

HAYWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report 2018-2019



**Mission Statement: Protect the natural
resources of Haywood County through education,
financial and technical assistance**

Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District

589 Raccoon Road, Suite 203 Waynesville, NC 28786

828.452.2741, Extension 3

Monthly Board Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month, 9:00 a.m.

Downstairs Conference Room

Board of Supervisors

Bill Yarborough *Chairman*

bill.yarborough@ncagr.gov

Charles Boyd *Vice Chairman*

Charles@WNCLandscaping.com

James Ferguson *Treasurer*

jamesmferg@yahoo.com

Robert Cathey *Secretary*

smokadoe@bellsouth.net

Will Morrow *Member*

Will.morrow@ncagr.gov

District Staff

Duane Vanhook, District Director and NC Ag Cost Share Technician

duane.vanhook@nc.nacdnet.net

Ryan Manning, Farmland Conservation Technician

ryan.manning@nc.nacdnet.net

Gail Heathman, Education Coordinator

gail.heathman@haywoodcountync.gov

NCDA&CS

Tim Garrett, ATAC

Timothy.Garrett@usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service

John Ottinger, Supervisory Soil Conservationist

John.Ottinger@usda.gov

Conservation Programs Assisting Landowners

Healthy, productive soil and clean water don't just happen; in fact, both of these important natural resources face a variety of challenges these days, from severe weather events to problems caused by our modern lifestyle. Valuable technical guidance and financial assistance were provided to landowners through both state and federal programs available at the District totaling **\$256,840.09** during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

STATE FUNDING

North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program	\$40,237
Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program	\$7,500
TVA	\$991
Impaired/Impacted Streams	\$9,093
Total	\$57,821

STATE PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Clyde Rivers Edge Park	1000 ft stream bank protection 100+ riparian trees planted
--------------------------------	---

FEDERAL FUNDING

Haywood had 9 new EQIP contracts totaling **\$137,874.00**
 Conservation plans were written on 237 new acres.
 Conservation applied to 647 acres of **pastureland**. (113 acres of Prescribed Grazing)
 Conservation applied on 224 acres of land that is actively managing **wildlife**.
 Conservation applied on 229 acres of **forest land**.
 Conservation applied on 42 acres of **crop land**.
 Practices applied to Improve and protect water quality: 606 acres
 21 Active Contracts on 717.8 Acres

Total acres with conservation applied: **1,142 acres**
 Total NRCS program funding applied: **\$199,019.09 on 16 separate contracts.**

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

In North Carolina, agriculture and related businesses contribute \$78 billion to the state's economy per year. Meeting present and future needs of the agricultural community in Haywood County is an important part of the District's job, with farmland protection provided in four ways:

1. Voluntary Ag Districts (VAD): A 10 year *voluntary* agreement
2. Enhanced Voluntary Ag Districts (EVAD): Voluntary, but with a 10 year *written recorded* agreement
3. Term Easements: Any number of years over ten
4. Permanent Easements: Forever farmland — this easement stays with the land no matter who owns it.

*The landowner is not the only one who benefits from VADs — we **all** do.*

VADs help conserve the things we all love about Haywood County. Whether it's the heritage of each individual community, the scenic beauty Western NC is known for, clean air and water that improve the quality of our lives as well as that of local wildlife, conservation matters. When it comes to the local economy, VADs can mean more local jobs, farm products, tax income and tourism while minimizing the infrastructure burden on the local government.



COUNTY FARMLAND PROGRAMS

Voluntary Ag Districts (VAD) acres: **13,092.68**

Enhanced Voluntary Ag District (EVAD) acres: **1,983.78**

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Term Easements: **764.9 acres**

Dollar value: **\$2,301,000**

Permanent Conservation Easements: **1,062.2 acres**

Dollar value: **\$7,525,231**

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Program	Number
Fifth Grade Conservation Field Day — Our 37th year!	546 students
Area 1 Envirothon Competition	6 teams
North Carolina State Envirothon Competition	4 teams
Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Camp - 1 Week	13 students
Contests: Poster, Essay, Slide Show, Speech & Computer Designed Poster	77 participants
Conservation Teacher of the Year	1
Area FFA Land Judging Competition	10 teams
Resource Conservation Workshop at NCSU	2 students
Area 1 SWCD Scholarship	1 student
Pink Francis Memorial Scholarship — Haywood Community College	1 student
Enviroscape Presentations (26)	575 participants
Various classroom presentations	416 students

CONSERVATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Rosemary Rogers



Rosemary Rogers is a Haywood County native who has taught at Hazelwood Elementary for 7 years. “I teach 5th grade and I love my students and my school!” said Rosemary. “Science is a huge part of the curriculum so the poster contest gives students an opportunity to create a hands-on project while also learning about the importance of soil and water conservation in our county. I always wanted to be an art teacher, so I love this project! It gives my students a chance to use artistic skills outside of the art classroom they get biweekly. I have found that some students excel in this area more than other subjects and it is important to let these students have an

opportunity to shine!” Rosemary does not lack for enthusiasm. She helps her students prepare for doing the posters by watching videos on the topic, conducting research and talking about the most important pieces of information that needs to be heard. “We try to merge all of this into a creative way to get our message across to readers and learners.” Congratulations!

HIGHLIGHTS in EDUCATION

RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Not just any student would choose to spend a hot week in Raleigh in late June, but then, Carter Huskison and Adam Wampler are not just any students. The pair, rising seniors at Tuscola, have been chosen to attend the **Resource Conservation Workshop** where they will stay in a dorm and spend an unforgettable week among students from across the state learning about natural resources on a whole new level. Both are members of an Envirothon team—the first place winners at the Area 1 Envirothon two years in a row. Adam also attended two weeks of the District’s YES Camp back in middle school. The workshop offers a chance to not only study a variety of natural resource issues in depth, but also an opportunity to meet professionals in those fields and learn about career opportunities. There are also scholarships to be won, as Pisgah student Kaitlin Moore demonstrated in 2018 when she returned home with cash awards and a scholarship, and Gracie Woods the year before. The District is proud to have these fine students represent Haywood County!



AREA 1 ENVIROTHON: FIRST PLACE TEAM!



28 middle and high school students had a great time while learning lasting lessons about this world we live in during the Area 1 Envirothon competition. Six Haywood teams joined 52 others from surrounding

counties at the Area 1 Envirothon event on March 22nd at the Mountain Research Station. Four Haywood teams qualified for state competition in Burlington, in April — the Avians, Pisgah’s FFA Team (Joshua Justice), the Defective Goats (BMS, Amy Harrington) and The Great Depression (WMS, Linda Estes). Mark Ethridge, who had joined Josh Robinson (WMS) in advising his team “The Crazy Wildlife”, also served as the bus driver, a trip he could probably make in his sleep after 18 years of Envirothon. And where does the money come from to cover travel expenses? It was again provided through a generous grant from The Pigeon River Fund! Thanks to the grant, advisors and kids can just enjoy the journey.



AWARDS AND HONORS

Two staff members received statewide recognition by the NC Chapter of Soil and Water Society in Raleigh this past year. Gail Heathman received the North Carolina 2019 Conservation Communicator of the Year award and John Ottinger received the North Carolina 2019 Professional Achievement in Water Quality award. Both were presented the awards at the Hugh Hammond Bennet (NC) Chapter annual statewide luncheon honoring individuals or groups who have provided outstanding leadership in Soil and Water Conservation in categories of education, soil quality, water quality, stewardship, and enhancement.



FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

The District works closely with a number of other natural resource agencies, non-profits and professionals. It belongs to a partnership that includes:

- ◇ The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- ◇ The Division of Soil and Water Conservation (NCDA&CS)
- ◇ The North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- ◇ The North Carolina Conservation District Employees Association
- ◇ The North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation
- ◇ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- ◇ The Area I Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- ◇ The Southeast District Employees Association
- ◇ The National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- ◇ Southwestern NC Resource Conservation & Development
- ◇ Mountain Research Station
- ◇ Haywood County Extension
- ◇ USDA Farm Services Agency
- ◇ Haywood Waterways Association
- ◇ Haywood County Schools