

SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

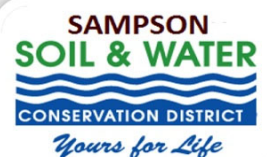


ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Pictured from left to right: Vice Chairman James Lamb, Curtis Barwick, Chairman Henry Moore III, Tommy Hobbs and Craig Thornton.

The Sampson SWCD Board of Supervisors is made up of five board members, three of which are elected and two who are appointed by the NC Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water. The Supervisory Board seats are non-partisan and unpaid; therefore, the Supervisors receive no financial gain from serving on the Board. They volunteer their time and experience to the benefit the landowners in Sampson County.

The Sampson SWCD Board of Supervisors come from various agriculture backgrounds that encompass many different aspects and perspectives of farming and land use. All are dedicated to conservation stewardship and preservation for future generations.

The people of Sampson County are very fortunate to have these gentlemen willing to serve as the Sampson SWCD Supervisory Board. Each one of them contributes greatly to the success of conservation efforts in Sampson County.

SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Supervisors James Lamb, Henry Moore and Craig Thornton along with District staff Candice Adams, Melanie Harris and Cameron Knudsen at the 2023 Area VII Fall Meeting.

SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF



Pictured from left to right:

Cameron Knudsen, Soil & Water District Technician

Melanie Harris, Senior Soil Conservationist-Department Head

Candice Adams, Program Support Specialist, Education Coordinator

Henry Faison, Soil Conservationist



Sampson SWCD Mission Statement: 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.

SAMPSON NRCS STAFF



From left to right: **Dominae Smith**-Soil Conservationist, **Kellyam Valle Cancel**-Supervisory Soil Conservationist , **Liana Guy**-Soil Conservationist, **Matt Swinarski**-Soil Conservation Technician and **Dwayne Faircloth**-Soil Conservationist



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

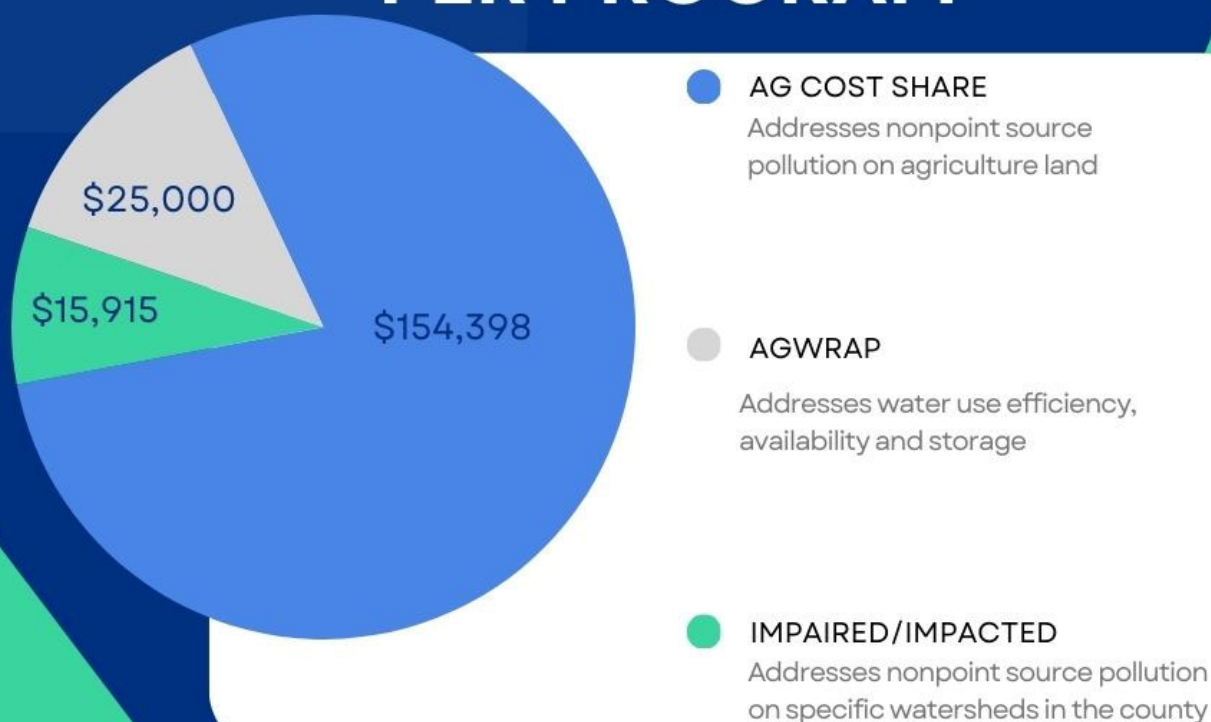
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS Mission : We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

Sampson SWCD & NRCS Staff work as a team for the farmers and landowners in Sampson County. Together, we provided over \$5.6 million in conservation incentives.

For the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District allocated \$195,313 in funds to Best Management practices under the following programs:

STATE FUNDS ALLOCATED PER PROGRAM



With the funding received through the NC Agriculture Cost Share programs, the Sampson staff enrolled over 1600 acres in cover crops, cropland conversion to grass, a waste management system and water use efficiency practices such as wells for agriculture use.

- ◆ Acres Affected 1,331 acres
- ◆ Acres Irrigated 36 acres
- ◆ Soil Saved 1085 tons
- ◆ Nitrogen Saved 22,335 pounds



Cover crops are planted to reduce soil erosion, suppress weeds and improve nutrient cycling.



No-till planting into a terminated cover crop.



Soybeans planted into terminated cover crop.





Water supply wells provide access to a suitable groundwater supply for livestock watering and other agricultural uses.



NCDA&CS Swine and Dairy Assistance Program

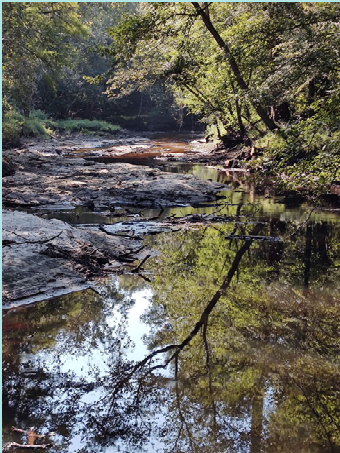


In 2022, the Swine and Dairy Assistance Program was announced. (SDAP) is a one-time assistance program for swine and dairy producers who suffered a loss due to the shutdowns following the COVID-19 pandemic. \$30 million was appropriated to NCDA&CS to provide financial assistance for eligible swine and dairy farms that lost contracts or were forced out of business due to the pandemic. Sampson Soil and Water is assisting swine producers with lagoon sampling and closures. We closed out the first SDAP lagoon in the spring of 2024.



Sampson SWCD continues to work with the Coharie Tribe and the Friends of Sampson County Waterways to keep our rivers and streams navigable and flowing freely. In PY2024, they were awarded \$263,266. Since 2017, much work has been done to remove fallen trees, beaver dams and other debris. **The Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP)** funds are intended to support projects that restore and protect drainage infrastructure of both natural streams and small watershed structural projects to prevent future flooding, restore streams, and reduce risks to life and property.

Before and during StRAP clean- up efforts



After clean-up



NRCS Partnership: Sampson SWCD partnered with NRCS to carry out our mission with over \$5.4 million obligated and to be paid out to landowners and farmers for best management practices administered under the federal Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Programs (CSP). Sampson SWCD helped provide technical assistance on these contracts. The 52 contracts from NRCS placed conservation on over 14,000 additional acres. This gave Sampson SWCD and NRCS a combined total of 15,747 acres in Sampson County.



Forestry management is a large part of the best management practices installed in Sampson County. From left to right: long leaf pine seedling, row of long leaf seedlings, and a prescribed burn.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Seasonal High Tunnel Systems extend the growing season, improve plant health, plant vigor and soil quality, while reducing nutrient and pesticide transportation.

Wildlife Habitat Planting is used to create herbaceous or shrubby wildlife habitat in areas that are currently being used for other purposes. This practice is used to convert existing poor quality habitat to high quality wildlife habitat.





Natural Resources Conservation Service

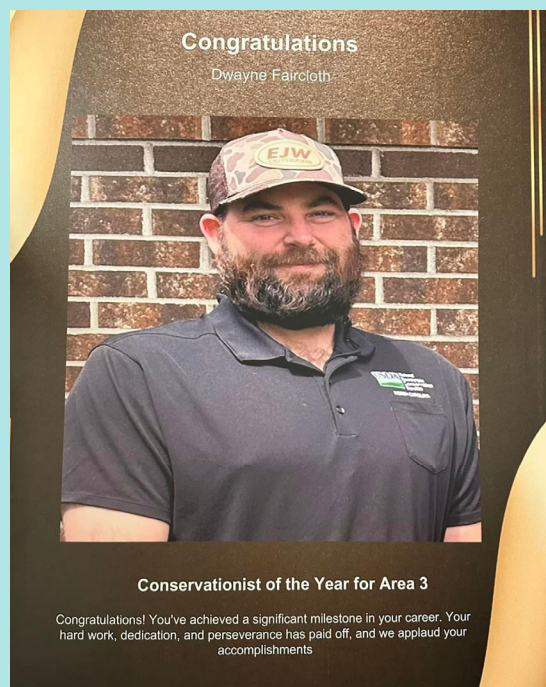
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



NRCS Team 17 (Sampson, Duplin & Pender)



Sampson NRCS Soil Conservationist,
Dwayne Faircloth



Dwayne Faircloth, Sampson NRCS, and
Melanie Harris, Sampson SWCD, with
the NC NRCS Partnership Award.

In October 2023, Team 17 (Sampson, Duplin & Pender NRCS) was awarded with the FY2023 Outstanding Team Award for NC NRCS Area 3 and our very own Dwayne Faircloth, Sampson NRCS, was awarded Conservationist of the Year for Area 3. Sampson SWCD and NRCS staff work together as a team for the farmers and landowners in Sampson County and we were awarded with the NC NRCS Partnership Award for FY 2023.



In October 2023, the Sampson SWCD staff and NRCS staff worked the Soil and Water Conservation booth at the NC State Fair. Pictured in the top left picture are Soil and Water staff members Melanie Harris, Henry Faison, Candice Adams, and Cameron Knudsen, and NRCS staff members Dwayne Faircloth, Liana Guy, and Matthew Swinarski.





Pictured above: Henry Faison, Dwayne Faircloth, Melanie Harris, & Candice Adams



On March 23, our Soil & Water District and NRCS staff participated in the Sampson County Ag Day with an interactive booth where folks had the opportunity to plant sunflower and squash seeds in peat pots to take home. The Sampson County Ag Day is a biennial event held in Clinton, NC at the Agri-Exposition Center. This was a great opportunity for our staff to participate in community outreach.





In September of 2023, our Soil & Water Conservation District staff attended the annual Conservation Employee Training (CET) in Greensboro, NC. Pictured above is Candice Adams, Cameron Knudsen, Henry Faison, and Melanie Harris, attending a tour at a water treatment facility located in Burlington, NC. We also participated in Agri-Tourism farm tours and other trainings and activities throughout the week at the CET.





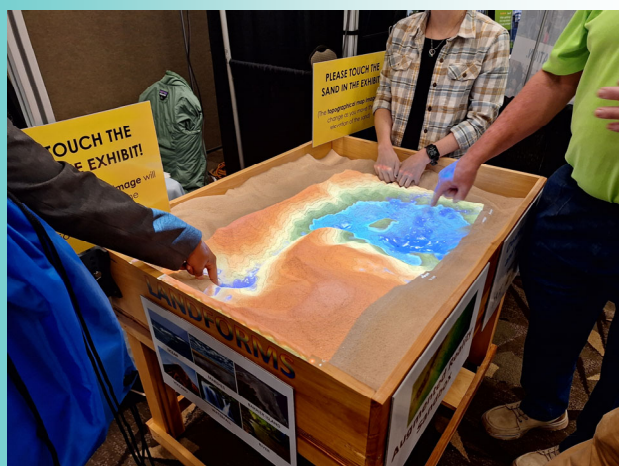
The 2023 Area VII Fall Meeting was held in Whiteville, NC at the Historic Vineland Station Depot.



James Lamb, Vice Chairman of the Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District Board and Commission Piedmont Representative, giving a presentation.

Pictured: James Lamb, Candice Adams, Melanie Harris, Cameron Knudsen, Henry Moore, and Craig Thornton. Sampson SWCD received the Outstanding District award at the 2023 Area VII Fall Meeting.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING



Pictured are Henry Faison, Melanie Harris, Candice Adams, and James Lamb, attending the 2024 Annual Meeting in Durham, NC at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel. District staff and board members participated in meetings and various activities throughout their stay.



Our Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District, NRCS, and FSA staff members attended the 2024 Area VII Envirothon competition at Jones Lake State Park in Elizabethtown, NC. From Sampson County, we had three teams from Midway High School and two teams from Union High School to participate in the competition. Midway High School had two teams ranked in the top five, with one team in second place. The two Midway teams who placed advanced to the State Envirothon competition where one team placed third overall in the FFA Division.



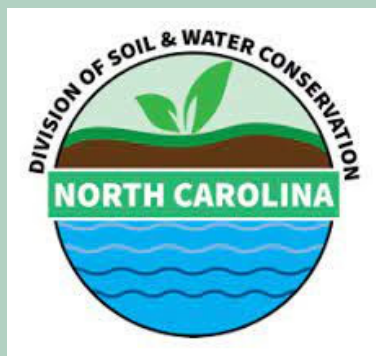
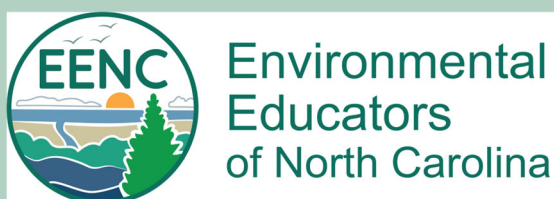


In June 2024, our Environmental Educator, Candice Adams, attended the Resources Conservation Workshop (RCW) in Raleigh at NC State, as a workshop counselor. Our district sponsored three local students to attend ; Maricela Ventura, Alondra Espinoza, and Logan Trogon. The Resource Conservation Workshop is sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, NC State University Crop and Soil Science Department, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter.



The Board of Supervisors and the Staff of the Sampson SWCD sincerely appreciates all landowners, farmers, agencies and groups who partner with us to help the District carry out its conservation mission.

Thank you.



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