“Record Sitting in Corn Box”

Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District had 18 young children at one time sitting, playing in a 4 by 8 foot box of corn instead of sand. Just in case you are wondering what we are talking about it is our booth at Farm/City Day.

The first Saturday of October every year, Jackson Park turns almost into a County Fair. There are tractor pulls, horse and wagon rides, educational booths, saw mill, farm animal petting zoo, fishing pond for the youth - they don’t even need to bring their own fishing rods. There are so many things going on you will have to see it to believe it. It’s all free (except for the food and drinks).

We here at Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District have one of the most attractive booths. The office staff will be on hand to answer questions about EQIP, NC Ag Cost-Share, erosion control, etc. We always have something of interest and display some of the finest produce from the County. For youth entertainment, we have the CORN BOX! The kids dive, jump, roll, tumble, you name it - they try it. Community Mills donates 500 pounds of golden yellow field corn each year to make the kids happy.

We hope to see you there this October 2, 2004 at Jackson Park. It will last from 10 - 4 pm. Last year there were 10,000 to 15,000 people.

Ya’ll come! Stop and visit, let your Kids play a while! “Bring your Camera!”
**2002 Census of Agriculture: Corporate Farm’s Decline**

The number of corporate farms declined by 18.4 percent from 1997 to 2002, which reverses a trend that has continued without interruption since 1974, according to new data released from the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

- Direct sales to customers through farmers markets and other venues increased 37 percent from 1997, totaling $812.2 million in 2002.

Conducted every five years by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the census of agriculture attempts to survey every agricultural operator in America through the mail, by telephone, or personal interview. Data represent all agricultural operations, defined as any place, which sold more than $1,000.00 worth of agricultural products during the census year.

Other Census of Agriculture Findings:

- Half of America’s farms and ranches have Internet access and nearly 39 percent report using a computer for their farm business.
- Ninety percent of farms are operated by an individual or family.
- The value of organic commodities reached $392.8 million in 2002.
- Half of America’s farms and ranches have Internet access and nearly 39 percent report using a computer for their farm business

*Information taken from: USDA News May-June 2004*

**Tree Sales - Cary Pace**

This past February was a great sales day for us here at Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District. We were nearly sold completely out of trees by the sale date. We try to get everyone to pre-order before the date of the sale. There are two good reasons; the biggest is so that we might have time to count them, bag them, and have them ready for pick-up on that Saturday. The other reason is to insure the public that they don’t drive a 100 miles to find out that the trees they wanted had been sold out. We are limited to only what we order in August or September for the next year sales.

We sold a total of 12,743 tree seedlings in 2004 we plan to order about the same amount for 2005. We will start taking orders in late December or early January. The list of trees we will order are White Pine, Bald Cypress, Black Walnut, Mocker Nut Hickory, Red Oak, Persimmons, River Birch, Sugarberry, Sycamore, White Ash, White Oak, and Yellow Popular. So we will be looking for you this coming February at the Research Station for the Annual Tree Sales. The one day, once a year event! That has become a tradition for us.
Drew Brannon President RC&D

Our very own Chairman, Drew Brannon, has been elected Chairman of the Mountain Valley’s RC&D Council. He will serve a two year term (2004-2006) governing an eight county region consisting of McDowell County, Polk County, Rutherford County, Henderson County, Transylvania County, Buncombe County, Madison County and Cleveland County.

Drew has been a Supervisor for Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District for over 30 years now. He is also Chairman of the Board of Directors for Etowah/Horse Shoe Volunteer Fire Department (25 years), a member of Henderson County Educational Foundation (6 years), a member of the Scholarship Committee for Henderson County Community Foundation (3 years), and Southern States Chairman of District G for nomination purposes for southern state officers. We are very proud of him.

Kids in the Creek – Tom Burnet

The Mills River Partnership supported the Cooperative Extension Service in organizing the first Kids in the Creek event in Henderson County in May 2004, with students and teachers from Rugby Middle School. Kids-in-the-Creek is an active, hands-on, water quality education program for 8th grade students. Students participate in a 3-4 hour field experience in which they conduct real scientific work in the field under the guidance of professional scientists and educators from natural resource management agencies.