Conservation Programs PY15 Sign Up Period  July 1 – September 30, 2014

The Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) is currently accepting applications for North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP), Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) and Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). These programs are voluntary and are funded through the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services–Division of Soil & Water Conservation (NCDA&CS–SW) and administered through the HCSWCD to fund the installation of various Best Management Practices (BMP’s) to improve water quality.

These programs can provide technical assistance and help pay a portion of the costs for installation of accepted water quality improvement practices. To be eligible for either program, there must be an existing water quality problem. The BMP’s must be designed by the HCSWCD, be maintained for up to 10 years, completed after a signed contract is approved and meet our specifications.

Whether you live on a farm or in a neighborhood, we may be able to help you with erosion, agrichemical, and/or animal waste problems on your property. Here are a few of the BMP’s that may qualify:

- Agrichemical Handling/Mixing Facilities and Backflow Prevention
- Cropland Conversion
- Ag Road Stabilization
- Stream Crossings
- Feed Pads
- Critical Area Planting
- Large Cisterns
- Stock Trail
- Stream Stabilization
- Watering Tanks
- Riparian Buffers
- Bio-retention Area
- Pet Waste Receptacles
- Livestock Exclusion (fencing)
- No-till vegetables
- Diversions/Grassed Waterways
- Abandoned Well Closure
- Stream Restoration/Protection
- Backyard Wetland/Rain Garden

If you have any questions or think your water quality problem might qualify for assistance, call Jonathan Wallin, Shaun Moore or Laurie Brokaw at the Henderson County SWCD (828) 697-4949.

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Jonathan Wallin, District Director
Laurie Brokaw, Soil Conservationist/Edu. Coord.
Shaun Moore, Watershed Resources Coordinator
April Hoyt, Administrative Assistant
Emily Pohlman, NRCS District Conservationist
SPOT CHECKS

Throughout the day on May 7th, a total of four staff and two supervisors conducted spot checks on various contracts. These spot checks randomly check a minimum of 5% of all active contracts to ensure maintenance agreements are being kept and no issues have arisen.

Henderson County has 99 active contracts. Spot checks were conducted for CCAP, Ag Cost Share, and AgWRAP. Nine different contract sites were visited. These contracts included: wetlands, stream restoration, heavy-use roads, agrichemical handling facilities and more! All sites were in compliance of their maintenance agreements and there were no issues to report!

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We Would Like To Thank Our Sponsors!
Mills River Day Celebration

The Soil and Water Conservation District participated in the first annual Mills River Day event held on June 1st at North River Farms. The event was a chance for the community to come out and learn about water quality projects along the Mills River. Volunteers were on hand from SWCD, Mills River Partnership, ECO, Trout Unlimited, CMLC, Mills River Fire Dept., and many more. The event showcased a band, Best Management Practice hayride, Soil Pit Demonstration, Water Quality events for kids, Animals, Fire Trucks and Ice Cream. A few hundred community members turned out for this great event!

Top to Bottom: Enviroscape Demo; Water Cycle Bracelets; and BMP Tour
No-till drill

The Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District, in conjunction with the TVA Ag & Forestry Fund, has obtained Truax FLXII-812RD grass drill. The FLEXII Series Grass Drill is designed to plant grasses and legumes on a variety of site conditions and can be accomplished through no-till and interseeding in most conditions. A common shared drill provides benefits to local residents by eliminating high initial cost investments, while providing pastureland improvement. The grass drill is for agriculture use and can assist landowners in pastureland improvement by providing excellent erosion control, soil moisture conservation, minimizing fuel and labor costs, and building soil structure and health.

Henderson County landowners can call the Soil & Water Conservation Office at (828) 697-4949 if you are interested planting grasses or legumes on your property or for more information on this project.
Our mission:

To provide educational, technical and financial assistance to conserve soil, improve water quality and enhance the natural resources of Henderson County.