

**Haywood County
Soil Conservation District
2013 Annual Report**



HAYWOOD COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Annual Report
District Activities and Accomplishments 2013

The Haywood County Soil Conservation District was organized in 1942 in accordance with the Tennessee Soil Conservation District's Law No. 197 of the 1939 Tennessee General Assembly. The District includes all of Haywood County, the boundaries being the same as those of the County, comprising 527 square miles or 337, 235 acres.

The purpose of the Haywood County Soil Conservation District is to promote the wise use and treatment of all land and resources within their capabilities. To meet these ends, due consideration must be given to the inter-relations of man, land, climate, equipment, economics, water, plants, animals and wildlife. To this purpose the District program is conducted so that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise subject to discrimination under any District program or activity.

During 2013 those members serving on the District Board were Richard Jameson, Chairman; John Willis, Secretary – Treasurer; Morris English Vice-Chairman; Link Carlton and Randall Taylor, Jr. members. Election in 2013 saw Morris English and Randall Taylor step down and Bradley Jones and Becky Booth voted into office.

Regular District Board meetings are held on a monthly basis as needed. Special meetings are called and held as the need arises. Meetings are now held at the USDA Service Center at 1179 South Dupree Street in Brownsville. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome.

The Haywood County Soil Conservation District Plan of Work for 2013 placed primary emphasis on applying conservation to the land and providing information and education to meet that goal. The 1985 Food Security Act Farm Bill and all farm bills since require landusers to actively apply conservation plans and systems in order to participate in farm programs. Those who fail to do so may be denied benefits from farm programs. The District is delegated various responsibilities in carrying out these mandates of the Farm Bills. The District strives to insure all participants are provided the assistance necessary to remain in compliance and to participate in various conservation programs, which are available.

HIGHLIGHTS
Programs, Activities and Accomplishments
Haywood County Soil Conservation District in 2013

The 2013 District Annual Work Plan and the 2012 Annual Report were developed and approved.

The District 2013 budget was developed, submitted and approved by the County Budget Committee and Full Court.

Board members attended TACD Area, West Tennessee and State meetings representing Haywood County as able.

Randall Taylor, Jr. served as representatives on the Chickasaw Shiloh RC&D Council.

20 Affiliate Members participated during the year.

Randall Taylor, Jr. was the winner of the Annual J. B. McAdams Conservationist of the Year for 2012 award.

The District wrote plans for 73 general signup Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts totaling 2,436.8 acres and 10 contracts for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) which totaled 161.3 acres of which 3 of these contracts were for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) for 65.4 acres.

The District promoted Arbor Day by giving away 3000 trees to 68 individuals on the Courthouse lawn with aid from our local David Craig Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Arbor Day spots were run on the local radio station.

Over the past year 21 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) status reviews were conducted. There are two Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) applications being processed which will total 134.5 acres. Annually there has been \$95,450 obligated in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) as well as \$735,864 obligated in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Through the Environmental Watershed Protection (EWP) program funding should exceed \$100,000. and there has been one Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) contract written for 16 acres. These programs include but are not limited to practices such as pasture and hay planting, watering facilities, critical use areas, riparian forest buffers, grade stabilization structures, mulching, cover crops, grassed waterways, terraces, windbreak/shelterbelt establishment, fencing, underground outlets, water and sediment control basins, water wells, pipelines, watering facilities, seasonal high tunnel system for crops, irrigation water management plans, herbaceous weed control and hedgerow planting.

During the year there were over 500 instances in which customers received assistance from the staff. Clients received help on a multitude of issues including soils, water quality, elevations, flood hazards, culvert sizes, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife food plots, waterfowl developments, farm chemical disposal, hunting information, timber planting and harvest, fish kills, beaver problems, tillage practices and survey design and construction of conservation structures.

In addition to aiding the NRCS with program contracts and Haywood County landowners with their private land concerns the District also administered a Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) special cost share project to reduce non-point source water pollution in Meridian Creek and Sugar Creek watersheds. Landusers in these areas received \$35,000.00 in cost share assistance through Haywood to apply practices such as grassed waterways, terraces, grade control structures, interior fencing and pasture planting and native warm season grass planting.

The District's native warm season grass no-till drill was used by 4 individuals to plant approximately 45 acres of CRP. This generated \$332.29 income for the District.

There were 6 conservation related articles published in the Brownsville States-Graphic newspaper and radio spots were run on Brownsville Radio concerning giveaways, program sign-ups and conservation news.

Internet space for the Haywood County Soil Conservation District website was maintained.

Inquiries were made and bids obtained relative to fencing, gravel and purchase/sale of pipe in order for the District to begin selling pipe as a means of income for the District and to better service the area landowners/operators with their general and program contract pipe needs as they choose.

The District appreciates the support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Haywood County for the professionals assigned to the County. In addition to their work in planning and applying conservation systems to the land, they aided District Supervisors in meetings, long range planning, education work and other activities related to the various farm bills and other conservation issues. Those professionals assisting the District in 2013 were: Leslie McCool, County Soil Conservationist and Darlene Holt Allen, District Clerk; Karl Anderson, District Conservationist; Steve Koonce, temporary Soil Conservation Technician, and Henry Webb, Soil Conservation Technician. The District also welcomed Kevin Edge, Farm Bill Biologist in 2013. Kevin received a job offer with NRCS and in his stead the Board welcomed Chris Shaw, Farm Bill Biologist as well as aid from Richard Cook, retired NRCS, through the National Older Workers Career Center, a National non-profit organization.

We appreciate the continued interest and support of the Haywood County Commission, which continues to provide funding for a full-time District Soil Conservationist and a full-time District Clerk. Additional funding is provided for office supplies, postage and the purchase of educational materials.

We sincerely appreciate the 20 businesses, firms and individuals who supported the District through the Affiliate Member program. Funds provided by the Affiliate Members were primarily used for the District's Community Outreach Program. The Affiliate Members for 2012 were:

*Mrs. David C. Evans Farm	* Mid-South Farmers Cooperative	
*Jim B. McAdams, State Farm Ins.	*Hendrix & Sons Farms	*Crop Production Services
*Mrs. Elizabeth Reid	*Simpson & Son	*Hatcher Chevrolet
*Nut Bush Gin	*Union Gin	*James H. Moore & Son
*Wireless Group	*Back Yard BBQ	*Haywood Animal Hospital
*Two-Way Gin	*InSouth Bank	*Betty Robison
*Haywood Co. Farm Bureau	*Cotton Unlimited	*Staplcotn

A special thanks to the Brownsville States-Graphic for their support of agriculture and conservation in Haywood County through timely publications of SCD and NRCS articles, their own articles and the Agriculture Appreciation edition.

We appreciate the continued interest and support of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture which provided funding for Special Projects and operational grant funds.

There are many programs and opportunities for landuser assistance in 2014. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is well funded for landusers who need assistance to apply many eligible conservation practices on cropland and grazing land. The TDA special projects in selected small watersheds also offers funding for conservation measures. The Conservation Reserve Program offers many opportunities to improve wildlife habitat, improve water quality and reduce erosion. Other programs such as the Grassland Reserve Program and the Wetland Reserve Program have opportunities to conserve and protect grasslands and wetlands. If you have a conservation need; call or come by the office and let the staff see if one or more of these programs can benefit your operation.

Sincerely,

Richard Jameson, Chairman
John Willis, Secretary/Treasurer
Link Carlton, Member
Bradley Jones, Member
Becky Booth, Member