



**CUMBERLAND SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**2023-2024 Annual Report**

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District  
Charlie Rose Agriculture-Exposition Center  
301 E. Mountain Drive, Suite 229  
Fayetteville, NC 28306  
910-484-8479 ext. 3



## SPOT CHECKS

Colin Hall, District Technician, helps Supervisors with annual spot checks of best management practices put in place by Cumberland SWCD



# CUMBERLAND SWCD SUPERVISORS

A five-member Board of Supervisors governs the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District. Three are elected in the general election; two are appointed by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission



**Lena Simmons, Chairperson**

**Elected**



**Wayne Collier, Jr. , Vice-Chairman**

**Appointed**



**Monique McMillan, Treasurer**

**Elected**



**Ellison L. Ellison, Member**

**Elected**



**Kevin Riddle, Member**

**Appointed**

# DISTRICT STAFF

CUMBERLAND SWCD



**Mitchell Miller**  
Soil Conservationist



**Gretta Steffens**  
District Program Officer



**Colin Hall**  
SWCD Technician



Cumberland SWCD Staff with former District Supervisor, Clifton McNeil



**Lena Simmons, Cumberland SWCD and Area VII Vice Chair calling role at the 2023 Fall Meeting. Cumberland SWCD Supervisors and Staff attended. Mitch Miller gave a presentation on rooftop runoff at the event.**



**Cumberland SWCD Chairman Wayne Collier, Jr. presents former Supervisor Clifton McNeill with a plaque in to express our gratitude for Mr. McNeill's many years of service**



**Cumberland SWCD attended the 2024 NCASWCD Annual Meeting. Vice Chair, Wayne Collier, staff members Gretta Steffens and Mitch Miller as well as retired staff member Donna Foster attended the Memorial Ceremony in which former District Supervisor Wingate Collier was honored.**

**Gretta Steffens, Cumberland SWCD Program Officer, received a Continuing and Professional Certification in Leadership from UNC-Wilmington.**

## 2024 AREA VII SPRING MEETING

Cumberland SWCD hosted the 2024 Area VII Spring Meeting in February. Area VII is comprised of nine Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the region from Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, and Scotland counties.



Cumberland SWCD Chair, Lena Simmons was sworn in as the Area VII Chairperson by Bryan Evans, Executive Director of the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation

Cumberland SWCD Staff and Supervisors at the Area VII Spring Meeting





NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation District's Executive Director , David Williams



Cumberland SWCD hosted the 2024 Area VII Spring Meeting in February at the Barn at Righteous Oaks Farm.

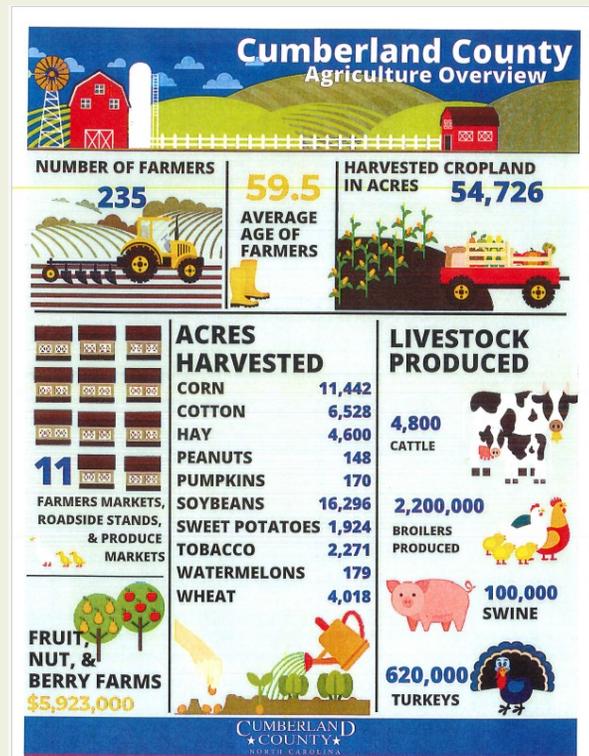
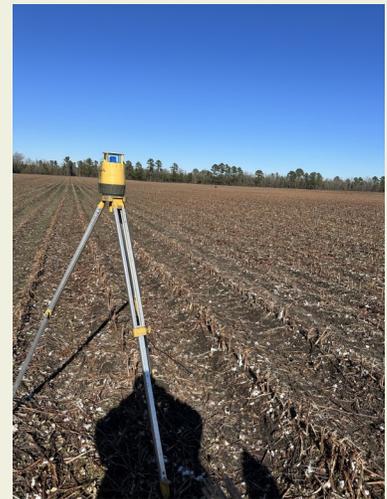


# Cumberland SWCD

## Making a Difference

With the funding received through Cost Share Programs with the Division of Soil & Water, Cumberland SWCD was able to make a great impact on Cumberland County water quality and the Cape Fear Watershed. Over the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Cumberland SWCD accomplished the following through best management practices with landowners:

◆ Areas Affected	1,741	acres
◆ Soil Saved	1,10	tons
◆ Nitrogen Saved	14,233	pounds
◆ Phosphorus Saved	81	pounds
◆ Gallons of Water Increased	39,626	gallons
◆ Waste Managed	48,000	pounds

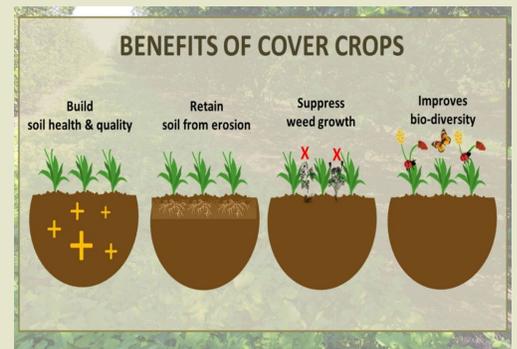


# AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

Agriculture Cost Share Programs (ACSP) provide technical assistance and possible cost share up to 75 %through local Soil & Water Conservation Districts to help farmers and landowners deal with non-point source pollution through best management practices.

- ◆ Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) received a total allocation of \$82,238.00 in ACSP funding from the Division of Soil & Water. This funding was spent over several contracts to help farmers and landowners with conservation best management practices (BMPs) that included:

- ◆ Cropland Conversion to Grass and Pasture
- ◆ Cover Crop
- ◆ Access Road Repair
- ◆ Road Stabilization
- ◆ Strip Tilling



# AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Agriculture Cost Share Programs (ACSP) provide technical assistance and possible cost share up to 75 %through local Soil & Water Conservation Districts to help farmers and landowners deal with non-point source pollution through best management practices.**

Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) received a total allocation of \$15,00.00 in AgWRAP funding from the Division of Soil & Water. This funding went towards two water wells to help improve water use efficiency and a water storage tank to help with water viability at a turkey farm.



# EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTETION PROGRAM

The Emergency Watershed (EWP) Program was started through the Federal Government to assist sponsors, landowners, and operators in implementing emergency recovery measures for runoff retardation and erosion prevention to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.

Cumberland SWCD was granted \$2,108,982.89 in EWP funding to clear stream debris from waterways Cumberland County. Cumberland SWCD used the funding to clear stream debris from 30 sites throughout Cumberland County. This project that started after Hurricane Florence was completed this year.



Stream Debris removal helps prevent flooding and provides recreational waterways.



# STREAMFLOW REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (STRAP)



Cumberland Soil & Water was awarded \$279,014.00 in stream debris removal funding from the NC Division of Soil and Water through the StRAP program. Cumberland SWCD submitted 39 sites where additional funds were needed to help clean up streams and restore natural water flow. Harrison Creek and the Wade Canal were among the sites completed during FY 2024. Along with the funding for stream debris removal the District was allowed the use of technical assistance funding to purchase equipment. Cumberland SWCD purchased kayaks, transport/storage trailers, a UTV among other useful gear.



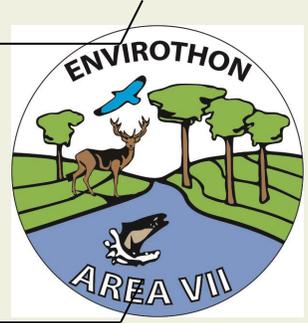
# STRAP

## CONTINUED



# Envirothon

Environmental Education



Grey's Creek High School from Cumberland county won 1st place at the Area VII Envirothon qualifying them for the state competition.



Envirothon is a Middle School and High School competition where students compete in teams of five in areas such as wildlife, aquatics, soils, forestry and current environmental issues. Teams are tested in all areas, the highest scoring teams then go on to compete at the state level. The winning team from the NC Envirothon then goes on to compete at an international level in the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon. These competitions offer great opportunities for students

# Environmental Education

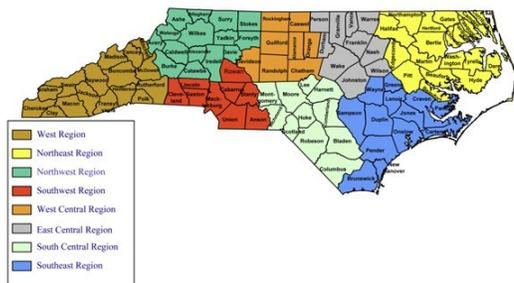
## Land Judging



Cumberland SWCD hosted the South Central Regional FFA Land Judging Competition. The South Central FFA Region consists of 11 counties.



Agricultural Education Regions in North Carolina



# Environmental Education

## Resource Conservation Workshop



**Azlyn Raja was selected to represent Cumberland county and Cumberland SWCD at the Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) held at NC State University over the summer.**

**Azlyn shared her experiences with our District Board during a monthly Board meeting. She also shared her RCW experiences with the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners (pictured below)**



**Sydney Ivey, a previous Cumberland SWCD RCW candidate spent her summer break from NCSU working as a summer intern for Cooperative Extension.**



# Environmental Education

## NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation Grant



With help from a grant from the NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation, Cumberland SWCD was able to purchase a soils tent for educational outreach and a new 10 ft John Deere grain drill to use both in outreach and conservation efforts. Cumberland SWCD rents grain drills to producers, we have both a brand new 10ft grain drill and a new 7 ft grain drill.



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## SPECIAL THANKS

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The Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all landowners, agencies and groups who cooperate and assist the District in carrying out its conservation programs.

Cumberland County Board of Commissioners  
NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation  
NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
USDA Farm Agency  
Cumberland County Cooperative Extension  
NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
NC Forest Service  
NC State Parks  
NC Farm Bureau  
Smithfield Foods  
Cumberland County Board of Education



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