

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO BOX 98 • DANBURY, NC 27016
PHONE 336.593.2846 ext. 3 • FAX 336.593.9232

COST SHARE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Farmers and agricultural landowners who have soil erosion or water quality problems may be eligible for financial assistance to solve these problems. The office staff administer federal and state cost share programs. These programs provide technical and financial assistance to farmers who agree to install conservation practices on their farm. Typical practices include: fencing livestock out of creeks or ponds, installing alternative watering systems, cropland conversion to grass, critical area planting, installing stock trails to keep livestock out of sensitive areas, stabilizing areas used frequently by livestock with suitable material, long term no-till planting. Please call the Soil and Water Conservation District Office at 593-2846 for more information.



UNSTABILIZED AREA

Heavy use areas, such as feedlots around barns need to be stabilized with geotextile filter cloth and 8-10 inches of gravel.



STABILIZED AREA

Recently constructed - A heavy use area stabilized with filter cloth and 8" of gravel. An automatic waterer may be installed in these areas.

This area between two barns was gullied out due to roof runoff and cattle traffic. The area has been graded, fertilized, limed and seeded. An excelsior matting is used in the low area where water concentrated. Cattle will be kept out of this area.



This steep hillside was eroding and delivering sediment to a nearby stream. Intensive grading and shaping was completed prior to seeding according to NRCS specifications. A diversion was constructed to divert water to an established vegetated outlet. One of the keys to a successful stand of grass is the proper spreading of a protective cover ■



Mark your calendars – Farmer Appreciation Event to be held at **South Stokes High School on Thursday, March 24, 2005 from 6-9 PM. FREE FOOD and ENTERTAINMENT!**

SUPERVISORS

James Booth, *Chairman*
Marvin Cavanaugh, *Vice Chair*
Willis Overby, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Jack Nunn, *Member*

STAFF

Dede DeBruhl, *District Conservationist*
Tom Smith, *District Soil Conservationist*
Jane Dobson, *NRCS Technician*
Sara Jo Durham, *District Technician*
Janice Pack, *Adm. Asst./Education Coordinator*

2004 County & Regional Conservation Farm Family of the Year

In October of 2004 the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District and the Area 2 Region of Soil & Water Conservation Districts recognized a Farm Family that has shown sound conservation on their farm in Stokes County. The 2004 award went to Kent & Marcia Martin of Big Creek Farms in the Francisco Community. Big Creek Farms consists of 200 acres on the home tract and 400 acres of leased land on surrounding tracts off Horseshoe Rd. All necessary



Big Creek Farms located off Horseshoe Rd.



Kent & Marcia Martin at the 2004 Area 2 Soil & Water Cons. District Fall Meeting

conservation practices have been installed and maintained on this farmland for 15 plus years. Erosion has been reduced by 2/3. It is important to note that some fields have been cultivated for more than 50 years on slopes exceeding 15%. The Martin's raise 60 acres of tobacco, 50 acres of wheat, 50 acres of soybeans and 120 acres of hayland. Congratulations to the Martin Family for their hard work and stewardship of the land ■

Voluntary Agricultural Districts

Citizens of Stokes County derive many benefits from your farmland: clean water, clean air, plant and animal habitat, fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products, horticultural products, and scenic rural vistas. Now you can enroll in a program that demonstrates your pride and commitment to agriculture, and celebrates your contribution to the exceptional quality of life in Stokes County. Stokes County's Voluntary Agricultural District Program enhances the identity of the agricultural community by encouraging the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. By enrolling in the program you benefit by increased protection from nuisance suits, waiver of water and sewer assessments and increase eligibility for preservation funds. A sign to identify your farm as part of the Stokes County Agricultural District will be available for you to purchase once your application is approved. These signs will tell passersby that you, the farm owner, are committed to the preservation of the agricultural way of life in Stokes County. To date, there is approximately 3,000 acres enrolled in the program. Call the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District at 593-2846 ext. 3 to learn more about the program and get signed up today ■



A Voluntary Agricultural District sign erected on a farm just outside of King in Stokes County.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

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