



HAYWOOD COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report

District Activities and Accomplishments 2014

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 2014 those members serving on the District Board were Richard Jameson, Chairman; John Willis, Secretary – Treasurer; Link Carlton, Member; Becky Booth, Member and Bradley Jones member.

Regular District Board meetings are held. 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 2014 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 2014

The 2014 District Annual Work Plan and the 2013 Annual Report were developed and approved in January.

The District 2014 budget was developed, submitted and approved by the County Budget Committee and Full Court.

Board members attended meetings representing Haywood County.

17 Affiliate Members participated during the year.

Claiborne Gillespie was named the winner of the J. B. McAdams Conservationist of the Year for 2013.

Conservation plans were written on 13,665 acres during the year. Staff assistance to landusers resulted in over 11,000 acres of cropland and pastureland with conservation applied that improved soil and water quality.

The District promoted Arbor Day by giving away over 2000 trees to 54 individuals on the Courthouse lawn. Arbor Day spots were run on the local radio station.

The District assisted NRCS and FSA in developing 3 new Continuous Sign-up CRP contracts on 11.42 acres and there were 7 re-enrolled CRP contracts on 317.0 acres for a total of 10 contracts on 328.42 acres.

The District supports the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). 11 contracts were funded for \$132,000 in cost share assistance. During the year EQIP cost share assistance was used to install 1500 acres of precision ag nutrient management, 3950 feet of terraces, 6 grade stabilization structures, 0.3 acres of grassed waterway and other practices.

Approximately 40 tracts were status reviewed for conservation compliance and WRP or EQIP progress.

6 Wetland Reserve Program applications for approximately 1400 acres are presently being processed and are likely to close in 2011.

Conservation tillage acres remain high. Farmers certified about 150,000 acres of no-till crops. Over 1 million tons of soil were saved versus what would have been lost under conventionally tilled crops.

The District sponsored the Historically Underserved out-reach meeting held by the NRCS and hosted a Local Workgroup out-reach meeting in an ongoing effort to reach Haywood

County landowners and operators, make them knowledgeable about programs and let them know how we can serve them to further conservation efforts on their lands.

During the year there were over 600 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, hunting information, timber planting and harvest, fish kills, beaver problems, tillage practices and survey design and construction of conservation structures.

Worked with TWRA to contract wildlife habitat cost share projects.

1 new Conservation Stewardship Program contract completed on over 1,200 acres.

The District's native warm season grass notill drill was sold by closed bid.

The District administered a Tennessee Department of Agriculture special cost share project to reduce non-point source water pollution in impaired watersheds. 17 landusers in those areas received over \$37,400 in cost share assistance to apply 35,400 feet of terraces, 3 (WASCAB) water and sediment control basins, 253 acres of winter cover and 7670 feet of fencing for restricted grazing.

5 conservation related articles were published in the Brownsville States-Graphic newspaper and radio spots were run on Brownsville Radio.

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 2014 were: Leslie McCool, County Soil Conservationist and Darlene Allen, District Clerk; Karl Anderson, District Conservationist; Hank Webb, Soil Conservation Technician.

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.

We sincerely appreciate the 17 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 information and education program. The Affiliate Members for 2014 were:

Nut Bush Gin
Crop Production Services
Two Way Gin

InSouth Bank
Wireless Group
Pat Mann, Jr.

Jim McAdams/State Farm
Cotton Unlimited
Elizabeth Reid
Evans Farm Partnership
Haywood Animal Hospital
Union Gin Company

Farm Bureau
Nunn Cotton
MidSouth Farmers Co-Operative
Back Yard BBQ
Delta Insurance

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.

Once again, the work and cooperation of all agencies that helped support the District program throughout the year resulted in a very successful 2014. We especially thank the Farm Service Agency, Tennessee Division of Forestry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.T. Extension Service and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for their contributions and support for District programs.

There are many programs and opportunities for landuser assistance in 2015. 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 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is another program that rewards good land stewards who are continually striving to improve their operations and 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 any 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
Becky Booth, Member
Bradley Jones, Member