

Abbeville

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023



In 2023, Abbeville Soil and Water Conservation District was able to award and recognize the Dixie High School FFA with lunch and a \$2,500 grant to assist with the purchase of a dump trailer for their Plastic Baille Recycling Program. Their primary goal is to reduce the amount of net wrap, hay twine, and silage wrap entering the landfill. They work with local community members and members of the district board to create a plan to identify, contact, and work with cattle farmers to save and collect the hay bale waste throughout the county. For several months, 120 students participated weekly in preparing materials for the baler. Students were able to process approximately 800 pounds of product each week. They processed 5 tons for market in only a few months. Pictured above is District Chairman Fred Raines on the left, three FFA students, and their Agriculture/FFA teacher Josh Murdock.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Abbeville Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored the Abbeville County Library's Seed Library by donating \$250 as well as \$250 worth of various vegetable seeds for 2023. The Seed Library was a huge success and encourages home gardening throughout the county. Over 1,000 packets of seeds were distributed to approximately 250 individuals. The district will continue to support this community effort.



Conservation by the Numbers

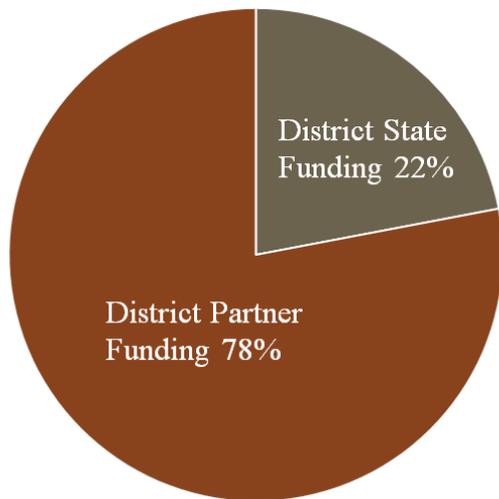
- 1,217 acres planted through district no-till drill rentals
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$1 million for conservation practices on 13,413 acres in Abbeville County

2024 District Plans

- Continue to increase student participation in contests and scholarships
- Strive to increase District Affiliate Members by 50
- Increase marketing of programs with new brochures

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2023 Impact

State FY24 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3.40 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Conservation Districts assist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$55 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY23.

More than 190,000 students were reached by conservation district youth oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests, etc.

More than 2 million adults were educated on conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

More than 10,000 acres statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions from Spartanburg Day School represented South Carolina at the 2023 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, Singapore and China.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by Conservation Districts.