Chatham County Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter
Spring 2019

District Supervisors:
J. Lynn Mann, Chairman
Johnny Glosson, Vice-Chairman
Richard Hayes, Secretary/Treasurer
Keith Stanley, Member
R. Edward McLaurin, Member

District Staff:
Susannah Goldston, Environmental Specialist
Brenda Williams, District Administrator
Tyler Watkins, Soil Conservation Specialist
Lauren Parker, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Themis Stone, NRCS Soil Conservationist

Henry Outz, Jr. Retires from SWCD

If you’ve ever worked with the Soil and Water Conservation District office, you know Henry Outz. Henry’s retired the end of December.

Henry’s accomplishments at the office are so many we would never be able to capture them all. But, we will give you a few. Henry started the no-till program, he wrote so many nutrient management plans we lost count, he encumbered hundreds of thousands State Ag Cost Share funds and helped to implement the work planned. Henry lived conservation and if you know him you know he had a giving heart. He would give you the shirt off his back if he thought it would help you. We don’t know how many feet of fencing, stock trails, terraces or grassed waterways he surveyed and wrote plans for.

Henry will not only be missed here at the office but, also in the field working with his friends, the farmers. Happy Retirement Henry!

After 30 years of service with the Chatham Soil and Water District, Henry Outz hangs up his hat to return to the family farm.

2019 SPRING AG FEST ANOTHER BIG HIT

Did you attend the 2019 Spring Ag Fest? If not you missed out on a fun learning experience. Checkout pictures on page 4.

We are located in the new Ag & Conference Center at 1192 US 64 West Business in Pittsboro on west side entrance.
Chatham did well at the 2019 Envirothon by not only having the most teams in the contest but, all of our teams, with the exception of one, will move to the state contest! The state contest will be held May 3-4 at Cedar Rock Park. The High School winning team will be advancing to compete in the international contest.

The Envirothon is a fun, hands-on, natural science academic competition for teams of middle and high school students sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts with help in organization and implementation from the division.

A year-long curriculum combining in-class studies with outdoor training in ecology and natural resource management emphasizes teamwork and higher order thinking skills such as analysis and interpretation. The Envirothon helps develop environmentally aware citizens who are able to assume future leadership roles. Subject areas studied are: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife
NORTH CAROLINA COST SHARE PROGRAMS:
Through the NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District has a variety of cost share programs available. These programs offer assistance to address agricultural, rural and urban water resource issues. When funding is available, cost share assistance can be provided to an applicant to install best management practices that benefit all citizens by improving water resources in North Carolina.

So don’t forget to sign up for cost share assistance through the many programs available! Such as Grassed Waterways, Field Borders, Cropland Conversion, Litter Storage Sheds, Composters, Tree Planting, Diversions, Critical Area Stabilization, Water Troughs, Irrigation Wells, Irrigation Ponds and many more!

If you wish to apply for funds or need additional information and assistance, please contact our office at 919-542-8240. A soil technical specialist will be glad to schedule an appointment with you.
The RCW is a week-long intensive study and hands-on conservation workshop that requires student application and participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed in NCSU campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. The primary objective of the workshop is learning about natural resources and their management in today's environment. Awards and scholarships are won and presented to students under several awards programs. If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please contact your high school Guidance Councilor, Ag teacher, the SWCD office at 919-542-8240 or email brenda.williams@chathamnc.org. Limited Scholarships are available.
IN THE NEWS

∞ The Chatham County Volunteer Ag District is revamping the program to be better for all parties. Keep an eye out for news on the program.

∞ The Chatham County Envirothon teams placed in the top 7 for middle and high school and will be going to the state contest in April. Cedar Rock Park will again be the venue for the state contest. Congratulations to Woods Charter, and Margret Pol- lard schools for your hard work and continued support of our young environmentalist.

∞ Susannah Goldston, new Environmental Specialist and Department Head! Ms. Goldston was selected to replace retiree, Henry Outz. Susannah is not new to the department but will now take on a new role as Environmental Specialist. She is excited to begin her new role and we are excited for her.