

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)
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PHONE 336.593.2846 ext. 3 • www.stokesswcd.org

FARMER APPRECIATION – TUESDAY, APRIL 12 – NORTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL



Mark your calendars – The 2016 FARMER APPRECIATION EVENT will be held at North Stokes High School on Tuesday, April 12 from 6-9 PM; FREE FOOD (BBQ or Chicken and all the fixins'), ENTERTAINMENT & DOOR PRIZES. Please call 336-593-8179 or 336-593-2846 ext. 3 by April 8 if you plan to attend...we need a count for food preparation.

Pictured to the left is the featured entertainment for the evening – the Dry Hill Draggers ♦

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE – A BIG ISSUE

Many farmers in Stokes County remember the days, back in the late '80s and early '90s, when everyone receiving price support on tobacco had to follow a conservation plan if their fields were determined to be highly erodible land (HEL). Due to the slope of the land and the soil types, most fields in Stokes County were labeled HEL. Farmers were required to follow certain crop rotations, use no-till planting methods, install grassed waterways, terraces or diversions in order to receive USDA benefits (price support payments, disaster payments, loans, etc.).

The same compliance regulations are still in effect today. However, the new 2014 Farm Bill added federal crop insurance subsidies to the list of programs that must meet conservation compliance provisions. To be considered "in compliance" you must NOT plant an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without an approved conservation plan developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). If you rent new farms, be sure to check with the landowner to see if there is a conservation plan on the crop fields. Contact Dede DeBruhl with NRCS at 336-593-2846 ext. 3 for assistance in developing a conservation plan or reviewing/updating your old conservation plan.

Also, you must NOT plant crops on wetlands unless the wetland was converted to cropland prior to 1985 to remain in compliance. Farmers are reminded to check with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and/or NRCS before breaking new ground for production purposes. If you intend to clear land for crop production, farmers will need to fill out Form AD-1026 at the FSA office. The AD-1026 will be sent to NRCS for highly erodible/wetland determinations. This process can take several months, so please plan ahead.

Do not risk losing your USDA program benefits! If you intend to receive crop insurance premium subsidies for the 2017 insurance year (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) you must have a completed AD-1026 on record at the FSA office. Also to be eligible for financial assistance for most conservation programs administered by NRCS, you must be in compliance with HEL and Wetland provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill. ♦

NC Poultry Producers Urged to Maintain Strict Biosecurity After HPAI Confirmed on Indiana Farm

State Veterinarian Doug Meckes is encouraging N.C. poultry farmers and flock owners to maintain strict biosecurity measures after the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic H7N8 avian influenza in a commercial turkey flock in southwestern Indiana in January. This is the first HPAI outbreak in the U.S. since June 2015. This is a different strain of avian influenza than we saw last year, but it's just as worrisome. Indiana and federal officials hope to contain the outbreak to a single farm. The ban on poultry shows and sales was just lifted in January, and we will hold off on making a decision about reinstating the ban until we know whether or not this is an isolated incident.

In the meantime, we encourage poultry owners to limit out-of-state meetings and sales, maintain highest levels of biosecurity, and to keep a close eye on your birds. Contact your veterinarian if you see any of the signs of avian influenza among your birds. We will keep you informed as information comes through. ♦

URGENT! CCAP FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE - SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TODAY

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District is now accepting applications for the Community Conservation Assistance Program also known as CCAP. CCAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands, not directly involved in agricultural production. Eligible landowners may include: homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches, and community groups. Essentially, all private and publicly owned lands are eligible for the program. CCAP practices include cisterns, closing of abandoned wells, rain gardens, and bio-retention areas to name a few. Applications must be approved prior to work beginning. For more information on CCAP please contact Tom Smith at the Stokes Soil & Water Office at 336-593-2846 ext. 3 or by email at tsmith@stokesswcd.net ♦

DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Booth, *Chairman*
Marvin Cavanaugh, *Vice Chairman*
Willis Overby, *Secretary/Treasurer*
John East, *Member*
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Tom Smith, *District Soil/Watershed Conservationist*
Rodney Wright, *Dan River Watershed Coordinator*
Janice Pack, *Adm. Asst./Education Coordinator*

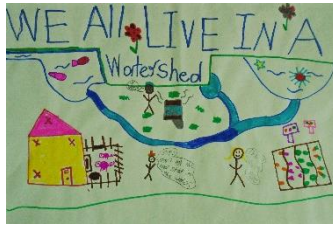
STUDENTS WIN LOCAL CONTESTS, ADVANCE TO REGIONAL COMPETITION

On October 29, 2015 the Stokes SWCD held its annual county-wide poster contest (for students in grades 3-6) & essay contest (for students in 6th grade). This year's contest theme was "WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED". Congratulations to the following students who placed:

3rd GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Kadin Gwyn – 1st Place (Pinnacle Elem.)

Maddie Childress – 2nd Place (Pinnacle Elem.)



3rd GRADE



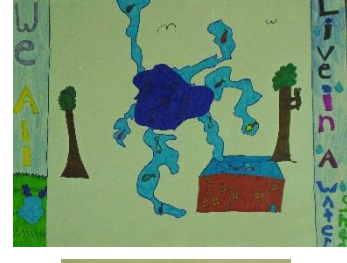
4th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Jaden Tuttle – 1st Place (Germanton Elem.)

Jenna Rayburn – 2nd Place (Germanton Elem.)



4th GRADE



5th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Emma Bingman – 1st Place (Lawsonville Elem.)

Dorothy Nash – 2nd Place (King Elem.)



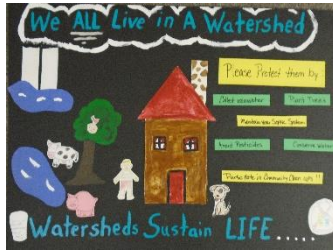
5th GRADE



6th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Austin Smith – 1st Place (SEMS)

Ka'Laysia Fulp – 2nd Place (SEMS)



6th GRADE



6th GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

Abigail Dodson – 1st Place (SEMS)

Trey Seagle – 2nd Place (SEMS)

These students will be recognized and given awards at the Stokes Soil & Water Banquet in May.

First place winners from Stokes County will compete at the regional level on March 17 in Caldwell County.

Pictured to the right (1st column) – 1st place posters for each grade level; (2nd column) – 2nd place posters for each grade level. ♦

BOOTH APPOINTED "AREA 2" SOIL & WATER CHAIRMAN FOR 2016

On January 4, 2016 James Booth, Stokes Soil & Water Board Member, was sworn in as the 2016 Chairman of Area 2 Soil & Water Conservation Districts at the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in Durham, NC. Area 2 covers thirteen counties in northwest NC. With this appointment James will be charged with ensuring involvement of each district (or county) in the northwest region in promoting the activities and programs set forth by the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Congratulations James! ♦

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE GETS NEW LIVESTOCK AGENT



Please join the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District in welcoming Carl Mitchell, the new Cooperative Extension Livestock and Forages Agent for Stokes County. Carl has a Bachelor's degree in Zoology and a Master's degree in Science Education, with over ten years experience in teaching. He is a lifelong citizen of Stokes County and has a farm in Germanton with cattle, pork, and meat chickens...welcome Carl, we look forward to working with you! ♦

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS FOR 5TH GRADERS SCHEDULED IN APRIL

On April 19, 20, & 21 the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District will host Environmental Awareness Days for all 5th grade students in Stokes County at Hanging Rock State Park. The Stokes SWCD has offered this program to students for over 30 years. Each day students will participate in 8 mini-workshops set-up throughout the park as they travel from station to station to learn about current environmental issues that correlate with the Common Core Essential Standards for 5th grade science. ♦

STUDENT APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District is now accepting applications from students in 9th, 10th or 11th grade to attend the 2016 Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) on June 26-July 1 at NC State University. The RCW is a week-long workshop for high school students to spend time in the field learning about our natural resources and their management in today's environment. Participants will meet & receive guidance from natural resource professionals, win cash awards & scholarship money, and so much more. Topics of study include: Soil Characteristics & Conservation, Wildlife & Fisheries Management, Forest Management, Nonagricultural Uses of Soils, Water Quality & Watershed Management. To view photos from past events & a promotional video, please visit the following website <http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html>. Applications can be found at www.stokesswcd.org under the education tab or you can call the office for more details at 336.593.2846 ext. 3 - ask for Janice. The deadline to submit applications to the Stokes Soil & Water office is Friday, March 11. ♦