

# THE SOIL SCOOP

## UNION COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### COST SHARE PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE

#### \*NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS\*

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 Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce pollutants, such as sediment, animal waste, pesticides, nutrients, etc. from leaving the land and entering our waters. The Union County Soil and Water Conservation District administers and implements the NC AgCost Share Program in Union County.



Cost Share amounts are made up to **75%** of the average cost to install BMPs.

Union County Soil and Water obligated over \$56,459 in Cost Share assistance to improve water quality in the 2014 fiscal year. Cost share monies for BMPs included litter storage structures, incinerators, fencing for livestock exclusion, watering facilities and heavy use area protection as well as pasture renovations. Other Cost Shared BMPs include lagoon closures, poultry composters, critical area plantings, litter spreaders, cisterns and many others. These practices must be installed to meet USDA-NRCS standards and specifications, along with proper maintenance of practice.

Land owners and operators of existing agriculture operations that may need assistance addressing water quality problems are encouraged to contact our office to apply for Cost Share funds. We are located at 3220 Presson Road, Monroe along with Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency. For more information visit our website at <http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/ACSP/index.html>.

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#### FALL 2014

*Union County SWCD makes great effort to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to the citizens of Union County to promote the proper management of our natural resources.*

### CONSERVATION CONTESTS

This year's theme for the annual contests is "**Wetlands are Wonderful.**" Contests are for 3rd to 9th grade students. These contests test the ability to express environmental science and conservation knowledge. Winners on a District level go on to the Area then State level.

**3rd-6th grade:** Poster Contest

**6th grade:** Essay and Slide Show Contests

**7th-8th grade:** Public Speaking

**9th grade:** Computer Designed Poster Contest

**District Deadline:  
Dec. 16,2014**

Prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Winners receive: Certificate, 1st-\$20, 2nd-\$15, 3rd-\$10, Advance to Area competition, and recognition at Union County Soil and Water Awards Banquet (date to be determined.)

**UNION COUNTY  
SOIL AND  
WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

Fall 2014 Calendar:

October 21: Monthly Board Meeting  
November 18: Monthly Board Meeting  
December 16: Monthly Board Meeting  
December 16: "Wetlands are  
Wonderful" Contest Deadline

\*Monthly Board Meetings are at  
7:30am



Visit us at:  
[http://www.co.union.nc.us/Divisions/  
SoilWaterConservation.aspx](http://www.co.union.nc.us/Divisions/SoilWaterConservation.aspx)



**Middle & High  
School Students:**

**Envirothon:**

Environmental education  
Competition  
Each team will consist of 5 students  
from either county schools, home  
study groups or environmental clubs.  
They will exercise their training and  
problem-solving skills in a competi-  
tion centered on five testing catego-  
ries: soils/land use, aquatic ecology,  
forestry, wildlife and current envi-  
ronmental issues. High School teams  
have the added component of an Oral  
Presentation that requires the stu-  
dents to assemble their knowledge of  
all the tested subjects and use critical  
thought to solve a complex environ-  
mental problem and present their  
solution to a panel of judges. To find  
out more visit [http://  
www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/  
index.html](http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/index.html) or call the Union County  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
office 704-233-1621.



**No-Till Seed Drill**

The No-Till Seed Drill provides farmers and landowners of Union County an opportunity to use affordable equipment to plant their grasses, legumes, and small grains. This method of "drilling" seeds causes little soil disturbance making it conservation/resource friendly. This method is more precise way of planting that increases efficiency and is more economical. The drill can be rented for \$10 an acre to citizens planting in Union County. Contact our office for more information.

**New Union SWCD**

**Employee:**

Katie Anne McBryde was hired in August as the new Education Specialist for Union County Soil and Water Conservation. Katie Anne was born and raised in Union County and is a recent graduate of Wingate University with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology. She has grown up loving nature and the outdoors. Katie Anne is hopeful that her experience can help educate children of all ages just how important it is to conserve our natural resources.

**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

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE**

CCAP, Community Conservation Assistance Program, is similar to the Ag Cost Share Program. CCAP is designed to increase conservation practices in urban communities. This program works through the installation of BMP's (Best Management Practices) at Union County homes, businesses, schools and recreational areas. Landowners are eligible for assistance up to **75%**. CCAP assistance monies for Union County have been used for BMP's

such as abandoned well closure and critical area planting. Other BMP's provided in Union County include rain gardens, backyard wetlands, cisterns, grassed swales, and riparian buffers. For more information about CCAP, visit our page at, [http://www.ncagr.gov/  
SWC/costshareprograms/CCAP/index.html](http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/CCAP/index.html).

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  
Monroe, NC 28112