

A Farmer's Guide to Chatham County Agencies



This is a general guide of governmental agencies, programs, and resources available to agricultural operators in Chatham County. To ensure efficient service from the appropriate agency, please call ahead to make an appointment with a specialist. Contact information is provided on the following pages.

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The mission of Chatham SWCD is to ensure the wise use of our natural resources - soil, water, air, plants, and animals - by providing technical and educational services to land users of Chatham County. Chatham SWCD provides conservation planning and technical assistance to address water quality issues related to agricultural resource concerns. They offer cost-share assistance to the farming community to improve and protect water quality when funds are available and when the farmers meet conservation and other eligibility criteria.

How can Chatham SWCD help you?

- Conservation Planning
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Best Management Practice Recommendations
- NC Cost Share Programs
- Agricultural Cost Share Program (ACSP)
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)
- Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Project (CREP)
- Voluntary Agriculture District Program (VAD)
- No-Till Drill Rental
- Soil Reports and Maps
- Resource Conservation Education Program Support for all ages
- Historical Aerial Photography
- Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP)

Contact Information

Susannah Goldston
Environmental Specialist & District Director
(919) 542-8228
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Joe Trimnal
Soil Conservation Specialist
(919) 545-8353
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Brandy Oldham
District Administrator & Education Coordinator
(919) 545-8440
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Andrew Waters
Farmland Preservation Coordinator
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Chatham County Soil and Water Conservation District

Phone: (919) 542-8240
Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center
1192 US Hwy 64 W Business, Suite 200
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Visit us online!

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/swcd>

CHATHAM COUNTY CENTER

The mission of the N.C. Cooperative Extension is to transform research into everyday solutions for North Carolinians through programs and partnerships focused on agriculture and food, health and nutrition, and 4-H youth development.

Agriculture and Food:

Extension connects farmers, agribusinesses, and communities with vital research-based information and technology. Research at our land-grant universities targets society's grandest challenges. Extension delivers this research directly into the hands of North Carolinians, helping them to translate knowledge into everyday solutions.

Extension assists the public with:

- Educational programs/workshops
- Individual consultation for producers
- Best Management Practices recommendations
- Pesticide licensure and credits
- Voluntary Agriculture District Program (VAD)



Health and Nutrition:

Extension offers a wealth of educational programs that address public health issues, improve economic well-being, and help people make healthier, better-informed decisions.

Extension assists the public with:

- Safe Plates for Food Managers Certification Program
- Cooking, canning, and food preservation classes

4-H Youth Development:

4-H is the largest youth development organization in North Carolina. Hundreds of thousands of young people learn pertinent life skills enabling them to succeed in life through experiential learning opportunities found in 4-H school enrichment, club, special interest, and camping programs.

How Extension Works:

North Carolina is home to two land-grant institutions – NC State University and N.C. A&T State University. Land-grant universities have a unique and important obligation to serve our state through Extension. Each school coordinates Extension programs that work in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), as well as state and local governments. This strategic partnership is called N.C. Cooperative Extension. Extension has locally-focused services in every North Carolina county and the Eastern Band of Cherokee; together, we enrich the lives, land, and economy of North Carolinians.

Contact Information

Dr. Ginger M. Cunningham, County Extension Director & Agent – 4-H Youth Development, Conventional Forestry

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Agriculture and Natural Resources Staff

Matt Jones – Agriculture Extension Agent (Commercial Ornamental and Consumer Horticulture)

(919) 542-8243 | matt_jones@ncsu.edu

Debbie Roos – Agriculture Extension Agent (Sustainable/Organic Ag Production, Wildlife, and Forestry)

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Dalton Suits – Agriculture Extension Agent (Livestock, Equine, Forages, and Field Crops)

(919) 542-8242 | dksuits@ncsu.edu

Family & Consumer Sciences Staff

Tara Gregory – Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences

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4-H Youth Development Staff

Emily Wyant—Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development

(919) 542-8257 | epwyant@ncsu.edu

Rachael Blazzard—Extension Agent, CRD, 4-H Youth Development

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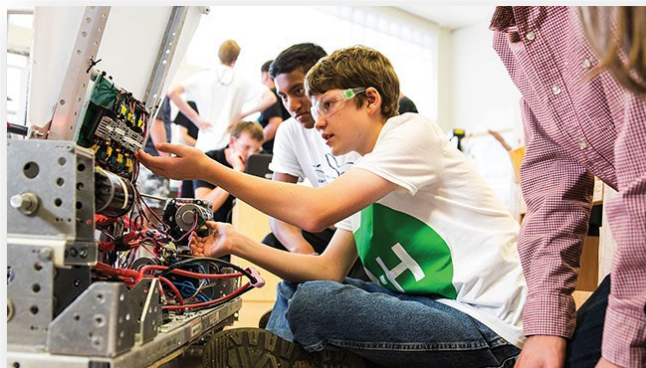
Support

Tiffany Hancock – Extension Marketing and Media Support Specialist

(919) 545-8204 | tiffany_hancock@ncsu.edu

Brandi King – Extension Administrative Assistant

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NC Cooperative Extension – Chatham County Center

Phone: (919) 542-8202

Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center

1192 US HWY 64 W Business, Suite 400

Pittsboro, NC 27312

Visit us online!

<https://chatham.ces.ncsu.edu/>

<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/>



The FSA serves all farmers, ranchers and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. To participate in federally funded agricultural programs, you must establish a farm and tract number with the FSA office. FSA will determine your eligibility and compliance of your operation. Other state and local programs may also ask for your farm and tract number to help determine agricultural status.

For efficient service, call and make an appointment to meet with the FSA.



How can FAS help you?

- Establish Farm & Tract Numbers or “Reconstitute” an existing Farm & Tract
- Determine eligibility for federal agricultural programs
- Determine Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland status
- Annual Crop Reporting
- Loan Assistance
- Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance
- Federal Conservation Program Eligibility

Contact Information

Mikal Townsend, Acting Chatham County Executive Director
(919) 533-3369 | mikal.townsend@usda.gov

Chatham County Farm Service Agency

Phone: (919) 542-2244
Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center
1192 US HWY 64 W Business, Suite 212
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Visit us online!

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/North-Carolina/index>
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-bill/index>
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/Farm-Bill/pdf/farmbill-2018-brochure.pdf>



NRCS provides technical assistance in the form of conservation planning. Conservation planning is a voluntary process that helps landowners develop a customized record of their natural resources and how those resources are utilized on farming operations, forested lands and wildlife habitats. It interprets the capabilities and limitations of the land for meeting landowner objectives. Conservation technical assistance addresses opportunities, concerns, and problems related to the use of natural resources and to help land users make sound natural resource management decisions.

NRCS offers financial and technical assistance through conservation practices, activities and enhancements to help agricultural producers make and maintain improvements on their land.

For efficient service, call and make an appointment to meet with NRCS.

How can NRCS help you?

- Conservation Planning
- Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Compliance
- 2018 Federal Farm Bill Programs
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



Contact Information

Jonathan Hardee, Soil Conservationist
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Olivia Plant, Supervisory Soil Conservationist
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Chatham County Natural Resources Conservation Service

Phone: (919) 542-2244
Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center
1192 US HWY 64 W Business, Suite 200
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Visit us online!

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/nc/home/>
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmland/>



North Carolina's forest land is one of the greatest influences on the state, providing economic value and adding immeasurably to the quality of life for its residents. The forest products industry is the largest manufacturing business sector in the state. The NC Forest Service's primary purpose is to ensure adequate and quality forest resources for the state to meet its present and future needs.

Forestry Service programs are directed at the thousands of private landowners who collectively own 13.8 million acres of the state's 18 million acres of forest land. Programs include reforestation services, forest fire prevention and suppression, and insect and disease control.

How can Forestry Service help you?

- Forestry Management Plans
- Timber Inspection and Advice
- Insect/Disease/Invasive Advice
- List of Certified Consultants and Buyers
- Forestry Stewardship Program



Contact Information

Brandon Szilvay, Chatham County Ranger
(919) 545-2721
chatham.ncfs@ncagr.gov

Chatham County Forest Service

Phone: (919) 545-2720
Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center
1192 US HWY 64 W Business, Suite 100
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Visit us online!

<https://www.ncforestservice.gov/index.htm>
<https://www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts/Chatham.htm>



Present Use Value Program

Your farmland (agricultural, horticultural and/or forestland) may qualify for the Present Use Value Program which defers the market-value property tax rates based on several qualifying factors.

Please contact the Chatham County Tax office for any questions related to this program.

Contact Information

Windy Hussey, Present Use Valuation Specialist
(919) 545-8476

windy.hussey@chathamcountync.gov

Visit us online!

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/tax-administration/present-use-value-tax-deferral-program>

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/home/showdocument?id=30133>

https://files.nc.gov/ncdor/documents/files/2019_puv_program_guide.pdf

Farm Equipment Tax Information

Personal property taxes are applied to the value of unregistered motor vehicles (such as cars without state tags and registration) as well as any equipment used to produce income. For businesses, it covers any farm equipment used to produce income.

Contact Information

Andrea McKnight

Business Personal Property Appraiser

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