NC Division of Soil & Water Annual Meeting -Charlotte, NC

Local Workgroup Mtg

Envirothon

Resource Conservation Workshop

Sampson County Board of Commissioner Mtgs.

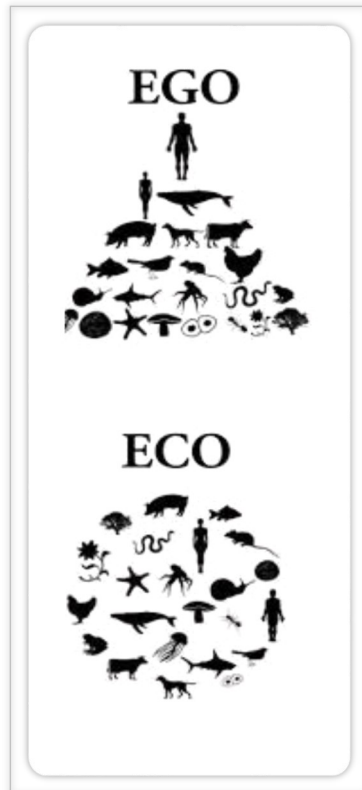
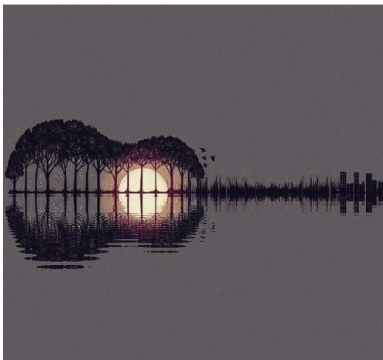
School Outreach

Educational Training

Disaster Relief



Sampson SWCD, NRCS and friends at the Conservation Tent, NC State Fair . Each year our staff volunteers to help others learn about soil & water conservation at the State Fair.



## SAMPSON SWCD

**We would like to thank the county landowners, farmers, agencies, groups, businesses and individuals who partner with us to help carry out conservation efforts within Sampson County.**

### Thank you.

- ⇒ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services
- ⇒ NC State University
- ⇒ Cooperative Extension—Sampson County Center
- ⇒ NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation
- ⇒ NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation
- ⇒ Sampson County Schools
- ⇒ Smithfield Foods
- ⇒ Cape Fear Farm Credit
- ⇒ Farm Bureau of NC
- ⇒ NC Dept of Environmental Quality
- ⇒ NC Office of Environmental Education
- ⇒ Smithfield Foods
- ⇒ NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- ⇒ NC Forest Service
- ⇒ Coharie Indian Tribe
- ⇒ USDA Farm Service Agency
- ⇒ Friends of Sampson County Waterways

Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District  
80 County Complex Rd, Suite 110  
Clinton, NC 28328  
910-592-7963 ext 3



## SAMPSON SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A special thanks from the staff of Sampson SWCD to gentlemen who volunteer their time to serve on the Sampson SWCD Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Craig Thornton, Chairman

Mr. James Lamb, Vice Chairman

Mr. Curtis Barwick

Mr. Thomas Hobbs

Mr. Henry Moore



“Be proud of the work you do, the person you are and the difference you make”



Mr. James Lamb, Sampson SWCD Board of Supervisors Vice Chair attending a “round-table” discussion regarding the future of agriculture with President Donald Trump at the White House in Washington, D.C.