

# Loam on the Range

## ACSP Highlight | Critical Area Planting

The North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (ACSP) helps address nonpoint source pollution by providing technical and financial resources through a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural lands directly involved with agriculture production.

A Critical Area Planting means an area of highly erodible land that cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment on which permanent perennial vegetative cover is established and protected to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

### Who is Eligible?

Landowners of an existing agricultural operation that has been operating for more than three years.

### How does ACSP work?

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting applications! Applications are ranked based on resource concerns identified in Chatham County. If you would like more information or wish to apply, please contact Joe Trimnal at (919) 545-8353.

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Recent critical area planting project funded through the ACSP—Before (L), During (M), and After (R)



“Take care of the land and the land will take care of you....”

-Hugh Hammond Bennett

Cover crops can help increase your soils organic matter.

## No-till Drill Rentals

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District has two no-till seed drills available for rental. Please reach out to us for information on rentals or to make a reservation.

### There are many benefits to using the no-till drill including:

- reduces soil erosion by establishing living ground cover
- improves germination of seed compared to broadcasting
- reduces labor required per acre
- decreases soil disturbance, which means healthier soil and has additional benefits:
- increases water infiltration
- decreases soil moisture evaporation
- conserves and improves organic matter
- improves soil structure
- promotes biological activity



More information on our available no-till drills can be found on our website, <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/soil-water-conservation-district/our-services/no-till-drill-rental>

If you are interested in renting one of our no-till drills please reach out to Joe Trimnal at (919) 545-8353.

## VAD Benefits

Landowners belonging to a VAD will not be required to connect to County water or sewer. Any assessment fees will be held in abeyance, without interest, unless and until the property is connected.

No governmental agency may condemn any interest in participating farmland without requesting a public hearing to ensure full consideration of the impact of that action upon agricultural, forestland or horticultural land.

Farms enrolled in the VAD may benefit from higher ranking in Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District cost share programs.

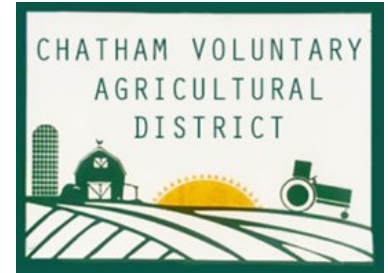
Signs identifying the VAD may be provided to qualifying farmland and placed on the property at the discretion of the owners (not within road right-of-ways).

VAD parcels and all property within one-half mile will be mapped by Chatham County GIS. This will inform the public and purchasers of real property that agricultural, horticultural, and forestry activities may occur in these areas. A notice will be posted at the Planning Department, Tax Office, and Agricultural Agencies in the county.

## Voluntary Agricultural District Program

The purpose of the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Program is to promote agricultural values and the general welfare of Chatham County by increasing the identity of, and pride in, the agricultural community and its way of life. To encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture, horticulture, and forestry through protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms.

Qualifying farmland must be a bona fide farm, located in an unincorporated area, agree not to develop or use parcels for purposes outside of farm-use, and manage for highly erodible land (HEL) if necessary.



The Voluntary Agricultural District Program is a voluntary program. The term of the agreement is ten years, however, a landowner may revoke this agreement at any time by notifying the Agriculture Advisory Board in writing.

Residents interested in finding out more can visit our website or reach out to us by phone at (919) 542-8228. Residents may also apply online: <https://chathamnc.seamlessdocs.com/f/ApplicationVoluntaryAgriculturalDistrictProgram>



# Education News



2019 Area 3 Envirothon

## 2022 Area 3 Envirothon

The Area 3 Envirothon will be held on March 15, 2022 at Elon University. We are excited for teams to compete in person. Chatham County has 8 teams competing this year!

If you would like to know more about starting an Envirothon team for next year's competition, please reach out to Brandy Oldham by phone (919) 545-8440 or email [brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov).

## Resource Conservation Workshop

The Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) is a weeklong workshop for high school students hosted by the Association, the Division, NCSU and the Soil & Water Conservation Society – Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter. Student participants are housed at NCSU campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. The week involves hands-on study and participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Student participants learn about natural resources and management in today's global environment. Awards and scholarships can be won and are presented to students under several awards programs - <http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html>.



If you have a high school student who is interested in applying for RCW, please reach out to Brandy Oldham by phone (919) 545-8440 or email [brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov). Applications are available online (<https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/documents/APPLICATIONFORM.pdf>) and are due by April 1st.

# Creek Geeks Field Day

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District is teaming up with Outdoor Science Labs and the Loves Creek Watershed Stewards to coordinate a field day event on Saturday, April 2nd from 1pm to 3:30 pm. Our rain date for this event is Saturday, April 9th. This event is free and open to the public.

Please join us for a fun, educational afternoon at Boling Lane Park in Siler City (302 S Fir Ave, Siler City, NC 27344). At this event there will be three stations with activities which repeat every 45 minutes. This will give attendees a chance to visit each activity.

## Planned activities include:

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) Tour - Join us for a tour of BMPs that have been implemented at Boling Lane Park. Learn more about these BMPs, how they are maintained, and the many benefits they provide to the community.
- Watershed Demonstration/Lesson - Using an EnviroScape watershed model, we will demonstrate how nonpoint source pollutants affect our waterways. We will discuss ways that each of us can make small changes which add up to a large impact.
- Aquatic Lesson - Come ready to explore the aquatic macroinvertebrates that live in our waterways with a fun, hands-on activity! Be aware you may get your feet wet so we recommend bringing an extra pair of shoes.



The Loves Creek Watershed Stewards will be on site presenting the first 20 attendees with a NC native tree to take home for planting. Additional trees may be requested for pickup.

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District will have conservation themed activity books available.

Please register using the following link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQzIaPwZxwyXAhki3\\_TJSIeMcBpU4gYf4m\\_pM0Z1wSTRXSJw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQzIaPwZxwyXAhki3_TJSIeMcBpU4gYf4m_pM0Z1wSTRXSJw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Special thanks to The Triangle Community Foundation and EPA for their support!

# District News

## Chatham Soil & Water Welcomes New Soil Conservation Specialist

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District welcomes our new Soil Conservation Specialist Joseph (Joe) Trimnal. Joe comes to us from the Town of Cary. Joe lives just on the outside border of Chatham County with his family. He is excited about his new role and looks forward to working with residents and agricultural producers here in Chatham County. We are thrilled to have him join our team. Joe is available to assist with no-till drill rentals, cost share programs, technical assistance, and more. You may reach him by phone (919) 545-8353 or email [joe.trimnal@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:joe.trimnal@chathamcountync.gov).

## Avian Flu and You

By Emily Bateman, Natural Resources Conservationist, Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

We've made it to mid-winter, amid another year of a pandemic. The last thing we want to worry about is another disease spreading. However, this time of year is prime waterfowl and game bird season, and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has already been confirmed in hunter harvested wild ducks in North Carolina. The NC Zoo was forced to shut it aviary to visitors this month after the highly contagious strain was found in 40 birds shot by hunters in North Carolina. Wildlife on the move, specifically waterfowl that migrate into and through North Carolina on the eastern North American Migration Flyways from their summer grounds in northern Canada, could have spread HPAI to birds here.

How do you know if your birds are sick? Watch out for:

- Reduced energy, decreased appetite, and/or decreased activity
- Lower egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs (I know it's the winter and production is lower, but you know what is regular for your hens)
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, and wattles
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs
- Difficulty breathing, runny nares (nose), and/or sneezing
- Twisting of the head and neck, stumbling, falling, tremors, and/or circling
- Greenish diarrhea

If you notice any of these warning signs REPORT IT! Reporting is the most important part of protecting the rest of our flocks and keeping HPAI from spreading. Reach out to your local veterinarian, NC State Veterinary Office 919-707-3250, NC Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory system – Raleigh 919-733-3986, or the USDA 866-536-7593.

To read the full article, please visit: <https://www.dconc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/36080/637788070313130000>

# Cost Share Programs

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District is always accepting applications for our cost share programs. We can provide financial and technical assistance to Chatham County land users. Please contact us for more details at (919) 545-8353.

The **North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)** is designed to address water quality issues on agricultural lands throughout the state. Common "Best Management Practices," or BMPs for short, include Livestock Exclusion Systems, Nutrient Management Practices, and Sediment Management.



The **Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)** is set up based on the same procedures and outlines of the ACSP and offers similar water quality improving practices, but on non-agricultural lands. Typical BMPs include: Backyard Rain Gardens, Riparian Buffer for nutrient reduction, and Critical Area Planting.

The **Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)** is designed to identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage and in some cases help fund BMP to conserve and protect water resources. BMPs in this program include irrigation ponds and irrigation wells.



## Chatham SWCD Mission

To ensure the wise use of our natural resources, soil, water, air, plants and animals by providing technical and educational services to land users.

## Important Dates

**March 15, 2022: Area 3 Envirothon at Elon University**

**April 15, 2022: Good Friday (Office Closed)**

**April 29-30: State Envirothon at Cedar Rock Park**

**May 30, 2022: Memorial Day (Office Closed)**

**June 20, 2022: Juneteenth (Office Closed)**

**July 4, 2022: Independence Day (Office Closed)**

## District Supervisors:

J. Lynn Mann, Chair  
Johnny Glosson, Vice Chair  
Rich Hayes, Secretary  
Keith Stanley, Treasurer  
R. Edward McLaurin, Member

## District Staff:

Susannah Goldston, District Director & Environmental Specialist  
Joe Trimnal, Soil Conservation Specialist  
Brandy Oldham, District Administrator & Education Coordinator

## NRCS Staff:

JaBioas Glenn, NRCS Soil Conservationist  
Diana R. Irizarry, NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our programs and services.

### Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District

1192 US 64 W Business Suite 200  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

(919) 542-8240

Visit us on the web at  
[www.chathamcountync.gov/swcd](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/swcd)

**Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District**

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