

Summary of 2009 NC Agriculture Cost Share Program

During the 2009 program year, Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District wrote a total of seventeen North Carolina Agriculture Cost-Share Program contracts. Fifteen of these were drought related contracts. This year, in response to the severe drought of 2007, most counties were given funds to obligate to contracts assisting landowners with the installation of drought relief practices. These contracts will assist farmers and other agricultural landowners in offsetting some of the extra expenses they bore dealing with the drought as well as helping implement regular “best management practices”, (BMPs), that protect or improve water quality on farm land.

The regular NC Agriculture Cost-Share contracts consisted of one contract that will convert present cropland to grassland, and one for the close-out of a swine waste lagoon. The drought related contracts consisted of one for the renovation of 17.52 acres of fescue pasture, six for pond clean-out, three for replacement or repair of livestock or poultry water supply wells, and five for replacement or repair of crop irrigation wells.

Collectively, in Cumberland county, contracts for the 2009 program year totaled \$102,504.00, affecting nearly 830 acres of agricultural land. Implementation of the BMPs should reduce the amount of nitrogen entering our ground and surface waters by nearly 1250 pounds and reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our waters by almost 7 pounds. Also, soil erosion is estimated to be reduced by nearly 470 tons of soil.

Larry Simpson, NCACSP Technician



Natural Resources Conservation Service Provider of Technical and Program Assistance



Renessa Brown, District Conservationist

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) secured an estimated 443 acres in Cumberland County. Easement costs totaled \$2,258,076.00. This year, there was 1,000 acres of long leaf pine established for wetland restoration.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) continues to implement projects under the WHIP special project funding. Practices installed include prescribed burning, native warm season grass planting, and long leaf pine establishment. Through the WHIP program, 593 acres of burning was completed totaling \$12,603.00.

The funding for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), fiscal year 2009, secured \$6,500 for contract approval. Practices installed this year include 25 acres of pest management and 2 irrigation water management systems totaling \$11,470.00.

Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality=1767 acres.

Land with conservation applied to improve water quality=1743 acres.

Two comprehensive nutrient management plans will be applied.



In May, 2009 the District was one of several Cumberland County Departments to become a Certified Sustainable Sandhills Green Business. The District met the criteria for staff awareness and education; solid waste reduction, reuse and recycling; water conservation; energy conservation and efficiency.