

Fall 2012



**Special  
Edition**

# 2012 Annual Report

# Conservation Comments



## Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

*"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.*

*Loran Eisely, The Immense Journey, 1957*

### District Projects Funded through NC Cost Shared Programs

#### 15 Contracts Funded Through NC Cost Share Programs:

NC Agricultural Cost Share Program- <b>NCACSP</b>	\$57,239
Impaired/Impacted Funds-II	\$14,364
Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program- <b>AgWRAP</b>	\$3180
Ecosystem Enhancement Program- <b>EEP</b>	\$150,256
Total :	\$ 216,002

#### BMPs Funded Include:

27 Ac. Pasture Renovation	1 Waste Storage Structure
225 Ft. Ag. Road Repairs	31 Watering Tanks
2 Spring Developments	21 Ac. Cropland Conversion
1 Stream Crossing	14,300 Ft. Fence
19 Heavy Use Area Stabilizations	5 Wells
1 Roof Runoff Management System	16,802 Ft. Pipeline

#### Installation of these Practices will produce the following benefits:

328 Acres Affected	545 Tons Soil Saved
533 Lbs Nitrogen Saved	375 Lbs Phosphorus Saved

#### USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** staff in Alleghany allocated Federal cost share funds to **4 contracts** which included the following BMPs:

200 Ft Animal Trails	2950 Ft Fencing	2 Stream Crossings
51,550 Ft Pipeline	17 Watering Facilities	400 Ft. Access Road
59 Ac Prescribed Grazing	4 Wells	

**Total Contracts Written: \$105,197.61**

Technical Programs Summaries 1

Educational Programs

District Activities 2

Farmland Preservation

NCADFPTF Grant & Farmland Protection Planning Committee Update 3

No-Till Drills

EQIP

District Calendar

Conservation Options Workshops 4

Conservation Options Workshops continued 5

District Contact Information 6

## Educational Programs

**Wetlands are Wonderful** was the theme for the 2012 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Contest. Contests included the 5th grade poster, 6th grade essay, and 7th and 8th grade speech. District winners competed in the 13 county Area Contest in Caldwell County for the chance to advance to the State Contest held each year in Raleigh.

A total of 14 teams competed in the 5th Annual County Envirothon competition in preparation for the 13 county NW Envirothon held in Wilkes County in March. One local team from Alleghany high School advanced to the State Envirothon Competition held at Cedarock Park in Burlington April 20-21.

### Summary

■ Poster, Speech & Essay Contest	496 students	■ Northwest Envirothon	48 students
■ 5th Annual County Envirothon	65 students	■ State Envirothon	3 students
■ Jr. Master Cattlemen program	6 students	■ Farm Animal Day (2nd grade)	93 students
■ 4-H Activity Day	275 students		
<b>Total Students reached: 986</b>			

### District Activities

- Educational Programs/Events 44
- Workshops/Training Events 80
- Referrals 107
- Walk-ins 527
- Phone Calls 2380
- No-till drill lease or inquiries 45
- Computer services/updates 27
- Field/site visits 44
- Materials provided 321
- Tree give away 3,000 (approximate)

### Farmland Preservation Program

Applications for 6 parcels approved since July 1, 2011 for 393.36 acres

Participating acres to date:

6579 Agriculture      3355 Forestry      390 Horticulture

**Total acres to date: 10325**



## NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

NCDA & CS

### Farmland Protection Planning Committee Update

Alleghany SWCD recently was awarded \$15,000 from ADFP to assist with the development and implementation of a county-wide Farmland Protection Plan for Alleghany County. Preserving working family farms is one of Agriculture Commissioner, Steve Troxler's top priorities. The purpose of the plan is to encourage the preservation of qualifying agricultural, horticultural and forestlands and to foster growth, development and sustainability of family farms.

The Farmland Protection Planning Committee held their first meeting August 23, 2012; they received a brief summary of the ADFP Trust Fund Grant from ADFP Program Manager, Dewitt Hardee and Elizabeth Heath, Administrative Assistant II for ADFPTF. The purpose of the committee and timeline for the plan was reviewed and a steering committee was formed to assist in the day to day needs of the larger committee. The second meeting was held September 19th; examples of Farmland Protection Plans, a draft contract and Request for Proposal were reviewed. The committee is scheduled to meet October 9th to begin the process of retaining a consultant to develop the plan.

### No-Till Drills Available

The Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to participate in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss in our county by renting one of the two no-till grass drills available for your fall planting needs.

**Please call 336-372-7777 to schedule rental of either the Truax or Tye no-till**

### Dry Hydrants provide access to water supply

Tragic fires can occur anywhere, anytime. This is especially true in rural areas where fire trucks must travel long distances to fill-up their tanks with water and return to the fire. The installation of dry hydrants in ponds can provide quick and easy access to water during an emergency.

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized, low-cost pipe system installed along the bank of a pond. The top of the pipe extends above the ground next to a pond and the bottom of the pipe extends down into the water. The hydrant should also be well marked and next to an all-weather road.

Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District has 6+strainers and head assemblies available for local fire departments to use in the installation of dry hydrants; arrangements have been made for the pipe needed in the installation. A Letter of Authorization you may use for the landowners to sign giving permission for the installation and access to the hydrant is available from our office.

**For more information please contact: Linda Hash 336-372-7777**

## EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Applications are being accepted for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program administered by the NRCS. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help to plan, design and install conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

Applications that are received will be ranked; the ranking system uses a combination of national, statewide and local criteria to help determine which applications are the most environmentally beneficial projects. Those projects that are ranked highest will be funded during this funding cycle. We encourage all those who wish to participate to continue to submit applications throughout the year in anticipation for future opportunities.

For more information about EQIP contact NRCS today. You can reach the **Jefferson Service Center** at 336-246-5461 ext. 3 or by email at [david.tucker@nc.usda.gov](mailto:david.tucker@nc.usda.gov).

You may also contact the **Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District** at 336-372-7777 to set an appointment to complete an application or to come in and discuss available programs.



### District Calendar

October 9th—District Board Meeting ~ The Pines Restaurant 7:30 am

October 9th —Farmland Protection Plan Committee Meeting ~ County Office Building 9:00 am

October 11th—Area 2 Fall Meeting ~ Caldwell Agricultural Center 10:00 am

October 11th—21st ~ State Fair, Raleigh

October 25th Annual Alleghany County Envirothon ~ Lions Club Pavilion 9:00 am

November 13th—District Board Meeting ~ The Pines Restaurant 7:30 am

November 13th—FPP Advisory Board Meeting ~ Conference Room/SWCD Building 9:00 am

## Conservation Options Workshop - Ashe County - October 18, 2012

**FREE workshops, including refreshments, are being offered by—Blue Ridge Conservancy, Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Land Trust of the Little Tennessee and the Conservation Trust for North Carolina. The workshops will provide information on:**

- **Conservation options for your land, working forests and farms, including conservation easements**
- **Landowner testimonials on their experiences working with land trusts to conserve their land**
- **Potential financial benefits, including federal and state tax incentives**
- **The importance of the region's farms and forests, land management planning and conservation practices**
- **Possible technical and financial resources**

**A land trust is a private, non-profit, non-governmental organization that works in partnership with landowners on voluntary projects to conserve working forests and farms, wildlife habitat, natural areas and parks and water quality. Land trusts assist landowners in developing strategies that meet the landowner's long-term land management and conservation goals while realizing potential financial benefits.**

(See details on page 5)

## Conservation Options Workshops for Forest and Farmland Owners

### Conservation Options Workshops for Forest and Farmland Owners

October 4, 8 and 18

**Hosted by:** Blue Ridge Conservancy  
Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina  
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy  
Land Trust for the Little Tennessee  
Conservation Trust for North Carolina

### PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED

Area land trusts are proud to offer free, informal workshops for landowners interested in preserving special areas, learning more about keeping your forests and farms in production and leaving a legacy for future generations.

#### WORKSHOP INFORMATION:

You are welcome to attend any or all of the following workshops:

**October 4, 2012** 5:30-7:30 pm  
Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center  
Milepost 382  
BRP, Asheville  
**Registration Deadline:**  
**September 2**

**October 8, 2012** 5:30-7:30 pm  
Jackson County Library  
310 Keener Street  
Sylva  
**Registration Deadline:**  
**October 4**

**October 18, 2012** 5:30-7:30 pm  
Ashe County Arts Council  
303 School Avenue  
West Jefferson  
**Registration Deadline:**  
**October 15**

The workshops, which include refreshments, are provided free of charge thanks to a generous grant from NCDOT Scenic Byways Program.

To register, please call Megan Smith or complete the form below, detach and mail to:  
Conservation Trust for North Carolina  
c/o Megan Smith  
1028 Washington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27605  
919-828-4199 ext. 17

For more information on your area land trust:  
Blue Ridge Conservancy [www.blueridgeconservancy.org](http://www.blueridgeconservancy.org) (828) 264-2511  
Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina [www.foothillsconservancy.org](http://www.foothillsconservancy.org) (828) 437-9930  
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy [www.appalachian.org](http://www.appalachian.org) (828) 253-0095  
The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee [www.ltl.org](http://www.ltl.org) (828) 524-2711  
Conservation Trust for North Carolina [www.ctnc.org](http://www.ctnc.org) (919) 828-4199

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please contact Rusty Painter at (919) 828-4199 ext. 16 or [rusty@ctnc.org](mailto:rusty@ctnc.org)

I/We plan to attend (check box):

- October 4, 2012  
Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center, Asheville
- October 8, 2012  
Jackson County Library, Sylva
- October 18, 2012  
Ashe County Arts Council, West Jefferson
- I/We cannot attend but would like to receive information about conservation opportunities.





*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, 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 citizens, agencies, and land owners to plan and direct programs for the conservation and development of our natural resources. We work closely with other state, federal, and local agencies, such as NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 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.**

---

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

---

**ALLEGHANY SWCD**

**P O Box 127 (90 S. Main St., Room 200)**

**Sparta, NC 28675**

**Visit us on the web at : [Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District](#)**

**Phone: 336-372-4645 or 336-372-7777 Fax: 336-372-7402**

**Email: [Linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net](mailto:Linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net) or Janie Woodle [allegswcd@skybest.com](mailto:allegswcd@skybest.com)**

**Office Hours: 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday**

**Board meetings are open to the public and are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday**

