

Marion Soil & Water Conservation District



119 Palmetto Pointe Rd., Marion, SC 29571, Phone: (843) 423-1742, ext. 101



Annual Report 2010-2011



Johnny Wiggins Elected as Chairman



John A. Wiggins was selected Chairman in 2010 where he has been on the District Board for over 15 years. Johnny was raised on a farm in Marion County and is married to Carlotta Johnson and has 3 sons. He attends the United Methodist Church where he serves as Trustee Chairman, Staff Parish and Relations Committee Chairman. Johnny has sold feed and

farm equipment for over 35 years. Johnny has and continues to contribute many assets to our Conservation District Board.

Jim Huggins Elected as Vice-Chairman



Jim Huggins was selected as Vice-Chairman in 2010. Mr. Huggins has been on the District Board for almost 40 years. He was raised on a farm in Mullins. He married Ann Collins from Mullins in 1954. They have two children, a daughter and a son, four grandchildren and three great-grand daughters. He is a dedicated leader and has

shown substantial dedication to conservation. Hogs, cattle and tree farming are all a part of Huggins' daily routine. Mr. Huggins is an asset to say the least, and we are honored to have him.

H. Bruce Baker elected to the Board of Commissioners



Pictured left to right: H. Bruce Baker, sworn in by Marc Cribb. SCDNR.

Our newest addition to the SWCD Board is H. Bruce Baker. Bruce is a native of Mullins and has been all of his life. He is a Timber Procurement Manager with Canal Wood in Mullins, and has been employed there for the past (25) years. Bruce is married to Susan, and has (1) Daughter and (2) sons. We welcome Bruce to the District.

Commissioner Emeritus C. P. Mincey

Associate Commissioner
Ernie O. Hinson, Jr.

Associate Commissioner
C. E. Roark

Associate Commissioner
David B. Owens

Associate Commissioner
R. Joe McIntyre

STAFF:

Daniel Cabaniss, District
Conservationist, NRCS

Bradley Poston, Soil
Conservation Tech.,
NRCS

Nathaniel Hughes,
NRCS, District

Lisa Foxworth,
District Clerk

J. Aubrey White re-elected to the Board of Commissioners



Pictured left to right: J. Aubrey White, sworn in by Marc Cribb. SCDNR.

J. Aubrey White is serving his 3rd term as Commissioner for the District. He grew up on a farm in Marion and retired from the Military after 30 years of service. Mr. Aubrey enjoys working on his farm and loves conserving the land. He is married to Elaine and has (2) sons, (1) Daughter and (3) grandchildren. He is an asset to say the least!

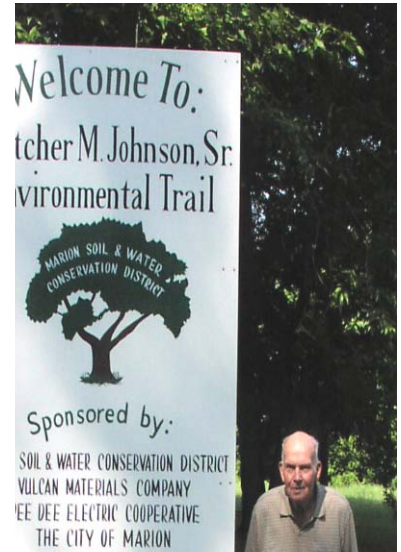
Daniel Cabaniss, District Conservationist joins the District



Daniel Cabaniss is our new District Conservationist and also serves as the American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager on the SC NRCS Civil Rights Committee. Daniel joined us in September 2010 and was previously a Soil Conservationist in the Greenwood County Field Office. He attended Utah State University in Cache Valley, Utah, from 2005-2008, where he earned a degree in Wildlife Sciences with a minor in Biology. He also received a degree in Accounting. He was born in Rock Hill and raised in Chester, County South Carolina, with two brothers and eight sisters. Cabaniss and his wife Heather have three sons and one daughter, and are members of the Catawba Indian Nation in York County, where he spent summers as a teenager working in the tribe's summer youth work programs. This experience helped him learn various skills ranging from wood working to basket weaving, and instilled in him an appreciation for the culture and heritage of the Catawba people. Prior to working for NRCS, he served two year mission for his church. He then worked with the U.S. Army at several bases as part of an Environmental Management group responsible for monitoring the impacts of military training. These teams were responsible for monitoring vegetative impacts, soil erosion, and water quality, wildlife populations of native and non-native animals, and invasive plant species control, as well as wildfire control with firebreaks. He has worked with NRCS since 2007 and started as an intern in the York County, SC, field office. He also gained experience in the Chester, Fairfield, and Greenwood SC, offices, before coming to Marion. Daniel also worked with Utah NRCS as well.

Congratulations for 20 years as Commissioner

Mr. Fletcher has been a District Commissioner for over 20 years. He started working with the Marion Soil Conservation Service in 1966 as a Soil Conservationist, until July of 1966 when he was transferred to Horry and worked there until 1970. He was then transferred back to the Marion SCS office from 1970 until 1987, until he retired. He started working with NASDA-National Association of State



Department of Agriculture in 1989 Field Enumerator and Field Enumerator Supervisor until his retirement in July, 2009. Fletcher Johnson has been a District Commissioner since 1991 and has contributed to conservation throughout the county.

A note from the Commissioners

The Marion Conservation District Commissioners would like to say thank you to Marion County, Affiliate Members, all agricultural and related agencies, also, participating land users for making this another successful year for improving and conserving our natural resources. A special thanks to school administration, and teachers for promoting conservation, without their help, these accomplishments would not have been possible.

Affiliate Members:

Jim Huggins
C.E. Roark
Joe McIntyre
James Carson Benton, Jr.
Charles McElveen
Howard B. Smith Agency
Nichols Farm Supply
Ella Moore
Jordan Scrap Metal
Gore's Tire
James G. Wiggins
Carolina Eastern
Battle L. P. Gas, Inc.



The Soil & Water Conservation District meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the USDA Service Center, 119 Palmetto Pointe Rd., Marion. No meetings are held in June, July, August or December.



The Marion Soil & Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.



Annual Awards Banquet

Each year the Conservation District has an Annual Awards Banquet. The awards banquet allows the District to share the accomplishments that have been applied throughout the county during the year. This year, a Conservation Farmer Award was given, a Service Award and an Appreciation Award, a power-point presentation of "What Conservation District's are all about", the services available to the public and Educational Outreach. NRCS presented a Power Point Presentation, with program availability, distributions of funds, and the different conservation practices and accomplishments.



2010 Conservation Farmer of the Year



Michael Poston accepted the award on behalf of Jeff Blanton. Jeff was selected by the District Board for his dedicated service to conservation. Jeff converted 938.1 acres of soy beans, 236.1 acres of peanuts, 117.5 acres of corn, and 573.4 acres of wheat to no-till. Jeff also practices precision ag., and has 8.6 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program.

Commissioner Service Award



Pictured, left to right: Ernie O. Hinson, Jr. receiving the Service Award from Vice-Chairman-James F. Huggins.

After 22 years of service Ernie O. Hinson, Jr. decided to retire from being a Commissioner. He has been an asset to the district through years serving as Sec./Treasurer and Commissioner and has contributed substantially to the District.

Appreciation Award



Pictured, left to right: J. Aubrey White-Sec./Treasurer presenting the Appreciation Award to Associate Commissioner- Joe McIntyre.

Robert "Joe" McIntyre received the appreciation Award for his assistance in helping obtain signatures from land owners for Catfish Canal clean-out, and for obtaining lodging for beaver trappers at SCDNR Woodbury WMA site.

Conservation Outreach

319 Grant Project

The Pee Dee Resource Conservation and Development Council and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have again this year provided funds through the 319 Grant for impaired waters in the Catfish and Little Pee Dee Watershed. The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have implemented the grant since 2008. Water monitoring indicates that the Watersheds are contaminated by fecal coliform bacteria found in animal waste and sewage. Untreated animal waste includes pets and livestock entering streams and ponds, rainwater runoff from grass and uncovered manure piles. Untreated sewage contamination occurs when septic systems are working improperly and from municipal sources. High concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria may indicate water contaminated with other bacteria and viruses that can cause diseases such as typhoid fever, viral and bacterial gastroenteritis. Homeowners within the Catfish and Little Pee Watershed were eligible for funding to help fix faulty septic systems. Also, livestock producers were funded for a variety of practices, including keeping animals from streams and ponds using fence, planting buffer strips to filter rainwater run-off, installing wells, water troughs and pipeline to provide livestock with alternate water sources. Horse operations were also eligible to build manure storage sheds to keep rainwater off of stored manure. Confined Animal operations were eligible to install injection or incorption systems to handle animal waste. In 2010 alone, the grant assisted (21) home owners with repair of their septic system, assisted in (1) manure spreader, (1) well, watering systems, fencing, heavy use systems and (1) roof run off system.

Septic repair before / after



Feral Hog Workshop

The Marion SWCD held a Feral Hog Workshop with guest speaker, Charles Ruth, SCDNR. The workshop was informational and well received with 48 in attendance. Charles Ruth talked about the impacts to ecosystems and cause damage to agricultural crops, newly regenerated forests, disease concerns to livestock producers, landscaped settings, roads, wildlife food plots, yard and ornamental plantings, and other natural and managed resources. Control of feral hogs can be time consuming, expensive, and frustrating. The workshop provided landowners, land managers and natural resource professionals with information about the status and biology of feral hogs, as well as the most effective control techniques to reduce feral hog populations.



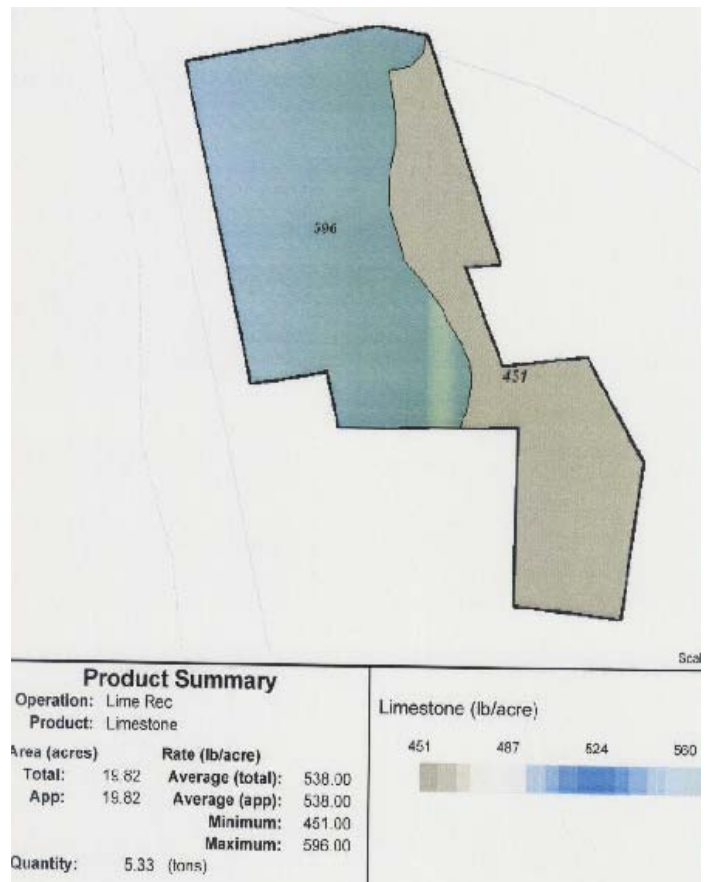
Waste Management Field Day

A field day was held to allow Certified Animal Manure Managers to receive recertification hours and demonstrate calibrations of equipment and new technology to help the environment. The field day was sponsored by the Marion and Horry Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Pee Dee RC&D and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Precision Agriculture, Soil Testing Technology

Conservation of farm land is something that is very important to farmers in Marion County. Over the last few months we have had inquiries about a new way of soil analysis for row-crop growers. Instead of sampling using a traditional grid sampling system there is now an on-the-go testing method called Veris soil testing technology. This is a more precise way to do analysis of all the soil types in a field, and apply needed lime and nutrients to the specific areas rather than applying evenly to the whole field. This should help reduce operation expenses while also reducing the amount of over fertilization, which in turn improves soils and water quality.

For those interested in using this new technology, it can be cost-shared through EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) as well as CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) for those not currently getting cost-share for soil testing. For those who are currently getting cost-share for soil sampling, these producers can sign-up for doing the Veris testing once their current contract is completed. The Marion NRCS office will assist in determining which programs best fit the needs and concerns of farmers so that they are better able to conserve and maintain the resources that they and millions of Americans depend on each day.



Poultry Producers Happy



Local Perdue Producers Winford and Tony Collins are very happy with the NRCS, EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program). “With the help of NRCS employees Brad Poston, Daniel Cabaniss, and Engineer Larry Cantrell we were able to make major improvements to our operation. Not only were we excited about the changes but our flock managers from Perdue also made positive comments. Now cleaning up the litter is a much easier chore than ever, thanks to those concrete pads we installed. Plus, we reduced the amount of waste runoff going into our water system, which is really important to our future.” Tony Collins stated. Under the EQIP program offered by NRCS the Collins operation was able to install Roof

Runoff structures and concrete heavy use areas. The roof runoff structures allow the rain water to be moved away from the base of the poultry houses and into drainage ditches on the backside of the farm. The concrete Heavy Use Areas were installed at the front of the houses to allow adequate clean-up of litter that is removed from inside the houses and loaded on the spreader trucks.

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program – is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to address environmental natural resource problems. Payments are made to producers once conservation practices are completed according to NRCS requirements.

Livestock Watering Facility



WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program – is a voluntary program for developing or improving high quality habitat that supports fish and wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal and local significance. Through WHIP, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to private and Tribal landowners for the development of upland, wetland, aquatic, and other types of wildlife habitat.

Conservation Stewardship Program – encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

EQIP and WHIP

\$30,000 + in payments

33 EQIP applications, with
8 new contracts

1 WHIP application with
1 new contract.

\$121,000 combined

CSP

12 applications with 10 new

CSP contracts funded.

\$177,315 + for Marion County

Estimated payments for

2010 CSP payments is

\$450,000 +

FY 2011

EQIP - 53 applications, 10 funded
\$190,604.00

WHIP - 3 applications.

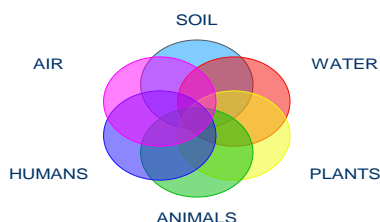
CSP - applications are
continuing to come in.

WRP - 1 application.

Natural Resources

SWAPAH

Soil
Water
Air
Plants
Animals
Humans



Education Outreach

Marion Soil & Water Conservation Essay Winners

Each year The Marion Soil & Water Conservation District offers an Essay Contest to local school students in 5th – 8th grades. Conservation Habitats = Healthy Habitats was the 2010 topic of choice. Grades 5th and 6th write 300 - 500 word essays, and 7th and 8th write 500 – 700 word essays. All 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners receive an award, and certificate of appreciation from the District Office. The Essay Awards Reception was held at the Marion Methodist Church on Godbold St., Marion on May 17th. A special Thanks to all who participated in this year's event. Our 2010 Essay Winners are pictured below.

McCormick Elementary School 5th Grade



Pictured left to right: Front row, 3rd place winner - Joslyn Smith, 2nd place winner - Kamren Davis, and 1st place winner - Tiffany Owens. Back row, Marion SWCD Chairman - John A. Wiggins, and Teacher Ms. Bessie Edwards.

Johnakin Middle School 7th Grade



Pictured from left to right: Front row, Honorable mention - Tyler Williams, Honorable Mention - Jamie Cabbagestalk, Honorable mention - Mia Hayes, 1st place winner - Angel Green, 3rd place winner (tied) - John Dix. Back row: Teacher - Elaine White and Marion SWCD, Chairman - John A. Wiggins. Not pictured: Second place winner - Treadwell Campbell, and 3rd place winner (tied) - Denzel Brown, Teachers - Tammy Hudson and Yolanda Wilson.

Johnakin Middle School 8th Grade



Pictured from left to right: Johnakin Teacher - Vickie Skipper, 1st place winner - Adaya Sturkey, Honorable Mention - Zachary Wheeler, Honorable Mention - Andrew Williams, Chairman - Johnny Wiggins, 3rd place winner - Alysha Harrell, Honorable Mention - Kelsey Hunt, and 2nd place winner - Jade Elvis. Not pictured Teacher, Jennifer Causey.

