Henderson Co. SWCD recently received its annual cost share allocation. These funds are available to help farmers install conservation practices that decrease the amount of sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemicals and other pollutants in the surface and ground waters of the state.

The District received $65,797 for program year 2010. To be eligible for funding, you must sign up before Oct. 30, 2009. Conservation practices that can be cost-shared include: animal waste management systems, cropland conversion to grass, livestock watering tanks with stream protection measures, conservation tillage, filter strips, stream bank stabilization, critical area treatment or establishment of vegetation on bare areas, sod-based rotations, riparian buffers, agrichemical handling facilities, and several others.

For more information or to apply for funds, call the District office at 697-4949. Please call before the deadline. It only takes a few minutes to complete the application form. Forms can be mailed to you and accepted for consideration if they are received back in our office by Oct. 30, 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMP</th>
<th>Proper mgmt. of nutrients</th>
<th>Reduction of soil loss</th>
<th>Facilitating BMP</th>
<th>Life of BMP (yrs.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Waste/Feed Storage Structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dry Manure Stack</td>
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<td>Heavy Use Area Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste Application System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stream Crossing</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock Exclusion System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock Trail</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well / Tank</td>
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<td>-</td>
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</table>

For more information, visit the Division of Soil & Water Conservation’s website: http://www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/pages/agcostshareprogram.html
HCSWCD is accepting applications for the NC Agricultural Drought Recovery Program from now through Oct. 30.

By Jonathan Wallin

The Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting applications for the N.C. Agricultural Drought Recovery Program from now through Oct. 30. This program was made possible through a $6 million grant from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

This funding can be used for the installation of 4 best management practices:

1. **Renovation of pastures killed or damaged by the drought.** (Hayland is not eligible.) Participating farmers must agree to manage fertility, stocking rates, and start/stop grazing heights to minimize the potential for overgrazing and to ensure that a good stand is maintained.

2. **Drilling wells for farmers whose existing water supply for livestock watering or irrigation either went dry or was inadequate to meet existing water supply needs.** (Spray ponds are currently not eligible.)

3. **Renovating existing ponds and constructing new ponds for farmers whose existing water supplies for livestock watering or irrigation either went dry or were inadequate to meet existing water supply needs.** (Spray ponds currently are not eligible)

4. **Retrofitting existing irrigation systems to Conservation Irrigation and Micro Irrigation.** These practices are intended to:
   - Convert center-pivot and lateral-move irrigation systems to employ drop nozzles or low-pressure spray nozzles. This practice can also be used to convert an existing traveling gun system to a center-pivot or lateral-move system using drop nozzles or low-pressure spray. The practice can also be used to equip existing irrigators with low-pressure spray systems.

See Drought Recovery on page 4.

Please patronize our conservation-minded sponsors!
HCSWCD REACHES OUT WITH EDUCATIONAL HELP

By Laurie Brokaw

Part of HCSWCD’s mission is to provide educational assistance. One way we support this mission is by holding the annual Soil and Water Conservation education contests. The theme for the 2009-10 school year is “The Living Soil.”

Every year, hundreds of Henderson County students take part in our contests -- the poster contest for 5th graders, the essay contest for 6th graders, and the speech contest for 8th graders. Local winners compete for prizes and the chance to go on to the state competition. State winners can end up competing nationally for prizes and scholarships.

Some of our other programs include:

- the Envirothon, an environmental education competition for middle and high school students,
- several awards to recognize good stewards, and
- the Resource Conservation Workshop, a week-long natural resources camp at NC State that is open to rising seniors.

Districts across the state work with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts to implement numerous outreach programs to educate people and recognize natural resource stewardship and environmental management. Public conservation awards, school contests and workshops are used to train-the-trainer as well as teach upcoming generations of children.

HCSWCD has historically specialized in school programs and would also like to be working with more home school groups, scout troops and private or parochial schools. We work hard to align our programs to the NC Department of Public Instruction Standard Course of Study Goals.

While a lot of our work is done with school children, our educational programs are not just for kids. We’d also be happy to come do a presentation at meetings or events for neighborhood groups, clubs, agencies, community college classes, etc.

To book or get more information about our outreach and education programs, contact our office at 697-4949 or email laurie.brokaw@nc.nacdnet.net.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

By Laurie Brokaw

Do you currently use Fertigation and/or Chemigation in your farming operation? Let us help you make sure it’s safe. Fertigation/Chemigation Backflow Prevention is a combination of devices (valves, gauges, injectors, drains, etc.) to safeguard water sources from contamination by chemicals used during agricultural irrigation. The practice is intended to prevent backflow or siphoning of contaminants into the water supply, thereby improving and protecting the state’s waters.

Agricultural Cost Share Program funds can be used to fund retrofitting or installing injection equipment, check valves, gauges, drains and vacuum breakers. Items that are unrelated to backflow prevention (e.g., tanks, mixers or filters) are not eligible for funding. Funding is limited to 75 percent of actual costs. Receipts are required for reimbursement. Total charge to NCACSP is restricted to a total of $1,500 per system for a 75 percent Cost Share, and $1,800 for a 90 percent Cost Share. Contact Jonathan Wallin or Laurie Brokaw at 697-4949 for more information.

“[Backflow Prevention] is intended to prevent backflow or siphoning of contaminants into the water supply, thereby improving and protecting the state’s waters.”
A job well-done. Drought Recovery funds can be used to drill wells for farmers whose existing water supply for livestock watering or irrigation went dry or became inadequate because of the drought. Photo credit to http://www.chesenv.com/GREENSolutions/

DROUGHT RECOVERY

Continued from Page 2

irrigation equipment with end-gun shutoff devices.

- Replace and/or reduce the use of other types of irrigation and fertilization such as the traveling gun, center-pivot and furrow irrigation systems unless agronomic necessity (e.g., frost/freeze protection, soil settling) suggests alternate or temporary methods of irrigation.

A 10-year maintenance agreement is required for each practice in order to receive funding through this program. If you have any questions, feel free to call Jonathan Wallin or Laurie Brokaw at the Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District at 697-4949.

Since the start of the Division of Soil & Water’s Drought Assistance Program, Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District set aside nearly $114,000 for drought-related agricultural assistance. This included 13 wells to replace inadequate water supplies for irrigation and/or livestock. To date, over 3,000 feet of wells have been drilled, with more to come. Two operations also switched from overhead irrigation to more efficient micro-irrigation systems.

Laurie Brokaw contributed to this article.