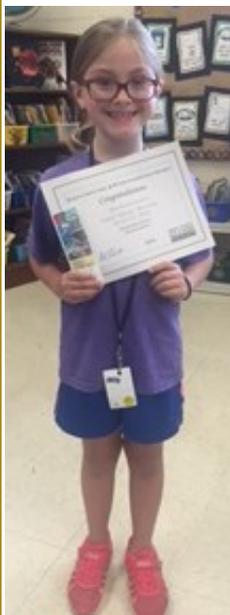


Bookmark Contest Winners:

This was the first annual Bookmark Contest for Kindergarten through Second Grade students. Students were given a template where they could create their own bookmark based on a Farming theme. There were 198 Bookmarks submitted! It was so neat to see all of the different perspectives and creativity from our community about how they perceive farming and what it means to them.

Each winner's class was given copies of the bookmarks from that winner as well as a sweet treat provided by Union County Soil and Water's Board of Supervisors.

The bookmarks were judged by members of Farm Service Agency, NC Forestry Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the District Director for Union County Soil and Water Conservation District. Look for bookmarks in Union County Libraries and events where Union SWCD has a booth set up.



Top Right: Kindergarten Winner Gavin Brook from Antioch Elementary.

Left: First Grade Winner Morgan Arce from Sardis Elementary. Judge's declared Morgan's bookmark the overall winner of the contest.

Bottom Right: Second Grade Winner Abby Jo Moore from Marshville Elementary.



Check out the bookmark designs on page 5.

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SUMMER 2016

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.

THE SOIL SCOOP

UNION SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Charles Dunevant is now sworn in as a NRCS employee in his home county, Stanly. While we will miss Charles working in Union County everyday with soil and water, we will still see him on occasion since he is now apart of NRCS Team 11 which covers several counties including Union. We are thankful for the time Charles spent dedicated to Union SWCD and wish him all the best with this new endeavor.

North Carolina Envirothon

Each team will consist of 5 students from either county schools, home study groups or environmental clubs. They will exercise their training and problem-solving skills in a competition centered on five testing categories: soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues. High School teams have the added component of an Oral Presentation that requires the students to assemble their knowledge of all the tested subjects and use critical thought to solve a complex environmental problem and present their solution to a panel of judges. To find out more visit: <http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/index.html> or call the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 704-233-1621.



Heritage Day Festival

The Heritage Day Festival hosted by the Union County Master Gardner's took place April 9th and 10th in conjunction with the Union County Farm Show and Festival hosted by the Union County Antique Tractor and Power Club. The wind could not blow everyone and everything away though it tried mighty hard. Union County Soil and Water had a booth with information and the Healthy Water Trail for a fun and educational children's activity.



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.

THE SOIL SCOOP

UNION SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Community Conservation Assistance Program

CCAP is a voluntary, incentive based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of BMPs on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly involved with agriculture production.



The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program is a state funded program administered to reduce non-point source pollution into our streams, lakes and rivers. This reduction is achieved by providing cost share assistance to agricultural landowners and operators who use BMPs to reduce pollutants, such as sediment, animal waste, pesticides, nutrients, etc. from leaving the land and entering our waters. The Union Soil and Water Conservation District administers and implements the NC AgCost Share Program in Union County. Cost Share amounts could cover as much as 75% of costs.



Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program

The purposes of AgWRAP are to:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability, and storage
- Implement BMPs to conserve and protect water resources
- Increase water use efficiency
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

What is a BMP?

BMP stands for Best Management Practices that can be put into place to help control water pollution. Many BMPs are put into place through the above cost share programs. The following are just two of Ag Cost Share Program's BMPs.

- **Long- Term No- Till** means planting all crops for five consecutive years with at least 80% of the soil surface covered by plant residue from preceding crops to improve water quality. Benefits from long- term no-till include reduced erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment attached substances.
- **Grassed Waterways** are natural or constructed channels that are shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality. Benefits from grassed waterways include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment attached substances.

For more information about the above programs contact our office at 704-233-1621 Extension # 3
Or visit this website: <http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/index.html>

THE SOIL SCOOP

UNION SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2016-2017 Contest Theme:
Soil & Water... Yours for Life
Be on the look out for contest
information that will be sent out at the
end of summer!



Rocky River 4H group met on the Rocky River to learn about macro invertebrates and water quality.



Monroe Middle School students learned about the importance of conserving our water through an activity, "Common Water."



Waxhaw Elementary Kindergarten students learning about agriculture and soils in our county. Students were able to look through the soil for living and non-living things.

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)

June 21, 2016

July 19, 2016

August 16, 2016

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

Email:

Katie.dayton@unioncountync.gov

Conservation Education:

If you would like someone from our office to plan a visit to your class, school or group please contact Katie Anne Dayton. We offer a variety of programs and will do our best to change the program to fit your groups request.

THE SOIL SCOOP

UNION SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Gavin Brook drew a silo, a barn and a tractor on top of the hill.



Morgan Arce drew many aspects of a farm including a barn, crops in a field, farm animals and even a farmer fetching eggs from the chickens.



Abby Jo Moore drew various crops in front of a setting sun shine and clouds.



Supervisors:

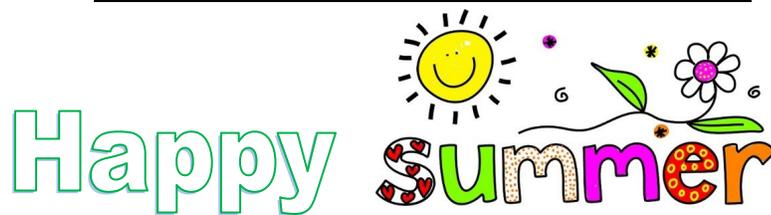
- Mr. Kelvin L. Baucom— Chairman
- Mr. Allan L. Baucom— Vice Chairman
- Mr. R. Scott Baucom— Secretary/ Treasurer
- Mr. Kenneth Mills— Member
- Mr. Wayne Moser— Member

Staff:

- Vacant— Union SWCD, District Director
- 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:

USDA Farm Service Agency
704-233-1621
3230-A Presson Road
Monroe, NC 28112

NC Cooperative Extension
704-283-3801
3230-D Presson Road
Monroe, NC 28112

Soil and Water Conservation District
704-233-1621
3230-B Presson Road
Monroe, NC 28112