



STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

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23rd Annual Farmer Appreciation Event

*Come join us for a meal, entertainment,
and more!*

April 4, 2024
South Stokes High School
5:30PM - 8:00PM

Food: Barbeque, chicken and all fixings
(serving 5:30pm - 7:30pm)

Entertainment: Strum & the Meadows

Sponsored by: Stokes Soil & Water, NC Cooperative Extension Service, NC Forest Service, USDA Farm Service Agency & Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Please contact our office if you would like to be a sponsor of
the Farmer Appreciation Event!**

DISTRICT BOARD

James Booth, *Chairman*

Marvin Cavanaugh, *Vice Chairman*

Johnny East, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Dowell Lester, *Member*

Bob Lindsay, *Member*

STAFF

Janice Pack, *Soil & Water Conservation Director*

McKayla Sawyers, *District Soil/Watershed Conservationist*

Lance Parker, *NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist*

Max Dumas, *Soil Conservationist*

NEW COST SHARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES IN STOKES

Stokes Soil and Water Conservation District is now offering the opportunity for cooperators to install two additional best management practices (BMP's) that were not previously options!

1. Pasture Division Fencing (below)
2. Geocell (Page 3)

Pasture Division Fencing

Terms-

- Combined with stream exclusion system and waterers.
- Permanent fence must be used and constructed to meet program specifications.
- Division fencing can only be constructed to intersect waterers so that each pasture still has access to fresh drinking water.
- NC average cost list for fencing will be used to determine cost – same price that is used for stream exclusion fencing.
- Only offered in Stokes County at this time.
- Optional to add to stream exclusion fencing systems.

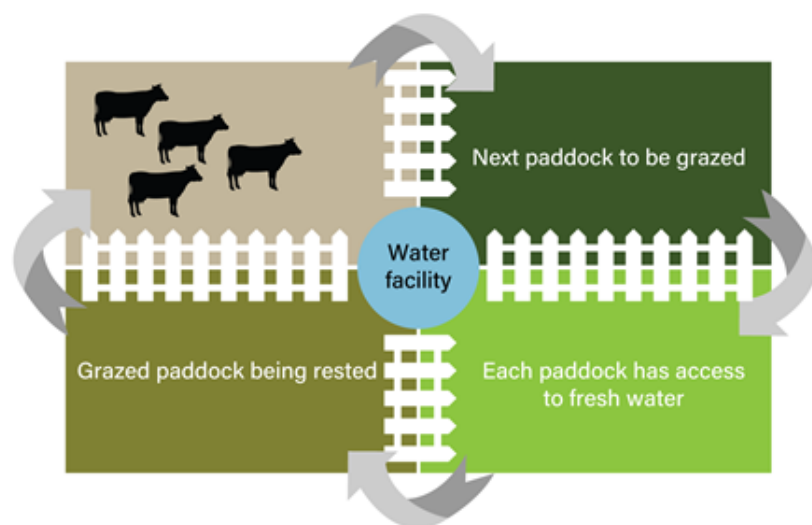
Maintenance Period

- 10 years



Waterer Division Panels can be purchased locally, or the cooperator can make their own.

In rotational grazing, livestock are moved in cycles through fenced grazing paddocks



Note: In this graphic depiction of rotational grazing, a herd of cattle is rotated through four paddocks with shared fencing and water. After each grazing period, the herd is rotated to the paddock that has completed a full resting period while the other paddocks recover from prior grazing.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service.

Environmental Purpose and Benefits-

- Allows rotational grazing techniques to be utilized
- Encourage increased utilization of forages
- Reduced soil erosion
- Reduced sedimentation
- Reduced pathogen contamination into surface waters

Livestock Benefits-

- Increased forage quality with rotational grazing and proper soil nutrient management.
- Opportunities for improved weaning and reproductive management
- Opportunities for overall improved livestock husbandry
- Easier to utilize temporary fencing for improved grazing management ♦

FUNDING ASSISTANCE DEADLINE APPROACHING

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District is still accepting applications for the 2024 Program Year of Cost Share funding to install best management practices that prevent erosion and improve water quality and quantity on agricultural land. Practices include livestock stream exclusion systems, cover crops, cropland conversion to forage, and many more! Call us for more information about programs and services that our office can provide, or visit our website at www.stokesswcd.org. ♦

NEW COST SHARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES IN STOKES CONTINUED...

Geocell

This is a material that is rigid, cellular shaped and can be used to increase stability in areas of frequent and intense livestock activity. High traffic areas require regular maintenance, particularly with gravel surfacing. The interlocking grid system of geocell materials acts as a mold to hold gravel in place and reinforce heavily utilized areas. The layer of reinforcement helps to reduce the volume of gravel lost during livestock activity, including manure scraping. Geocell products increase load bearing capacity at least two-fold, regardless of the type of product, and provide increased longevity of the practices that they are used to construct.

Possible Applications

- Livestock Heavy Use Areas (includes around waterers)
- Walkways
- Stream Crossings
- Access Road

Environmental Benefits

- Reduced soil erosion
- Reduced sedimentation and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances

Maintenance Period

- 10 years

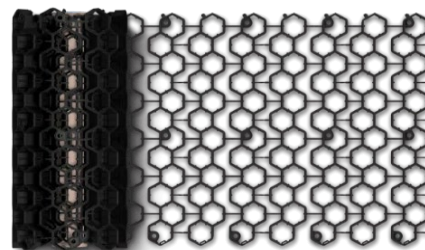
Cost

Average cost was calculated using the material type, available retail costs, tax, shipping, labor, and any accessories (ex: pins or zipties) that will be required to install the material. ♦

Component	Average Cost	75% Cost Share
Expandable Geocell	\$11.00/SqYd	\$8.25/SqYd
Hard Plastic Geocell	\$58.00/SqYd	\$43.50/SqYd



*Agtec Expandable Geocell
Example*



*NDS Hard Plastic Geocell
Example*

NO-TILL SOD DRILL AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

Please call or email our office to schedule your lease dates.

Sod Drill Requirements:

- 40 horsepower tractor minimum with hydraulics
- Open hole pin hitch
- Does NOT work on disked or plowed ground

Rental Rate: \$10 per acre (\$50 minimum) ♦



STUDENTS WIN LOCAL POSTER, ESSAY, & SLIDESHOW CONTESTS

On February 8th the Stokes SWCD held its annual county-wide poster contest (for students in grades 3-5), essay contest (for students in grades 6-8) and the slideshow contest (for students in grades 6-8). The contest theme was “The Living Soil”. Congratulations to the students listed below! These students will be recognized and given awards at the Stokes Soil & Water Banquet in May.

3rd, 4th, & 5th GRADE POSTER CONTESTS

- 3rd Grade 1st Place – Allie Hooker (Pine Hall Elem.)
- 3rd Grade 2nd Place – Sadie Carroll (Germanton Elem.)
- 4th Grade 1st Place – Carah Rhodes (Sandy Ridge Elem.)
- 4th Grade 2nd Place – Aaron Tucker (Germanton Elem.)
- 5th Grade 1st Place – Emily Barlow (Sandy Ridge Elem.)
- 5th Grade 2nd Place – Leah Dunmon (Nancy Reynolds Elem.)

6th & 8th GRADE ESSAY CONTESTS

- 6th Grade 1st Place – Grace Simmons (SEMS)
- 6th Grade 2nd Place – Silas Story (SEMS)
- 8th Grade 1st Place – Westley Tobias-Slemp (PGMS)
- 8th Grade 2nd Place – Savannah Cain (PGMS)

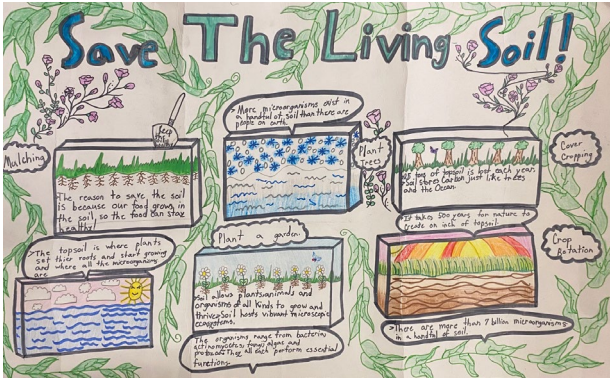
6th & 8th GRADE SLIDESHOW CONTESTS

- 6th Grade 1st Place – Lindsay Amos-Wall (SEMS)
- 6th Grade 2nd Place – Ryan Stultz (SEMS)
- 8th Grade 1st Place – Emelia Alvarado (PGMS)
- 8th Grade 2nd Place – Kendra Stevens (PGMS)

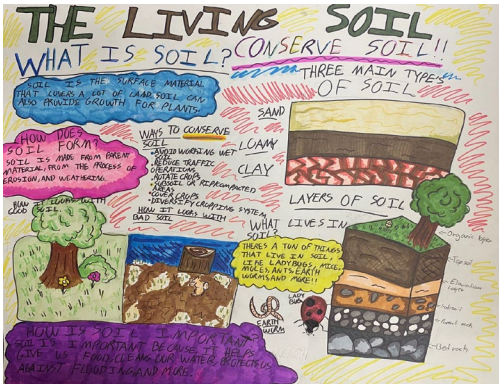
Pictured are 1st place posters for each grade level. ♦



1st Place 3rd Grade Poster



1st Place 4th Grade Poster



1st Place 5th Grade Poster

SOUTH STOKES STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN NW ENVIROTHON COMPETITION



On March 19th students from South Stokes High School will travel to Wilkes County to participate in the NW Envirothon Competition sponsored by Soil & Water Conservation Districts. They will be competing against other high school teams from across northwest NC by testing in areas of Wildlife, Forestry, Aquatic Ecology, Soils/Land Use, and Current Environmental Issues. Best of luck to these students! Pictured to the left are Ava Smith, Zinnia Burgess, Hayleigh Morgan, Lex Flanagan, Laci Morefield. Not pictured: Wyatt Kerr, Elia Jaffe Payton Barbee, Brianna Swallie, Hannah Holiness. ♦



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DAYS FOR 5th GRADERS TO BE HELD IN APRIL

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District will be hosting Environmental Awareness Days for all 5th graders at Hanging Rock State Park on April 16th & 17th. We have hosted this event for 40 years. Each day students will participate in mini-workshops setup throughout the park to learn about current environmental issues that correlate with the 5th grade science curriculum. Pictured to the right is McKayla Sawyers, Stokes SWCD Conservationist, teaching a soil erosion/water quality station at the 2023 event. ♦