

Fall 2012



Special Edition

2013 Annual Report

Conservation Comments



Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

“Essentially, all life depends upon the soil ...
There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together.”
Charles E. Kellogg, USDA Yearbook of Agriculture, 1938

District Projects Funded through NC Cost Shared Programs

7 Contracts Funded Through NC Cost Share Programs:

■ NC Agricultural Cost Share Program- NCACSP	\$54,577
■ Impaired/Impacted Funds-II	\$15,076
■ Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program- AgWRAP	\$ 5364
Total :	\$ 75,017

Technical /Cost Share Programs Summary 1

Educational Programs

District Activities

Farmland Preservation Program 2

No-Till Drills

BMPs Funded Include:

150Ft. Ag. Road Repairs	14 Watering Tanks
3 Spring Development/repairs	4400 Ft. Fence
1 Stream Crossing	10,424 Ft. Pipeline
16 Heavy Use Area Stabilizations	3 Wells

USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff in Alleghany allocated Federal cost share funds to **6 contracts** which included the following BMPs:

4000 ft. Stream Restoration	2 Stream Crossings
14 Water tanks	4825 ft. Fence
	Pipe--7800 ft.

Total (6 contracts) : \$555,142.00

NCADFPTF Grant & Farmland Protection Plan Update 3

Conservation Farm Family

Meeting Schedule 4

Contact Information

Educational Programs

"*Water...the Cycle of Life*" was the theme for the 2013 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Contest. District/county winners in each category competed in a 13 county Area Contest in Caldwell County for the chance to advance to the State Contest held each year in Raleigh. Alleghany students placed as follows in the Area and State events: 5th Grade Poster-2nd in Area; 6th Grade Essay-3rd in Area; 7th Grade Speech-1st in Area and 2nd in State; 8th Grade Speech-2nd in Area and 9th Grade Computer Designed Poster-2nd in Area.

A total of 18 teams competed in the 6th Annual County Envirothon competition in preparation for the 13-county area-wide NW Envirothon held in Wilkes County in March. "Rabid Raccoons"/Glade Creek Elementary and "Green Machine"/Alleghany High School advanced to the State Envirothon Competition held at Cedarock Park in Burlington April 20-21.

Educational Summary

■ Poster, Speech & Essay Contest	696 students	■ Northwest Envirothon	60 students
■ 6th Annual County Envirothon	90 students	■ State Envirothon	8 students
■ Resource Conservation Workshop	1 student		

Total Students reached: 855

District Activities Summary

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Educational Programs/Events <u>22</u> | • No-till drill rentals <u>23</u> / inquiries <u>72</u> |
| • Workshops/Training Events <u>9</u> | • Computer services/updates <u>48</u> |
| • Referrals <u>96</u> | • Field/site visits <u>70</u> |
| • Walk-ins <u>567</u> | • Materials provided <u>325</u> |
| • Phone Calls <u>2659</u> | • Tree give away <u>3,000 (approximate)</u> |

Rental on No-Till Drills

The SWCD rents 2 no-till drills to county landowners in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss. The following acres were planted with the drills this year:

Truax Drill-10 rentals-77.6 Acres

Tye Drill-13 rentals-83.7 Acres

Total Acres Planted: 161.3

Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program

Applications for 9 parcels approved since July 1, 2012 for 587 acres

Participating acres to date:

6941 Agriculture

3573 Forestry

391 Horticulture

Total acres to date: 10,905



NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

NCDA & CS

Farmland Preservation Plan

Last year the District received a grant from the NC Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to develop a comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. We contracted with retired extension director, Bob Edwards to develop the plan. After months of research and outreach including a series of community meetings as well as one-on-one interviews, Mr. Edwards presented the draft Plan to the Soil & Water Conservation District Board, the Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Advisory Board and the Farmland Protection Planning Committee on Tuesday, September 10th for review and discussion prior presentation to the County Commissioners on October 7th. The Plan will be submitted to the County Commissioners October 21st for adoption.

The purpose of the plan is to encourage the preservation of qualifying agricultural, horticultural and forest lands and to foster growth, development and sustainability of family farms.

This plan should serve as a guide for the county and other agencies as they plan for the future of agriculture in Alleghany County. Once the plan is adopted by the County and State, future grants may be sought for agricultural development and farmland preservation without the county having to provide matching funds.

2013 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family Awarded



The 2013 Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award went to Brush Creek Farm in Ennice. Frances Huber, Owner, and Bobby Irwin, Manager took first place in the Area and Mountain Region competitions and went on to place second in the State competition for outstanding stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources through conservation, education and implementation of Best Management Conservation Practices. The Area award was presented

in Newton October 10th during an annual meeting of the 13 counties in Area 2. The Mountain Region and State Award will be presented in January during the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's statewide meeting in Asheville.



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 with 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, 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](http://www.alleghanycounty-nc.gov/soil_and_water_conservation_district.php)

http://www.alleghanycounty-nc.gov/soil_and_water_conservation_district.php

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

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

