



# Conservation Comments



Spring Edition  
2011

## Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

*"We never know the worth of water till the well is dry"*

~ Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 1732

### Area 2 Spring Meeting

Area 2  
Spring Meeting

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District Supervisor, Bobby Evans, receives a plaque from William Brown, Chairman – Burke County, in recognition for his service as past Chair during the Area 2 Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Spring Meeting held March 10, 2011, in Morganton.



SWCD Update

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*"Conservation In Motion"* is the Area 2 theme for 2011. NCASWCD Executive Director, Dick Fowler, conducted an Advocacy Panel Discussion on *"How to Keep Conservation in Motion"*. Members of the panel included Wayne Abele, Burke County Commissioner, DeWitt Hardee, Ag Trustfund, Chester Lowder, NC Farm Bureau, Craig Frazier, NCASWCD President, and Bill Yarborough, SWCC.

NRCS Update

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The Area 2 SWCD Business Session included reports from the Auditing Committee, Area 2 Treasurer, Nominating Committee, District Issues Committee, the NRCS Advisory Committee and the NW Envirothon Committee.

No-Till Drills

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Rain Barrels

Earth Day 2011

Linda Hash provided an NCCDEA report. Pam Hamby, Caldwell SWCD, was nominated as DEA representative for Area 2.

Farmland  
Preservation  
Program

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NCASWCD President, Craig Frazier, and Executive Director, Dick Fowler, provided Conservation Partnership reports; Franklin, Williams. NC Representative, Duplin County, provided an NACD update; Bill Yarborough, Mountain Representative, Haywood County, provided a Soil & Water Commission update; David Williams, DSWC Deputy Director, provided an update on the Professional Conservation Employee's Program; JB Martin, NC State Conservationist, provided an NRCS update; Pat Harris, DSWC Director, provided an update on DSWC and the engineering request process.

SWCD  
Board & Staff

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### District Issues Committee Update

Contact  
Information

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The Area 2 District Issues Committee (DIC), originally known as the Area 2 Ag Cost Share Committee, was established in 2001 in order "to collectively preserve and enhance the established North Carolina Ag. Cost Share Program with Area 2". The committee has broadened and now addresses a multitude of issues. In January the following slate of officers were elected for the 2011 Area 2 DIC: Jo Linville, Chair, Yadkin County; Linda Hash, Vice-Chair and Janie Woodle, Secretary, both from Alleghany County. The next meeting is scheduled for March 29th in Wilkes County at the Edwin McGee Natural Resources Center.

### 2011 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award Natural Resource Enhancement Award



Left to right:

Dr. Jim Greene, Greg Wagoner, Steve Woodruff

Greg Wagoner was recently awarded the 2011 Hugh Hammond Bennett Natural Resource Enhancement Award from the Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Greg is a Soil Conservation Technician for the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. He worked in the Wilkes County NRCS Field Office for 22 years and has been in the Alleghany County NRCS Office for the past 6 years.

Steve Woodruff, Agronomist with the USDA National Tech Center, presented the award to Greg Wagoner at the Annual Awards Banquet of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on January 22, 2011. Dr. Jim Greene, retired professor from NC State has played an important role in assisting Greg with forage management.

Greg was recognized for his contributions and promotion of forage management. Greg has promoted and helped establish rotational grazing and the winter feeding of stockpiled forage on farms located in Alleghany County. Several farms have also benefited from his work in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program or EQIP including better than a 1000 acres protected with fencing, wells and alternative water for livestock.

A willingness to try and promote with success new and innovative ideas has been key to Greg's success. In a time when everyone is looking for ways to stretch a dollar and reduce input cost in farming it is critical that the farmer have access to more cost efficient ways of doing business and Greg has succeeded in pointing the way for that.

### Tucker Family Welcomes New Arrival



Congratulations to NRCS District Conservationist David Tucker and his wife, Mackie Lee, on the birth of their daughter, Lena Coco.

Coco was born on Valentines Day—she arrived a month early and weighed 4 lbs. 5 oz.—both Mom and baby are doing well.

## No-Till Drill - Ideal for spring planting

The Alleghany 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.**

## Rain Barrels Available



The Alleghany Soil and Water District partners with the Alleghany High School to recycle plastic containers from dairies and other businesses. The 55-gallon barrels are painted and plumbed by students from Mr. Bill Hash's Ag. class, and offered to Alleghany citizens who want to catch rain water from their gutters to reuse for gardening and washing cars. It's a good way for individuals to conserve water.

Anyone interested in receiving one of the recycled barrels should call the local Soil and Water Conservation office at 372-7777.

## EARTH DAY—APRIL 22, 2011

April 22, 2011 marks the 41st anniversary of the first observance of Earth Day, first commemorated on April 22, 1970. It arose as an effort to inspire awareness of, and appreciation for, the Earth's environment and is celebrated by over 175 countries around the world.

The idea for an Earth Day celebration originated with Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, who is considered to be the founder of Earth Day. Environmental groups use Earth Day as a way to focus attention on current local and global environmental issues and to encourage us to think "green" in an effort to develop solutions to the problems facing our environment.

Check out the following website for more information: [Earth Day 2011](#)



## Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program

Our state has lost more than 600,00 acres of farmland in the past five years. If this trend continues, we could lose a million more acres in less than ten years. Many landowners have discovered that placing their land in a Farmland Preservation Program is an effective way to protect and conserve North Carolina's diminishing farmland.

The purpose of the Voluntary 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.

The General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized counties to undertake a series of programs to encourage the preservation of farmland. This statutory authority is found in Chapter 106, Article 61 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Using this authority, the Alleghany County Commissioner instituted a Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program the eighteenth day of August, 2003. The ordinance creating this program provides for the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Board to administer the program. The Board will review and approve applications for qualifying farmland as well as establish voluntary agricultural districts.

The farm must be participating in the farm Present-Use-Value taxation program or qualify to participate. The primary qualifications for this taxation program are as follows:

- Individually owned agricultural land, consisting of at least ten (10) acres, that has produced an average annual income of one thousand dollars (\$1000) over a three-year period, or
- Individually owned horticultural land, consisting of at least five (5) acres, producing an average income of one thousand dollars (\$1000) per year, or
- Individually owned forest land consisting of at least 20 acres that are in actual production and not included in a farm unit.

An agricultural district will consist of at least 20 acres of qualifying farmland, individually or separately owned, which are located within one mile of each other. Participating landowners will sign an agreement to sustain, encourage, and promote agriculture.

Members of the Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program will have increased protection from nuisance suits and other negative impacts on participating farms. As part of the Program, public hearings will be required on proposed condemnation by state or local public agencies. Landowners in certified districts will not be required to connect to water and/or sewer systems nor be assessed water and sewer charges until that property is connected to such services.

The Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program members will be subject to a conservation agreement between the County and the landowner that prohibits non-farm use of development of that land for a period of at least 10 years. The conservation agreement, however, will allow the development of up to three lots on participating farms included in a District.

A landowner in the Voluntary Preservation Program may remove all or a portion of his/her land from the Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program by giving written notice to the Agricultural Advisory Board. If a portion of the land is removed from the program, the remaining land must meet the program conditions and qualifications for the farm to continue in the program.

### Agricultural Advisory Board:

Paul Edwards, Chair 372-8947	Lewis Upchurch 372-4260	David Gambill 372-2819
Jim Dixon, Vice Chair 359-2494	Dennis Franklin 657-3969	Milly Richardson 372-5556
Bobby Evans 372-8715	Bobby Gambill 372-4172	Amy Lucas 372-5597

### For more information please contact:

#### [Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District](#)

PO Box 127  
Sparta, NC 28675  
Telephone # 372-4645

#### [Cooperative Extension Service](#)

PO Box 7  
Sparta, NC 28675  
Telephone # 372-5597

#### [USDA Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)](#)

PO Box 624  
Jefferson, NC 28640  
Telephone # 246-8875 Ext. 2

## 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**  
Director/  
Conservationist

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**Janie Woodle**  
Admin. Asst/Tech/  
Education Director



**David Tucker**  
District  
Conservationist



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**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.*

Please contact our office for more information about any of our programs:

**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/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=71&Itemid=87](http://www.alleghanycounty-nc.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=71&Itemid=87)

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

E-mail: [linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net](mailto:linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net) or [janie.woodle@nc.nacdnet.net](mailto: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—Administrative Director/Conservationist II

Janie Woodle— Admin Asst/Technician II/Education Director



**USDA, NRCS STAFF:**

David Tucker—District Conservationist

Greg Wagoner—Soil Conservation Technician



**NCDENR-Area 2 Coordinator**

Michelle Lovejoy