

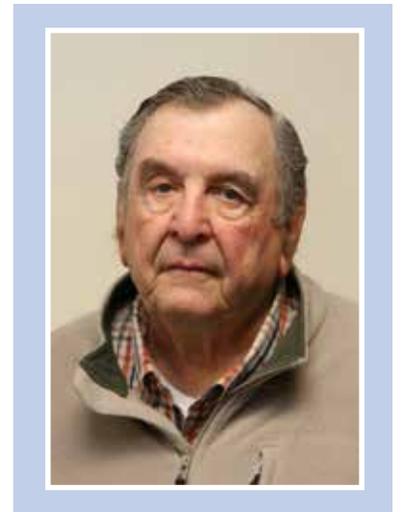


Pictured ledt to right: The Honorable Judge Talmadge Baggett, Supervisor Lena Simmons, Donna Foster, Administrative Program Officer

New Supervisor Sworn In

Mrs. Lena Simmons was elected in November by the people to serve as a Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. The Honorable Judge Talmadge Baggett was on hand to serve the oath of office to Mrs. Simmons at the Board of Supervisors December 11, 2020 meeting. Supervisor Simmons term will be from 2020 to 2024 with the board of Supervisors of the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District. **Welcome Supervisor Simmons!**

Supervisor Wingate Collier was re-appointed by the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors in October of 2020 and approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Board of Commissioners in November of 2020 to continue his service as Supervisor for the board of Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District. Donna Foster, Administrative Program Officer, administered the oath of office to Supervisor Collier at the January 5, 2021 meeting. A retired farmer, Supervisor Collier has been a vital part of our board since 1996. **Thank you for your more than 25 years of service Supervisor Wingate Collier!**



Supervisor Wingate Collier

Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Wayne Collier, Jr.
Linden, NC

Chairman

Supervisor Clifton McNeill, Jr.
Hope Mills, NC

Vice Chairman

Supervisor Wingate Collier
Wade, NC

Secretary/Treasurer

Supervisor Monique McMillan
Fayetteville, NC

Member

Supervisor Lena Simmons
Fayetteville, NC

Member

Cumberland SWCD Staff

Mitchell B. Miller

Soil & Water Conservationist
mitchell.miller@nc.nacdnet.net

Donna Foster, SWCD

Administrative Program Officer
dfoster@co.cumberland.nc.us

Division of Soil and Water Conservation

David Faircloth, ATAC

USDA-NRCS

Darryl E. Harrington
Team 12

Barry Ward
*Resource Soil Scientist,
Wetland Determination*

Jeremy Roston
*Conservation Planning Specialist,
Raleigh (headquartered in
Fayetteville Field Office)*

NCASWCD Annual Meeting

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts held their 77th Annual Meeting January 4-5, 2021. Things were a little different this year, not the format that the Association had hoped for, but the business of the Association is vital. The virtual meeting allowed committee members to break out into their committee sessions. Elections were held for leadership roles allowing each registered supervisor to vote. The Association continues to set goals, elect the leadership for upcoming years and train their supervisors and staff. Plans are being made for the Annual Meeting, January 9-11, 2022, to be face-to-face, keeping in mind the pandemic and what is best for the wellbeing of the supervisors, staff, and partners of the Association. Chair Wayne Collier, Jr., Vice Chair Clifton McNeill, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Wingate Collier, Supervisor Monique McMillan, Supervisor Lena Simmons, Soil and Water Conservationist Mitch Miller and Administrative Program Officer Donna Foster from Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District attended the Virtual NCASWCD 77th Annual Meeting in the auditorium of the Agriculture Center in Cumberland County.

Area VII Spring Meeting

The Area VII Soil & Water Conservation Districts Spring Meeting was held February 24, 2021 hosted by Scotland County. Area VII included Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland counties. Chair Wayne Collier, Jr., Vice Chair Clifton McNeill, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Wingate Collier, Supervisor Monique McMillan, Supervisor Lena Simmons, Soil and Water Conservationist Mitch Miller and Administrative Program Officer Donna Foster from Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District attended the virtual meeting.



Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District

co.cumberland.nc.us/soil_water
301 East Mountain Drive, Room 229
Fayetteville, NC 28306
910-484-8479 ext. 3
Fax: 910-484-3157

For new programs, news, updates, etc.,
please send your email address to:
dfoster@co.cumberland.nc.us

Mission Statement

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

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

Watershed Restoration Project

The County and State have implemented a Watershed Restoration Project for needed repairs to streams and drainage ways resulting from hurricanes and subsequent flooding. Approximately \$855,000 has been awarded from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the 37 projects in the plan.



South River after the Vegetative Debris has been removed



Stream debris in river after Hurricane Florence



Amphibious equipment removing vegetative debris from stream channel



Excessive Rainfall from Hurricane Florence washed out access road to Agricultural Field



Access road to the agricultural field was restored to allow producer to gather crops. Supervisors Clifton McNeill, Jr (center) and Wayne Collier, Jr (right) meet with landowner Keith Jackson (left) on the 2021 Annual Cumberland SWCD Spot Checks.



Water Wells are installed to irrigate crops and to provide drinking water for livestock.



Roof Runoff Structures are installed to prevent erosion around animal agriculture operations.



Inactive Animal Waste Lagoons are agitated by stirring up the solids into a slurry prior to land application

Equipment is calibrated and allows the slurry to be applied to the land for fertilization of Agricultural Crops.



The lagoons are certified closed and converted into a freshwater pond



Every Day is Earth Day

Earth Day just celebrated its 51st Anniversary! An international event, Earth Day is celebrated around the world on April 22 to pledge support for environmental protection. 'Restore Our Earth' was the theme for 2021. Celebrating was a little different this year, instead of the students coming to us at Arnette Park, we zoomed in their classrooms and in their homes to do our presentations for Earth Day. "Wonder Boxes" containing curriculum, pencils, erasers, bookmarks, "Sammy Soil" coloring books, soil, water, air and sun beads for earth bracelets, rulers, etc. were delivered to the teachers of District 7 and Cliffdale Elementary Schools days prior to the presentations. We had a great time with the students and teachers for Earth Day. It was so good to see all their smiling faces!

Ten simple things you can do to help protect the Earth

1. **Reduce, reuse, and recycle.** Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
2. **Volunteer.** Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed, too.
3. **Educate.** When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.
4. **Conserve water.** The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.
5. **Choose sustainable.** Learn how to make smart seafood choices.
6. **Shop wisely.** Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.
7. **Use long-lasting light bulbs.** Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!
8. **Plant a tree.** Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.
9. **Don't send chemicals into our waterways.** Choose non-toxic chemicals in the home and office.
10. **Bike more. Drive less.**



The folks at Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District have been essential in helping us meet our management objectives of converting the family farm into stands of trees. They guided us through the process of enrolling the farm into a conservation program and planting trees which met the program requirements of improving water quality. They are quick to answer questions and act as our liaison between several governmental agencies.

- Jenell Young, Landowner

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District

Tree Seedling Sale

Trees arrive second week of December

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____



Longleaf Pine

Containerized (\$5 per Bundle of 15 Seedlings)
Bulk order of 300 box

*Number of
Bundles*

Amount

_____ x \$5 = _____



Loblolly Pine

Containerized (\$5 per Bundle of 20 Seedlings)
Bulk order of 334 box

_____ x \$5 = _____



Eastern Red Cedar

Bare Root (\$5 per Bundle of 5 Seedlings)
Bulk Order of 500 bag

_____ x \$5 = _____

We have special rates for bulk seedlings of one kind. Call us at 910-484-8479 option 3 for more information.

Make checks payable to Cumberland SWCD

Mail or bring your order form and payment to:

Cumberland SWCD
301 East Mountain Drive, Suite 229
Fayetteville, NC 28306



910-484-8479 Option 3

Sorry, we cannot mail trees!

Meet Our New Summer Intern

Mary Vorder Bruegge has joined our team as an Intern through August. Mary has been involved with 4-H, Livestock Showings, and the Envirothon.



No-Till Grain Drills Available for Rent

- Fall Cover Crops
- Soybeans
- Small Grain Behind Corn
- Overseeding Bermudagrass Fields
- Overseeding Pastures with Small Grain
- Wildlife Plantings
- Native Grasses
- *Please, no fertilizer*



Great Plains

Rental fee

\$5 per acre rental fee with a \$25 minimum

Drill specs

Drill is 7 ft. wide

A 40+ hp tractor with hydraulics is required for planting

Drills are provided by Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District to promote no-till practices for the improvement of water quality and wildlife enhancement.

For more information:

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District
484-8479 ext. 3



John Deere Model 1590

Rental fee

\$8 per acre or \$50 per day scheduled - whichever is greater

Drill specs

Drill is 10 ft. wide and weighs approximately 7,000 lbs. empty

An 80-85 hp (minimum) tractor with remote hydraulics is required for planting

This drill was purchased through funding provided by Fayetteville/Cumberland Storm Water Service.

State and Federal Programs



North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) Now Accepting Applications for 2022

The Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District is currently taking applications for the upcoming 2022 Cost Share program year. The Cumberland SWCD provides Cost Share opportunities to our Cumberland County landowners and agricultural producers through various cost share programs.

These programs allow applicants to be reimbursed up to 75% of a predetermined average cost share rate for each best management practice installed. Some of the Best Management Practices that are offered include (but are not limited to): Irrigation Wells, Irrigation Ponds, Cropland Conversion to Grass/Trees, Grassed Waterways, Conservation Tillage, Cover Crop, Incinerators, Field Borders and Livestock Exclusion/Pasture Grazing Systems. In order to qualify the field staff will have to identify resource concerns on your operation.

If you would like to receive technical assistance please contact:

Mitchell Miller, Soil and Water Conservationist
Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District
(910) 484-8479 ext. 5550
(910) 484-8479 ext. 3

Soil and Water Conservation District Education Programs

The Soil and Water Department provides many educational programs and activities to the public and private schools of Cumberland County. Those activities include poster, essay and public speaking contests, the Envirothon Program, soil land judging contests, earth day presentations, soil presentations, and teacher workshops. The Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors' high school students who are chosen to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop in June of each year. The workshop is held on the campus of North Carolina State University.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the US Department of Agriculture's principal agency for providing conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations. USDA-NRCS delivers conservation technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA). CTA is available to any group or individual interested in conserving our natural resources and sustaining agricultural production in this country. This assistance may be in the form of resource assessment, practice design, resource monitoring, or follow-up of installed practices.

Although the CTA program does not include financial assistance, clients may develop conservation plans, which may serve as a springboard for those interested in participating in USDA financial assistance programs. CTA planning can also serve as a door to financial assistance and easement conservation programs provided by other Federal, State, and local programs. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land or Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF).

EQIP offers contracts that provide financial assistance to implement conservation practices on working private lands. Persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural, or forestland production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. EQIP provides a flat rate reimbursement rate, ranging from 50%-90%, for the costs associated with certain conservation practices. Financial assistance may also be provided for a short period of time, to encourage producers to carry out management practices they may not otherwise use without the financial assistance. However, historically underserved groups are eligible for cost-share up to 90 percent. Historically Underserved individuals and groups are those who have not participated in or received limited benefits from USDA or NRCS programs. The 2014 Farm Bill offers special payment rates for program participation

for landowners/operators who are socially disadvantaged, have limited resources, are veterans, and are beginning farmers/ranchers. These incentives may include increased payment rates and evaluation in special funding pools. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/

EQIP-National Organic Initiative

The National Organic Initiative is a voluntary conservation initiative that enables the use of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to provide financial and technical assistance to owners and operators of agricultural lands already certified as organic or transitioning to organic. To participate producers must be certified as an organic grower with a Organic System Plan on at least part of their acres, or be in the process of transitioning to an organic system. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/main/home/?cid=nrcs144p2_013958



EQIP Longleaf Pine Initiative (EQIP-LLP)

The Longleaf Pine Initiative began when an interdepartmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among USDA, the Department of Interior and the Department of Defense identified the longleaf pine ecosystem as a priority resource concern.

As part of the initiative, NRCS and its conservation partners in nine states are helping private landowners improve the sustainability and profitability of Longleaf pine forest ecosystems. The following are some essential conservation practices that USDA-NRCS currently supports to improve forests health: forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, restoration and management of rare or declining habitats, and tree/shrub establishment. Approved participants will receive financial assistance for implementing conservation practices including site preparation, planting longleaf pine, installing firebreaks, conducting prescribed burning, and controlling invasive plants. www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nc/programs/?cid=nrcs142p2_046681

EQIP-Conservation Activity Plans (CAPS)

A Conservation Activity Plan or CAP can be developed for producers to identify conservation practices needed to address a specific natural resource need. Typically, these plans are specific to certain kinds of land use such as transitioning to organic operations, grazing land, forest land, or can also address a specific resource need such a plan for management of nutrients or to address an air quality concern. With a CAP plan, producers can then apply for financial assistance to implement the needed conservation practices. More information at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/?cid=stelprdb1041991

EQIP payments are made directly to program participants for development of a CAP. These CAP plans may only be developed by a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP). Technical Service Providers (TSPs) are individuals or businesses that have technical expertise in conservation planning and design for a variety of conservation activities. TSPs are hired by farmers, ranchers, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, or public agencies to provide these services on behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Each certified TSP is listed on the NRCS TSP online registry, TechReg. **To find a Technical Service Provider (TSP), go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/technical/tsp/?cid=stelprdb1042981**



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing or adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. The entire agricultural operation must be enrolled and must include all agricultural land that will be under the applicant's control for the term of the proposed contract that is operated substantially separate from other operations. The USDA-NRCS has made CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis. **More information at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses, trees (Longleaf), filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract (10-15 years). Financial assistance is also provided to establish the vegetative cover practices. CRP is administered by the USDA-Farm Service Agency, with USDA-NRCS providing technical land eligibility determinations, and conservation planning with the support of the NC Forest Service. **More information at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp**

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program - the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Like CRP, CREP is administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Through CREP, farmers can receive double annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract (10-15 years).

Individuals interested in a Conservation Easement through CREP may receive a sign up incentive of \$250 (30 year Easement) or \$1,000 (Permanent Easement). A conservation easement is a written agreement between a landowner and the state of North Carolina in which there is an acquired interest in the land to install conservation practices that protect natural resources. The conservation easement exists for 30 years or permanently, depending on the landowner's choice. With CREP, the landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land for activities such as crop farming and development, yet retains private ownership.

More information at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=cep

Inactive Animal Waste Lagoon Closure Program

The Cumberland SWCD and local USDA-NRCS have made it a priority to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners who are interested in closing Inactive Animal Waste Lagoons on their land. By partnering with the North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, Inc. whose purpose in this initiative is to work with local soil and water conservation districts to close inactive animal waste lagoons across the state (<http://www.ncsoilwater.org/programs/animal-waste-lagoon-closure/>), the Cumberland SWCD can pursue grant funds to assist landowners in the closure of Inactive Animal Waste Lagoons.



Web Soil Survey (WSS)

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information. Soil surveys can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning. Onsite investigation is needed in some cases, such as soil quality assessments and certain conservation and engineering applications.

To start Web Soil Survey (WSS) visit the following website: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

Office Hours:

7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Except for Holidays

Cumberland SWCD

301 East Mountain Drive, Room 229

Fayetteville, NC 28306-3422

Contact Information:

Donna Foster

Administrative Program Officer

Phone: 910-484-8479 Ext 3

dfoster@co.cumberland.nc.us

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District
Charlie Rose Agriculture-Exposition Center
301 East Mountain Drive, Room 229
Fayetteville, NC 28306-3422
co.cumberland.nc.us/soil_water
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Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| July | No SWCD Board Meeting in July |
| July 26-28 | 76th SWC Society International Annual Conference –
“One World, Connected through Conservation” Virtual Event |
| August 13 | SWCD Board Meeting |
| August 23-26 | Conservation Employee Training – Wilmington |
| September 10 | SWCD Board Meeting |
| October 8 | SWCD Board Meeting |
| October 26 | Area VII Fall meeting – Host Scotland County |
| November 12 | SWCD Board Meeting |
| December 10 or 14 | SWCD Board Meeting |

