

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Cumberland Soil & Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District

cumberlandcountync.gov/soil-water

301 East Mountain Drive, Room 229

Fayetteville, NC 28306

910-484-8479 ext. 3

Fax: 910-484-3157

For new programs, news, updates, etc.,
please send your email address to:

dfoster@co.cumberland.nc.us

Mission Statement

Take available technical, financial and educational resources and administer programs designed to encourage individual responsibility to conserve, improve and sustain our soil and water resources for future generations.

Stewardship

A major goal of the District is education and informing the public. We are committed to helping landowners understand and succeed at land stewardship. We also recognize that the future of our resources depends on nurturing an attitude of stewardship in the minds and hearts of children.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Wayne Collier, Jr.

Linden, NC
Chairman



Clifton McNeill, Jr.

Hope Mills, NC
Vice Chairman



Wingate Collier

Wade, NC
Secretary/Treasurer



Monique McMillan

Fayetteville, NC
Member



Lena Simmons

Fayetteville, NC
Member



CUMBERLAND SWCD STAFF



Mitchell B. Miller

*Soil & Water
Conservationist*
mitchell.miller@nc.nacdnet.net



Donna Foster

*Administrative
Program Officer*
dfoster@co.cumberland.nc.us

Division of Soil and Water Conservation

David Faircloth, ATAC

USDA-NRCS

Darryl E. Harrington

Team 12

Barry Ward

*Resource Soil Scientist,
Wetland Determination*

Jeremy Roston

*Conservation Planning Specialist,
Raleigh (headquartered in
Fayetteville Field Office)*



Pictured left to right: The Honorable Judge Talmadge Baggett, Supervisor Lena Simmons, Donna Foster, Administrative Program Officer

New Supervisor Sworn In

Mrs. Lena Simmons was elected in November by the people to serve as a Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. The Honorable Judge Talmadge Baggett was on hand to serve the oath of office to Mrs. Simmons at the Board of Supervisors December 11, 2020 meeting. Supervisor Simmons term will be from 2020 to 2024 with the board of Supervisors of the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District.

Welcome Supervisor Simmons!



Supervisor Wingate Collier

Reappointed Supervisor Sworn In

Supervisor Wingate Collier was re-appointed by the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors in October of 2020 and approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Board of Commissioners in November of 2020 to continue his service as Supervisor for the board of Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District. Donna Foster, Administrative Program Officer, administered the oath of office to Supervisor Collier at the January 5, 2021 meeting. A retired farmer, Supervisor Collier has been a vital part of our board since 1996.

Thank you for your more than 25 years of service Supervisor Wingate Collier!



Meet Our Summer Intern

Mary Vorder Bruegge joined our team as a summer intern. Mary has been involved with 4-H, Livestock Showings, and the Envirothon.

North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP)

NCACSP was very successful in Cumberland County during the 2021 Program year

Soil & Water Contracts

- \$39,808 allocated for year
- Eight regular contracts written

Best Management Practices (BMP)

- Pasture System
- Tree Planting
- Grass Planting
- Grade Stabilization Structure
- Cover Crop

234.89 acres affected from contracts written

294.36 tons - estimated amount of soil saved from erosion

3675 pounds - amount of nitrogen that will be prevented from entering our water courses

22.51 pounds - amount of phosphorus that will be prevented from entering our water courses

Impaired Impacted Contracts

- \$5,983 allocated for year
- Two contracts

Best Management Practices (BMP)

- Nutrient Scavenger Crop
- Incinerator

185.25 acres affected from contracts written

17.2 tons - estimated amount of soil saved from eroding downhill

1353 pounds - estimated amount of nitrogen that will be prevented from entering our water courses

2.54 pounds - estimated amount of phosphorus that will be prevented from entering our water courses

12020 lbs - waste nitrogen managed

52729 lbs - waste phosphorus managed

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- \$1,387.00 allocated for year
- One contract

Best Management Practices (BMP)

- Cropland Conversion to Trees

12.5 acres affected from contract written

38 tons - estimated amount of soil saved from eroding downhill

1974 pounds - estimated amount of nitrogen that will be prevented from entering our water courses

2.26 pounds - estimated amount of phosphorus that will be prevented from entering our water courses

NC Ag Water Resources Assistance Program (NCAgWRAP)

NCAgWRAP was very successful in Cumberland County during the 2021 Program year

NC Ag Water Resources Assistance Program (NCAgWRAP)

- \$34,759 allocated for year
- Six contracts

Best Management Practices (BMP)

- Water Wells for Livestock (3)
- Water Wells for Crops (2)
- Pond Sediment Removal for Crops (1)

116.4 irrigated acres affected from contract written

Increased 371,00 Gallons of Water, Irrigated Corn, Vegetables

162 animal units of Cattle, Chickens, and Goats affected

NCAgWRAP Disaster Farm Pond Repair

- \$261,846 allocated for year
- One contract

Best Management Practices (BMP)

- Farm Pond Repair

34 acres affected of Crop Irrigation for Tobacco, Corn, and Peanuts

The District also performed spot-checks on at least 5% of all BMP's that still have an "active" status. This is done in accordance with mandatory guidelines as set forth by the State pertaining to the Cost-Share program.

Summary of Federal Programs FY 2021

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for fiscal year 2021 secured \$17,777 in Cumberland County for 4 contracts involving forestry/wildlife practices. The Conservation Security Program (CSP) funded one contract for \$19,440. There are 20 active contracts. (EQIP and Conservation Stewardship Program) of \$350,585 which affects 1676.2 acres in Cumberland County. Contracts are still being serviced for EQIP, CSP and WRP on a regular basis. Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) funds has been awarded to the City of Fayetteville for repair from Hurricane Florence damage totaling \$2.15 million.

Applications for Forestry, Cropland and High Tunnels remain on file waiting for funding. NRCS continues to address HEL/WET Determination workload. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continues to assist the Farm Service Agency with the Conservation

Reserve Program (CRP). NRCS is responsible for conservation planning and modifications of plans. As part of the new NRCS Team alignment, Cumberland County is part of Team 12 which includes: Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties.

Darryl E Harrington

Supervisory Soil Conservationist Team 12
North Carolina Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC)
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (910) 893-5101 ext 3



Grain Drills

In 1998, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of the first no-till grain drill for the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District. The objective was to encourage farmers to convert to the no-till method and discontinue the practice of conventional tillage. No-till planting allows seeds to be planted with minimal disturbance to the soil surface and eliminates the need for conventional cultivation. This method allows the residue from previous crops to remain on the soil surface, thus protecting it from the elements that cause erosion. There are several other advantages to using the no-till method, such as fewer trips across the field, resulting in reduced fuel, time and labor costs, as well as less wear and tear on machinery. The original Tye drill was sold in January 2009.

Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District has two no-till grain drills available for rent. A John Deere, model 1590, was purchased with Fayetteville-Cumberland Storm Water Services funds in 2004. This is a larger, heavier drill that plants ten feet wide. Rental is eight dollars per acre, or a minimum charge of fifty dollars per day for the number of days kept by the renter, whichever is most. The Great Plains model 706NT was purchased in the spring of 2007. It plants seven feet wide and rents for five dollars per acre, with a twenty-five dollar minimum.

These drills are used to plant a variety of seeds including small grains in the fall behind row crops, over seed Bermuda grass fields for winter grazing or winter spray area on hog farms. Many renters also use the drills to plant millet and other grasses for warm season forage in the spring and early summer, and soy beans in the spring and early summer.

The drills are rented on a "first come-first served" basis, or by reservation. Most renters call ahead to schedule the time they want and some even call a year in advance.

\$8,170.09

*Grain Drill Rentals
revenue for Cumberland County*

John Deere



*Fifteen producers rented
823.2 acres planted*

Great Plains



*Nineteen producers rented
383.5 acres planted*

Watershed Restoration Project

The County and State have implemented a Watershed Restoration Project for needed repairs to streams and drainage ways resulting from hurricanes and subsequent flooding. Approximately \$855,000 has been awarded from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the 37 projects in the plan.



South River after the Vegetative Debris has been removed



Stream debris in river after Hurricane Florence



Amphibious equipment removing vegetative debris from stream channel



Excessive Rainfall from Hurricane Florence washed out access road to Agricultural Field



Access road to the agricultural field was restored to allow producer to gather crops. Supervisors Clifton McNeill, Jr) (center) and Wayne Collier, Jr (right) meet with landowner Keith Jackson (left) on the 2021 Annual Cumberland SWCD Spot Checks.



Inactive Animal Waste Lagoons are agitated by stirring up the solids into a slurry prior to land application



Water Wells are installed to irrigate crops and to provide drinking water for livestock.



Equipment is calibrated and allows the slurry to be applied to the land for fertilization of Agricultural Crops.



Water Wells are installed to irrigate crops and to provide drinking water for livestock.



The lagoons are certified closed and converted into a freshwater pond



Roof Runoff Structures are installed to prevent erosion around animal agriculture operations.



Cumberland County Students Receive Envirothon Awards

Cumberland County students from three schools celebrated their achievements for Envirothon through the Soil and Water Conservation District during the June 21 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Envirothon is a problem-solving natural resource competition for middle and high school students and is the most widely recognized “hands-on” environmental education program in the nation. Middle and high school students immerse themselves in a year-long learning process that combines in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences facilitated by resource professionals such as soil scientists, foresters and wildlife specialists. The training culminates in a competition where teams are tested in five subject areas: Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and a current environmental issue. Scores determine winning placements.

Awards and Achievements

Students at **Gray’s Creek High School** received third place in the Area VII Envirothon and participation in the State Envirothon and won a medallion for their high score in the Forestry category. The team was comprised of advisor, Sean Garcia, and team members Alexandra Garcia, Kaleb Horne, Cole Leach, Larkin Reeves and Robert Woodall.

Students at **71st Classical Middle School** received third place in the Area VII Envirothon and participation in the State Envirothon and received a medallion for a high score in the Current Environmental Issues category. The team was comprised of advisor, Victoria Gemelli and team members Madelyn Ard, Chad Harisell, Laila Lewis, Zaniya Reddick and Abnelly Santiago Gonzalez.

Students at **Mac Williams Middle School/Mac Williams FFA** received second place in the Area VII Envirothon and won a medallion for a high score in Current Environmental Issues. The team was comprised of advisor, Kristoff Minus and team members Bradon Knox, Eli Magness, Noah Magness and Eanna Taylor.

“I am so proud of all the students who participated in the Envirothon this year,” Soil and Water Conservation District Administrative Program Officer Donna Foster said. “Even during a pandemic, the students and advisors rose above and beyond the challenges for the past 18-20 months. The students have learned valuable lifelong lessons about our natural resources, soil, land use, water, wildlife, forestry, and current environmental issues. They are our future conservationist and their hard work certainly paid off.”

Soil and Water Area VII includes the districts of Cumberland, Bladen, Columbus, Harnett, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland Counties. Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District is in the Agriculture Center of the Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center, 301 E. Mountain Dr. For more information on the department and Envirothon, call 910-484-8479 option 3 or visit cumberlandcountync.gov/soil_water/.



Cumberland County commissioners celebrate with the advisor at Mac Williams Middle School/Mac Williams FFA and Soil and Water Conservation District Administrative Program Officer Donna Foster.

Cumberland County commissioners celebrate with the advisor and students at Gray's Creek High School and Soil and Water Conservation District Administrative Program Officer Donna Foster.



Cumberland County commissioners celebrate with the advisor and students at 71st Classical Middle School and Soil and Water Conservation District Administrative Program Officer Donna Foster.



Every Day is Earth Day

Earth Day just celebrated its 51st Anniversary! An international event, Earth Day is celebrated around the world on April 22 to pledge support for environmental protection. ‘Restore Our Earth’ was the theme for 2021. Celebrating was a little different this year, instead of the students coming to us at Arnette Park, we zoomed in their classrooms and in their homes to do our presentations for Earth Day.

“Wonder Boxes” containing curriculum, pencils, erasers, bookmarks, “Sammy Soil” coloring books, soil, water, air and sun beads for earth bracelets, rulers, etc. were delivered to the teachers of District 7 and Cliffdale Elementary Schools days prior to the presentations. We had a great time with the students and teachers for Earth Day. It was so good to see all their smiling faces!

Ten simple things you can do to help protect the Earth

1. **Reduce, reuse, and recycle.** Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three “R’s” to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
2. **Volunteer.** Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed, too.
3. **Educate.** When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.
4. **Conserve water.** The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.
5. **Choose sustainable.** Learn how to make smart seafood choices.
6. **Shop wisely.** Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.
7. **Use long-lasting light bulbs.** Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!
8. **Plant a tree.** Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.
9. **Don’t send chemicals into our waterways.** Choose non-toxic chemicals in the home and office.
10. **Bike more. Drive less.**

Tree Seedlings

Tree seedlings are sold annually by the District staff. An order form is included in the District’s newsletter and pre-paid orders are taken. Trees are ordered and delivered in mid-December. Longleaf pine, loblolly pine and eastern red cedar seedlings are sold to the public for windbreaks, farm enhancement and for use in home landscaping. Over 1434 seedlings were sold this year and planted in Cumberland County.

Rain Barrels

The District sells rain barrels to promote storage of rainwater for use in home gardens and yards. The barrels are recycled 50-55 gallon pickle barrels that are outfitted to catch rainwater runoff from roofs to be used in backyard gardens.

*If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth,
then man would have only four years of life left.*

No more bees, no more pollination, no more . . .

Fundraisers

Fundraisers provide additional funding for the District’s conservation education activities.



Cumberland and Hoke Local Work Group

A local work group met in Cumberland County with the purpose to help plan and prioritize for the 2022 program year.

The combined meeting for Cumberland and Hoke counties:

- Discussed the meaning of SWAPA + E. (Soil, Water, Animals, Plants, Air, and Energy)
- Agreed that Soil Erosion and Water Quality are major concern for the county.
- Expressed concern for the decline in financial resources to establish and manage Longleaf Pine.
- Discussed different programs that could be used to address some of the local resource concerns.



The folks at Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District have been essential in helping us meet our management objectives of converting the family farm into stands of trees. They guided us through the process of enrolling the farm into a conservation program and planting trees which met the program requirements of improving water quality. They are quick to answer questions and act as our liaison between several governmental agencies.

– Jenell Young, Landowner

Unsolicited Seeds

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) is well aware that people all across the country have received suspicious, unsolicited packages of seed that appear to be coming from China. APHIS is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate the situation.

APHIS urges anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds to contact the APHIS immediately. Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

USDA is committed to preventing the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protecting U.S. Agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds. Visit the APHIS' website listed below to learn more about USDA's efforts to stop agricultural smuggling and promote trade compliance.



If you have questions, please call:

844-820-2234

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET

CustomerServiceCallCenter@APHIS.USDA.GOV

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District

Tree Seedling Sale

Trees arrive second week of December

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____



Longleaf Pine

Containerized (\$5 per Bundle of 15 Seedlings)
Bulk order of 300 box

*Number of
Bundles*

Amount

_____ x \$5 = _____



Loblolly Pine

Containerized (\$5 per Bundle of 20 Seedlings)
Bulk order of 334 box

_____ x \$5 = _____



Eastern Red Cedar

Bare Root (\$5 per Bundle of 5 Seedlings)
Bulk Order of 500 bag

_____ x \$5 = _____

We have special rates for bulk seedlings of one kind. Call us at 910-484-8479 option 3 for more information.

Make checks payable to Cumberland SWCD

Mail or bring your order form and payment to:

Cumberland SWCD
301 East Mountain Drive, Suite 229
Fayetteville, NC 28306



910-484-8479 Option 3

Sorry, we cannot mail trees!

State and Federal Programs



North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) Now Accepting Applications for 2022

The Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District is currently taking applications for the upcoming 2022 Cost Share program year. The Cumberland SWCD provides Cost Share opportunities to our Cumberland County landowners and agricultural producers through various cost share programs.

These programs allow applicants to be reimbursed up to 75% of a predetermined average cost share rate for each best management practice installed. Some of the Best Management Practices that are offered include (but are not limited to): Irrigation Wells, Irrigation Ponds, Cropland Conversion to Grass/Trees, Grassed Waterways, Conservation Tillage, Cover Crop, Incinerators, Field Borders and Livestock Exclusion/Pasture Grazing Systems. In order to qualify the field staff will have to identify resource concerns on your operation.

If you would like to receive technical assistance please contact:

Mitchell Miller, Soil and Water Conservationist
Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District
(910) 484-8479 ext. 5550
(910) 484-8479 ext. 3

Soil and Water Conservation District Education Programs

The Soil and Water Department provides many educational programs and activities to the public and private schools of Cumberland County. Those activities include poster, essay and public speaking contests, the Envirothon Program, soil land judging contests, earth day presentations, soil presentations, and teacher workshops. The Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors' high school students who are chosen to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop in June of each year. The workshop is held on the campus of North Carolina State University.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the US Department of Agriculture's principal agency for providing conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations. USDA-NRCS delivers conservation technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA). CTA is available to any group or individual interested in conserving our natural resources and sustaining agricultural production in this country. This assistance may be in the form of resource assessment, practice design, resource monitoring, or follow-up of installed practices.

Although the CTA program does not include financial assistance, clients may develop conservation plans, which may serve as a springboard for those interested in participating in USDA financial assistance programs. CTA planning can also serve as a door to financial assistance and easement conservation programs provided by other Federal, State, and local programs. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land or Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF).

EQIP offers contracts that provide financial assistance to implement conservation practices on working private lands. Persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural, or forestland production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. EQIP provides a flat rate reimbursement rate, ranging from 50%-90%, for the costs associated with certain conservation practices. Financial assistance may also be provided for a short period of time, to encourage producers to carry out management practices they may not otherwise use without the financial assistance. However, historically underserved groups are eligible for cost-share up to 90 percent. Historically Underserved individuals and groups are those who have not participated in or received limited benefits from USDA or NRCS programs. The 2014 Farm Bill offers special payment rates for program participation

for landowners/operators who are socially disadvantaged, have limited resources, are veterans, and are beginning farmers/ranchers. These incentives may include increased payment rates and evaluation in special funding pools. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/

EQIP-National Organic Initiative

The National Organic Initiative is a voluntary conservation initiative that enables the use of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to provide financial and technical assistance to owners and operators of agricultural lands already certified as organic or transitioning to organic. To participate producers must be certified as an organic grower with a Organic System Plan on at least part of their acres, or be in the process of transitioning to an organic system. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/main/home/?cid=nrcs144p2_013958

EQIP Longleaf Pine Initiative (EQIP-LLP)

The Longleaf Pine Initiative began when an interdepartmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among USDA, the Department of Interior and the Department of Defense identified the longleaf pine ecosystem as a priority resource concern.

As part of the initiative, NRCS and its conservation partners in nine states are helping private landowners improve the sustainability and profitability of Longleaf pine forest ecosystems. The following are some essential conservation practices that USDA-NRCS currently supports to improve forests health: forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, restoration and management of rare or declining habitats, and tree/shrub establishment. Approved participants will receive financial assistance for implementing conservation practices including site preparation, planting longleaf pine, installing firebreaks, conducting prescribed burning, and controlling invasive plants. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nc/programs/?cid=nrcs142p2_046681

EQIP-Conservation Activity Plans (CAPS)

A Conservation Activity Plan or CAP can be developed for producers to identify conservation practices needed to address a specific natural resource need. Typically, these plans are specific to certain kinds of land use such as transitioning to organic operations, grazing land, forest land, or can also address a specific resource need

such a plan for management of nutrients or to address an air quality concern. With a CAP plan, producers can then apply for financial assistance to implement the needed conservation practices. More information at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/?cid=stelprdb1041991

EQIP payments are made directly to program participants for development of a CAP. These CAP plans may only be developed by a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP). Technical Service Providers (TSPs) are individuals or businesses that have technical expertise in conservation planning and design for a variety of conservation activities. TSPs are hired by farmers, ranchers, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, or public agencies to provide these services on behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Each certified TSP is listed on the NRCS TSP online registry, TechReg. **To find a Technical Service Provider (TSP), go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/technical/tsp/?cid=stelprdb1042981**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing or adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. The entire agricultural operation must be enrolled and must include all agricultural land that will be under the applicant's control for the term of the proposed contract that is operated substantially separate from other operations. The USDA-NRCS has made CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis. **More information at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses, trees (Longleaf), filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract (10-15 years). Financial assistance is also provided to establish the vegetative cover practices. CRP is administered by the USDA-Farm Service Agency, with USDA-NRCS providing technical land eligibility determinations, and conservation planning with the support of the NC Forest Service. More information at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program - the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Like CRP, CREP is administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Through CREP, farmers can receive double annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract (10-15 years).

Individuals interested in a Conservation Easement through CREP may receive a sign up incentive of \$250 (30 year Easement) or \$1,000 (Permanent Easement). A conservation easement is a written agreement between a landowner and the state of North Carolina in which there is an acquired interest in the land to install conservation practices that protect natural resources. The conservation easement exists for 30 years or permanently, depending on the landowner's choice. With CREP, the landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land for activities such as crop farming and development, yet retains private ownership. More information at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=cep

Inactive Animal Waste Lagoon Closure Program

The Cumberland SWCD and local USDA-NRCS have made it a priority to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners who are interested in closing Inactive Animal Waste Lagoons on their land. By partnering with the North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, Inc. whose purpose in this initiative is to work with local soil and water conservation districts to close inactive animal waste lagoons across the state (<https://ncsoilwater.org/>), the Cumberland SWCD can pursue grant funds to assist landowners in the closure of Inactive Animal Waste Lagoons.

Web Soil Survey (WSS)

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information. Soil surveys can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning. Onsite investigation is needed in some cases, such as soil quality assessments and certain conservation and engineering applications.

To start Web Soil Survey (WSS) visit the following website: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

Office Hours:

7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Except for Holidays

Cumberland SWCD

301 East Mountain Drive, Room 229
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Contact Information:

Donna Foster

Administrative Program Officer
Phone: 910-484-8479 Ext 3
dfoster@co.cumberland.nc.us

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District

Charlie Rose Agriculture-Exposition Center

301 East Mountain Drive, Room 229

Fayetteville, NC 28306-3422

cumberlandcountync.gov/soil-water

Our sincere thanks

The Board of Supervisors and Staff of Cumberland Soil and 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 County Commissioners
NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation
NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission
NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NC Division of Forest Resources
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Cumberland County Cooperative Extension
Fayetteville-Cumberland County Parks and Recreation
Cumberland County Board of Education

Special thanks to Cumberland County

Innovation and Technology Services
Print, Mail and Design Services
Public Information



As we assembled this annual report we found it documents the District's achievement of seven objectives - at least one from each of the overarching goals of the County's Strategic Plan.

This report highlights many of our department's accomplishments but by no means reflects all of our involvement within the county.

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District

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Room 229

Fayetteville, NC 28306

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cumberlandcountync.gov/soil-water