

Haywood County Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Report 2020-2021



Mission Statement

**Protect the natural resources of Haywood County
through education, conservation and preservation.**

About the District

589 Raccoon Road, Suite 203

Waynesville, NC 28786

828-452-2741 ext. 3

Board of Supervisors Meeting
held the 2nd Tuesday of each
month at 9:00 a.m.



**Scan the QR code to access our
website**

**Check out our Facebook page at
facebook.com/HCSWC**

Board of Supervisors

Bill Yarborough, Chairman

Charles Boyd, Vice Chairman

James Ferguson, Treasurer

Robert Cathey, Secretary

Will Morrow, Member

Timothy Garrett, Associate Supervisor

Jennifer Best, Associate Supervisor

District Staff

Duane Vanhook

District Director and NC Ag Cost-Share Technician

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Ryan Manning

Farmland Preservation Program Coordinator

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Dana Miller

Education Coordinator

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Sheila Mills-Mode

Administrative Assistant II

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Natural Resource Conservation Service Staff

John Ottinger

Supervisory Soil Conservationist

John.Ottinger@usda.gov

Brandon Young

Soil Technician

Brandon.Young2@usda.gov

Conservation Programs

The District and NRCS works with landowners to provide technical guidance, develop conservation plans, provide financial assistance and install best management practices.



**Financial assistance
provided in 2020-
2021 =
\$81,431**

Examples of Best Management Practices

Reduced Till or No-Till

Cover Crops

Livestock Watering Systems



State-Funded Programs

NC Agricultural Cost Share	\$63,512
Impaired & Impacted Streams	\$8,719
Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program	\$7,500
Carbon Farming Pilot Program Grant	\$1,700
Total	\$81,431

NRCS Conservation Programs

Program Highlights

8 new EQIP contracts totaling
\$185,430 on 248 acres

15 active contracts totaling
\$765,056 on 490 acres



Federally-Funded Programs

11 contracts completed	\$149,877
Conservation applied on	496 acres
Total	\$149,877



Farmland Preservation Program

The purpose of the Farmland Preservation program is to protect farmland in Haywood County from development. Agriculture is not only a \$78 billion industry in North Carolina, but also critical to meeting the needs of a growing population. The District executes this goal in various ways:

- **Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD)**
- **Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts (EVAD)**
- **Term Easements**
- **Permanent Easements**



County Programs		
VAD Acres	12,609.9	
EVAD Acres	239.8	
Total	12,849.7 acres	
Conservation Easements		
Term Easements	759.8 acres	\$2,301,000
Permanent Easements	1240 acres	\$9,323,202
Total	1,999.8 acres	\$11,624,202

Environmental Education Program

The District provides environmental education to the citizens of Haywood County through various programs including classroom programs and outreach events such as Conservation Field Days. Our education program also works with many regional and state partners to strengthen environmental education for all.



What we do:

- K-12 Classroom Programs
 - Adult Programs
- Conservation Field Days
 - FFA Land Judging Competition
 - NC Envirothon
- Conservation Contests
- Professional Development for educators
 - Monthly newsletters

Highlights

- **1,766** students and adults reached through in-person and virtual programs
- Ennis Marcus, 6th grader at Waynesville Middle School, won the State Essay Contest themed “We All Live in a Watershed”
- **3 new programs** started in 2020-2021



New Programs

At-Home Adventure Kits



This program was created as a way to safely reach students and their families who were learning remotely during the pandemic. The kits are similar to a subscription box service. Participants receive a kit each month with the materials and instructions needed to complete five to eight hands-on environmental education activities. Examples of the activities include making recycled paper, outdoor scavenger hunt, and building a stream table. There were 36 participants who received a kit each month from October 2020 to June 2021. The kits were provided at no cost to the participants.



EcoCamp Crates



Similar to At-Home Adventure Kits, this program was created to provide a summer camp experience for youth in Haywood County who were unable to attend in-person camps because of the pandemic. 72 participants received a crate filled with enough science education activities to fill 3-4 hours for 5 days. Along with the activities, participants received access to live, virtual programs each day of “camp” featuring different resource experts. Through county funding and a generous grant from The Nature Conservancy Fund, the crates were provided free of charge to participants.

Earth Day Extravaganza

Developed in partnership with Haywood County Public Library, Earth Day Extravaganza allowed folks to safely celebrate Earth Day 2021. The event included month-long activities such as a pop-up story walk in downtown Canton, an Earth Day Egg Hunt in town parks, and a stream clean up program. Along with the month long events, the library published a new virtual program each day the week of Earth Day. These programs were created by regional partners including the District, Haywood County Solid Waste, Haywood Waterways and Balsam Mountain Trust.



New Staff

Welcome Brandon Young!

Brandon is a native of WNC hailing from Madison County. He received a B.S. in Agricultural Science from NC State University and was the Soil Conservationist for Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District for 6 years before coming to Haywood County. Brandon is currently working as the Soil Conservation Technician position for NRCS. He recently got married to his beautiful wife Janna and currently lives in Canton with their big dog named Little Sister. In his free time, Brandon enjoys spending time in the great outdoors deer hunting, turkey hunting, trout fishing, hiking, and saltwater fishing (when he gets the chance). Brandon is excited to be working here in the Haywood Soil and Water office, partnering with the Soil and Water Districts in NRCS Team 2 to help get conservation on the ground.



Our Partners

NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Division of Soil and Water Conservation	Southeast District Employee Association National Association of Soil & Water Districts
NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission	Southwestern NC Resource Conservation & Development
NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation	Mountain Research Station NC Cooperative Extension
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	USDA Farm Services Agency Haywood Waterways Association
Area 1 Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts	