

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 APRIL 10

This year's Farmer Appreciation event will be held on **THURSDAY, April 10 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. Entertainment for the evening will include "Dustin Pyrtle & New Generation" performing bluegrass music from 5:30-7:00PM. Taylor Vaden will then perform "A Tribute to Elvis" from 7:00-8:00PM and again from 8:30-9:00PM. 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 ♦



NEW COST SHARE PROGRAM AVAILABLE

The Stokes SWCD has received funding from the newly created Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) for non-point source pollution control from residential, suburban and urban activities. These funds are available to assist landowners for the installation of conservation practices, at a 75% cost share rate, which will help decrease the amount of sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemicals and other pollutants in the surface and ground waters of the state.

The Stokes SWCD has received approximately \$19,000 for program year 2008 which begins immediately. Landowners of existing residential or commercial properties may apply for cost share assistance to install conservation practices such as abandoned well closures, backyard rain gardens, backyard wetlands, cisterns (550 gallon minimum), critical area planting, diversions, grassed swales, pet waste receptacles, riparian buffers, bioretention areas, and stormwater wetlands.

If you would like more information or wish to apply for funds, just call the Stokes SWCD at 336.593.2846 ext. 3 and ask for Tom Smith. Remember all practices must be approved before work begins in order to remain eligible for cost share assistance.

RAIN BARRELS FOR SALE

Interested in conserving water? Contact the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to purchase your very own 55 gallon rain barrel to collect water for use during dry months. Collected rain water can be used for watering flowers as well as vegetable gardens. **Barrels cost \$65 each (this includes tax)** and comes complete with lid, gutter attachment and spigot. We will only be selling the barrels twice a year, in the spring and fall.



The deadline to put in your order for the spring shipping is APRIL 4. To order, fill out the form below and mail it back to the Stokes SWCD office at PO Box 98, Danbury, NC 27016 or call us at 336.593.2846 ext. 3. **Payment is required at the time your order is placed.** You will be contacted when your barrel(s) arrive and a scheduled time will be set for pick up ♦

I would like to pre-order _____ (insert amount) rain barrels from the Stokes SWCD.

Enclosed is a check (made payable to Stokes SWCD) in the amount of \$ _____ for my rain barrel(s).

(Name)

(Address)

(Phone)

(Email if available)

COST SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR WELL DECOMMISSIONING

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District is currently accepting applications from individuals wishing to permanently decommission abandoned wells. This is one of several best management practices we are pleased to offer citizens under the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). According to the state code, "Abandon means to discontinue the use of and to seal the well..." The code gives specific directions for wells that are taken out of service, either temporarily or permanently.

Temporary Abandonment is a well that must be sealed securely with a watertight cap or seal that is compatible with the casing type. The well must be maintained so that it is not a source or channel for contamination, and it must be protected with a casing.



Permanent Abandonment is when all casing and screens should be removed if doing so will not cause or contribute to ground water contamination. Any casing that is not properly grouted must either be removed or properly grouted. After assuring that the entire depth of the well is free of obstruction, thoroughly disinfect the well. Large -diameter well (bored or dug) should be completely filled with cement grout, dry clay, or material excavated during drilling, which must then be compacted in place. Other types of wells that are in unconsolidated formations (such as sands, shells, or clay) must be completely filled with cement grout.

Wells in consolidated rock formations may be filled with cement, sand, gravel, or drill cuttings to within 5 feet of the top of the consolidated rock. The rest of the well must be filled with cement grout. The owner is responsible for permanent abandonment of the well unless specifically exempted by the state code or if abandonment is required due to fault of the driller.

Funding is currently limited. Contact the Stokes SWCD office at 336.593.2846 ext. 3 to fill out an application. After applications are approved by the Stokes SWCD Board, individuals can then seek estimates on the well closure. The cost share rate will be on a 75% basis. Bills from a licensed well driller will need to be submitted certifying well closure ♦



Education Update



POSTER, ESSAY & SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED– On November 15, 2007 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 "We All Live In A Watershed". Students in grades 3-6 participated in the poster contest, with 6th grade students also eligible to compete in the essay contest. The following students placed in the recent contests: **Leah Tuttle** (3rd grade-1st place poster), **Amber DeHart** (3rd grade-honorable mention poster), **Kiva Allen** (4th grade-1st place poster), **Carolyn Ross** (5th grade-1st place poster), **Haley Bennett** (5th grade-honorable mention poster), **Ashley Horne** (6th grade-1st place poster), **Sarah Strother** (6th grade-honorable mention poster), **Austin Newsome** (6th grade-1st place essay), **Sawyer Lankford** (6th grade-honorable mention essay). Students who placed first in each contest will advance onto the Regional competition on March 13 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 June. Congratulations to you all for a job well done ♦

The Stokes SWCD is now accepting applications from students in grades 10, 11 & 12 that are interested in attending the 2008 Resource Conservation Workshop on June 22-27 at NC State University. This workshop is a week long intensive study of topics such as: soil conservation, wildlife & fisheries management, forest management, non-agricultural uses for soils, water & watershed management. Applications are available online at www.stokesswcd.org or call the Stokes SWCD office at 336.593.2846 ext. 3 for more information. Application deadline is Friday, April 4.



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