



*HAYWOOD COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT*

Annual Report

District Activities and Accomplishments 2015

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 2015 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. In March 2015 Richard Jameson stepped down and James Robert Thornton was appointed to the District Board at which time Link Carlton was elected Chairman of the Board.

District Board meetings are held quarterly. 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 2015 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 2015

The 2015 District Annual Work Plan and the 2014 Annual Report were developed and approved in January.

The District 2015 budget was developed, submitted and approved by the County Budget Committee and Full Court.

Board members attended meetings representing Haywood County.

19 Affiliate Members participated during the year.

Larry, Tony, and Anthony Baggett, Baggett Farms, were named the winner of the J. B. McAdams Conservationist of the Year for 2014.

Conservation plans were written on 10,342 acres during the year. Staff assistance to landusers resulted in over 13,616 acres of cropland and pastureland with conservation applied that improved soil and water quality.

The District promoted Arbor Day by giving away over 1500 trees to 37 individuals on the USDA lawn. Arbor Day spots were run on the local radio station.

The District assisted NRCS and FSA in developing 57 Continuous Sign-up CRP contracts on 1009.42 acres for \$159,598

The District supports the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Eight program contracts were funded for \$176,489 in cost share assistance.

1 tract was status reviewed for conservation compliance and WRP or EQIP progress compliance review.

The District sponsored the NRCS 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.

6 new Conservation Stewardship Program contracts were completed on over 2247 acres for \$112,530.

The District administered a Tennessee Department of Agriculture special cost share project to reduce non-point source water pollution in impaired watersheds. 9 landusers received \$60,000 in cost share assistance to apply terraces, (WASCAB) water and sediment control basins, winter cover and fencing for restricted grazing.

Conservation related articles were published in the Brownsville States-Graphic newspaper and radio spots were run on Brownsville Radio as well as emails sent to those individuals and businesses we have valid email addresses.

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 2015 were: Leslie McCool, County Soil Conservationist and Darlene Allen, District Clerk; Dustin Graham, interim District Conservationist; Joshua Choate, District Conservationist, Melissa Vila Rodriguez, Soil Conservation Technician and 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 19 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 2015 were:

*Nut Bush Gin	*InSouth Bank
*Crop Production Services	*Wireless Group
*Two Way Gin	*Pat Mann, Jr.
*Jim McAdams/State Farm	*Farm Bureau
*Cotton Unlimited	*Nunn Cotton
*Simpson & Son Construction	*MidSouth Farmers Co-Operative
*Evans Farm Partnership	*Back Yard BBQ
*Haywood Animal Hospital	*Delta Insurance
*Staplcotn	*American Agricultural Movement of TN
*Escue & Hill	

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 2015. 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 2016. 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,

Link Carlton, Chairman
John Willis, Secretary/Treasurer
James Robert Thornton, Member
Becky Booth, Member
Bradley Jones, Member