

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

PO BOX 98 • DANBURY, NC 27016

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## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently ended its fiscal year on June 30, 2009. Below are office accomplishments for the program year :

### COST SHARE PROGRAMS

8 NC Agriculture Cost Share Contracts.....	\$ 56,061.00
11 Drought Grant Contracts.....	\$ 43,133.00
4 Drought Appropriation Contracts.....	\$ 18,003.00
2 Drought Earmark Contracts.....	\$ 15,695.00
1 Impaired/Impacted Contract.....	\$ 4,547.00
1 Environmental Quality Incentive Program contract...	\$ 6,973.00
9 Dan River 319 Grant Contracts.....	\$ 54,487.00
2 NC Foundation for Soil & Water Grant Contracts.....	\$ 8,078.00
2 Community Conservation Asst. Program Contracts..	\$ 4,807.00

**Total Contracts = 40      Total Funds Allocated = \$211,784.00**

Best Management Practices (bmp's) in these contracts include: cropland conversion to grass, sod-based rotation, critical area seeding, fencing, heavy use areas, stock trails, watering facilities, pipeline, ag. wells, well closures, bio-retention area, field borders, no-till corn, no-till soybeans, and pasture renovation.

For more information on any of these programs or to request an application please contact the Stokes Soil & Water office at 336.593.2846 ext. 3.

**ANNUAL REPORT CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE....** →



Grading for Heavy Use Area



Adding Gravel onto Filter Cloth



Finished Heavy Use Area



## NEW CONSERVATION PROGRAM SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

The Natural Resources Conservations (NRCS) is currently taking applications for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Applications received by September 30th will be ranked in the first batching period. Those applications received after September 30th will be ranked in 2010.

Authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, the CSP rewards those farmers who are following best management practices and are willing to adopt additional conservation practices. The first step in the application process is to complete a self-screening checklist to determine whether the new program is suitable for their operation. The checklist is available at the local NRCS office.

If a producer meets eligibility requirements, their application will be ranked according to the environmental benefits to be achieved. Applicants selected for funding will receive an annual payment for maintaining practices and a supplemental payment for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation.

Eligible lands include cropland, hayland, pastureland and forest land. The applicant must be listed as owner or operator at the Farm Services Agency (FSA) office. They must have documented control of the land for the life of the contract. The producer must comply with highly erodible and wetland conservation provisions. NRCS will request producer's records (soil test reports, fertilizer & pesticide records, etc.) and conduct on-site field visits to verify information.

For more information, please contact the Dede DeBruhl at 336-593-2846, ext. 3. An information sheet and a checklist will be provided to interested participants ♦

**NO TILL SOD DRILL AVAILABLE FOR RENT – To reserve the drill contact the Stokes Soil & Water office at 593-2846 ext. 3.** Rental fees are \$10/acre or \$50 minimum. A \$50 deposit is required at the time of drill pick-up (open-hole pin hitch needed for towing). A 40+ horsepower tractor with hydraulics is also required to operate drill ♦



**NC BIG SWEEP** litter pickup will be held on Saturday, October 3. Contact Sara Jo Durham at 593-2846 ext. 3 if you are interested in volunteering or would like to report an area that needs to be picked up. **Last year 602 people volunteered for this worthwhile event in Stokes County collecting 18,120 lbs. of litter ♦**

### DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Booth, *Chairman*

Marvin Cavanaugh, *Vice Chairman*

Willis Overby, *Secretary/Treasurer*

John East, *Member*

Willard Nelson, *Member*

### STAFF

Dede DeBruhl, *District Conservationist*

Tom Smith, *District Soil/Watershed Conservationist*

Sara Jo Durham, *District Technician*

Rodney Wright, *Watershed Coordinator*

Janice Pack, *Adm. Asst./Education Coordinator*

**ANNUAL REPORT continued...**

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Poster, Essay & Speech Contests (3-8th grade).....	348 students
Envirothon Program (3 middle school teams).....	12 students
Environmental Awareness Days (5th grade).....	462 students
Resource Conservation Workshop (high school).....	1 student

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

1 Stokes Co. Extension Community Association Presentation.....	10
1 4-H Presentation.....	17
5 Boy Scout Presentations.....	150
8 Cub Scout Presentations.....	97
4 Ruritan Club Presentations.....	128
2 Cattlemen's Association Presentations.....	70

NUMBER PARTICIPATING



The Newsome Family

**STOKES SOIL & WATER 2009 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

On June 4 the Stokes Soil & Water District held its annual awards banquet at Mountain View Community Center in King. At this banquet Brad & Vickie Newsome along with their daughters, McKayla, Madeline and Meredith were recognized as the 2009 Conservation Farm Family of the Year for applying sound conservation on their 60 acre farm in King. The farm consists of 2 chicken houses (20,000 birds), livestock, and over 40 acres of pasture and hayland. After winning the County level contest in May, the Newsome's advanced to the Area Farm Family Contest in July and won that level as well. They now are competing for the Regional Farm Family Contest which includes all of western North Carolina. Congratulations and we wish you all the best!



Frank Hepler

Others recognized at the June 4 banquet include the 2009 Forest Landowner of the Year, Frank Hepler from the Quaker Gap community, who was awarded a plaque for practicing sound forest management and being a good steward of our natural resources. Congratulations Frank, on a job well done!



Peter Zeien

Mr. Peter Zeien, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from Sandy Ridge Elementary School, was also recognized at the banquet as the 2009 Conservation Teacher of the Year. Mr. Zeien is a conservation-minded teacher who goes beyond the everyday task of educating children by conducting hands-on experiments in the classroom so that students can receive a better understanding of natural resources. Congratulations Mr. Zeien and keep up the good work! ♦

**FOUNDATION GRANT MONEY RECEIVED**

An environmental enhancement grant was received from the NC Foundation of Soil & Water Conservation, Inc., and administered by the Stokes SWCD to cost share with qualifying tobacco farmers transitioning from tobacco production or diversifying to other income producing agricultural enterprises. Pictured to the right is Soil & Water Board members presenting checks to local tobacco farmers who received cost share funding for planting old tobacco fields into permanent grass through the grant project ♦



L to R: James Booth, Tommy Martin, Willard Nelson

**TREE SEEDLINGS FOR SALE** – To order tree seedlings contact the NC Forest Service at 1-888-NCTREES or go to [www.dfr.state.nc.us](http://www.dfr.state.nc.us). Different varieties of hardwoods, pines and cedars are available ♦



L to R: James Booth, Kent Wood, Willard Nelson



Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District  
 PO Box 98  
 Danbury, NC 27016

**55 GAL. RAINBARRELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT THE SOIL & WATER OFFICE FOR \$70 EACH.**

**Barrels come complete with lid, gutter attachment and spigot. Call 593-2846 x. 3 to reserve your barrel!**

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