
The NC Ag. Cost Share Program has recently approved two new Best Management Practices (BMP) that could be beneficial to farm operations in Henderson County.

**Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization**

This new BMP is for the repair or stabilization of existing access roads utilized for agricultural operations, including roads to existing crop fields, pastures, and barns. For a road to be eligible for repair, the road shall be used for agricultural use only. During the repair, the road will be graded, lined with filter cloth, and have 8 inches of gravel applied to stabilize all eroding areas.

**Livestock Feeding Area**

Another new BMP for the NC Ag. Cost Share Program is the Livestock Feeding Area. The Livestock Feeding Area is a sized concrete pad where feeders are located, surrounded by a Heavy Use Area. The Livestock Feeding Area is designed to address water quality concerns where livestock feeding areas are in close proximity to streams and where relocation or rotation of the feeding areas are insufficient due to physical limitations such as the slope of the land.

To be eligible for these or any other Ag. Cost Share BMP, there must be an existing water quality problem. The BMP must be designed by the Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District and be maintained for 10 years. If you have any questions, call Jonathan Wallin at the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District (828) 697-4949.

Jonathan Wallin
Soil Conservationist

The Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District recently completed the closure of three abandoned animal waste lagoons utilizing grants from the North Carolina Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation totaling $65,000 to complete the work. This grant was made possible by funding received by the Foundation from Smithfield Foods and the North Carolina Attorney General’s Agreement of July 25, 2000.

This grant funded 75% of the costs associated with the removal and proper land application, based on agronomic rates; of the animal waste removed from these ponds. All waste was removed down to the mineral soil from each pond before each pond could be certified as being properly closed. After all waste was removed these ponds were either entirely removed or converted into fresh water ponds following the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services Standards.

Jonathan Wallin
Soil Conservationist

Jonathan Wallin & Oshen Sands retrieve waste samples to develop waste application plans for the removal of this lagoon.

Sludge waste being removed from the bottom of the same Lagoon.
Invasive Plant Booklet Available

A new publication, “Non-native Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, A Field Guide for Identification and Control”, has just been published by the US Forest Service. The ninety-three page full color booklet is an excellent guide to identifying some of the most troublesome invasive trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, ferns, and forbs which cause problems in southern forest and fields. The booklet has several color pictures of each species, along with plant description and control treatments. There is also a section on the general principles for controlling invasive plants.

This booklet is one of the best invasive identification resources which we have seen in recent years for those folks who want to learn most common species.

The District Office has several extra copies and anyone interested in obtaining a free copy can come by the office and pick one up or call 697-4949 and we can mail you one.

Bob V. Carter
Conservationist

Smart Spray

Smart Sprayers use sonar to spray only the apple trees. Using N.C. Ag. Cost Share funds our District has helped two apple farmers purchase these sprayers to minimize pesticide use, protect water quality, and prevent spray drift.