



Conservation Comments



**2014
Fall Edition**

Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

Agriculture Advisory Board

*"Water is the driver of nature"
~ Leonardo da Vinci*

Ag Advisory Board

FPP Board

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The Agricultural Advisory Board of Alleghany County was recently formed as a result of the adoption and certification in 2013 of the Alleghany Farmland Preservation Plan. The plan was prepared by Bob Edwards, former District Director for North Carolina Cooperative Extension at NC State University.

The Alleghany Agricultural Advisory Board (AAAB) is comprised of a cross section representative of all farmers, agribusinesses, lenders, county government and all departments and agencies that work on agriculture. AAAB will meet regularly to address agriculture related concerns, seek grant opportunities, advise county government in agricultural related issues, and encourage and promote agriculture as a part of any future economic development plans.

Members of the AAAB are Bobby Evans, Frank Fender, Colette Nester, Bill Osborne, Marshall Hash, Susie Gambill, Johnny Wishon, Bob Woodward, Dustin Phipps, Bobby Davis, Brant Banks, and David Gambill; Ex-officio members County Commissioner, Larry Cox; NCCE Agriculture Agent, Aaron Ray Tompkins; SWCD Director/Conservationist II, Linda Hash. The first meeting of AAAB was conducted Monday, September 29th, 2014.

Area 2 Fall Meeting

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**8th Annual Alleghany
County Envirothon**

**Resource
Conservation
Workshop**

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Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Advisory Board

The Farmland Preservation Program Advisory (FPP) board was recently informed of the decision of Paul Edwards, Jim Dixon and Charles Williams to not seek recommendation for re-appointment to the board. The FPP board wishes to express their gratitude and appreciation for the many years of dedicated service and caring commitment they have devoted to the farming community of Alleghany County.

A warm welcome is extended to Yancey Sparks, Alvin Dixon, Roger Williams and Aaron Ray Tompkins who were recently approved by the Alleghany County Board of Commissioners to serve on the FPP Advisory Board.

The purpose of the Voluntary Preservation Program is to encourage the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. A total of 11240.98 acres of farmland in Alleghany are currently enrolled in the FPP program: 7203.421 acres agriculture, 3646.81 acres forestry, and 390.75 acres horticulture.

**Poster, Essay & Speech
Contests**

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**Alleghany County
Rural & Community
Safety Day**

Fall Tips

**Daylight Saving Time
District Calendar**

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FPP Advisory Board

Milly Richardson, Chair
Bobby Evans, Vice-Chair
Lewis Upchurch

David Gambill
Bradford Gambill
Aaron Ray Tompkins

Alvin Dixon
Yancey Sparks
Roger Williams

For more information please contact the following:

Alleghany SWCD
PO Box 127
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372-7777

USDA Farm Service Agency
FSA
PO Box 624
Jefferson, NC 28640
246-8875 Ext. 2

NC Cooperative Extension
PO Box 7
Sparta, NC 28675
372-5597

District Board & Staff

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Area 2 NCASWCD Area 2 Fall Meeting “Growing Conservation”

The Area 2 Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Fall Meeting was held October 9, 2014, at the Forsyth Ag Center. SWCD Supervisor, Chris Huysman, SWCD staff, Linda Hash and Janie Woodle attended the meeting.

The Area 2 SWCD Business Session included reports from the Area Treasurer, election of officers for 2015, Standing Committee elections, Area 2 Resolutions, District Issues Committee, Area NW Envirothon Committee, presentation of Area 2 awards, Foundation for Soil & Water, and Growing Conservation.

Area 2 Farm Family presentation was provided by Pam Steuer, Caldwell SWCD; reports were provided by Pat Harris, DSWC Director; Franklin Williams, NACD Board Member; Byran Colvard, Area 2 Representative; Tim Beard, State Conservationist, NRCS; John Langdon, Association President; Dick Fowler, Association Executive Director.

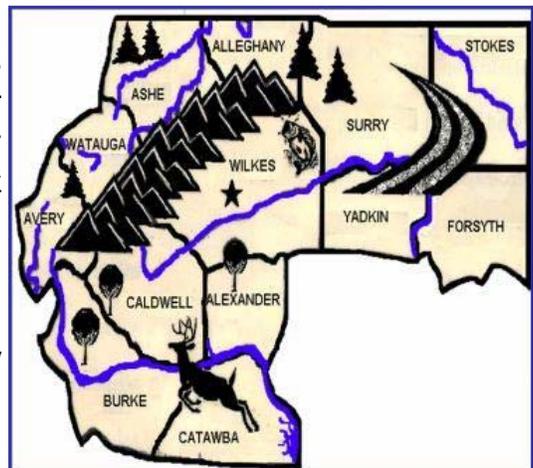
8th Annual County Envirothon Competition

The Envirothon competition is a fun, hands-on, natural science academic event that challenges and engages students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it. In-class curriculum is combined with outdoor training to help students learn and experience more about Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife and Current Environmental Issues.

Envirothon teams, comprised of students in 5th through 12th grades, will compete in the 8th Annual Alleghany County Envirothon on Thursday, October 30th, 2014. Envirothon team advisors are Whitney Greene, Alleghany High School; Elizabeth Davis and Doug Murphy, Blue Ridge Christian School; Hope McClure and Melissa Gibson, Glade Creek Elementary; Becky Sanders, Piney Creek Elementary and Elaine Reales, Sparta Elementary. This event provides additional training and experience for local teams who will compete in the thirteen county NW Envirothon, March 26, 2015, and hopefully, will qualify to compete at the state level April 24-25, 2015.

Presentations will be provided by the following: Aquatics, Jeff Matheson, New River State Park; Current Environmental Issues (CEI), Amy Lucas, NC Cooperative Extension Service; Forestry, Russell Choate, NC Forest Service; Soils, David Tucker, NRCS; Wildlife, Mike Edwards, Stone Mountain State Park.

The Alleghany Envirothon is sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit, Alleghany Farm Bureau, Food Lion, Lowes Foods, and Alleghany SWCD



Resource Conservation Workshop



Leah McGrady

Local resident Leah McGrady was among a select group of North Carolina high school students who attended the Resource Conservation Workshop conducted at N.C. State University June 22nd – 27th. Leah, the daughter of Randy and Donna McGrady of Ennice, was sponsored by the Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation district (SWCD) to attend this week long event. Eighty-seven students were selected for the 51st Annual Resource Conservation Workshop from Sunday through Friday. Students were selected based on their academic achievements and interest in pursuing a career in natural resource management or a related field.

The annual workshop offers an intensive study of conservation practices and hands-on training. The four days of resource topics were organized by an innumerable number of resource professionals and university staff which included NCSU Soil Science Department (Soil Science Day), Falls Lake US Army Corps of Engineers (Water, Wildlife, Recreation & Fish Management Day), Clemmons Educational State Forest (Forestry and Forest Management Day), and Wake Soil & Water Conservation District (Soil & Water Day). Students also received information and insight into careers in natural resource management. Concepts were reinforced throughout the week and brought together in a culminating activity with students devising land-use plans.

The celebration of 51 years of this workshop reinforced the commitment by the numerous workshop instructors to provide engaging, hands-on activities for students to explore their profession. Students were housed in campus dormitories while attending the workshop; counselors provided by Soil and Water Conservation Districts stayed with the eighty-seven students all week and helped them with the daily logistics of dorm and campus life.

The Resource Conservation Workshop scholarships and cash awards are given to students with the top five scores from Friday's written exam. In addition, the RCW counselors worked hard to nominate only eight students to be interviewed by a panel of judges for the S. Grady Lane and the NC Conservation District Employees Association's scholarship.

Leah McGrady was awarded the \$1,000.00 District Employees Association scholarship based on the results of her interview with the judging panel. After the workshop, Leah attended the Alleghany SWCD monthly board meeting on Tuesday, July 8th, to report on the success of the workshop. When asked about her interest in conservation, she said she "would like to learn more about conservation and what I can do as an individual in my community." In regards to career plans she noted that she is interested in "something in the field of biology." Leah was grateful for the opportunity and recommends the workshop to others who are interested in pursuing a career in the natural resource field.

The Resource Conservation Workshop is provided by the North Carolina Association of
Soil and Water Conservation Districts' educational programs.

Soil and Water Conservation Contests



Wetlands Are Wonderful

The theme for this year's Annual Soil and Water Conservation Contest is "Wetlands Are Wonderful". Contests include 5th grade poster, 6th grade essay, 7th-8th grade speech, and 9th grade computer designed poster contest.

First place winners at the school level will compete in the County Contest on February 10th, 2015. Those students who take first place in the County Contest will advance to the 13 county Area competition held in March and hopefully qualify for the State Contest to be held May 2015 in Raleigh.

Students who competed at the county level will be recognized for their accomplishments at the Allegheny Soil and Water Awards Banquet scheduled May 5th, 2015.

Contest presentations, materials, curriculum goals and objectives, rules, regulations, and a list of educational resources will be provided to teachers in 5th through 9th grades.

Deadline to submit winning entries from each school to the Soil and Water office is Thursday, January 15th

Allegheny County Rural Community Safety Day

4th grade students participated in the Rural & Community Safety Field Day, September 25, 2014, at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds.

The event is designed to develop safe practice habits around the home, on the farm, and in rural communities and to educate youth on accident prevention. Fun and educational presentations were provided on the following topics:

Safety Smarts—To help children understand the dangers involved in relationships with adults and online safety risks

Chemical Awareness-Increased knowledge of the potential hazards associated with chemicals and drugs

Gun Safety-To increase safe and age appropriate gun handling and storage practices

Wildlife/Nature-Reduced exposure to critter hazards in and around the home

Machinery/Equipment-Reduction in the number of injuries associated with machinery and outdoor equipment including farm tractors, PTOs, and Lawn tractors

Animal Safety-To increase awareness of potential hazards associated with animals and to increase safe practices around animals

Bicycle Safety-Improved bike safety habits

Water Safety-Increased knowledge of pond and river safety and procedures for water related emergencies

Fire Safety-Reduction in the number of fire related injuries through increased knowledge of fire prevention, detection and escape



hosted by
Allegheny NC Cooperative Extension Service

Energy Saving Tips for Fall



Seal Leaks

Add weather stripping around your entry doors. Heat can easily leak out through the spacing surrounding the doorway. This instantly eliminates cold drafts.

Insulation

Installing insulation could be the cheapest way to make the most impact when it comes to energy savings. Lay insulation in the basement, attic and crawl space. You can also blow insulation into the inside of your exterior walls to retain heat during colder months.

Windows

Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

Adjust the Temperature

When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills.

Lower Your Water Heating Costs

Water heating can account for 14% to 25% of the energy used in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

Solar Heat

Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Fall Back One Hour November 2nd, 2014 at 2:00 am.



Daylight saving time is the practice of setting the clock forward by one hour during the warmer part of the year, so that evenings have more daylight and mornings have less. The clock moves ahead (losing one hour) in the spring when DST starts, and falls back one hour (gaining one hour) when DST ends in the fall. To remember which way the clock goes, keep in mind one of these sayings, "spring forward, fall back" or "spring ahead, fall behind".

Many people believe that DST could be linked to fewer road accidents and injuries. The extra hour of daylight in the evening is said to give children more social time and can boost the tourism industry because it increases the amount of outdoor activities. DST is also said to save energy and reduce artificial light needed during the evening hours - clocks are set one hour ahead during the spring, and one hour back to standard time in the autumn.

District Calendar



October 14—SWCD District Board Meeting, Pines Restaurant

October 21—NW Envirothon Meeting, Burke

October 30—Alleghany County Envirothon, Lions Club Pavilion

November 2-5—SE Annual Conference

November 18—SWCD District Board & Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Meetings, Conference Room, 90 S. Main Street

January 5-7—NCASWCD Annual State Meeting, Greensboro

January 15—Submit contest entries to Alleghany Soil & Water



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

Paul Edwards / Chair

Bobby Evans / Vice-Chair

Terry Hall / Secretary - Treasurer

Jim Dixon / Member

Chris Huysman / Member

SWCD Staff

Linda Hash/Director/Conservationist

Janie Woodle/Adm Asst/Edu Director

NRCS Staff

David Tucker/District Conservationist



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

ALLEGHANY SWCD

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