

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

2008 FARM BILL UPDATE

The Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008 passed by Congress last year renewed many of the conservation assistance programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to help farmers install conservation practices on eligible agricultural land to protect water, air and soil quality as well as wildlife habitat. Typical practices in Stokes County include livestock exclusion from streams, cropland conversion, alternative watering facilities and long term no-till planting. The 2008 Farm Bill expands EQIP to also include certain forestry and organic farming practices. The final guidelines for these new practices are still being developed.

Interested agricultural landowners should call 593-2846 ext. 3 and ask for Dede. An NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) representative will visit the farm and determine the existing resource concerns. All applications will be ranked statewide according to proposed environmental benefits. Approved applicants will enter into a contract that outlines the specifications that must be followed to receive cost share assistance ♦

DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER

The Stokes Soil & Water District is pleased to welcome Rodney Wright as the newest edition to our staff. Rodney was raised in Stokes County and graduated from South Stokes High School in 1980. He has received both a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Parks & Recreation Mgmt. Rodney has been hired through a 319 Grant as the Watershed Coordinator for the 3 year Dan River Grant Project that is now ongoing. The goal of the project is to improve water quality on the Dan River (so that the impaired status can be lifted) by installing best management practices on farmland to reduce sedimentation and erosion. These practices include but are not limited to: heavy use area protection, livestock exclusion fencing, watering facilities, field borders, grassed waterways, long term no-till, wells (ag. use only), and cropland conversion to grass/trees. Cost share assistance to install practices is available at a 75% rate. Interested applicants should contact Rodney at 593-2846 ext. 3 to receive an application or to get more information on the program ♦



▶ ▶ FARMER APPRECIATION EVENT TO BE HELD APRIL 9



The annual Farmer Appreciation event will be held on **THURSDAY, April 9 at NORTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL again this year, 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 and the large gym will be used once again as an overflow dining area. Taylor Vaden will provide entertainment for the evening performing country music with his band from 5:30-7:00PM then returning to perform "A Tribute to Elvis" from 7:00-9:00PM. 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* at that time as well. Proceeds from the raffle go to 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 ♦

BOOTH GETS RE-ELECTED, OVERBY RE-APPOINTED TO BD.

On November 4, 2008, James Booth was re-elected to his third term on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors by the citizens of Stokes County, receiving 14,398 votes at the polls. James first ran for the position of district supervisor in November of 2000 as a write-in candidate in which he received approximately 1,400 votes, winning the election. Shortly thereafter in 2001 he was appointed Chairman of the local board by his fellow supervisors and continues to serve in this capacity today.

In December of 2008, Willis Overby was re-appointed to his seventh term on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors by the NC Soil & Water Commission. Willis has been a committed and active member of this board for 25 years, fulfilling his first appointment in 1984. He currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer, an appointment he has held for many, many years. (There are three elected and two appointed positions on each local Soil & Water Board throughout North Carolina.)

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*

STATE COST SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR LANDOWNERS

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District has received state funding through the NC Agricultural Cost Share Program for 2009. This program emphasizes water quality, in an effort to reduce the input of agricultural non-point source pollution from sediment, nutrients, animal wastes, and pesticides into streams, rivers and other water sources throughout Stokes County. It pays 75% of a predetermined average cost for approved Best Management Practices (bmp's) to be installed. These practices include but are not limited to: heavy use area protection, livestock exclusion fencing, watering facilities, field borders, grassed waterways, long term no-till, wells (ag. use only), cropland conversion to grass/trees, critical area planting, and strip cropping. Applications are now being accepted. Approval of applications is based upon the highest need of water quality improvement with the Stokes Soil and Water District Board making final decisions. Contact Tom Smith at 593.2846 ext. 3 if you are interested in participating in this program or for more general information. Applications are also available on our website under the Programs tab.



NO TILL SOD DRILL UPDATE – To date, 140.4 acres of pasture and hayland have been reseeded on 13 farms in Stokes County using the district's no-till sod drill.

*Drill rental fee is \$10/acre (with a \$50 minimum)

*Required - 40 HP tractor or greater with hydraulics

*Required - open hole pin hitch to tow machinery to farm

To schedule a rental date for the drill contact the Stokes SWCD at 593-2846 ext. 3.

Do you know of a conservation-minded teacher in Stokes County Schools who deserves a reward for encouraging students to care for our natural resources? If so, the **2009 Soil & Water Conservation Teacher of the Year** program is something in which that teacher should participate. The individual selected will receive a prestigious plaque and a cash award of \$100 from the Stokes SWCD at our annual Awards Banquet in June. Contact our office at 593-2846 ext. 3 or go to our website at www.stokesswcd.org (under the Education tab) to receive an application. Application deadline is March 27.

POSTER, ESSAY & SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED– On November 19, 2008 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 "Soil & Water – Yours for Life". Students in grades 4-6 participated in the poster contest, with 6th grade students also eligible to compete in the essay contest. Congratulations to the following students who placed in the recent contests:

4th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Jasmine Morrison – 1st Place (WCE) Cody Hobert – Honorable Mention (WCE)

5th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Bailey Bollman – 1st Place (Franc. Elem.) Lauren Huffman – Honorable Mention (Mt. Olive Elem.)

6th GRADE POSTER & ESSAY

Leah Shelton – 1st Place Poster (CGMS) Honey Patel – Honorable Mention Poster (CGMS)

Taylor Lea Bowman – 1st Place Essay (SEMS) Harley Craig – Honorable Mention Essay (SEMS)

7th GRADE SPEECH

Kaitlyn Kinzer – 1st Place Speech (CGMS)

The Stokes SWCD is now accepting applications from students in grades 10, 11 & 12 that are interested in attending the 2009 Resource Conservation Workshop on June 21-26 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 (under the Education tab) or call the Stokes SWCD office at 593-2846 ext. 3 for more information. Application deadline is Friday, April 3.

SOIL & WATER



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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