

# Loam on the Range

## CCAP Highlight | Permeable Pavement

The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on lands not directly involved with agriculture production.

Permeable pavement is an alternative to conventional concrete and asphalt paving materials that allows rapid infiltration of stormwater. Stormwater infiltrates into a porous paving material that provides temporary storage until the water infiltrates into underlying permeable soils or through an underground drain system. This practice is intended to reduce stormwater runoff rate and volume, as well as associated pollutants transported from the site by stormwater runoff.

### Who is Eligible?

Eligible landowners may include homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, and publicly owned lands.

### How does CCAP 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.

### In This Issue

- CCAP Highlight
- No-Till Drill Rentals
- VAD Program
- Education News
- District News
- Cost Share Programs
- Important Dates
- District Information



Permeable Pavement Project—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 or [joe.trimnal@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:joe.trimnal@chathamcountync.gov)

## 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.

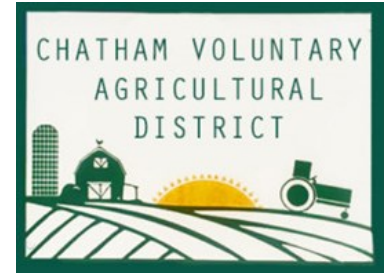
Signs identifying the VAD may be provided to qualifying farmland and placed on the property at the discretion of the owners (not within road right-of-ways).

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



### 2022 Area 3 Envirothon

The Area 3 Envirothon was held on March 15 at Elon University. Chatham County had 8 teams participate in this year's competition. We are pleased to announce that Chatham County's Woods Charter School placed 1st and 4th in the high school competition. Margaret B. Pollard Middle School placed 1st, 4th, and 7th in the middle school competition. Haw River Christian Academy placed 6th in the middle school competition. These teams advanced to the NC Envirothon. 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).

### 2022 NC Envirothon

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored 6 teams to advance to the NC Envirothon, held April 29th and 30th at Cedarock Park in Alamance County. The weather was beautiful and the students had a wonderful time competing. Though none of our teams placed to move on to the National Envirothon competition, we couldn't be prouder of them for all their hard work!



### What is a Watershed? Event

Families are invited to join us for a program all about watersheds. Using an EnviroScape watershed model, participants will learn how pollutants affect our water, from our local waterways all the way to the ocean! We will learn ways to make small changes in our daily lives that can help keep pollutants out of our water. This event will be held at the Chatham Community Library in the Holmes Meeting Room at 2 pm on August 6th. For more information, contact Youth Services at [youth.services@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:youth.services@chathamlibraries.org).

# Education News (Continued)

## 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. Chatham County received several applications this year. Two Chatham County students were chosen to attend the 2022 RCW.

If you would like to apply for next year's RCW please reach out to Brandy Oldham at (919) 545-8440 or [brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov)



## Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Hosts Stock Trail Training

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District hosted the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Soil & Water Conservation to provide stock trail training to conservation employees from the Piedmont area. This day long training took place on May 11th in Pittsboro, and was well attended by District staff from nearby counties as well as Division staff. This training was intended to give staff a look into the process of implementing the Stock Trail Best Management Practice (BMP) and ways to determine if this BMP is the best solution to an operators resource concern.

In the photo to the bottom right, you can see the erosion that has occurred due to the slope of the land in conjunction with cattle who use this path to move from pasture to pasture for rotational grazing. Installing a stock trail using proper grading and gravel will assist with slowing water and holding soil in place.



Staff visit the site of an upcoming stock trail project.

# District News

## Passing of R. Edward McLaurin—Board Member of 32 Years



We are saddened to announce that Board Supervisor R. Edward McLaurin Jr. passed away on March 24th. Edward joined the Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors in 1989. He served the Board for 32 years and made many great contributions to our work in Chatham County. Edward had many interests that he enjoyed, including woodworking and gardening (especially with heirloom tomatoes in the pursuit of the perfect tomato sandwich). An ardent outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing and he was an avid bird hunter. Edward will be dearly missed by each of us.

## Mike Sturdivant Nominated to Chatham Soil & Water Board of Supervisors

Mike Sturdivant has been nominated to fill the partial term left by the passing of Mr. Edward McLaurin. Mike is no stranger to Chatham County. He retired from the NRCS and spent much of his career in Chatham County assisting residents. Mike is an active member of his church and still works with the state on conservation projects. Mike's nomination was approved by the Soil & Water Conservation Commission at their May work session. He will join the Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors as an appointed Supervisor. Mike took his oath of office prior to the Board of Supervisors regular meeting on June 9th and he will be up for reappointment later this year.



# 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

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

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

**August 6: 2pm at the Chatham Community Library, "What is a Watershed?" Event**

**August 15-19: Conservation Employee Training (Staff Out of Office)**

**September 5: Labor Day (Office Closed)**

## District Supervisors:

J. Lynn Mann, Chair  
Johnny Glosson, Vice Chair  
Rich Hayes, Secretary  
Keith Stanley, Treasurer  
Mike Sturdivant, 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

## Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District

1192 US 64 W Business, Suite 200  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

In accordance with Federal Civil Rights law U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Civil Rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior credible activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).