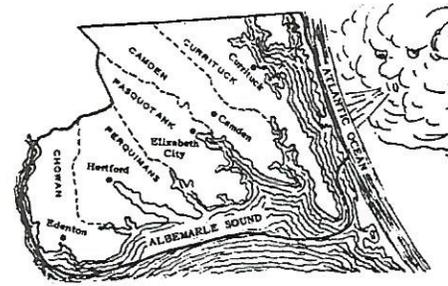


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JULY BEGINS 2017 COST SHARE YEAR

By: Dianne Watts

Applications for the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program will be accepted in your district office beginning July 1, 2016. If you are interested in receiving cost share on best management practices (BMP'S) or incentive payments for conservation tillage, long term no-till, or crop residue management, it is very important for you to sign-up.

Landowners and operators of existing agricultural operations may apply for cost share to install practices such as three year conservation tillage, long term no-till, water control structures, nutrient management, filter strips, riparian buffers, land smoothing, cover crops, crop residue management and more. (Continued on Camden Page)



Resource Conservation Workshop 2016

By: Brian Lannon

The annual Resource Conservation Workshop was held at NC State University June 26-July 1. Students from across the state spent four days viewing presentations and participating in hands on demonstrations by over 40 different conservation professionals. The workshop concluded with a knowledge test awarding cash and scholarships to the high scorers.



New this year, students explored managing soil biology and agro-ecology at a new unit on Lake Wheeler Road. They also examined soil erosion, sediment control at the Lake Wheeler Field Labs and NCSU main campus on Monday. Tuesday was spent at Falls Lake. Tours of the dam with presentations from fisheries, park rangers, and wildlife officers were dampened by rain but still informative.

(Continued on Camden Page)

CAMDEN

(Continued from Front Page) **2017 Cost Share Year**

Land Smoothing (shown in photo) remains one of our most popular practices. Land Smoothing must be accompanied by one or more of the following practices: a. Conservation Tillage or Long Term No-till on all fields where the land smoothing is applied. Burning is not permitted. b. Water Control Structure that intercepts all drainage acres from fields where the land smoothing is applied. c. Riparian Forest Buffers or Filter Strips that intercepts all drainage acres from fields where the land smoothing is applied. A five year maintenance period with the accompanying BMP at established maintenance period is required. A stable outlet is required for all hoe-drains for the life of the practice.



Through the use of these best management practices, sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemicals and other pollutants can be decreased significantly before entering the streams, rivers and sounds. Not only can you protect water quality but also decrease the loss of topsoil from your fields. Everyone has a responsibility to protect our natural resources for our benefit now as well as for our children, their children, and future generations.

(Continued from Front Page) **Resource Conservation Workshop**



When the weather cleared students took a break for swimming and a cookout there. On Wednesday they learned about forest management, controlling forest fires and identifying trees, and why forests are a key part of good water quality at the Clemmons State Forest. Evening sessions featured future career possibilities in natural resource conservation. The final



day of instruction was spent at the Research Beef Unit where students observed BMPs and technology used to improve water quality with different land uses. In the afternoon, student groups worked out solutions to different conservation planning problems.

After 28 different presentations, many of the campers left the workshop with a better idea of the career paths they could pursue after high school graduation. (Brian Lannon has served as a counselor for four years and Sherry Harris from Chowan has served for seven years. The Albemarle District would like to thank them for all of the extra time and work they have given to the Resource Conservation Workshop.)

CHOWAN

Kight Attends Resource Conservation Workshop

This year a Chowan County student of John A. Holmes High School will be attending the 2016 North Carolina Soil & Water Resource Conservation Workshop. Hunter Kight, son of Kristy LaLonde, will be representing the Chowan Soil & Water District. This event is sponsored each summer by the NC Association of Soil and Water Districts. The workshop is held on the Campus of NC State University the week of June 26th through July 01, 2016.

This is a week of intensive study, requiring students' attention and participation in the wide range of conservation topics. The subjects covered during the week long workshop includes soil characteristics, wildlife and fisheries management, forest management, non-agricultural uses for soils, water quality and watershed management. Along with classroom studies, most of the classes are outdoor field trips to various sites in the area. At the end of the week there is an examination and award ceremony which are usually college scholarships. The primary objective is learning about the natural resources and its management in today's environment.

Chowan County Soil & Water Conservation District will be well represented by Hunter this year.

Best of Luck Hunter!!



Chowan Board of Supervisors with RCW
Student Hunter Kight



CURRITUCK

Rain Garden Construction

By: Will Creef



Initial Rain Garden being dug

A rain garden is a garden which collects rainfall and storm water runoff. Usually, it is a small depression which is planted with plants capable of tolerating high moisture levels and high levels of Nitrogen and Phosphorus typically found in storm water runoff. Rain gardens can be aesthetically pleasing as well as extremely functional. Collecting storm water runoff from driveways or rooftops can benefit the property owner while increasing water quality.



Finished Rain Garden



Mulching/Planting Rain Garden

Rain gardens can easily be retrofitted to any residential or commercial property. An existing soggy place in your yard that can be difficult to mow or maintain easily has the potential to be a raingarden, but you don't necessarily have to have a wet area. With a little bit of planning small depressions can be dug and rain gardens can be created almost



anywhere. For more information about rain garden installation contact the Currituck Soil & Water Conservation office at 252-232-3360.

Kirbi Knowles

Attends Resource Conservation Workshop

By: Kim Dozier-Smichnick



Kirbi Knowles, a rising senior at **JP Knapp Early College**, attended the Resource Conservation Workshop at **NC State** in June. The RCW is a week long intense course of study highlighting soils, wildlife and fisheries management, forestry, water quality and watershed management in addition to nonagricultural uses for soils. Students are also eligible to compete for college scholarships at the end of the week. Kirbi enjoys spending her spare time at the beach. She is particularly interested in geology and engineering classes and hopes to become a seismologist.

A special thank you goes out to **Farm Bureau of Currituck** for sponsoring Kirbi to attend. Each year the **Soil and Water Conservation office** coordinates/sponsors one or two high school students to attend, if interested, please contact our office for more information (232-3360).



PASQUOTANK

Jake



Jake Jennings says that he has an interest in conservation because he cares about the environment. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and being on the water. He also enjoys working with plants and trees through Landscaping.

RCW

Pasquotank SWCD was pleased to sponsor Jake Jennings, son of Jerry & Dottie Jennings, and Jake Cullens, son of Barry & Missy Cullens, to the **Resource Conservation Workshop** held recently in Raleigh. Both students are rising juniors at Northeastern High School and were recommended by Mrs. Roberta Manzer. Students will be invited to the Albemarle District Supervisors' Meeting in August to provide supervisors and staff with some of the highlights from the workshop. We look forward to seeing them.

Jake



Jake Cullens would like to learn more about our natural resources in order to expand his knowledge for the FFA competitions involving soil, forestry, etc. This workshop was very beneficial to him.

LITTLE RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE By: Dwane Hinson

Water quality improvement systems are being installed on waterways feeding Little River. These systems focus on filtering drainage water and controlling the total amount of water that enters Little River. The riparian buffer along Little River is being seriously depleted by timber harvest almost to the edge of the river. These land use changes impact water temperature and result in significant nutrient and sediment releases that increase the total nutrient load in the river and could foster future algae blooms. If you are a landowner and your land drains into Little River, contact the Pasquotank or Perquimans Soil & Water District for assistance.



Pasquotank and Perquimans Counties offer landowners tax incentives to incorporate conservation practices and reduce the timber harvest impacts along Little River. Contact the tax department for more information.



Little River Clear-Snag



As part of the water quality improvement, drainage is being improved and restored to adequate levels. Little River has been cleared of debris, drainage ditches have been improved, and controlled to manage total drainage outflows.

PERQUIMANS

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

By: Janet Stallings



Meredith Lindsay, Assistant Extension Agent

The 3rd grade students at Hertford Grammar School recently enjoyed their annual Progressive Agriculture Safety Day. This event has been happening at the school since 2007. It is sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension Service in Perquimans County. I had the pleasure of working with Jewel Winslow, Extension Agent for the county. Mrs. Jewel gave Sun Safety clas-



Mark Symons, Captain—Perquimans County Rescue Squad

ses. Together we helped the children make a sun safety bracelet. The children were excited to see how the white beads would turn different colors if they went out in the sun for very long. The purpose of the bracelets was to



teach the students how the sun rays can harm them even if the sun is not out. Mrs. Jewel also taught the students the importance of using sun screen to protect them from getting sunburned. Other areas where they were taught safety were: Wildlife Safety, Bike Safety, Home Alone Safety, Water Safety, Electrical Safety, and Backyard Safety.



Janet Stallings and student making sun bracelets.

I want to thank the Extension Service for allowing me to help with this fun day of learning.

I really enjoyed watching the excitement in the students' eyes.



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