



2011 Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011

Organization

Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in December of 1946. Cumberland SWCD is a locally controlled, special purpose governmental subdivision of the State of North Carolina and is governed by a board of supervisors. The District supervisors are charged with the responsibility of promoting soil and water conservation and establishing conservation programs in the county, which is done primarily through the cooperation of other agencies and local units of government. Members of the Board serve four year terms with three seats being filled in the general election and two seats being appointed by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



Mission Statement

The mission of Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources and administer programs designed to encourage individual responsibility to conserve, improve and sustain our soil and water resources for future generations.

Stewardship Attitude

A major goal of the District is educating and informing the public. We are committed to helping landowners understand and succeed at land stewardship. We also recognize that the future of our natural resources depends on nurturing and attitude of stewardship in the minds and hearts of children.





District Supervisors

Robert "Bob" White,
Chairman (elected)

Clifton McNeill, Member
(Appointed)

Wingate Collier, Member
(Appointed)

Reuben Cashwell, Member
(Elected)

Jerome Person, Member
(Elected)

District Staff

Kay Bullard,
District Manager

Larry Simpson,
District Technician

NRCS Staff

Renessa Hardy-Brown,
District Conservationist

David Faircloth, ACES

Summary of 2011 NC Agriculture Cost Share Program

Three contracts for cropland conversion to grassland totaling \$18,046.00 were written during the 2011 program year by the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District.

These contracts were written to convert 80.2 acres of cropland to permanent grassland. A permanent grass cover will reduce or eliminate run-



off of nutrients, pesticides, and herbicides, as well as eliminate ground disturbances from tillage operations that are involved in row cropping, that can create gullies while allowing sediment to move off-site.

Implementation of the BMPs in these contracts should reduce the amount of nitrogen entering our ground and surface waters by

over 4,569 pounds per year and reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our waters by more than thirteen pounds per year. Also, soil erosion is estimated to be reduced by almost 280 tons per year.

Summary of Federal Programs FY 2010 -2011

The funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), fiscal year 2011 secured \$70,182.44 for contract approval for installation of a waste storage building.

This year the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) had a special Long Leaf Pine Initiative. Cumberland County received funding for three contracts, totaling \$41,652.00. Practices to be installed will include prescribed burning, forest stand improvement, and firebreaks.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) secured funds for three contracts totaling \$47,773.00.

NRCS continues to assist the Farm Service Agency with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). NRCS is responsible for conservation planning and modifications of plans.





Grain Drill Rental

An Affordable Resource for Area Landowners



John Deere Model 1590



Great Plains Model 706NT

In 1998, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of the first no-till grain drill for the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District. The objective was to encourage farmers to convert to the no-till method and discontinue the practice of conventional tillage. No-till planting allows seeds to be planted with minimal disturbance to the soil surface and eliminates the need for conventional cultivation. This method allows the residue from previous crops to remain on the soil surface, thus protecting it from the elements that cause erosion. There are several other advantages to using the no-till method, such as fewer trips across the field, resulting in reduced fuel, time and labor costs, as well as less wear and tear on machinery. The original Tye drill was sold this year in January.

Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District has two no-till grain drills available for rent. A John Deere, model 1590, was purchased with Fayetteville-Cumberland Storm Water Services funds in 2004. This is a larger, heavier drill that plants ten feet wide. Rental is eight dollars per acre, or a minimum charge of fifty dollars per day for the number of days kept by the renter, whichever is most. The Great Plains model 706NT was purchased in the spring of 2007. It plants seven feet wide and rents for five dollars per acre, with a twenty-five dollar minimum.

These drills are used to plant a variety of seeds including small grains in the fall behind row crops, overseed bermudagrass fields for winter grazing or winter spray area on hog farms. Many renters also use the drills to plant millet and other grasses for warm season forage in the spring and early summer, and soy beans in the spring and early summer. Sunflowers and rice have also been planted with these drills.

The drills are rented on a “first come-first served” basis, or by reservation. Most renters call ahead to schedule the time they want and some even call a year in advance.

Twenty producers rented the John Deere drill during this year and planted 1,175 acres (up more than 143% above last year). The Great Plains drill was rented by thirty producers and planted 657.5 acres. The drill rentals generated \$12,535.96 revenue for Cumberland County.



District Newsletters

Cumberland SWCD publishes “Conservation News” quarterly during the year. Six hundred fifty copies of each issue are printed at the Cumberland County print shop and are mailed via the County’s mailroom.

Larry Simpson, District Technician, contributes messages about the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program to keep producers informed of best management practices, sign-up dates and deadlines for the program.

Each issue also features a message from NRCS District Conservationist, Renessa Brown. These articles describe and promote federal programs.

“Backyard Conservation” is a section for information about planting trees, watering yards, attracting wildlife, bird habitat and other items of interest for urban and rural households. Shauna Haslem, Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Consumer Horticulture Agent, contributes articles for this section.

“Conservation in the Classroom” is an annual publication for educators in Cumberland County. 2,500 copies of this newsletter are distributed to public, private and

home school educators in September.

Information on the educational programs of the District are highlighted. They include the Envirothon program, teacher workshops, the loan library, Resource Conservation Workshop, interesting web sites and classroom lessons.

District Fundraisers

Fundraisers provide additional funding of the District’s conservation education activities.

The District sells rain barrels to promote storage of rainwater for use in home gardens and yards. The barrels are recycled 50-55 gallon pickle barrels that are outfitted to catch rainwater runoff from roofs to be used in backyard gardens. This year the District donated a free barrel to Pauline Jones Elementary, Seventy First High School, Cape Fear High School and Grays Creek Middle School for their water harvesting/school garden projects.

Tree seedlings are sold annually by the District staff. An order form is included in the District’s fall newsletter and pre-paid orders are taken through December 1st. Trees are ordered and delivered in mid-December. Longleaf pine, loblolly pine and eastern red cedar seedlings are sold to the public for windbreaks, farm enhancement and for use in home landscaping.



District Recognized at State Meeting

Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District was recognized for its support of the NC Project Food, Land and People program at the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' annual meeting in Asheville on January 10, 2011.

Project Food, Land & People is an environmental education curriculum connecting people, the land we live on and the food that sustains us. It is delivered through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Resource Conservation Workshop Scholarship

CAMERON PHIPPS, a rising junior at Cape Fear High School, was awarded the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District's 2011 Resource Conservation Workshop Scholarship to attend a week-long conservation workshop on the campus of North Carolina State University.

Phipps traveled to the state capital to join other North Carolina high school students the week of June 26 – July 1, 2011 at N.C. State University to learn about environmental conservation and careers. The program exposes students to careers in natural resource management and the opportunities available at colleges like NCSU. During the week the group toured a water treatment plant, visited an educational forest, saw some of the university's conservation projects and met representatives from natural resource management agencies.



NC State Fair

District Technician, Larry Simpson and District Manager, Kay Bullard, assisted at the Division of Soil and Water Conservation exhibit booth at the NC State Fair in September. They greeted fair attendees who stopped by the exhibit to spin the "Wheel of Conservation" and answer a question about natural resources.



Cumberland County Agricultural Fair Exhibit

The District's Cumberland County fair exhibit for 2010 highlighted the wise use of our natural resources. The display featured educational posters and what your grocery cart would look like without conservation – empty! A rain barrel was displayed to show how rain barrels can be outfitted to gutters to save water for yard and garden use. Handouts included brochures on backyard conservation and other publications of interest to the general public. A drawing was held during the fair for a free rain barrel.



Conservation Education

Envirothon

ENVIROTHON is a natural resources competition for middle and high school students. Competition begins at the area level, then state and then national for high school teams that win their state competition.

The District provided eleven training workshops to assist advisors of Cumberland County Envirothon teams in preparing their students for the competition. Division of Soil & Water Conservation soil scientist, Dr. Channa Witanachchi, and Dr. David Linbo of N.C. State University provided training in soils.

Local environmental educator, Juli Beighley taught the aquatics sessions. Elizabeth Evans of Ft. Bragg's Endangered Species Branch and the staff at Clark Park taught the wildlife sessions. Rebecca Westbrook of Southeastern Community College led a study session on the Current Environmental Issues. NC Forest Resources personnel from Cumberland County taught two sessions for the teams.

Three Cumberland County teams qualified for the state competition in the Area VII Envirothon on March 31, 2011 at Lake Waccamaw State Park. At the State Middle School Envirothon, the Octopi, a H.O.M.E. school team placed fourth. Grays Creek High School's team, The Bears, and Cape Fear High School's team, FFA Black Bears competed in the high school competition.



Educator Workshops

Cumberland SWCD was a co-sponsor of the Area VII NCASWCD Project Wet / Food, Land and People (FLP) Educator Workshop which was held on June 27, 28 and 30, 2011 at the John E. Pechmenn Fish and Education Center in Fayetteville. Fifteen educators received continuing education credits, curriculum and resources that help educators and students in grades PreK-12 to better understand the interrelationships among agriculture, the environment and the people of the world.

Kay Bullard of Cumberland SWCD and Joanna McPhatter of Robeson SWCD were facilitators for the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation's signature education program. Holly Denham, NC Project WET Coordinator for NCDENR Division of Water Resources, was the Project WET facilitator. Guest presenters for FLP were Chris Earp of House of Raeford Farms; Candy Underwood and Krista Caison of Cumberland County Cooperative Extension; Terry Lengel, beekeeper; Cyndy Murphy of Great Harvest Bread Company and John Gillis of Gillis Hill Farms.



Summer Reading Programs at Libraries

Children enjoyed making a water cycle bracelet as they followed the “adventures of a raindrop” through this lesson about the water cycle. Everyone received age appropriate activity booklets to compliment the program. The total attendance for this program, presented at seven libraries, was 256.



Parks and Recreation Summer Programs

“Food for the Future”, a PowerPoint lesson about natural resources, was presented at E.E. Miller, Lake Rim, College Lakes, Pine Forest and College Lakes Recreation Centers for 225 children attending summer day camps. The children received age appropriate activity booklets to compliment the lesson.

Very Special Arts Festival

“Puppets for a Purpose”, a student puppeteer group, presented a District sponsored puppet show for pre-school children at Cumberland County Schools’ Very Special Arts Festival on May 6, 2011. Parent volunteer, Guadalupe Torres, is the group’s advisor. The District provided 1000 “Let’s Recycle” booklets for this event.



Family Night at Lake Rim Park

The District participated in Lake Rim Park’s “Family Night” on June 10, 2011 by providing a hands-on activity and handouts for 150 kids who visited the booth.



Soil Lessons & Educator Workshops

Kay Bullard presented soil lessons in 112 classes during the 2010-2011 school year. Class sets of activity booklets and kits were provided to 73 teachers who requested resources for conservation education.

Stewardship Lessons Provided to Students



Cumberland SWCD provided free class sets of age-level appropriate activity booklets to Cumberland County’s public and private schools and Ft. Bragg schools for teachers to use to supplement environmental awareness lessons and Earth Day celebrations in April. There were 8750 booklets distributed to educators who requested copies for their students.



Our Sincere Thanks

The Board of Supervisors and Staff of Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all landowners, agencies and groups who cooperate and assist the District in carrying out its conservation programs.

- Cumberland County Board of County Commissioners
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Cumberland County Cooperative Extension
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture
- NC Forest Service
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Cumberland County Parks and Recreation
- Cumberland County Board of Education

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Services,
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Information Services Department for their
assistance in maintaining and updating our
web site.



Certified Green Business

The District is a "Certified Sustainable Sandhills Green Business" meeting the criteria for staff awareness and education; solid waste reduction, reuse and recycling; water conservation; energy conservation and efficiency.



Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District

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advertisers whose continued support
makes it possible for us to publish
our quarterly newsletter
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- South River EMC • Southern Gin & Grain

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