

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)
PO BOX 98 • DANBURY, NC 27016
PHONE 336.593.2846 ext. 3 • FAX 336.593.9232 • www.stokesswcd.org



FARMER APPRECIATION EVENT TO BE HELD MARCH 22

This year's Farmer Appreciation event will be held on **THURSDAY, MARCH 22 at NORTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL from 6-9PM.** The following meal will be served to all who attend "free of charge" from 6-8PM: BBQ or Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Slaw, Pintos, Rolls and a Dessert. "Henry Mabe and Friends" will provide the entertainment for the evening with bluegrass and gospel music. Door prizes will be given away at 8PM and the Stokes Soil & Water office will be raffling off a \$300 *first place prize* and a \$100 *second place prize*. Proceeds from the raffle go toward the Soil & Water Education Fund.



In order to help us better prepare, please call 593-8179 or 593-2846 ext. 3 if you plan to attend. The sponsoring farm service offices are: Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, Farm Service Agency and the NC Forest Service ♦



STOKES SWCD WELCOMES NEW FOREST RANGER TO COUNTY

The Stokes SWCD is pleased to welcome Jonathan Young as the newest edition to the local Forest Service. Although Jonathan is new in his position he is not new to the area; he grew up in Stokes County (Danbury) and graduated from North Stokes High School in 1991. He later received a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Management from Western North Carolina University. Jonathan has worked with the Forest Service for 10 years, beginning in Forsyth County before transferring to Stokes as the County Ranger filling the vacancy left after Mike Pell's retirement. The Forest Service offers several programs for landowners

such as the **NC Forest Development Program (FDP)** – *this is a reforestation cost-sharing program, Prescribed Burning Program, Fire Control Program, and the NC Forest Service Tree Seedling Program.* Tree seedlings can be ordered online from the Forestry Store at www.dfr.state.nc.us or by calling the toll free number 1-888-NCTREES (1-888-628-7337). For information on any of these programs contact the NC Forest Service at 593-8154 or visit their office at 700 N. Main St. in Danbury at the Community Services Building ♦

COST SHARE ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS ARE BEING TAKEN

If you have erosion problems or water quality issues on your farm, you may be eligible to receive cost share assistance through the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program and/or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Both of these voluntary programs have proven successful in addressing agricultural non-point source pollution problems. Eligible participants may receive up to 75% cost share funding on practices such as riparian buffer restoration, excluding livestock from streams, installing alternative watering systems, heavy use area protection, converting croplands to permanent perennial vegetation or trees, long term no-till planting, and stream-bank protection. Poultry and livestock waste & mortality concerns are also addressed through the cost share programs. Examples of eligible practices could include, wells & drinkers, drystacks and poultry incinerators or composters. If you are interested in improving the water quality on your farm, please call the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District at 336-593-2846 ext. 3 for an application and information on program availability ♦



Are you going to clear some woodland in order to plant crops or for pasture? If so, you need to request a highly erodible land and wetland determination by filling out Form AD 1026 at the Farm Service Agency. Clearing wetlands or planting a crop on highly erodible land without an approved conservation plan is a violation of the 2002 Farm Bill. You could lose your USDA program benefits (including buyout payments). Come in or give us a call before you do land clearing ♦

DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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EDUCATION UPDATE

POSTER, ESSAY & SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED– On November 1 & 2, 2006 the Stokes SWCD held its annual poster, essay and speech contests. These contests encourage and motivate students to learn more about the natural resources that surround them. This year's contest theme was "Wetlands are Wonderful". Students in grades 3-6 participated in the poster contest, with 6th grade students also eligible to compete in the essay contest. Students in grades 7 & 8 were eligible to participate in the public speaking contest. The following students placed in the recent contests: **Kayla McGuire** (4th grade-1st place poster), **Anna Russell** (5th grade-1st place poster), **Sarah Robinson** (5th grade-honorable mention poster), **Brittany Shelton** (6th grade-1st place poster), **Shawn Gallimore** (6th grade-honorable mention poster), **Justin Rogers** (6th grade-1st place essay), **Jordan Evans** (6th grade-honorable mention essay), **Frances Smith** (7th grade-1st place speech), **Shayne Baker** (8th grade-1st place speech) and **Kayla Grant** (8th grade-honorable mention speech). Students who placed first in each contest will advance onto the Regional competition in March to compete against students from across northwest North Carolina. Those who place first in the region will compete at the State level in May. Certificates and cash awards will be given to these students at the soil & water awards banquet in May. Congratulations to you all for a job well done ♦

RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP – The Stokes SWCD is now accepting applications from high school students in grades 10-12 to attend the 2007 Resource Conservation Workshop to be held on the campus of NC State University on June 24-29. The workshop is a weeklong intensive study and hands on conservation workshop requiring student application and participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed in NCSU campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. In order to achieve success, students should come prepared to apply themselves to meet the primary objective of this workshop – learning about natural resources and their management in today's environment. Go to www.stokesswcd.org to obtain an application or call the Stokes SWCD at 593-2846 ext. 3. The deadline to submit applications to Stokes SWCD is Friday, April 6 ♦

SPECIAL 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 a local tobacco farmer who received cost share funding for planting old tobacco fields into permanent grass through the grant project ♦



Stokes County VAD (Voluntary Agricultural Districts) MILESTONES

<i>Program Established</i>	<i>April 14, 2003</i>
<i>Enrolled Acres</i>	<i>6,008.08</i>
<i>Enrolled Applicants</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Enrolled Parcels</i>	<i>108</i>

Get the latest **Soil & Water news** at our new website: www.stokesswcd.org

SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION



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