



# CUMBERLAND SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021—2022 Annual Report

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District  
Charlie Rose Agriculture-Exposition Center  
301 E. Mountain Drive, Suite 229  
Fayetteville, NC 28306  
910-484-8479 ext. 3

# Cumberland SWCD Board of Supervisors



**Wayne Collier, Jr.**

Board Chairman



**Lena Simmons**

Vice Chair



**Clifton McNeill, Jr.**

Treasurer/Secretary



**Wingate Collier**

Board Member

After many years of dedicated service to Cumberland Soil & Water, Supervisor Wingate Collier unfortunately decided to resign his seat. He was a great asset to Soil & Water and is greatly missed. We wish him good health and know that he still remains a part of our soil & water family despite his retirement from the Board.



**Monique McMillan**

Board Member

Adam Carter was sworn in by Judge Talmage Baggett, on May 13th, 2022, taking over Mr. Wingate Collier's seat for the remainder of the term. We welcome Mr. Carter to the Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation Board of Supervisors.



# SUPERVISORS IN ACTION

From attending Board Meetings, volunteering for projects, spot checks, serving on committees, to just being supportive of staff, our Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors gets things done!!



2021 Annual Meeting



Spot Checks



Rain Barrel Fundraiser

Board Meetings



# Cumberland SWCD Staff



**Gretta Steffens**

Department Head  
Administrative Program  
Officer  
Education Coordinator

**Mitchell Miller**

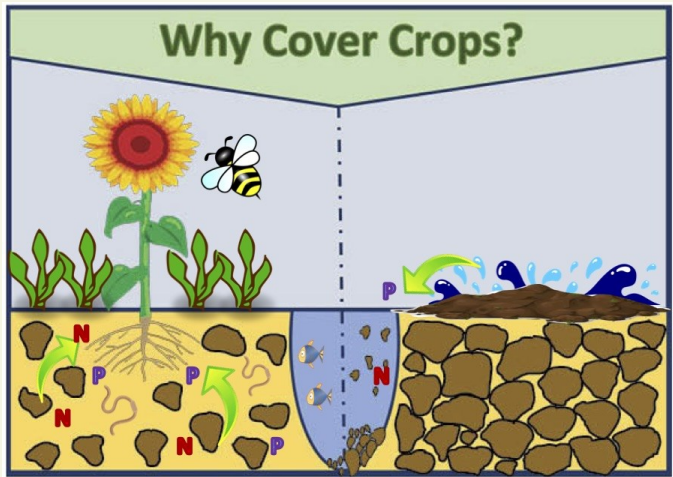
Soil Conservationist



**Donna Foster** retired in December of 2021 as the Department Head/Administrative Program Officer of Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District. She loved her work with Cumberland SWCD and was equally respected and loved. She helped chose Gretta Steffens as her replacement, having worked together for years on the Area VII Education Committee. She is missed; but keeping busy in her retirement, working part time in her local church and spending time with her family and friends. We wish Donna the best the future has to offer.

*Happy Retirement Donna!!!*

## Cover Crops



**With the funding received through Cost Share Programs with the Division of Soil & Water, Cumberland SWCD was able to make a great impact on Cumberland County water quality and the Cape Fear Watershed. Over the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Cumberland SWCD accomplished the following through best management practices with landowners:**

### Benefits of Cover Crops

- Improved nutrient cycling
- Increased organic matter
- Reduced soil erosion
- Increased weed suppression
- Increased water absorption
- Improved wildlife habitat

### Cons of Conventional Crop Rotation

- Increased soil compaction
- Increased surface runoff
- Increased nutrient and sediment loss
- Organic matter degradation
- Increased risk of heavy rain
- Increased risk of severe drought

### Cropland Conversion to grass pastureland

- ◆ **Areas Affected**                      **235 acres**
- ◆ **Soil Saved**                              **490 tons**
- ◆ **Nitrogen Saved**                      **2,092 pounds**



Farm Field Access Road Repair

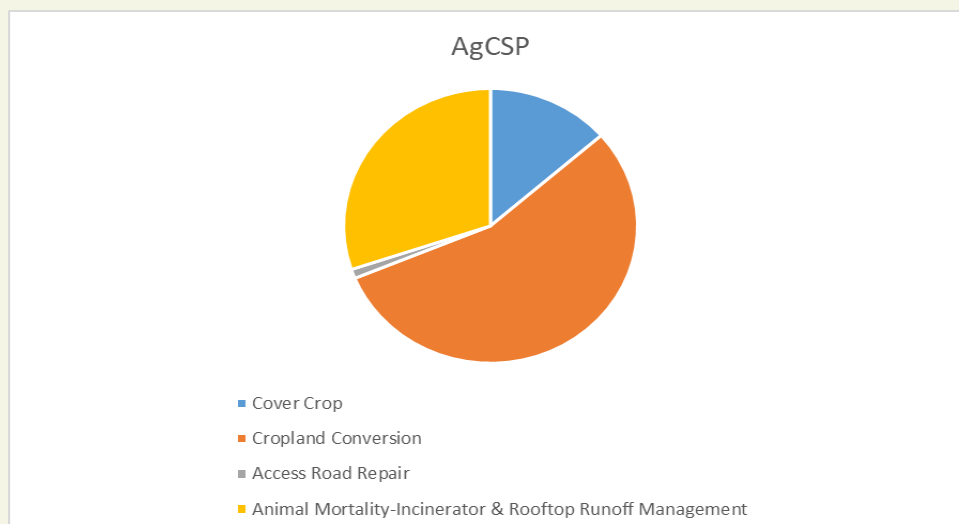


# AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

Agriculture Cost Share Programs (ACSP) provide technical assistance and possible cost share up to 75 % through local Soil & Water Conservation Districts to help farmers and landowners deal with non-point source pollution through best management practices.



- ◆ Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) received a total allocation of \$41,838.00 in ACSP funding from the Division of Soil & Water. This funding was spent over several contracts to help farmers and landowners with conservation best management practices (BMPs) that included:
  - ◆ Cropland Conversion to Grass and Pasture
  - ◆ Cover Crop
  - ◆ Animal Mortality Facility– Incinerator and Rooftop Runoff Management Systems
  - ◆ Access Road Repair



## AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWrap) provides technical assistance to help farmers and landowners increase water use efficiency, availability and storage. Approved applicants can be reimbursed for up to 75% of the cost of installing best management practices.



Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) received a total allocation of \$7,500.00 in AgWRAP funding from the Division of Soil & Water. This funding went towards a water well to help improve water use efficiency.

## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

The 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.



Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) received a total allocation of \$5,000.00 in CCAP funding from the Division of Soil & Water. These funds went towards Structural Stormwater Conveyance/ Critical Area Planting .

## EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTETION PROGRAM

The Emergency Watershed (EWP) Program was started through the Federal Government to assist sponsors, landowners, and operators in implementing emergency recovery measures for runoff retardation and erosion prevention to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.

Cumberland SWCD was granted \$446,234.00 in EWP funding to clear stream debris from a portion of Locks Creek in Cumberland County. Partnering with Cumberland County and with the City of Fayetteville, this project was completed in the Fall of 2021. This work benefits both the citizens of Cumberland County and the citizens of the City of Fayetteville





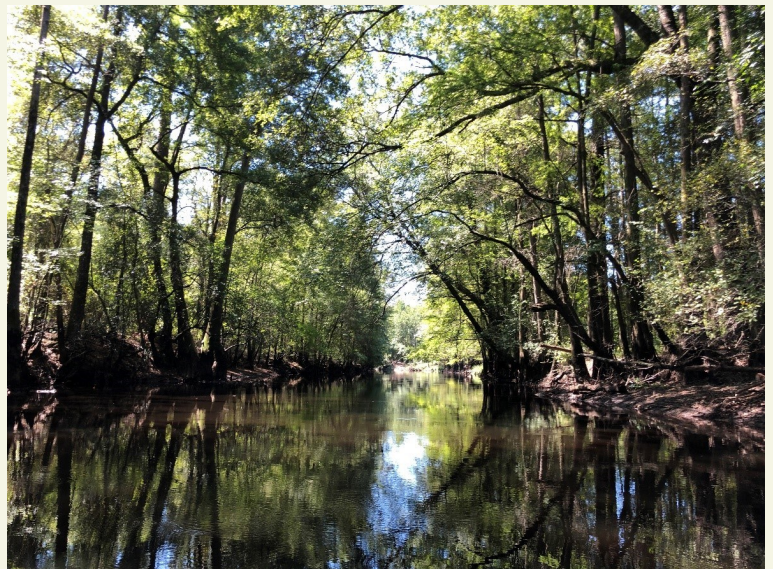
## EWP CONTINUED

Cumberland Soil & Water was awarded additional EWP funding and has used that funding to complete work on South River and start additional projects on Peter's Creek, Big Creek and Deep Creek to name a few. In all Cumberland SWCD has been awarded approximately \$2,000,000.00 in EWP funding.



South River  
before and after

Stream Debris removal helps prevent flooding and provides recreational waterways.



# LENDING A HELPING HAND

Cumberland SWCD's Soil Conservationist Mitchell Miller traveled quite a bit this year helping out not only in Cumberland County but in neighboring counties such as Robeson for technical assistance help and in far away counties such as Haywood after Tropical Storm Fred devastated the area. Cumberland staff also help out at the state fair by manning the tent and offering information regarding programs and educational opportunities and competitions.



<-- Mitch Miller assisting local Fire Departments with Water Point designations.



Soil & Water Conservation Display at the NC State Fair -->



NC State Fair



Damage from Tropical Storm Fred in Haywood County.

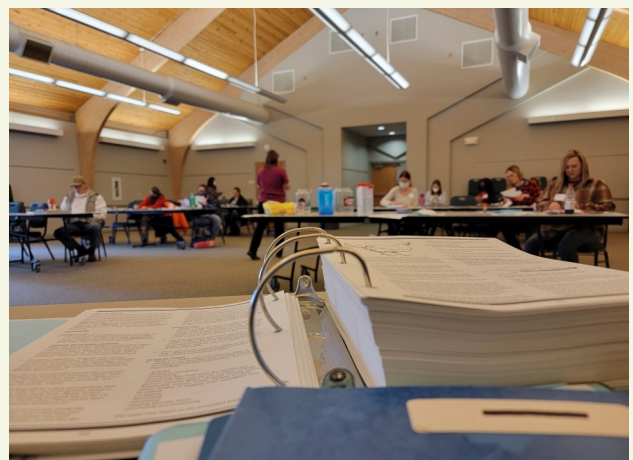
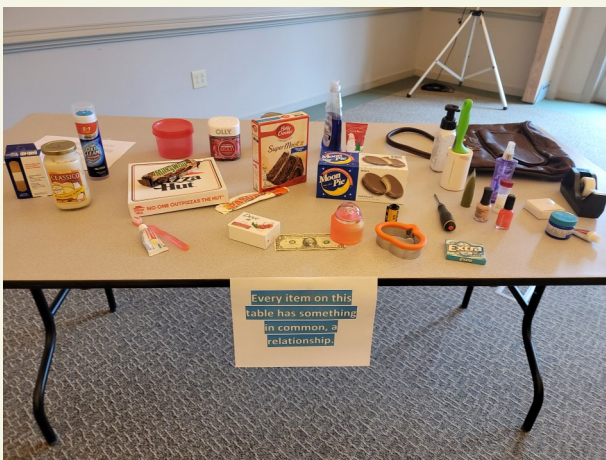


# EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

Cumberland SWCD's Department Head/Administrative Program Officer also serves as the Outreach and Education Coordinator. She serves on several committees at the state, regional, county and local levels. She along with Mitchell Miller also attended the Area VII Spring and Fall meetings, the Conservation Employees Training (CET) and the Annual Meeting.

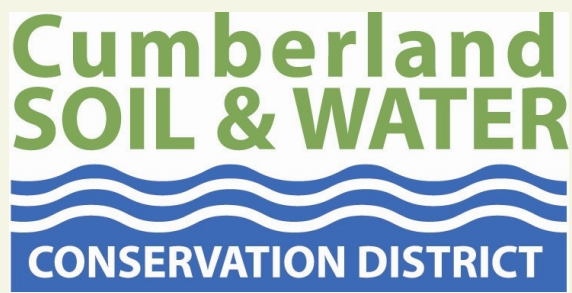
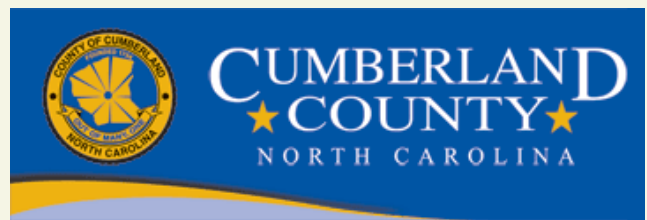
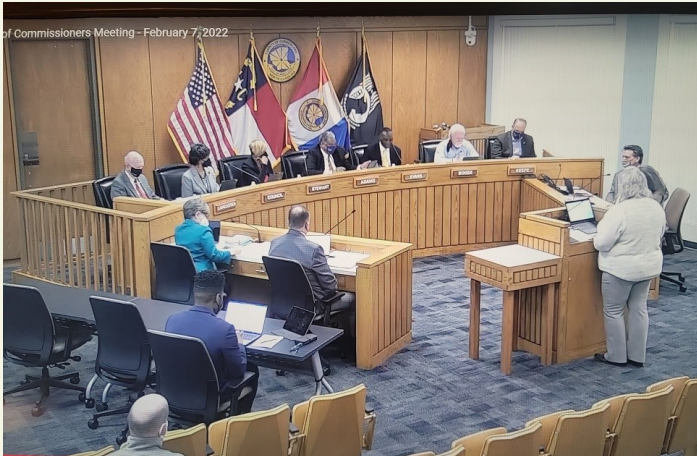


Teaching/Facilitating a Food, Land & People workshop at the Eastern 4H Center in Bolivia, NC.



# CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gretta Steffens gave a presentation before the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners highlighting the history and formation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts as well as the current goals of Cumberland SWCD. She gave the presentation to help them understand how vital soil and water conservation was and to express the need for an additional employee, a new grain drill and increased funding from the county. All three requests were granted when the new budget was adopted.



# EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Envirothon is a regional, state and national middle and high school yearly competition. Student teams must first compete and place at the regional level to compete at the NC Envirothon Competition and then the winning NC team goes on to the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon. Teams from all over the USA, Canada and even a few from China compete each year. Scholarships as well as prize money are presented to the winning teams.

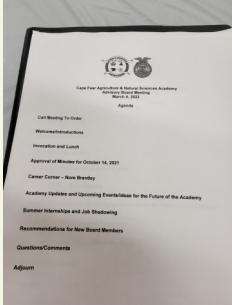


An FFA team from Greys Creek High School competed in the Area VII Regional Envirothon. The Area VII Region consists of nine counties. They won 2nd place, losing first place by only 4 points. This enabled them to compete at the state NC Envirothon where they placed well. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments!

Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) - Cumberland Soil and Water sent two students from Cape Fear High School to the Resource Conservation Workshop at NC State University. The students, Sydney Ivey and Gray Murphy both stated that the experience was something they will never forget and help them solidify the choice of a career in agriculture and conservation of natural resources. Sydney Ivey was chosen to speak for the entire group of students



Gretta Steffens was asked to be a Board member of the Cape Fear Academy of Agriculture and Natural Science



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## SPECIAL THANKS

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The Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all landowners, agencies and groups who cooperate and assist the District in carrying out its conservation programs.

Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation

NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation

NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Farm Agency

Cumberland County Cooperative Extension

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

NC Forest Service

Cumberland County Board of Education