



# Guilford Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Conversation

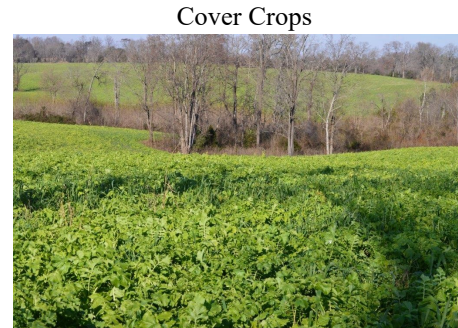
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## Check out our Cost Share Programs

### NC Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP):

- The district works with agricultural landowners and producers to:
- ◇ Develop and approve individual conservation plans
  - ◇ Identify the best management practices (BMPs) best suited for your operation
  - ◇ Design BMPs and help ensure their longevity; and
  - ◇ Acquire preliminary approval of a cost share contract



Cover Crops

Interested cooperators may **apply to Guilford County Soil &**

**Water Conservation District** for financial and technical assistance for the installation of BMPs to protect water quality. Applications are ranked based on resource concerns identified in the county. Applicants can be reimbursed up to 75 percent of a *pre-established* average cost for each BMP installed.

### Agricultural Water Resource Assistance Program (AgWRAP):

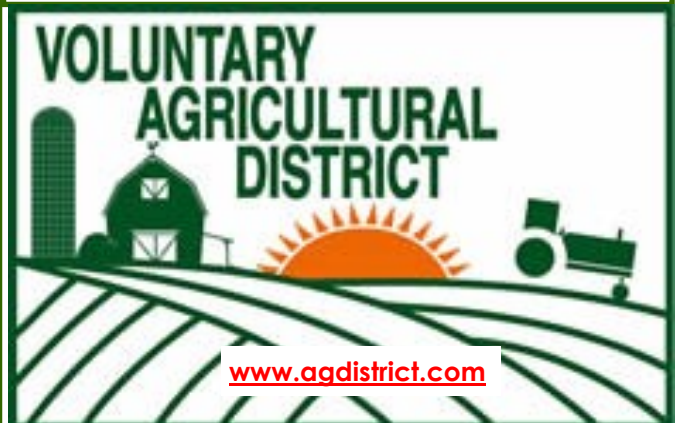
AgWRAP is administered by the NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission by your local soil and water conservation districts too:

- ◇ Identify opportunities to increase water efficiency availability and storage
- ◇ Implement BMPs to conserve and protect water resources
- ◇ Increase water use efficiency; and
- ◇ Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes

Interested cooperators may **apply to Guilford County Soil & Water Conservation District** for financial and technical assistance for the installation of BMPs to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage. The applications are ranked based on water resource priorities. A conservation plan is prepared. Applicants can be reimbursed up to 75 percent of a *pre-established* average cost for each BMP installed.

### Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP):

is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various BMPs on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly related to agricultural production.



### What is an Agricultural District?

The purpose of an agricultural district program is to encourage the preservation and protection of farmland from a non-farm development. This is in recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic and social well being of North Carolina. Visit the website above for application or stop by our office.

**All Cost Share Programs have an application cut off date of:  
August 30th**

# Conservation Conversation

## No-till and Cover Crops: Why They Are Important To Farmers

By 2050, the world will contain 9 billion people, and producing enough food over the long haul will require farmers to protect the soil that will be producing that food.

By restoring soil health through conservation tillage and cover crops, farmers will be rebuilding the carbon or organic matter those soils once contained. One major benefit of that improvement is restoring the soil's natural "glues," that give it an aggregate stability and make it more resilient and more able to withstand the pressures of water that come with a 2-inch rain.

This increases the capacity of soil to retain water, rather than having it run off, taking valuable topsoil and nutrients with it.

By contrast, soils that have been no-tilled can absorb much more water, which can then be called up by the crop when weather turns dry.

No-till and cover crops have shown good results with irrigated land. By increasing the water-holding capacity of their soil, irrigators had been able to get more mileage out their systems and increase efficiencies.

Another benefit of increased water-retention capacity would be the reduction of downstream flooding in lowland areas, which frequently drowns out a lot of agricultural production.

Soils with good aggregate stability also resist compaction better, which allows producers to get in the field sooner in the spring, and handle traffic better during the rest of the season.

The world is currently losing about 23 billion tons of topsoil from farms each year, or roughly .7 percent. Once that soil is removed from where it's supposed to be, it loses its functionality and then becomes "dirt," rather than soil. At that rate, over the next 150 years, all the topsoil in the world could be wiped out, unless we make changes.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, said in the aftermath of the American Dust Bowl, "A nation that destroys its soils, destroys itself."



## COVER CROP USES

| BENEFICIAL INSECTS | CHICKEN FORAGE | COMPACTION CONTROL | DEER ATTRACTANT | EROSION CONTROL | FORAGE     | GREEN MANURE | NITROGEN FIXATION | NITROGEN SCAVENGER | NO TILL    | ORGANIC MATTER | WEED SUPPRESSION |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|------------------|
| Alfalfa            | Alfalfa        | Alfalfa            | Alfalfa         | Alfalfa         | Alfalfa    | Alfalfa      | Alfalfa           | Alfalfa            | Alfalfa    | Alfalfa        | Alfalfa          |
| Barley             | Chicory        | Clover             | Chicory         | Barley          | Chicory    | Barley       | Clover            | Barley             | Barley     | Barley         | Barley           |
| Clover             | Clover         |                    | Clover          | Clover          | Clover     | Buckwheat    | Cowpeas           | Flax               | Buckwheat  | Buckwheat      | Buckwheat        |
| Buckwheat          | Cowpea         |                    | Cowpea          | Cowpea          | Forage Pea | Cowpea       | Forage Pea        | Rye                | Clover     | Flax           | Clover           |
| Chicory            | Flax           |                    | Forage Pea      | Oats            | Rape       | Flax         |                   | Ryegrass           | Flax       | Forage Pea     | Forage Pea       |
| Cowpeas            | Forage Pea     |                    | Rape            | Rye             | Turnips    | Forage Pea   |                   | Vetch              | Forage Pea | Oats           | Oats             |
| Flax               | Rape           |                    | Turnips         | Wheat           | Vetch      | Oats         |                   | Wheat              | Oats       | Rye            | Rye              |
| Vetch              | Turnips        |                    | Vetch           |                 |            | Rye          |                   |                    | Rye        | Ryegrass       | Ryegrass         |
|                    | Vetch          |                    |                 |                 |            | Ryegrass     |                   |                    | Ryegrass   |                | Vetch            |
|                    |                |                    |                 |                 |            | Vetch        |                   |                    | Vetch      |                | Wheat            |
|                    |                |                    |                 |                 |            | Wheat        |                   |                    | Wheat      |                |                  |

*A cover crop incentive payment of \$40.00 is available through our NC ACSP Program (page 1).*

## *No-Till Drill for Planting Needs*

The Guilford Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to participate in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss in our county by renting our no-till drill.

The 5.5 foot drill is best used for pasture reseeding and can be rented for \$10/acre with a minimum rental rate of \$30.

No-Till Practices reduce erosion and run-off.



## Weed Wiper Available

### What is a Weed Wiper???

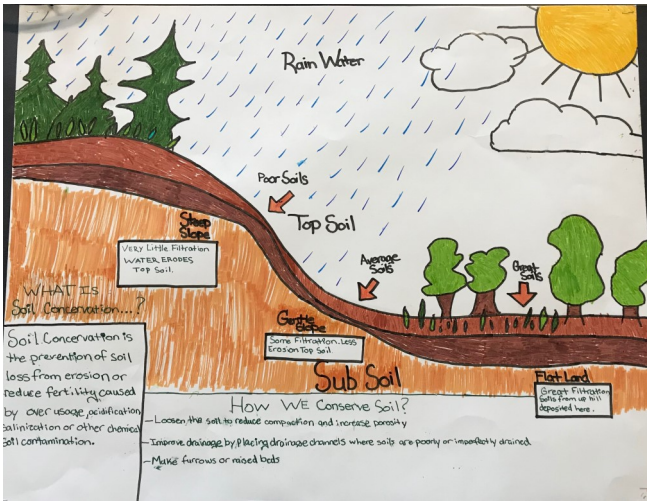
The concept is simple. Herbicide solution, is supplied to an absorbent surface. The herbicide soaked surface only contacts weeds taller than the crop. Chemical is transferred to the surface of the weeds as the applicator "wipes" over them. Key elements include a surface that will hold solution without dripping, a way to prime the surface, a way to mount the unit so the height can be adjusted, and weeds that are taller than desirable plants. Renting our Weed Wiper allows you to treat pastures despite windy weather, prevents damage to other desirable crops surrounding your weeds, and keeps money in your pocket by cutting down your herbicide rates. It's also far better for the environment!



- The district now has a fully operational Weed Wiper at the rental rate of **\$50.00** first day and **\$30** for each successive day; to be used by the user/lessee for the purpose of controlling weed competition in hay, cropland and pastureland.  
**(RENTAL MINIMUM COST is \$50.00)**
- Call the SWCD office to find out more information or to check availability.
- The district can provide technical services in planning and/or, where required, certifying land treatments/conservation practices on the farm or field being treated by the land user/lessee.
- The Weed Wiper is an efficient tool for using minimal amounts of herbicide chemicals while saving money and time.
- The District is available to offer technical advice for planning land treatments, conservation practices and other best management practices being considered on the land user/lessee's property.

# Conservation Conversation

Thursday, May 23rd Guilford SWCD had the privilege of recognizing the students who placed in our Conservation Contests for their exceptional display of environmental stewardship.



## Guilford Soil & Water Conservation District's 2019 Poster Contest Winners: "The Living Soil"

### Third Grade:

- 1st: Madilynn Androw
- 2nd: Iris Resendis Galindo
- 3rd: Meh Moe

### Fourth Grade:

- 1st: Santon Pennix
- 2nd: Madison Haskin
- 3rd: Emery Stainback

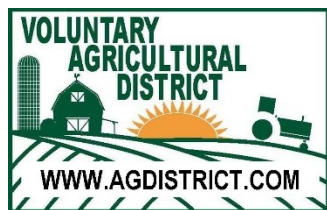
### Fifth Grade:

- 1st: Bennett Able
- 2nd: Ulises Mendoza Uriostegui
- 3rd: Coslyn Hoyte

Santon Pennix's Poster (above) also went on to win first place at the Area 3 Regional Competition against first place winners from 10 other counties.



(Above & Left) The 2018-2019 FFA State Land Judging Contest at Reedy Fork Farm



Thank You to this Year's Sponsors:



# Conservation Conversation



## Events and Announcements.....

**We sell bluebird boxes, bird feeders, and wood duck boxes year round!**  
**Bluebird Boxes \$20: Bird Feeders \$30:**  
**Wood Duck Boxes \$40**

**Board Meetings: 1st Wednesday of Each Month**  
**9:00 a.m. Rm 106 of Ag. Center**

### We're on the web!

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/our-county/planning-development/soil-and-water-conservation>



Phone: 336-641-2440  
Fax: 336-641-2441

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Jamey Walker - Soil Technician [jwalker1@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:jwalker1@guilfordcountync.gov)

Kyleene Rooks - Education Coordinator [krooks@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:krooks@guilfordcountync.gov)

*Yours for Life*

**Our Mission is...** *...to promote the conservation of natural resources in Guilford County through education, information, technical assistance, and available economic incentives.*

The Guilford Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Carolina, charged with the responsibility of promoting soil and water conservation and establishing conservation programs in the District. The District partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to carry out these responsibilities. As a local organization, we work with citizens, agencies, and landowners to plan and direct programs for the conservation and development of our natural resources. We work closely with other state, federal, and local agencies, such as NC Department of Agriculture, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, NC Forest Service, NC Cooperative Extension, etc. to provide effective natural resource management and environmental education.

### Our Team:

- Millie Langley, Soil Conservationist
- Jamey Walker, Soil Technician
- Kyleene Rooks, Education Coordinator

### District Supervisors:

- George Teague, Chairman
- Harold Alexander, Vice Chairman
- Ray Briggs, Secretary/Treasurer
- Anna Amoriello, Member
- Josh Myers, Member