

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Ensuring a quality urban and rural environment.
- Technical assistance to local landowners. Sign ups begin July 1, 2015.

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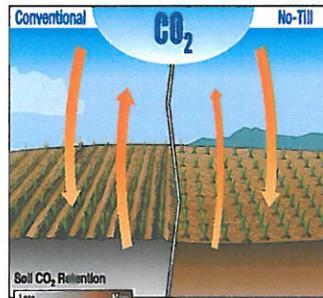
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Lee Soil & Water Conservation District

The mission of the Lee Soil & Water Conservation District is to ensure a quality urban and rural environment through protection, restoration, and improvements of our soil, water, and related resources.

Lee Soil and Water delivers a wide variety of local, state and federal technical, educational, and cost-share programs to the residents of Lee County. We are the primary liaison between the landowner/producer and state regulatory agencies concerning natural resource protection. Our office maintains historical aerial maps of Lee County for use in Phase I Evalua-

tions.



Technical assistance to local landowners for design, installation, and implementation of Best Management Practices to improve water quality and conserve natural resources, is provided by our Conservationist. Assistance is

also provided to homeowners for drainage, surface water run-off control and fish pond management.

Board of Supervisors & Staff

Mike Gaster, Chairman

Tony Ragan, Vice Chair

David Dycus, Treasurer

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Ryan Faulk, Soil Conservationist

Teresa Nicholson, Administrative Assistant

Darryl Harrington, NRCS District Conservationist

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program

AgWRAP is a water quantity cost-share program offered by the state and administered locally by the Conservation District. The purpose for AgWRAP program:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage.
- Implement best management practices to conserve and protect

water resources

- Increase water use efficiency
- increase water storage and availability for agriculture purposes

Best management practices (BMP's) include: Ag. water supply, Ag. water repair, Ag. pond sediment removal, conservation irrigation conversion, wells and micro

irrigation systems.

For more information please call Lee Soil and Water Conservation District at 919-776-2633.



Community Conservation Assistance Program

CCAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly involved with agriculture production. Eligible landowners may include homeowners, businesses, schools, parks and publicly owned lands. How rapid urbanization affects water quality becomes important as North Carolina's land use

continues to change. CCAP can help educate landowners on water quality, storm water management and retrofit practices to treat storm water runoff.

Interested landowners may apply to their local soil and water conservation district for financial and technical assistance for the installation of BMPs to protect water quality. Applications are ranked based on local water quality priorities and, if eligible, a conser-

vation plan is prepared. Landowners may receive financial assistance of up to 75 percent of the pre-established average cost of the BMP.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

Who is Eligible? If you are a landowner or renter of an existing agricultural operation that has been operating for more than three years, you may be eligible to participate in the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program.

Why the ACSP? The major cause of water quality problems in North Carolina and in much of the United States is nonpoint source pollution. In many places, damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program helps address nonpoint pollution by providing technical and financial resources.

How? The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program is successful because of the grassroots efforts of your local soil and water conservation district. Your district works with agricultural landowners and renters to:

- Develop and approve individual conservation plans
- Identify the best management practices (BMPs) best suited for your particular operation
- Design BMPs and help ensure their longevity
- Acquire preliminary approval of a Cost Share contract

The North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides administrative and technical assistance to districts. The division gives final approval to cost share contracts and processes requests for payments to farmers participating in the program.

How does the program work? Submit an application to your local soil and water conservation district. The applications are ranked based on resource concerns identified in the county. Applicants can be reimbursed up to 75 percent of a predetermined average cost for each BMP installed. The applicant is responsible for 25 percent of the costs. This may include the use of existing material and labor.

There are some cost share and acreage restrictions depending on the BMPs used, the type of operation involved, or policy set by the local soil and water conservation district or the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Cost share incentive payments are also available to encourage the use of certain agronomic management practices.

ncagr.gov



Education

Each year the Lee SWCD hosts a poster contest for 5th grade, essay contest for 6th grade and a public speaking contest for grades 7 and 8. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity to teach the future beneficiaries of our earth awareness and preservation of its natural resources. The first place winners from our county move on to the Area III competition. This contest is made up of 11 counties. The first place winner from the Area advances to the State Contest.

Our District also sponsors local middle and high school "Envirothon Teams". This is an Area competition where teams are taught and then given quizzes to test their knowledge. The top scoring teams advance to the State Envirothon in which they compete for a chance to attend the National Envirothon.

Another student outreach program is the Annual Resource Conservation Workshop. The RCW is a week long conservation workshop on the NCSU campus for high

school students. Local teachers submit applications from deserving students to the Lee SWCD Board for sponsorship. The Board then reviews applicants looking for students who are interested in learning more about natural resource protection or considering a career in a conservation field.

No-Till Drill Rental/Soil Sample Drop-off

Lee County Soil and Water Conservation District has two no-till drills available for rent. We also have geo-textile fabric and erosion control netting for sale.

The no-till drills are available for planting small grains, soybeans and are used extensively for pasture renovation. If you are interested in scheduling a time to use a drill please call our office. A user agreement must be signed prior to renting a drill. The rental fee is \$8.00 an acre.

Our office also sells Geo-

textile fabric and erosion control netting. Geo-textile fabric is \$2.00 per running foot and netting is sold for \$0.30 a running foot.

Soil sample boxes may be picked up or dropped off in our office. Someone will transport all soil samples to Raleigh for testing. Normal wait time for soil sample results is 3 to 4 weeks.



2015 Awards Banquet

The Lee Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its "2015 Annual Awards Banquet" on March 17th at the Lee County Farm Bureau Auditorium in the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center located on Tramway Road. The theme this year was "Wetlands are Wonderful."

The Annual event recognizes conservation efforts promoting good land stewardship and award winning students and teachers of District sponsored poster, essay and public speaking contests in Lee County. The program was 'hosted' by Chairman, Mike Gaster.



Anna Crowder
Carson Gunter
Hannah Huffman
Veronica Almanza



Allison Podlogar and
Bailey Koneski



5th Grade Poster Contest

Veronica Almanza, 5th grader at J. Glenn Edwards Elementary received top honors in the local poster contest. Veronica is the daughter of Gregory and Mariela Young.

The second place winner in the poster contest was awarded to Hannah Huff-

man. Hannah is a 5th grader at J.R. Ingram Elementary and is the daughter of Janice Ayers. Carson Gunter finished 3rd place in the Lee SWCD poster contest. She is a fifth grade student at Tramway Elementary. Carson is the daughter of Kim and Graham Gilmore and Cary

Gunter. Arasely Torres from Greenwood Elementary won 4th place. Arasely is the daughter of Ma del Carmen Anguiano and Fileman Torres. Anna Crowder from Lee Christian was the school winner from Lee Christian. Anna is the daughter of Todd and Angela Crowder.

6th Grade Essay Contest

Allison Podlogar took first place in the 6th grade essay contest and read her award winning essay to the audience. Emily not only won top honors in the District but she advanced to the Area III Piedmont Com-

petition and won second place. Emily is a 6th grader at SanLee Middle School and is the daughter of Alex and Becky Podlogar.

The second place finisher in the local essay competition was Bailey Koneski

from West Lee Middle School. She is the daughter of Bryan and Jennifer Koneski.

8th Grade Public Speaking Contest

Taylor Schwab, 8th grader at SanLee Middle was presented 1st place in the public speaking contest. She also went on to win 1st place in the Area III Piedmont Contest and will compete at the state level in May. Taylor is the daughter of Thomas Schwab.

Second place was awarded to Paula Funes who attends SanLee Middle School. Paula is the daughter of Maria Benitez.

Paula Funes and Taylor Schwab



certificates, ribbons and a monetary gift from the Lee SWCD District.

All first place finishers received plaques presented from the Lee District for their accomplishments. All award-winning students received

Teacher Awards

Patrice McNeill from SanLee Middle School was recognized as the teacher of the 1st place winner in the essay contest.

Jamie Holt from West Lee Middle was recognized as the teacher of the 2nd place winner in the essay contest.

Bonnie Marshall, SanLee Middle was honored as the teacher of the 8th grade public speaking winners.

Jennifer Buchanan was awarded as the winning teacher in the 5th grade poster contest. She teaches at J. Glenn Edwards Elementary School. Ashley Secor

from J.R. Ingram Elementary School, Kristen Edward from Tramway Elementary School. Kim Colazo from Greenwood School and Jacinta Mays from Lee Christian were recognized as 5th grade teachers with students placing in the poster competition.



Partners in Conservation

Carol Cox, Velma Rogers, Betty Lynn Johnson, Georgia Garner and Maxine Matthews we recognized for volunteering their time to judge the poster and essay contest. They were presented with a pottery bowl from D. K. Clay. Also recognized were past committee members, Atha Nall, Mary Low Crissman,

Wilma Winsted and Lenore Yow. All of these volunteers' names were engraved on a plaque that will be housed in the Soil and Water Office.

**Carol Cox
Velma Rogers
Betty Lynn Johnson and Georgia Garner**



2015 Conservation Partners