On July 1, the Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) will begin accepting applications for NC Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) and Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). Applications will be accepted through Oct. 31.

Both programs are voluntary and are funded through the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Soil & Water, and are administered by HCSWCD to fund the installation of various Best Management Practices (BMPs) to improve water quality.

NCACSP can pay up to 75 to 90 percent of the cost for installation of several accepted agriculture-related BMPs.

CCAP can pay for up to 75 to 90 percent of the costs for installation of several accepted urban BMPs.

To be eligible for either program, there must be an existing water quality problem. The BMPs must be designed by HCSWCD and be maintained for ten years. If you have questions, call Jonathan Wallin, Shaun Moore or Laurie Brokaw at the Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District at 697-4949. You can also learn more about these and other programs by visiting our website at www.hendersoncountync.org/soil.
NC Agriculture Cost Share Program 2010-11

- Wrote 9 contracts affecting over 234 acres of farmland
- Stabilized 1675 feet of heavily used eroding areas in orchards and blackberry fields
- Designed a 1,100-foot diversion to prevent continued erosion in pasture and orchard
- Funded 5,938 feet of an irrigation to convert overhead irrigation in a greenhouse operation to a more-efficient micro-irrigation system
- 1.35 acres of Critical Area Planting
- BMPs saved over 176 tons (12 dump truck loads)

Community Conservation Assistance Program 2010-11

- Wrote 7 contracts affecting farm, residential and city park land
- Sealed one abandoned well
- Installed 1 pet waste receptacle
- Converted 184 square feet of imprevisioous surface to vegetation
- Funded 430 feet of stream channel
- Planted 3.65 acres of riparian buffer
- Designed 60 feet of grass stormwater diversions
- Restored 470 feet of streambank.

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HCSWCD HOLDS FLAG-CHANGING CEREMONY

By Laurie Brokaw

Our office site flags were becoming faded and worn, so District staff inquired with Henderson County Central Services about replacements. The Central Services staff supplied us with brand-new flags. It was perfect timing that our June Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting fell just a day before Flag Day, so we decided to hold a flag changing ceremony as part of our meeting. After doing some research, we found the correct way to do this.

District Supervisor and veteran Theron Maybin led our flag ceremony, with Supervisors Drew Brannon and Greg Hoyt and office staff assisting. We were also joined by NRCS and USDA staff. After the old flags were taken down, they were properly folded, and will be turned over to District cooperator Greg Albea to be honorably retired by his son’s Boy Scout troop.

The new flags were raised, and Theron Maybin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

We would like to thank Central Services staff for our new flags.

District staff who attended are: Jonathan Wallin, Shaun Moore, Laurie Brokaw, and Monica Booth.
NRCS and USDA staff: Bob Twomey, Kelly Springs, Joyce Ramsey, Krista Haynes and Gary Guinn.

Raising Old Glory — Above, HCSWCD Supervisor Theron Maybin, center, prepares to raise the District’s new flag with help from District staff Shaun Moore, left, and Laurie Brokaw, right.
At left, NRCS, USDA and District staff and Supervisors carefully fold the flags being retired. From left, Jonathan Wallin, Bob Twomey, Gary Guinn and Supervisors Greg Hoyt and Drew Brannon.

Photos by Monica Booth
District conducts annual spot check review

By Jonathan Wallin

Every year, the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District is required by the NC Division of Soil and Water to conduct spot checks on active contracts that have been installed using funds from the NC Agriculture Cost Share (ACSP) and Community Conservation Programs (CCAP). The contracts chosen for review are selected randomly from the pool of active contracts that must be maintained for their intended use for the maintenance life of the contract. Most contracts are 10-year agreements.

This year, the District had more than 130 active ACSP and CCAP contracts, still under that 10-year maintenance period, totaling over $775,000 of funds used for Best Management Practices (BMPs) installation. Of these 130 contracts, 12 sites were visited and all showed excellent compliance with the maintenance requirements by the participating landowners. If a BMP is discovered to be out of compliance and repairs are not made in a timely manner, the participating landowner is required to pay a pro-rated amount of their contract back to the NC Division of Soil & Water.

This year’s spot checks were conducted on June 8 by staff Jonathan Wallin, Shaun Moore and Laurie Brokaw and HCSWCD Board Chairman Drew Brannon.