SAMPSON COUNTY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District

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SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Yours for Life

SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-2025 Annual Report

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SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Pictured from left to right: Vice Chairman James Lamb, Chairman Henry Moore III, Craig Thornton, Garrett Boney and Curtis Barwick

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.

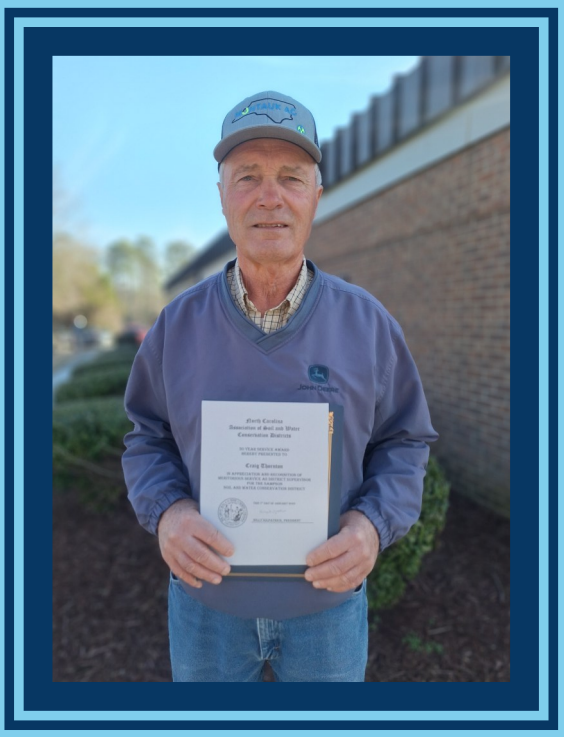
The people of Sampson County are very fortunate to have these gentlemen willing to serve as the Sampson SWCD Supervisory Board. Each one of them contributes greatly to the success of conservation efforts in Sampson County.

SAMPSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Supervisors Garrett Boney and Curtis Barwick along with District staff members Cameron Knudsen, Melanie Harris, Henry Faison and Candice Adams at the Sampson County Government swearing in ceremony for elected officials.

Pictured to the right is Board Supervisor, Craig Thornton. The North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts presented Mr. Thornton with an award for 30 years of service as a board supervisor for Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District. We are extremely grateful for Mr. Thornton's many years of hard work and dedication to soil and water conservation.





Pictured from left to right:

Candice Adams, *Program Support Specialist, Education Coordinator*

Henry Faison, *Soil Conservationist*

Melanie Harris, *Senior Soil Conservationist-Department Head*

Cameron Knudsen, *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

Kellyam Valle Cancel – NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, Team 17 Sampson-Duplin-Pender Counties.

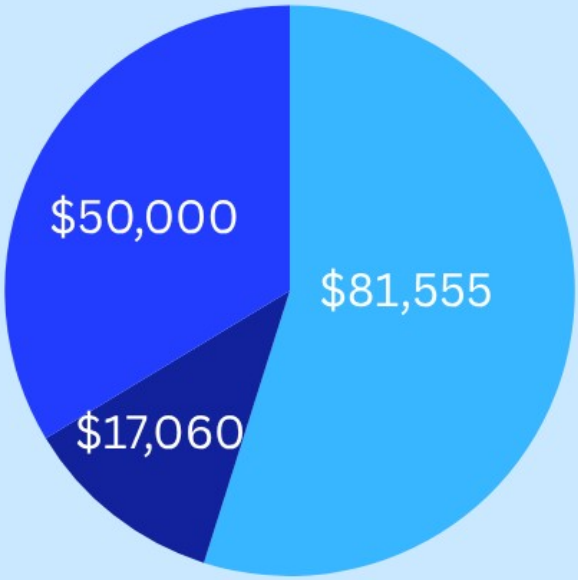


NRCS Mission : We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

Sampson SWCD & NRCS Staff work as a team for the farmers and landowners in Sampson County. TOGETHER, we provided over $2.5 million in conservation incentives.

For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District allocated $148,615 in funds to Best Management practices under the following programs:

STATE FUNDS ALLOCATED PER PROGRAM



AG COST SHARE

Addresses nonpoint source pollution on agriculture land

AGWRAP

Addresses water use efficiency, availability and storage

IMPAIRED/IMPACTED

Addresses nonpoint source pollution on specific watersheds in the county

AGRICULTURE COST SHARE

With the funding received though the NC Agriculture Cost Share programs, the Sampson staff enrolled over 1438 acres in cover crops, cropland conversion to grass and water use efficiency practices such as wells for agriculture use.



- Acres Affected 1,438 acres
- Acres Irrigated 233 acres
- Soil Saved 1031 tons
- Nitrogen Saved 19,175 pounds

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



AgWRAP



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

By taking action to increase water use efficiency, storage, and availability as well as conserve and protect water resources, landowners are directly contributing to the long-term resilience and sustainability of agriculture in North Carolina.

StRAP

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 PY2025, they were awarded $318,551. 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



StRAP
Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program

NRCS PARTNERSHIP

NRCS Partnership: Sampson SWCD partnered with NRCS to carry out our mission with over $1.89 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 33 contracts.







Forestry management is a large part of the best management practices installed in Sampson County. Pictured above is Tree/Shrub Site Prep, Forest Stand Improvement and Prescribed Burning.

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. Crops are planted into the natural soil profile.

got to be NC AGRICULTURE™

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS Yours for Life





The Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District staff members volunteered at the NC Soil & Water Conservation District booth at the NC State Fair in October 2024, and were also joined by NRCS staff members from the Sampson County office. Pictured above are district staff members Candice Adams, Melanie Harris, Cameron Knudsen, and Henry Faison. Also pictured are NRCS staff members Dominae Smith, Dwayne Faircloth, and Matthew Swinarski. The Sampson SWCD have volunteered many times and strive to be a part of the booth each year. They enjoy the outreach and educating others about the importance of soil and water conservation.













Candice and Melanie participated in the Spring STEAM Day, part of the NC SciFest, at JC Holliday Library in Clinton, NC. They provided soil and water outreach with the soils tent and an interactive soils booth with soil and water conservation education and seed planting.

Henry Faison is pictured talking with local farmers about conservation programs available through the division of soil and water. Joining him is Sara Sweeting with NRCS in Duplin County.







They were speaking as part of the Certified Animal Waste Operator certification training, for Operators In Charge to receive approved credit hours as part of their certification renewal.

CONSERVATION EMPLOYEE TRAINING







In September of 2024, the Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District staff attended the 2024 Conservation Employee Training (CET), in Atlantic Beach, NC. The CET is held annually at different locations throughout the state to host conservation professional trainings. Pictured above are staff members Candice Adams, Henry Faison, Melanie Harris, and Cameron Knudsen. They each attended various conservation and education trainings throughout the week to further their skills and training to better serve farmers and other residents within Sampson County.









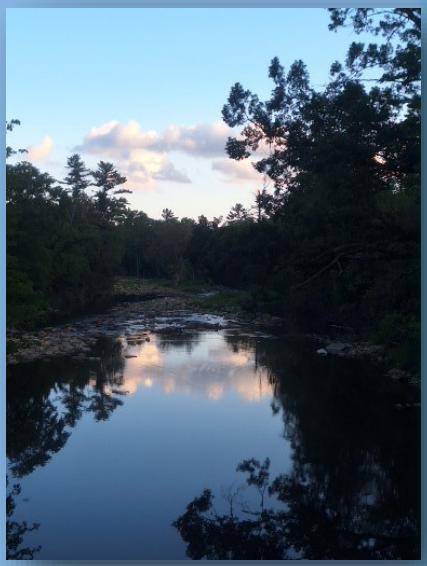




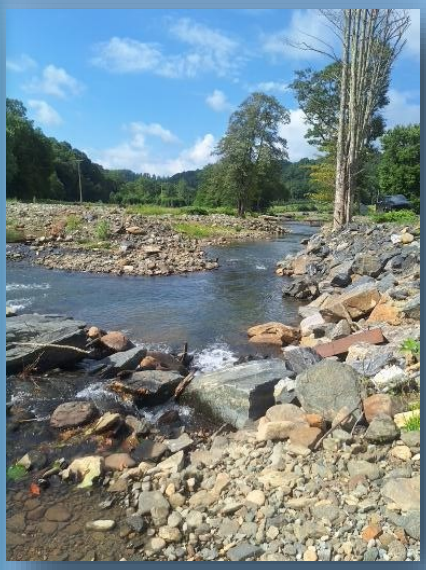
Henry Faison, Cameron Knudsen, and Candice Adams attended an Emergency Watershed Protection Training at Johnston Soil & Water Conservation District. Pictured above, Sampson staff members and other training attendees observe an EWP eligible site.







Candice Adams attended Surge Week in Newland, NC to complete her Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) certification and assist with EWP applications for those affected by Hurricane Helene in Western NC. Attendees made site visits and completed EWP applications throughout the week.



2024 AREA VII FALL MEETING



Pictured above is James Lamb, Candice Adams, Melanie Harris, Cameron Knudsen, Henry Faison, and Curtis Barwick. Sampson SWCD received the Outstanding District award at the 2024 Area VII Fall Meeting. Pictured in the middle is Board Supervisor, James Lamb.





The 2024 Area VII Fall Meeting was held at Cumberland SWCD. Board Supervisors Curtis Barwick and Henry Moore received awards for 15 years of service with Sampson SWCD. Pictured above is Curtis Barwick receiving his award from Billy Kilpatrick.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING



Pictured above are Candice Adams, James Lamb, Melanie Harris, Cameron Knudsen, and Henry Faison, attending the 2025 Annual Meeting in Durham, NC at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel. District staff and board members participated in meetings and various activities throughout their stay.

Pictured below is James Lamb, Vice Chairman of the Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District Board, after being re-elected as the Commission Piedmont Representative.



AREA VII ENVIROTHON





Our Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District and NRCS staff members volunteered at the 2025 Area VII Envirothon competition at Jones Lake State Park in Elizabethtown, NC on March 20th. From Sampson County, we had teams from Midway High School and Union High School to participate in the competition. Midway High School had two teams to place, with one team placing second in the competition and the other in seventh. Both Midway teams advanced to the State Envirothon Competition held at Cedarock Park in Burlington, NC.









RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP





In June 2025, our Environmental Educator, Candice Adams, attended the Resources Conservation Workshop (RCW) in Raleigh at NC State University, as a workshop counselor. Our district sponsored one local student from Lakewood High School to attend, Jordan Melvin, pictured to the right. 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.











Sampson Soil & Water Conservation District Staff were ready to report for duty when called in for Tropical Storm Debby *Disaster Response*.











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.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).