

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

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NEWSOME'S WIN STATE MOUNTAIN REGION FARM FAMILY AWARD

On January 5, 2010, Brad & Vickie Newsome along with their daughters McKayla, Madeline and Meredith, received the 2009 Mountain Region Farm Family of the Year Award at the Annual Meeting of the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD) at the Raleigh Convention Center. This prestigious award was given to the Newsome's for taking the initiative to implement sound, innovative and cost-effective conservation techniques on their 60 acre farm in King. Prior to winning the state award the Newsome's first were recognized as Stokes County's Farm Family of the Year on June 4, 2009 and the Area Farm Family of the Year on October 8, 2009; winning both of these awards allowed the Newsome's to advance to the state level contest. Their farm consists of 2 chicken houses (20,000 birds), livestock, and over 40 acres of pasture and hayland. In past years the Newsome's raised over 40 acres of flue-cured tobacco. Best management practices installed over the years include: critical area planting, field borders, crop rotation, strip-cropping, grass waterways, pasture & hayland planting, cropland conversion, poultry compost, heavy use areas, watering facilities, animal waste storage structure, livestock exclusion and riparian buffers. They also maintain a Forest Management Plan on their 20 acres of woodland. Please join the Stokes Soil & Water District in congratulating the Newsome's for representing Stokes County well in the State Farm Family Contest and for their outstanding devotion to conservation and the preservation of natural resources on their family farm ♦



L to R: Brad, Meredith, Madeline, McKayla, Vickie

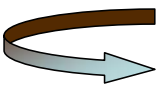


L to R: Vickie Newsome, Bill Pickett – NCASWCD President

Farmer Appreciation Event to be held April 1, 2010



The annual Farmer Appreciation event will be held on **THURSDAY, April 1 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. "Blues Creek" Bluegrass Band will provide entertainment for the evening. Door prizes will be given away at 8PM and the Stokes Soil & Water office will be raffling off a 4 Burner Gas Grill (Stainless Steel – 44,000 BTU's) with an attached refrigerator (1.7 cubic ft.). Proceeds go Soil & Water Environmental Programs. 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 ♦



FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE – The following link is to a webpage for the **CLEANEast** project <https://livestock.rti.org/>, a cooperative project of Research Triangle Institute and NCSU. The project is designed to assist livestock and poultry producers in the 27 states east of the Mississippi with free environmental assessments, nutrient management plan development and updates ♦

SWCD SUPERVISOR & STAFF RECEIVE "YEARS OF SERVICE" AWARD

On January 3, 2010 Tom Smith, District Soil/Watershed Conservationist, and Sara Jo Durham, District Technician, received their 20 year service award from the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Willis Overby, Soil & Water Supervisor, also received an award for 25 years of service on the Soil & Water Board. Congratulations to you all ♦



L to R: Tom Smith, James Booth



L to R: Sara Jo Durham, James Booth



L to R: Willis Overby, Bill Pickett - NCASWCD President

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*

319 GRANT UPDATE

The 319 Grant Program is on track and progressing well. Almost all funds have been committed to projects in the three counties of Stokes, Rockingham and Caswell. The following best management practices have been installed from 319 grant funds in Stokes County at this time: 178.6 acres of cropland conversion (primarily old fields to grass), 81.4 acres of no-till soybeans, 4 watering facilities and 1 well. Upcoming work this year will include livestock exclusion fencing, more watering facilities, field borders, grass waterways, and a community conservation project ♦



Livestock Watering Facility installed with grant funds

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 2010. 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 ♦



CALL THE SOIL & WATER OFFICE TODAY TO RENT THE NO-TILL SOD DRILL THIS SPRING (336) 593.2846 ext. 3

- *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 ♦

POSTER, ESSAY & SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED – On October 29, 2009 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 "The Living Soil". The Poster Contest is open to students in grades 3-6, Essay Contest is open to students in 6th grade only and the Speech Contest is open to students in grades 7 & 8. Congratulations to the following students who placed in the recent contests:

3rd GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Preston Cook – 1st Place (Sandy Ridge Ele.) & Bailey Durham – Honorable Mention (Sandy Ridge Ele.)

4th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Ashley Bingman – 1st Place (Francisco Ele.) & Jacob Doncsecz – Honorable Mention (Francisco Ele.)

5th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Leah Tuttle – 1st Place (Nancy Reynolds Ele.) & Chelsea Shelton – Honorable Mention (Francisco Ele.)

6th GRADE POSTER & ESSAY

Autumn Anderson – 1st Place Poster (CGMS) & Kia Fulp – Honorable Mention Poster (SEMS)

Tyler Dominy – 1st Place Essay (SEMS) & Kelsey White – Honorable Mention Essay (CGMS)

7th GRADE SPEECH

Emily Linville – 1st Place Speech (CGMS) ♦



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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