

Outstanding Conservation Farm Family Award

Staton Farms



Farm City Week kicked off with the Farm Tour on Tuesday, peaked with the Banquet on Thursday and closed with the Fall Festival on Saturday. Many great awards were presented at this year's Farm City Banquet. Union County SWCD was given the privilege to announce the 2017 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family Award to Staton Farms. This award recognizes farmers and farm families who are taking the initiative to implement sound, innovative and cost effective techniques and are actively involved in conservation education and their community. Staton Farms will be up against

other farms nominated by conservation districts across the area and potentially the state. Staton Farms consists of 300 acres of pastureland where Edward Staton and his son Bryan care for 100 head of angus cattle, 6 chicken houses and put up hundreds of hay bales. Edward has installed many best management practices on the farm to help with water quality and conservation such as a litter shed, a litter spreader, an incinerator, exclusion fencing to keep cattle out of water sources, wells, a watering system for 200 acres and 6 watering

stations/drinkers for cattle. 15 acres were placed in a conservation conservatory as a wetlands right of way, planting in trees to draw, support and habitate a variety of wildlife.



Mr. Richard Simpson was inducted into the Hall of Fame. (Pictured left)

Farm Family of the Year was awarded to Williams Brothers Farm. (Pictured below)

Small Farm of the Year was awarded to Dean Trulls Bizzy Bee Honey & Apiary.

Business of the Year was awarded to Brewer-Hendley Oil Company.



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

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FALL 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

NEW DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Alan Aldridge

Stanly County born and raised, Alan Aldridge, is glad to be back close to home and working in Union County.

Alan has an Associate's in Applied Science Degree for Forest Management Technology from Montgomery Community

College, a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Forest Management from North Carolina State University, and is Registered Forester through the State of North Carolina. Alan has a tremendous amount of knowledge that he is bringing to Union SWCD with his background in forestry and CREP.

We are happy to have him in Union County!

Resource Conservation Workshop

"In just one week I was able to explore the wide ranges that soil and water reach within our state. Soil and water are the building blocks of life, impacting it through many aspects. It never had occurred to me that the quality of soil and water was so important. In June, each of the Soil and Water Districts of North Carolina selected one high school student to sponsor and attend the 53rd Annual Resource Conservation Workshop sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts at North Carolina State University (NC SU). I would recommend this workshop to anyone with an interest in soil and water science, horticulture, forestry, best management practices, and environmental sustainability. To apply for the 2017 summer, contact the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District!"

-Rachael Holzman, Cuthbertson High School Senior (pictured to the right)

Thanks for attending the RCW Rachael!



SOUTHERN PIEDMONT ENVIROTHON

WHEN: March 14 & 15, 2017

WHERE: Catawba College

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE:

In order to participate you must contact Union County SWCD by February. Call 704-233-1621 for more info.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

(Every third Tuesday of the month)

October 18, 2016

November 15, 2016

December 20, 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



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.

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>

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 is just one example of the Ag Cost Share Program's BMPs.

- **Cover Crop:** A crop of grasses, legumes, or small grain grown primarily for seasonal protection, erosion control and soil improvement, usually grown for a year or less. The major purpose is water and wind erosion control, to cycle nutrients, add organic matter to the soil, improve filtration, aeration and tilth, improve soil quality, reduce soil crusting, and sequester carbon. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment- attached substances.

For a cover crop to improve water quality, it must become established quickly, grow vigorously, and accumulate significant biomass.

To find out what crops are available for this incentive visit the above website or call 704-233-1621.



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

THE SOIL SCOOP

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Wiggling Worms at Work. This library story time started with students learning about the importance of earthworms and ended with them holding the earthworms.

The Cabarrus County Agribusiness Fair is held every year during the Cabarrus County Fair for 5th grade students in the county. Students are broken into groups and travel around to 5 stations learning about many topics such as how much sugar is in their drink or about wildlife, which included animals such as the red fox shown below with Katie Anne Dayton.



The Union County Fall Festival and 4H Expo is the close of Farm City week. Hosted by Union County 4H on September 24th from 11 am-4pm, the festival had many vendors and booths set up with something for everyone. The day held Safety Demonstrations, Live-stock shows, Bounce houses, Balloon Art , Magic shows and so much



Soil and Water set up a booth at the festival making Soil Buddies for the kids to make and take home with them to take care of and watch grow.

more! If you brought a canned good item to donate you were able to receive a free popcorn! The 4Hers did a great job making this event successful and fun for everyone!



**2016-2017 Contest Theme:
“Soil & Water... Yours for Life”
Contests for 3rd-9th grade**

If you would like more information about our contests please contact our office.

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

New Soil Conservationist

Logan Dugger started with NRCS as the newest



Soil Conservationist and the final employee to complete NRCS Team 11. Logan was born and raised in Smyrna, Tennessee. Logan is a recent graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a Degree in Plant and Soil Science. Logan is excited to start his career with NRCS. Welcome aboard Logan!



Team-11
North Carolina
Natural Resource Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture
"Helping People Help The Land"

NRCS Team 11 covers
Anson, Cabarrus,
Mecklenburg, Montgomery,
Stanly and Union Counties.
Shauntae Britt, Anson
Chris Childers, Stanly
Logan Duggar, Union
Charles Dunevant, Stanly
Grayson Sarif, Union

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 2017 will be here before you know it.

So complete your application today!

Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by adding, improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation practices. NRCS administers CSP and provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers. To find out more about the program visit this website or call one of the Team 11 members, <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nc/programs/financial/csp/?cid=stelprdb1237079>.

NRCS SUMMER INTERN, Robyn Amie is a senior Agriculture Economics major from Atlanta, Georgia. She



attends Fort Valley State University, an 1890 Land Grant Institution. She spent the majority of her summer interning with members of Team 11 and the counties they cover. After graduation Robyn plans to work for NRCS. We wish Robyn luck in her future!

Office Numbers:

Anson: (704) 694-3516 x3
Cabarrus: (704) 920-3300
Mecklenburg: (704) 336-2455
Montgomery : (910) 572-2700
Stanly: (704) 982-6811 x3
Union: (704) 233-1621 x3

THE SOIL SCOOP

UNION SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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:

Allan Aldridge– Union SWCD, District Director
Katie Anne Dayton– Union SWCD, Conservation Education Specialist
Shauntae Britt– USDA NRCS, District Conservationist
Grayson Sarif– USDA NRCS, Soil Conservationist
Logan Duggar– 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
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