NC Ag Cost Share Program Year 2007 in Review

- Funded 2 stream protection systems to fence livestock out of over 1,505 ft of stream while providing 4 freshwater watering tanks
- Fixed 5 eroding orchard roads totaling 3,165 ft and wrote 2 contracts for Ag. Road stabilization totaling 2,265 ft.
- Together we estimated that we saved over 106.53 tons of soil for these 7 contracts
- We also funded 1 Agrichemical Handling Facility as well as 1 abandoned lagoon closure
- For Program Year 2007 the District wrote 11 contracts totaling $93,838

Ag Cost Share Program Sign-Ups by Jonathan Wallin

The Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) is now accepting applications for the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP). The NCACSP is a voluntary program administered through the HCSWCD to fund the installation of various Best Management Practices (BMP’s) for water quality improvement. These funds will be available after July 1st. The NCACSP pays up to 75% of the cost for installation of the BMP. Examples of BMP’s include:

- Chemigation/Fertigation
- Backflow Prevention Systems
- AgriChemical Handling Facility
- Feed/Waste Storage Systems
- Livestock Exclusion (fencing)
- Watering Tanks
- Stock Trails
- Cropland Conversion
- Streambank Stabilization

To be eligible for the NCACSP, there must be an existing water quality problem. The BMP’s must be designed by the HCSWCD 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.
The Envirothon program is a competitive event for middle school and high school teams of five members to compete in a natural resources knowledge and ecology field day against other school teams. It stimulates, reinforces and enhances student’s interest in the environment and our state’s natural resources. Resource subject areas are: Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, and Current Environmental Issues.

The Area 1 Envirothon was held March 23, 2007 at the Research Station in Waynesville, Haywood County. Three teams from East Henderson High School participated, and two of these teams qualified to advance to the State Envirothon Competition. The State competition was held April 27-28 at Cedarock County Park near Burlington and was won by a team from Nash County.

The “East Henderson High FFA” won third place at the Area 1 Envirothon receiving a plaque for their efforts.
The summer is almost upon us. Now is a good time to be assessing what type of conservation improvements might be worthwhile on your farming operation. Take a look at what is working well for you, and what isn’t. Could your grazing operation use some improvements, maybe by increasing the number of grazing paddocks? Is there adequate, clean water for your animals? Is the forage resource in poor shape? Do you have a fruit or vegetable operation? Are you thinking about improving the efficiency of your pesticide spraying program and pesticide handling operations? When it rains do nearby streams receive sediment from your land? Are you having unusual pest problems?

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), administered through the USDA-NRCS, can assist landowners with numerous resource concerns such as those listed above. Projects are partially funded by NRCS if they are completed in a timely manner and follow program specifications.

The Hendersonville NRCS Office anticipates having a sign up period for this program in the fall of 2007. If you would like to discuss any potential EQIP projects, or program particulars, please call to schedule an appointment with Dan Rosenberg, the NRCS District Conservationist at 693-1629.

### Congratulations to Shaun Moore

We are pleased to announce that Shaun Moore’s grant-funded project position as the Mills River Watershed Coordinator has been converted to a permanent position with the Henderson County SWCD. Shaun’s new position title will be *Water Resource Coordinator*.

In his new position Shaun will serve as a water quality specialist who can address landowner inquiries about water quality specific issues county wide and who will be responsible for new programs addressing programmatic restrictions. Shaun has done an outstanding job working to stabilize and improve the Mills River Watershed, and we are looking forward to working with him in his new capacity. Congratulations Shaun!
Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Providing Assistance with:
Erosion & Sedimentation Control, Conservation Planning, Soils Information, Drainage, Pasture Management etc.

For More Information Call Us at 697-4949

We’re on the Web!
www.henderson.lib.nc.us/county/soil