Removal of Abandoned Animal Waste Structures

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

2005 Tree Seedling Sale

Fall has come - winter is near and that means it is almost time to start thinking about planting trees. The Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District is about to begin its annual Tree Seedling Sale.

We will start taking phone, fax, and mail orders in the next few days. An order form is included. We ask that you please pre-order so we can have them counted and bagged for you on the date of the sales, which will be held February 26, 2005 at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

The following types of seedlings will be sold at .50 cents each; Baldcypress, Black Walnut, Mockernut Hickory, Northern Red Oak, American Persimmon, River Birch, Sugarberry, Sycamore, Wild Plum, and Yellow Poplar.

White Pines will be .15 cents each or $10.00 per 100.

For more information call Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District at 697-4949.

This sale is a one time only date for the year!

Cary Pace, Technician
New Cost Share Practices Available

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*

Natural Resources Conservation Service Announces Cost Share Sign-ups!

Agricultural land users can sign up for Cost Share funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for a variety of conservation practices. Practices which benefit water quality by keeping nutrients, pesticides, and animal waste out of streams will be high priority.

Integrated Pest Management in orchards, removal of abandoned orchards, fencing livestock from streams, livestock watering facilities, and animal waste systems are some of the locally popular practices which address the high priority resource concerns. The Cost Share rate will vary for 50% to 75% this year depending on the practice.

The current EQIP signup will end on January 2, 2005. Funds will be allocated to high priority applications after that date. A second EQIP signup will be held from January 3, 2005 through February 18, 2005 if any funds are left after the first signup.

Applications are being taken at the USDA Service Center at 61 Triple Springs Road off Francis Road. For more information call 693-1629 extension 3.

*Bob Carter, District Conservationist*