



Special
Edition

2011 Annual Report

Conservation Comments



Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better"

~ Albert Einstein

North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

23 contracts written for following BMPs: pasture renovation, agriculture road repairs, wells, fencing, watering tanks, cropland conversion, heavy use areas, roof runoff management and pet waste receptacles

■ Regular Cost Share	\$55,045	■ Impaired/Impacted	\$19,817
■ Drought Grant	\$8000	■ Drought Earmark	\$4000
■ Drought Appropriations	\$6000	■ CCAP Contracts	\$950

Total Contracts Written: \$ 93,812

USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

5 contracts written/BMPs installed include: wells, watering tanks, fencing, rock lined outlet, riparian forest buffer, access roads, and pasture plantings

Total Contracts Written: \$87,000

Educational Programs—Summary

Students in the fifth through eighth grades participated in the Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

■ Poster, Speech & Essay Contest—"Water...the Cycle of Life"	474 students
■ County Envirothon	47 students
■ Northwest Envirothon	49 students
■ Resource Conservation Workshop-one week at NCSU	3 students
■ Rural & Community Safety Field Day-Water Safety (4th grade)	141 students

Total Students reached: 714

Annual Poster, Speech & Essay Contests. District winners compete in the 13 county Area Contest in Caldwell County for the chance to advance to the State Contest held each year in Raleigh. Local seventh grader won first place in the State Competition in Raleigh (see page 4).

A total of 11 teams competed in the 4th Annual County Envirothon competition in preparation for the 13 county NW Envirothon held in Wilkes County in March. One local team from Alleghany high School advanced to the State Envirothon Competition held at Cedarock Park in Burlington April 29-30 (see page 6).

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Soil and Water Conservation Contest Winners

The Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently sponsored educational contests in the elementary schools. Janie Woodle, Administrative Assistant/Education Coordinator provided environmental educational programs and resource materials as requested in the 5th- 8th grades of each school. This year's theme was "*Water...the Cycle of Life*". The 5th graders competed in a poster contest, 6th graders in an essay contest, and 7th and 8th graders competed in public speech contests. The school winners (pictured below) received certificates and cash awards from the Allegheny SWCD.

The first place essay and speech winners and the top three posters from each school competed in a county-wide competition in February. Results of the county competitions are: 5th Grade Poster winners: 1st place-Summer Choate; 2nd place-Eirwyn Beres; 3rd place-Whitney Crouse, all of Sparta School. Honorable Mentions went to Caleb Evans, Christopher Cox, and Jose Renteria of Piney Creek School; Colby Brooks, Aleli Sandoval, and Madison Patrick of Glade Creek School. 6th Grade Essay winners: 1st place-Karly Seal, Sparta School; 2nd place-Lillie Moreno, Piney Creek School; 3rd place-Brandon Debord, Glade Creek School. 7th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-Bailey Strickland, Sparta School; 2nd place-Kendra Phipps, Piney Creek School; 3rd place-Leah McGrady, Glade Creek School. 8th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-Lauren Edwards, Sparta School; 2nd place-Trish Hampton, Piney Creek School; 3rd place-Kaylee Andrews, Glade Creek School. The first place competitor in each event competed in a 13 county Area competition in Caldwell County March 24th. Allegheny's students placed as follows in the Area Contests: Summer Choate took 3rd place in the 5th Grade Poster Competition and received \$25 and a medallion; Karly Seal received an Honorable Mention in the 6th Grade Essay Competition; Bailey Strickland took 1st place in the 7th Grade Speech Competition, received \$75 and a medallion and will compete in the State Competition on 13th in Raleigh; Lauren Edwards took 2nd place in 8th Grade Speech Competition and received \$75 and a medallion.

An awards banquet was held May 10, 2011 to recognize all those who competed at the county competition.



Piney Creek School L to R front row:

5th Grade Poster HM:

Caleb Evans, Christopher Cox, Jose Renteria

6th Grade Essay 1st 2nd 3rd:

Lillie Moreno, Kelsey Lyall, Matthew Joines

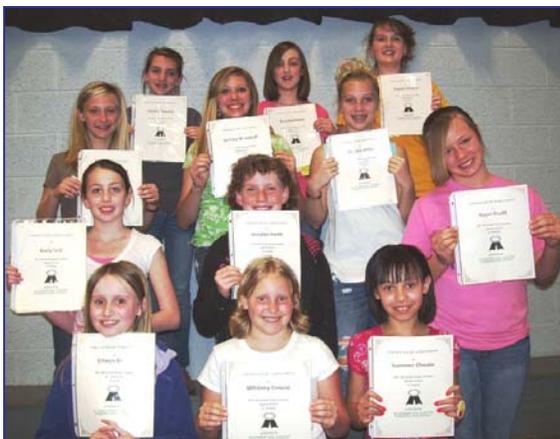
2nd row **7th Grade Speech** 1st 2nd 3rd:

Kendra Phipps, Holden Williams, Candace Todd

8th Grade Speech 1st 2nd 3rd:

Trish Hampton, Jeremy Dixon

(not pictured-8th Grade Speech 3rd Casey Davis)



Sparta School L to R front row:

5th Grade Poster 1st 2nd 3rd:

Eirwyn Beres, Whitney Crouse, Summer Choate

2nd row **6th Grade Essay** 1st 2nd 3rd:

Karly Seal, Jessalyn Smith, Rayni Pruitt

3rd row **7th Grade Speech** 1st 2nd 3rd:

Bailey Strickland, Sydney Woodruff, Mookie Miller

8th Grade Speech 1st 2nd 3rd:

Lauren Edwards, Breanna Finney, Paxton Hodges

Glade Creek School L to R front row :

5th Grade Poster HM: Colby Brooks, Aleli Sandoval

6th Grade Essay 1st 2nd & 3rd:

Brandon Debord, Tonya Mabe, Lucas Rife

2nd row **7th Grade Speech** 1st 2nd & 3rd:

Leah McGrady, Caleb Spurlin, Maddie Whisnant

8th Grade Speech 1st 2nd 3rd:

Kaylee Andrews, Ashley Day, Jennifer Evans

(not pictured-HM 5th Grade Poster Madison Patrick)



Soil and Water Conservation 6th Grade Essay & 5th Grade Poster Competition

"Water...the Cycle of Life"

Karly Seal—1st Place

6th Grade Essay County Competition
HM in Area 2 Competition

Water ...The Cycle of Life

The teacher said to do an essay on soil and water conservation. "Oh, great!" I thought, "How boring." I went home and told my mom my assignment and that I really dreaded it. I didn't understand the point or why we had to do this. Saturday morning I woke up and my mom said, "Okay, I have an experiment for you. You can't use water all day long. When you decide you understand the importance of water you can start your paper."

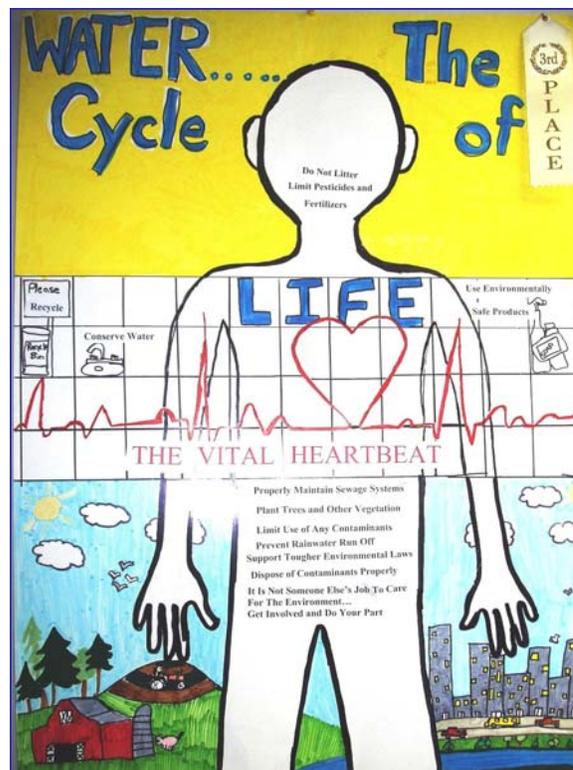
I said, "Okay," and I went into the kitchen to get some cereal, Mom stopped me just before I poured the milk and said, "This is mostly water so you can't have it."

I said, "Okay," and went into the bathroom. Not very much I could do in there. I couldn't take a shower, flush the toilet, or brush my teeth. So I decided to watch some television. My cat would not leave me alone so I decided to feed her, but I could not give her any water. The snow was falling fast. My brother was going to go outside to sled, but I couldn't go because snow is made of water. I finally gave in. By 11am on Saturday morning I had decided I could not live one day without water. I know that I could probably go a few days without water but not very long before dehydrating and eventually dying. I weigh sixty-five pounds so according to what I read on the internet I would be lucky to live four days without water. That makes water my new favorite thing.

Every living thing depends on water to live. Not just for moisture in our bodies but also for oxygen to breathe. The human body is sixty-five percent water. Water naturally occurs in three forms: solid, liquid, and gas. Water cycles through these forms while in the atmosphere as clouds, on the ground as water, ice, or snow, underground, in the oceans, and as precipitation.

The water cycle repeats over and over again.

We can all help with water conservation. Check faucets for leaks. A small drip can waste twenty gallons per day and larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Don't use the toilet as a waste basket because every time you flush the toilet five to seven gallons of water is used. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators. You can take shorter showers and turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush. Make sure to use the dishwasher and washing machine with only full loads and only water your lawn when it needs it. Don't run the hose when washing your car. These things seem like they wouldn't make a big difference but if lots of people start paying attention to the water they are using it will make a big difference. After all, water is THE CYCLE OF LIFE!



Summer Choate—1st Place
5th Grade Poster Competition
3rd—Area 2 Competition

Area 2 Contest Night



Bailey Strickland—Sparta School
1st—7th Grade Speech



Lauren Edwards—Sparta School
2nd—8th Grade Speech

State Speech Competition

Bailey Strickland—Sparta School
Wins 7th Grade State Speech Contest



District Activities Summary

- * 57 Educational Programs/Events—total of 714 students
- * 52 Workshops/Training Events/Local State & Regional Meetings
- * 2366 Phone Calls
- * 42 Site Visits
- * 23 Computer Services/IT assistance
- * 50 Referrals
- * 437 Walk-ins
- * 26 No-Till Drill rentals-359.7 acres
- * 235 Materials/Information requested/provided

Total Activities—3288

4th Annual Allegheny County Envirothon

1st Place-“Green Machine”-Allegheny High School



2nd Place-“Enviro-”mental”-ists” -Allegheny High School



3rd Place-“Enviro-Mental” -Glade Creek School



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2nd Place
Green Machine
Alleghany High School

NW Competition
McGee Center
Wilkesboro



Local team participates
in the
NC State Envirothon

Cedarock Park
Burlington

Learn more about the Envirothon

What is Envirothon? The Envirothon is a fun, hands-on, natural science academic event that challenges and engages students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it.

The Envirothon combines an in-class curriculum with outdoor training to help students learn and to experience more about Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, Wildlife and Current Environmental Issues.

Learn more at <http://www.ncenvirothon.org/>

Farmland Preservation Program

Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Enrollment



The Allegheny Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Ordinance was adopted by the Allegheny County Commissioners on August 18, 2003.

The purpose of the Voluntary Farmland Preservation program is to encourage the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. This is in recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic and social life of the county.



No-Till Drill

The Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to participate in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss in our county by renting one of the two no-till grass drills available for your planting needs.

A no-till drill works by placing seed directly in the ground in one pass without prior soil preparation. This saves fuel and eliminates exposing topsoil to wind and water erosion.

No-till farming provides many economic and environmental benefits to the farmer. Since soil is not touched from after harvest until the next growing season, there is less erosion. The previous year's crop residue left on the soil surface traps moisture, builds organic matter and makes better use of nutrients, cutting down on chemicals the farmer must use.

Please call 336-372-7777 to schedule rental of either the Truax or Tye no-till drills

Local Farmers Nominated for Area 2 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family



Robert "Bob", Delores & Maurice Woodward

Maurice, Delores and Bob Woodward of Idelwood Acres, were recently nominated as the Area 2 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family.

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Outstanding Conservation Farm Family award recognizes farmers/farm families who are taking the initiative to implement sound, innovative and cost-effective conservation techniques, and are actively involved in conservation education.

The Woodward's forward thinking and promotion of rotational and prescribed grazing has been a strong influence on the local farm community. Several tours and pasture walks have taken place on their farm to promote the local Soil and Water district as well as NRCS programs.

The farm was judged at the area level May 2, 2011 and will compete at the regional and hopefully the state level in the near future.

Dry Hydrants provide access to water supply

Tragic fires can occur anywhere, anytime. This is especially true in rural areas where fire trucks must travel long distances to fill-up their tanks with water and return to the fire. The installation of dry hydrants in ponds can provide quick and easy access to water during an emergency.

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized, low-cost pipe system installed along the bank of a pond. The top of the pipe extends above the ground next to a pond and the bottom of the pipe extends down into the water. The hydrant should also be well marked and next to an all-weather road.

Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District has 6" strainers and head assemblies available for local fire departments to use in the installation of dry hydrants; arrangements have been made for the pipe needed in the installation. A "Letter of Authorization" you may use for the landowners to sign giving permission for the installation and access to the hydrant is available from our office.

For more information please contact: Linda Hash 336-372-7777

Funding opportunities-North Carolina Cost Share Program

The Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) announces funding opportunities through two North Carolina cost share programs. Both the Agricultural Cost Share Program (ACSP) and Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) are state programs funded annually through local soil and water conservation districts for nonpoint source pollution control.

The ACSP funds are available to assist farmers with the cost of installing conservation practices which help decrease the amount of sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemicals and other pollutants in the surface and ground waters of the state. Best Management Practices (BMPs) that may be cost shared through this program include wells and livestock watering facilities, cropland conversion to grass or trees, strip-cropping, grassed waterways, animal waste management systems, conservation cover, agriculture road repairs and pasture renovation.

CCAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various BMPs on urban, suburban and rural lands, not directly involved in agricultural production. CCAP consists of educational, technical and financial assistance provided to landowners by local soil and water conservation districts. Eligible landowners may include homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches and community groups. Essentially, all private and publicly owned lands are eligible for the program. BMPs funded through this program include critical area stabilization, cisterns, backyard wetlands, rain gardens, diversions, grassed swales, stream and shoreline protection, riparian buffer and pet receptacles.

The district expects to receive funding for both cost share programs after July 1. Landowners and operators of existing agricultural operations or owners of private and public lands may apply for cost share assistance to install conservation practices.

For more information or to apply for funds, call the SWCD office at 372-7777 or visit the office at 90 South Main Street, Room 200 in Sparta. The office will send a conservation specialist to visit the property and to discuss solutions for protecting nearby creeks, streams and lakes.

District Board of Supervisors



Paul Edwards
Chairman



Jim Dixon
Vice-Chair



Terry Hall
Secretary/Treasurer

Bobby Evans
Member



Bobby Gambill
Member

Allegheny SWCD Staff



Linda Hash
District Administrator/
Conservationist

S
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Janie Woodle
Admin. Asst/Tech/
Education Director



David Tucker
District
Conservationist



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S

Greg Wagoner
Soil Conservation
Technician



The Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Carolina, charged with the responsibility of promoting soil and water conservation and establishing conservation programs in the District. The District partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to carry out these responsibilities. As a local organization we work with citizens, agencies, and land owners to plan and direct programs for the conservation and development of our natural resources. We work closely with other state, federal, and local agencies, such as NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Resource Conservation and Development, US Army Corps of Engineers, NC Forest Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, NC Cooperative Extension, etc. to provide effective natural resource management and environmental education.

Our Mission Is...

...to promote the conservation of natural resources in Alleghany County through education, information, technical assistance, and available economic incentives.



District Board of Supervisors:

Paul Edwards—Chairman

Jim Dixon—Vice Chairman

Terry Hall—Secretary/Treasurer

Bobby Evans—Member

Bobby Gambill—Member



ALLEGHANY SWCD

P O Box 127 (90 S. Main St., Room 200)
Sparta, NC 28675

Visit us on the web at: http://www.alleghanycounty-nc.gov/dept_index.asp?dept_id=16

Phone: 336-372-4645 or 336-372-7777 Fax: 336-372-7402

E-mail: linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net or janie.woodle@nc.nacdnet.net

Office Hours: 8 am—5 pm, Monday—Friday

Board meetings are open to the public and are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday

Please contact our office for details



DISTRICT STAFF:

Linda Hash—District Administrator/Conservationist

Janie Woodle—Admin Asst/Technician II/Education Director



USDA, NRCS STAFF:

David Tucker—District Conservationist

Greg Wagoner—Soil Conservation Technician



NCDENR-Area 2 Coordinator

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