

Conservation Comments



**2017
Summer Edition
Annual Report**

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Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

NC Cost Share Programs

2017 Projects Funded through North Carolina Cost Share Programs

Agricultural Cost Share Program-**ACSP**

\$ 55,189

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program-**AgWRAP**

\$ 13,924

Community Conservation Assistance Program-**CCAP**

\$ 10,432

Total : \$ 79,545

8 Contracts Written to install the following practices:

6 watering tanks, 3212 ft. pipeline, 6100 ft. livestock exclusion (fence), 4 stream crossings, 1 ac. critical area stabilization, 2 livestock wells, 200 ft. stock trails/walkways, 10 ac. abandoned Christmas tree removal, 10 ac. cropland conversion to grass and 1 pond sediment removal.

**NC Cost Share
Funded BMPs include:**

**Pipeline
Watering Tanks
Heavy Use Areas
Livestock Exclusion
(Fencing)**



USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (**EQIP**)

1 Contract – Stream Protection System

Total: \$27,144

NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation Grant

A waste storage pond closure was made possible through funding allocated to Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District from the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation to protect water quality and eliminate the potential for discharge into a tributary of the New River.

This project is located in the New River watershed; the New River was named an American Heritage River by President Clinton and sections of it have been given the following designations: High Quality Water, Outstanding Resource Waters and Wild and Scenic River. The old waste storage pond was directly above a tributary that empties into the New River, which is widely used for fishing, canoeing and swimming; this was a high priority project to protect the quality of the New River.

More than 600,000 gallons of affluent was removed; 2109 lbs. of nitrogen, 834 lbs. of phosphorous and 2549 lbs. of potash were land applied and are no longer a threat of flowing into the river; cattle have been permanently excluded from the area.

Before ...

Once used to store dairy waste, this structure became a threat and nuisance as heavy rains and runoff from surrounding buildings and lots kept the waste storage pond full and at times overflowing. Springs surfacing in the pond, created more storage problems, which became a hardship and additional expense for the farmer to maintain.



NC Foundation continued from page 2...

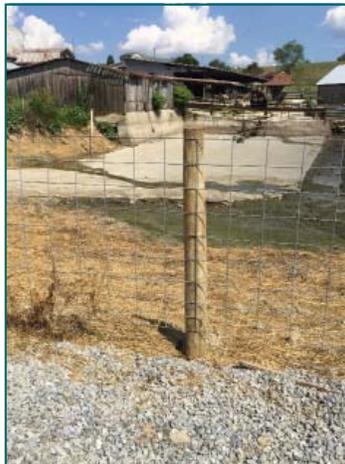
During ...

All the liquids/slurry and solids were removed and land applied, slopes graded, culvert/crossing and livestock exclusion installed to give access to the fields and protect the spring heads flowing out of WSP area. Bare soil is seeded and mulched to establish vegetation



After ...

Vegetation is established on disturbed areas. Filter cloth and gravel were installed to stabilize area used as access to surrounding fields for beef cattle and equipment. Cattle have been excluded and water quality is greatly improved by permanently closing this dairy waste storage pond



Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program



2017 Applications approved for 5 parcels on 579 acres

Participating acres to date:

Agriculture - 8011

Forestry - 3752

Horticulture - 391

Total acres to date: 12,154

No-Till Drill Rentals

The following acres were planted with the drills this year:

Haybuster Drill

26 rentals - 314.8 acres (\$2545)

Truax Drill

5 rentals - 51.5 acres (\$422)

31 Rentals - 366.3 Acres Planted

Funds Raised: \$ 2967



No-till drill rented in an effort to reduce soil erosion and increase production for Allegheny farmers by improving pasture and hay land .

NCACSP Annual Spot Checks

Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors are responsible for conducting annual spot checks on 5% of all active contracts to ensure compliance; contracts are selected at random.

The Soil and Water Commission encourages the participation of all supervisors in the site visits along with district, NRCS and/or division staff. Allegheny SWCD is proud to report 100% participation of district supervisors for 2017 NCACSP Spot Checks.

Supervisors Chris Huysman, Bobby Evans, Terry Hall, Alvin Dixon and Bill Osborne





Hall of Fame

A plaque honoring the late Bobby Joe Gambill as the first member inducted into the Allegheny Agricultural Hall of Fame was presented to his wife Susie Gambill during the Allegheny Agricultural Recognition Dinner held February 2017.

Ag Hall of Fame Awards

County Commissioner Bob Irwin welcomed everyone to Allegheny County's first Agricultural Recognition Dinner held February 21, 2017 with approximately 220 attending.

The late Bobby Joe Gambill was posthumously honored as the first inductee into the Allegheny Agricultural Hall of Fame; Bobby Joe raised beef and dairy cattle and Christmas trees.

The Young Producer Award was presented to Zak Roupe, owner-operator of Reeves Ridge Christmas Tree Farm.

The Tam Gambill Farm won the Century Farm Award; Adam and Aaron Gambill accepted the award in honor of their great grandfather (Tam), who was unable to attend due to illness.

The Agricultural Recognition Dinner was made possible by the Allegheny Agricultural Advisory Board, comprised of representatives of farmers, all agricultural related boards, agribusinesses, lenders, county government and agencies who work with agriculture.

District Activities

- Educational programs/events - 40
- Cost Share contracts written - 8
- Workshops/training events - 10
- Walk-ins - 477
- Phone calls - 1912
- No-till drill rentals - 31
- Referrals - 86
- Computer services/updates - 15
- Field/site visits - 20
- Materials provided - 177

Educational Summary

Poster, Speech & Essay Contests - 541 students

Resource Conservation Workshop - 2 students

10th Annual County & NW Envirothon - 191 students

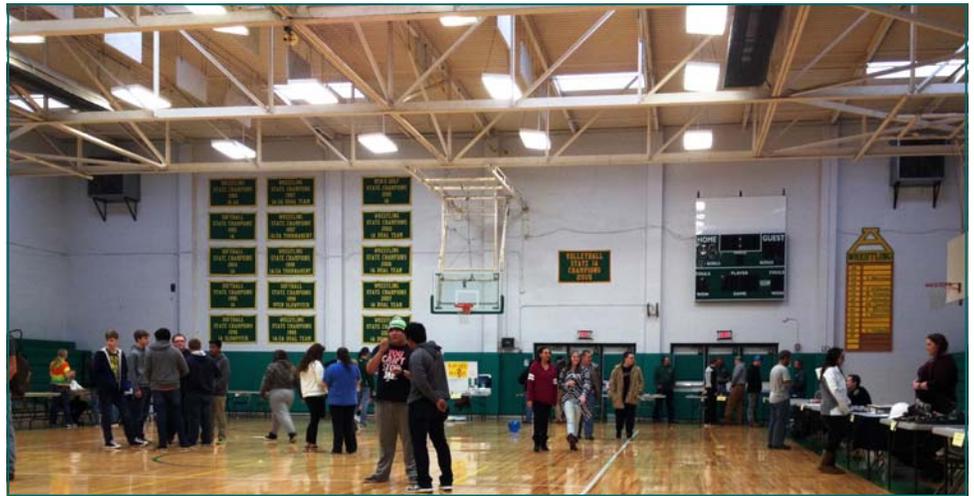
Farm Safety Day/4th Grade - 129 students

Animal Safety Day/2nd Grade - 128 students

Total Students reached: 991

Educational Events

Career Day at Alleghany High School



Career Day, held November 2016, was well attended by both middle and high school students.

Alleghany County Manager Mike James, along with numerous county departments and agencies, including Alleghany SWCD, provided information on various career opportunities available in our county.



Alleghany Sparta Trails Association

Alleghany SWCD provided conservation information and conducted soil erosion activities for participants during Alleghany Sparta Trails Association (ASTA) Build A Trail days held October 8, 2016 and May 21, 2017.

Their goal is to build a hiking trail from the Veterans Memorial Park to South Main Street along the right-of-way for the Sparta Parkway and eventually connect to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail that joins the Blue Ridge Parkway.

ASTA's mission is to provide pathways for outdoor recreation that promotes healthy lifestyles, and contributes to the economic vitality of Alleghany County.



Veteran's Park

Tree Identification Project

A WALK IN THE PARK BECOMES A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Identification signs have been placed near several of the trees and shrubs that line the walking trail at the Allegheny County Veteran's Memorial Park. The Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) organized the effort to create an outdoor educational opportunity in the park for all who visit. The signs include the common and scientific names as well as a brief description of the trees. Color pictures and a sketch of the leaves, nuts or fruit make it easy for all passersby to identify the trees. There is also a quick response (QR) code on each sign to use with smart phones or tablets to link to the USDA Plant Database for more information on each tree. A free QR code reader can be downloaded from your app store to research each specimen.

This project was made possible thanks to the sponsorship of the Allegheny County Commissioners. They recognize the importance of environmental educational programs and hope the park will be utilized to its utmost capacity. SWCD staff Linda Hash and Janie Woodle designed the signs. Several other partners came together to make the project a success including Russell Choate and Brandon Keener, NC Forest Service, Jim Brown and the part-time ball field crew, Parks and Recreation Department and Daniel Roten, Emergency Management Department. A special "thank you" goes to Karen Bell and the Allegheny Rotary Club for their donation of two American Chestnut trees, which have become nearly extinct due to disease. We share their enthusiasm in getting these once flourishing trees re-established in the county.

The purpose of the project is to encourage environmental studies. Teachers are invited to take their classroom outside for hands-on environmental learning. See which tree can have up to three different lobed leaves on the same tree or which has a flower that looks like a tulip; which ones have edible berries or nuts and which are poisonous; which are evergreen and which are deciduous. Do you know the difference in the Black Walnut and the Butternut Walnut? Visit the tree identification markers at the Allegheny Veteran's Memorial Park to learn all this and more. Make your next walk in the park a true learning experience for the entire family.



Brandon Keener, NC Forest Service along with Rotarians Tony League, Tony Southern, Larkin and Karen Bell help Soil & Water install signs at the Veteran's Park



Sam Ray, Joseph Hampton & Lucas Rife help install the post for the tree ID signs



Russell Choate & Brandon Keener, NC Forest Service assist Allegheny SWCD staff Linda Hash and Janie Woodle with the Veteran's Park Tree ID Project

Allegheny Rural Community Safety Field Day

A total of 129 4th grade students and adults participated in the Rural Community Safety Field Day October 13, 2016. Students were provided information at the following stations: Safety Smarts, Chemical Safety, Gun Safety, Bicycle Safety, Wildlife/Nature, Machinery/Equipment, Animal Safety, Fire Safety, Water Safety, and Team Building.



2nd grade students participated in the Farm Animal Safety Field Days at the Allegheny Fairgrounds May 18, 2017. 128 students received information as they rotated between the following stations: *Vet *Plants *By-Products *Beef *Goats *Poultry *Dairy *Sheep *Equine



Safety Field Days hosted by

Allegheny NC Cooperative Extension Service

Resource Conservation Workshop



Rylie LaRue and Sydni Smith attended the Resource Conservation Workshop at NC State University June 25-30, 2017. The four days of resource topics included subjects such as soil characteristics and soil conservation, wildlife and fisheries management, forest management, nonagricultural uses for soils, and water quality and watershed management.

Rylie stated that she learned a lot about erosion, sediment and turbidity class. Her favorite session was working in a group to determine which Best Management Practices (BMPs) would address sediment concerns on a farm and then presenting their conclusions to the other students.

Sydni learned about the various career branches that are available within the field of environmental science. The workshop covered a wide variety of subjects such as soil erosion, water quality and various types of pollinators. Sydni stated that real world examples were provided on how to best conserve and protect our natural resources.



Poster, Essay & Speech Contests



The Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) provided educational programs as requested in the 5th - 8th grades of each school and the 9th grade at Alleghany High School. This year's theme was "Soil & Water... Yours for Life". The winners at the school level received certificates and cash awards from Alleghany SWCD.

First place winners from each school competed in a county-wide competition in January. Results of the county competitions are: 5th Grade Poster winners: 1st place-Zoe Gambill, Piney Creek School; 2nd place-Olivia Campbell, Glade Creek

School; 3rd place-Genesis Li, Sparta School; 4th place-Amber Hirschy, Blue Ridge Christian School. 6th Grade Essay winners: 1st place-Cindy Lopez, Glade Creek School; 2nd place-Sophia Hargnett, Blue Ridge Christian School; 3rd place-Alex Barr, Sparta School; 4th place-Christabella Williams, Piney Creek School. 7th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-Hazel Pasley, Sparta School; 2nd place-Danielle Taylor, Piney Creek School; 3rd place-Lauren Hettleman, Blue Ridge Christian School; 4th place-Abbie Joines, Glade Creek School. 8th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-Hanna DeBord, Piney Creek School; 2nd place-Avery Hamm, Sparta School; 3rd place-Ethan Snider, Blue Ridge Christian School; 4th place-Jennifer Miles, Glade Creek School. Alleghany High School 9th Grade Computer Designed Poster winners: 1st place-Rylie LaRue; 2nd place-Sydni Smith; 3rd place-Blake Murphy.

The first place competitor in each event competed in a 13 county Area competition in Caldwell County March 16th. Alleghany's students placed as follows in the Area Contests: Zoe Gambill, Piney Creek School, took 2nd place in the 5th grade Poster Competition, she received \$35 and a medallion; Cindy Lopez, Glade Creek School, received an Honorable Mention certificate in the 6th grade Essay Competition; Hazel Pasley, Sparta School, took 1st place in the 7th grade Speech Competition and received \$75 and a medallion; Hanna DeBord, Piney Creek School, received an Honorable Mention in the 8th grade Speech Competition; Rylie LaRue, Alleghany High School, received an Honorable Mention certificate in the 9th Grade Computer Designed Poster. Hazel Pasley won 1st place in the State Contest in Raleigh May 4th.

The Speech contest is one of many educational opportunities offered throughout the year by the Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District



Zoe Gambill—Piney Creek School
2nd Place—Area Competition
5th Grade Poster



Cindy Lopez—Glade Creek School
Honorable Mention
Area Competition



Hanna DeBord—Piney Creek School
Honorable Mention
Area Competition
8th Grade Speech



Rylie LaRue—Alleghany High School
Honorable Mention
Area Competition
9h Grade Poster



Hazel Pasley-Sparta School
1st Place—Area Competition
7th Grade Speech

Envirothon Competition

The Envirothon program is a competitive event in which high school and middle school teams of up to five members compete in a natural resources and ecology field day. The competition covers the following resource subjects: forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and current environmental issues.



A total of 32 teams from Allegheny County participated in the 10th Annual Envirothon competition held October 27, 2016 sponsored by Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District.

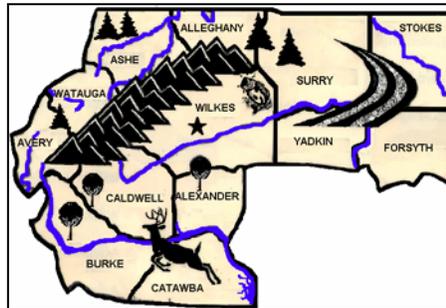
1st - High School Competition



1st - Middle School Competition



1st place - NW Envirothon
The Envirothings
Piney Creek



4th place - NW Envirothon
Avada Kedavra
Piney Creek

The Northwest Envirothon Competition, sponsored by the Area 2 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, was held March 31, 2017, in Wilkes County.

The seven highest scoring teams in middle school and high school advanced to the state competition.



7th Place - State Envirothon
The Envirothings,
Piney Creek School

The “The Envirothings” and “Avada Kedavra” competed in the State Envirothon on April 28-29 in Burlington at Cedarock Park.

“The Envirothings” placed 7th out of the 48 middle school teams competing in the event.

State competition is the highest level of competition for middle school teams; high school teams, however, compete for a chance to participate in the North American Envirothon which includes teams from all over the U.S. and Canada.

For more information please visit:

www.ncenvirothon.org



Our Mission Is...

...to promote the conservation of natural resources in Alleghany County through education, information, technical assistance, and available economic incentives.

The Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Carolina found under GS-139, charged with the responsibility of promoting soil and water conservation and establishing conservation programs in the District. The District partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to carry out these responsibilities. As a local organization we work with citizens, agencies, and land owners to plan and direct programs for the conservation and development of our natural resources. We also work closely with other state, federal, and local agencies, such as NCDA&CS, Resource Conservation and Development, US Army Corp of Engineers, NC Forest Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, NC Cooperative Extension, to provide effective natural resource management and environmental education.

Alleghany District Board of Supervisors

Bobby Evans / Chair
Chris Huysman / Vice-Chair
Terry Hall / Secretary - Treasurer
Alvin Dixon / Member
Bill Osborne / Member

District Staff

Linda Hash/Director/Conservationist
 Janie Woodle/Admin. Asst./Ed. Director

NRCS Staff

David Tucker/District Conservationist



NCDA&CS Div of Soil & Water Conservation

Rob Baldwin, Western Regional Coordinator

Please contact our office for more information about any of our programs

ALLEGHANY SWCD

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