

THE SOIL SCOOP

UNION SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Now Accepting Applications for 2016



The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program is a voluntary, state funded program that offers financial and technical assistance for the installation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) to reduce non-point source pollution. The Union SWCD administers and implements the North Carolina

Agriculture Cost Share Program in Union County by ranking each eligible applicant based on resource concerns. To achieve the reduction of non-point source pollution, cost share assistance is provided to agricultural landowners and operators who use BMP's to reduce pollutants, such as sediment, animal waste, pesticides, nutrients and more from leaving the land and entering our streams, lakes and rivers. Cost share amounts could cover as much as 75% of costs. Union SWCD works with agricultural landowners and operators to identify BMP's that would suite the operation, develop conservation plans, design and oversee installation of BMPs, and provide technical assistance to ensure proper operation and maintenance.

In Union County cost share monies have been used for BMP's such as waste storage structures, incinerators, livestock exclusion fencing, watering facilities and heavy use area protection, as well as pasture renovations and well installation. Other cost shared BMP's include lagoon closures, poultry composters, stream bank stabilization, sod-based rotations, critical area plantings and many more. These practices must be installed to meet USDA–Natural Resources Conservation Service specifications and standards, along with proper maintenance of that practice.

To apply for ranking or for more information contact Charles Dunevant.

704-233-1621 Charles.Dunevant@nc.nacdnet.net

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

In this issue:

Union County Ag Cost Share	1
Fall Area VIII Meeting Envirothon	2
Upcoming Events RCW	3
Supervisors & Staff Visit us on the Web!	4

WINTER 2015

Union County SWCD makes great efforts to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to the citizens of Union County to promote the proper management of our natural resources.

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Area VIII Fall Meeting afternoon session
by Sallie Richie from Hilltop Farm.

The Area VIII Fall Meeting was called to order October 14, 2015 a little after 10 am by Area VIII Chair, Mr. Kevin Marion. There were 65 people in attendance, 42% of those were supervisors. The morning was filled with updates and reports by various agencies. A hearty lunch of Ostrich meatballs and Wagyu beef was served by Ms. Sallie Richie and the Smith Grove Ruritan Club. After lunch, awards were given for Conservation Farm Family to Circle D Farm of Rowan County and Length of Service to many Supervisors and District Employees. An intriguing afternoon presentation was given by Ms. Sallie Richie about her ostriches and the operation of Hilltop Farm.



Brown Creek's Jake Barbee holds an ostrich egg at the Area VIII Fall Meeting.

Middle & High School Students

To get started all you need is 5 students who are interested in:

- *Forestry *Water Quality
- *Wildlife *Soils
- *Current Environmental Issues

For more information about how to get your team started contact
Katie Anne Dayton 704-233-1621
Katie.dayton@unioncountync.gov

—>Area VIII's Southern Piedmont Envirothon

March 8th and 9th at Catawba College

—>State Envirothon Competition

April 29th and 30th at Cedarock Park



WEED WIPER
Available to Union County citizens for \$50 per day, \$40 per day if you're a member of the Cattleman's Association and \$75 for out of county use.

Available Services:

- *Natural Resource Best Management Practice Design and Support
- *Soil Interpretative Services
- *Nutrient Management
- *Natural Resource-Specific Mapping via GIS
- *Education and Technical Training
- *Soil and Water Resource Consultative Services

No-Till Seed Drill
Available to citizens planting in Union County for \$10 per acre. Contact our office for more information.

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Marshville Elementary After School Program having a blast learning about different Celebrations and the history of Corn from a Food, Land & People Activity presented by Katie Anne Dayton.



Resource Conservation Workshop

Every year Union Soil and Water sponsors one student to attend the RCW. During this week-long workshop students are able to engage in extensive, hands on study of conservation and its application in a variety of natural and environmental sciences. Students are selected for this sponsorship based on merit and demonstrated conservation interests. There are many great scholarships awarded at the end of the workshop to students who stand out and ace the final test.

Application deadline April 15, 2016.

For more information contact Katie Anne.

Katie.dayton@unioncountync.gov

704-233-1621

Upcoming Event:

72nd Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
January 3-5, 2016
Durham, North Carolina

EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

NRCS is in charge of this voluntary program that helps producers protect soil, water, air and other natural resources while ensuring sustainable production on your farm or working forest land.

Applications received will be evaluated and ranked for funding assistance. Application deadlines for FY 2016 will be here before you know it. So complete your application today!

Upcoming Board Meetings:

(Every third Tuesday of the month)

December 15, 2015

January 19, 2016

February 16, 2016

If you would like something published in the next newsletter contact Katie Anne Dayton with the Soil and Water Conservation District.

New Email:

Katie.dayton@unioncountync.gov

Warning Signs of HPAI:

- ◇ Lack of energy and appetite
- ◇ Decreased egg production or soft/misshapen eggs
- ◇ Swelling of the head, eyelids and comb
- ◇ Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- ◇ Stumbling, falling down, diarrhea
- ◇ Sudden death

If HPAI is suspected, information should be immediately reported to NCDA&CS Animal Health Programs at 919-707-3250.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Supervisors:

- Mr. Kelvin L. Baucom– Chairman
- Mr. Allan L. Baucom– Vice Chairman
- Mr. R. Scott Baucom– Secretary/ Treasurer
- Mr. Kenneth Mills– Member
- Mr. Wayne Moser– Member

Staff:

- Charles Dunevant– Union SWCD, District Manager
- Katie Anne Dayton– Union SWCD, Conservation Education Specialist
- Shauntae Britt– USDA NRCS, District Conservationist
- Grayson Sarif– USDA NRCS, Soil Conservationist
- Richard (Rick) Pigg– USDA NRCS, Conservation Engineering Assistant



Visit us at:
<http://www.co.union.nc.us/Divisions/SoilWaterConservation.aspx>
 And
[Facebook.com/UnionCountySoilandWater](https://www.facebook.com/UnionCountySoilandWater)



For more information contact the following:

<p>USDA Farm Service Agency 704-233-1621 3230-A Presson Road Monroe, NC 28112</p>	<p>NC Cooperative Extension 704-283-3801 3230-D Presson Road Monroe, NC 28112</p>	<p>Soil and Water Conservation District 704-233-1621 3230-B Presson Road Monroe, NC 28112</p>
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